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AA-898

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AA-898I

BALTIMORE CITY--COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

CDBG SURVEY YEAR: 13 SURVEY NO.: AA 898
AREA: Fort Smallwood Park MAGI NO.: 0208983807

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

BLOCK: LOT: LOT SIZE:
HEIGHT: MATERIALS:
CONDITION: Good OWNER: Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City
ADDRESS:
USE: Recreation ACCESSIBLE: Yes; unrestricted
DESIGNATION: LIBER/FOLIO: Liber F85 No.19, Folio 342

HISTORIC NAME: Fort Smallwood Park
DATE: After 1927
ARCHITECT/BUILDER:
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE):

DESCRIPTION:

(Letters refer to attached map). The concession stand (A) is a one-story polygonal masonry building with a hip roof with eyebrow dormers and standing seams, and a surrounding porch supported by iron columns. The comfort station (B) is one of two identical one-story wood frame rectangular buildings on a raised block foundation, with clapboard siding, hipped roof, and hipped dormers. The comfort station (E) is a one-story square frame building with clapboard siding, hip roof, and semi-circular dormers. The pavilion (F) is an octagonal, rustic wood "Adirondack" type of structure with octagonal roof and open sides. The concession stand (H) is a one-story, three bay wide wood frame polygonal building with a shingle covered base, board and battens above and a polygonal hip roof. Also on the premises are two concrete block bathhouse complexes (D and I), the fort (G, see AA 897), and the house-like administration building, or barracks (C, see AA 897).

SIGNIFICANCE:

