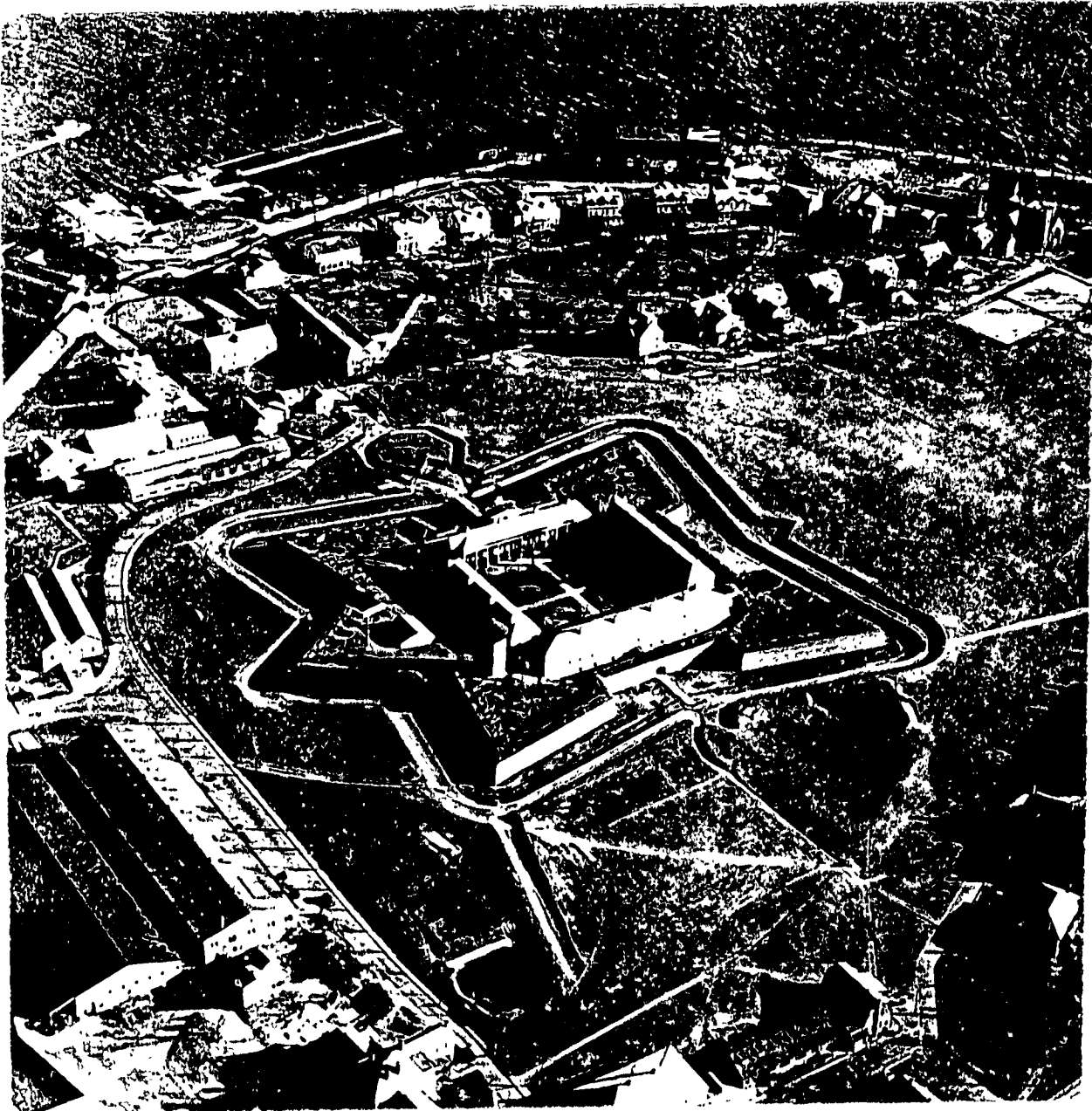


*New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission*

## *GOVERNORS ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT*



*June 18, 1996*

# **GOVERNORS ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT Designation Report**

**Prepared by the Research Department  
of the New York City  
Landmarks Preservation Commission**

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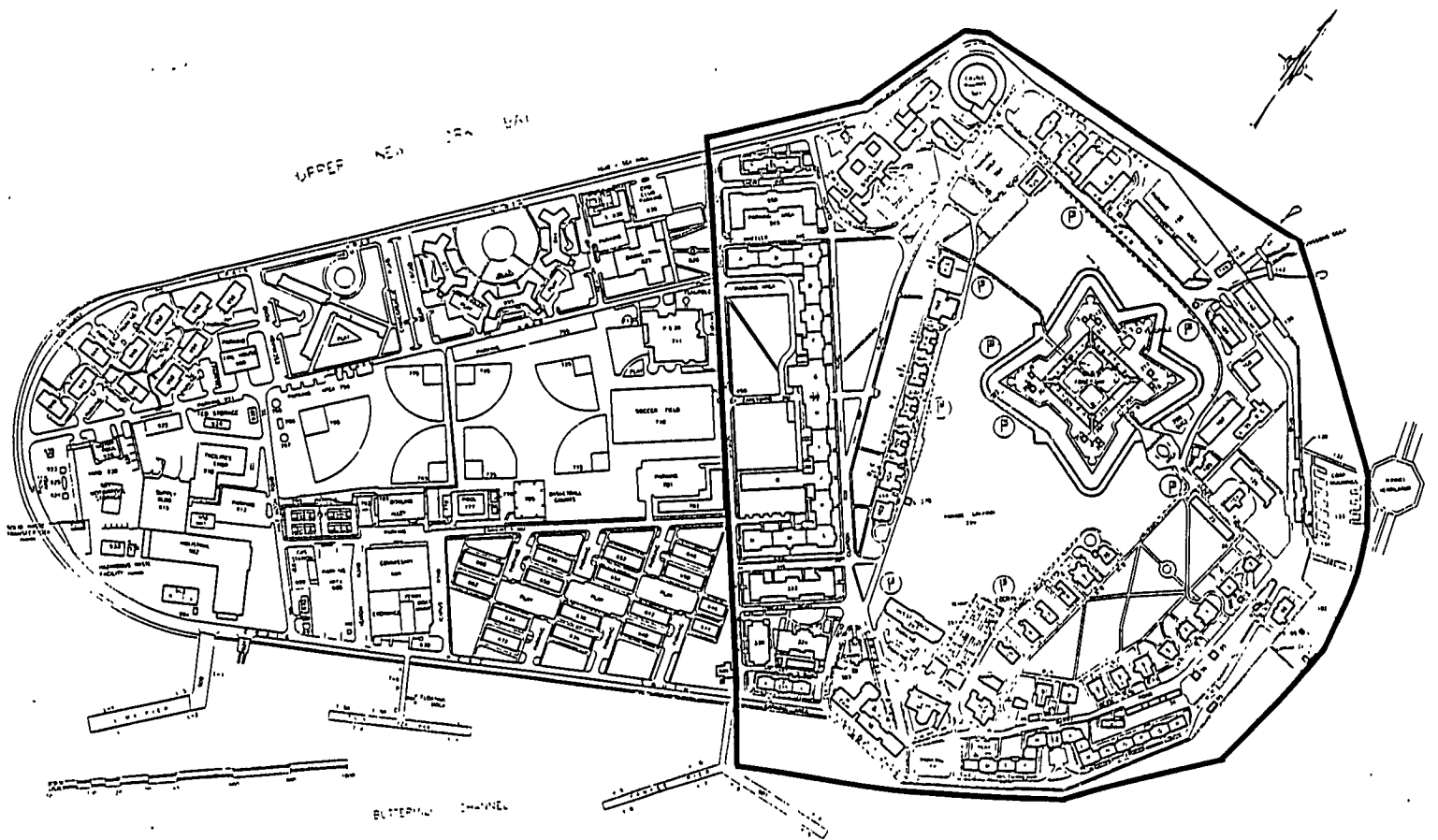
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Governors Island Historic District, Manhattan

Designated June 18, 1996

Landmarks Preservation Commission  
June 18, 1996; Designation List 272  
LP-1946

**GOVERNORS ISLAND HISTORIC DISTRICT, MANHATTAN**

Governors Island Historic District consisting of a portion of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1, Lot 10, bounded by a line beginning at a point at the intersection of the northern lot line of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1, Lot 10 and a line extending northwesterly from the southwestern curblineline of Division Road, then extending along the northern, eastern, and southern lot lines of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1, Lot 10, northwesterly along a line extending southeasterly from the southwestern curblineline of Division Road, northwesterly along the southwestern curblineline of Division Road, and northwesterly along a line extending northwesterly from the southwestern curblineline of Division Road, to the point of beginning, Borough of Manhattan.

**TESTIMONY AT THE PUBLIC HEARING**

On February 13, 1996, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the Governors Island Historic District (Item No. 1). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Nine witnesses spoke in support of the designation, including City Council Member Kathryn Freed, and representatives of the Municipal Art Society, New York City Landmarks Conservancy, Regional Planning Association, Parks Council, Historic Districts Council, Preservation League of the State of New York, and the AIA-New York Chapter. The Commission has received a letter from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a resolution from Manhattan Community Board No. 1 in support of this designation.

## INTRODUCTION

Governors Island is located one-half mile south of Manhattan Island in New York Harbor. The Governors Island Historic District, incorporating both the original island and portions of the early twentieth-century landfill, includes some 100 buildings and structures built between the early nineteenth century and the 1980s.<sup>1</sup>

In the more than 350 years of its recorded history, Governors Island has been pasture, timberland, game preserve, summer resort, garrison, arsenal, prison, and airfield. For nearly two centuries, the island has been in continuous military use.<sup>2</sup> The longevity of the military presence has ensured that the historic character of the island has retained a remarkable integrity.

The island is significant for its role as a major component in the defense system of New York Harbor, with three surviving fortifications from an important and innovative period of American military construction. The island also is significant as a major military post, a role which began in the 1820s, and which is illustrated by a range of historic structures dating from the early nineteenth century to the 1930s.

No longer the stalwart guardian of the harbor, Governors Island and the historic fortifications there are nevertheless tangible reminders of the city's once powerful harbor defense system. Since the sixteenth century, New York Harbor has been recognized for its strategic importance, and as the city grew to prominence, its defense became increasingly important to New York and the nation. Governors Island was a key component of the early harbor defense system. Fortifications on Governors Island can be dated as early as 1776, when American rebels struggled to hold New York during the Battle of Long Island. It remained a strategic defensive site until the mid-nineteenth century when advances in weaponry rendered its forts and even its location obsolete to the harbor defense system. Nonetheless, because of the prestige and importance of New York City, it retained its military importance.

From 1821 until 1966 Governors Island was home to the United States Army. Several major commands have been headquartered at Governors Island, beginning in 1878 with the Military Division of the Atlantic and the Department of the East and ending in 1966 with the First United States Army. For the thirty years following the Army's departure, the United States Coast Guard has headquartered its Third Coast Guard District and the Atlantic Area on the island, making it the largest Coast Guard base in the world. The Coast Guard will cease operations on Governors Island in 1997.

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<sup>1</sup>The historic district boundary extends across the island along Division Road to the perimeter of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1, Lot 10, approximately the pierhead line. The configuration of the district is similar to the National Historic Landmark (NHL) district. The entire island is 172 acres in size. According to U.S. Department of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places. Inventory-Nomination Form, "Governors Island, New York," (1983), Item Number 7, page 1, the NHL district is 121 acres.

<sup>2</sup>Federal ownership of Governors Island was affirmed in a condemnation proceeding filed in U.S. District Court, final order and judgment filed June 25, 1958, as stated in a memorandum re Statutory History of Governor's Island (copy in LPC files).

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Notable structures have survived from four major periods of construction on Governors Island. These periods correspond to the various military roles the island has performed, and the physical complex of each period gives tangible evidence of those roles and exerts a strong historical presence.

These building periods are described briefly below, and in some detail in the History section following. The island's open space evolved as part of these campaigns, and today these important landscape features clearly reflect the island's historic development patterns and spatial relationships. A description of the open space concludes this section on Physical Development.

### **Period of Fortifications, 1776-1812**

The first fortification of the island began in 1776, when American rebel troops occupied the island during the spring and summer of that year and hastily erected breastworks as protection from the British ships anchored in the harbor. The British repaired and improved these works between 1776 and 1783. By 1794, when the First American System of fortifications was implemented, a new fortification on Governors Island was needed; the resulting earthen fort, named Fort Jay upon its completion in 1796, lasted approximately eight years, before being rebuilt and greatly expanded during the Second American System of fortifications.<sup>3</sup> The fort, renamed Fort Columbus, was reconstructed under the direction of Lt. Col. Jonathan Williams. (The name Fort Jay was restored in 1904 through the efforts of Secretary of War Elihu Root.) Castle Williams, also designed by Williams and named in his honor in 1810, served as a prototype for seacoast fortification design. Today this structure is one of the finest surviving examples from that period of military architecture. The South, or Half-Moon, Battery was the third fortification built during this period; it has been altered and enlarged several times.

Also dating from this period is the structure called the Governor's House (Building 2), built prior to the War of 1812 as a guard house.

### **Period of Transition: from Harbor Defense to Military Post, 1830s-1850s**

The New York Arsenal was established on the island by 1833, north of what is now Andes Road and adjacent to the main docks; the ease of shipping supplies in and out of New York Harbor was a key motivation to locating the Arsenal here. Seven buildings original to this period survive, dating from c.1835 to 1875. Two ordnance storehouses were built first; one of these remains and is linked to the 1839 Arsenal Commanding Officer's quarters (Building 135), designed in the Greek Revival style. Building 104, designed with a prominent clock tower, served first as the "Main Arsenal," and then from 1878 to 1917, it served as the Military

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<sup>3</sup>See Emanuel Raymond Lewis, *Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History* (Annapolis, Maryland: Leeward Publications, Inc., 1979), 3, for an explanation of the First and Second Systems.

Services Institute for "literary, historical, and scientific purposes."<sup>4</sup> Other Arsenal structures include Buildings 105, 107, 110, 130 (in part), and 140, built as utilitarian storehouses and workshops during the Arsenal period. The six-and-one-half-acre tract on which they are located was a relatively confined space. The buildings themselves had to be located below the range of the guns on Fort Columbus.

Also constructed during this period are several surviving buildings associated with the Fort Columbus garrison, established on Governors Island in 1821. New barracks (now Buildings 202, 206, 210, and 214) were built inside Fort Columbus. Arranged in quadrangle fashion around the central court, they feature Greek Revival double-height colonnades. The post hospital (Building 9) was constructed in 1839. Sometimes called the Block House because of its severe Greek Revival appearance, it was later converted to offices and then officers' quarters. The Commanding Officer's Quarters (Building 1), built in 1843, was designed in the Greek Revival style by the prominent New York architect Martin E. Thompson; it continues to serve the island in this function. A commissary and storehouse (Building 3), was built adjacent to Building 1 in 1845. In the 1920s, this building, dubbed the Dutch House, was reoriented to face Nolan Park instead of the docks and was converted to duplex officers' quarters. Buildings 4 and 5 were built as officers' quarters between 1855 and 1857 as two-story clapboarded houses, and they served as the model for the later complex arranged around Nolan Park.

#### **Period of Army Headquarters Post, 1878-1917**

In 1878 two major Army administrative functions were relocated to the island -- the Headquarters, Military Division of the Atlantic and Department of the East. The third major building period is associated with this change, namely, an emphasis on garrison life. Two areas of officers' housing were created on each side of the fort. Beginning in 1878 until 1902, the large clapboard Victorian houses arranged around Nolan Park were constructed. These include Buildings 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20. Those from the 1890s on follow plans by the Quartermaster General. The handsome brick houses known as Regimental Row along Hay Road were built between 1893 and 1917, facing what was then the island's southwestern shoreline. The houses are in the Romanesque Revival and Colonial Revival styles, and all were built according to standardized plans from the Quartermaster General's Office. These include Buildings 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, and 409. Both groups have retained a high degree of architectural integrity, contributing to a sense of place.

In 1905-06 the Chapel of St. Cornelius the Centurion constructed a new limestone neo-Gothic building, designed by Charles Coolidge Haight, to replace the wood frame chapel it had used since 1847.

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<sup>4</sup>U.S. Department of the Interior, Item Number 7, page 7.

## **Period of Land Expansion, McKim, Mead & White, and the WPA, Late 1920s-1930s**

In the early part of the twentieth century, Governors Island was expanded by more than 100 acres using the excavations from subway construction as landfill. During the First World War, the Army hastily constructed large numbers of wood frame storehouses on this new land. These remained until the late 1920s when the Army implemented a final large-scale building campaign. Based in part on plans of 1902 and 1928 by the architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White for "island beautification," this period featured buildings of a scale previously unknown here. In particular, Building 400 (also known as Liggett Hall) was the largest military building in the world at the time of its construction. The Office of McKim, Mead & White is credited with the overall plans. Additional structures were built as funds became available. While the McKim, Mead & White designs served as the prototype, many were redrawn and executed by the Construction Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General. The majority of these structures provided housing for enlisted personnel, officers and their families, and nurses (including Buildings 12, 111, 112, 114, 315, 333, 400, 550, and 555). The other buildings constructed during this period included one administration building (Building 125, the Headquarters for the First Army) and a number of service structures, such as a school (Building 301), a theater (Building 330), a YMCA (Building 324), and a hospital (Building 515). All were designed in variations of the neo-Georgian style. The Works Progress Administration was especially active on the island, and, during this period, many earlier buildings were renovated and adaptively re-used. This process has continued throughout the history of Governors Island as a military post.

## **Open Space Landscape Features**

There are four primary open space features in the Governors Island Historic District: the glacis of Fort Jay; the parade ground; Nolan Park; and the triangular park-like area between Clayton Road and Hay Road. Each is an essential component of the district's historic character.

The glacis (a slope running down from a fortification) of Fort Jay dates from the fort's reconstruction in the early nineteenth century, and was a conscious and important component of its design. Fort Jay was sited on the island's highest point, near its center, and was sunken to allow the sodded glacis to cover the wall up to the parapet's base. The glacis stretched to the water's edge at the north, allowing an unobstructed view to both the East River and the Buttermilk Channel at the south. This green buffer is essentially intact around the fort's perimeter, and now serves as part of the golf course, which has been on the island since at least the 1920s.

The parade ground lies to the south of Fort Jay, extending out from the glacis to Building 293. (This southern end of the parade ground was the post cemetery until 1889 when it was moved to Cypress Hills, (Queens) Long Island, as a result of new construction in that area of the island.) The parade ground is flanked by two housing areas: Regimental Row to the west and the Nolan Park housing to the east. Like all military parade grounds, this one was central to garrison life on Governors Island, functioning as both a training and a ceremonial space on a regular basis. It also witnessed several public executions during the years that Castle Williams was used as a stockade for military prisoners. In the post World War II years, the parade ground

was the setting for various anniversary celebrations, which often featured historic battle reenactments.

Nolan Park, named for Major General Dennis E. Nolan, Commander of First Army from 1933 to 1936, was referred to as "the green" in nineteenth-century accounts. It provided a park-like setting for the administrative buildings and officers' housing built there throughout the nineteenth century. The park's present configuration of tree-shaded walks dates to at least the 1870s.<sup>5</sup> The park contains a wide variety of trees, many of which are quite large and may date to the island's very early history. Several commemorative markers and military artifacts are exhibited in and around Nolan Park, including an account of the island's purchase by Wouter Van Twiller in 1637, donated to the Army in 1951 by The Holland Society.

Also of note is the smaller triangular, park-like area situated between Hay Road and Clayton Road, and separating Building 400 from Regimental Row. This is located on the landfill portion of the island (Hay Road is roughly at the original shoreline), and is lined with brick sidewalks and large trees. These features were most likely added as part of the landscaping effort carried out by the WPA during the late 1930s.

## HISTORY OF GOVERNORS ISLAND

### **The Discovery and the Dutch**

When first encountered by European explorers, Governors Island was called Pagganck by the Canarsee Indians who populated the general area of what came to be known as New Netherland. It is likely, though not documented, that the island was sighted by the Italian explorer Giovanni Verrazano when he entered New York Harbor in 1524. Eighty-five years later, Henry Hudson sailed into the Harbor through the Narrows. He too would have seen the island, but it was Adriaen Block, in search of "Hudson's River," who first noted the "Nutt Island" in his travel log while journeying in Hellegat and the Long Island Sound in 1614.<sup>6</sup> Pagganck Island was home to many groves of nut trees, hence the Dutch translation, Noten, Nutten, or Nutt.

