

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

B-8

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fort McHenry

other names / site number Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine

2. Location

street & number Locust Point, at east end of Fort Avenue  not for publication

city, town Baltimore  vicinity

state Maryland code 24 county Baltimore (City) code 510 zip code 21230

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing*	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>004</u>	<u>006</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>001</u>	<u>000</u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>031</u>	<u>006</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>006</u>	<u>003</u> objects
		<u>042</u>	<u>015</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 001

\* Please note that the contributing resources generally correspond to Fort McHenry's List of Classified Structures (LCS). In some instances, single LCS entries encompass multiple resources (e.g. the water battery guns and emplacements (LCS no. 81221) consist of 11 cannons and 24 gun emplacements, but are counted as one contributing structure.

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

---

---

---

---

---

---

Signature of the Keeper

Date

<b>6. Function or Use</b>	<b>Current Function</b> (enter categories from instructions)
<b>Historic Functions</b> (enter categories from instructions) <u>Defense: fortification/military facility/</u> <u>battle site/arms storage</u>	<u>Recreation and Culture: monument/museum/</u> <u>park</u>

<b>7. Description</b>	
<b>Architectural Classification</b> (enter categories from instructions)	<b>Materials</b> (enter categories from instructions)
<u>Late 18th century star fort</u> <u>19th century fortifications and powder</u> <u>magazine</u> <u>19th century barracks</u>	<u>foundation stone; brick</u>  <u>walls brick masonry/stone; earth;</u> <u>concrete</u>  <u>roof earth/tin/slate</u>  <u>other</u>

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**  
Description (Summary)

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine is located within the city limits of Baltimore, Maryland. The 43.26-acre site is situated at the eastern tip of Locust Point. Historically, Locust Point was known as Whetstone Point, the peninsula that projects into Baltimore Harbor dividing the Northwest and Ferry Branches of the Patapsco River. The Northwest Branch is identified today as the Northwest Harbor, and the Ferry Branch is part of the Patapsco River's main estuary.

In most respects, the fort appears today much as it did in 1933 when transferred from the jurisdiction of the War Department to the National Park Service. As originally constructed, the earthen and masonry star fort was laid out as a regular pentagon with a bastion at each angle. The distance between the points of adjacent bastions is about 290 ft. The parade ground is also in the configuration of a pentagon (about 150 ft. per side) within which are the former officers' quarters, barracks and powder magazine. Among the principal historic structures on the exterior of the fort are the ravelin, the water (outer) battery, and the Civil War powder magazine. More detailed descriptions of the various structures and features of the fort are provided in the following discussion.

The boundaries of the property encompass all the land that originally comprised Fort McHenry at the time of the British bombardment in 1814 and most of the additional acreage acquired by the War Department in 1836. The historic setting of the larger site as it existed during the War of 1812 or the Civil War no longer exists; construction in 1917 and later demolition of U.S. Army General Hospital No. 2 substantially altered the topography and other features/structures external to the star fort. The present landscape surrounding the fort consists of a grass lawn, ornamental fruit trees, and native and exotic shade trees and shrubs. The grounds are carefully managed by the National Park Service as part of overall efforts to commemorate the importance of the site as a national shrine, with no attempt to recreate the landscape as it existed during earlier periods of military occupation. Modern urban and industrial development lies within the viewshed of the fort. The fort is bordered on the north by the U.S. Naval Reserve Center, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Baltimore City Fire Department Fireboat Facility. The Southern States Grain Cooperative and the Maryland Port Authority border the fort on the west.

Despite the loss of integrity of the surrounding site and modifications of individual buildings and structures, Fort McHenry's extant resources continue to embody a high degree of integrity reflecting the fort's national importance as a coastal defense work from the period of its initial construction (1794-1802) to the end of improvements constructed immediately

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

following the Civil War. After this time, Fort McHenry functioned primarily as a garrison until its closure in 1912, later serving in various capacities that included World War I hospital and World War II Coast Guard training facility. The broad significance of the fort is recognized as encompassing these and other later periods. However, the primary physical expression of the fort in its capacity as a coastal defense work is best reflected in the resources constructed between approximately 1800 and 1867.

I. Description (reference is suggested to the attached diagram of the fort and glossary of fortification terminology)

A. Evolution of Development

By the time of its completion in 1802, Fort McHenry had assumed the essential form that has been perpetuated to the present. The earliest known plan of the fort (1803) indicates that at that time the five-bastioned, masonry and earthen star (pentagonal) fortification included two one-story brick barracks, two one-story brick officers' quarters, and a brick powder magazine within the parade grounds. A cistern was located between the enlisted men's barracks (later removed in 1819). Two gun embrasures (openings) passed through the flanks of each bastion. A ditch or dry moat surrounded the fort on all but its southeastern side. The plan showed trees planted at regularly spaced intervals on the terreplein of the bastions and curtain walls, around the perimeter of the parade ground, and bordering the entrance road to the fort. Based on early sketch drawings, the majority of these trees appear to have been Lombardy poplars. The sally port was originally a simple uncovered entrance, and a bridge spanned the moat in front of the sally port and connected with the road to Baltimore. The postern tunnel served as a passageway and primary drain from the parade to the exterior of the fort and passed below the curtain wall between bastions 4 and 5. Upper and lower water batteries were in place to the east of the fort.

Other than routine maintenance and repairs, Fort McHenry was not substantially modified over the ensuing eleven years until the improvements made in 1813 during the War of 1812. The deficiencies noted in the fort at that time by Colonel Decius Wadsworth, Chief Ordnance Officer of the War Department, led to construction of the ravelin outside the sally port to bolster protection of the entrance. The ravelin was constructed according to Wadsworth's recommendations, and thereby attained the distinction as the fort's first significant architectural feature designed by an American-trained engineer. Additional modifications of the star fort included filling the gun embrasures on the bastion flanks; platforming the bastions and repositioning the gun emplacements to allow firing "en barbette" (over the parapet walls); construction of brick traverses at the interior entrance of the sally port and in front of the parade magazine; and excavation of a well on the parade grounds to replace the earlier cistern. The ditch was deepened and an earthen counterscarp was raised on the far side opposite the scarp wall. The exterior ground surface beyond the counterscarp was graded to serve as a "glacis" (defensive earthen slope). Although no longer extant, there is a strong possibility based on later map evidence that a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

---

"caponniere" or covered passageway was constructed. The caponniere was a feature recommended by Col. Wadsworth, and would have permitted a protected means of communication between the fort and the outer batteries, accessed via the postern tunnel.

The 1814 bombardment, and particularly a direct hit upon the powder magazine, focused attention on the urgent need for bombproofing measures to better protect munitions and troops. Work began immediately after the bombardment on the construction of an arched brick structure over the existing magazine, two underground personnel bombproofs on either side of the sally port, and a bombproof structure over the well. An 1819 map of the fort prepared by Captain William Poussin, U.S. Topographical Engineers, further indicates that by that date the sally port was covered by an arched roof, and the brick traverse at the interior entrance of the sally port had been removed. A small structure that served as a guardhouse (1806) is also depicted at the north end of the commanding officer's quarters, and another guardhouse (1814-1837) was in place between the enlisted men's barracks at the former location of the cistern.

During the 1820s, Fort McHenry was in a general state of disrepair. Extensive masonry problems were evident, particularly in the scarp walls, resulting from moisture entering through gaps in the brick and coping stone where the pointing had washed out. Overcrowding was another serious problem, and led to the construction in 1829 of second stories over the enlisted men's barracks and officers' quarters. While the placement of second stories was not a particularly sound idea from a defensive standpoint, it helped to alleviate overcrowding and was endorsed by the post surgeon on the basis that it would improve air circulation and the overall health of the garrison. Full-length second-floor piazzas (porches) were also constructed on the front of all four buildings. A two-story addition was constructed joining the commanding officer's quarters with the adjacent guard house. The brick traverse in front of the magazine was removed at this time. To correct the problems of moisture infiltration, the earth covering the sally port and personnel bombproofs was temporarily removed and the structures were waterproofed with a layer of sheet lead. A cement wash was applied over the scarp walls of the fort and ravelin.

A number of improvements were made during the 1830s under the supervision of Lieutenant Henry Thompson, U.S. Army Corps of Artillery, who arrived at Fort McHenry in 1833. Among these measures, the parapet was modified in 1834 with the construction of a stone wall on the inner slope around the parade grounds. The parapet was further modified with the construction of a three ft.-high brick revetment (breast-height) wall on the terreplein in 1837 (raised by 18 inches in 1839). The scarp walls received extensive repairs and repointing in 1837. In 1835, two new guardhouse/prison rooms were constructed above the bombproofs on either side of the sally port to replace the former guardhouse located between the enlisted mens' barracks. Additional prison rooms were added in 1857 (three cells on the south side of the sally port and one on the north). By 1837, the trees that were earlier planted on the ramparts and the parade were removed.

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

In 1836, the War Department acquired an additional 15 acres at Fort McHenry, expanding the property from its previous 24 acres. A 10 ft.-high brick wall was constructed in 1837 to demarcate the fort's new western boundary. Wrought iron gates were placed at the wall entrance where the road leading to Baltimore entered the fort grounds. An earlier boundary wall (1817) was dismantled when the new wall was built; the brick and gates from the earlier wall were incorporated into the 1837 wall. Also, between 1836 and 1839, the heavy masonry seawall east of the fort near the water's edge underwent a second phase of construction (initial work on the wall began in 1816). Additional sections of the seawall were constructed up until 1895, extending the overall length of the wall to about three-quarters of a mile.

Work began on the water (outer) battery in 1836 and was completed the following year. The water battery, equipped with 39 gun emplacements, was conceived as a first line of defense between the fort and the seawall, extending from the east face of the ravelin to the left shoulder of bastion 3. Breast-height revetment walls were constructed on the water battery. The walls settled shortly after completion, and were rebuilt and raised in 1839. Two shot furnaces were constructed within the water battery in 1842, features that were later demolished during the Civil War upon the fort's adoption of rifled artillery. To permit the movement of troops and supplies between the fort and the water battery, the ravelin entrance was reconfigured and the road which originally passed through the ravelin to the sally port was filled-in. Gun emplacements were also installed on the ravelin, on the shoulders of the fort bastions, and in the dry moat between bastions 1 and 2.

Minor improvements continued to be made throughout the 1840s and 1850s, ironically bringing the fort closer to a state of defensive readiness at a time when its strategic function appeared to be waning. However, the Civil War dramatically refocused attention on Fort McHenry's importance and led to the next significant phase of development. During the early stages of the war, the gorge (the area between the sally port and the ravelin) and the water battery were enclosed with a palisade or fence consisting of closely spaced wooden stakes. An abatis (line of felled trees and sharpened branches) was placed in the dry moat and at the base of the water battery's glacis.

More substantial improvements followed including the reconfiguration of the sally port bombproofs to serve as powder magazines; construction of a new artesian well on the parade to supplant the one constructed before the War of 1812; and construction/modification of gun emplacements for improved armaments, particularly Rodman cannon. At the beginning of the Civil War, the Rodmans were considered the ultimate achievement in the long tradition of smoothbore (muzzle-loading) armament design, and were standard ordnance for all coastal fortifications. In 1863, a detached powder magazine of brick and concrete was constructed on the grounds west of the fort in response to the increased demands for powder storage.

Just as perceived deficiencies during the War of 1812 led to improvements immediately afterwards, Fort McHenry received extensive new construction in

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

the aftermath of the Civil War. In 1866-67, the water battery was modified with the construction of two magazines, two bombproofs and a free-standing earthen traverse. The water battery magazines and bombproofs also functioned as traverses. An additional magazine was constructed in the ravelin. In 1873, a steam pump was installed for the well which necessitated the construction of a pump house and storage tanks. Water pipes were placed throughout the fort. The system was eventually replaced in 1884 when the fort was connected to Baltimore's water supply system. Much of the repair work undertaken during the 1870s and 80s was directed towards correcting ongoing drainage and sewage disposal problems.

Construction began in 1872-73 on a new water battery northeast of the fort near the seawall. Plans for this massive earthen work called for the placement of 25 15-in. Rodman guns. Funding was suspended in 1875, and although work on the battery evidently continued for three more years, it was never completed. It was removed in 1928.

Extensive modifications to the officers' quarters and enlisted men's barracks occurred in the 1890s. By this time, most of the garrison was housed outside the fort compound. In 1894, the second story of the junior officers' quarters was removed and the building converted into a bakery. The front porches of the commanding officer's quarters, junior officers' quarters, and enlisted men's barracks no. 2 were also removed. The commanding officer's quarters were thoroughly remodeled; an ordnance storehouse was placed in the first floor and subsistence supplies were stored on the second floor. The quartermaster's office and supplies were installed in the former barracks (no. 2).

Fort McHenry's function as a military post ended in 1912. Its last active garrison, the 141st Company Coast Artillery Corps, were relocated to Fort Strong, Massachusetts. An immigration station was constructed in 1913 on a portion of land near the east seawall that was provided to the U.S. Treasury Department by the War Department; the building was later used as a receiving ward for the World War I hospital and is presently used and operated by the U.S. Naval Readiness Reserve Center outside the park boundaries.

In 1914, Fort McHenry was leased to the City of Baltimore as a municipal park, and subsequently a public beach and swimming pool were opened in the northwest corner of the park. The Civil War powder magazine served as a bathhouse. The centennial observance of the 1814 bombardment provided an occasion for the placement of several commemorative monuments and plaques at the fort. The large statue of Orpheus (authorized in 1914 but not placed until 1922 in the center of the entrance drive) was a significant artistic work from this period. The Armistead Monument, placed on the outer battery, was another significant work commemorating the bombardment.

Fort McHenry returned to military control in 1917 with the establishment of U.S. General Hospital No. 2. The grounds and the dry moat were seriously impacted by the construction of roads and hospital buildings close to the scarp walls and at the base of the water battery's glacis. Several underground utility lines were constructed across the parade that exited

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

through the sally port. However, the quartermaster officer in charge of construction, recognizing the fort's importance as a historic landmark, ensured the avoidance of the principal above ground structures. However, several 19th century structures located outside the fort walls were removed at this time including the 1814 hospital, the 1843 officers' stables and the 1864 storehouse; foundations of these structures exist in many instances below the fill dirt imported on-site by the Army. Eight former buildings from U.S. General Hospital No. 2 exist outside the park boundaries under the ownership of the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Baltimore.

Following Fort McHenry's authorization as a national park in 1925, the War Department undertook restoration of the fort that reached perhaps its greatest level of activity in 1928-29. Although the 1873 water battery was removed, the War Department generally attempted to restore the fort to its appearance at the time of its greatest physical development under active military occupation, and not specifically to its appearance during the 1814 bombardment. Among the significant repairs and restorations made at this time were reconstruction of the dry moat; cleaning of the sally port bombproofs; cleaning and masonry repair of the water battery magazines and installation of iron gates; and various repairs, repointing and rebuilding of the parade walls, scarp walls and the water battery breast height walls. The parade buildings received exterior wall repairs and rebuilding along with new metal roofs, reconstruction of the piazzas and the second floor of the junior officers' quarters. Extensive interior restoration was also completed, and electric service was installed in all fort buildings. A parking lot was constructed near the south face of the ravelin.

A second phase of memorial commemoration occurred at Fort McHenry in 1931-32 in observance of the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birthday. Various patriotic organizations dedicated interpretive markers to Baltimore's 1814 defenders and planted trees for each state in the Union. The Washington Elm was planted at this time; the tree recently died and was removed in 1995.

The National Park Service (NPS) assumed the management of Fort McHenry in 1933. Masonry repointing already underway since 1929 by the Works Progress Administration continued until 1935. In 1935, the NPS installed major utility lines through the ramparts of the fort including a steam line and an electric corridor connected to a high tension transformer vault. Construction of the electric corridor required the removal of a section of original terreplein breast-height wall near bastion 1. A section of wall from the sally port ramp was also removed at this time as well as several ca. 1840 traverse stones from bastion 5.

Following World War II (during which time Fort McHenry functioned as a Coast Guard training station), the Nation's post-war economic boom and new-found leisure time for the motoring public led to profound visitation increases for National Park Service units. In 1956, the NPS instituted a program known as "Mission 66" to address these pressing demands for visitor services and park improvements. As part of these program objectives, Fort McHenry's

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

first visitor center was constructed in 1964 along with a new parking lot, a maintenance facility and two park residences.

Over the duration of its site administration, the NPS has endeavored to perpetuate the condition and appearance of the fort from the time the agency acquired the property. Efforts have been underway since the 1970s to correct the ongoing problems of displaced and deteriorated masonry resulting from moisture build-up and freeze/thaw episodes. These efforts have included the construction of drains both at the base and through the scarp wall. Long spans of the deteriorated water battery breast-height wall were rebuilt with modern materials in the 1980s. Additional rehabilitation of the fort is presently underway.

(note: National Park Service List of Classified Structures (LCS) numbers are provided where applicable for the following inventoried structures, buildings and objects at Fort McHenry)

**B. Contributing Sites**

1. **Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine** - The overall 43.26 acres encompassing Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine represent a historic site composed of numerous historic, archeological and cultural landscape resources that chart the course of Fort McHenry's evolutionary development. These resources comprise the structural design elements and materials that have gone into the fort's construction, and the artifacts and other elements of material culture associated with the various periods of construction and occupation. Several twentieth century additions to the fort grounds, particularly commemorative markers and statuary, reflect the importance of memorial activities at Fort McHenry.

Other than the existing structures and buildings comprising the historic fortifications and external walls (i.e., the star fort, outer (water) battery, the Civil War powder magazine, seawall and boundary wall), few remnants of the cultural landscape have survived associated with the late 18th and 19th century development of Whetstone (Locust) Point for military defense purposes. Construction of U.S. Army General Hospital No. 2 in 1917 for the convalescence of World War I veterans, and removal of the hospital buildings by 1929 resulted in extensive disturbance to the landscape surrounding the fort. Among the external features disturbed by the construction and grading undertaken during this period were the glacis (the earthen defensive slope that formerly extended from the water battery to the seawall) and dry moat around the perimeter of the star fort. Aerial photographs taken of Fort McHenry during the 1920s underscore the extent of development associated with the Army hospital, showing barracks and other buildings occupying virtually all available space outside the fort to the water's edge.

With efforts underway from the latter 19th century to commemorate the significance of the defense of Fort McHenry, Francis Scott Key and the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner," the landscape underwent further changes reflecting the memorialization of the site. Various statues and markers were placed in 1914 during the centennial observance of the bombardment. Placement of the Statue of Orpheus (authorized by Congress in 1914, but not placed on site until 1922) altered a portion of the entrance road with the construction of a circular drive around the base of the statue. The statue was moved to its present location in 1963 to accommodate improved access to the new parking lot and visitor center. During the 1932 bicentennial celebration of George Washington's birthday, other markers and monuments were placed on the grounds along with the planting of commemorative trees (e.g., the Washington Elm and cherry trees planted by the school children of Baltimore).

The statues and markers at one time contributed to a designed landscape associated with the memorialization of the fort. However, they have been relocated in many instances, sustaining a loss of integrity in terms of location and setting. Many of the original commemorative trees have died; the Washington Elm died in 1995 and was removed that year. While the markers and statuary continue to evoke the broad historical significance of the park's periods of memorial activities, and in some instances retain historical/artistic significance in their own right, they do not contribute to an intact cultural landscape representative of the memorial periods.

While many of the detailed elements of Fort McHenry's cultural landscape have lost integrity, the site continues to exhibit several broader landscape characteristics that provide insight into the selection and development of the site for defensive purposes. The tip of Whetstone Point offered substantial strategic advantages for the defense of Baltimore by commanding the approaches to the Northwest and Ferry Branches of the Patapsco River. This was as true in 1776 during the Revolutionary War when Fort Whetstone was first constructed on the site, as it was throughout the long span of Fort McHenry's subsequent military service. The topography of Whetstone Point is characterized by gently sloping low-lying land, without the natural protection of cliffs or rocky escarpments. While this nevertheless permitted unobstructed views toward the downriver approaches to Baltimore, the site required extensive constructed works to compensate for the lack of natural defenses. Under the prevailing 18th and 19th century theories of coastal fortifications these consisted of a succession of features designed to repel or impede an enemy's advance; e.g. the shore-line and upper gun batteries, the elevated slope (glacis), the ditch (dry moat) with its counterscarp, and ultimately the fort ramparts situated on higher ground.

Today, although many of the defense works external to the fort have been removed or modified, the large-scale spatial organization of the site remains intact in many respects. For example, the fort retains its historic geographic orientation towards Baltimore, the Northwest Harbor and Ferry Branch. The sloping grass-covered area outside the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

fort walls is at least partially representative of early military efforts to maintain the openness of the area between the fort and the water's edge for defensive purposes. Consequently, a general sense of the strategic importance of the site and the reasons behind its selection for fortifications is readily conveyed to the park visitor.

The clustered arrangement of officers' quarters, barracks and powder magazine on the parade grounds protected by the earthen and masonry ramparts, has remained a distinguishing characteristic of the fort throughout its history. Despite substantial alterations and subsequent restorations of individual buildings, and the modifications that accompanied armament and other structural/technological improvements, the War Department never undertook measures to substantially reconfigure the fort proper from its late 18th century pentagonal design. The fort retains and continues to convey the intent of its original design as a tightly contained and functionally integrated coastal defense work and garrison.

The 10 ft.-high brick wall presently marking the western boundary of the monument grounds was constructed in 1837 following the War Department's acquisition of additional lands in 1836. It not only serves as a formal demarcation of the western property line, but provides the approaching visitor the first physical feature clearly symbolic of the former military presence and control of the site. The boundary wall also provides a ready visual indicator of the maximum spatial extent of the fort grounds attained by the 1830s.

The asphalt entrance road (a continuation of Fort Avenue) follows the historic alignment of the original access road to the fort from Baltimore. While a section of the alignment was eliminated to accommodate the modern curved extension to the visitor parking area, a paved footpath follows a continuing portion of the historic alignment north of the ravelin. No evidence of the original roadbed remains.

The National Park Service presently maintains the grounds to perpetuate the memorial character of the national monument. Grass lawns extend from the boundary (entrance) wall to the seawall, with clusters of native and exotic trees and shrubs. Several small trees have recently been planted near the eastern tip of the point. Remnant survivors of the cherry trees planted in 1932 remain near the Civil War powder magazine. Circulation networks consist of the two-way paved entrance road to the visitor parking lot, paved roads to the maintenance areas, and several pedestrian walkways. Walkways provide access to the star fort, visitor center, and the Civil War powder magazine; they extend along the seawall around the perimeter of the property from the picnic area near the boat dock on the north, to a marsh area on the southwest. Non-contributing park housing and maintenance facilities are clustered at the west end of the property north and south of the entrance.

