

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

Civil War Fort Sites

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Battery Jameson

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

3401 Bladensburg Road

CITY, TOWN

Brentwood

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Colmar Manor 5th

STATE

Maryland 20722

COUNTY

Prince George's County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Alvin E. Melton Executive Vice President  
 Capital Cemetery of Prince George's County, Maryland Telephone #: 301 864 5090

STREET & NUMBER

3401 Bladensburg Road

CITY, TOWN

Brentwood

VICINITY OF

Colmar Manor Maryland STATE zip code 20722

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Prince George's County Courthouse

Liber #: see attached  
 Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20870

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

PG: 68-15A

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Located on the high ground at Fort Lincoln Cemetery is the remains of Battery Jameson that was built in 1862 under the direction of Major General J.G. Bernard, Engineers Office, United States Army, to protect the Nations Capital during the Civil War Period. Here Today, at Fort Lincoln Cemetery, masterworks of marble, granite and bronze, tributes to the craftsmanship of architect and sculptor, stands in solemn dignity among colorful masses of flowers and graceful symmetrical shrubbery-a place in which multitudes of visitors find both tranquility and spiritual refreshment. Yet, this same land now serves as the final earthly resting place for so many, is part of the lifeblood that is Prince George's County.

The land around the battery was purchased by the Capital Cemetery of Prince George's County in 1921 after receiving there Charter under Chapter 435 of the Laws of Maryland. The property holdings now encompasses 174.4 acres totally within Prince Georges' County and the State of Maryland. The Cemetery was Named, "Fort Lincoln" after the Fort that was build a short distance away in the District of Columbia in 1861. The land for which the Battery was built and where the Cemetery now owns was a farm land. It consists of parcels from three land grants: Scotland (1685), Barbadoes (1685), and Chillum Castle Manor (1763). Three events were to disturb the otherwise pastoral setting. In 1792 Major Andrew Ellicott, during his survey of the boundaries of the District of Columbia, came through the property, clearing 20 feet on each side of the boundary line and placed the boundary stone NE 7. On August 24, 1814, this quiet land and area where the Battery stands

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

became a battle field upon<sup>which</sup> the British forces intent on invading the Nations Capitol engaged the American defenders. In 1861, the land was seized by the United States Government as a location for Battery Janeson and Fort Lincoln. The majority of standing timber on the property was fell to construct the Battery and to provide an unobstructed view of the surrounding side. The fences on the farm land was chopped up and burned as firewood. The lower portion of the property was also used in 1861 as one of the major staging areas for the assembling of the Union Army.

The remains of Battery Janeson is located in Block 8 so designated for the Battery by the cemetery. The land set aside of approximately one acre is bounded by the following cemetery named streets: Fort Lincoln Drive, Hillcrest Drive, and Lincoln Oak Drive. This site is approximately three fourths of a mile into the cemetery whose entry is gained off of Eladensburg Road.

The remaining section of the Battery is the Southwest wing implacement nearest the preserved Spring house on the property. The Spring house existed during the Civil War and presently was restored by the owner. The original section of this wing implacement measured 212.8 feet and contained four gunports and cannon. This section appears today measuring 190 feet with gunports 1 and 3 remaining as shown on the site sketch. The gun port numbering 2 was filled in and gun port 4 is missing. Placed into gunports 1 and 3 in 1921 were two cannons: Civil War bronze medium 12 pounders rifled boat howitzers which were designed by John A Dahlgren, the father of of American Naval Ordinance. Only 428 medium 12 pounders each weighing 880 pounds were made. One has the visible date of 1863, one numbered 181 and the other 260. These were placed by the owners in attempt to give color to a civil war battery.

## Item 7 Description (continued ) page 3

The entire original Battery is described as follows and was located on the present ground owned by the Cemetery: From the South west wing implacement measuring 212.8 feet-thence travel Northeast 403 feet along the breast work to an underground quarters for the officers and guards, thence traveling Southeast 62 feet again along the breastwork to the main gun implacements which held nine gunports. This section measures 498.2 feet in length. In this section 2 guns faced Northwest, 2 guns faced NorthNortheast, 2 guns faced Northeast, one faced North Northwest, and 2 faced East South East.