With the arrival of the first shipload of colonists sent by the Dutch West India Company in 1624, Nutten Island was one of several points of settlement along the Hudson River. A year earlier, the *Mackerel*, one of the first ships chartered under the newly-organized company, is believed to have served as a "sort of official scout," and it "seems also practically certain that the *Mackerel* established a fort on Noten Island."<sup>7</sup> When the Walloons of 1624 arrived on the *Nieuw Nederlandt*, they had with them several supply ships and the engineer Cryn Fredericksen who

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<sup>5</sup>That configuration along with a central bandstand is documented on a c. 1871 map of the island. U.S. Department of the Interior, Item 7, page 3.

<sup>6</sup>I. N. Phelps Stokes, *Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498-1909* (New York: Robert H. Dodd, 1915-1928), 2:69.

<sup>7</sup>I. N. Phelps Stokes, *New York Past and Present, 1524-1939* (New York: Plantin Press, 1939), xiv.

was charged with laying out a fort and town. The cattle were first unloaded onto Nutten Island, where they remained two days before being moved to "Manhates" for better pasturing.<sup>8</sup> The second Director of New Netherland, Willem Verhulst, arrived shortly thereafter, gathered the settlers from small settlements along the Delaware and Connecticut Rivers, and moved the majority first to Nutten Island and then to Nieuw Amsterdam, where Fredericksen began laying out streets and constructing the fort.<sup>9</sup>

Peter Minuit arrived in 1626 as the third Director General; his purchase of Manhattan Island for the Dutch West India Company ensured that New Amsterdam would serve as the primary settlement in the area. Nutten Island continued to play a role in the little settlement -- most immediately, the company established a sawmill on the island, and leased its then plentiful nut trees for timbering. In 1637, the fourth Director General of New Netherland, Wouter Van Twiller, purchased Nutten Island for his private use. In a ceremony in the presence of his council, Van Twiller paid two representatives of the Canarsee Indians a string of beads, some nails, and two axe heads for the island, upon which he reportedly built a house and pastured his goats.<sup>10</sup>

The Manatus Map, or The First Survey of Manhattan Island, of 1639, shows the Fort of New Amsterdam and the Dutch West India Company mills. The sawmill on Nutten Island is visible on this map, and is known from written records to have remained on the island until 1648 when it was ordered demolished.<sup>11</sup>

Van Twiller was the first and only private owner of the island, and while he reportedly used the island as a farm, his apparent failure to improve the property, among other indiscretions (he had also granted to himself other island properties and part of Brooklyn) was cause for complaint by the directors in Amsterdam. He was removed from his post in 1638. In 1652, Van Twiller's rights to these "colonies" reverted to the company, "to be allotted in proper proportions to actual settlers."<sup>12</sup>

Nutten Island was not allotted to settlers, but instead was used by the Dutch Directors for their personal profit -- the lease of a tobacco plantation on the island by Van Twiller's successor, William Kief, is one example. The English Governors of New York continued this practice when they took control of the colony in 1664, and in 1698 their colonial Assembly set the island aside

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<sup>8</sup>J. Franklin Jameson, ed., *Narratives of New Netherland, 1609-1664*, 82-83, cited in Henri and Barbara Van der Zee, *A Sweet and Alien Land, The Story of Dutch New York* (New York: Viking Press, 1978), 13.

<sup>9</sup>Michael Kammen, *Colonial New York, A History* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1975), 29.

<sup>10</sup>Blanche Wilder Bellamy, *Governor's Island* (New York: New York Historic Club, Half Moon Series, Papers on Historic New York, 1897), 141.

<sup>11</sup>Stokes, *Iconography*, 2:182; 4:113. No indication of Van Twiller's house is given on the reproduced map.

<sup>12</sup>*Ibid.*, 4:126-127.



as "part of the Denizen of his Majestie's Fort at New York, for the benefit and accommodation of His Majestie's Governours and Commanders-in-Chief for the time being."<sup>13</sup> The island was officially renamed "The Governor's Island" nearly a century later, but it had become known as such long before the official renaming.<sup>14</sup>

### **The English, the Revolution, and the Fortification of Governors Island**

Under the English government, officials often discussed Governors Island as one of many harbor sites in need of fortifications. As early as 1702 Lord Cornbury, one of the more corrupt of the colonial Governors, announced a rumor of an attack by the French, which prompted an appropriation from England to fortify the harbor. With these monies and more which he acquired through a special taxation for fortifications for the Narrows -- levied on practitioners in law, every person that wore a periwig (or powdered wig), bachelors over the age of 25, and slaveholders, among others -- the Governor reportedly surreptitiously financed a private estate on Governors Island.<sup>15</sup>

In 1710 several thousand Palatinates, German Protestants who had petitioned Queen Anne for refuge, were quarantined on Nutten Island. Under these circumstances, the question of the legal jurisdiction of the island arose. Special courts were set up for the period of quarantine, and legislation was proposed to the Crown to add the island to the jurisdiction of New York City; this proposal was rejected, and it remained outside the jurisdiction of the city until 1730.<sup>16</sup>

Until the middle of the eighteenth century, the island remained the demesne of the Governors and a refuge for birds and livestock, even serving under an act of the legislature in 1738 as a preserve for English pheasants.<sup>17</sup>

The need for fortifications on Nutten Island continued to be a concern in mid-century, when in 1745, the Assembly raised a lottery for that purpose. Nevertheless the first fortifications there were not constructed until some 20 years after the island housed its first garrison of trained military troops. The American-born Sir William Pepperell and British troops were encamped on

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<sup>13</sup>Bellamy, 145.

<sup>14</sup>Over time the "the" and the apostrophe in "Governor's" have been dropped from the name.

<sup>15</sup>Bellamy, 148. It is commonly held that the Governor's House (Building 2) was built in the early eighteenth century for Lord Cornbury. Research by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1982-83 could establish no earlier date for Building 2 than 1811-12. See HABS NY-5715-4.

There is some question as to whether or not any house was built, and as to what extent the island was transformed into a pleasure ground for Cornbury, given that not many years later, in 1710, the island was used as a quarantine.

<sup>16</sup>The island became part of the city under the Montgomery Charter of 1730. It was not included in the boundaries of the County of New York until 1788. Bellamy, 155-157. Stokes, *Iconography*, 5: 1226.

<sup>17</sup>*Ibid.*, 4: 976.

the island in 1755 before taking part in the expedition against Canada in the French and Indian Wars.<sup>18</sup> One of the four regiments garrisoned on the island during this period was the 62nd Regiment of Foot, called also the "Royal Americans." This regiment, organized in 1755 at Governors Island, was ordered to the West Indies before the Revolutionary War and then on to England. There it eventually came to be known as "The King's Royal Rifle Corps."<sup>19</sup>

As tensions began to build between the British and the American colonists, the colonial Governors produced an estimate in late 1774 for building a fortress on Nutten Island, but no action was taken.<sup>20</sup> Thus the island was easily overtaken in the spring of 1776 by rebel forces who clearly understood its strategic importance. Earlier in the year, Benjamin Franklin in a letter to Lt. General Charles Lee enclosed a discussion of the advantages of fortifications for Governors Island.<sup>21</sup>

In April, General Israel Putnam came to Governors Island to command the famous Bunker Hill Regiment, a move indicative of the importance General Washington gave to the post. With 1000 troops, Putnam crossed the East River at nightfall and began immediately to erect fortifications on the island as defense against the British ships in the harbor. The Bunker Hill Regiment arrived on the island a few days later, and was then joined by the 4th Continental Infantry. In May, General George Washington wrote to Lt. General Lee: "In a fortnight more I think the City will be in a very respectable position of defense. Governor's Island has a large and strong work erected and a regiment encamped there."<sup>22</sup> By June the island's new batteries mounted four 32-pound guns and four 18-pound guns. These weapons fired on British ships attempting to move north of the city in July: the H.M.S. *Phoenix*, the H.M.S. *Rose*, the schooner *Tryal* and two tenders received 196 rounds of rebel fire.<sup>23</sup> This early fire and a bombardment by Admiral Lord Richard Howe's fleet from the harbor following Washington's retreat at the end of August 1776 was the only warfare the island has seen.

Many historians believe the island's role in the ill-fated Battle of Long Island was a minor one, but historian Major R. Ernest Dupuy has described it as "the pivot of manoeuver of the American forces." The island's proximity to both Long Island and the East River entrance to the

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<sup>18</sup>Bellamy, 160. Pepperell was renowned for teaching new fighting tactics, "Indian" or guerilla-style fighting, and is credited as a significant influence on the training of American troops.

<sup>19</sup>Major R. Ernest Dupuy, *Governors Island, its history and development, 1637-1937* (New York: The Governors Island Club, 1937), 14.

<sup>20</sup>Bellamy, 162.

<sup>21</sup>"Extract of letter from Trevor Newland to Benjamin Franklin and transmitted by the latter 11 Feb. 1776 to the Honorable Charles Lee, Lieut.-General, Continental Army," Lee Papers, New-York Historical Society, quoted in Dupuy, 50.

<sup>22</sup>Cited in Bellamy, 163-164.

<sup>23</sup>Dupuy, 18.

city made it the "fixed, immovable strong point" of Washington's distribution of forces, and it was critical to the movement of the American troops before and after the battle.<sup>24</sup>

Washington retreated by crossing the East River at night under the protection of the rebel works on Governors Island, while the garrison there remained for one full day more. On August 30, the island came under fire from the British fleet. (Cannon balls from this bombardment were still being found on the island in the early twentieth century.)<sup>25</sup> While the ships fired heavily against the island, one period account by a Tory in New York expresses frustration at the British response:

In the evening of the same day (unaccountable as it is) a detachment of the rebel army went from New York to Nutten island with a number of boats, and carried off the troops, the stores, artillery, and provisions without the least interruption whatever, though General Howe's whole army lay within a mile...Indeed he [Admiral Howe] sent up four ships, which anchored about two miles below Nutten Island, and kept up a most tremendous fire against the rebel fortifications there. But the distance was so great it made no impression, did no injury, and might as well have been directed at the moon, as at Nutten Island, for the good it did.<sup>26</sup>

On the night of the 30th, the American troops left the island, leaving behind cannon and a store of ammunition. A Hessian soldier's period account reported the situation in the Harbor:

The men-of-war are drawing as close to New York as possible and would come closer if the rebels had not sunk so many ships there and made the approach impossible. The tops of the masts can be seen in the water and only rowboats can pass between them. I must add that the rebels, after having vacated everything except an island one English mile long, called Governor's Island, on which four hundred Pennsylvanians were encamped, have now embarked these men, too, in spite of a battle thrown up in front of us, and taken them to New York on small vessels under cover of a two-masted frigate. We sank only two of these boats. They carried no more than about forty men, but these perished miserably.<sup>27</sup>

During their occupation of the city, the British rebuilt the rebels' fortifications on the island and improved the site with a number of buildings for the garrison posted there. In the fall of 1779, the British rallied some 5,000 citizens to volunteer labor for this effort, the first of

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<sup>24</sup>Ibid., 18-20.

<sup>25</sup>Edmund Banks Smith, *Governors Island: its military history under three flags, 1637-1913* (New York: published by the author, 1913), 43.

<sup>26</sup>"Thomas Jones, Justice of the Peace for the Province," cited in Bellamy, 163-164.

<sup>27</sup>Bernhard A. Uhlendorf, *Revolution in America, Confidential Letters and Journals, 1776-1784, of Adjutant General Major Baurmeister of the Hessian Forces* (New Brunswick, N. J.: Rutgers University Press, 1957), "Brooklyn, Before New York, September 2, 1776, letter to Right Honorable Lord Gracious High and Mighty Colonel," 40.

several such calls for contributions of citizen labor on the island in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. When the British left New York at the end of the war, they left behind a hospital, kitchen, cattle barn, barracks, a summer house, and other improvements, none of which survive.<sup>28</sup>

Newly under the American flag, Governors Island saw a number of uses in the few years before a war scare called for new fortifications there. After the end of the war, the island was the site of a racetrack and summer resort, followed by another stint as a quarantine. In 1788 when the County of New York was created and Governors Island was included, the Commissioners of the Land Office began to consider laying out the island in lots and streets. This action prompted a report by a member of New York Regiment of Artillery to the Surveyor General of the State, on the need for fortifications at Governor's Island.<sup>29</sup> By 1790, an act of the legislature granted the Regents of Columbia College the authority to divide the island into lots and solicit leases to augment the institution's finances, under the condition that the island could at any time revert back to military purposes. One 21-year lease was signed, but in 1794 the threat of war dissolved the agreement, and Governors Island was once again a key site for defensive fortifications.<sup>30</sup>

A little more than ten years after the end of the Revolutionary War, British and French interference with shipping and foreign trade had aroused the ire of the Americans. In 1794, Congress responded by enacting laws to create a navy and to erect fortifications in 21 port cities. Cannon were purchased, foundries were put to work making shot, and four arsenals were readied to repair and manufacture small arms. As this country did not yet have trained military engineers, the Secretary of War brought in French engineers to supervise the construction of the fortifications.<sup>31</sup>

This program of defense construction came to be known as the First American System of fortifications and ushered in a series of coastal fortification programs that would continue through World War II.<sup>32</sup> Most of these First System works were, due to limited funds, open works with earth parapets. The fort constructed on Governors Island between 1794 and 1796 was a typical example.

Governors Island was one of the fortification sites in New York, and the works there became a rallying cry of patriotism. Out of a common desire to raise the defense posture of the country and city, almost every guild and society in the city stepped forth to give a day's work on Governors Island. By mid-May of 1794, *Greenleaf's New York Journal* reported that crews of 50

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<sup>28</sup>Bellamy, 167-168. The full list is printed in this source.

<sup>29</sup>Stokes, *Iconography*, 5: 1228.

<sup>30</sup>Bellamy, 169.

<sup>31</sup>James Ripley Jacobs, *The Beginning of the United States Army, 1783-1812* (Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press, 1947), 165-166.

<sup>32</sup>Lewis, 3.

to 100 volunteers had worked every day for the past three weeks. The Patriotic Republican Bakers, the coopers, the tallow chandlers, among other groups continued the work throughout the months of May and June; members of the German Society were "led by their president, with flying colors and music, through Broadway, down Whitehall, to Governors Island."<sup>33</sup>

One eyewitness reported: "As I was getting up in the morning, I heard drums beating and fifes playing. I ran to the window, and saw a large body of people . . . marching two and two towards the water . . . It was a procession of young guardsmen going in boats to Governor's Island, to give the state a day's work. Fortifications are there erecting to defend the Harbor. It is a patriotic and general resolution of the inhabitants of the city, to work a day gratis, without any distinction of rank or condition, for the public advantages, on these fortifications....How noble this is! How it cherishes unanimity and love for their country!"<sup>34</sup>

With this valiant effort, completed in January 1796, Governors Island had an earthen fort, two batteries partly lined with masonry, two air furnaces, a large powder magazine, and a barracks for the garrison.<sup>35</sup> In 1798 the fort was named in honor of Secretary of Foreign Affairs John Jay. Two years later, on February 15, 1800, the City of New York ceded to the United States its fortified islands in New York Harbor: Governors Island, Bedloe's Island, and Oyster (Ellis) Island.<sup>36</sup>

### **The Nineteenth Century and Permanent Military Governance**

The preparations the United States made in the name of national defense during the early years of the nineteenth century are of special significance to Governors Island. By the time of the War of 1812, the island was home to some of the most advanced and powerful defenses in the nation. It is widely believed that New York was spared attack by the British in that conflict because of these strong deterrents in New York Harbor.<sup>37</sup>

In 1807, the United States instituted the Second American System of fortifications, which was a turning point in American military architecture and engineering. For the New York

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<sup>33</sup>The Tammany Society, the cartmen, the Democratic Society, the English Republicans, the Journeymen Hatters, the cordwainers, the Lawyers, the General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen, the Peruke-Makers and Hairdressers, the Patriotic Grocers, the Schoolmasters, were among the organizations that volunteered labor. Stokes, *Iconography*, 5: 1308.

<sup>34</sup>"Mansey's Excursion to the N.S.," 1796 edition, 81, cited in "Notes on Governors Island, unpublished envelope of miscellaneous notes and clippings of William Kelby," New York-Historical Society.

<sup>35</sup>Stokes, *Iconography*, 5: 1327.

<sup>36</sup>*Ibid.*, 5:1375.

<sup>37</sup>As cited, for example, in United States Dept. of the Interior, Item 8, page 3.

Harbor, a series of fortifications was built between 1807 and 1811, funded by the federal government and supervised by Lt. Col. Jonathan Williams.<sup>38</sup>

Demonstrating the nation's new commitment to defense as well as its technological progress, new forts were constructed at the Southwest Battery (Castle Clinton), the North Battery (the Red Fort), Fort Gansevoort off West 12th Street, on Staten Island at the Narrows, and on a reef off the Brooklyn side of the Narrows (later known as Fort Lafayette), resulting in a highly effective system of outer and inner defenses ringing the harbor. These new structures were the first masonry fortifications in America. In recognition of the strategic location of Governors Island, three works were built as part of this campaign. Fort Columbus replaced the earthen Fort Jay (also John Jay had fallen out of favor by his actions in preparing the treaty with Britain), and two entirely new constructions were added to the island.

Fort Jay (Fort Columbus) is located near the center of the island with clear views across the East River and the Buttermilk Channel. Its reconstruction began in 1806, a year before the Second American System was implemented. The square four-bastioned shape and portions of the earlier fort were retained, enlarged, and improved. The walled counterscarp, gate, sallyport, magazine, and two barracks were salvaged. The shape remained the same on the west, south, and east sides, and an additional 14 feet were added to each. On the north, a ravelin -- or a work with two faces forming a salient angle -- replaced the former curtain wall. Two retired casemated flanks attached the ravelin to the fortification. When completed, it was capable of mounting 104 guns.

The South Battery, or Half-Moon Battery, was constructed just prior to the War of 1812 to guard the entrance to Buttermilk Channel. Located at the southeast tip of the island, this fort, constructed of red sandstone, had an arrow-head shape and 13 cannon mounted *en barbette*, i.e., on an open parapet. This structure was altered several times and since 1939 has housed the Governors Island Officers Club.

Most notable was Castle Williams (named for its architect in 1810), a structure reflecting the latest in fortification design. Castle Williams was set on an area of submerged rock at northwest edge of the island, with a finger of land leading out to its entrance. It faced the Battery on Manhattan where it would work in tandem with Castle Clinton, a smaller version of the Castle Williams design. The three-story, circular structure was a prototype for a new era of seacoast fortifications. With its guns mounted in protected casemates, a system which had been introduced in France in the 1700s by the military engineer Montalembert, Castle Williams was one of the most formidable of the American forts. Casemate emplacement allowed heavy guns to be fired within closed spaces, thus making possible the arrangement of armament in multiple tiers rather than simply placing cannon *en barbette* on the exposed parapet walls, protecting both guns and gunners. When completed it was capable of mounting 102 guns. The massiveness of the walls and the structural system made the Castle virtually bombproof. Today, Castle Williams is

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<sup>38</sup>Williams was then Chief Engineer of the U.S. Army and Superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point. Moreover, he was familiar with the latest French techniques in fortification from his travels in Europe with his great-uncle Benjamin Franklin. The Second System was "the first construction effort of any magnitude to be planned and carried out by engineers of American birth and training." Lewis, 25.

one of the last remaining and best preserved examples of early fortifications in the United States.<sup>39</sup>

### **Transition from Harbor Defense to Army Stronghold**

Despite the superiority of the Governors Island defenses following the War of 1812, by mid-century technological advances in weaponry rendered both Fort Columbus and Castle Williams obsolete. The strategic location of Governors Island, however, remained a factor in the ongoing debates concerning national defense and the island's future use, and the importance of New York Harbor continued to drive local and national calls for defensive fortifications.<sup>40</sup>

During the latter part of the nineteenth century, advocates for the harbor defense increasingly focused on the outer portion of the harbor, i.e., the Narrows and the entrance from the Long Island Sound, although the so-called "inner Defensive Line," and the number of weapons mounted at Fort Columbus, Castle Williams, South Battery, Fort Wood, and Fort Gibson, remained part of the debate.

Beginning in 1821, with the transfer of the Federal military headquarters to the island from Manhattan, the Army's use of Governors Island began to diversify, as it became less important to harbor defense. The island's strategic location made it well suited as a distribution point for equipping troops, and the New York Arsenal moved to Governors Island in 1833. These years encompassed the second major period of construction on the island. The New York Arsenal, which remained on Governors Island until 1920, functioned as a separate reservation (about six-and-one-half acres) along the northeast edge of the waterfront. Seven of approximately twelve buildings constructed as part of the New York Arsenal between 1839 and 1875 remain.