(number of contributing sites: 1)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

C. Contributing Structures

1. Star Fort Ramparts - The ramparts are comprised of several structural components constructed variously of earth and brick/stone masonry. In profile these exhibit an irregular stepped appearance. Proceeding from the exterior of the ramparts inward the principal components are the scarp wall, earthen parapet, breast height wall, earthen terreplein, and parade wall.

1A. Scarp Wall (LCS no. 00352) - The scarp walls are the exterior walls of the star fort comprising the outer part of the bastions and the curtain walls separating adjacent bastions. These walls are battered (sloping inward from the ground up) and vary in height between 9 ft. 8 in. and 13 ft. 6 in. They are constructed of English bond brick facing, several courses thick, over an inner wall of mortared stone. Sandstone quoins are present at each external angle of the scarp. The foundation consists of roughly dressed and irregularly laid granite. Stone counterforts buttress the inner wall of the scarp. The scarp walls were originally capped with coping stones that soon deteriorated and were completely replaced with new granite coping in the 1830s. While the overall configuration of the scarp walls has not been altered, regular repair and replacement of the brick facing because of deterioration have resulted in little remaining original brick fabric. As is true of the various masonry walls throughout the fort, the scarp walls do not exhibit a uniform appearance because of the repeated episodes of brick replacement and resulting variations in color and texture.

1B. Parapet - The sodded earthen parapets of the ramparts originally sloped gradually upwards from the scarp wall and then steeply down from the peak to the infantry banquette. Erosion has contributed to the modification of the parapet profile over the years. An attempt to prevent erosion was made in 1844 with the clapboarding of the parapet's inner slope. The parapets were also originally designed with two embrasures (openings) through the flanks of each bastion to permit artillery fire. These were later filled-in in 1813. While the locations of all gun embrasures have not been definitively identified, archeological excavations conducted in 1994 identified the location of an original embrasure on the left flank of bastion 3; the location agreed with that depicted on the 1803 plan of the fort.

1C. Breast-height Wall (LCS no. 81247) - The parapets were significantly modified in 1837 by construction of the brick breast-height wall on the inner slope. This wall was later raised by 18 in. in 1839 bringing the height to about 3.5 ft.; zinc sheathing and sandstone coping were also installed at the top of the wall at that time. The wall was intended to protect the infantry from enemy fire and to retain the earth of the sodded interior parapet. Other than subsequent repairs necessitated by water damage, the breast-height wall has remained relatively unaltered.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

1D. **Terreplein** - The terreplein (the broad surface of the rampart extending originally from the infantry banquette below the breast-height wall to the parade wall) underwent several episodes of modification. The terreplein within the bastions was altered in 1813 with the placement of wooden platforms to allow artillery fire over the parapet walls. Construction of the breast-height wall (1837-39) and subsequent infantry banquette (1840) further altered the terreplein along the bastions and curtains. Gun emplacements and traverses were installed on the terreplein that also experienced modification as a consequence of armament improvements.

1E. **Parade Wall** (LCS no. 81212) - The stone parade wall of random-coursed ashlar with stone coping was constructed in 1834 around the perimeter of the parade ground. The wall varies in height from about two ft. near the sally port to over six ft. behind barracks no. 2. It separates the parade from the adjacent earthen terreplein, that previously sloped to the level parade surface. A portion of the wall behind the powder magazine is brick and was constructed in the immediate aftermath of the 1814 bombardment as part of measures to bombproof the magazine.

2. **Postern** (LCS no. 81215) - The postern tunnel, centered below the rampart between bastions 4 and 5, was the fort's primary drain. It was designed to carry water runoff from the parade to outside the scarp wall. Originally larger, the vaulted brick passageway was reduced in size in 1837 to its present dimensions (about 2 ft. 3 in.-wide X 4 ft. 7 in.-high). Granite lintels and support surrounds are present at the gated interior and exterior openings. An 18 in. drainpipe was placed below the floor of the tunnel in 1836 that delivered runoff to the harbor. The postern also provided a secondary means of access and communication between the fort and outer defense works. If a caponniere (protected covered passageway) was in fact constructed as part of the 1813 improvements recommended by Col. Wadsworth, access between it and the star fort would have been via the postern. Following construction of the water battery in the 1830s, access between the battery and the fort would also have been by way of the postern.

3. **Moat** (LCS no. 07751) - Remnants of the dry moat or ditch exist on the north and northwest sides of the fort adjacent to the scarp wall, and by the north wall of the ravelin. The moat is presently about 4 ft.-deep and 25-40 ft.-wide. It is an original feature of the defense works, by 1803 surrounding all but the fort's southeastern side. The 1819 Poussin map depicts the moat completely around the fort and the ravelin. The moat has undergone several episodes of modification, notably by filling undertaken in 1929 during the War Department's restoration activities, construction and demolition of the World War I hospital, and by the introduction of a parking lot and roadway adjacent to the ravelin.

4. **Ravelin** - The ravelin is a detached, triangular-shaped earthen and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12

masonry structure constructed in 1813-14 to bolster defense of the exposed sally port. Both faces of the ravelin are about 133 ft. long. The road that led to the fort from Baltimore crossed the dry moat at the north face and passed through the ravelin, exiting at the gorge and crossing to the sally port. Wooden bridges were constructed across the moat and gorge to permit access. The road through the ravelin was also filled-in in 1839 and the entrance through the north face bricked-up.

**4A. Ravelin Scarp Wall** (LCS no. 07750) - The ravelin's battered brick scarp walls are similar in appearance to those of the star fort, varying in height between approximately 8 and 10 ft. However, the ravelin scarp walls were constructed on a brick foundation instead of stone and were buttressed with brick counterforts. Sandstone quoins are present at the exterior angles of the scarp, with granite coping at the top of the walls.

**4B. Ravelin Breast-height Wall** (LCS no. 81245) - In 1837, 3 ft.-high brick revetment walls were constructed on the raised inner slope of the ravelin's parapet. In common with the breast-height walls of the star fort, these walls were raised by 18 in. in 1839. Seven gun emplacements separated by infantry banquettes were constructed along the breast-height walls on the ravelin's terreplein at that time.

**4C. Ravelin Gun and Emplacements** (LCS no. 81218) - In 1865, near the end of the Civil War, a gun emplacement for a 15-in. Rodman gun was constructed at the salient of the ravelin, supplanting three earlier emplacements and necessitating rebuilding of the revetment wall at that location. A 15-in. Rodman gun cast in 1865 is currently positioned at the salient, the only gun now mounted on the ravelin. In addition to the Rodman and its emplacement, four 1839 gun emplacements (granite pintle blocks, 8 ft. 6 in. X 9 in., with traverse circles) remain on the ravelin.

**4D. Magazine No. 1** (LCS no. 81217) - As part of the post-Civil War improvements undertaken in 1866, magazine no. 1 was constructed in the ravelin. This underground powder magazine consists of a two-chambered brick barrel vault (approx. 38 ft. X 20 ft.). Two entryways from the gorge provide access to a vestibule, from which two flights of brick steps descend to the magazine.

**5. Water (Outer) Battery** - Construction of the earthen parapet and revetment wall of the water battery was carried out between 1836 and 1837 under the direction of Lt. Henry Thompson, U.S. Army Corps of Artillery. The battery extends from the east face of the ravelin to the left shoulder of bastion 3. Although technically not a true water battery in the traditional sense of being constructed near the water's edge, its purpose was nevertheless to provide a first line of defense between the fort and the seawall. Thirty-nine gun emplacements were built within the battery between 1837 and 1838. In 1866, two underground magazines, two underground bombproofs, and a free-standing

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

B-8

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13

earthen traverse were constructed within the battery. The magazines and bombproofs are brick chambers covered with sodded earthen mounds that were intended to protect, respectively, powder and troops; they also functioned as traverses. In common with other masonry structures elsewhere in the fort, the magazines, bombproofs and breast-height wall have experienced deterioration associated with moisture and poor drainage.

**5A. Water (Outer) Battery Breast-height Wall (LCS no. 07755)** - The brick revetment wall is about 1000 ft. long, and averages about 4 ft. in height. A steep earthen slope (glacis) originally extended from the top of the parapet to the seawall. This feature was severely modified and impacted in 1917 by construction of U.S. General Hospital No. 2. Settlement of the breast-height wall shortly after construction necessitated rebuilding efforts in 1839. The new wall was built 18 in. higher than the original with a corresponding increase in the height of the parapet. Recent archeological investigations have demonstrated that the 1839 reconstruction altered only the top section of the wall and its outer face, and that the original 1837 wall and foundation were retained. The entire revetment wall was repaired and repointed in 1929. Extensive rebuilding of portions of the wall using modern materials occurred in the 1980s, with removal of original stone foundations. Despite the rebuilding efforts, the brick wall retains its exterior appearance and configuration from the post-Civil War period.

**5B. Water (Outer) Battery Guns and Emplacements (LCS no. 81221)** - In 1865, four emplacements for 15-in. Rodman guns were constructed in the water battery. Construction of these emplacements required the removal or modification of several 1830s/40s emplacements and the modification of adjacent sections of revetment wall. There are presently 11 Rodman guns with iron carriages mounted on display in the battery: 4 (8-in.), 3 (modified 10-in. to 8-in.), and 4 (15-in.). In addition to these guns and their emplacements, 13 unmounted emplacements exist above ground in the water battery consisting of granite pintle blocks and traverse circles.

**5C. Magazine No. 2 (LCS no. 81224)** - Located opposite the postern tunnel, magazine no. 2 (1866) consists of a 3-chambered brick barrel vault (49 ft. X 20 ft.) with an iron-gated entry vestibule.

**5D. Magazine No. 3 (LCS no. 81225)** - Magazine no. 3 (1866) is located opposite the right face of bastion 4. It is also a 3-chambered brick barrel vault (approx. 37 ft. X 25 ft.). Two arched entry portals with iron gates lead to two vestibules, each providing access to the main chamber.

**5E. Bombproof No. 1 (LCS no. 81222)** - Bombproof no. 1 (1866) is located opposite the right face of bastion 5. It is a barrel-vaulted chamber (14 ft. X 28 ft. X 8 ft. 10 in.-high).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14

5F. Bombproof No. 2 (LCS no. 81223) - Located opposite the salient and left face of bastion 4, bombproof no. 2 (1866) is similar in configuration to bombproof no. 1. It measures 14 ft. X 30 ft. X 8 ft. 10 in.-high.

5G. Traverse (LCS no. 81216) - A free-standing traverse consisting of a 10 ft.-high earthen mound is located opposite the left face of bastion 5. At its base, the traverse measures about 20 ft. X 30 ft. It was intended to protect the ravelin, sally port and water battery from enfilade fire. Construction of the traverse and magazine nos. 1 and 2 supplanted several earlier gun emplacements and a section of the revetment wall.

6. Powder Magazine (LCS no. 00355; Building B) - This is the original fort powder magazine, constructed ca. 1800. The one-story brick structure (approx. 30 ft. X 40 ft.) has a single entrance on the south elevation. The magazine was originally not bombproof, and damage incurred during the 1814 bombardment prompted the construction immediately afterwards of a vaulted arched roof of brick and slate with reinforced brick walls. These measures gave it somewhat of a gambrel roof or barn-like appearance. A brick traverse was constructed in front of the magazine as part of the defensive preparations during the War of 1812; this was later removed. The magazine was evidently used until the late 19th century.

7. Sally Port and Guardhouses (LCS no. 00354) - The sally port is the fort's primary entrance. The 1803 plan map of the fort depicted the sally port as a simple open passage through the scarp wall between bastions 1 and 5. The entrance was gated and a bridge spanned the moat in front. Subsequently (as depicted on the 1819 Poussin plan), a vaulted brick arch was constructed over the sally port by that date designed by Maximilian Godefrey, professor of Civil and Military Architecture at St. Mary's College. Underground personnel bombproofs were constructed on either side of the sally port in the immediate aftermath of the bombardment, later converted to magazines during the Civil War. In 1835, guardhouses (16 ft. X 24 ft.) were built on either side of the sally port. In 1857, three additional prison cells were added to the south guardhouse and one to the north guardhouse. The guardhouses were later used for offices and storerooms. Heavy wooden doors are at either end of the sally port, as well as at the interior arched entrances to the bombproofs. From the 1860s to the present, the sally port has also served as the fort's primary utility corridor. The sally port floor has been altered several times throughout the 19th and 20th centuries (most recently in 1982) and a variety of flooring materials have been used such as brick, oyster shell and macadam. The present paving consists of brick laid in a herringbone pattern. The sally port was restored as part of the overall fort restoration undertaken by the War Department between 1928 and 1929.

8. Flagpole (LCS no. 00357) - The present flagpole is a 1989

B-8

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 15

reconstruction replacing an earlier reconstruction of 1959. It is located on the parade near the sally port where its position was identified on the 1803 plan map and where it likely stood at the time of the 1814 bombardment. Archeological investigations recovered the original brace support for the flagpole, confirming its location. The overall height of the flagpole is 89 ft. It consists of two round timber masts (fashioned from 120-year-old Douglas Fir) spliced and braced at a bridge 55 ft. above the ground. The pole is stabilized by steel guy lines attached to a 9 ft.-square wood platform at the base. The platform is non-historic, constructed in 1959 to serve for ceremonial occasions.

9. **Parade Walkways** (LCS no. 81213) - Brick walkways laid in a herringbone pattern connect the parade buildings. The configuration of the walkways corresponds to that identified on an 1834 plan drawing, although it is unknown if the walks were bricked at that time. However, brick walkways in a herringbone pattern are evident in a photograph of the parade grounds taken sometime between 1883-1894. Brick gutters presently run along the base of the parade wall, intended to drain surface water to the postern tunnel. Plan maps of the fort, including the earliest from 1803, depict drain gutters in place within the parade prior to construction of the parade wall in the 1830s. These drains followed the same general alignment as at present.

10. **Parade Drive** (LCS no. 81214) - The parade drive is a circular gravel driveway (12 to 30 ft.-wide) entering from the sally port and encircling the grassy area in the center of the parade. The drive is first depicted on an 1888 plan of the fort, and was originally surfaced with oyster shells. The alignment of the drive is historic.

11. **Civil War Powder Magazine** (LCS no. 07756) - This one-story gabled brick/concrete magazine and its detached 8 ft.-high exterior wall were constructed in 1863-64 approximately 600 feet northwest of the star fort. The structure measures about 80 ft. X 40 ft., and the detached wall about 62 ft. X 96 ft. A single entrance door is on the northeast face, and a square brick tower at the southwest end serves as a ventilating shaft. Between 1914 and 1917, the City of Baltimore leased Fort McHenry as a city park, and converted the Civil War powder magazine to a bathhouse. This resulted in extensive alteration of the magazine's south courtyard and the courtyard's surrounding wall. During World War II, the interior served as a target pistol range for U.S. Coast Guard officers. Despite the alterations, the structure is considered a rare architectural example of this type of detached magazine from the Civil War period. It was adapted in 1974 for storage of furnishings and collections from Hampton National Historic Site and from Fort McHenry.

12. **Boundary Wall and Entrance Gates** (LCS no. 07757) - A 10 ft.-high brick wall built in 1837 extends along the western boundary of the park 240 ft. north and 575 ft. south of the entrance. The wall is

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 16

capped with granite coping, and strengthened at intervals by square brick piers, 26 in.-wide. It was constructed to demarcate the western boundary of the fort following the acquisition of additional land in 1836. An earlier boundary wall constructed in 1817 marked the western boundary of the fort as it existed at the time of the 1814 bombardment. Both this earlier wall (dismantled when the 1837 wall was built) and its successor served no defensive purpose. Paired wrought iron gates (non-historic, replaced following recent automobile damage) are at the main entrance supported by granite piers. There are also two wrought iron pedestrian gates of similar construction.

13. Seawall (LCS no. 07758) - The seawall is a heavy masonry retaining wall, about three-quarters of a mile in length next to the water's edge. Initial construction of the wall began in 1816, with a second phase of construction between 1836 and 1839. Work on additional sections continued until 1895. The wall is constructed of cut granite stones set flush with the earthen sod embankment behind the wall. The eastern half of the wall was reset in 1974-75, and rip-rap was added as protection at that time. The wall was severely damaged by Tropical Storm David in 1979 that displaced numerous coping stones. Repairs were made in 1985 to a wall section near the city pier.

14. Fort Avenue (LCS no. 81229) - Although since modified, this road was the original access and supply route to the fort from Baltimore and existed at the time of the fort's construction and the subsequent 1814 bombardment. Because of modifications in road materials and width, the alignment is the only remaining historic element. There are about 670 ft. of original road alignment within the park boundaries. The paved asphalt entrance drive with concrete curbs and gutters follows the historic alignment for 570 ft. from the park entrance to the curve leading to the visitor parking area. A paved footpath follows another portion of the alignment for 100 ft. from the marble posts marking the historic lane to the former Washington Elm tree north of the ravelin. All traces of the historic roadbed have been eliminated along the course of the latter alignment.

15. Seawall Trail (LCS no. 81230) - This 6 ft.-wide X 3360 ft.-long asphalt pedestrian trail borders the seawall. It was originally constructed in 1917-1919 as a paved recreational path for the patients and staff of the World War I hospital. It was altered in 1926 and 1963 with curved alignments at the parking lot and west boundary wall.

(number of contributing structures: 31)

D. Contributing Buildings

1. Commanding Officer's Quarters (LCS no. 07752; Building A) - This two-story brick building was constructed ca. 1800 and measures approximately 79 ft. X 18 ft. It is located on the north side of the parade ground between bastions 1 and 2. It was originally one-story with a gable roof and dormer windows. A second story was added with

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 17

full-length covered piazza on the front facade as part of extensive remodeling in 1829. A two-story addition was also constructed in 1829 connecting the building to the adjacent guardhouse; the guardhouse was subsequently converted to a kitchen. In 1894, the quarters were again remodeled in conversion to a supply storehouse/office, and the piazza was removed. In 1929, as part of the War Department's restoration of the fort, the piazza was restored and deteriorated sections of the brick exterior walls were rebuilt and repointed. New tin roofs, gutters and drainspouts were installed at that time. The building presently exhibits an unadorned appearance with evenly spaced rounded porch columns and simple porch railing; a raised-seam metal roof over the second floor piazza; sash windows of 20 lights on the front and rear; a tin shed roof with stepped parapet end walls and two brick chimneys. The first floor is presently used for interpretive wayside exhibits. The second floor serves as the park's living history storeroom and office.

2. **Junior Officers' Quarters** (LCS no. 07553; Building C) - This building (ca. 1800) is located between bastions 2 and 3 and is similar to the other residential quarters in appearance but measures about 62 ft. X 18.5 ft. It was originally one-story with a gable roof and dormer windows. A second story was added with full-length covered piazza on the front facade as part of extensive remodeling in 1829. In 1894, the second floor was removed and the building was converted into a bakery. In 1929, the second floor and piazza were reconstructed. Deteriorated exterior walls were rebuilt and repointed at this time, and a new tin roof, gutters and drainspouts were installed. One of the first floor rooms is presently used for interpretive wayside exhibits and the upstairs for park personnel quarters.

3. **Enlisted Men's Barracks No. 1** (LCS no. 07554; Building D) - This building, similar in appearance to the other residential quarters, measures 91 ft. X 22 ft. It is located between bastions 3 and 4. As originally constructed (ca. 1800), it was one and one-half stories with gabled roof and dormer windows. In 1829, the building was remodeled with the addition of a second story, piazza and kitchen on the west end. Deteriorated exterior walls were rebuilt and repointed in 1929, and a new tin roof, gutters and drainspouts were installed. An interpretive exhibit presently occupies one first floor room, and another first floor room is used for a classroom. Ranger offices, restroom, kitchen and the park library are located upstairs.

4. **Enlisted Men's Barracks No. 2** (LCS no. 00356; Building E) - This building (99 ft. X 22 ft.) is also similar in appearance to the other residential quarters. It is located between bastions 4 and 5. As originally constructed (ca. 1800), it was one and one-half stories with gabled roof and dormer windows. A second story was added with full-length covered piazza on the front facade as part of extensive remodeling in 1829. In 1894, its second floor piazza was removed and the building converted to a quartermaster's office and storehouse. In

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 18

1929, the deteriorated exterior walls were rebuilt and repointed, the piazza reconstructed and new tin roofs, gutters and drainspouts installed. Interpretive exhibits are presently on the first floor, and meeting rooms and offices are on the second floor. Archeological investigations were conducted in 1958 of the original (ca. 1800) basement kitchen.

(number of contributing buildings: 4)

**E. Contributing Objects**

1. **Armistead Monument** (LCS no. 07759) - The 9-ft. standing figure of Maj. George Armistead, fort commander during the 1814 bombardment, was sculpted by Edward Berge in 1914. It was erected by the City of Baltimore and the Society of the War of 1812. The bronze statue is mounted on a 9 ft. X 9 ft. X 12 ft. granite base. It was originally located on the parapet of the water battery opposite magazine no. 2, and was moved in 1963 to its present location in front of the entrance to the visitor center.

2. **Statue of Orpheus** (LCS no. 00353) - The large bronze statue of Orpheus (mythological Greek poet and musician), was sculpted by Charles H. Niehaus, an influential late 19th century neo-classical sculptor. The statue was the winning entry of a design contest authorized by Congress in 1914 to commemorate Francis Scott Key and "The Star-Spangled Banner." After several years delay, the statue was completed and a dedication ceremony was held in 1922, attended by President Warren G. Harding. The 22 ft.-high statue stands atop a 15 ft.-high marble pedestal and 25 ft.-diameter base. It was originally located in the center of Fort Avenue west of the fort, and was moved in 1963 a short distance to its present location east of the Civil War Powder Magazine. Eight curved marble benches were originally placed adjacent to the former circular drive around the statue; these were relocated to various locations along park walkways when the statue was moved.

3. **American Privateer's Monument** (LCS no. 81226) - This monument consists of an 1814 cannon from an unknown Baltimore ship mounted on a granite base. It was erected in 1914 by the Society of the War of 1812 to commemorate the private armed vessels that were commissioned to capture British ships during the War of 1812. The dedication plaque has been removed. It is located near the southwestern end of the water battery breast-height wall.