The present remains of the battery has the rear trench area filled in. Much of the terracing effect designed by the engineers is still visible, today. The terracing for this area is as follows: 4 feet flat, then slopes upward for two feet; the rear portion slopes down 4 feet, flattens for 3 feet and slopes for 5 feet-the trench area is 16 feet behind and varies feet from 32 to 35 feet behind the gun ports(see sketch). These measurements were the original and today follow very closely to these measurements, except the trench area was filled in. The earthwork was not graded but left in its original state except for the filling in of the trench and gun port 2. A flag pole was added to the rear area to remind visitors of this historic site.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1862

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance

In the cemetery grounds stand the remains of Battery Jackson, a link in the Union Defenses built to protect the capital city from attack by the Confederacy. Major General J.G. Barnard report on the Forts and Batteries indicated that Battery Jackson was the most powerful and was connected to Fort Lincoln by a covered way.

History

With the bombardment of Fort Sumter, in Charleston Harbor, and subsequent events, it became abundantly clear that the secession of the South from the Union was no longer a distant possibility--it was a stark reality. As secession deepened into Civil War, the vulnerability of the nations capital to attack and capture became increasingly a cause for concern. The sole fortification guarding the city was decrepit 45 year old Fort Washington, located 12 miles south of the capital on the Potomac River opposite Mount Vernon. After the military disaster at the Battle of Bull Run, on July 20, 1861, it became abundantly clear that no miraculous overnight victory was to be gained--it was to be a fight for national survival. The defense of the Nation's Capital was essential to the success of the Union cause.

On July 27, Major General P. McClellan assumed supreme command of the Union

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

Item 8 Significance(continued) Page 2

Army and began an accelerated program of reorganization and rebuilding.

One of his first tasks was the fortification of the capital city.

McClellan ordered his chief engineer, Major General John Gross Barnard to begin immediate clearing of woodland to the South of the city and construction of fortifications. By 1865, defenses included 68 forts, supported by 93 detached batteries for field guns, 20 miles of rifle pits and covered ways, wooden blockhouses at three key points, 32 miles of military road, several stockade bridgeheads, and four advance picket stations. Along the circumference of the 37 mile circle of fortifications were emplacements for a total of 1501 field and seige guns, of which 807 guns and 98 mortars were in place.

Shortly, after McClellan assumed command of the Union Army, the area in the immediate vicinity of Fort Lincoln Cemetery, which was farm land at the time of the Civil War, became a staging area for numerous newly organized and already established Union contingents. One camp, which included the northernmost portion of the cemetery, the dueling grounds, and area north was designated Camp Union. Into this camp came the First and Eleventh Massachusetts, the Second New Hampshire, and the 26th Pennsylvania Regiment, all of which were formed into a brigade under the command of General Joseph Hooker. According to regimental records, they pitched their tents "upon the old battlefield, and the old dueling grounds were within their lines and proved admirably adapted for target practice." Thus, the site of the Battle of Bladensburg once more became an armed camp. To the West of Camp Union, occupying an area of 100 acres between the turnpike and the railroad, lay a second encampment, Camp Casey, which quartered the 45th Pennsylvania Volunteers, the Fourth Rhode Island Volunteers, the 41th Pennsylvania Volunteers and the Fifth New Hampshire Volunteers.

On the forenoon of August 25, 1861, President Lincoln, with secretaries Seward and Welles, journeyed to Bladensburg to review the troops. On August 26th, ground was broken for Fort Lincoln, a fortification built by Hooker's Brigade.

Fort Lincoln, located in the District of Columbia, was placed at a strategic point overlooking the extensive valley formed by the Eastern Branch and its tributaries, and commanding the Baltimore turnpike, the railroad, and several minor roads which, passing through or near Bladensburg, led into Washington.

On February 27, 1862, the Second Pennsylvania Veteran Heavy Artillery took over duty at the following Forts: Lincoln, Bunker Hill, Saratoga, and Trotten. The regimental headquarters was established at Fort Lincoln, the largest of the Forts at that time. On March 10th, this regiment assumed control of all fortifications on the north side of the city of Washington. On August 3, 1862, Colonel A. A. Gibson arrived at Fort Lincoln and assumed command of the regiment. In addition to strengthening the fortifications at Fort Lincoln, the Second Pennsylvania Veteran Heavy Artillery also constructed a line of rifle pits near the Veitch's residence, which was located near the springhouse and no longer exists today. The regiment was also credit with refortifying Forts Massachusetts and Slocum. Fort Massachusetts was later named Fort Stevens. It was at Fort Stevens that President Lincoln viewed the unsuccessful attack of Confederate General Jubal Early, who was attempting to capture the nations capitol. Military historians generally agree that, had it not been for the foresight of Colonel Gibson in reinforcing these two forts, General Early could have, in all probability successfully reached Washington.