During this same period, a number of buildings were constructed for the garrison posted at Fort Columbus, including a set of four Greek Revival barracks inside the fort (Buildings 202, 206, 210, and 214) of 1834-36; and a pair of field officers' quarters (Buildings 4 and 5) of 1855-57, frame houses which set the tone for Nolan Park a few years later. Other structures from this period included a two-story Greek Revival hospital (Building 9) of 1839; the Greek Revival Commanding Officer's House (Building 1) of 1843; and a two-story commissary and storehouse (Building 3) of 1845.

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<sup>39</sup>Willard B. Robinson, *American Forts: Architectural Form and Function* (Urbana, Ill.: University of Illinois Press, 1977), 14, cited in U.S. Department of the Interior, Item 8, page 5.

<sup>40</sup>This excerpt from a letter to the editor in 1859 illustrates the attitudes about the significance of New York Harbor to the nation's defense. "Burn Boston, burn Philadelphia, burn Charleston, and the nation will feel that a great catastrophe has happened; but the first shell that falls within this great City will scorch the very sinews of our strength; the fleet which occupies *this harbor* of New-York will shut the gate of Commerce to the nation!" J.G. Barnard, Major of Engineers, "Our Harbor Defenses," letter to the editor, New York, *New York Times*, April 4, 1859, Supplement, 2:1.

The troops garrisoned on the island were called to war four times in the nineteenth century: they fought in the Seminole War of 1836, the War with Mexico in 1847, the Civil War in 1861, and the Spanish-American War in 1898. The island itself came under attack during the Draft Riots of 1863. At the outset of the rioting, troops from Governors Island had been stationed at the Sub-Treasury building at Wall Street. The rioters seized this opportunity to raid the island's ammunition stores, but were thwarted when employees of the Ordnance Department turned the guns on the approaching rioters, who withdrew to New York.<sup>41</sup>

In 1852, the island was changed from an artillery post to a recruiting depot, and during the Civil War was an encampment for Union soldiers and a stockade for captured Confederates. Thus did Castle Williams begin its long career as a military prison. The structure was altered to hold as many as 1,500 Confederate prisoners during the War, and served as a military detention center until 1966. Through the years, numerous prisoners escaped; public disciplinary measures for the prisoners were conducted on the parade ground, including executions -- the only bloodshed the island has seen.

Under the command of General Winfield Scott Hancock, the island was made an Army administrative center, with the location of the Headquarters, Military Division of the Atlantic and Department of the East to Governors Island in 1878. Under Hancock, Fort Columbus became the military village that made it a favorite post of Army officers. The general implemented a number of improvements to garrison life, such as securing an ample supply of good water and of illuminating gas; and creating the Military Service Institution, whose museum collection was housed on the island until 1917 and transferred to the Smithsonian in 1922. The first Army-controlled ferry service was introduced under Hancock; it replaced private ferries and was free to Army personnel and their families.<sup>42</sup>

General Hancock also directed the third major building effort, most notably the construction of the handsome officers' quarters within Nolan Park and a second group of officers' quarters known as Regimental Row. Arranged picturesquely around the landscaped green, now Nolan Park, the thirteen sets of officers' quarters (Buildings 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20) were built from 1878 to 1902. Several of these large, clapboard Victorian houses have quarter-sawn ornament. Regimental Row (Buildings 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, and 410) was built in between 1893 and 1917, at what was then the water's edge. They are large brick houses, of similar design, with Romanesque Revival and Colonial Revival characteristics and feature front porches. By the early twentieth century, these houses came to be called Hurricane Row, in reference to the ocean spray that began to reach them due to erosion of the island's shore. The Chapel of St. Cornelius the Centurion, the island's first church founded in 1846 as an outpost of Trinity Parish, replaced its 1847 wood frame chapel in 1905-06 with a neo-Gothic limestone structure designed by Charles C. Haight, near the same site.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>41</sup>Smith, 82.

<sup>42</sup>"Improving a Pleasant Resort," *New York Times*, March 15, 1879, 12:1.

<sup>43</sup>The chapel property was owned by Trinity Church Parish until 1986, when it was deeded to the United States Coast Guard. This deed has a stipulation stating that the property would revert to Trinity if the Coast Guard left the island.



## Early 20th Century: Expansion and a New Vision

Between the years 1902 and 1912, Governors Island's land mass was increased by more than 100 acres, bringing the island back to its size under Van Twiller's ownership.<sup>44</sup> (The new landfill began southwest of present-day Hay Road.) Secretary of War Elihu Root first proposed this expansion for enlarging and improving the island in 1900 -- to build a seawall around the perimeter of the island, to provide a large number of new buildings for storage and shipping for all Army services in the harbor, and to accommodate at least one battalion of troops, with barracks, office, and a hospital.<sup>45</sup> Secretary Root appointed New York architect Charles F. McKim of the firm of McKim, Mead & White to submit "a plan for the general improvement of the topography of the island." The Secretary and McKim presented the plans to President Roosevelt in the summer of 1902.<sup>46</sup> (It was due to Root's efforts during this period that Fort Columbus was renamed Fort Jay in 1904.)

The McKim, Mead & White plan called for the elimination of nearly all existing structures (Castle Williams, Fort Jay, and the South Battery were spared demolition) and introduced the Beaux-Arts planning principles for which the firm was distinguished. The plan included a 1,700-foot parade ground in the center of the extension; two loop roads, lined with barracks and other housing, ringed the parade ground. The plan created symmetry and cohesion between the original and new portions of the island, while accommodating an entire regiment.

The land extension and construction of the seawall were authorized under the Sundry Civil Act of 1901, funded by Congressional appropriation and begun in 1902, using fill from the New York City subway construction as well as materials dredged from the harbor. (The State of New York had ceded the under-water land to the federal government in 1880.) The land extension was completed in 1912, but due to lack of funds, and later to the First World War, the building campaign specified in the McKim plan was not begun. In its annual report of 1914, the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society reported that despite the comprehensive plan of 1902, Governors Island's fate was again in question, as the Secretary of War proposed to reduce Governors Island to a corporal's guard. The year before, a resolution before Congress had proposed selling the island to the city for use as a park.<sup>47</sup>

These various actions, along with the 1913 publication of the Reverend Edmund Banks Smith's history of the island, attracted the attention of concerned citizens of New York, including many bankers, businessmen, and historic and civic societies, to the fate of the island

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<sup>44</sup>The island was recorded at 80 hectares, or about 160 acres, in the early seventeenth century. "Notes on Governors Island, envelope of miscellaneous notes and clippings of William Kelby," New-York Historical Society.

<sup>45</sup>*New York Daily Tribune*, January 21, 1901, 3:2.

<sup>46</sup>"Park on Governor's Island," *New York Times*, April 16, 1902, 4:4.

<sup>47</sup>*Seventeenth Annual Report, 1912, of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, To the Legislature of the State of New York*. (Albany: J.B. Lyon Co., 1912).

and its historic importance.<sup>48</sup> These individuals prepared a petition for presentation to the Secretary of War urging the maintenance of a full regiment on Governors Island, in line with the plans for the island's modernization from 1902 that were then on file with the War Department. In part, this petition's argument was based on the importance of New York as a commercial center for the nation and the significant federal operations there, such as the Sub-Treasury, Custom House, and Court House. The island as a place of national pride was equally important to the petitioners. When Charles Elliot Warren, president of Lincoln National Bank, presented the petition in Washington, he stated:

Governor's Island is a point of importance on all national occasions in which New York is concerned. To New York comes a majority of all the notable persons who visit the United States, and these notables always visit Governor's Island. The pride of the country should demand that the troops these visitors see should be the equal at least of any in the service, and at least a full regiment of them should always be on hand to participate in such ceremonies. In my opinion, the model regiment of the army should be maintained on Governor's Island, a regiment that would be a model in efficiency and appearance for the whole army, as well as the National Guard.<sup>49</sup>

### **The World Wars and the First Army**

Beginning with Wilbur Wright's historic exhibition during the Hudson-Fulton Celebration in 1909, a number of pioneering flights were made from Governors Island. Using the island as his airfield -- on which special sheds, or hangars, were built for the occasion -- Wright made the first flight over American waters, crossing the harbor to fly around the Statue of Liberty and up the Hudson River to Grant's Tomb, while millions of spectators lined the waterfront.<sup>50</sup> The following year, aviator Glenn Curtiss landed on the island at the end of his flight from Albany to New York over the Hudson River, winning a \$10,000 prize offered by Joseph Pulitzer and the *New York World*. Just prior to the United States' entrance in World War I, Governors Island was home to an aviation training center organized by civilians to promote military aviation. This center was inspired by these early flights, which are commemorated on the island with a monument in the form of a bronze propeller that was cast from a wooden one used by the Wright brothers. The monument was erected in 1954 by the "Early Birds," an organization of those who

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<sup>48</sup>See note 25 above. Smith was the chaplain of the Chapel of St. Cornelius the Centurion.

<sup>49</sup>*Nineteenth Annual Report, 1914, of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, To the Legislature of the State of New York* (Albany: J.B. Lyon Co., 1914), 150-152. See also, *New York Times*, September 18, 1913, 1:3.

<sup>50</sup>*Hudson-Fulton Celebration 1909, Fourth Annual Report*, Vol. 1 (Albany: J.B. Lyon Company, 1910).

flew solo before December 17, 1916.<sup>51</sup> The monument sits to the west of Building 400 at the head of Early Bird Road, adjacent to Division Road.<sup>52</sup>

In April 1917, the United States declared war on Germany, and as its first act of war, seized German-owned vessels. Of the 91 ships seized, 27 were in New York Harbor and were taken by the troops stationed on Governors Island. During the war, the island became a major embarkation and shipping point. The new portion of the island was soon nearly covered with hastily erected warehouses -- the Army built 70 frame and iron buildings with more than 30 million square feet to house war supplies for shipment to France, and an eight-mile railroad was built to speed transport between the storage area and the waterfront docks.<sup>53</sup>

Following the war, the heroic actions of that war and all American wars were memorialized by the 16th Infantry, which was stationed on Governors Island from 1921 until the Second World War. Beginning in 1928, the streets and fields were named in honor of World War I soldiers, as well as the heroes of the battles of the Civil War and Spanish-American War. Soissons Dock, Kimmell Road, Carder Road, Evans Road, and Andes Road are among the many streets and sites named by the 16th Infantry.<sup>54</sup>

The years between the Wars brought significant organizational and physical changes. Due to the storage and shipping needs of modern ordnance which Governors Island could no longer accommodate, the New York Arsenal was removed to the Raritan Arsenal in New Jersey in 1920, and its six-and-one-half-acre reservation on the northeastern edge of the island was turned over to the Army. In that same year, Governors Island became the Headquarters of the Second Corps Area, comprising New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Puerto Rico. The United States Disciplinary Barracks also was established on the island in 1922.

Following World War I, debate concerning the future of the island began anew. Proposals to sell the island were put forth within the military, as it was no longer valuable as a fortified site, and both military personnel and civilians considered the warehouses that covered a large portion of the island an eyesore.<sup>55</sup> As early as 1896, however, the argument had been put

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<sup>51</sup>This history is explained on a plaque on the rear face of the monument.

<sup>52</sup>While the war interrupted the aviation school, there is indication that aviation remained an active part of the island's operations; a publication in 1918 reporting on preparations for air-raid blackouts described aviators from Governors Island flying over the city during test blackouts to "determine what extent street lamps alone might serve as guides for raiders." "How New York City is Preparing to Meet and Air Raid," *Scientific American*, 119:555 (June 15, 1918). The legacy of the island's early aviation history included a long-running debate over its use as a municipal airport as advocated by Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia.

<sup>53</sup>Dupuy, 35. This railroad was demolished in 1931 as part of WPA improvements.

<sup>54</sup>"Governors Island Garrison Memorializes War Heroes," *New York Times*, July 29, 1928, VIII, 2:7. The Coast Guard has changed very few of the street names noted in this article, although the names for fields and lookout points mentioned here seem not to have survived the Army's departure.

<sup>55</sup>"Governors Island and the Presidio," *New York Times*, April 19, 1926, 18:3; " 'Only an Eyesore,' Says Gen. Bullard at Luncheon," *New York Times*, March 14, 1920, 12:5.

forth that troops on Governors Island were necessary to protect the U.S. Treasury in case of riots. A bomb explosion in front of the Sub-Treasury building on Wall Street in 1920 prompted the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York to call for a permanent garrison on the island, with at least a full regiment of infantry for the "safety, welfare, and dignity of the City."<sup>56</sup> Disagreement over whether or not Governors Island was still appropriate as a garrison post became the rallying point in the debate over its use as a municipal airport.<sup>57</sup>

The period of the late 1920s and early 1930s was the final major building campaign on Governors Island. Buildings 12, 111, 112, 114, 301, 315, 324, 330, 333, 400, 515, 550, and 555 were built within the historic district during this period to replace temporary structures from World War I. Many of these buildings are located on the landfill adjacent to the edge of the original shoreline, in a symmetrical arrangement across the center of the island. Work began in 1928 on the "model barracks" planned for Governors Island, with a Congressional appropriation for its design and construction. A comprehensive "Island Beautiful" plan, of which the permanent regimental barracks was a primary component, would remedy the ramshackle housing of the war era, remove dilapidated, corrugated-iron storehouses, and "make Governors Island a garden spot worthy of its position at the door of the world's greatest city."<sup>58</sup> The new barracks building (Building 400) was designed by the firm of McKim, Mead & White in the neo-Georgian style. It was the longest military building in the world, which in keeping with the Army's housing policy of the day, was designed to improve efficiency and *esprit de corps* by housing an entire regiment in one building.<sup>59</sup> The other structures are predominantly in the neo-Georgian style, which was popular on military bases at that time. The Headquarters building for the First Army (Building 125) was built in 1934 and is related to the others of this period in style and

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<sup>56</sup>"Wants Bomb Case Solved," *New York Times*, October 8, 1920, 24:2.

<sup>57</sup>*New York Daily Tribune*, March 29, 1896, 21:1. Calls for Governors Island to be used as an airport began as early as 1923, at the same time the War Department was considering spending large sums to improve the island, based on the earlier plans. General Hanson E. Ely, the commanding officer who directed the building campaign of this era, told the Chamber of Commerce in early 1928 that the island's strategic location near to banks, warehouses, and skyscrapers in Manhattan and Borough Hall in Brooklyn, justified keeping troops on call for an emergency in the city. He noted that "the War Department won't give up Governors Island without a struggle." "Governors Island Not Suitable," *New York Times*, January 7, 1928, 16:3. Fiorello La Guardia became a supporter of the airport schemes when he was in Congress, and made the issue a crusade while he was Mayor of New York. He went so far as to issue a "riot call" in 1935, bringing 450 police to the Sub-Treasury Building in Wall Street within ten minutes, dramatizing his argument that the city would be better served by an airport than troops on the Island. La Guardia also publicly argued that the Army constructed Building 400 as an obstruction to his airport plans. The debate continued until 1937 when Federal Aviation regulations effectively ended the possibility. *New York Times*, July 29, 1928, 16:1; January 21, 1934, 25:7; May 5, 1935, IX, 20:2.

<sup>58</sup>"Model Barracks for New York, New Structure on Governors Island Will Bring Troops Under One Roof," *New York Times*, January 15, 1928, IX, 4:5.

<sup>59</sup>The building included squad rooms, dayrooms, offices, mess halls, kitchens, and other necessary facilities. "Army Helps Combat Smoke Nuisance Here...New Barracks Progressing," *New York Times*, July 29, 1929, 8:4; and U.S. Department of the Interior, Item 8, pages 11-12.

detail, but it is located in the middle of the former New York Arsenal reservation, quite removed from the others. (It, however, affords an excellent view of Lower Manhattan.)

During the 1930s, as part of the overall improvements on the island, Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers were employed to demolish the war-time barracks and storehouses, build new roads, lay out athletic fields, and implement major landscaping improvements. (The brick sidewalks and large trees lining Hay Road are most likely from this period.) They repaired roads, docks, and buildings, and renovated a number of the older structures, including the Commanding Officer's House (Building 1) and the Governor's House (Building 2). They also repaired the walls of Fort Jay, and replaced Castle Williams' original timber framing system with a steel and concrete system.<sup>60</sup> Much of this work continued the pattern of adaptive re-use which had been carried out on the post throughout its history.

Army reorganizations brought the First United States Army to Governors Island in September 1933. The First Army was one of America's most important field armies, fighting in both World Wars. It was stationed on Governors Island from 1933 to 1943, and again from 1946 to 1966. A number of distinguished generals commanded the First Army on Governors Island, including Lt. General Hugh A. Drum, General Omar N. Bradley, and Maj. General Roscoe B. Woodruff, among others.

During World War II, Governors Island served as a major administrative center, providing supplies and services to Army Ground and Air Forces. The Headquarters, First Army; the Second Corps Area; and the Headquarters, Eastern Theater of Operations, were stationed there before reorganizations following the war.

In the post-war years, the First Army provided administrative, training, and logistic support from Governors Island. In 1966, after more than 150 years of residence, the Army departed from Governors Island. At that time the United States Coast Guard took over the island as Headquarters for the Atlantic Area and the Third Coast Guard District. The Coast Guard undertook its own construction campaign, much of it on the landfill outside the boundaries of the historic district. Other army buildings were converted and rehabilitated for Coast Guard needs. Beginning about 1986 the Coast Guard undertook a major campaign of restoration and long-term maintenance of many of the island's historic structures. The Coast Guard will cease operations on Governors Island in 1997, and by 1999, the island will be placed completely under the jurisdiction of the federal General Services Administration.

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<sup>60</sup>"Relief in City Cost \$6,700 in March," *New York Times*, May 8, 1932, II, 3:2.



# MANATVS

## Gelegen op de Noot

### Riuier



Fig. 2 Detail: "Manhattan Island, copy [of Manatus Map] made c. 1660 from original of 1639 (Library of Congress)." (Stokes, vol. 2, c.pl. 42).

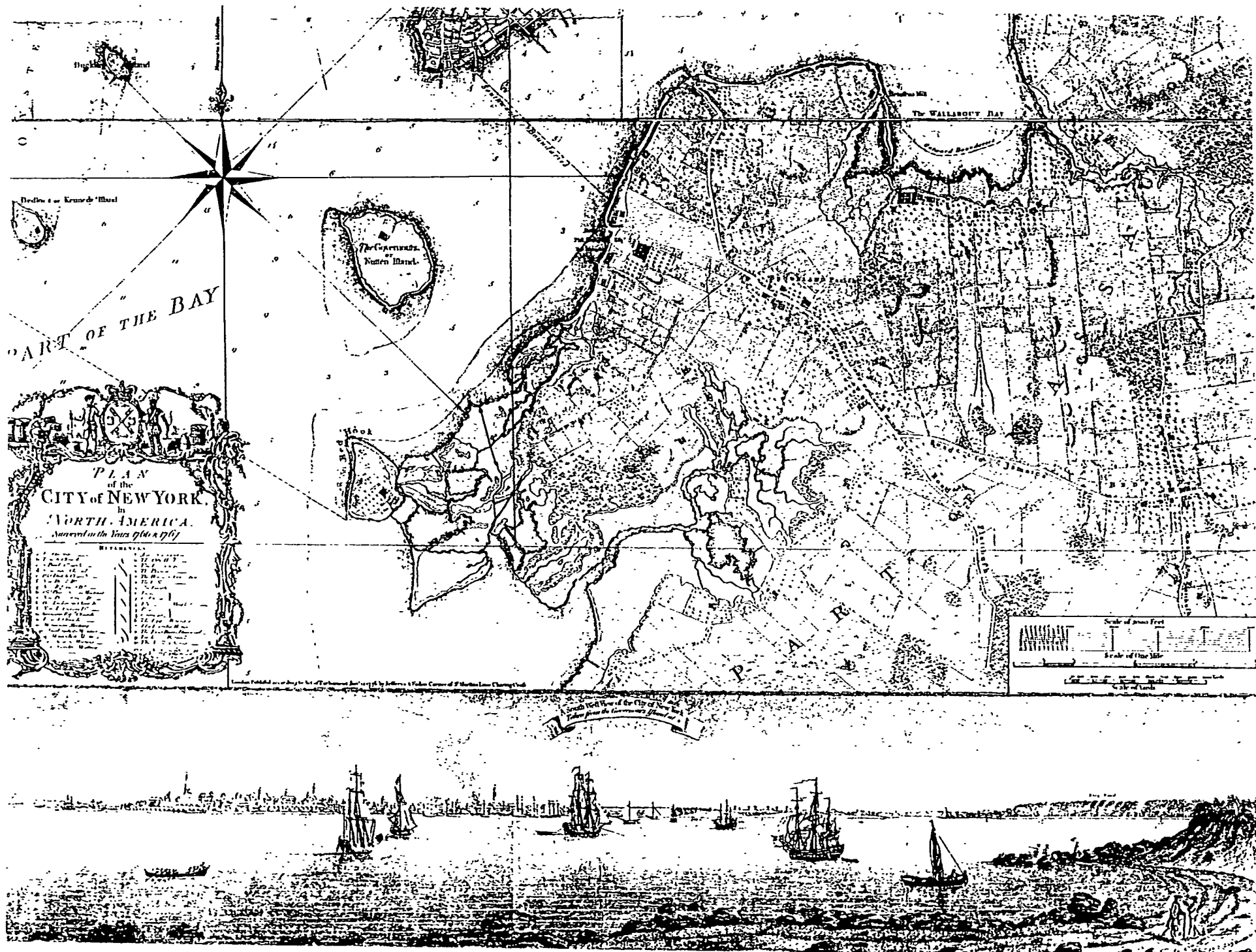


Fig. 3 Detail: "[Map] Plan of the City of New York, in North America. [View] A South West View of the City of New York, Taken From The Governours Island At\*. [The Ratzer Map]. Depicted 1766-67." (Stokes, vol. 1, pl. 41).