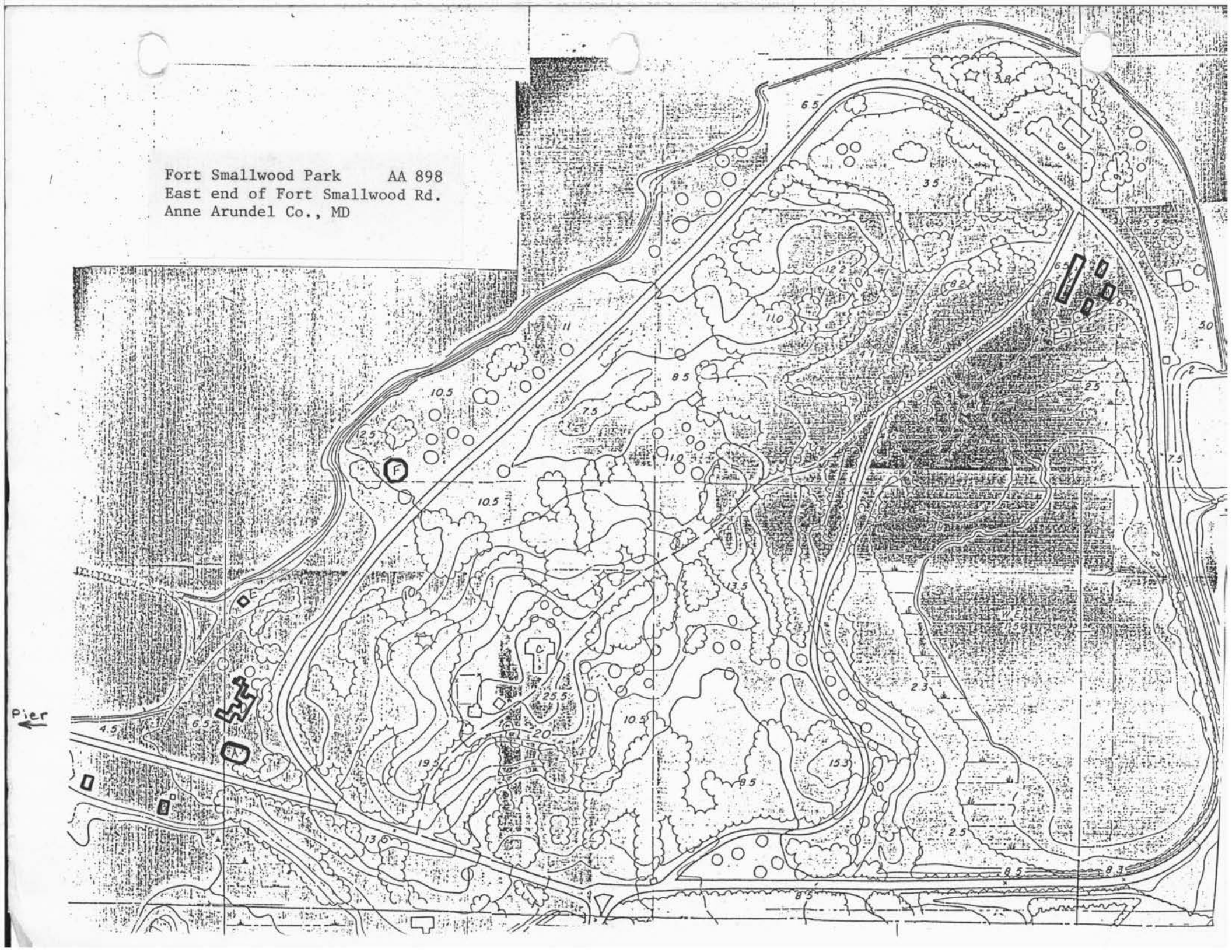
AREA: Architecture LEVEL: Local

Fort Smallwood Park is the only waterfront park owned by Baltimore City that dates from the period of the 1920's-1930's. Originally a federal fort under the Endicott system, the Olmsted Brothers recommended in 1926 that the City purchase it for conversion to a park. This was done in 1927 at a cost of $50,000. Between then and 1931 the frame barracks building was converted to an administration building. In 1931 a concession stand with a standing seam roof was added (probably A). The comfort station (E) was standing by 1937, as evident in a Sun photograph. In the 1930's the City provided a steamer for transportation to the park. During W.W.II the park was abandoned and the bathing beach washed away. In 1947 the City built a new beach on the east, along with a new bathhouse (probably I), and moved some old structures over to this area (probably including H). The new bathhouse on the west beach was built in 1951, probably in reaction to a segregation suit filed by City blacks to gain admittance to the park. The park was not integrated, however, until after the Brown v. Board of Education decision. Fort Smallwood Park has suffered from many floods over its history, and many original buildings have disappeared, including horse stables, a band stand, shelter houses, concession stands, a water tank, dressing booths and lockers, and several piers.

SOURCES: Olmsted Brothers, Report...on Park Extension for Baltimore, 1926; The Sun, 7/19/1930, 4/19/1931, 7/18/1937, 8/31/1946, 6/28/1947, Baltimore City Archives, RG 35: Box 89, #2709; Box 99, #5999; Box 107, #7912.

SURVEYOR AND DATE: Kenneth M. Short, November 1987

Fort Smallwood Park AA 898
East end of Fort Smallwood Rd.
Anne Arundel Co., MD



Fort Smallwood Park AA 898
Concession Stand (A)
East end of Ft Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M Short
Date: October 1987
Neg loc: Maryland Historical Trust
South Elev
1 of