Colonel Gibson's Second Pennsylvania Veteran Artillery also built Battery Jameson. The following detachments of troops were detailed from Fort Lincoln to man the new facility: Companies F, G, H, L, M, which

Item 8 Significance (continued) page 4

amounted to approximately 117 men.

The completion of Battery Jameson, a powerful concentration of artillery reinforcing Fort Lincoln, was reported in a Blue Ribbon Committee assessment of fortifications protecting the nation's capital. The report in a two month period between late October and December, 1862. Battery Jameson was named after Brig. General Charles D Jameson, United States Volunteers, who was in the battle of Bull Run and who distinguished himself at the battles of Williamsburg and Fair Oaks. He died on November 6, 1862, of typhoid fever contracted in the field.

Soon after Colonel Gibson took command, he also organized from the enlisted ranks a band of musicians. Under the direction of Professor Perrie, this band soon gained favor with President Lincoln and was performing at the White House almost daily.

Although it was reported informally that President Lincoln made several visits to Fort Lincoln and Battery Jameson, after their construction, it is highly likely that he did make such a visit on December 15, 1863, during a Grand Review of batteries at Camp Berry, on the Bladensburg Road near Fort Lincoln.

On May 6, 1865, Brigadier Gen. Richard Delafield reported to the Secretary of War that 51 forts and batteries should be retired, however he did recommend several should remain of which Fort Lincoln was one. It was highly likely it also included Battery Jameson. It was however, by July 14, 1866 that Delafield closed the book on all Forts and batteries, having successfully retiring many in 1865. Thus, by 1866 the Fort Lincoln and Battery Jameson's fortifications were retired and freedom was once more returned to the nation.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Lincoln Sesquicentennial (1809-1959, "Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission" National Archives, 1957

Symbol, Sword and Shield, B Franklin Cooling, Archon Books, 1957

(see attached)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 one-third acre /101,000 sq ft

Oval in shape

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Battery Jackson is located in Prince George's County, Md, between Colver Manor to the North and the District of Columbia Line to the South. It is located on the grounds of Fort Lincoln Cemetery and is so described as being in BLOCK 8 bounded by Fort Lincoln Drive, Hillcrest Drive and Lincoln Oak Drive. The entrance to The cemetery is gained off of Bladensburg Road and the battery three fourths of a mile to the West ground area in the cemetery.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
none	
STATE	COUNTY

**FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME - TITLE

William A. Alshire 301 262 5505 Jim Laner (LIA)

ORGANIZATION

Prince George's Jaycee

8-15678<sup>DATE</sup> (8-15-80)

STREET & NUMBER

PO Box 14 Hyattsville Md 262 5505

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Hyattsville, Md 20781

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Item 5 Liber and pages: Liber 142 Folio 151 and 152  
 Liber 142 Folio 142 to 146  
 Liber 1904 Folio 560  
 Liber 2117 Folio 170  
 Liber 569 Folio 243  
 Liber 4007 Folio 429

Item 9 Bibliographical References (continued):

Report by Major General J G Earnard, "Defenses of Washington"  
 1862, National Archives, Washington, DC

"The War of the Rebellion, Official Records, Union and  
 Confederate Armies," GPO, Washington, DC 1891.