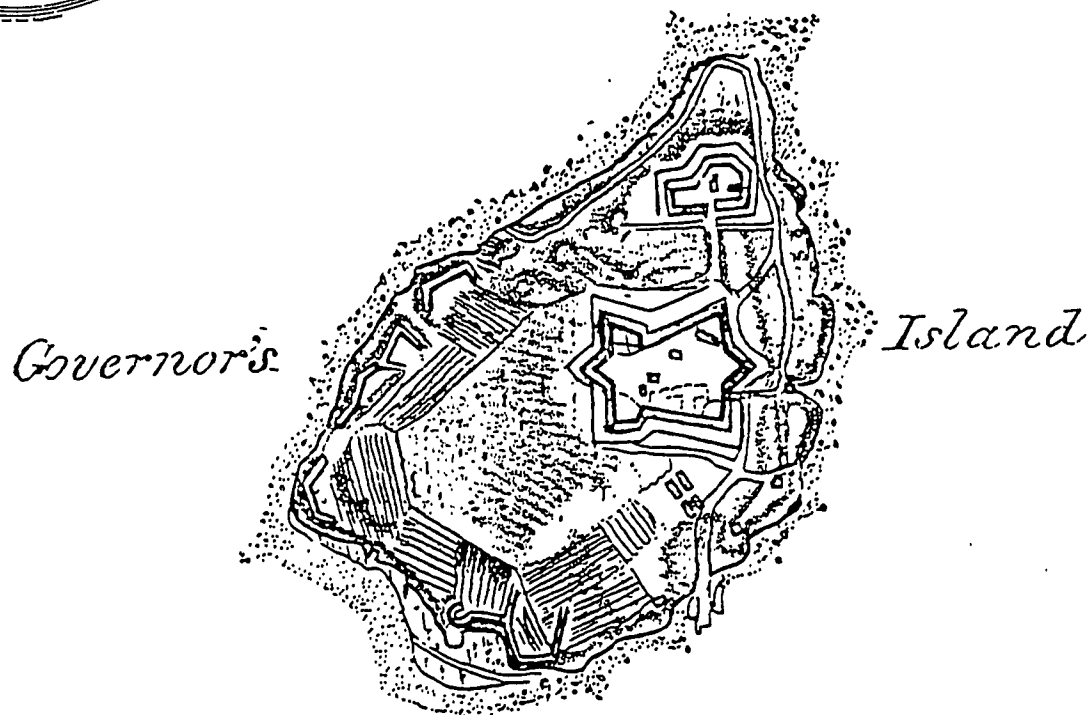
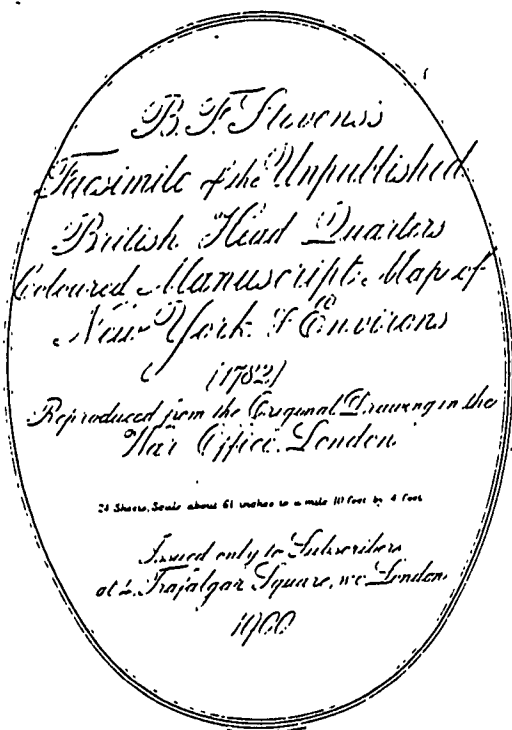


Fig. 4 Detail: "B.F. Stevens's Facsimile of British Head Quarters Coloured MS. Map of New York and Environs. Date depicted: c. 1782." (Stokes, vol. 1, pl. 50).

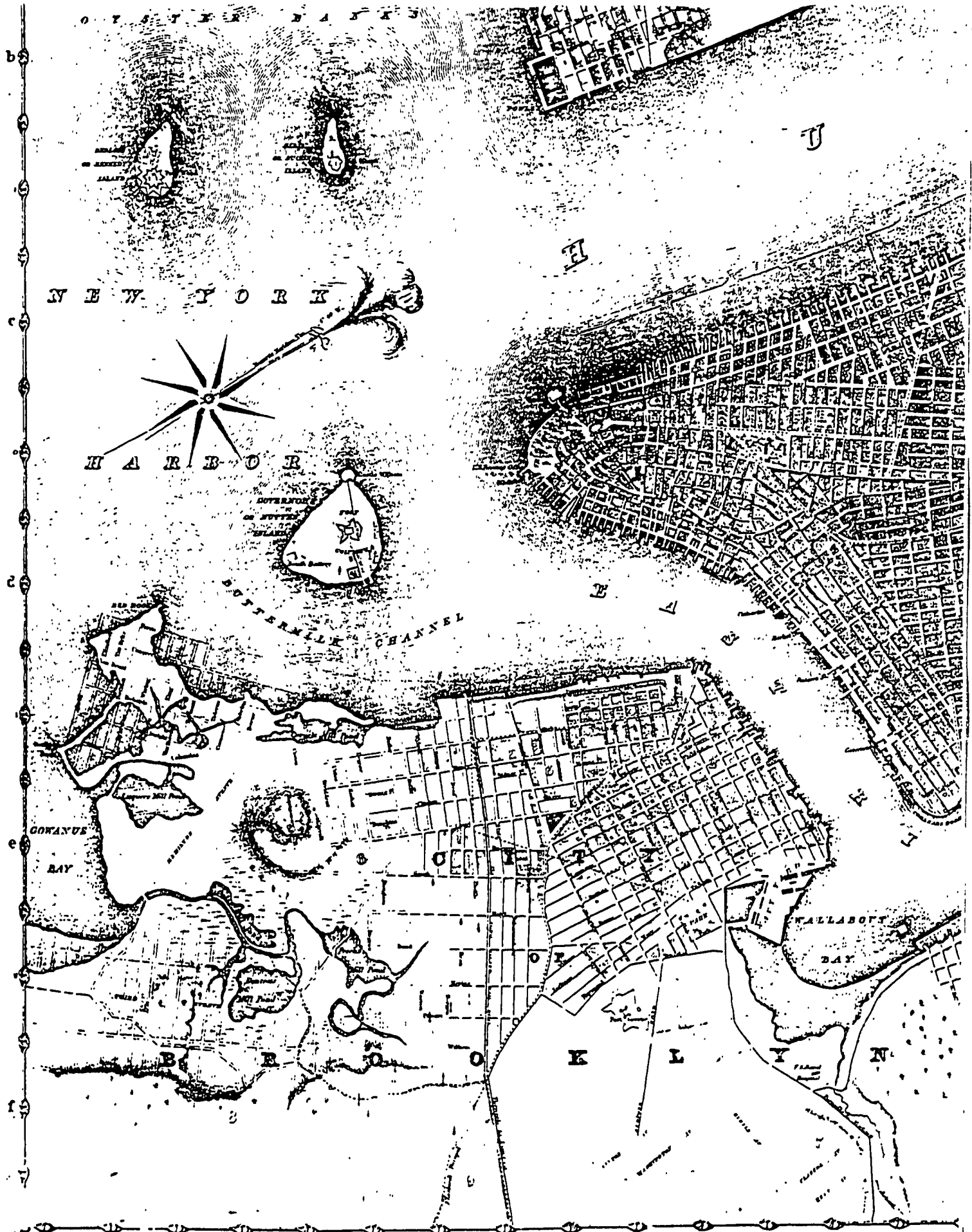


Fig. 5 Detail: "Topographical Map of the City and County of New-York, and the Adjacent Country. [The Colton Map]. Print by S. Stiles & Co. Date depicted: 1840." (Stokes, vol. 3, pl. 124). Shows Castle Williams, Fort Columbus, and South Battery.

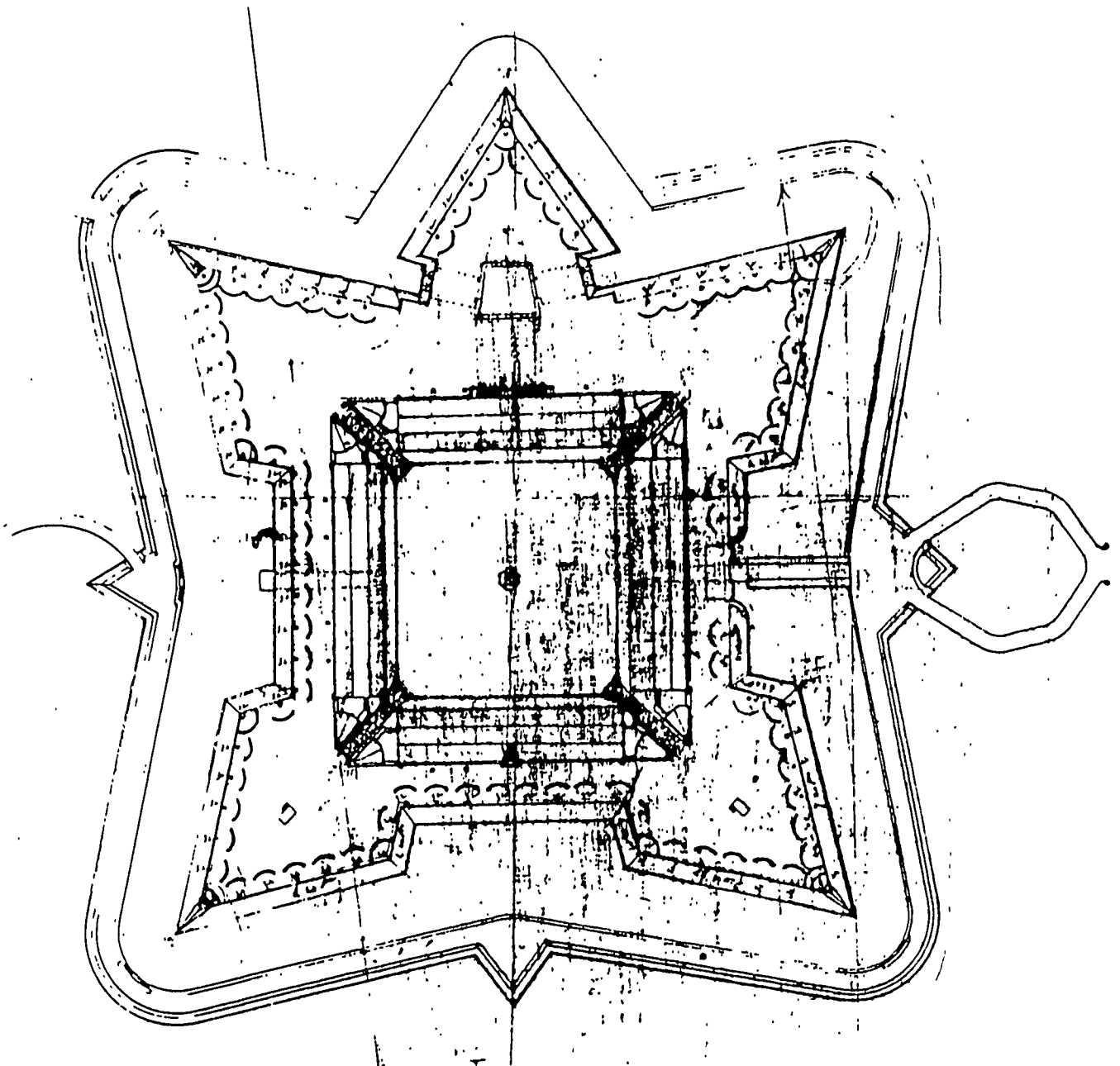


Fig. 6 "Photocopy of Fort Columbus, New York. National Archives, Architectural and Cartographic Branch. Record Group 77-Fortifications Files, Drawer 37, sheet 10. Plan of Alterations to Barracks and Terreplein, Fort Columbus. Drawn by an Unknown Delineator. 1839." (HABS NY-4-6, p.24).

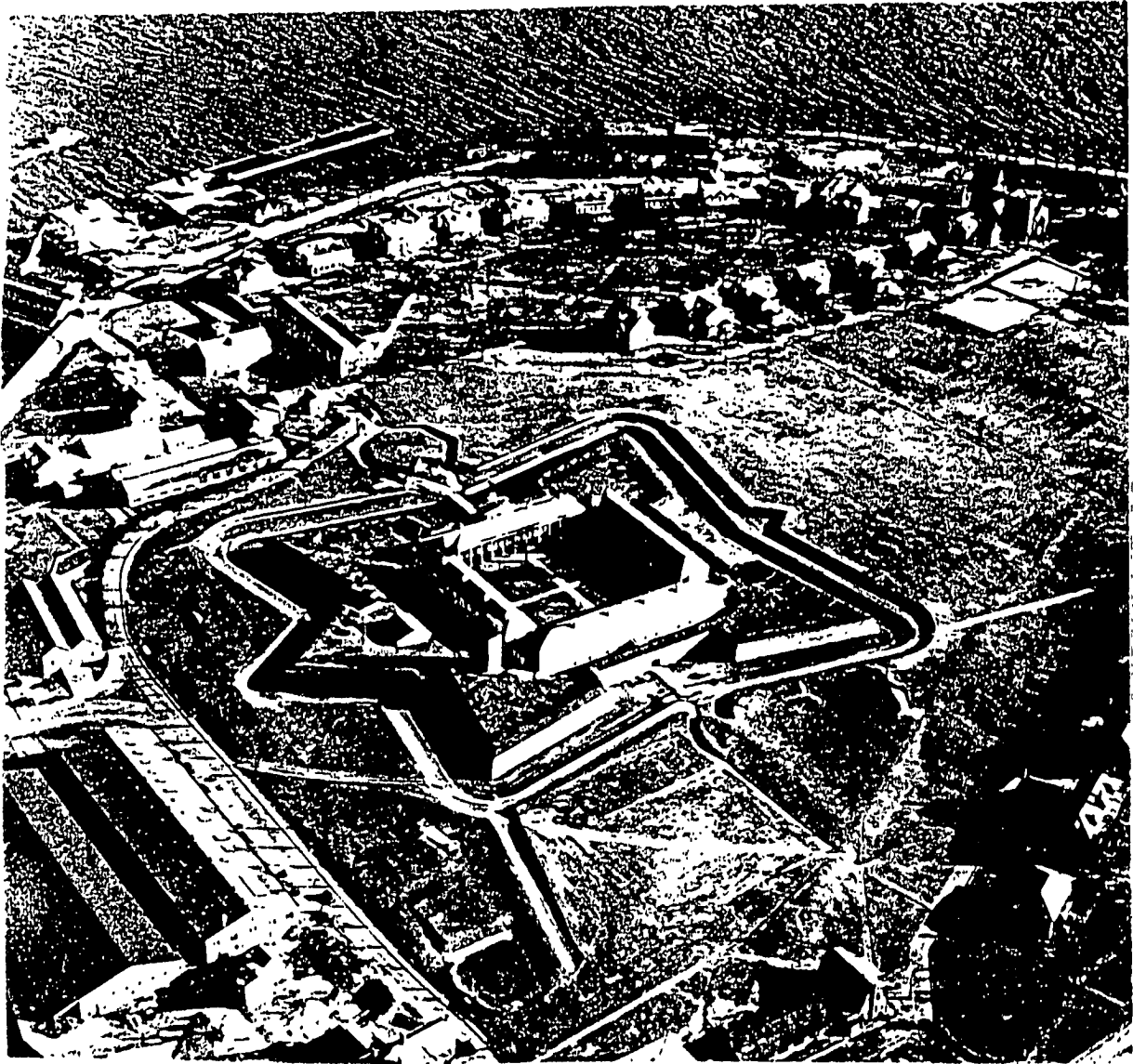


Fig. 7 Aerial view of Fort Columbus, with Nolan Park at top center. 1932. (U.S. Army Air Corps, reproduced from Lewis, p. 29.)