4. **British Bomb Monuments** (LCS no. 81231) - These two monuments consist of 13-in. British mortar and carcass shells from the 1814 bombardment that failed to explode. They are mounted on rough-cut granite shafts. They were erected in 1914 and moved in 1966 to their present location adjacent to the fort powder magazine. The 13-in. carcass shell is the only one known to exist in the United States, and its history is fully documented.

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 19

5. Francis Scott Key Memorial Plaque (LCS no. 81248) - This bronze and marble plaque was designed and sculpted by Charles Niehaus in 1914 commemorating the centennial of the 1814 bombardment and Francis Scott Key's writing of "The Star-Spangled Banner." It is placed in the southeast scarp wall of bastion 1 about 4 ft. above ground level.

6. Collections - Approximately 25,000 items are maintained in Fort McHenry's various museum collections. Among the significant collections are the E. Berkley Bowie Firearms collection (part of this collection is on permanent loan to Gettysburg National Military Park); the Mrs. Reuban Ross Holloway collection of documents and manuscripts pertaining to the adoption of "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the national anthem; a collection of United States flags; and numerous historic photographs documenting the 1917 construction of U.S. General Hospital No. 2 and the W.P.A.'s repair and repointing work in the 1930s. The park also houses extensive artifact collections obtained by the numerous archeological excavations that have been conducted over the years. Several objects from significant periods of the fort (e.g., furniture, armaments, items of clothing, etc.) are exhibited in the visitor center and the parade ground buildings.

Over 100,000 documents relating to Fort McHenry's historical development are also maintained on-site. These were compiled from original sources by the National Park Service as part of the Historical and Architectural Research Project (HARP). Undertaken between 1957 and 1958, this was a concerted effort to collect and research important historic, archeological and architectural information pertaining to the fort.

(number of contributing objects: 6)

**F. Archeological Resources**

Several archeological investigations have been undertaken at Fort McHenry beginning in the 1950s to the present. These investigations have significantly expanded the understanding of the fort's construction, the significance of its various structural and architectural features and the evolutionary sequence of development. For the most part, investigations have been initiated in response to the immediate requirements of maintenance/construction projects in efforts to mitigate the impacts associated with these undertakings.

Investigations have frequently uncovered structures that are identified in the historical record but no longer exhibit surface features, existing solely of below grade remnants and associated artifacts (e.g., privies, parade cistern, shot furnace, gun mounts, etc.). Outside the fort walls, the locations of several outbuildings present during the period of the 1814 bombardment (e.g., tavern, hospital, barracks, and stables) are marked and outlined with bricks. However, ground disturbance associated with the construction and

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 20

removal of U.S. General Hospital No. 2 has likely impacted the archeological integrity of these resources. Numerous foundations of the World War I hospital buildings remain in the grassy area outside the star fort and water battery. A recent summary of the archeological information collected to date has been compiled in "Review and Synthesis of Archeological Documentation, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine (18BC13), Baltimore, Maryland," John Milner and Associates, Inc., 1993.

**G. Noncontributing Buildings**

1. **Visitor Center** - The 2400 sq.-ft. visitor center was constructed in 1963-64 during the period of development in the National Park Service known as "Mission 66." It houses a 65-seat auditorium, lobby/exhibit area, restrooms, concession-operated gift shop, and NPS administrative offices and storeroom. The one-story masonry and steel structure with brick veneer is located approximately 300 ft. north of the fort. It exhibits a functional contemporary design typical of late 1950s and early 1960s modern architecture.

2. **Maintenance Shop** - The maintenance shop (a 2400 sq.-ft. structure built in 1963-64) is located in the northwest corner of the monument grounds adjacent to the park housing complex. It contains two small offices and shop/storage rooms. The one-story masonry veneer building (approx. 50 ft. X 110 ft.) has an attached one-story metal panel clad addition (approx. 30 ft. X 50 ft.) forming an ell. A brick wall runs along the south elevation concealing maintenance operations and the park housing area.

3. **Employee Housing/Offices** - A one-story brick and wood frame Mission 66 duplex is located adjacent to the maintenance shop. The gabled, ranch-style building was constructed in 1963-64, with three bedrooms in each unit. Each unit (6 bays wide X 2 bays deep) measures about 55 ft. X 25 ft. Both units were originally used as residences, but currently only the south unit is used for that purpose; the north unit functions as adjunct administration and maintenance offices.

4. **Utility Garage** - A new metal garage (60 ft. X 120 ft.) is under construction in the southwest corner maintenance area of the park. It replaces a former one and one-half story, wood-frame garage with board and batten siding constructed in 1940 on the same site. The removed garage was determined ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places in May, 1995. A 175 ft.-long paved roadway leads to the garage and the storage building (no. 5, below).

5. **Storage Building** - This building is located near the utility garage (no. 4, above) in the southwest corner of the park. The building was constructed in 1980 with concrete masonry unit (CMU) side walls; the front and roof are open. It is used for materials storage.

6. **Comfort Station** - A one-story wood frame restroom (18 ft. X 58 ft.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

B-8

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 21

is located near the new picnic area and boat dock. The hipped roof building (constructed in the late 1980s) has entrances at either end with screened enclosures. A central entrance provides access to plumbing and waste systems.

(number of noncontributing buildings: 6)

**H. Noncontributing Structures**

- 1. Modern Boundary Fence** - This fence (constructed in 1973) extends east for 580 ft. from the northern end of the historic brick boundary wall to a brick corner pylon, and then northerly to the seawall. It separates the park from parcels owned by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Baltimore Fire Department. The 5 ft. 5 in.-tall fence consists of 10 ft. sections of wrought iron spikes anchored in preexisting concrete footers. It was designed to replicate the existing historic boundary fence and replaced a chain link fence dating from the 1930s to the 1950s.
- 2. Boundary Fence (LCS no. 81244)** - A boundary fence constructed by the War Department in 1926 demarcates the boundary between Fort McHenry and the U.S. Navy installation on the north. The iron picket fence is about 5 ft.-high and about 953 ft.-long, with brick/concrete end piers. The fence is not related to any particular historic theme or significant period of construction at the fort.
- 3. Boat Dock** - A ca. 1977 boat dock and pier (located outside the park boundary near the end of the seawall) is incorporated into the park's visitor circulation system. It is owned by the City of Baltimore and leased by the city to the Harbor Shuttle. A small picnic area is located near the dock with uncovered picnic tables. A paved footpath leads to the area from the fort.
- 4. Parking Lot and Entrance Drive** - The visitor parking lot and connecting portion of the entrance drive were constructed as part of the Mission 66 improvements undertaken in the park between 1963 and 1964. The landscaped lot measures approximately 350 ft. X 350 ft. and is paved with bituminous asphalt. The modern section of the entrance drive curves for 300 feet, connecting the parking lot to the primary entrance drive (the alignment of historic Fort Avenue). A grass turf parking area is located to the west and adjacent to the paved parking area to handle overflow vehicle parking during peak visitation events.
- 5. U.S. Coast Guard Tower** - This is a 60 ft.-high steel navigational aid equipped with a flashing green range light. It is located on a 30 ft. X 30 ft. site near the seawall east of the star fort. The tower provides a vital navigational and safety service for ships entering Baltimore harbor during darkness. While the present tower is modern, navigational towers have been placed in the general area since the 1890s.

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 22

6. **Utility Corridors** - Several utility corridors cross the grounds of the national monument including: 1). a 1911 right-of-way easement held by the City of Baltimore for two underground electrical lines, 2). a 1925 right-of-way easement held by the U.S. Coast Guard for the electrical line serving the light tower, 3). a 1947 right-of-way easement held by the City of Baltimore for two sealed water mains, 4). a right of way held by the U.S. Navy for the water main supplying the U.S. Naval Reserve Center, and 5). sealed underground steam lines from the U.S. Naval Reserve Center passing through the curtain wall between bastions 1 and 2.

(number of noncontributing structures: 6)

I. **Noncontributing Objects**

1. **War of 1812 Commander Memorial Tree Plaques** - These 32 concrete markers with bronze plaques were erected by various War of 1812 organizations to commemorate commanders of the war. The markers were placed in 1932-33 adjacent to commemorative trees that were planted at that time on the fort grounds. The original trees died and have been replaced. The markers were moved in 1962 across the road to their present location near the Civil War powder magazine. They represent elements of a commemorative landscape that has lost integrity and their associated significance has been diminished.

2. **State Tablet Monuments** - These are concrete commemorative markers with brass plaques placed in 1932 by various War of 1812 groups and dedicated to each state of the nation; Hawaii and Alaska were dedicated in 1964. They are located along the drive from the entrance gate. Like the memorial tree plaques, they represent elements of a commemorative landscape that has lost integrity and their associated significance has been diminished.

3. **Washington Elm Tree Marker** - This concrete marker with bronze plaque was placed in 1932 by the Maryland Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. It commemorates the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington. The Washington Elm contracted Dutch Elm disease and was removed in November, 1995. The tree removal was undertaken in accordance with NPS procedures implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

(number of noncontributing objects: 3)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant dates
<u>Military; engineering</u>	<u>(1794-1802) to 1867;</u>	<u>1814; 1914</u>
<u>Literature; poetry</u>	<u>1914 to 1922</u>	<u></u>
<u>Art; sculpture</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u>Conservation; historic preservation</u>		
<u>Archeology; historic/non-aboriginal</u>		
<u></u>		
<u></u>		

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
Francis Scott Key

Architect/Builder  
Rivardi; Tousard; Foncin; Wadsworth

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas & periods of significance noted above.

Significance (Summary)

Fort McHenry, constructed between 1794 and 1802 to guard the entrance to Baltimore harbor, is recognized as one of the finest surviving examples of coastal fortifications built during the First American System. This system of federally-funded forts spanned the Atlantic seaboard and the Gulf of Mexico to protect strategic ports from foreign invasion. The site derives preeminent national significance from its pivotal role in the defense of Baltimore during the War of 1812, withstanding a 25-hour British naval bombardment on September 13-14, 1814. From its establishment until 1912, Fort McHenry remained an active military post. Between 1917 and 1923 it served as a receiving hospital for the convalescence of World War I veterans. In 1925 Congress designated the fort a national park and "perpetual national memorial shrine" under the administration of the War Department. The enabling legislation specifically called for the fort's preservation and restoration. Several undertakings to address this mandate were carried out by the War Department and later by the National Park Service following transfer of the property to the Department of the Interior in 1933. These efforts are significantly linked to the historic preservation philosophy of the time and the growing recognition that the federal government should play an active role in the protection and interpretation of the nation's important historic sites. In 1939, the fort was redesignated as Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, the only park in the nation to bear this dual distinction. For its primary association with these historical events, Fort McHenry meets criterion A for listing on the National Register.

Francis Scott Key, detained off-shore by the British during the 1814 attack on the fort, witnessed the bombardment and was moved to write the poem, "The Star-Spangled Banner." The poem eventually became the national anthem in 1931. For its association with Key, whose inspired poem has endured as a profound work of patriotic literature and music from the time of its public release immediately after the battle, Fort McHenry meets criterion B for listing on the National Register.

The fort underwent several episodes of construction and modification, both before and after the War of 1812. Although substantially altered in many respects from its appearance at the time of the 1814 bombardment, the essential configuration of the star fort has survived to the present. The modifications that have occurred provide insights into the dynamic interplay of technological innovation and political events that over the better part

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

of the last century shaped military designs for coastal fortifications. Therefore, as an expression of the evolution and advances in defense engineering from the late 18th to late 19th centuries, Fort McHenry also meets National Register criterion C.

Resources that further contribute to Fort McHenry's national significance under criterion C include the various statues and commemorative plaques/markers placed at the fort during later periods of memorialization. Among these, the Statue of Orpheus is recognized as a significant artistic work by the renowned neo-classical sculptor, Charles Niehaus. Authorized by Congress in 1914, the statue was dedicated in 1922 to Francis Scott Key and the defenders of Baltimore who participated in the Battle of North Point and the defense of Fort McHenry in 1814. Other important works, placed during the centennial commemoration of the bombardment by various War of 1812 organizations, include the Armistead monument, the American privateers' monument and the British bomb monuments. The 1932 bicentennial celebration of George Washington's birth marked another milestone of memorialization by War of 1812 organizations. This event prompted the planting of trees with memorial plaques dedicated to the fort's commanders during the battle, and the placement of state tablet monuments and the Washington Elm Tree marker. The various plaques and landscape features associated with the 1932 bicentennial celebration have lost integrity and no longer contribute to the National Register significance of the property.

Fort McHenry also meets national register criterion D for its demonstrated ability to yield substantial archeological information regarding the nature and evolution of the fort's various structures and buildings. Important data expanding knowledge of the everyday life of the fort's historic occupants can also be gained from an evaluation of the cultural material acquired during the course of archeological investigations.

#### Historic Context

The development of fortifications on Whetstone Point (now known as Locust Point) was an outgrowth of the growing economic importance of Baltimore as a manufacturing/distribution center and transportation hub. Founded in 1729, Baltimore grew from a small port supported primarily by tobacco exports, to a major urban center by the time of the American Revolution. The Revolution played a significant role in boosting Baltimore's prosperity; the city's iron and ship building industries, and agricultural processing mills were major suppliers of the Continental Army and Navy. The Baltimore Turnpike linked the city to Cumberland, Maryland, providing a direct route for the transport of agricultural produce and other commodities from the interior. After 1815, with the road's extension from this point west as part of the National (Cumberland) Road, Baltimore's position as a vital distribution center was further strengthened. By the end of the 18th century, Baltimore had become the nation's third largest commercial city, engaged in a flourishing overseas trade with Europe and the West Indies.

Early in the course of the American Revolution, the Maryland Council of Safety recognized that Baltimore was vulnerable to naval attack. In

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

response to this threat, the Council initiated the construction of Fort Whetstone in 1776. The fort was supported by two fortified gun (water) batteries near the shore line that were intended to provide a first line of defense against naval assault. Although detailed plans or descriptions of the fort and water batteries have not been found, early maps and other evidence indicate that the fort was constructed of earthen embankments in the configuration of a star fort but without true bastions. It was located on the eastern tip of Whetstone Point at approximately the same site as its successor, Fort McHenry. In the waning stages of the Revolution, with the threat of invasion less an immediate concern, some of Fort Whetstone's cannon were removed for use elsewhere. Evidence also suggests that the fort may never have been completed.

Fort Whetstone was constructed by local residents and militia untrained in the construction of defense works and without the guidance of military engineers. As a result, design problems were inherent at the outset that left the fort essentially indefensible. However, the fort was never tested under siege, and was eventually abandoned by the military and sold to private interests after the Revolutionary War. The mining of iron ore also resumed on Whetstone Point after the war, an activity that preceded the construction of fortifications.

In 1793, the young revolutionary government of France went to war with Great Britain. Repercussions of the conflict threatened American neutrality and the interlude of peace that followed the American Revolution. The French were first to antagonize the American government when their emissary, Citizen Edmond Genêt, arrived in Charleston, South Carolina. Disclosure of his plans, including the outfitting of French warships in American ports, revealed a flagrant disregard for America's Neutrality Act. This affair was followed by the British seizure of hundreds of American ships engaged in trade with the French West Indies. Anti-British sentiments were further stirred by British support of Indian tribes resisting American expansion on the Northwest frontier.

The heightened international tensions of the period led to the signing of Jay's Treaty in 1794 between Great Britain and the United States. Negotiated by Chief Justice of the United States, John Jay, the treaty improved relations to some extent with Great Britain. However, it was denounced by many in the United States who felt that the agreement seriously undermined American neutrality, and unfairly benefitted Britain over France.

On March 20, 1794, as a precautionary measure against the instability of international affairs, Congress passed an act authorizing a program of coastal fortifications. Referred to as the First American System, this series of forts was constructed between 1794 and 1806 to protect strategic ports and harbors along the Atlantic seaboard and the Gulf of Mexico. Although funding proved inadequate, the system marked the first time that federal funds were allocated for the construction of coastal defense works. The government contracted with independent military architects to prepare designs because no engineering department then existed within the United States military. Many of these architects were French immigrants, formally

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

trained in the prevailing European theories of fortification. They were permitted a wide degree of latitude in selecting plans, methods and materials. As a result, and in the absence of any unifying federal guidelines, the various forts were dissimilar in form. The forts were also not particularly durable, consisting primarily of earthworks.

A French military engineer and immigrant to the United States, Major John Jacob Ulrich Rivardi, was appointed by the Secretary of War, Henry Knox, to plan the fortifications for both Baltimore and Alexandria, Virginia. His assessment of Fort Whetstone, abandoned and in disrepair, identified several design deficiencies; e.g., the line of artillery fire from the fort was oblique, and the entrant and salient angles (that is, respectively, the angles of enemy artillery fire into the fort and across the points of the bastions) could not be defended. To correct these problems, he recommended the construction of a new star fort and water battery at the site of the earlier fort. Upon the approval of the governor of Maryland, Rivardi undertook architectural responsibility for the initial stages of construction. He was assisted by his construction supervisor, Samuel Dodge.

Construction of the water battery began in 1794, but little progress or expenditures were made on the overall fortifications between 1794 and 1797. Although instructed to keep his designs simple and to hold total construction costs to \$4,225, Rivardi came under criticism for the pace and scope of the work. Maryland congressman and Revolutionary War veteran Samuel Smith considered Rivardi's plans too grandiose.

In 1798, Rivardi was replaced by another French engineer, Major Louis Tousard. Tousard's appointment was made at a time of renewed tensions between the United States and France. The so-called Quasi-War of 1798 to 1800 was precipitated by French capture of American ships on the high seas, and what the United States considered an insulting French response to a proposed diplomatic settlement (the "XYZ Affair"). The conflict led to the establishment of the U.S. Department of the Navy and a renewed program of naval ship building. The limited and undeclared naval war brought an end to the previous four years of American neutrality, and led to an informal alliance between Great Britain and the United States.

The conflict with France spurred Congress in 1798 to appropriate \$250,000 for improvements in coastal defenses. Under Tousard's direction, dramatic progress was made on the construction of what continued to be called Fort Whetstone. Approximately \$18,000 was spent on the fortifications by the end of the year. However, Tousard's direct oversight of the fort was brief. In the same year (1798) he was placed in charge of all United States seacoast defenses, an unusual appointment in that it was made at a time when other French engineers were dismissed on suspicion of their loyalties to France. Tousard, however, had demonstrated his American patriotism by serving in the Continental Army during the Revolution, and had been promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel for his gallantry.

Jean Foncin, the third French engineer to direct construction, arrived in Baltimore in 1799 as Tousard's replacement. Foncin was critical of certain

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

design elements introduced by his predecessors, and persuaded his superiors to endorse his plans for revisions. While the details of Foncin's modifications are not well known, the present five-bastioned star fort represents to a large extent the legacy of his architectural design skills. The largest annual outlay for construction expenditures (\$53,000) was made in 1800. Under Foncin's tenure, the fort was essentially complete by 1802, and was officially known by that time as Fort McHenry in honor of Colonel James McHenry of Maryland, Secretary of War from 1796 to 1800.

At the beginning of the 19th century, a brief lull in international tensions led to the curtailment of federal funds for fortifications. However, the resumption of European hostilities in 1803 between France and Great Britain once again threatened to draw in the United States. The British policy of boarding American merchant ships and impressing their crews into service for the Crown was seen by Americans as a clear violation of their declared neutrality. In 1807, the policy was pushed to extreme limits when the British ship Leopard, in search of deserters, opened fire on the U.S. frigate Chesapeake at the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay. The event drew widespread appeals for a declaration of war, but Presidents Thomas Jefferson and later James Madison hoped to coerce a peaceful settlement through economic sanctions and an embargo on American shipping. British and French interference with America's foreign trade, and continuing American expansion on the Northwest frontier further exacerbated relations between these nations.

A new program of seacoast fortifications (designated the Second American System) was authorized in response to the renewed threats of war and invasion. Unlike those of the First American System, the second generation forts of the period 1807 to 1814 were designed and constructed under a more coordinated effort by the military with architects and engineers trained in the United States. The Second American System provided for both the upgrading of existing defenses and new fort construction to protect the growing number of strategic port cities and harbors along the Eastern seaboard. Despite the military's coordinated efforts, wide variations continued to occur among the forts of this period.

The failure of economic sanctions to produce a settlement and the continuation of American grievances against Great Britain led to the emergence of a dominant pro-war faction among Republicans in Congress. In 1812, this faction (the "War Hawks") prevailed with President Madison's reluctant endorsement of a declaration of war against Britain. The United States entered the conflict both financially and militarily ill-prepared and with public opinion severely divided.

Despite these handicaps, Fort McHenry received extensive new construction and modifications in 1813 to correct perceived design deficiencies. Chief Ordnance Officer of the War Department, Col. Decius Wadsworth, is credited with the design/construction of the ravelin, recognized as the fort's first significant architectural feature designed by an American-trained engineer. Because of the changes made to the fort at this time (e.g., construction of the ravelin outside the sally port entrance, platforming of the bastions,

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

etc.) Fort McHenry bears elements of both First and Second American Systems.

Early in the War of 1812, the British blockaded the entrances to the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays in response to the capture of British merchant ships and their cargoes by American privateers. However, the British were preoccupied with subduing Napoleon's forces in Europe and were initially unable to devote serious attention to the American "annoyance." After forcing Napoleon into exile in the spring of 1814, the British deployed a force of some 5,000 army and navy veterans against the United States in mid-August. Under the joint command of Maj. Gen. Robert Ross and Vice Adm. Alexander Cochrane, the British occupied Washington D.C. and burned several public buildings, including the White House. After this success, they directed a combined land and naval attack on Baltimore.

Under the command of Maj. Gen. Samuel Smith, Baltimore was well-prepared for the British assault. A line of defense works was erected at the east end of the city, and some 15,000 militia and regular army units were mustered for the city's defense. Fort McHenry and its two water batteries, commanded by Maj. George Armistead with 1,000 men, was crucial to the defensive network, securing the harbor channels leading to the city from the south. The defenders obstructed the mouth of the Northwest Branch with a line of gunboats and the hulks of intentionally scuttled merchant vessels.