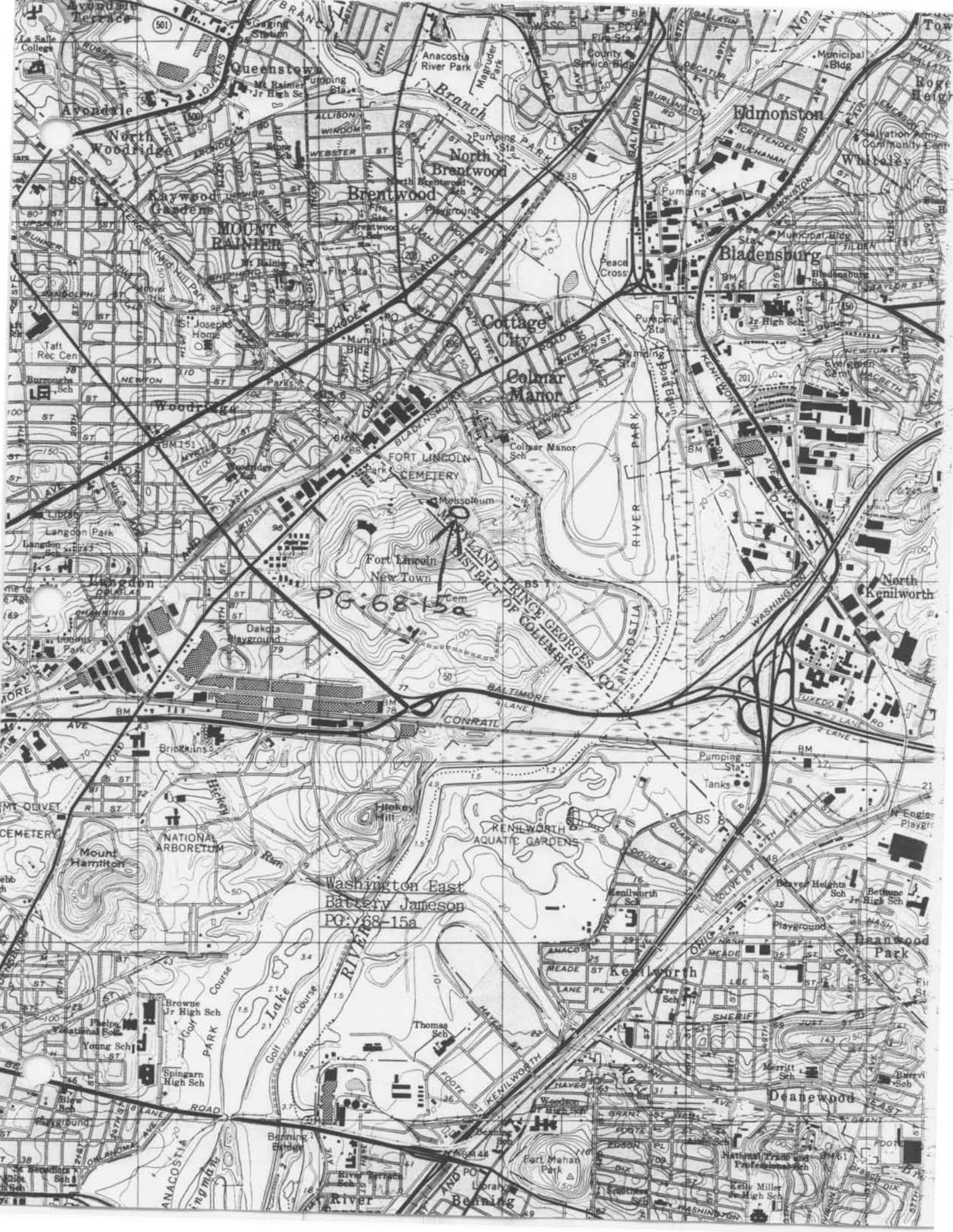
"11th Mass. Volunteers, 1861-1865, A Roster" Gustave B.  
 Hutchinson, Alfred Mudge and Son, 1893.

"History of the First Regiment, Mass Infantry," Warren H.  
 Cudworth, Walker and Fuller Co, 1866.

"History of the 2nd Penn. Veteran Heavy Artillery, 1861-1866,"  
 George W Ward, printer, Philada. 1894.

"History of Battery H, 1st Regiment, Rhode Island Light Artillery"  
 Paul Fenner, Snow Printer, printer, 1894.

Map Division, National Archives, Washington, DC, Fort Lincoln  
 and Battery Jameson: Drawer 169 sheet 156  
 Drawer 169 sheet 157  
 Drawer 169 sheet 135-66-7-8, 134



PG: 68-15a

Washington East  
Battery Jameson  
PG: 68-15a