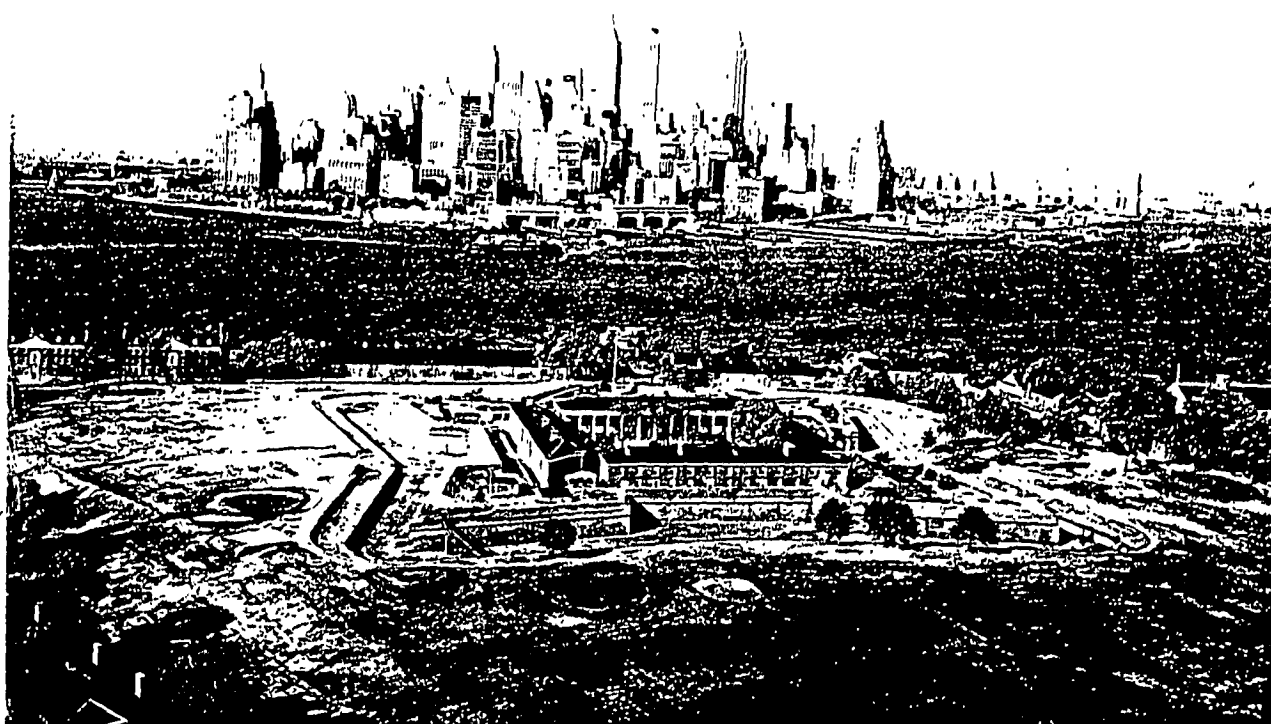


Fig. 8 Aerial view of Fort Jay, looking east. c. 1950s. (U. S. Army)

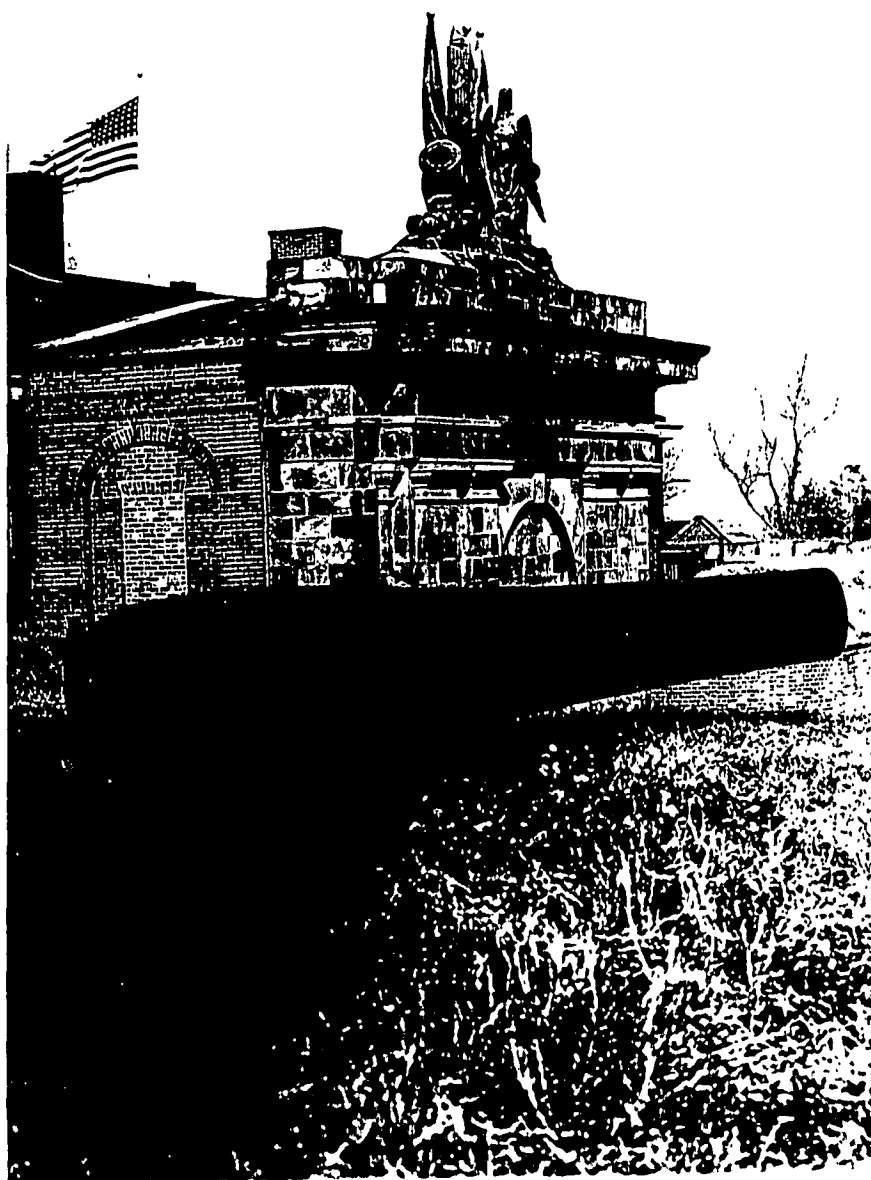


Fig. 9 Original cannon on parapet of Fort Jay, with sallyport sculpture in background.  
c. 1950s. (U. S. Army).

SHEET NO. 2  
 Horizontal Section  
 Through 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier of Gun-Embrasures and 3<sup>rd</sup> Story of  
**CASTLE WILLIAMS.**  
 GREENWICH ISLAND.  
 NEW-YORK HARBOR.  
 1859

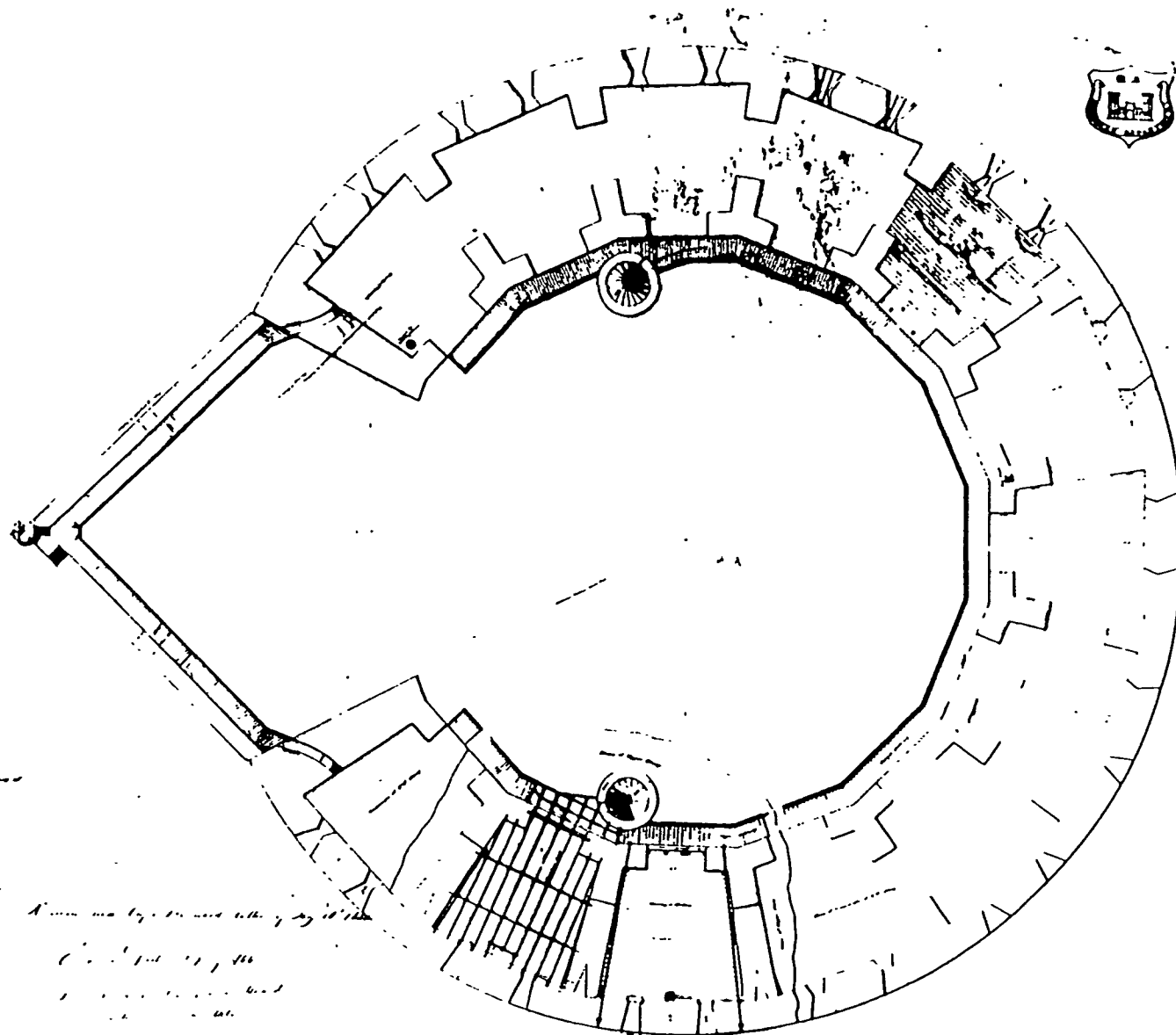


Fig. 10

"Photocopy of Drawing of Building #501. National Archives, Architecture and Cartographic Branch. Record Group 77-  
 Fortifications File, Drawer 37, sheet 17. Horizontal Cross Section of Second Tier of Gun-Embrasures and Third Story of  
 Castle Williams. Drawn by Henry Waller, December 1859." (HABS NY-5715-2, p. 18).



Fig. 11 Early 19th-century cannon atop Castle Williams, with Governors Island ferry crossing the harbor. c. 1950s. (U.S. Army).



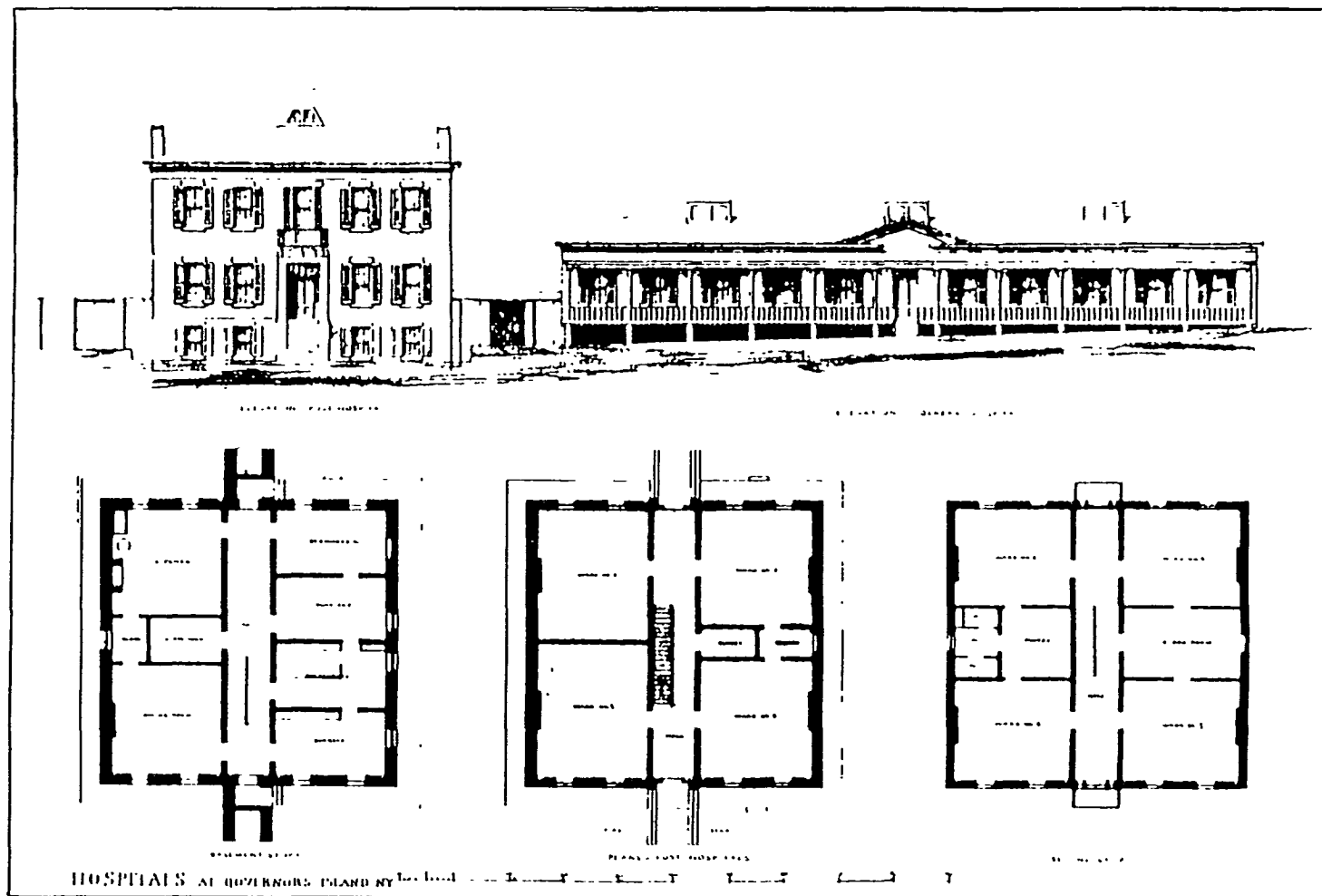
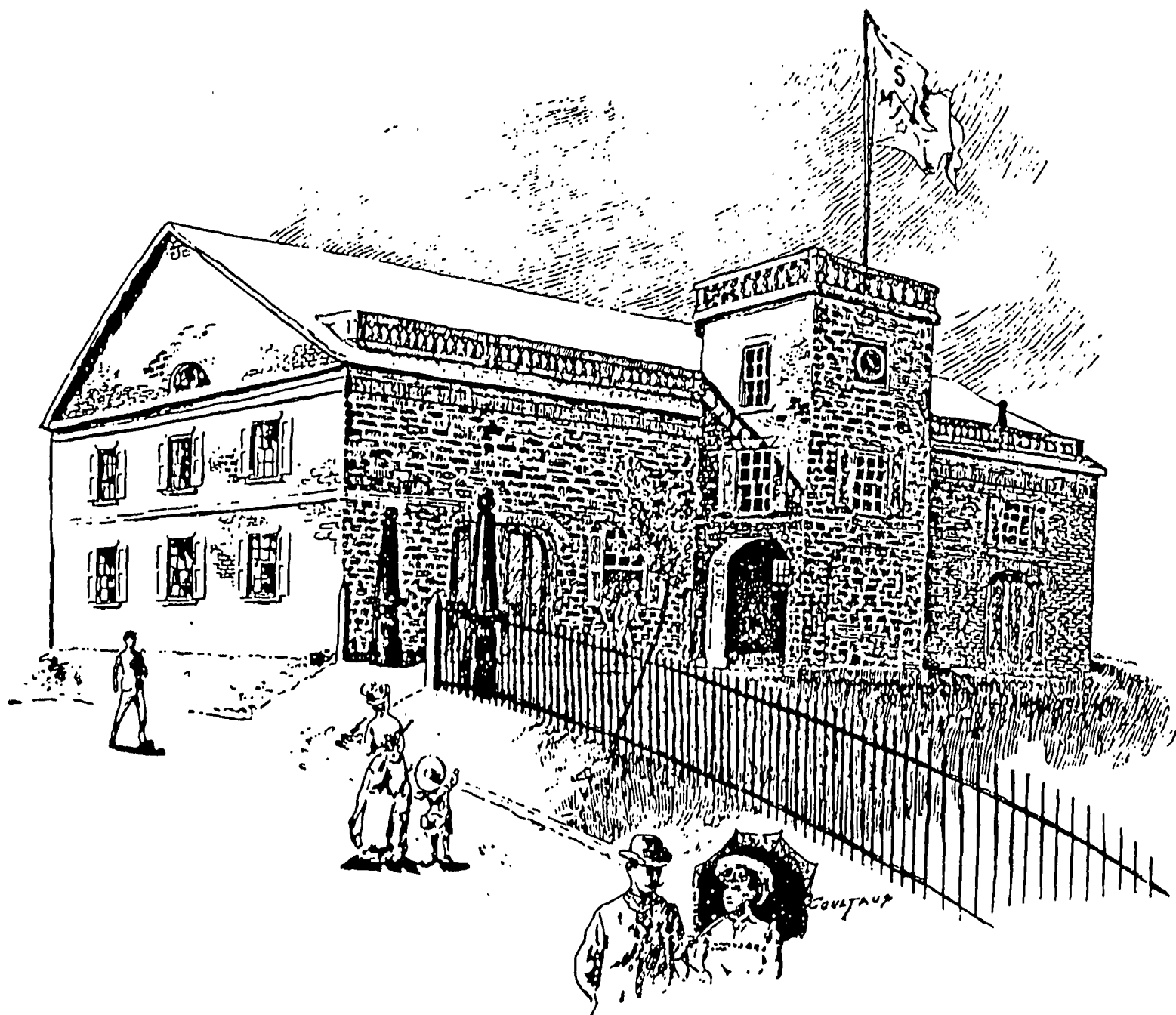


Fig. 12

"Photocopy of Plans and Elevations Building #9. National Archives, Cartographic and Architectural Branch. Record Group 77-Miscellaneous Forts File, Maps and Plans of the Office of the Chief Engineers, Fort Jay, New York, #12. View of Post Hospital. Unknown Delineator, August 19, 1863." (HABS NY-5715-5, p. 1&).



THE MUSEUM OF THE MILITARY SERVICE INSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES,  
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK HARBOR.

Fig. 13

Building No. 104. "Plate published in Military Service Institution of the United States, The Catalog of the Museum, 1885." (HABS NY-5715-6B, p. 10).

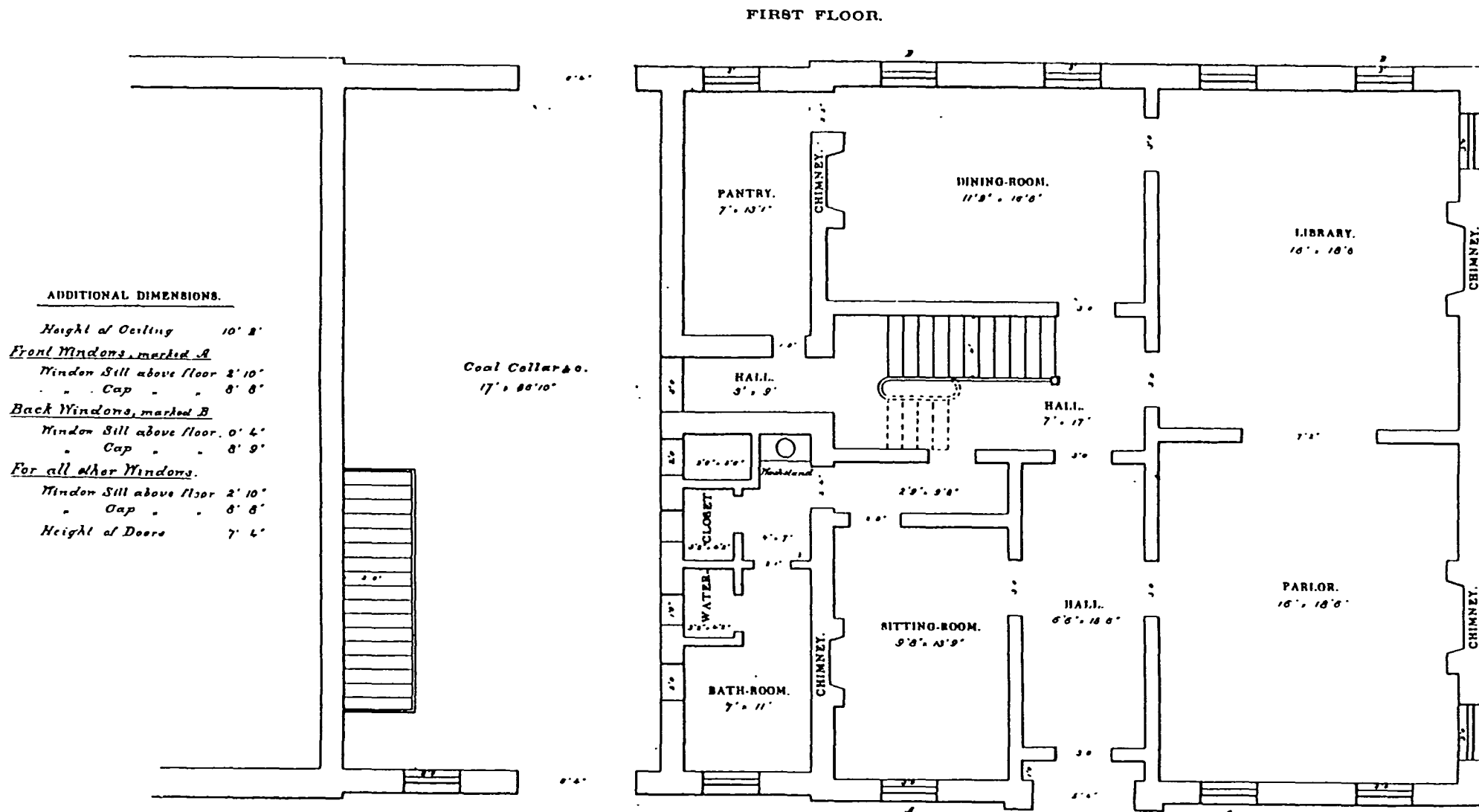


Fig. 14 "First floor plan taken from *Plans of Officers' Quarters at the Arsenal and Armory*, 1876, Plate 28." (HABS NY-5715-6A, p. 12).