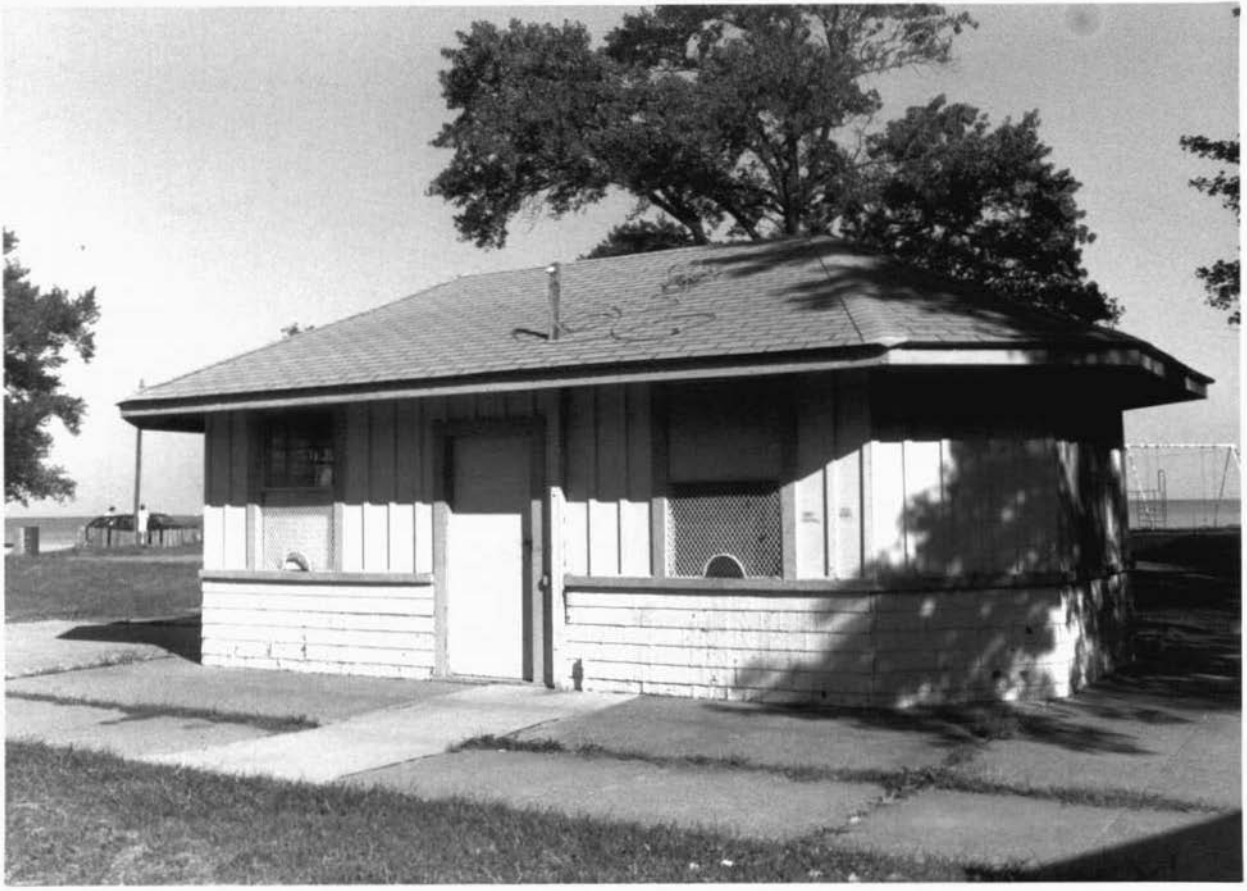
Fort Smallwood Park AA898
Concession Stand (A)
East end of Ft Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M Short
Date: October 1987
Negative: Maryland Historical Trust
SE

Fort Smallwood Park AA 808
Comfort Station (B)
East end of Ft Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M. Short
Date: October 1987
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
North elev
3/5

Fort Smallwood Park AA 898
Bath House (D)
East end of Ft. Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M. Short
Date: October 1982
Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust
N.W. Elev

Fort Smallwood Park [illegible]
Comfort Station (2)
East End of Ft Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M Short
Date: October 1987
Neg Loc: Maryland Historical Trust
[illegible]
[illegible]

Fort Smallwood Park AA808
Pavilion (F)
East end of Ft Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M Short
Date: October 1987
Neg loc: Maryland Historical Trust
View from SE
6 of 7



Fort Smallwood Park AA-808
Concession Stand (1)
East end of Ft Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M Short
Date: October, 1987
Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust
N.W. Elev.
7 of

Fort Smallwood Park AA 648
East Bath House Complex (I)
East end of Ft Smallwood Rd
Anne Arundel Co., Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M. Short
Date: October 1987
Neg loc: Maryland Historical Trust
North elevs
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