On September 12th, British troops forced the withdrawal of American defenders at the Battle of North Point, a land engagement east of Baltimore. Advancing towards Baltimore the next morning, the British halted within two miles of the city while awaiting the results of the naval attack. The bombardment of Fort McHenry began at dawn on the 13th and continued for 25 hours. Two American officers were killed and several artillerymen wounded when two shells exploded on the southwest bastion. Despite the heavy shelling (estimated by Maj. Armistead at between 1500 and 1800 shells directed at the fort, 400 falling within the defense works), the only American casualties were four killed and 24 wounded. The powder magazine took a direct hit during the bombardment, severely damaging the building but not the powder stored within.

The British commanders, recognizing that the fort was capable of withstanding a prolonged attack, ordered a diversionary flanking sortie at midnight by way of the Ferry Branch west of the fort. This tactic proved unsuccessful. Part of the invading party mistakenly entered the wrong waterway and failed to reach their planned landing destination. They, along with other invading forces, were repelled by the combined fire of Forts McHenry, Covington, Babcock, and Look-Out.

The British bombardment ceased at 7 a.m. on September 14th, marking the last time in the fort's history that it would come under enemy fire. Fort McHenry's defenders had effectively prevented British ships from entering the Northwest Branch, and the grand strategy for the seizure of Baltimore was thwarted. A significant far-reaching consequence of the battle was that it strengthened the negotiating position of the American peace commissioners, already meeting in Belgium since August. The Treaty of

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Ghent, ending the War of 1812, was signed on December 24, 1814.

As the British forces withdrew on the morning of September 14th, Fort McHenry's large American flag was hoisted defiantly. The flag (originally 42 ft. X 30 ft.) displayed the 15 stars and 15 stripes officially sanctioned by the United States between 1795 and 1818. It is exhibited today in the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

A young Georgetown (Washington D.C.) attorney, Francis Scott Key, witnessed the bombardment and purportedly observed the large flag later raised over the fort while detained by the British aboard an American truce ship. Key had come to Baltimore to arrange the release of his elderly friend, Dr. William Beanes of Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Beanes, whose home was earlier occupied by the British commander, Gen. Ross, prior to the Battle of Bladensburg outside Washington, had been apprehended on allegations that he had violated an oath of good behavior. Key, accompanied by Col. John Skinner (U.S. Commissioner General of Prisoners), set sail from Baltimore on September 5th and intercepted the British fleet in the Chesapeake Bay two days later. After negotiations aboard the flagship Tonnant, Adm. Cochrane agreed to release Dr. Beanes. However, because the Americans had gained knowledge of the British attack plans, they were detained aboard their small American vessel, anchored to the rear of the British fleet.

The intense anxiety felt by Key and his companions as they witnessed the bombardment was ultimately replaced by relief and joy upon recognition that Fort McHenry had withstood the attack. Key was inspired to pen the words to the poem that eventually became the "Star-Spangled Banner." He wrote the first words as the British ended their siege, adding more lines during his two-day return voyage to Baltimore. He revised and completed the draft in his hotel room. Although details are sketchy and conflicting, the poem was evidently presented to his wife's brother-in-law, Judge Joseph H. Nicholson, of Baltimore. Nicholson was so greatly moved that he had the poem printed in handbill form and distributed to the citizens of Baltimore on September 17th under the title, "Defence of Fort McHenry." The first newspaper publications of the poem appeared in the Baltimore Patriot & Evening Advertiser on September 20th, and the following day in the Baltimore American and Commercial Daily Advertiser. The name of the poem was changed shortly thereafter to "The Star-Spangled Banner."

The melody to which the poem was ultimately adapted and sung was attributed to an earlier (ca. 1770) composition entitled "To Anacreon in Heaven" by the Englishman, John Stafford Smith. It was written on the occasion of the founding of the Anacreontic Society in London, a social club dedicated to the early Greek lyric poet, Anacreon. The tune was also evidently an Irish/British drinking song, with different (and undoubtedly bawdier) lyrics. In any event, the melody was widely popular in America at the time that "The Star-Spangled Banner" was written, and was known and imitated by Francis Scott Key in his composition.

Key continued his successful law practice in the aftermath of the War of 1812 and was appointed U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia during the

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

administration of Andrew Jackson. He remained deeply religious, and an active supporter of various social aid organizations. "The Star-Spangled Banner" attained widespread popularity across the country immediately following its release, and various arrangements were circulated. It acquired a prominent position among national songs by the time of the Civil War. In 1918, a bill was introduced in Congress to proclaim it the national anthem. This measure met strong opposition over the next several years, particularly among groups objecting to certain lyrics in the song that were considered antagonistic to Great Britain, and others who felt its purported drinking song associations violated moral standards. However, with the mounting support of civic and patriotic organizations, "The Star-Spangled Banner" was finally named the official national anthem by an act of Congress on March 3, 1931.

Although the 1814 bombardment successfully demonstrated Fort McHenry's ability to withstand a naval artillery attack, the bombardment exposed certain weaknesses of the fort that were improved and corrected over the ensuing decades. In 1817, the federal government enacted a new program of coastal fortifications (the Third American System) that extended over the next 50 years to 1867. The military initiated this system not in response to immediate threats of foreign invasion, but as a further means of upgrading and integrating its network of seacoast defenses. Besides the construction of new forts, technological advances in fortification design were incorporated into existing forts. Fort McHenry received several modifications during this period including the construction in the 1830s of the water (outer) battery, the breast-height walls of the parapet and the parade walls.

Fort McHenry remained a vital component of Baltimore's defenses at the time of the Civil War. The earlier construction of supplemental Third-System fortifications such as Fort Carroll, located about 4.5 miles down the Patapsco River to the southeast, lessened the pressure on Fort McHenry. However, the latter continued to be seen as critical to the defense of Baltimore both from naval and landward attack. Expedient improvements were made to Fort McHenry at the beginning of the Civil War, followed by more permanent improvements during the war and immediately after. The fort became a powerful symbol of federal authority and control, particularly early in the war when the sympathies of Baltimore's population rested strongly with the Confederacy. As stark testimony to its altered role of defending against internal threats, the fort's armaments were directed at the city to deter the possibility of a pro-Confederate siege or uprising. The fort served as a place of temporary incarceration for some 23,000 Confederate military and political prisoners, and as an important staging area for the outfitting and embarking of Union troops and supplies.

During the Civil War, Third-System masonry forts were demonstrated to be vulnerable to long-range rifled artillery, developed shortly before the war. Because this jeopardized Fort Carroll as a first line of defense for Baltimore, construction began in 1872 on an extensive new water battery at Fort McHenry to counter the perceived artillery threat and to bolster its defense in the event Fort Carroll fell. Although this battery was intended

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

to be equipped with 25 15-in. guns, construction ceased in 1878 and was never completed. All appropriations for coastal defenses ended in 1875 at a time when the threat of war and invasion was perceived as minimal.

From the end of the 1870s to 1912, Fort McHenry functioned primarily as a garrison, having outlived its effectiveness as a coastal defense work. In the 1880s, armament improvements were made to selected coastal fortifications under the recommendations of a special review board headed by Secretary of War, William C. Endicott. However, Fort McHenry was not among the forts to receive these improvements. The construction in the 1890s of Forts Smallwood, Howard, and Armistead at the confluence of the Patapsco River and Chesapeake Bay, and their subsequent replacement by further advances in military defenses, rendered Fort McHenry obsolete as a fortification. It briefly served, however, as a recruiting base during the Spanish-American War of 1898.

Fort McHenry was unoccupied from 1913 to 1914 following the official end of its use as an active military post in 1912. From 1914 until 1917 it was leased to the City of Baltimore and used as a city park. In 1917, following America's entry into World War I, the U.S. Army established a large military hospital at Fort McHenry known as U.S. General Hospital No. 2. The complex consisted of 104 new buildings constructed on the fort grounds. The hospital held the capacity for treating some 3,000 patients, under the medical attention of 200 doctors, 300 nurses and hundreds of support personnel. Although the grounds were extensively altered by construction of the hospital, the star fort itself and the exterior Civil War magazine were not seriously impacted. The hospital remained in operation until 1923.

In 1925, Fort McHenry was designated a national park and "perpetual national memorial shrine" under the administration of the War Department. The army initiated efforts to restore the fort and grounds, and completed demolition of the World War I hospital buildings around 1929. In 1933, Fort McHenry passed from the War Department to the Department of the Interior, and was placed under the administration of the National Park Service. The fort was redesignated a national monument and historic shrine in 1939.

Between 1942 and 1945, Fort McHenry served as a training station for the United States Coast Guard. The Coast Guard was assigned the responsibility of protecting the nation's port facilities and docked vessels during World War II. At Fort McHenry, a primary area of instruction was on-ship fire fighting and prevention measures. Twenty temporary buildings were constructed for the training station on the grounds near the east seawall; these were all removed upon decommissioning of the station at the end of the war.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Brown, Sharon A. and Susan Long  
 1986 "Historic Structure Report: Administrative, Historical and Architectural Data Sections, Seawall; Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Maryland." National Park Service, Denver Service Center.

Cheek, Charles D., Ph.D. and Joseph Balicki  
 1993 "Review and Synthesis of Archeological Documentation, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine (18BC13)." Prepared for the National Park Service by John Milner Associates, Inc., Alexandria, Va.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine: Library of Congress

**10. Geographical Data**

Acraege of property 43.3

UTM References

A

Zone	Easting	Northing
18	363420	43410
18	363650	43410

B

Zone	Easting	Northing
18	363600	43410
18	363780	43415

- E - Zone 18; Easting 363880; Northing 4347040
- F - Zone 18; Easting 363680; Northing 4346750
- G - Zone 18; Easting 363530; Northing 4346940
- H - Zone 18; Easting 363300; Northing 4347080

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Steve Whissen, Historian  
 organization National Park Service, Denver Service Center date October 2, 1996  
 street & number 12795 W. Alameda Pkwy., P.O. Box 25287 telephone 303-969-2380  
 city or town Denver state Colorado zip code 80225-0287

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

Current, Richard N., et. al.

1975 American History: A Survey, Volume I. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.,  
New York.

Grieves, Worrall, Wright and O'Hatnick

1972 "Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine; The  
Comprehensive Plan: Fabric Analysis and Treatment  
Recommendations." Prepared for the National Park Service by  
Grieves, Worrall, Wright and O'Hatnick, Architects, Baltimore,  
Md.

Lessem, Harold I. and George C. Mackenzie

1954 "Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Maryland."  
(reprinted 1961). National Park Service.

Lessem, Harold I. and David A. Kimball

1959 "History of Fort McHenry as a National Monument and Historic  
Shrine." National Park Service.

Lord, Walter

1972 The Dawn's Early Light. Harcourt, Brace, & Jovanovich, New  
York. Reprinted 1993 by the Johns Hopkins University Press,  
Baltimore.

National Park Service

1994 "List of Classified Structures (LCS)." Fort McHenry National  
Monument and Historic Shrine, updated March 17, 1994.

1986 "Statement for Management." Fort McHenry National Monument and  
Historic Shrine. National Park Service.

Nelson, Lee H.

1961 "An Architectural Study of Fort McHenry." Historic American  
Buildings Survey, National Park Service, Eastern Office,  
Division of Design and Construction, Philadelphia, Pa.

Sheds, Scott S.

1986 The Rockets' Red Glare: The Maritime Defense of Baltimore in  
1814. Tidewater Publishers, Centreville, Md.

1995 Fort McHenry: A History. The Nautical & Aviation Publishing  
Company of America, Inc., Baltimore.

Svejda, George J.

1969 "History of the Star Spangled Banner: From 1814 to the  
Present." National Park Service.

1969 "Fort McHenry Military Structures: Historic Structures Report,  
Part I, Historical Data Section." National Park Service.

B-8

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

---

Thompson, Erwin N. and Robert D. Newcomb  
1974 "Historic Structure Report, Fort McHenry, Historical and  
Architectural Data, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic  
Shrine, Maryland." National Park Service, Denver Service  
Center.

10. (Cont.) Boundary Justification

The boundaries of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine encompass the entire 43.26 acre historic site listed on the National Register of Historic Places and administered by the National Park Service. The boundaries include all the land originally occupied by the fort at the time of the 1814 British bombardment and the additional acreage acquired by the War Department in 1836. The 1837 boundary wall demarcates Fort McHenry's present western boundary; a boundary fence follows the property line on the north (extending from the western boundary wall to the water's edge at the eastern end of the site); the seawall at the water's edge marks the site's eastern and southern boundaries.

[From "Fort McHenry Natl. Monument and Histor Shrine; The Comprehensive Plan: Fabric Analysis and Treatment Recommendations." Grieves, Worrall, Wright and O'Hatnick. 1992]

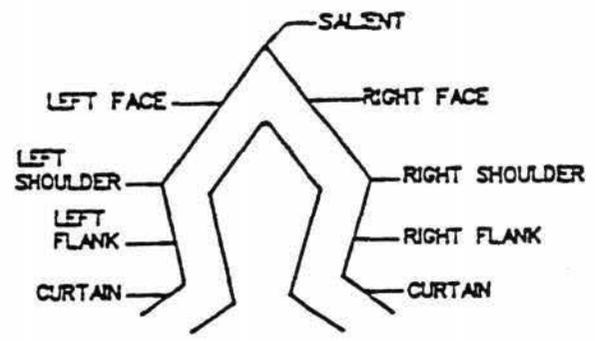
### GLOSSARY OF FORTIFICATION TERMS

The following list is an expansion of the glossary established by Thompson and Newcomb in their *Historic Structure Report: Fort McHenry...*, pp127 ff. Terms used in the descriptions that are also defined in this glossary are italicized.

**Banquette** The bank of earth in rear of the *parapet* on which infantry troops stand to fire. At Fort McHenry the banquette formed part of the *terreplein* behind the *parapet* of the main works. Refer to the sectional diagram included in the main text.

**Barbette** See *En barbette*.

**Bastion** A work consisting of two *faces* and two *flanks*, all the angles being salient. Fort McHenry has five, one at each quadrant of a pentagon. See diagram.



BASTION COMPONENTS

**Batter** A slope upward and backward from the perpendicular in a wall or pier, usually expressed as the ratio of two numbers. At Fort McHenry the *scarp* walls are battered.

**Battery** An area protected by two or more guns. See also *Water Battery*.

**Bombproof** A structure of sufficient thickness and strength that bombs cannot penetrate them. Fort McHenry is known to

have had four for personnel, one on each side of the *sally port* and two constructed in the 1860's in the *water battery*.

**Breast-Height Wall** The *interior slope* of a fort parapet. Eventually, the breast-heights at Fort McHenry were made of brick.

**Clapboarding** Surfacing with wood plank, where each plank has one edge thicker than the other, to facilitate horizontal overlapping to form a waterproof exterior surface. At Fort McHenry, the *interior slopes* of the *parapet* above the *breast-height walls* were clapboarded in 1844.

**Coping** The highest or covering course of a wall. The coping at Fort McHenry is of granite and projects out over the scarp wall. See also, *cordon*.

**Cordon** 1) An ornamental projecting course along the junction of a *parapet* with a *rampart*. 2) The *coping* of a *scarp wall*, which sometimes projects out beyond the face of the wall by a few inches.

**Counterscarp** The vertical or nearly vertical side of a *ditch* nearest to the besiegers, and opposite the *scarp wall*. While generally faced or *revetted* in permanent works, it was simply an earthen work at Fort McHenry.

**Covert Way (Covered Way)** A corridor or *banquette* running along the top of the *counterscarp* protected by an embankment whose outer slope forms the *glacis*. The defending infantry used it as a place of security or as a means of moving from point to point. Because of the lowness and nature of the *counterscarp* at Fort McHenry, the military sometimes considered the *ditch* itself to be the covert way.

**Curtain** That part of the *rampart* between two *bastions*. Fort McHenry has five curtains.

**Demilune** See *Ravelin*.

**Embrasure** At Fort McHenry, an opening in the parapet through which the guns on the *bastions* were pointed.

**En Barbette** At Fort McHenry, guns on the *bastions* set on platforms high enough as to enable the guns to fire over the *parapet*, rather than be worked through an *embrasure*.

**Entrant angle** An angle inverted toward or pointing into the fortification.

**Exterior slope** The slope given to the outside of a parapet. At Fort McHenry there were exterior slopes on the outside of the star fort *parapet*, the water battery *parapet*, and the *ravelin parapet*.

**Face / Flank of Bastion** The faces were the two parts of the *bastion* that made the *salient angle*. The flanks were the two parts that joined the faces to the *curtains*. Left and right designations are with reference to a person standing inside the fortification looking toward the salient angle.

**Glacis** A slope of earth, usually turfed, that inclines from the *covered way* towards the country. Its object is to bring assailants into a conspicuous line of fire as they approach the fort; also to mask the general works of the place.

**Gorge** 1) The rear entrance to a *bastion*; 2) a narrow passage between steep walls. At Fort McHenry, the term gorge was used to refer to the space between the *ravelin* and the fort proper.

**Interior slope** The inclination toward the inner part of a work which is given to the earth forming the *parapet* or *rampart*, i.e.,

the back side of the *parapet*. Infantry troops lean against the interior slope when firing.

**Magazine** Storehouse for powder. Fort McHenry has five which survive: one pre-War of 1812 located inside the Star Fort and referred to as the Star Fort Powder Magazine; one constructed 1863-4 and referred to as the Civil War Magazine, and three constructed in 1866: one in the *Ravelin* called Magazine One; two in the water battery called Magazine Two and Three.

**Pintle blocks** Large stones usually of granite containing the pin upon which the cannon carriages would pivot.

**Parapet** Breastworks of earth, brick, stone, or other material. The main fort, the *ravelin* and the water battery at Fort McHenry each had its *parapet*, made of sodded earth.

**Postern** A minor passageway, usually vaulted, under the rampart, to afford a communication from the interior into the ditch. Fort McHenry had one: a narrow vaulted passage leading through the rampart between Bastion Four and Five. This originally served as the main drain from the interior; after construction of the 1830's water battery, this tunnel provided communication between the fort and the battery.

**Rampart** Broad embankment of masonry and/or mass of earth surrounding a fortified place. A rampart forms the body of the place. The *parapet* is on its exterior side. At Fort McHenry, the ramparts are essentially the star fort. The exterior is defined by the masonry *scarp* walls. On the interior the parade ground *revetment* wall separates the parade ground from the *terreplein*.

**Revetment wall** A retaining wall faced with stone or brick masonry.

**Ravelin (or Demilune)** A work constructed beyond the main ditch, opposite a *curtain*, composed of two *faces* and forming a *salient angle*. It has its own *ditch* and usually, *counterscarp*. Fort McHenry had one ravelin that provided protection for the *sally port*.

**Salient angle** The projecting angle formed by the two *faces* of a *bastion* or *ravelin*.

**Sally port** The gate or passage by which the garrison of a fort may make a sally on besiegers. At Fort McHenry it was the main gateway into the fort. At first it apparently was a single opening through the *ramparts*. Later an arch covered it.

**Scarp (or Escarp)** The walls of the fort on the inner side of the *ditch*. At Fort McHenry the scarp is brick, and *battered* back 9.4 to one. To the casual visitor, the scarp is the fort when viewed from the outside.

**Shoulder angle** With reference to a *bastion*, the angled formed by the intersection of a *face* and a *flank wall*.

**Star fort** An inclosed field work, in shape like the heraldic representation of a star. The first fort at Whetstone Point was probably a true star fort. Today's fort, while often called a star fort, is not truly such; it is a pentagon with five *bastions*.

**Terreplein** The broad surface which remains on the *rampart* after constructing the *parapet* and the *banquette*. The terreplein at Fort McHenry was not especially broad, and today extended from the parade ground *revetment wall* to the *breast height walls*.

**Traverse** A mound of earth or masonry, higher than a man, approximately 18 feet thick, placed at intervals on a rampart to stop shot which may enfilade. Currently, Fort McHenry has only one true traverse of this nature, in the 1830's *water battery*. Earlier brick or earthen traverses did exist. The mound-like forms of the *water battery*

*bombproofs* and magazines provide protection similar to that offered by the traverse.

**Traverse circle** In gunnery, a circular plate of iron fastened to a bed of solid masonry on which the traverse wheels, which support the gun chassis, roll.

**Water battery** A *battery* located nearly level with the water. During the War of 1812, Fort McHenry had two water batteries - the lower, on the river's edge; and the upper, which fired over the lower. These fell into disuse and were eventually leveled. In the late 1830's the present day battery, adjacent to the fort, was constructed. This area could more accurately be referred to as an "Outer battery", leaving the term "water battery" for the earlier works. This report has used the term "water battery" for the area, since it conforms to current usage.