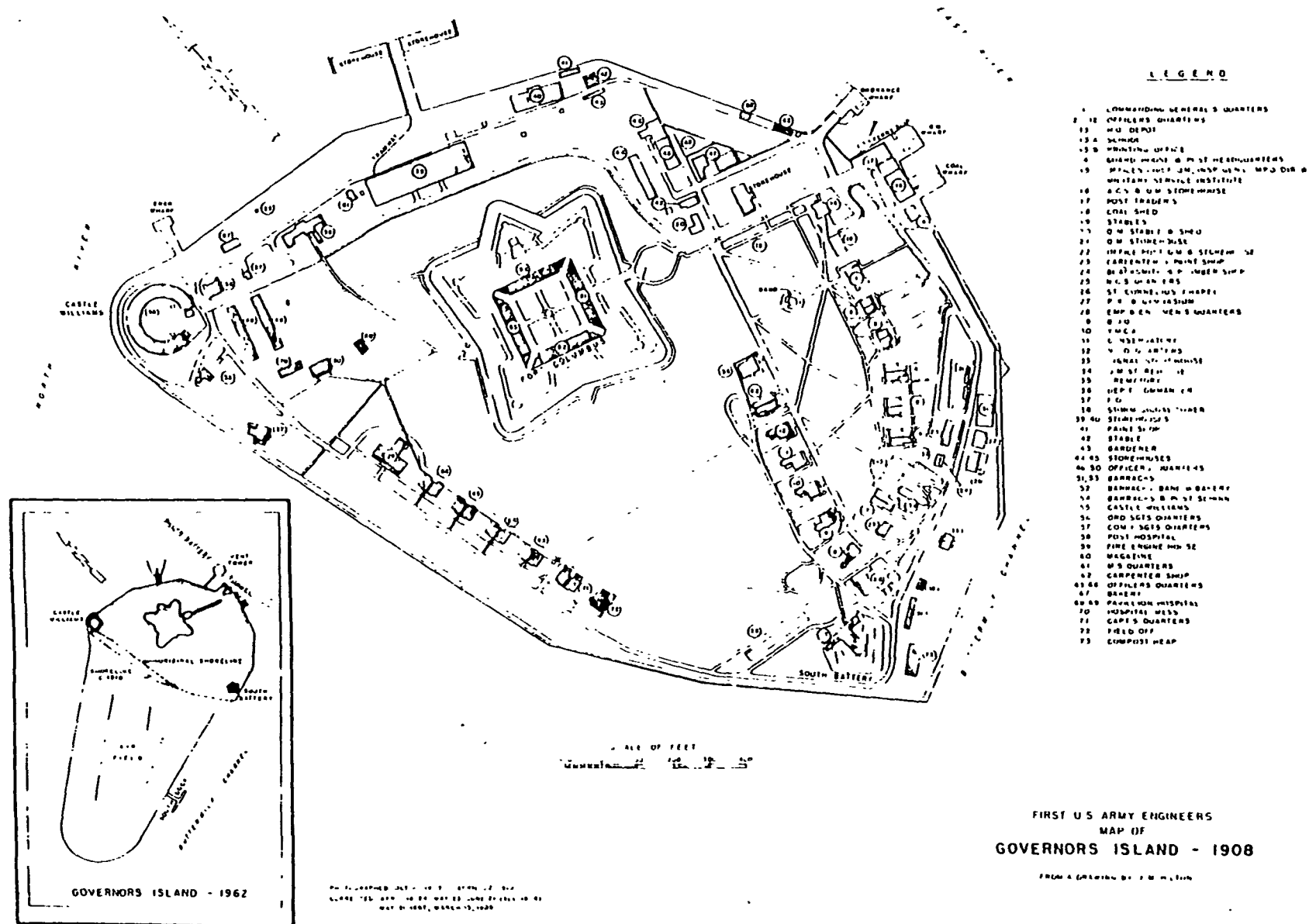


Fig 15

"First U.S. Army Engineers Map of Governors Island. U S. Coast Guard, Third District, Facilities Engineering Support Center, New York, Governors Island. 1908." (HABS NY-5715, p. 24)

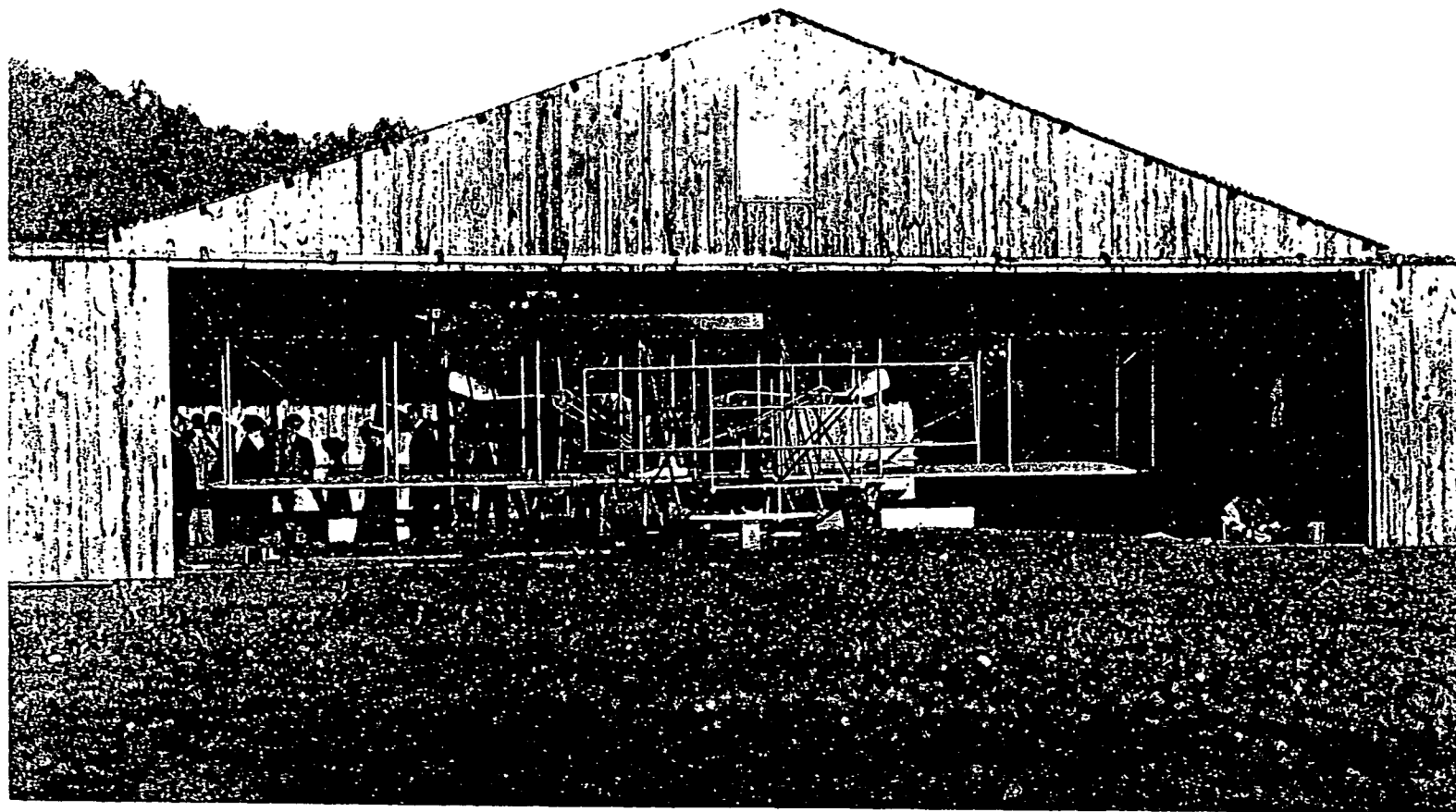


Fig. 16 "Aeroplane shed on Governor's Island " 1909. (reproduced from *The Hudson-Fulton Celebration 1909*, plate 1241)

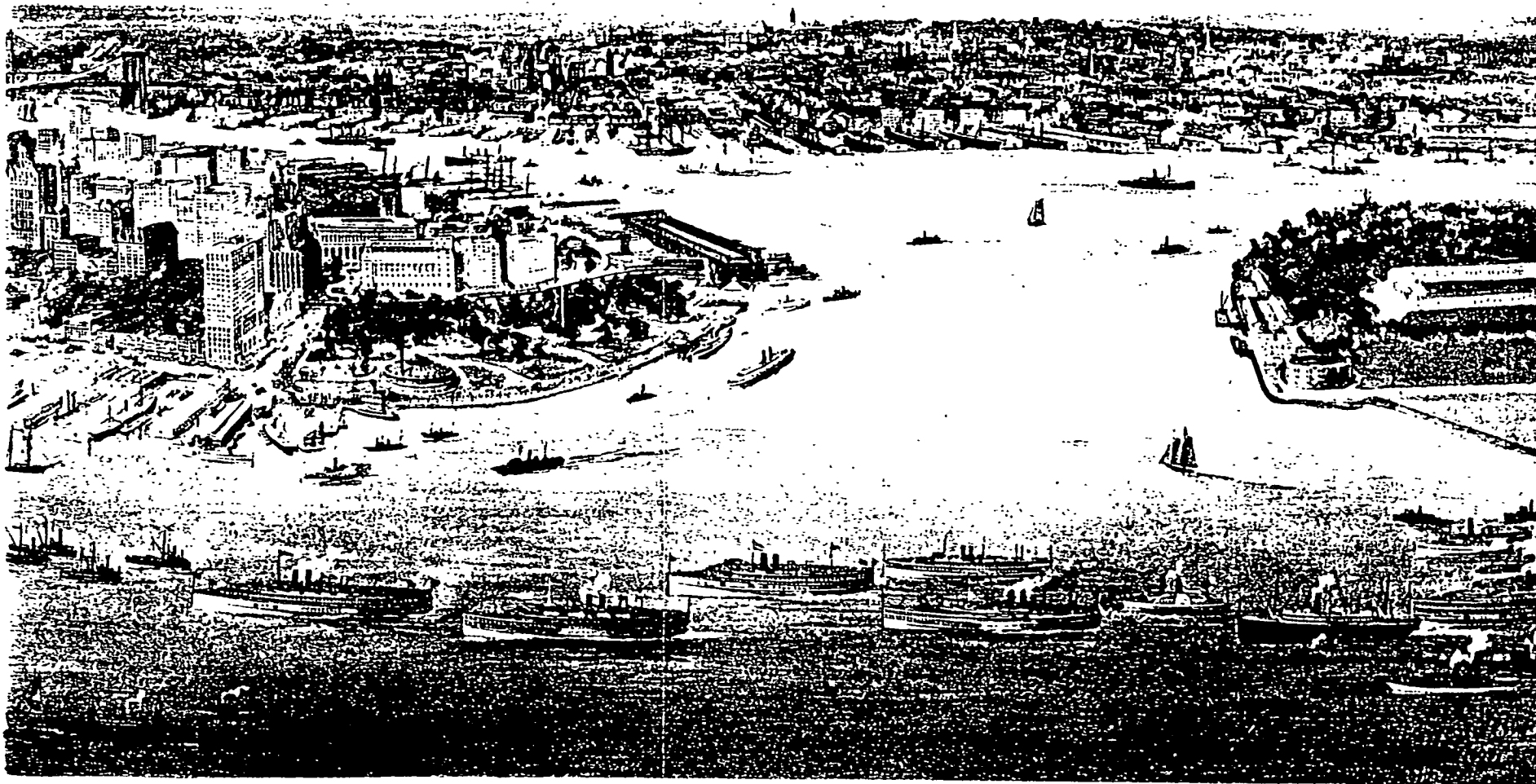


Fig. 17

"Panorama of Manhattan Island and the Hudson River during the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Parade, on Saturday, September 25, 1909. Drawings from photographs, sketches, and notes, by Richard Rummel, 1909." (Stokes, vol. 3, pl. 172). Shows new shoreline.

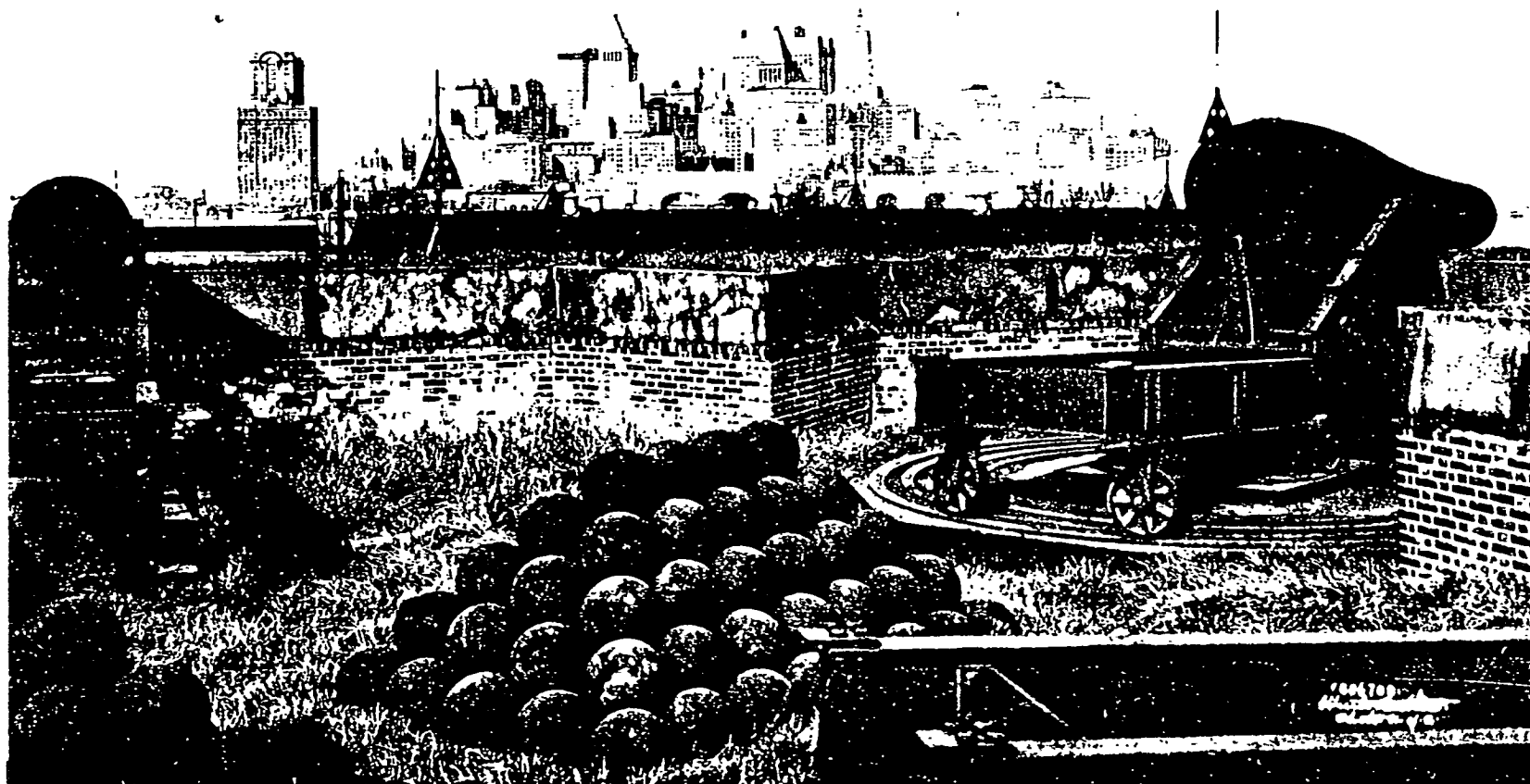


Fig. 18 "New York Skyline From Governor's Island, 1925." (Stokes, vol. 6, pl. 109).

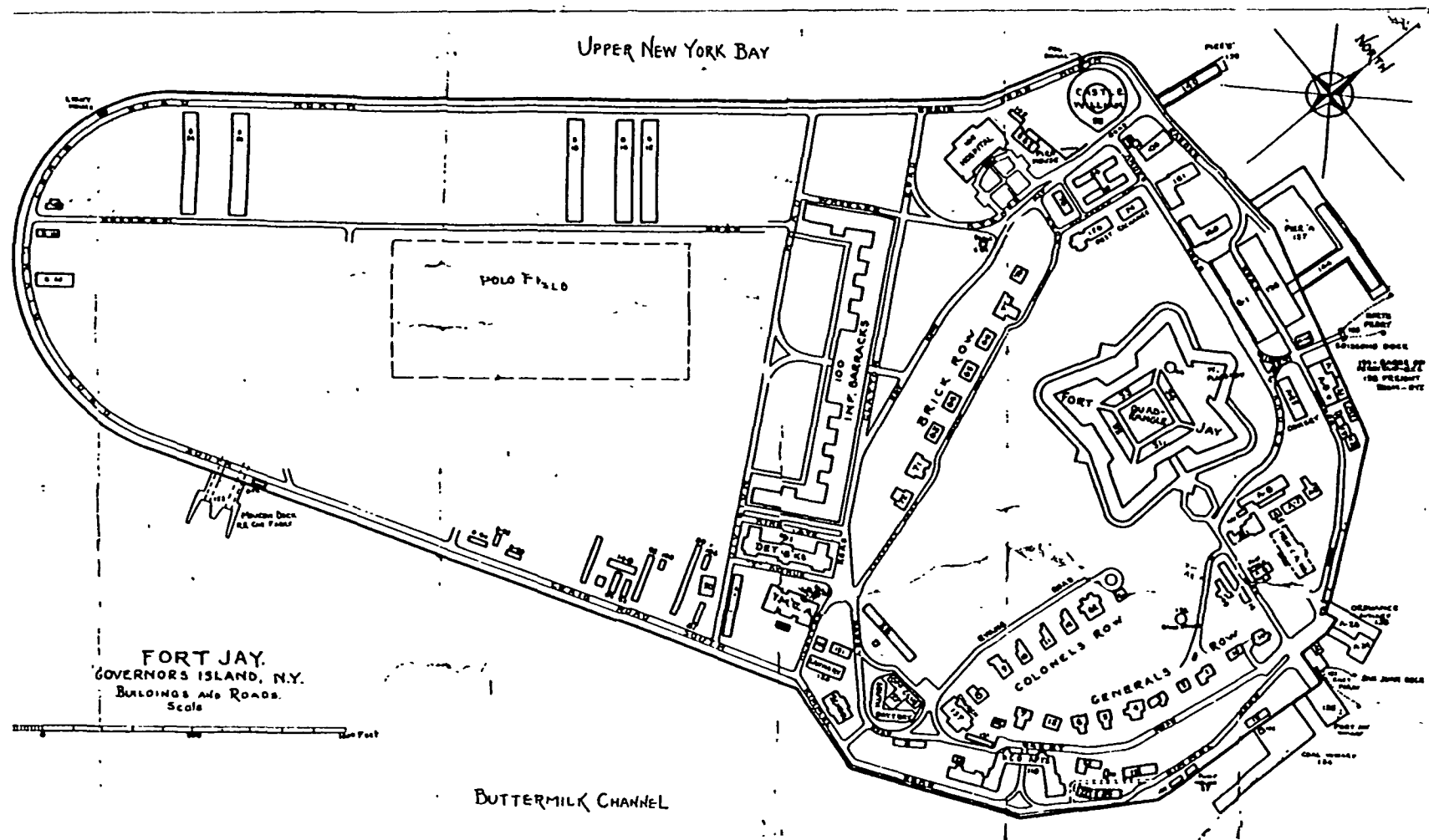


Fig. 19

"Map of Fort Jay, Governors Island, New York, 1934. U.S. Coast Guard, Third District, Facilities Engineering, Support Center, New York, Governors Island. Drawn by Lt. L.H. Rogers." (HABS NY-5715, p. 25)



