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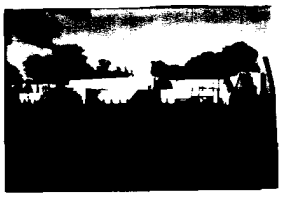
BALTIMORE CITY--COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

CDBG SURVEY YEAR: 13
AREA: Fort Smallwood Park

SURVEY NO.: AA 897
MAGI NO.: 0208973607



ADDRESS: East end of Fort Smallwood Road, Anne Arundel Co.
CURRENT NAME: Fort Smallwood ~~Park~~

BLOCK: LOT:
HEIGHT:
CONDITION: Good

USE: Recreation
DESIGNATION:

LOT SIZE:
MATERIALS:
OWNER: Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City
ADDRESS:
ACCESSIBLE: Yes; unrestricted
LIBER/FOLIO: Liber F85 No.19, Folio 342

HISTORIC NAME: Fort Smallwood
DATE: 1896
ARCHITECT/BUILDER:
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE):

DESCRIPTION:

The fort is located 150 feet from the water and is a concrete structure of the "Endicott" system type consisting of a raised platform housing two gun emplacements behind a three-sided parapet wall that faces northeast. Between the two emplacements, on the southwest side, are double doors leading to the powder magazine.

The barracks building is located approximately 1600 feet southwest of the fort, on a slight rise, and is a one-story frame, "T" shaped structure on a raised foundation with a slate gable roof, clapboard siding, and porches across the north and east elevations. The north elevation is five bays wide.

SIGNIFICANCE:

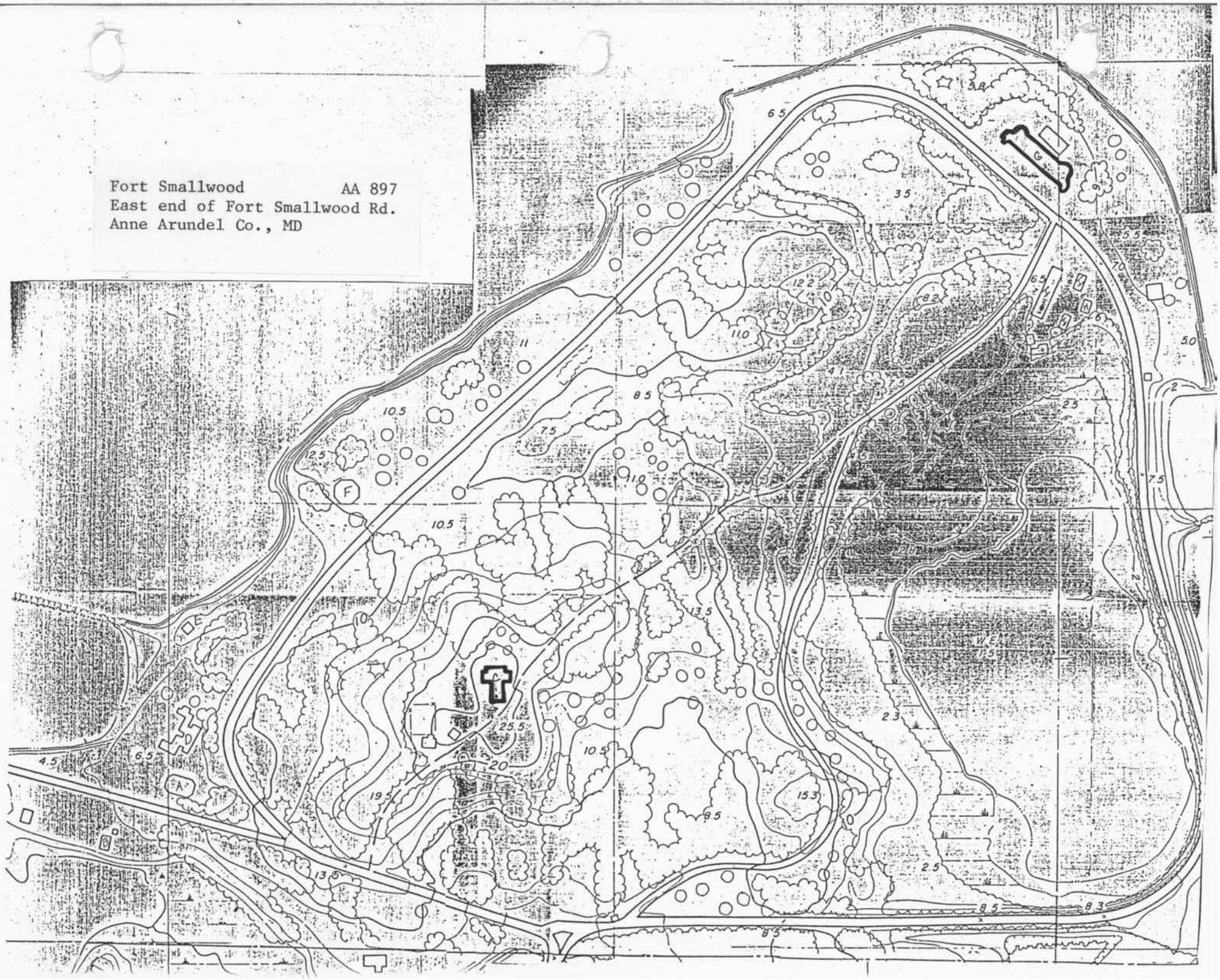
AREA: Military LEVEL: National

The Fort Smallwood battery was one of a projected 26 similar coastal fortifications recommended in 1885 by the "Endicott Board" for the defense of the U.S. The land was purchased by the government in 1896 and the battery constructed shortly afterward. "The works constructed under the Endicott Board's programme were in marked contrast with what had gone before. A fort was no longer a masonry structure with a regular geometric trace and carefully interlocked outworks; it now became simply a piece of real estate delineated by a fence, with a collection of low-lying batteries inside. Structurally, the battery was simply two or four semi-circular emplacements of concrete, in front of which the ground was left in its natural state; nothing was visible from the front at all.... The batteries were on two levels, the upper, surface, level carrying the gun and the lower level the magazines and powder house, protected by an overlay of concrete and earth cover.... The gun mountings were...in the majority of cases, of the disappearing type...." After 1927, when the Fort became a city park, the battery was used as a concession stand. At an unknown date the earth embankments around the battery were removed. The barracks building was converted to a park administration building between 1927 and 1931.

SOURCES: Ian Hogg, The History of Forts & Castles; The Sun, 7/19/1930, 6/28/1947; Baltimore City Archives, RG 35, Box 89, #2710.

SURVEYOR AND DATE: Kenneth M. Short, November 1987

Fort Smallwood AA 897
East end of Fort Smallwood Rd.
Anne Arundel Co., MD



Fort Smallwood AA 892
Battery (G)
Eastend of Ft. Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co., Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M. Short
Date: October 1982
Neg loc: Maryland Historical Trust
SW Elev
115

Fort Smallwood AA 892
Battery (G)
East end of Ft Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M Short
Date: October 1987
Neg loc: Maryland Historical Trust
N.E. Elev

Fort Smallwood AP 807
Barracks (C)
East end of Ft Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M Short
Date: October, 1987
Neg loc: Maryland Historical Trust
[illegible]

Fort Smallwood AP 897
Barracks (c)
East end of Ft Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M Short
Date: October, 1987
Neg [illegible] Maryland Historical Trust
South Elev
[illegible]

Fort Smallwood AA 899
Barracks (07)
East end of Ft Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M Short
Date: October 1987
Neg loc: Maryland Historical Trust
Interior-Ceiling

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