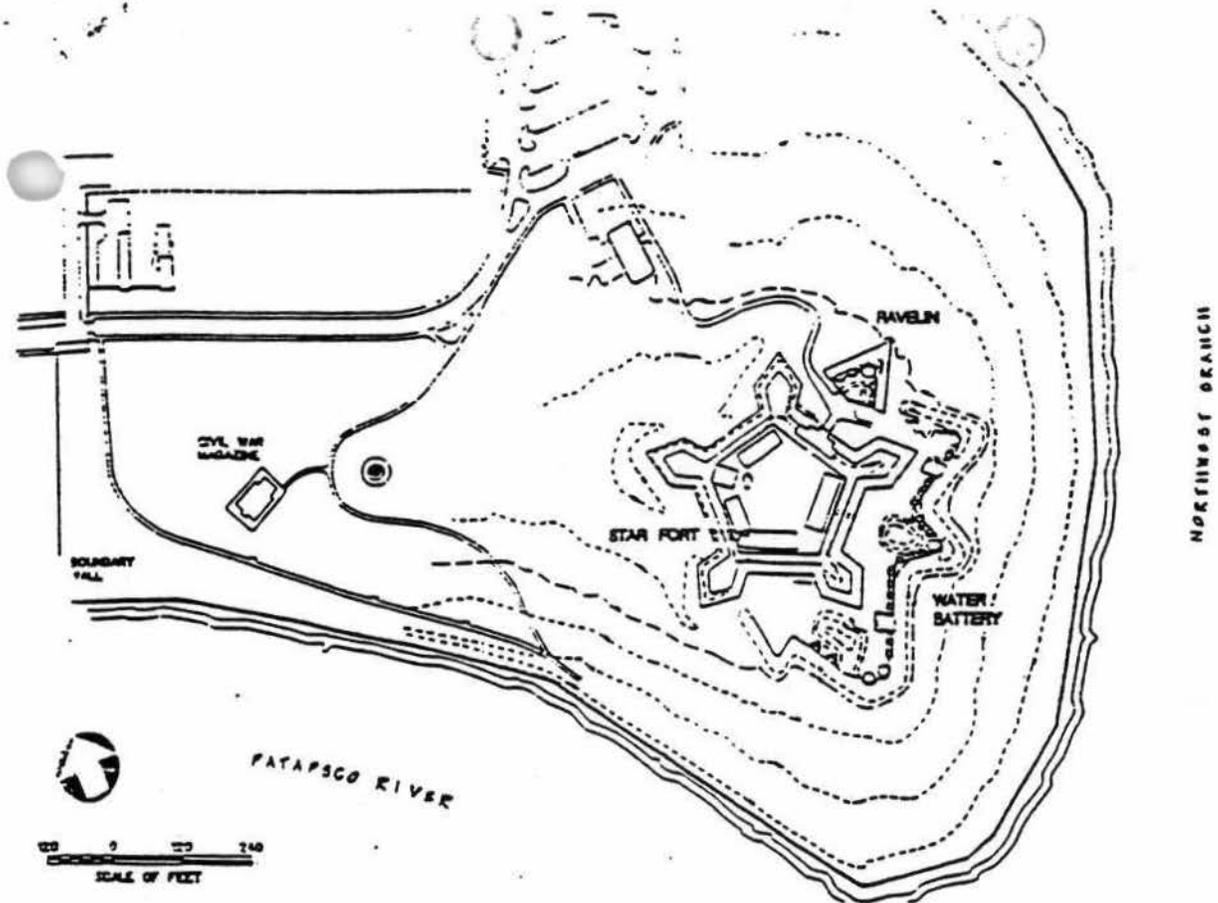


Illustration O.01. Site Plan of Fort Mchenry

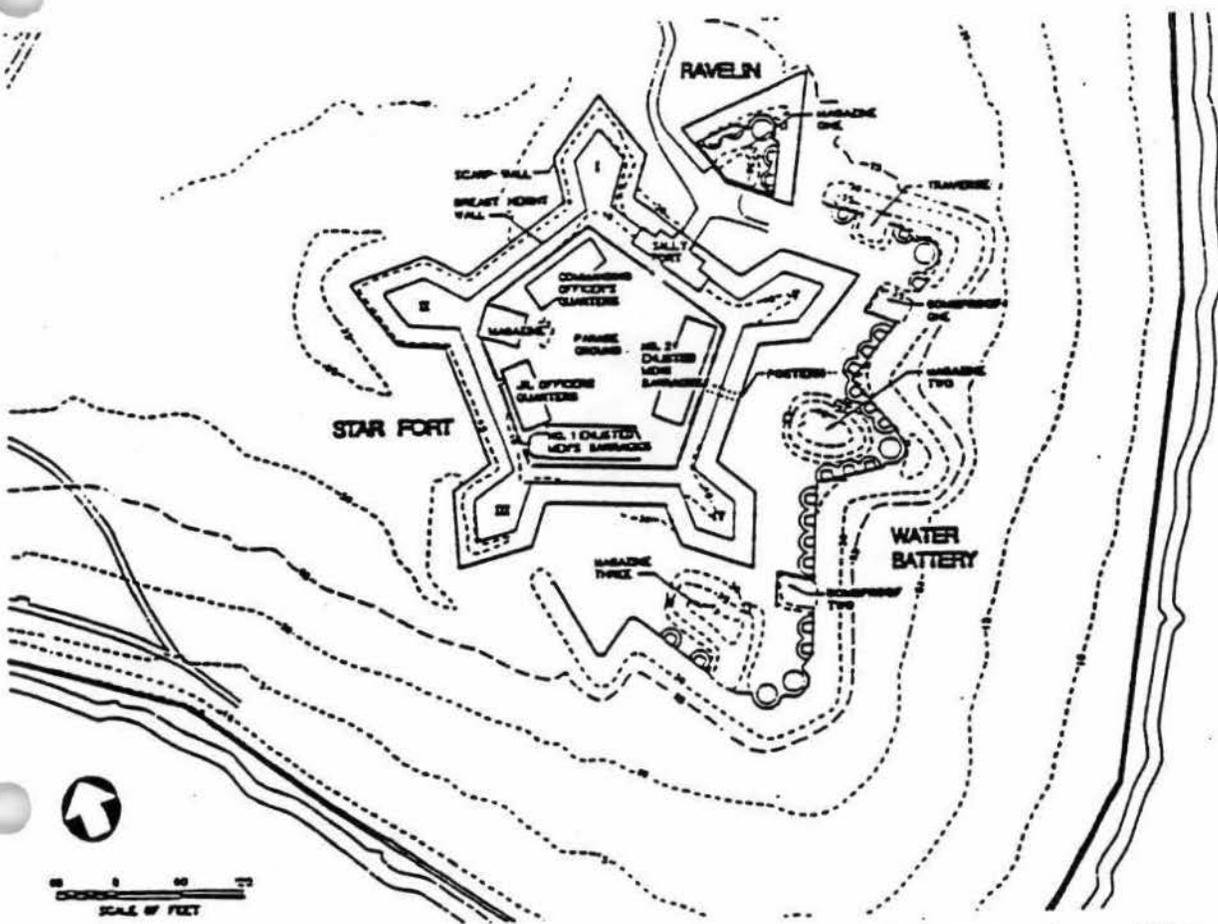


Illustration O.02. Plan of Star Fort and Water Battery.

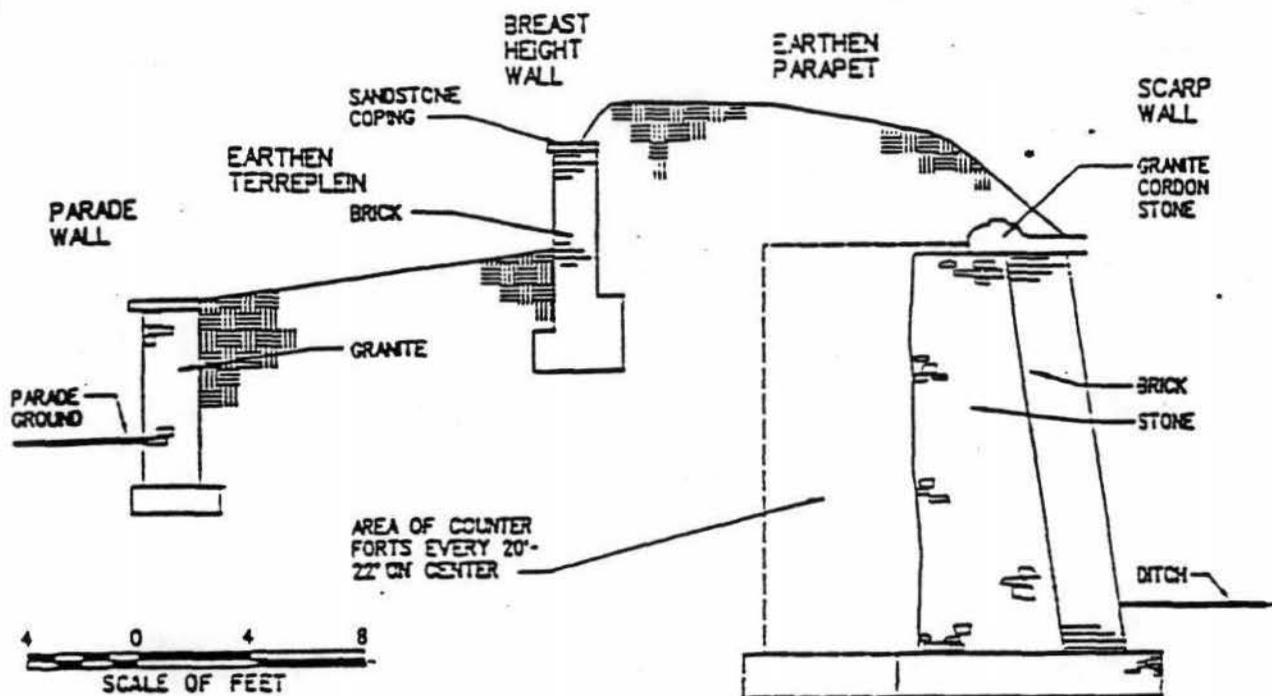


Illustration 1.1. Diagrammatic section through the Star Fort showing the relationship between the scarp wall, breast height wall and the parade wall.

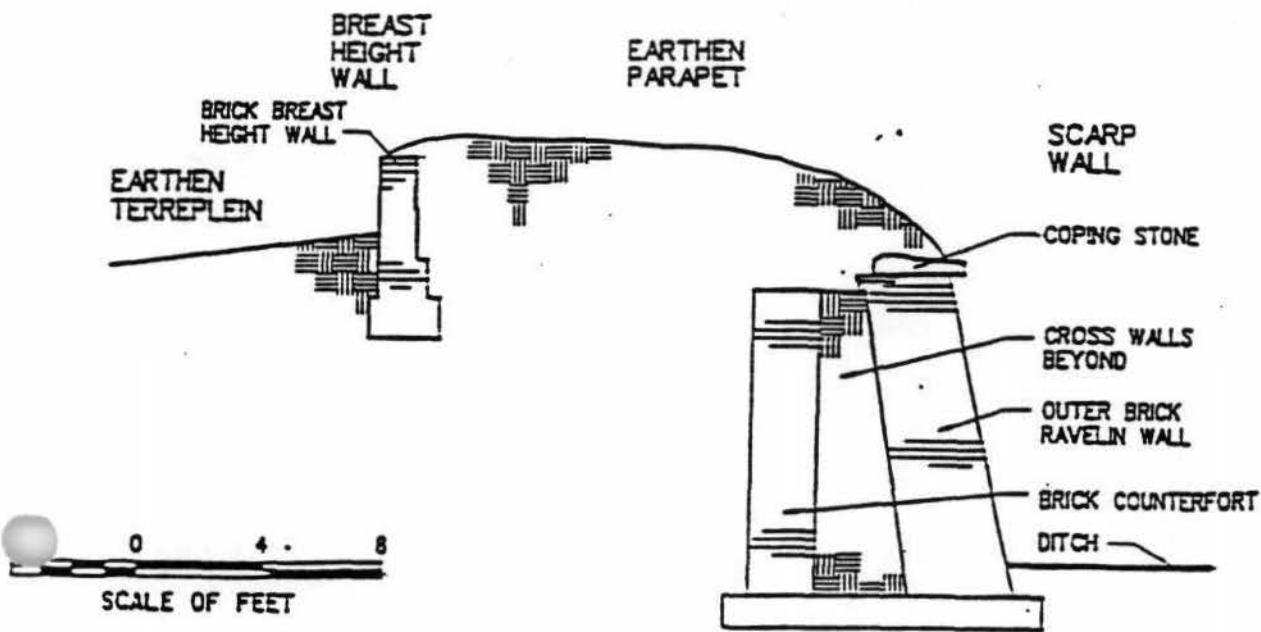


Illustration 2.01. Diagrammatic section through

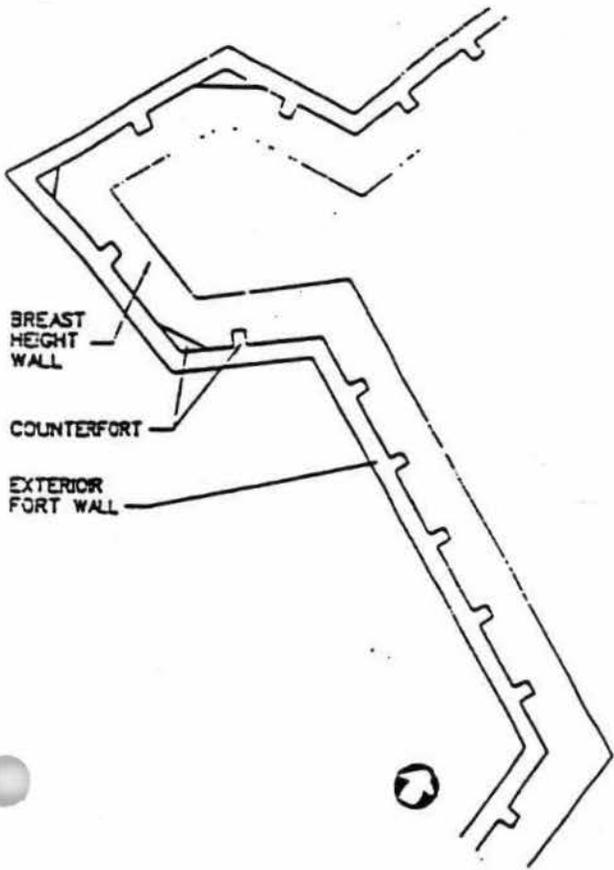


Illustration 1.2. Plan diagram of counterfort locations for Bastion One and the curtain wall between Bastions One and Two.

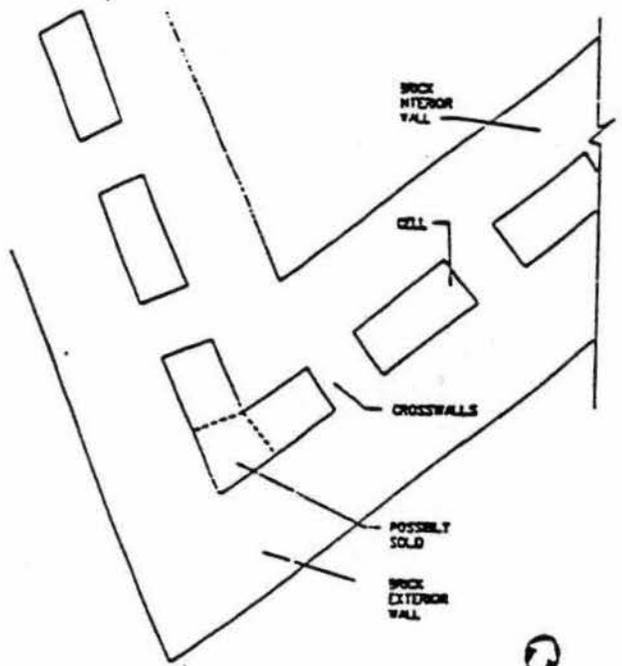


Illustration 2.02. Plan diagram of scarp walls, counterforts, and crosswalls at the Ravein salient angle.

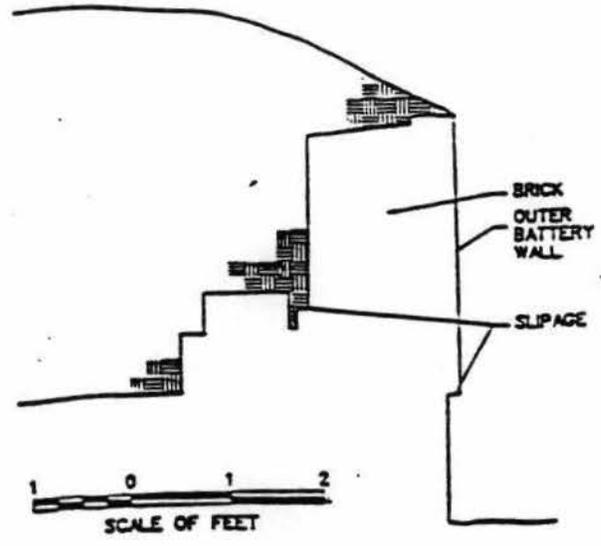
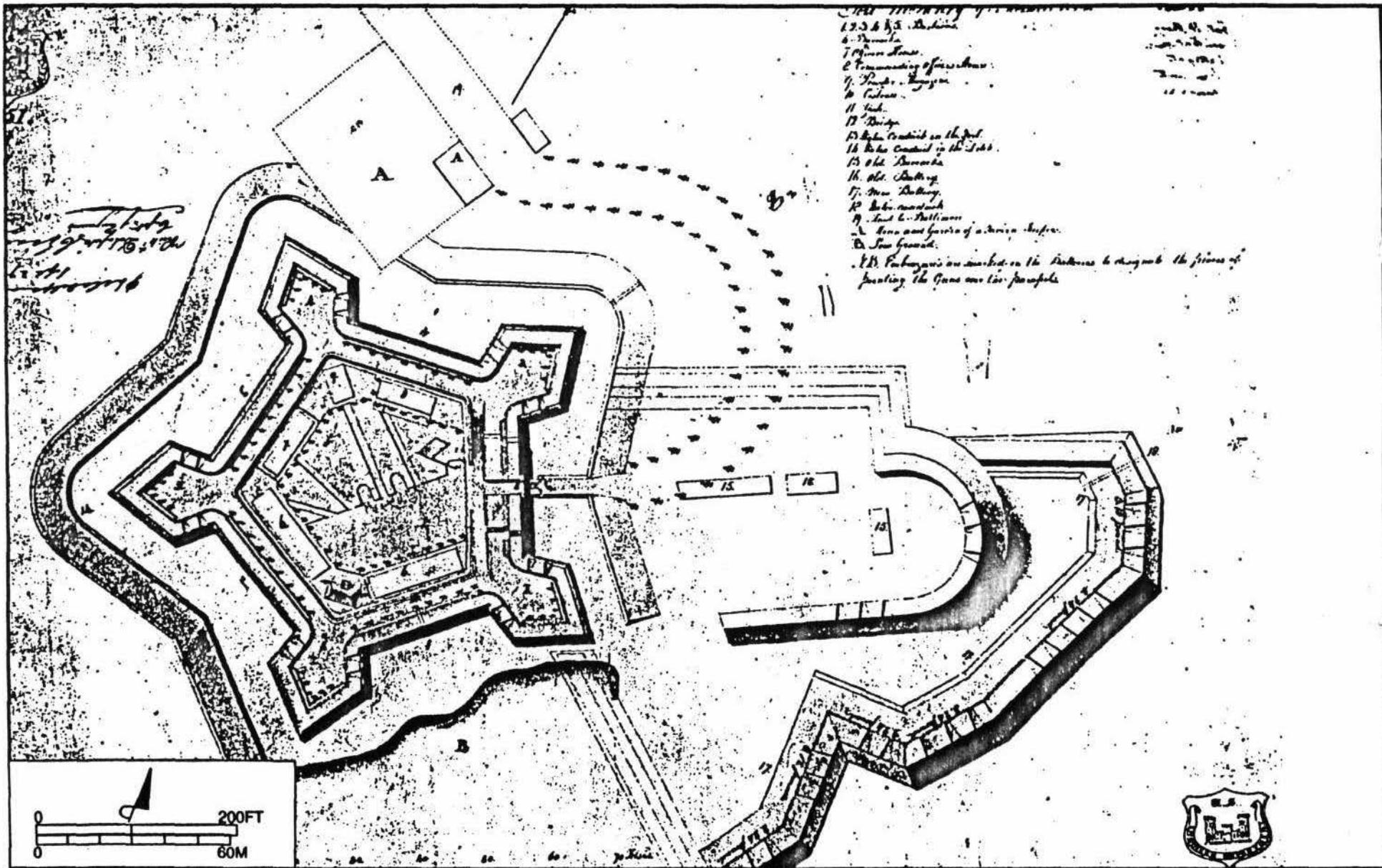


Illustration 3.01. Typical cross section through the water battery wall. The area of slippage in the wall may mark the portion rebuilt following the wall's original failure.

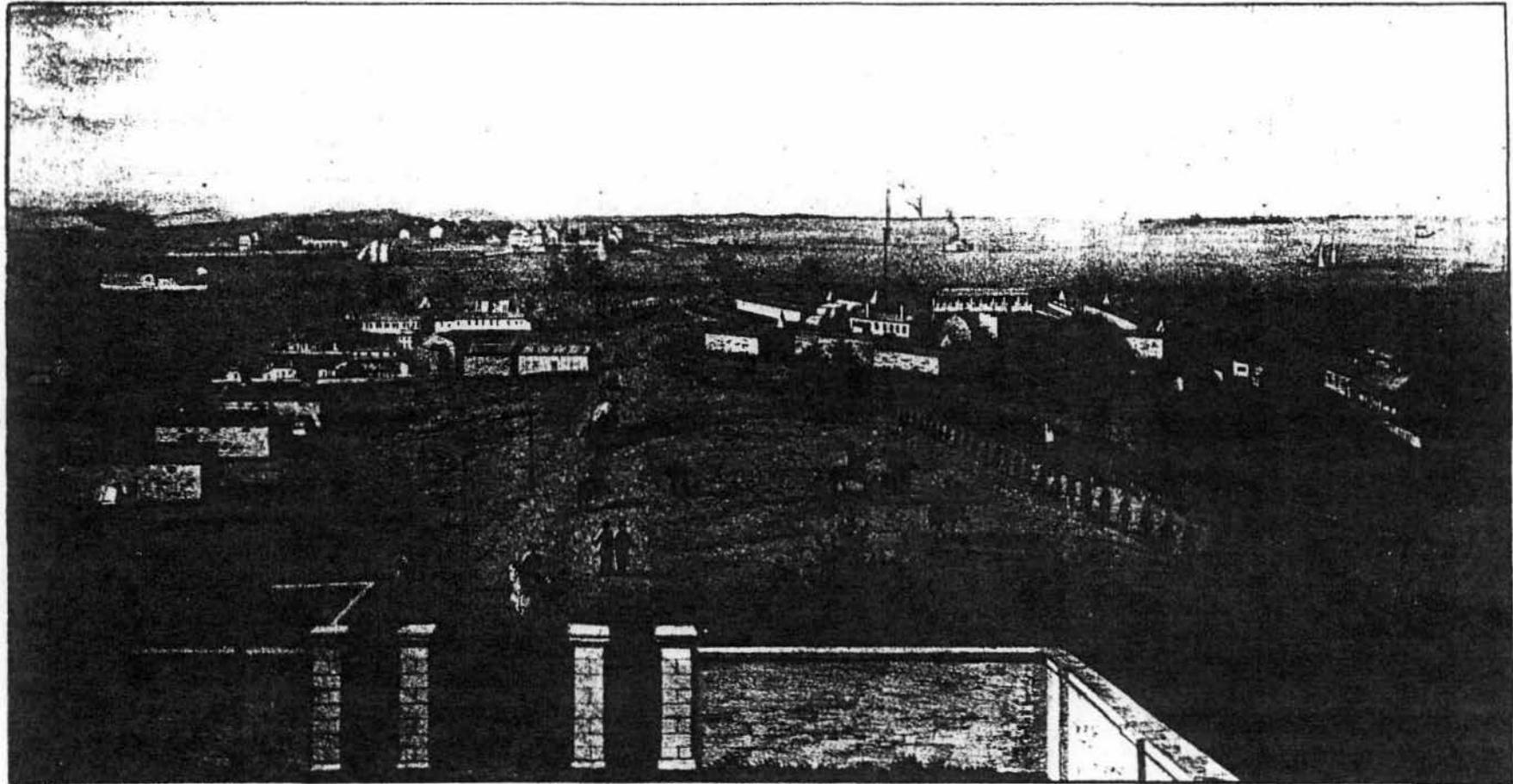
Cliff,

Here are samples of four historic photos/drawings I'll have reproduced: the 1803 plan, 1862 drawing, aerial of WWI hospital, and a ca. 1930 aerial. Once I receive the black and white prints from Steve Clark, I'll label them and send them to you.