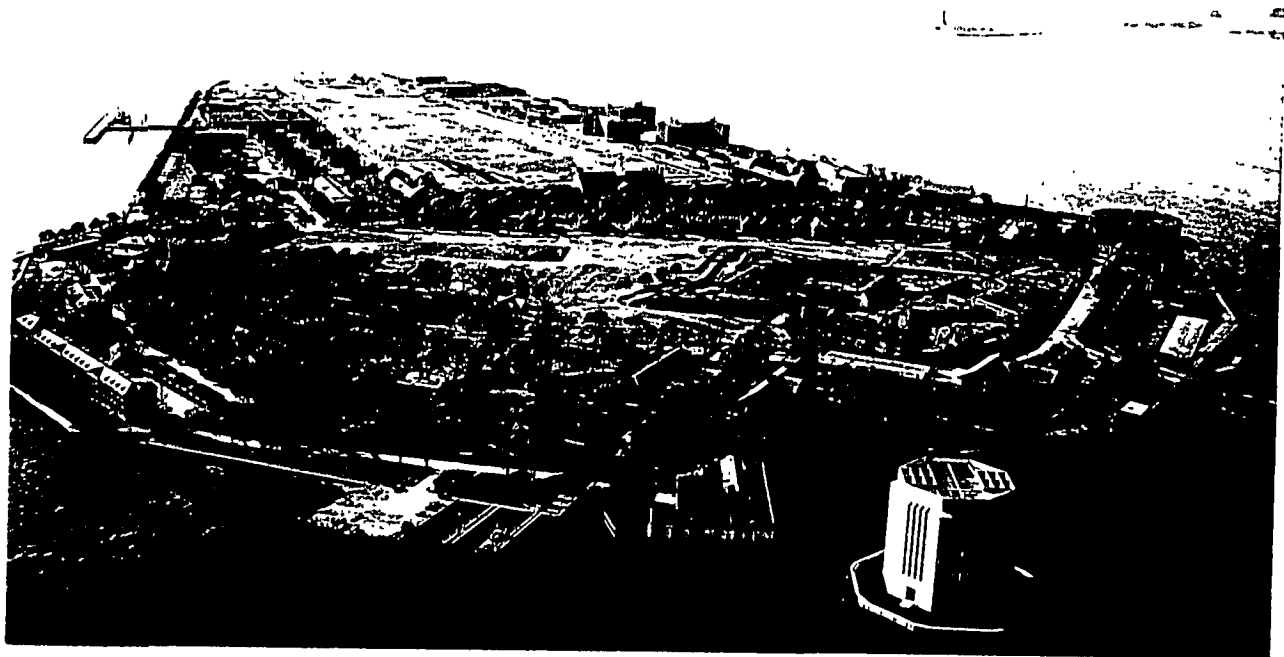


Fig. 20 Aerial view of Governors Island, looking south. c. 1950s. (U.S. Army)

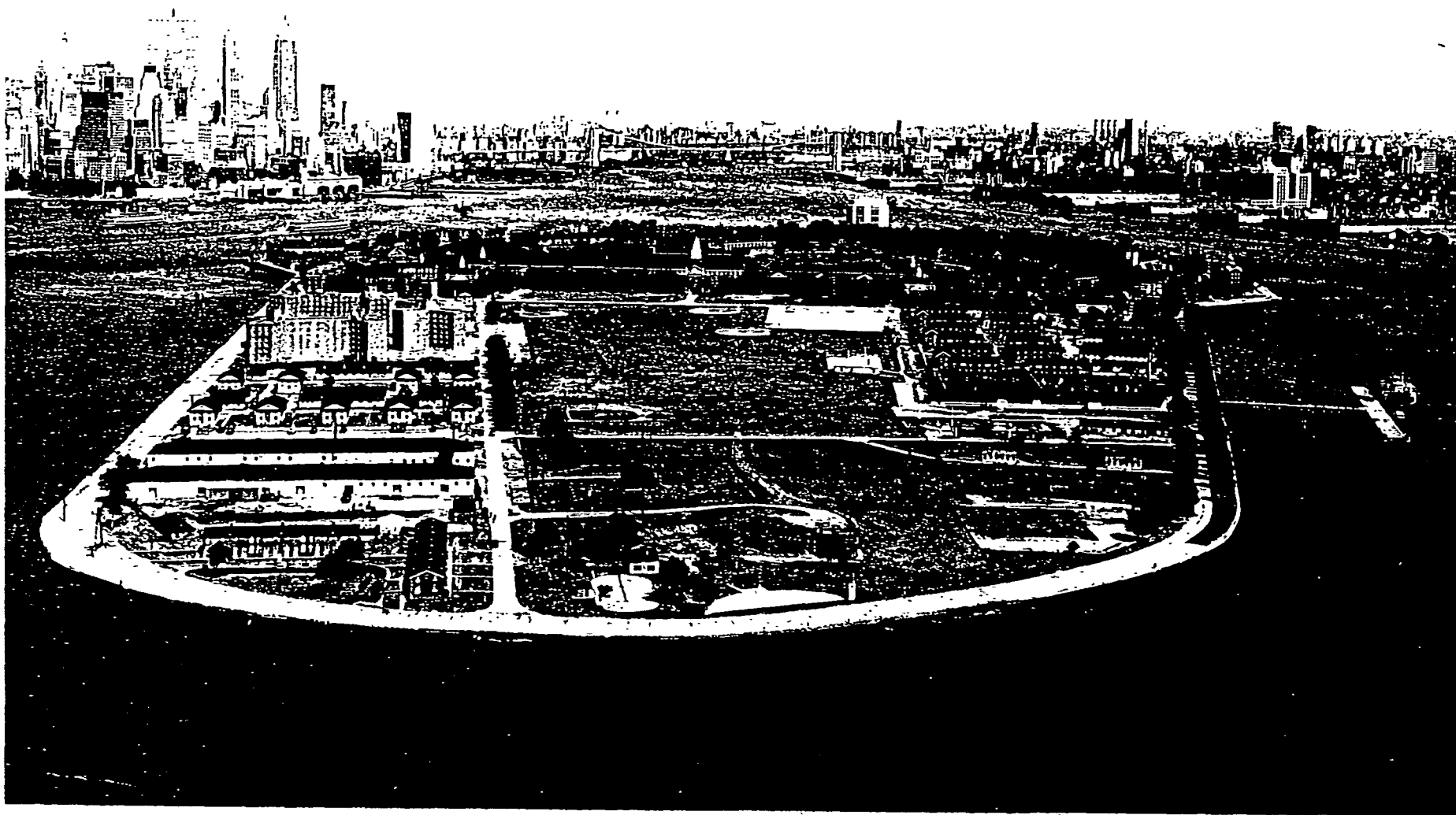


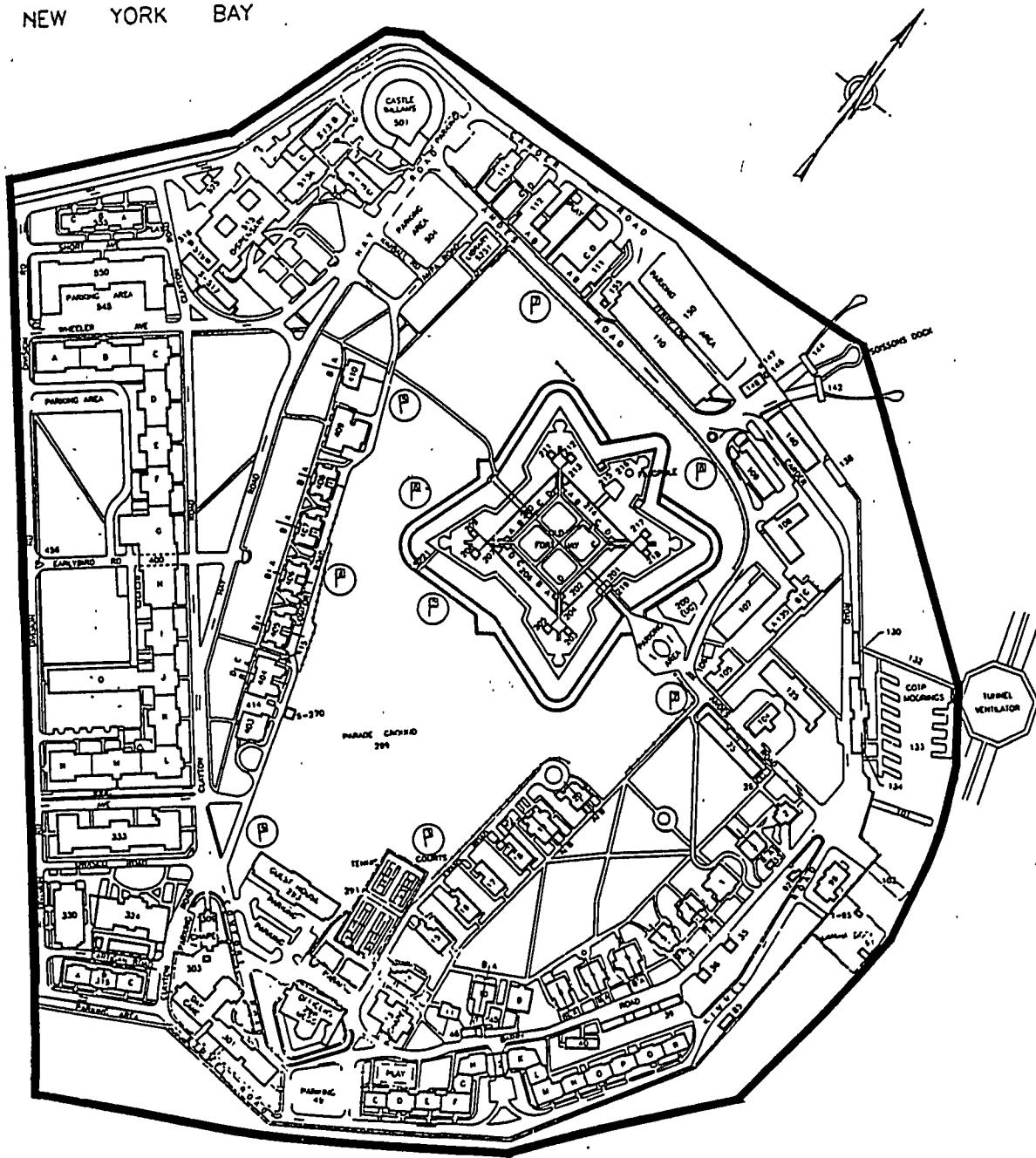
Fig. 21 Aerial view of Governors Island, looking east. June 17, 1966. (U.S. Coast Guard)



Fig. 22

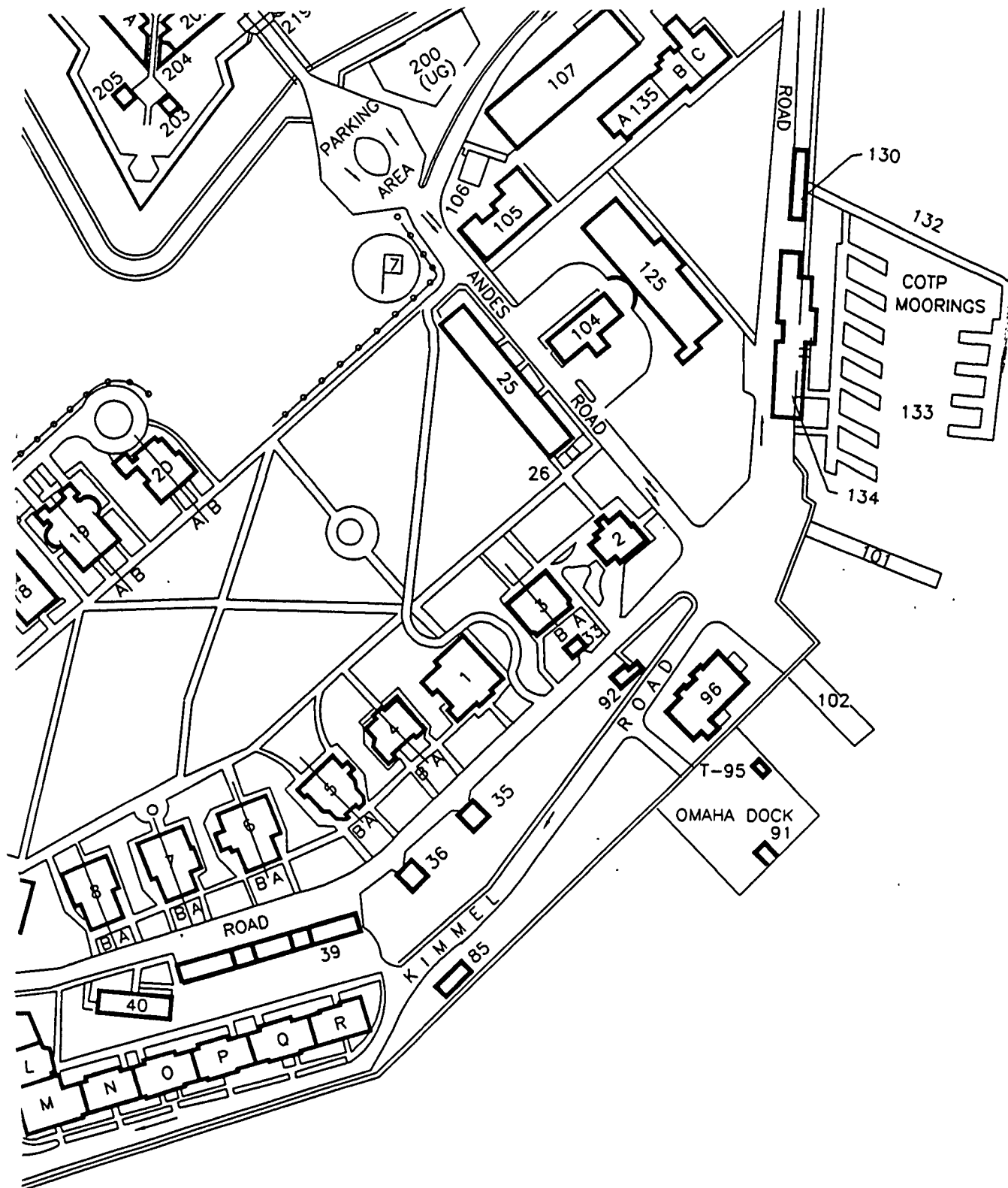
Aerial view of Governors Island. c. 1970s. Scale: 1" = 1600'. (Lockwood, Kessler & Bartlett, Inc., Consulting Engineers)

UPPER NEW YORK BAY



Governors Island Historic District, Manhattan

Designated June 18, 1996



BUILDING KEY MAP: BUILDINGS 1 - 8

**BUILDING NO. 1**

Facing Nolan Park, west of Barry Road

Original name/use: Commanding Officer's Quarters

Subsequent names/uses: Admiral's House

Date: 1843 - original house

1886 - south wing added

1893/1918 - roof slopes raised for installation of porch columns

1936-37 - major renovations (exterior and interior) under WPA

Architect: Martin E. Thompson

Style: Greek Revival with Colonial Revival additions

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2

*Designated New York City Landmark September 19, 1967*

*National Register listing*



Facing Nolan Park

Building 1 is a two-story house set on a high basement on the east side to accommodate the slope of the site. Rectangular in form with a rectangular wing at the southeast corner, it is

constructed of brick laid up in common bond with brownstone beltcourses, window lintels, and sills. The basement is stone under the main section of the house and brick under the wing.

Both the main section and the wing have gabled roofs covered with standing seam metal.

Porches at the front and rear have double-height wooden columns of Doric design supporting roofs with wooden cornices and surmounted by wooden balustrades. On the front, the porch has granite steps with flanking wrought-iron lamp standards. The rear porch takes the form of a veranda opening onto a semi-circular brick staircase with wrought-iron lamp standards and railings. This porch is supported by a brick wall with round-arched openings leading into the basement level. A porch with wrought-iron railings and posts wraps around the south wing at the front and the south side. The front entrance has a Colonial Revival doorway with pilasters flanking sidelights and supporting a transom above a paneled wood door. Full-height windows with multi-pane double-hung sash open onto the front porch. French doors below transoms open onto the rear porch. Other windows have either six-over-six or nine-over-nine wood sash set behind storm sash. The window openings are flanked by shutters. The house is approached by brick walkways leading from Nolan Park with the main walk flanked by two large cannons.

Building 1 is one of the few structures on Governors Island which has had a single continuous use. It has served as the residence for the Commanding Officer since its construction in 1843. (Prior to 1843, Building 2, originally a guard house, had been used as

quarters for the Commanding Officer.) The building's intended use from the outset may have influenced the Army's choice of a distinguished architect, Martin E. Thompson who is renowned for his work in the Greek Revival style. By the 1840s, Thompson was well-established, having completed several important buildings in New York City. His Greek Revival design was modified with the addition of a wing at the southwest corner of the house in 1886. Sometime between 1893 and 1918, a second substantial alteration took place: the west facade porch was altered to replace the lattice-like supporting posts with Tuscan columns; a balustrade was placed on top of the porch roof; and the front and rear roof slopes were raised, creating wide verandas and giving the house a more Colonial Revival appearance. In 1936 as part of the WPA work on the island, Building 1 underwent a major renovation. Charles O. Cornelius, a specialist in early American architecture, removed the peak roof, redesigned the whole rear of the house, replacing wooden porch elements with brick, and embellished the porches with ironwork, both front and rear.

Building 1 has been home to a number of important Army and Coast Guard leaders, including Winfield Scott Hancock, Adna R. Chaffee, Leonard Wood, Robert L. Bullar, and Dennis E. Nolan. In 1988 a historic luncheon meeting between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev took place in the house.



East Elevation

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-3  
NHL  
Milner, 53-63, 390-398

*LPC photos:* 13: 9-23 (3/26/96)



**BUILDING NO. 2**

Facing Nolan Park, corner of Barry Road and Andes Road

Original name/use: Guard House

Subsequent names/uses: Commanding Officer's Quarters (1824-1843)  
Offices of the Post Commanding Officer and Guard House (1843-1922)  
Officer's Quarters: Family Housing  
The Governor's House

Date: c.1805-13 - original construction  
1939 - brick masonry addition at east side

Architect: Unknown

Style: Georgian

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls  
Stories: 2

*Designated New York City Landmark September 19, 1967*  
*National Register listing*



Building 2 is a two-story structure constructed of brick laid up in Flemish bond. The building takes the form of a Greek cross in plan with gabled projections intersecting the asphalt-covered pyramidal roof. The brick basement is set off by a brownstone beltcourse. The house is approached by a square entrance stoop (concrete steps on a brick base) with wrought-iron railings. A small entrance portico is composed of Ionic columns and pilasters supporting an entablature. The paneled wood entrance door is set below a transom and behind a storm door. The window openings have splayed brick lintels and brownstone sills. The windows are six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The brick addition on the east side has cast stone beltcourses and window sills and is entered by a Colonial Revival style doorway.

Building 2 is the oldest structure on Governors Island besides the fortifications. According to HABS documentation, it was built as the main guard house, and was probably constructed by troops stationed on the island or by local civilians. Building 2 has been altered numerous times. In 1824, the building was converted into quarters for the post Commanding Officer by master builder W. Stillwaggon. By 1839 its roof had been changed to a combination hipped and gabled roof, and the original two-story

portico had been replaced by one-story porches on each floor. By mid-century it appears to have reverted back to a guard house, at least in some capacity; an 1863 inspection report lists the post guard house in its basement. The building continued to be used as a guard house until 1908 when it became post headquarters. In the early 1920s, Building 2 was converted into a residence for the Army's post commander. Extensive alterations were made in the 1930s, as part of the work of the WPA. Most notably, its original cross form was largely obscured by a one-story addition, which wraps around the north and east sides of the house. Since 1966 it has served as housing for the Coast Guard's base commander.

The Commission's original designation report, following the lead of other sources of information about the island, described Building 2 as the eighteenth-century home of colonial governor Lord Cornbury, an attribution that has since been repudiated by the HABS and National Historic Landmark documentation conducted in the 1980s. This conclusion was based on an inspection report of 1863 which gave a construction date of 1811; and an 1813 plan of the island drawn by Joseph Mangin showing a two-story, cross-shaped building with intersecting gabled roofs on this site.

Sources: HABS NY-5715-4  
NHL  
Milner, 64-68

LPC photos: 13, 31-36 (3/26/96)

**BUILDING NO. 3**

Facing Nolan Park, west of Barry Road

Original name/use: Commissary storehouse and Quartermaster storehouse for Fort Columbus post

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing  
The Dutch House

Date: 1846 - construction

1920-22 - building reoriented from north to west, porches added, door and window openings altered when building was remodeled for officers' quarters.

Architect: Undetermined

Style: "Dutch" utilitarian

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2



Building 3 is a two-story building constructed of brown brick laid up in common bond above a schist foundation. The north and south walls have stepped end gables, and the gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The window openings with brownstone sills contain six-over-six double-hung wood sash behind storm sash.

A few windows at the second story have two-over-two sash. The two main entrance doors (one for each residential unit) on the west elevation are set behind small porches with wood columns that support hipped roofs covered with standing seam metal. The doors are paneled wood behind storm doors. The east

elevation has wood clapboard walls and a screened-in porch of relatively recent date.