Steve.



Fort M'Henry, 1803 (Anonymous)



*Engraved according to Act of Congress in the year 1862 by E. Seaman & Co. in the City of New York.*

*Engraved according to Act of Congress in the year 1862 by E. Seaman & Co. in the City of New York.*

## FORT Mc HENRY, BALTIMORE, Md

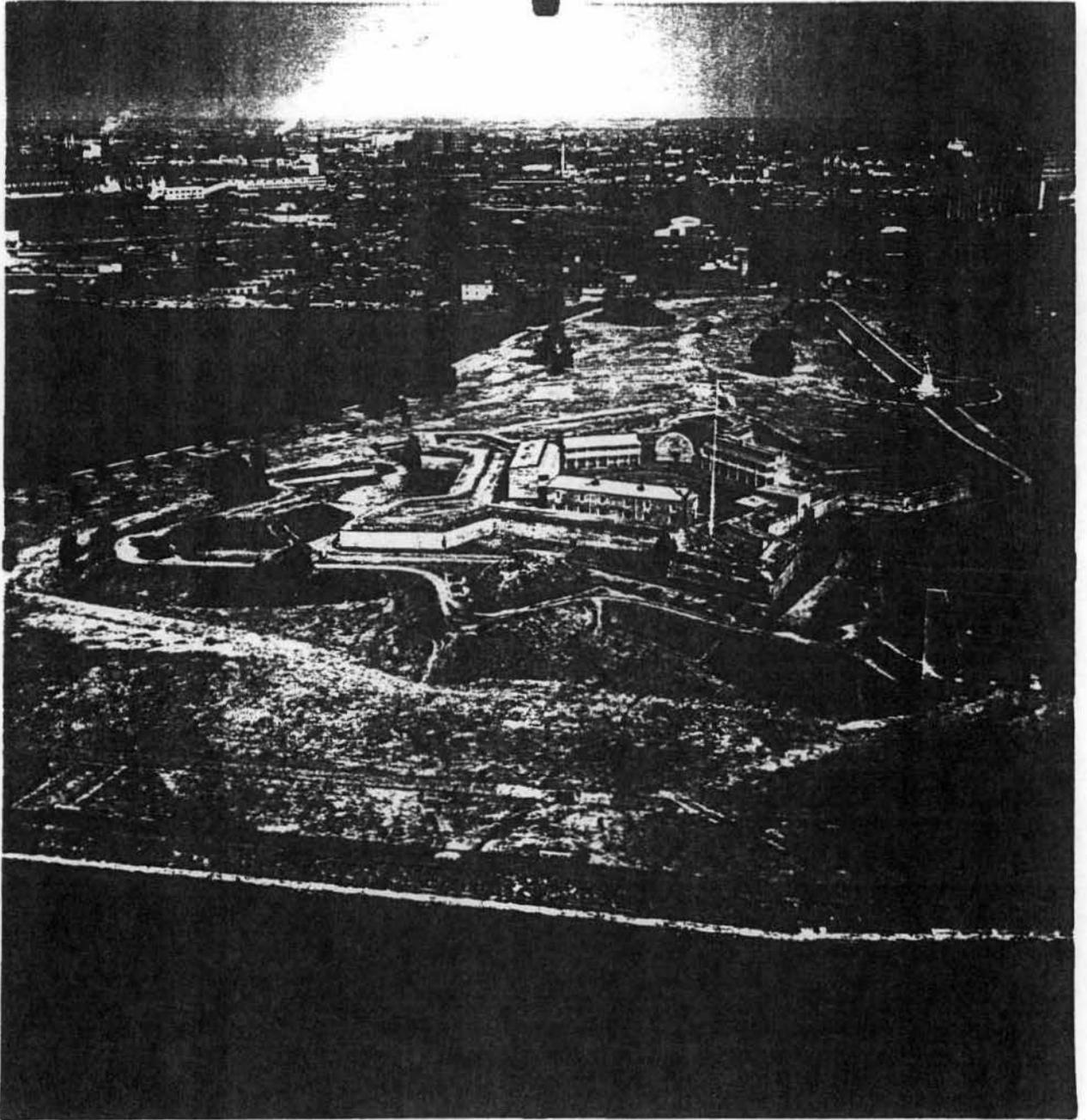
W. W. MORRIS Col 2<sup>d</sup> Artillery Com. of the Fort.

Gen. J. A. DIX, Com. in Chief of this Dep<sup>t</sup>.

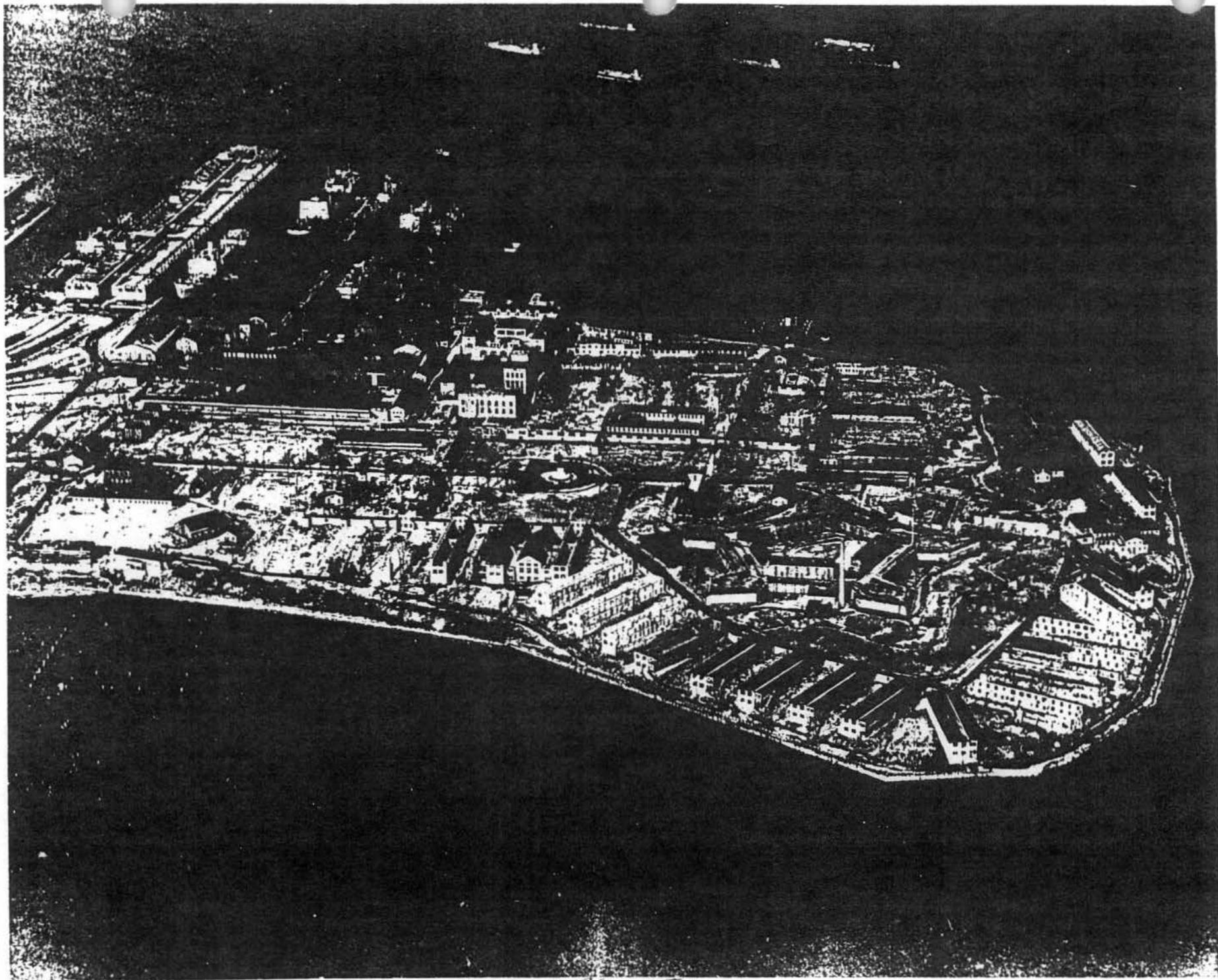
S. M. ALFORD, Col 3<sup>d</sup> N. Y. V.

1862 DRAWING OF CIVIL WAR PRISON

B-8



1930 AERIAL VIEW



B-8

**MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA**

**Geographic Organization - Piedmont (Baltimore City)**

**Chronological/Developmental Periods -**

- A. Rural Agrarian Intensification (A.D. 1680-1815)
- B. Agricultural-Industrial Transition (A.D. 1815-1870)
- C. Industrial/Urban Dominance (A.D. 1870-1930)
- D. Modern Period (A.D. 1930-Present)

**Prehistoric Period Themes - N/A**

**Historic Period Themes -**

- A. Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
- B. Government/Law
- C. Military
- D. Social/Education/Cultural

**Resource Type -**

- A. Category - District
- B. Historic Environment - Rural; Urban

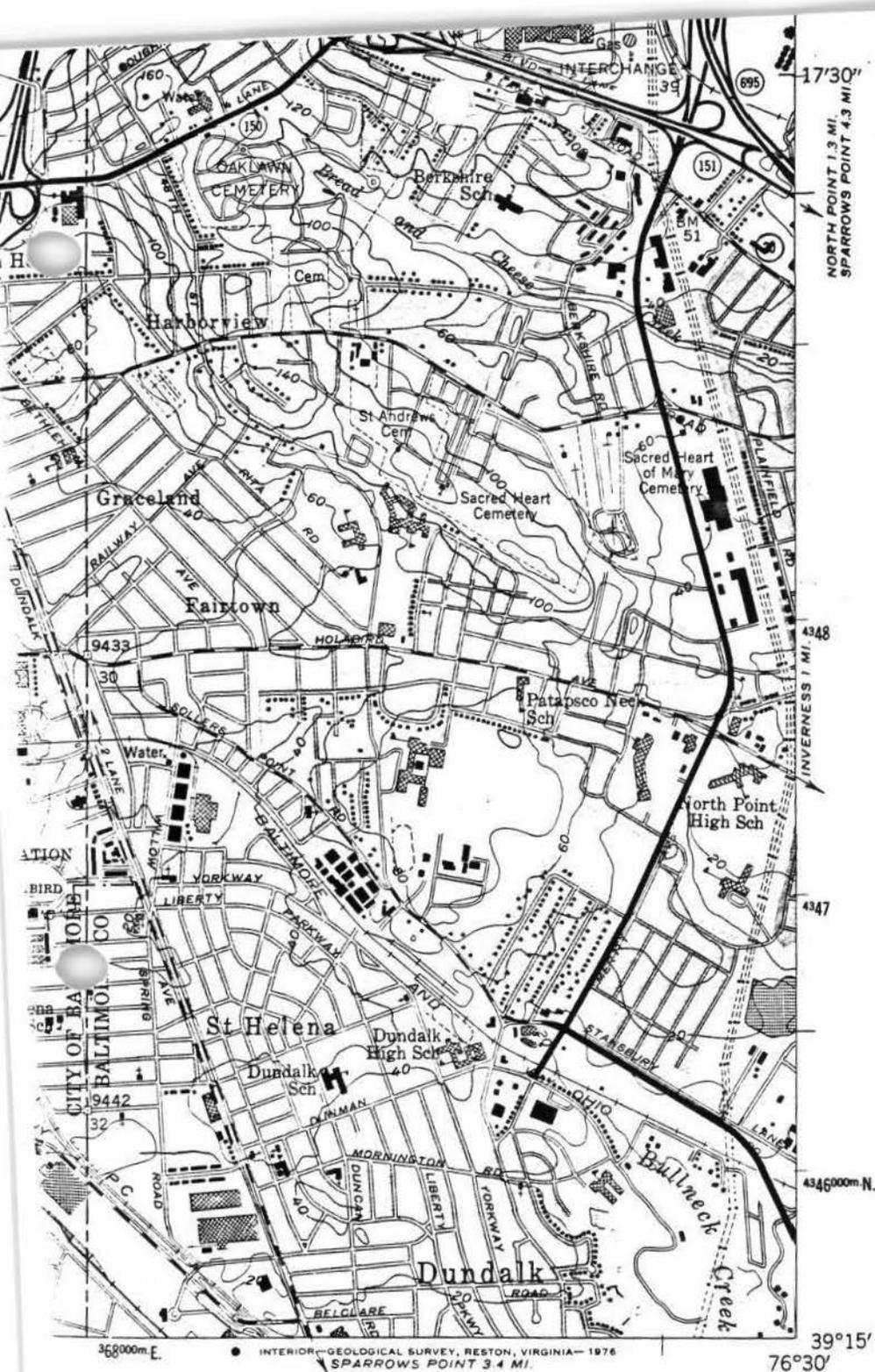
**Historic Function(s) and Use(s) -**

- A. Defense: fortification/military facility/battle site/arms storage

**Known Design Source -**

- A. Architect, Maj. John Jacob Ulrich Rivardi
- B. Architect, Maj. Louis Tousard
- C. Architect, Jean Foncin
- D. Architect, Col. Decius Wadsworth

B-8



17'30" NORTH POINT 1.3 MI. SPARROWS POINT 4.3 MI.

INVERNESS 1 MI. 4348

4347

4346 000m N.

39°15' 76°30'

(SPARROWS POINT) 5.762 III NW

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————
- Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- Interstate Route    ◡ U. S. Route    ○ State Route

**BALTIMORE EAST, MD.**  
 SE/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N3915—W7630/7.5

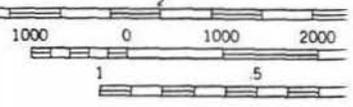
1953  
 PHOTOREVISED 1966 AND 1974  
 AMS 5662 I SE—SERIES V833

7 ON



**UTM REFERENCES**

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A. 18	363420	4347240
B. 18	363600	4347160
C. 18	363650	4347280
D. 18	363780	4347215
E. 18	363880	4347040
F. 18	363680	4346750
G. 18	363530	4346940
H. 18	363300	4347080



GN  
 8 1/2°  
 151 MILS  
 0° 59'  
 18 MILS  
 UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

CONTOUR NATIONAL GEODETIC  
 DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDING SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENT THE MEAN RANGE

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH FOR SALE BY DENVER, COLORADO 8 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC

ed by the Army Map Service  
 ed and published by the Geological Survey  
 ol by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and City of Baltimore  
 ography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric  
 ods. Aerial photographs taken 1943. Field checked 1944  
 re revised by the Geological Survey 1953  
 ography compiled from USC&GS Chart 545 (1951)  
 onic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 00-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
 3-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 18, shown in blue  
 tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
 sions shown in purple compiled by Geological Survey from  
 l photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not field checked  
 ole indicates extension of urban areas

1. STATE **Maryland**  
 COUNTY **Baltimore City**  
 TOWN VICINITY  
 STREET NO. **Fort Avenue**  
 ORIGINAL OWNER  
 ORIGINAL USE  
 PRESENT OWNER  
 PRESENT USE  
 WALL CONSTRUCTION  
 NO. OF STORIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
 INVENTORY **B-8**

2. NAME **Fort McHenry**  
 DATE OR PERIOD  
 STYLE  
 ARCHITECT  
 BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

On national register

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE **Endangered** **Interior** **Exterior**



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)  
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  
 DATE OF RECORD

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

100 100 100 100



~~CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SA~~

B-8

Fort Mc Henry

Baltimore, Md.

1776

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no XX

Property Name: Mission 66 Era Development Project  
(Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine) Inventory Number: B-8  
Address: 2400 East Fort Avenue City: Baltimore (East, MD 7.5'quad) Zip Code: 21230  
County: Baltimore USGS Topographic Map: Northing: 4346975.99 Easting: 363683.67  
Owner: U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service Is the property being evaluated a district? NO yes  
Tax Parcel Number: N/A Tax Map Number: N/A Tax Account ID Number: TAX EXEMPT  
Project: U.S. Department of Interior Agency: National Park Service  
Site visit by MHT Staff: \_\_\_ no X yes Name: Peter Kurtze Date: 3/19/2003  
Is the property located within a historic district? \_\_\_ yes XX no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
NR-listed district \_\_\_ yes Eligible district \_\_\_ yes District Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context \_\_\_

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)  
Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible \_\_\_ yes XX no

Criteria: X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F X G \_\_\_ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

See Attachments

Additional support information for Fort McHenry Mission 66 Era Development Project:  
PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION ON FILE IN MHT SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPHS COLLECTION.

Reviewed and Approved by NPS Regional Director: \_\_\_\_\_  
Marie Rust

Anna von Lunz, Cultural  
Resources Manager, Fort  
McHenry National Monument and  
Historic Shrine

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Prepared: May 27, 2003

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended ___	Eligibility not recommended <u>X</u>
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None
Comments: <u>They Mission 66 Era Development Project is not eligible for the NR because it fails to meet requirements specified in the NPS publication "Mission 66 Visitors Centers"</u>	
<u>Andrew Lewis</u>	<u>7/3/03</u>
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
<u>Peter Kurtze</u>	<u>7/3/03</u>
Reviewer, NR Program	Date

## DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine (NMHS) is a unit in the National Park Service (NPS) and as such is a vital part of America's national system of parks, monuments, battlefields, recreation areas, and other cultural and natural resources. Established by an Act of Congress (43 Statue 1109) on March 3, 1925, Fort McHenry NMHS is located in Locust Point in downtown Baltimore. Containing 43.26 acres, the park preserves the historic Star Fort, the cultural landscape, and archeological sites in perpetuity and makes this valuable part of America's heritage available to nearly 700,000 visitors each year for their experience, enjoyment, understanding, and appreciation.

The National Register documentation for Fort McHenry NMHS was approved and signed on April 2, 1999 by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. In that document, the Fort McHenry Visitor Center, two duplex housing units, and the Utility Garage were described as Mission 66 era structures and noted as "non-contributing" buildings.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of this document is to revisit the Determination for Eligibility for the Mission 66 era development at the park applying the more recent guidelines provided in the publication, Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of A Building Type.<sup>2</sup>

### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Mission 66 era development at Fort McHenry National Monument and the focus of this Determination of Eligibility include features associated with visitor services including: the visitor's center; the main entrance road; a parking lot; sidewalks; the Armistead Statue Plaza (with benches); landscape plantings. Additional Mission 66 era development projects include: the two duplex housing units; the maintenance utility garage; and the relocation of the Statue of Orpheus (with benches) and surrounding landscape plantings.

The Mission 66 Era designs for Fort McHenry were completed in 1962 by the Eastern Office of the Division of Design and Construction (EODC) located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The plans were prepared by National Park Service architects Larry Biond and Donald Benson. Larry Biond was the primary designer and Donald Benson reviewed the plans. During the planning process, the principals from EODC were Reese Smith and Robert E. Smith (Chief Architect), Gene Desilets (Landscape Architect) and Russ Sweeney (Chief Engineer). The on-site project team was comprised of John H. Flister (Construction Representative, EODC), Donald S. Nutt (Construction Representative, EODC), Martin S. Christenson (Representative, Northeast Regional Office), Frank L. Petrillo (Representative, Northeast Regional Office), George F. Lucko (Representative, Northeast Regional Office), Edward Hudgins (Project Manager, San-Joe Construction Company). The Superintendent of the park in 1964 was George C. McKenszie. Consulting services were provided from the NPS Washington Office by Ronald F. Lee, Robert G. Hall, and Clark Stratton. Conrad Wirth was the Director of the National Park Service at that time.<sup>3</sup>

Construction work began at the park in July 1962 and was completed by August 1963. The official dedication ceremony was held on July 4, 1964.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Steve Whissen, Historian, National Register nomination for Fort McHenry NMHS, April 2, 1999 (Historical and Archeological Reports (HARP) Special Collections, Fort McHenry NMHS, Baltimore Maryland) Section 7, page 24, E:1

<sup>2</sup> Sarah Allaback, Phd., Mission 66 Visitor Center: The History of the Building Type. (USDOJ, NPS, Cultural Resources Stewardships and Partnerships, Washington, DC, 2000).

<sup>3</sup> Fort McHenry Library, Superintendents Reports and Mission 66 Prospectus, 1958-1962.

<sup>4</sup> Fort McHenry Library, Mission 66 Visitor Center and Park Development Construction Files, Special Collections, SC-115. See Contract files: Contract # 14-10-0529-1021.

## VISITOR CENTER BUILDING

The Fort McHenry Visitor's Center, built between 1962-63 and located adjacent to the historic fort is considered an "enroute visitor center". That is, it is located between the parking lot and the historic star fort, as opposed to an "entrance visitor center" or a "terminal visitor center."<sup>5</sup>

Designed in Park Service Modern style,<sup>6</sup> the Fort McHenry Visitor Center is a 5700 square foot building measuring 99 feet by 48 feet. Constructed of masonry and steel, the one-story flat-roof structure is situated approximately 350 feet north of the historic Star Fort. It was built with 12" concrete masonry units (CMU) below grade, 8" CMU above grade, and with 4" brick veneer.<sup>7</sup> The brick is General Shale cord from Maryland. The structure is immediately adjacent to location of the archeological foundations of the historic 1814 Gunshed and Storehouse and near the site of the Tavern. All of these structures appear on the 1819 Plan of Fort McHenry.<sup>8</sup> The contract (#14-10-0529-1021) for the construction of the Visitor Center was awarded to San-Joe Construction Company on June 30, 1962 and the cost was \$126,097.00. The construction began on July 17, 1962 and the contractor's release for this completed work was issued August 16, 1963.<sup>9</sup> The official dedication ceremony was held on July 4, 1964 which was the year of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Baltimore and the writing of the "Star-Spangled Banner."

### VC GROUND LEVEL

Visitor services areas and administrative space areas are located on the ground level. These include: (1) central lobby/Information Desk/Gift Shop (44' by 59'), (2) auditorium (44' by 22'), (3) office staff areas: Superintendent's office (12' by 13.6') Chief Ranger's office (11' by 12') and Secretary office (12' by 17') with restrooms and staircase to basement. Materials in the Visitor Center are terrazzo flooring with carpeting, 12 inch thick General Shale cord brick walls, partial window walls on the east and west, elevations and full window walls on the south and north elevations. With the exception of the fully exposed central lobby, all other areas including the auditorium, offices, restrooms and gift shop now have dropped ceilings, but these are not original to the date of construction.<sup>10</sup>

### VC Lobby

The employment of modern style motif and materials can be seen in the use of glass in the lobby area and entry and exit doors (east and west elevations) set into metal muntins. While the exterior appearance of the building remains visually intact the interior spaces of the lobby and office areas were altered in the 1970s and the 1980s. The original central exhibit in the lobby was designed around a display of the hand-hewn oak flag brace timbers (c. 1813) installed over a large pentagonal star imprinted on the floor. This entire display was removed along with 12 exhibit columns and graphics in 1981. The only interpretive features from 1963 that remain are the metal stars mounted on the east side of the lobby designed to convey the size and scale of the stars on the original Star-Spangled Banner. When the cross-brace timbers were removed, a scale model of Fort McHenry was installed in this space in 1981.<sup>11</sup> The floor plan of the lobby has been altered to incorporate accessible ramps and metal railings leading to the auditorium. The entrance doors were altered and widened to comply with accessibility standards.

<sup>5</sup> Allaback, op., Cit. p. 28.

<sup>6</sup> Allaback, op. Cit. p.270-272.

<sup>7</sup> Fort McHenry Library, Fort McHenry Visitor Center Construction Drawings, Fort McHenry HARP Collections, Special Collections, D17-19. 1961

<sup>8</sup> Pousson, John "On the Shore dimly seen..." An Archeological Overview of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. Fort McHenry Library, Special Collections, SC-6. p. 11.

<sup>9</sup> Fort McHenry Library, Mission 66 Visitor Center and Park Development Construction Files, Special Collections, SC-115.

<sup>10</sup> Fort McHenry Visitor Center Construction Drawings, Fort McHenry HARP Collections, Special Collections, D17-19. 1961

<sup>11</sup> Fort McHenry National Monument: Fort McHenry Exhibit Plan -Visitor Center and Fort Final Plan, December 1981, Special Collections SC-003.

Originally the lobby area was open with an information desk situated adjacent to the entrance doors on the west end of the building; but in the 1980s the walls were modified and a partition was added to accommodate the Gift Shop. The lighting was also changed in the lobby. Originally the space had white circular can and recessed can lighting. Today there are additional moveable track lights over the main spaces with directional lighting over the model, wall displays, sales area and information desk area. All these additions and subtractions to the Visitor Center lobby have changed the feeling of place for this space.

### **VC Auditorium**

The theatre area, when constructed, also showed the influence of the Park Service Modern style. Originally this space had rows of individual seats with a capacity of 90 and the entire floor was carpeted. The south wall sill has a full length glass window that faces the historic Star Fort. At the close of the theater's production the curtain opens as the National Anthem is played. In the auditorium area (south end) the stage, the glass wall and the rear wall of the room have all been altered and modified to make improvements to the audio-visual presentation. A rear partition was added to accommodate storage space for brochures and interpretive materials. The entire glass wall and muntins were most recently replaced in 2002. The entire ceiling was replaced in spring 2001 with acoustical material to enhance the sound capabilities of the room. The entire audio-visual presentation was converted to a DVD system in spring 2001. The drapes have been repeatedly replaced but most recently the track and glass wall curtain devices were replaced in summer 2002. The lighting has been improved with adjustable level track lighting and directional track lighting. The carpeting and seating have all been replaced with moveable stackable rows of 5 chairs per row. The total seating capacity is now 81.<sup>12</sup>

### **VC Office Areas and Restrooms Areas**

Office areas and restroom areas have also gone through numerous modifications and alterations since the building was placed into service. The restrooms were altered in the 1980s and again in the 1990s to comply with accessibility guidelines. Adjacent to the restrooms, a park phone booth was removed and made into a janitorial supply closet and a new public phone was mounted on wall. Part of the office space assigned to the Chief Ranger was modified to accommodate the Information Desk area. The entire office area for the Chief Ranger, Secretary, and Superintendent has been modified with a dropped ceiling, vinyl tile flooring with carpeting, florescent recessed lighting, and new ventilation system installed the 1980s. At that time, wood paneling and wood shelving was added to the superintendent's office. A rear utility storage area was removed in order to make the superintendent's office area larger. At the time this building was completed, the ranger staff, administrative staff, curatorial and maintenance functions were conducted in this building. Today, only the General Superintendent, Chief Ranger, and park Secretary have offices in this building. The other primary functions for administration, interpretation, cultural resources, and maintenance have been decentralized and are performed in other buildings throughout the park.<sup>13</sup> As with the central lobby area, all these additions and subtractions have altered the feeling of place within these areas.

### **VC BASEMENT LEVEL**

The lower level of the Visitor Center houses six functional spaces (not including the stairwell): two Storage Rooms, Fee Collection Room, staff Lunch Room, Telecommunications and Photocopy Room, Mechanical Room and Law Enforcement Storage Room. Lower level construction materials are composed of poured- in- place concrete, concrete footings and finished concrete slab floor.

<sup>12</sup> Park Meeting Notes from on site Meeting with Park Facility Manager, Greg McGuire, March 18, 2003. Also see Park Maintenance Files: Procurement purchases for the improvement of the VC Auditorium, 1999-2002. Note: Recent improvements in the park Visitor Center were primarily accomplished with in-house labor and park base funds.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

**VC Basement**

The entire basement area of the VC was vacant and unfinished in 1964 when the building was placed into service. Since that time the furnace room and utility area have been modified to accommodate new ventilation systems and sump pumps. A cinder block storage room was constructed in the 1980s for film processing but the function of this room was later converted for use as a law enforcement locked storage area. The larger area of the basement was modified to provide a training room in the 1970s for the park rangers with a window between two divided rooms for a projector. In the 1970s, three rooms were constructed within this basement space to accommodate offices for administrative personnel. However, this basement does not comply with accessibility standards. Furthermore, since there is only one entrance/egress, it does not meet life/safety code standards. Members of the staff using these areas as offices were relocated to other buildings in the 1980s.<sup>14</sup>

**VC Landscaping and Plantings**

As part of the 1964 Mission 66 design, in the area immediately outside the Visitor Center on the east side, a plaza was constructed with a statue of Commander George Armistead. While the orientation of the plaza remains today, the plantings in this area have all been removed. The original benches surrounding the plaza still remain today but all the wooden seating has been replaced. The sidewalk from this area towards the Star Fort was entirely resurfaced in the 1990s. The Mission 66 landscape design depicted 13 dogwood trees along this sidewalk to represent the 13 original colonies. However, flowering crab apples were planted and only 2 remain today. The water fountain with a square brick base, situated adjacent to the plaza, has been removed due to a problem with the water line. Plantings adjacent to the building were removed when the accessible ramps and railings were installed at both sides of the Visitor Center in the 1980s. All of these plantings were ornamental selections, none having historic placement or native to Locust Point.

With the completion of the VC Landscaping and plantings, 22 interpretive cast-iron wayside markers and 4 brick audio stations units were installed outside the Visitor Center. The markers were mounted on 2'5' aluminum post and the plaques measured 14" by 18". All these markers were subsequently removed in 1985.<sup>15</sup>

On the west side of the building a large square garden was designed but the "flag" motif for the garden was never implemented. Only four plantings remain from the original landscape design: a crab apple tree, a Mohonia, an Abelia, and a Hawthorn bush. All the original benches on the east side have been replaced with new benches made of recycled materials and a new access ramp and railings were installed in the 1980s. The brick based water fountain was replaced with a metal unit that is accessible.

As part of the Mission 66 landscape design, a low growing evergreen hedge consisting of Japanese holly, *Ilex crenata*, was planted between the entrance road, the Visitor Center and the historic Star Fort to outline the original 1814 boundary of the military reservation. This hedge material became diseased and was completely removed in the late 1980s.

**Parking Lot and Entrance Road**

The only vehicular access to the park is through the main gates directly off of Fort Avenue. This main entrance road is laid in a straight line heading due east to park Visitor Center and main parking lot area. The main entrance road is 900 feet long from the gate entrance to the parking lot and it is 34 feet wide. The pedestrian sidewalks on both sides of the drive are 6 feet wide. The primary asphalt parking lot is oval shaped and situated on 2.03 acres of land, accommodating 75 cars and 6 large motor coach parking spaces.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Fort McHenry Library, Fort McHenry NMHS: Sign and Wayside Exhibit Plan, September 14, 1965, Special Collections, SC-7.

The bids to construct the entrance road and parking lot were submitted on June 20, 1962 at a cost not to exceed \$100,000 under contract #14-10-0529-1020. Specifications in the Invitation to Bid indicated the bituminous material to be used would be asphalt cement with a mineral aggregate of crushed slag and crushed stone.<sup>16</sup> The Mission 66 design for the parking lot identified the location to be immediately adjacent to the Visitor Center. This site for the parking lot was just outside the 1814 boundary of the military reservation but the new asphalt parking lot was constructed on top of the foundations of the stables and barracks of the Civil War era prison.<sup>17</sup> After the Civil War, the buildings in this area continued to serve as barracks through the World War I hospital period. Today, the asphalt parking lot essentially remains intact but there have been several modifications and alterations to this feature. The entire entrance road and parking area was resurfaced in 1999. The parking area consists of four main parking bays and accommodating 75 parking spaces. At the far west side a triangular garden was installed in 1964 and later planted with a "flag" motif of red, white and blue flowers. This garden was removed in the 1990s to provide more space for larger buses and trucks. In the first bay of the parking lot, all the trees have died and been removed. In the second bay of the parking lot, only 4 out of 7 trees remain from the 1964 planting. In the third bay only 3 out of 6 trees remain and in the fourth only 3 out of 5 have survived. Along the north perimeter of the park several trees survive including: 2 holly trees, 2 linden trees, and 2 sycamores. Along the perimeter in the area next to the Naval Reserve property, the park has planted several white pines to provide screening.

**Statue of Orpheus and Memorial Plantings**

Part of the Mission 66 work at Fort McHenry also included the relocation of the Statue of Orpheus and the surrounding marble benches which are included in the National Register documentation as contributing objects. These distinctive features are also included in the National Park Service List of Classified Structures (LCS #00353). Therefore, they are not subject to this evaluation. However, the Memorial Plantings are part of the evaluation.

On July 23, 1912, Congressman J. Charles Linthicum introduced a Bill in Congress that proposed a national memorial to Francis Scott Key. The General Deficiency Appropriations Bill (No. 155) was enacted into Public Law in the 62<sup>nd</sup> Congress providing \$75,000 for the Centennial Star-Spangled Banner Committee to erect a monument in memory of Francis Scott Key and the soldiers and sailors who participated in the Battle of North Point and the attack on Baltimore at Fort McHenry. The design for this monument was selected out of 34 submissions. One of the most celebrated neo-classical sculptors of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Charles Henry Niehaus, was chosen for the project. When America entered into World War I, the work on Orpheus ceased and the army erected a large military hospital on the grounds of the fort. However, on Flag Day, June 14, 1922, a large flag was lifted off the statue's final form that stood in the center of the main entrance road to the fort. The statue immediately caused controversy. The Baltimore Sun reported, "...that 20 foot imitation of Michelangelo's 'David' astounded visitors..."<sup>18</sup> President Warren G. Harding attended this ceremony during which he delivered the first national Presidential radio address to the American public, and then he visited with the hospital patients. The 22 feet high bronze statue stands atop a 15-foot high marble base that has a 25-foot diameter and was surrounded by 12 large marble benches.<sup>19</sup> In accordance with the Mission 66 era development design, the statue of Orpheus was relocated. In 1962 it was lifted from the middle of the entrance road and moved approximately 400 feet to the southwest side of the property. This area was already accommodating commemorative plantings from the 1933 anniversary of George Washington's birth. During this Mission 66 project, several of the original marble benches that were installed in 1922 and surrounded the statue were relocated along the seawall trail. 24 markers commemorating heroes of the war of 1812 were placed in front of

<sup>16</sup> Fort McHenry Library, Visitor Center and Park Development Construction Files, Special Collections, SC-115.

<sup>17</sup> Pousson, John. "On the Shore dimly seen..." An Archeological Overview of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. Fort McHenry Library, Special Collections, SC-6. p. 90.

<sup>18</sup> Fort McHenry Library, Statue of Orpheus Special Collections, SC-41.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

flowering crab apple trees. Today, only 12 of the 24 trees that were planted still remain. State markers were placed along the main entrance road to identify the 50 states. Since 1964, a number of these bronze markers on square aggregate bases have been modified from an angle position to lay flat on the ground in order to simplify grounds maintenance. Most of the commemorative bronze markers were also originally placed in this area during the 1933 bicentennial anniversary celebration of George Washington's birth.

### **Duplex Housing Units**

As part of the Mission 66 era development project, two duplex housing units were completed in 1962. Both housing units are one-story brick and wood frame structures. The gabled, ranch-style buildings were constructed with three bedrooms in each unit. Each unit (6 bays wide and 2 bays deep) measures 55 feet by 25 feet. A construction contract (#14-10-0529-1022) was awarded to San-Joe Construction Company on July 23, 1962 in the amount of \$33,646.00 and the work was fully completed by December 18, 1962.<sup>20</sup> Both units were originally used as residences, but currently only the south unit is used for that purpose. The north unit now functions as offices for the Administrative Division. All the interior rooms have been altered and modified to accommodate residents and office staff. All the lighting fixtures, ceiling materials, wall treatments, kitchen cabinets, counters, floor carpeting and tiles have been repeatedly replaced since the buildings were completed in 1962. The original roofs were made of coal tar pitch and felt under roofing slag. The most recent roof modifications on both were made in 1993 and all roofing materials were replaced with asphalt shingles. Interior and exterior window treatments on both were changed from casement windows to double-hung style windows. Panels over and under the windows were modified from vertical siding changed to horizontal siding in 1982. Behind the housing units, white fencing made of PVC material has been added along with a small brick patio. A vehicle parking pad and a modular storage shed were added adjacent to the fenced area on the north side in the summer of 2002.<sup>21</sup>

### **Maintenance Utility Garage**

As part of the Mission 66 era development project, a garage measuring 50 feet by 110 feet was constructed in the northwest corner of the property adjacent to the two park housing units. This is a one-story masonry veneer building with an attached one-story metal panel clad addition (30 feet by 50 feet) forming an ell. A brick wall runs along the south elevation concealing the maintenance operations and the park housing area. This utility building was constructed by the San-Joe Construction Company and work began on July 17, 1962. The construction contract (# 14-10-0529-1021) was awarded for \$25,000 and the work was fully completed on May 23, 1963.<sup>22</sup> In consideration of all the Mission 66 era development projects in the park, this structure reflects the least amount of the original design. In the 1970s the building was converted from a car garage to a maintenance shop. Consequently, all the interior spatial functions have been changed. The five major doorways have been modified and all the window openings have been altered. The entire roof design was changed to accommodate the metal clad addition for a wood working shop. This building no longer resembles the primary elements of the original construction.

### **Evaluation of Integrity**

The seven criteria for integrity were used to evaluate for the Mission 66 era development features at the park. For the Visitor Center, it was determined that the location, setting and association with the historic resource have remained unchanged. However, there have been substantive additions and subtractions to the structure (i.e. roofing materials, ramps, windows, doors, ceilings, floors, lighting, spatial design and functions). These changes have altered the features of the design, materials, workmanship and feeling of place. Similarly, when evaluating the landscape features, entrance road/parking lot, the Statue of Orpheus and duplex housing units and

<sup>20</sup> Fort McHenry Library, Visitor Center and Park Development Construction Files, Special Collections, SC-115

<sup>21</sup> Fort McHenry NMHS, Facility Manager Maintenance Files, 1982-1993.

<sup>22</sup> Fort McHenry Library, Visitor Center and Park Development Files, Special Collections, SC-115.

maintenance utility garage, it is apparent that the location, setting and association with the resources are relatively unchanged, but there have also been additions and subtractions (i.e. removal of plant materials, changes in windows, roofing materials, doorways, floors, walls, spatial design and functions). These changes have resulted in a cumulative loss of integrity.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE/EVALUATION

The Mission 66 era development at Fort McHenry consists of (1) building the Visitor Center (2) building the two duplex housing units, (3) building the maintenance utility garage, (4) constructing a new entrance road and parking lot (5) installing storm drainage, (6) installing septic tanks and utility lines, (7) final landscaping of the entire complex around the VC, along the entrance road, and around the relocated statue of Orpheus. The period of significance for the Fort McHenry Mission 66 Era work is 1962-63, which corresponds to the date of construction.

### Background History

The Mission 66 movement was begun in the post World War II years, when the National Park Service saw that its overall infrastructure was sorely neglected. Basic maintenance needs and visitor services were neglected in the parks, but the problem actually had begun in the 1930s with the onset of the Great Depression, a problem compounded by WWII. The war effort necessitated the transference of funds from all government agencies not specifically involved in or aiding the war. The wartime era of neglect continued for another decade, until the Eisenhower Administration instituted the Mission 66 program. The parks' infrastructure was in distress by the early 1950s. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., brought this to President Dwight Eisenhower's attention after seeing social critic and historian Bernard DeVoto's article on the deplorable conditions within the NPS. Eisenhower in turn called upon the Secretary of the Interior. In the summer of 1954, Interior Undersecretary Ralph Tudor reorganized the Department. This "allowed [National Park Service Director] Conrad Wirth to focus attention on the crisis in the park service [and thus] had a captive audience for his improvement program" for the national parks. With its inception in February of 1955, Wirth conceived a "comprehensive program to launch the Park Service into the modern age," giving rise to the Mission 66 program; asking for funds for an entire decade instead of the usual yearly increases. The program would improve conditions at parks, finishing in time for the golden anniversary of the National Park Service (1916-1966). It was officially authorized in February of 1956 with public announcement on February 8, 1956. From its inception, Mission 66 was touted "as a program to elevate the parks to modern standards of comfort and efficiency. [T]he new initiative resulted in revitalizing the parks' systems in all areas: maintenance, visitor services, staffing, staff housing, and interpretation." Most parks saw some or all aspects of this development, primarily the growth and modernization of visitor and staff services. What was different in this movement was that the Park Service elected to place the new structures within or close to the primary park resources.<sup>23</sup>

The movement elected to design structures in the modern style, abandoning the rustic movement prevalent in the western parks. It did not try to mimic the historic elements of the eastern parks (as had earlier occurred Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania, and Colonial<sup>24</sup>). Instead the Park Service went specifically to the modern movement with underlying influences to the International Style, incorporating native elements or materials in the overall design and/ or sited the buildings to view the resource. The "Mission 66 buildings were intended to

<sup>23</sup> Allaback, op.cit., p. 2-5.

<sup>24</sup> Fredericksburg's Superintendent's house and garage were designed and executed in the Colonial Revival style. Colonial's was also designed and built in the Colonial Revival style, but no longer is park property. Fredericksburg's VC is a Public Works Administration building from the 1930s in the Colonial Revival Style.

blend into the landscape, but through their plainness rather than by identification with natural features." The August 1956 issue of Architectural Record had an article on the movement and stated that Mission 66 "would produce modern structures that perform their assigned functions and respect their environment with liberal use of steel and glass."<sup>25</sup> Spatially the designs were geared to visitor services, and then to headquarters staffing and services. While these services were always integrally related, they were also always separated. This separation could be via a floor layer, connectors, breezeways or separate buildings, but always within a close walk between the two. The other feature about the new facilities which would become known as Visitor Centers, was that they were within a short walking distance from the visitors' parking area and from there to the main feature of the park, be it a natural or cultural resource. Beyond designing and constructing these new Visitor Centers and combined complexes, the Park Service also designed the entrance roads and parking areas, sidewalks, and visitor amenities, and landscaped the entire campus around the new appurtenances.

The Fort McHenry Visitor Center building, officially dedicated in 1964, was designed during the Mission 66 era by a team of architects from the Eastern Office of the National Park Service in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the Park Service Modern Style. The Master Plan Development Outline written in 1952 addressed the most critical needs for the park in the following excerpts:

Special Problems: Parking: The present parking facilities are entirely too small to accommodate the number of vehicles which visit the area. Museum Facilities: Systematic development and expansion of museum facilities is restricted by the lack of space. Only the construction of the administrative and utility groups will properly solve this problem.

Special Problems: Without doubt, the most pressing problem from the interpretive point of view is the fact that until the Master Plan is attained, the area is cramped for adequate space to develop its museum<sup>26</sup>

The stated development policy and design philosophy for Fort McHenry was expressed in the Master Plan, completed in 1959, as follows:

A continued awareness of the significance of the historic setting shall govern the development policy... While developments should be located and treated so as to be easily recognized as separate or different from the historic exhibits, their style should be in harmony with the character of the historic period interpreted.

The Master Plan also identified the area within the original 1814 boundary as the "historic scene." Within this historic zone of the cultural landscape, numerous well-documented and significant features were cited in the Master Plan including The Upper and Lower Batteries, The 1814 Gunshed, The Hospital of 1814, and the Stable and Storehouse of 1814 and the Tavern (just outside the 1814 boundary).<sup>27</sup> Extensive archeological investigations conducted by Hubert G. Smith in 1958 revealed that only some of the archeological foundations of these structures survived, but recommendations in the Master Plan indicated that each of these features should be reconstructed.<sup>28</sup> This proposal to improve interpretation of these features was reiterated in the 1968 Master Plan but never implemented.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>25</sup> Allaback, *op. cit.*, p. 11.

<sup>26</sup> Fort McHenry Library, Fort McHenry NMHS Master Plan Development Outline, February 1952, Special Collections, SC-6, p.4- 8

<sup>27</sup> Pousson, John. "On the Shore dimly seen..." An Archeological Overview of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine. Fort McHenry Library, Special Collections, SC-6. p. 90.

<sup>28</sup> G. Hubert Smith, "Archeological Explorations at Fort McHenry," 1 October 1958, Special Collections, SC-6-CX1958-041 and Fort McHenry Library, Fort McHenry NMHS Master Plan, January 1959, Special Collections, SC-6, p. 28.

<sup>29</sup> Fort McHenry Library, Fort McHenry NMHS Master Plan, 1968, Special Collections, SC-6, p. 77-83

Despite the acknowledgement of the significance of these features in the historic landscape, the Master Plan reflected the selection of a site for the park Mission 66 Visitor Center and headquarters directly adjacent to the 1814 boundary and the sites of the Gunshed and Storehouse. As typical of development during the Mission 66 era, the new Visitor Center site was conveniently located between the proposed visitor's parking lot and the historic Star Fort, identified as the main feature of the park. It was described in the following excerpt:

Park headquarters will be located in the Fort McHenry Monument Visitor Center. With the exception of such developments as necessary to provide utility services, protection of the area and interpretation of the historic scene and events associated with it, all new structures should be located outside the boundary limits of the military reservation in 1814.<sup>30</sup>

## EVALUATION

In September 2000, the National Park Service completed a study of Mission 66 Visitor Centers, Sarah Allaback's *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type*. This was the first part of a larger effort to research and assess the significance of Mission 66 era resources in the national park system. *Mission 66 Visitor Centers* provides a contextual basis for considering the potential significance of visitor centers. Allaback proposed three levels of registration requirements in Appendix III of the Mission 66 context study:

1. Registration Requirements for resources greater than fifty years old;
2. Registration for Resources currently less than fifty years old to meet exceptional importance and;
3. Registration Requirements for National Significance.

The complete "Registration Requirements" are included in the appendices of this document.

In evaluating the significance of the Fort McHenry Mission 66 era resources, the following criteria were considered: **Criterion A**, pertaining to associated events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically, the Mission 66 program as part of the development of the national park system; **Criterion C**, regarding the distinctive characteristics that embody a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; additionally the registration requirements developed by Allaback, specifically items 1-4, p 273-275 as listed below:

1. "The Visitor Center should be one of the important precedents of the Mission 66 program (1945-1956), be one of the visitor centers originally planned and built as part of the Mission 66 program (1956-1966), or as part of the Parkscape Program (1966-1972)." (see Allaback p. 273).

While the Fort McHenry complex was built during the era of the Mission 66 program, there is no evidence to support that it was "important precedent" of that period of community planning and park development. On the contrary, both the 1968 Master Plan and subsequent 1988 Amendment set forth recommendations to correct the deficiencies in the planning design because the building was not adequate for the volume of visitation.<sup>31</sup> Despite statistical data indicating an actual visitation of over 600,000, the 1964 Mission 66 Visitor Center was designed to accommodate

<sup>30</sup> Fort McHenry Library, Fort McHenry NMHS Master Plan, January 1959, Special Collections, SC-6, p. 28.

<sup>31</sup> Fort McHenry Library, Fort McHenry NMHS Master Plan, 1968, Special Collections, SC-6, p. 78; Amendment to Master Plan, September 1988, p. 7.

approximately 250,000.<sup>32</sup>

2. "The Visitor Center should retain most or all of the physical characteristics described in the description of the property type. The Visitor Center should be a centralized facility that includes multiple visitor and administrative functions within a single architectural floor plan or compound." (see Allaback, p. 274).

The VC complex historically was a centralized facility that included multiple visitor and administrative functions within a single building. However, the interior remodeling has altered the definition of function of spaces and the park staff from interpretation, administration, cultural resources and maintenance have been relocated throughout the park.

3. "The Visitor Center should possess physical integrity to the period of significance. The NRHP requires that the integrity of a property be evident through historic qualities including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association." (see Allaback, p. 274)

The park has undertaken a series of modifications to the interior of the building that have cumulatively impacted its design integrity. While the location remains unchanged feeling and association with the original design has changed. Only the exterior walls of the structure retain original characteristics. All the interior spaces have been modified primarily in order to comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act requirements. Nearly all of the landscaping elements in the area of the complex have been removed.<sup>33</sup>

4. The Visitor Center should embody distinctive characteristics of type, period, or method of construction that represent high artistic values. Specifically, the Visitor Center should be a successful reflection of the "Park Service Modern" style. (see Allaback, p. 274).

The VC complex does reflect several of the characteristics of the Park Service Modern Movement such as the basic overall plan in the park, building design and contemporary architecture and embodies characteristics from Allaback's bullet points, with the following exception. Due to required compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Baltimore City Fire Code, the building no longer serves to centralize numerous park functions including information, interpretation and administrative offices. Most of these functions have been relocated to other structures throughout the park. However, because it was built in 1962-1963 and is currently less than fifty years old the Mission 66 era resources must also meet **Criteria Consideration G**, for "exceptional importance"

It appears that the Mission 66 resources do not meet the National Register criteria primarily because of cumulative loss of integrity, however **Criterion Consideration G** was also considered. It was determined the Fort McHenry VC complex does not meet the level of "exceptional importance" because of the following:

1. The VC complex was constructed during the Mission 66 program but is not an example of one of the "important precedents" of that period that affected the evolution of the Park Service Modern

<sup>32</sup> Fort McHenry Library, Fort McHenry Master Plan, 1968, Special Collections, SC-6, p. 93, Fort McHenry Master Plan, January 1959, p. 37-38.

<sup>33</sup> Meeting and on site evaluation and discussion of the significance of the VC architecture were held at the park with Greg Mcguire, (NPS Facility Manager), Steven Clark (NPS Historic Architect) and John Ingle (NPS Historic Architect) on March 18, 2003. Additional discussions pertaining to the national significance of the examples of Mission 66 architecture at Fort McHenry were held at the park with Andrew Lewis (MD SHPO, Historic Architect) on September 18, 2003 and Peter Kurtze (Chief, Register Program, MD SHPO on March 19, 2003).

Movement.

2. The VC complex and surrounding landscape features no longer possess substantial design integrity relative to the period of significance, (1956-1966).
3. The VC complex does not possess "exceptional importance" in one or more of the following ways:
  - It is not an "outstanding" example of "Park Service Modern Style" as defined.
  - It is not the work of a regionally, nationally or internationally recognized architect or architectural firm.
  - The VC complex does not represent a demonstration of distinctive programming, planning or design features that affected the evolution of the NPS visitor center as a building type.
  - The VC complex is an essential part of an overall Mission 66 park development plan but it did not have "extraordinary importance" in the history and or development of this park.
  - The Mission 66 era development in the park did not have any association with events and activities that have made any "outstanding" contributions to the history of local community groups or native groups.

Additionally the non-visitor center Mission 66 resources at Fort McHenry must be evaluated for "exceptional importance." In the absence of specific guidelines for non-visitor center resources, the Visitor Center criteria were used. There is no evidence to support that these resources meet the guidelines outlined in **Criterion Consideration G** "exceptional importance".

As stated above and in the two Master Plans, the setting of VC complex is located within the identified "historic scene" within the boundary of the 1814 military reservation. In examining the context of the VC within the 1814 cultural landscape, this building can readily be viewed as an intrusion on a highly distinctive and nationally significant battlefield landscape.<sup>34</sup> This factor is especially important as the park revisits the recommendations in the 1959 and 1968 Master Plans. In 2002, the park presented a PMIS project proposal to improve the interpretation of the 1814 Hospital, the 1814 Stable and Storehouse and Gunshed, the Tavern and the 1814 Upper and Lower Water Batteries on the archeological foundations that remain in this part of the 1814 era landscape.<sup>35</sup>

**CONCLUSION**

Over the course of the past year, the park has consulted with historians, historic architects, landscape architects, archeologists, and resource management specialists and all have contributed to this effort. It has been determined that the various structures and features of the Mission 66 era development project at Fort McHenry do not meet the integrity or significance criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The park has collected appropriate documentation for the Visitor Center, landscape design, roadways, duplexes and

<sup>4</sup> Meeting of the Cultural Landscape Study Team, March 28, 2003 : members present: Bob Page (NPS Landscape Architect), Eliot Foulds (NPS Landscape Architect), Paul Bitzel (NPS Horticulturalist) and follow up conversation with Marc Pratt (NPS Landscape Architect and Park Section 106 Advisor).

<sup>35</sup> Performance Management Information System: Fort McHenry proposal submitted in 2002 to the Performance Management System: PMIS # 89490, "Construct Gun Shed, Storehouse, Tavern and Hospital Buildings" for consideration in fiscal year 2009.

utility garage verifying that they were built during the Mission 66 period and do reflect characteristics of the Park Service Modern style. All documentation, including boxes of design drawings, construction contracts, and photographs are cataloged and will be retained for reference in the park library collection.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- A Master Plan for Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, June 1968, with 1988 Amendment. Fort McHenry Special Collections, Fort McHenry Library, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Allaback, Sara, Phd. Mission 66 Visitor Center: The History of a Building Type, Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2000.
- Fort McHenry National Monument Design Drawings for Visitor Center, Utility Building, Duplex Residences and Utilities, May 29, 1962. Fort McHenry Special Collections, Fort McHenry Library, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Fort McHenry, National Monument – Exhibit Plan – Visitor Center and Fort Final Plan. December 1981. Fort McHenry Special Collections, Fort McHenry Library, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Fort McHenry National Monument Planting and Miscellaneous Construction Design Drawings, June 5, 1964. Fort McHenry Special Collections, Fort McHenry Library, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Fort McHenry NM Region One Master Plan Development Outline, February 1952 Fort McHenry Special Collections, Fort McHenry Library, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Fort McHenry NMHS: Sign and Wayside Exhibit Plan, September 14, 1965. Fort McHenry Special Collections: SC-7, Fort McHenry Library, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Mission 66 Park Development Construction Project Files 1960-1964. Fort McHenry Library, Special Collections, SC-115. Fort McHenry Library, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Mission 66 Propectus, Fort McHenry, November 6, 1958. Fort McHenry Special Collections, Fort Mchenry Library, Baltimore, Maryland.
- The Master Plan for Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Mission 66 Edition, January 1959. Fort McHenry Special Collections, Fort McHenry Library, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Whissen, Steve. National Register Nomination for Fort McHenry NMHS, April 2, 1999, Historical and Archeological Reports (HARP) Fort McHenry Special Collections, SC-7, Fort McHenry Library, Baltimore, Maryland.

**Determination of Eligibility  
Project Team and Consulting Advisors**

**Fort McHenry Staff:**

Laura E. Joss, General Superintendent

Anna von Lunz, Cultural Resource Program Manager

Paul Bitzel, Horticulturalist

Scott Sheads, Park Ranger

Greg McGuire, Facility Manager

John Pousson, Archeologist

**Regional Advisors: Historian**

Steve Whissen, Historian, DSC

Paul Weinbaum, Historian, NER

**Regional Advisors: Historic Architect**

Peggy Albee, Program Manager, Historic Architect, Program

John Ingle, Historical Architect, NER

Steve Clark, Historical Architect, NER

Elizabeth Iglehart, Architectural Historian, NER

**Regional Advisors: Landscape Architect Consultants**

Robert Page, NER

Elliott Foulds, NER

Marc Pratt, GETT

Ethan Carr, University of Massachusetts

**Maryland State Historic Preservation Office Advisors**

Andrew Lewis, Historic Architect

Peter Kurtze, Register Program

## APPENDIX 1

### REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR MISSION 66 VISITOR CENTERS<sup>36</sup>

The following requirements for registering Mission 66 visitor centers in the NRHP are given in three levels of increasing exclusivity. The first level (I) describes the requirements for registration for a historically significant visitor center. The second level (II) describes the requirements for determining "exceptional importance" for a building less than 50 years old. The third level (III) describes requirements for determining national significance.

In all cases, National Register Criteria A and C may apply. Criterion A would apply because the property is associated with events (the Mission 66 program as part of the development of the national park system) that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Criterion C would apply because the property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represents the work of a master; or possesses high artistic values. Eligibility under Criterion A relates to significance in one or several of the following areas: Community Planning and Development (park), Conservation, Ethnic Heritage, Entertainment/Recreation, Politics/Government, and Social History. Eligibility under Criterion C relates to significance in one or several of the following areas: Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning and Development (park).

#### II. REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION

To be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP 50-year old Mission 66 visitor centers should possess the following characteristics:

1. The visitor center should be one of the important precedents of the Mission 66 program ( 1945-1956), be one of the visitor centers originally planned and built as part of the Mission 66 program (1956-1966), or as part of the Parkscape program ( 1966-1972). The property's period of significance should fall within the years 1945-1972.
2. The visitor center should retain most or all of the physical characteristics described in the description of the property type (above).The visitor center should be a centralized facility that includes multiple visitor and administrative functions within a single architectural floor plan or compound. Programming elements should include interpretive displays, space for slide shows and films, visitor contact, restrooms, and other services. The visitor center should be intended to serve the public by interpreting scenery, natural resources, and cultural sites, and should be a major point of visitor arrival, orientation, and service.
3. The visitor center should possess physical integrity to the period of significance. The NRHP requires that the integrity of a property be evident through historic qualities including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Examples of alterations or remodeling that may impair the historical integrity of a visitor center include (but are not limited to):
  - The addition of a new facade, new entrance wing, or other major exterior alteration that transforms the outward appearance of the building.
  - Complete alteration of entrance and sequence through building, due to the addition of new building wings, entrances, or other major alterations.

<sup>36</sup> Extracted from: Sarah Allaback, *Mission 66 Visitor Centers: The History of a Building Type* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 2000), 273-78.

- New roof structure that completely alters exterior appearance of building (such as pitched, raised-seam metal roof replacing original flat roof).
  - Extensive interior remodeling that alters definition of interior spaces, function of spaces, and sequence through spaces.
1. The visitor center should embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction that represent high artistic values. Specifically, the visitor center should be a successful reflection of the principles of "Park Service Modern" style. These include:
- Building is sited in relation to an overall plan of "visitor flow" in the park, either near the park entrance, en route to a major park destination, or at a park destination.
  - Building design emphasizes plan organization (the design of the floor plans). Floor plan organization allowed segregation of public areas from administrative areas, and also emphasized efficient "visitor flow" through the building itself. A central lobby space is often the arrival point, with trails or other park destinations often accessed as the visitor moves through the building.
  - Building's program centralizes numerous park services, including information, interpretation, rest rooms, and administrative offices.
  - Building makes use of the formal vocabulary and materials of contemporary (1945-1972) modern architecture, including flat roofs (as well as other types of roofs), window walls (and other unorthodox fenestration), exposed steel supports, concrete and concrete block construction.
  - Overlapping functional spaces (free plans) sometimes evident in floor plan. Public areas usually on one level, or on split levels, segregated from administrative areas.
  - Integration of interior and exterior public spaces, often separated by windows, window walls, glass doors, or wooden doors with windows.
  - Entrances, exits, and other doorways often are wide, providing easy movement for crowds. Entrances often sheltered by porches, ramadas, arcades, etc. Rest rooms often nearby, with separate outdoor entrance.
  - Building emphasizes visitor's experience of spatial procession. This sequence of spaces often features ramps, as well as significant views of park landscapes either from terraces or through large windows.
  - Siting of visitor center near landscape or attraction to be interpreted sometimes allows interpretive programs to be extended into visitor center itself.
  - Building's elevations create a mostly low-profile, horizontal effect.
  - Building "harmonizes" with its setting through horizontality of massing, color and texture of materials. Use of textured concrete, concrete block, and stone veneers in facades often give building generally rough exterior texture, often featuring earth toned colors.
  - Building footprint is often ell-shaped, rectangular around a central courtyard, or a variation on these

themes.

- Use of naturalistic planting to partially screen building, utility areas, and parking, as well as to repair areas disturbed in construction. Planter boxes often used to define entrances.
- Outdoor spaces and site work, including parking lots, paths, amphitheaters, terraces, and patios often incorporated into visitor center complex.

In varying degrees the Fort Mc Henry Visit Center embodies characteristics for most of Allaback's bullet points, However because it was built between 1962-64 and is currently less than fifty years old it must meet the criteria for exception significance, Criterion consideration g and a second set of Registration Requirements:

## II. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXCEPTIONAL IMPORTANCE

For any property achieving significance within the last 50 years, National Register "Criteria Consideration G" requires that the property must be of "exceptional importance" to be considered eligible for registration. To meet this requirement and be eligible for registration, a Mission 66 visitor center less than 50 years old should possess all the characteristics described above, and in addition, the following requirements should be met:

1. The visitor center should be one of the important precedents of the Mission 66 program (I 945-1956), or one originally planned and built as part of the Mission 66 program (I 956-1966).The property's period of significance should fall within the years 1945-1966.
2. The visitor center should possess substantial physical integrity to the period of significance, 1945-1966. This should be considered a higher standard for integrity than that described for National Register listing of significant resources that have achieved 50 years of age. Sufficient features should be intact to relate the property to the Modern movement in terms of massing, spatial relationships, proportion, pattern of windows, texture of materials, and ornamentation. Characteristics critical in defining the buildings artistic merit or exemplary modern design should not be altered. Essential features that should be present for a property to represent its significance include the historic main facade and entry, important public spaces inside the visitor center, and other important interior spaces that define the particular building's historic character and use as a visitor center. An addition will not disqualify a resource, if it is compatible with the original building and not opposed to the intention of the original design, and if it does not obscure the qualities for which the building is significant.
3. The visitor center should possess exceptional importance in one or more of the following ways:
  - As an outstanding example of "Park Service Modern" style, as defined above, preferably one published in contemporary architectural journals or the recipient of design awards. Building may also be the subject of subsequent scholarly evaluations.
  - As the work of a regionally, nationally or internationally recognized architect or architectural firm, working for the National Park Service. Such a work must be recognized as an outstanding example of Park Service Modern design through evidence of awards and honors, critical acclaim by the press, and scholarly evaluation. Notable architects are defined as those who received high recognition as leaders in their fields and have received critical acclaim for numerous projects over a period of years in major architectural publications. The work of still-practicing architects is generally not considered eligible because the body of their work is yet to be completed and, therefore, cannot be holistically assessed for historical significance.

For its demonstration of distinctive programming, planning, or design features that affected the evolution of the

visitor center as a building type nationally, regionally, or internationally. Building may have gained special recognition by Mission 66 planners and designers as an important stylistic example or functional prototype for the Mission 66 and Parkscape programs. Building may have served as a stylistic example or functional prototype for visitor center design in state parks, or in other settings, such as arboretums, municipal parks, etc.

- As an essential part of an overall Mission 66 park development plan that had extraordinary importance in the history and development of an individual park. The building may be part of a larger Mission 66 development area which may be a National Register-eligible historic district.
- For association with events and activities that have made an outstanding contribution to the history of local communities or native groups. This may include the incorporation of programmed space for craft production, demonstrations, and other activities. It may also include aspects of the inspiration for the design, such as the Mesa Verde (Farview) Visitor Center, inspired by kiva design.

### III. REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

The "associated historic context" "period of significance" "associated property type" and "associated architectural style" for National Historic Landmark (NHL) nomination of Mission 66 era visitor centers are all the same as described above in Requirements for Registration. In addition, any property achieving national significance within the past 50 years must possess "extraordinary national importance" to qualify as a NHL

To qualify as a NHL, the visitor center should be an outstanding exemplar of Park Service Modern style in one of the following ways:

- As the work of a nationally or internationally recognized architect or architectural firm, working for the Mission 66 program during the period 1945-1966. Such a work must be recognized as an outstanding example of Park Service Modern design through evidence of national or international awards and honors, critical acclaim by the national or international press, and scholarly evaluation. Notable architects are defined as those who received high recognition as leaders in their fields and have received critical acclaim for numerous projects over a period of years in major architectural publications. The work of still-practicing architects is generally not considered eligible because the body of their work is yet to be completed and, therefore, cannot be holistically assessed for historical significance.
- As a foremost example of visitor center design by Park Service architects, especially Cecil Doty. To be considered a foremost example, the visitor center should be an outstanding example of "Park Service Modern" style (as defined above), preferably one published in contemporary journals or the recipient of design awards. Building may also be the subject of subsequent scholarly evaluations which demonstrate its outstanding design achievement, high artistic quality, or pivotal influence on the evolution of visitor center design in national parks, state parks, and elsewhere.
- The visitor center should have substantial physical integrity dating to the period of significance, 1945-1966. This should be considered a higher standard for integrity than that described above for National Register listing. Sufficient features should be intact to relate the property to the Modern movement in terms of massing, spatial relationships, proportion, pattern of windows, texture of materials, and ornamentation. Characteristics critical in defining the building's artistic merit or exemplary modern design should not be altered. Essential features that should be present for a property to represent its significance include the historic main facade and entry, important public spaces inside the visitor center, and other important interior spaces that define the particular building's historic



B-8

Mission 66 Era Development Project  
Fort MckHenry National Monument

5/03



B-8

Mission 46 Era Development Project  
Fort McHenry National Monument

5/03



B-8

Mission 66 Era Development Project  
Fort McHenry National Monument

5/03



B-8

Mission 46 Era Development Project  
Fort Mifflin National Monument

NOV 20 09 14 51 00 1 2 1

5/03



B-8

Mission 66 Development Project  
Fort MCHenry National Monument

5/03

MSI 00021-1211-2-2



B-8

Mission 66 Era Development  
Project  
Fort Mc Henry National  
Monument

NOV 26 03 08 02 19 12 11 2 N

5/03



The Business For  
The Teacher Classroom

B-8

Mission 66 Era Development Project  
Fort McHenry National Monument

5/03

631092919 1211 2-2



B-8

Mission 66 Era Development Project  
Fort Mifflin National Monument

5/03 2003/06/21 9 12/1 2-1



B-8

Mission 66 Era Development Project  
Fort Mott Henry National Monument

5/03

01031063220 1211 2-0



B-8

Mission 64 Era Development Project  
Fort MCHenry National Monument

5/03

2008/03/21 12:11 2-2



B-8

Mission 66 Era Development Project  
Fort Mather National Monument

5703

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



B-8

Mission 66 Era Development Project  
Fort McHenry National Monument

5/03

MAY 18 2003 1273220 1211



B-8

Mission 66 Era Development Project  
Fort Mc Henry National Monument

5703



B-8

Mission 64 Era Development  
Project

Fort Mc Henry National Monument

5/03

MAY 2003 181220 1211 2-2



B-8

Mission 66 Era Development Project  
Fort MCHenry National Monument

5/03

4014 2003/251220 12112



B-8

Mission 66 Era Development Project  
Fort Mcherry National Monument

5/03

20031241020 2-2



B-8

Mission 66 Era Development Project  
Fort Mifflin National Monument

5/03