Building 3 was built in 1846 as a commissary storehouse and a Quartermaster storehouse to solve the problem of goods storage on the Fort Columbus post. Oriented to the north when constructed, it had large window and door openings on that side to allow for the movement

of supplies in and out of the building. The interior was an open unobstructed space typical of warehouse facilities. Following World War I when the needs of the army installation were changing, the building was reoriented towards Nolan Park and converted to officers' housing with units for two families. Because of the stepped end gables, which are original to the building, it has been dubbed the Dutch House.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-13  
NHL  
Milner, 69-73

LPC photos: 13: 24-30 (3/26/96)

**BUILDING NO. 4**

Facing Nolan Park, west of Barry Road

Original name/use: Field Officers' Quarters: Double unit

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family housing

Date: 1855-57 - construction

19th c. - porches and dormers added

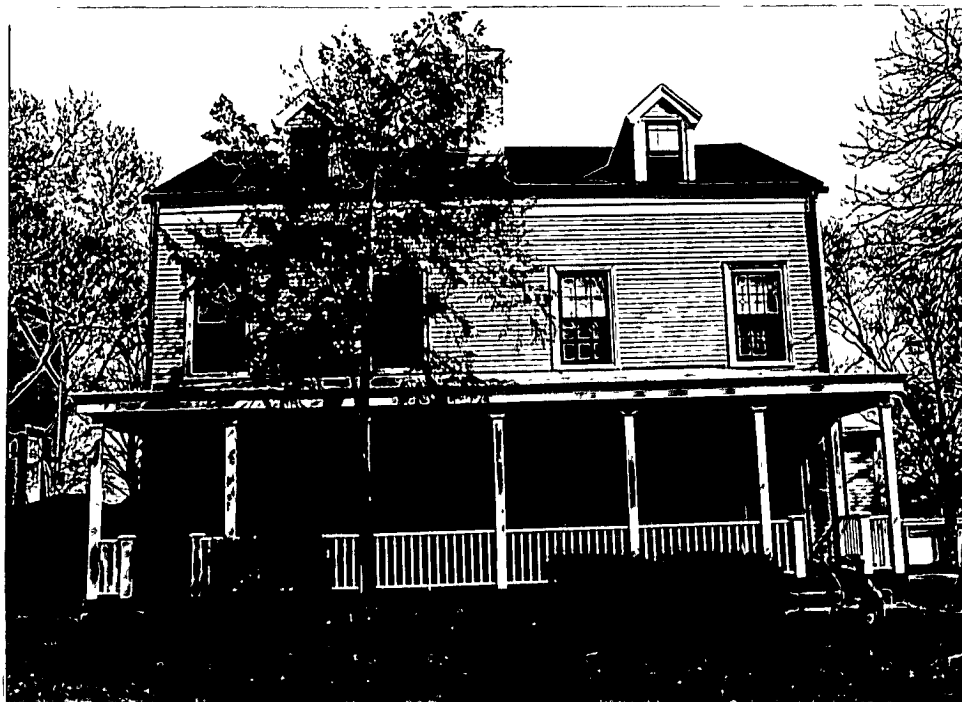
20th c. - addition on south side

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Italianate vernacular

Material: Wood clapboard siding on wood frame

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 4 is a two-family, two-story with attic house, of wood frame construction set on a brick foundation (painted). Rectangular in plan, it has clapboard-covered walls and a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles and punctuated by gabled dormers, two on each roof slope, and a central chimney. A full-width porch with a shallow hipped roof supported by square posts and with plain balustrades extends across the

west facade. The porch steps are of concrete. Two wood porches are located on the east side of the house; one is screened-in, and the porch at the north is now completely enclosed. The window openings with wood surrounds have six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paneled wood entrance doors are set below transoms and behind storm doors. A one-story addition on the south side of the

house has an asphalt-covered hipped roof with a shed-roofed extension. The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick walkways leading from Nolan Park.

Building 4 was constructed as one of a pair of field officers' housing, each designed with two units, on the east side of the green (Nolan Park)

as the post at Fort Columbus was expanding in the 1850s. The pair set the form and scale for subsequent officers' housing constructed later in the century facing the green. While some additions have been made to the house, it retains its nineteenth-century character, especially with the restoration of the clapboard siding and open front porch in recent years (post 1986).

*Sources:* NHL  
Milner, 74-79

LPC photos: 13: 2-9 (3/26/96)

**BUILDING NO. 5**

Facing Nolan Park, west of Barry Road

Original name/use: Field Officers' Quarters: Double Unit

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family housing

Date: 1855-57 - construction

19th c. - porches and dormers added

1895-1904 - south wing added

20th c. - north wing added and additions at the rear (east)

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Italianate vernacular

Material: Wood clapboard siding on wood frame

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 5 is a two-family, two-story with attic house, of wood frame construction set on a brick foundation (painted). Rectangular in plan, it has clapboard-covered walls and a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles and punctuated by gabled dormers, two on each roof slope, and a central chimney. A full-width porch with a shallow hipped roof supported by square posts and with plain balustrades extends across the

west facade. The porch steps are of concrete. The two-story wings on the north and south sides of the house have shallow hipped roofs. The window openings with wood surrounds have six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. Window openings in the north and south wings have four-over-four double-hung sash behind storm sash. The paneled wood entrance doors are set below

transoms and behind storm doors. A full-width addition on east side of the house has a flat roof. The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick walkways leading from Nolan Park.

Building 5 was constructed as one of a pair of field officers' housing, each designed with two units, on the east side of the green (Nolan Park)

as the post at Fort Columbus was expanding in the 1850s. The pair set the form and scale for subsequent officers' housing constructed later in the century facing the green. While some additions have been made to the house, it retains its nineteenth-century character, especially with the restoration of the clapboard siding and open front porch in recent years (post 1986).

*Sources:* NHL  
Milner, 80-83

LPC photos: 12: 22-33 (3/26/96)



**BUILDING NO. 6**

Facing Nolan Park, west of Barry Road

Original name/use: Company Officers' Quarters: Double Unit

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family housing

Date: 1878 - construction

1902-21 - one-story addition at south side

20th c. - one-story addition at east side

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Victorian vernacular

Material: Wood clapboard siding on wood frame

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 6 is a two-family, two-story with attic house, of wood frame construction set on a brick foundation (painted). T-shaped in plan, it has clapboard-covered walls and a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles and punctuated by gabled dormers -- two single dormers and a double dormer on the front roof slope and two double dormers on the rear roof slope -- and end chimneys. A full-width porch with a shallow hipped roof supported by square posts

and with plain balustrades extends across the west facade. The porch steps are of concrete. The window openings with wood surrounds have six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paneled wood entrance doors are set below transoms and behind storm doors. A one-story addition on the south side of the house has an asphalt-covered hipped roof; there is also a one-story addition at the east side of the building. The house is surrounded by

lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick walkways leading from Nolan Park.

Building 6, built as one of a pair with Building 7, was constructed in 1878 as company officers' housing during the year that Fort Columbus became the Headquarters of the Military Division of the Atlantic and the Department of the East, a change in status which gave rise to an increased demand for officers' housing.

Facing the green (Nolan Park), it followed the form of Buildings 4 and 5, and it was joined by eight other units (Buildings 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18) built that same year. While some additions have been made to the house, it retains its nineteenth-century character, especially with the restoration of the clapboard siding and open front porch in recent years (post 1986).

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-14 (for background)  
NHL  
Milner, 84-87

LPC photos: 12: 20-26 (3/26/96)

**BUILDING NO. 7**

Facing Nolan Park, west of Barry Road

Original name/use: Company Officers' Quarters: Double Unit  
Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family housing

Date: 1878 - construction  
1902-21 - one-story addition at northeast corner  
1936-37 - sun rooms added to rear

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Victorian vernacular

Material: Wood clapboard siding on wood frame  
Stories: 2 with attic



Building 7 is a two-family, two-story with attic house, of wood frame construction set on a brick foundation (painted). T-shaped in plan, it has clapboard-covered walls and a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles and punctuated by gabled dormers -- two single dormers and a double dormer on the front roof slope and two double dormers on the rear roof slope -- and end chimneys. A full-width porch with a

shallow hipped roof supported by square posts and with plain balustrades extends across the west facade. The porch steps are of concrete. The window openings with wood surrounds have six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paneled wood entrance doors are set below transoms and behind storm doors. A one-story addition at the northeast corner of the house has a asphalt-covered shed

roof and a projecting canopy over the doorway. The rear projection of the house has enclosed sun porch additions. The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick walkways leading from Nolan Park.

Building 7, built as one of a pair with Building 6, was constructed in 1878 as company officers' housing during the year that Fort Columbus became the Headquarters of the Military Division of the Atlantic and the Department of

the East, a change in status which gave rise to an increased demand for officers' housing. Facing the green (Nolan Park), it followed the form of Buildings 4 and 5, and it was joined by eight other units (Buildings 6, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18) built that same year. While some additions have been made to the house, it retains its nineteenth-century character, especially with the restoration of the clapboard siding and open front porch in recent years (post 1986).

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-14 (for background)  
NHL  
Milner, 88-92

LPC photos: 12: 12-19 (3/26/96)

**BUILDING NO. 8**

Facing Nolan Park, west of Barry Road

Original name/use: Company Officers' Quarters: Double Unit

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family housing

Date: 1878 - construction

1936-38 - floor plan altered and second-story sun porch added over rear kitchen

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Victorian vernacular

Material: Wood clapboard siding on wood frame

Stories: 2



Building 8 is a two-family, two-story house, of wood frame construction set on a brick foundation (painted). T-shaped in plan, it has clapboard-covered walls and a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles and penetrated by gabled projections rising above the second story windows -- two single windows and a double window on the front and two double windows on the rear -- and double end chimneys. The roof of the rear wing is hipped. A full-width

porch with a shallow hipped roof supported by square posts and with plain balustrades extends across the west facade. The paired porch steps are of concrete. The window openings with wood surrounds have six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paired paneled wood entrance doors are set below transoms and behind storm doors. A one-story addition is placed at the northeast intersection of the "T." The rear projection of the house has

enclosed sun-porch additions. The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick walkways leading from Nolan Park.

Building 8, built as one of a pair with Building 10, was constructed in 1878 as company officers' housing during the year that Fort Columbus became the Headquarters of the Military Division of the Atlantic and the Department of the East, a change in status

which gave rise to an increased demand for officers' housing. Facing the green (Nolan Park), it followed the form of Buildings 4 and 5, and it was joined by eight other units (Buildings 6, 7, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18) built that same year. While some additions have been made to the house, it retains its nineteenth-century character, especially with the restoration of the clapboard siding and open front porch in recent years (post 1986).

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-14  
NHL  
Milner, 93-98

LPC photos: 12: 5-11 (3/26/96)



**BUILDING NO. 9**

Facing Nolan Park, northwest of Barry Road

Original name/use: Post Hospital

Subsequent names/uses: Headquarters for Military Division of the Atlantic and the  
Department of the East and subsequent Commands  
Officers' Quarters  
The Block House

Date: 1839 - construction

1864 - flat roof with parapet replaced with hipped roof

1879 - converted from hospital to offices

1947 - converted to four sets of officers' quarters

Architect: Attributed to Army Corps of Engineers or Quartermaster's Department

Style: Greek Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2

*Designated New York City Landmark September 19, 1967*  
*National Register listing*



Building 9 is a two-story brick structure set on a high basement of schist at the front and rear and brick on the sides. It is faced with red

brick laid in common bond, above a granite bandcourse. Almost square in plan, it is surmounted by a shallow asphalt-covered hipped



roof. The main entrance is approached by a granite staircase. The Greek Revival entrance surround is of granite, which encloses a pedimented wood surround with a paneled wood door. A wrought-iron balcony is placed above the entranceway at the base of a large window opening. Remnants of a similar entranceway, now converted to a window, can be seen on the rear elevation. Window openings at the basement are trimmed with brick on the front and rear and with schist at the sides. Window openings on the first and second stories have granite lintels and sills. The windows are six-over-six wood double-hung sash set behind storm sash. Dentils are placed under the eaves at the roofline. The building is surrounded by an areaway resting on a granite foundation (now painted). The areaway curb supports a wrought- and cast-iron fence. Facing Nolan Park, Building 9 is approached by brick paths, and while stylistically differentiated from the frame houses which surround it and dominate the park, it contributes to the area in scale and nineteenth-century character.

The Post Hospital was constructed to serve the Fort Columbus garrison established on Governors Island in 1821. Built in 1839 in the Greek Revival style, like several of the island's Arsenal buildings of the same era, Building 9 exhibits an austerity in plan and detailing, which prompted its popular name, the Block House. Not long after the building's construction (by at least 1863), its flat, parapeted roof was replaced by a hipped roof, to prevent deterioration caused by leaks and consequent settling. This

change detracted from the building's Greek Revival appearance, but was a necessary action. In an 1843 letter to the Quartermaster General's Office, Colonel Truman Cross described the problem. "A roof . . . fenced in with a brick wall three feet and a half high all around . . . is far more like a tub, intended to catch and hold water, than a roof to shed it off, and is another of the many illustrations which our service furnishes, where utility is sacrificed to a poor attempt at show."

The building's interior has been altered a number of times to accommodate changes in its use. It served as the post hospital until 1878. In 1874, due to poor ventilation in the original building, two large wings to serve as patient wards were built onto the rear of the building, reaching almost to the seawall. The rear courtyard of this complex was enclosed by auxiliary structures until sometime in the twentieth century. At this time the interior of the original building was being used for court-martials, examination of recruits, lectures, and balls, and by 1878 when the Military Division of the Atlantic was transferred to the island, it deemed the building "unsuited for the purpose of a Hospital." For the next several decades, Building 9 was used as command headquarters through several different Army commands. By 1947, it had been converted to four apartments for officers' housing. (HABS documentation suggests that this change may have occurred as part of the WPA work of the 1930s.) It has remained in that use.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-5  
NHL  
Milner, 99-105

LPC photos: 11: 33-37; 12: 2-4 (3/26/96)

**BUILDING NO. 10**

Facing Nolan Park, northwest of Barry Road

Original name/use: Company Officers' Quarters: Double Unit

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family housing

Date: 1878 - construction

1936-38 - floor plan altered and second story sun porch added over rear kitchen; middle front dormer enlarged

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Victorian vernacular

Material: Wood clapboard siding on wood frame

Stories: 2



Building 10 is a two-family, two-story house, of wood frame construction set on a brick foundation (painted). T-shaped in plan, it has clapboard-covered walls and a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles and penetrated by gabled projections rising above the second story windows -- two single windows and a double window on the front and two double windows on the rear -- and double end chimneys. The rear projection has a hipped roof. A full-width

porch with a shallow hipped roof supported by square posts and with plain balustrades extends across the west facade. The paired porch steps are of concrete. The window openings with wood surrounds have six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paired paneled wood entrance doors are set below transoms and behind storm doors. The rear projection of the house has enclosed sun porch additions. The house is surrounded by lawn

with trees and plantings and approached by brick walkways leading from Nolan Park.

Building 10, built as one of a pair with Building 8, was constructed in 1878 as company officers' housing during the year that Fort Columbus became the Headquarters of the Military Division of the Atlantic and the Department of the East, a change in status which gave rise to an increased demand for officers' housing.

Facing the green (Nolan Park), it followed the form of Buildings 4 and 5, and it was joined by eight other units (Buildings 6, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18) built that same year. While some additions have been made to the house and the middle front dormer has been enlarged, it retains its nineteenth-century character, especially with the restoration of the clapboard siding and open front porch in recent years (post 1986).

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-15  
NHL  
Milner, 106-111

LPC photos: 11: 27-32 (3/26/96)

**BUILDING NO. 11**

South end of Nolan Park, north of Barry Road

Original name/use: Hospital steward's quarters

Subsequent names/uses: Non-commissioned Officer's Quarters: Family housing

Date: 1878 - construction

1930s - interior remodeled, north addition

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Vernacular

Material: Wood tongue-and-groove siding on wood frame

Stories: 1 on high basement



Building 11 is a one-family, one-story house, of wood frame construction set on a high brick basement. Rectangular in plan, it has walls covered with tongue-and-groove siding and a shallow gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. A full-width porch with a shallow hipped roof supported by square posts and with plain balustrades extends across the front facade. The porch floor is carried on brick

posts linked by latticework. The porch steps are of wood. The window openings with wood surrounds have six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paneled wood entrance door is set below a transom and behind a storm door. The one-story addition at the north has a shallow gabled roof. Doorways set in the raised basement are protected by projecting canopies. The house is surrounded

by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick walkways leading from Nolan Park.

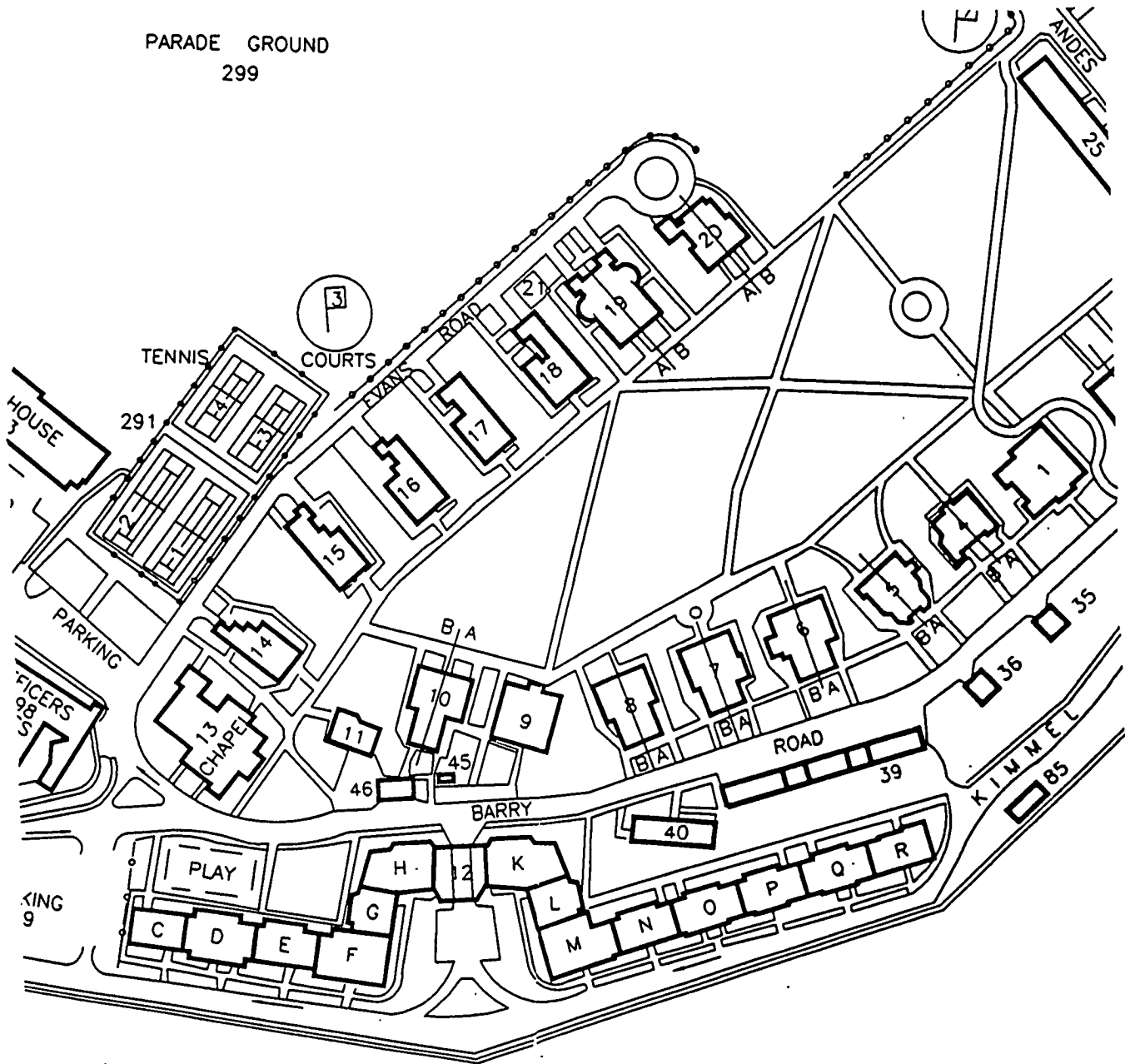
Building 11, constructed to house the post hospital steward, is located to the south of the hospital building (Building 9). In the 1930s it was converted for non-commissioned officers'

quarters and an addition was placed on the north side. It has remained in use as single-family officer's housing. The nineteenth-century character of the building has been enhanced by the restoration of the wooden siding and the open porch in recent years (post 1986).

*Sources:* NHL  
Milner, 112-116

LPC photos: 11: 20-26 (3/26/96)

PARADE GROUND  
299



BUILDING KEY MAP: BUILDINGS 12 AND 40

**BUILDING NO. 12**

Overlooking Buttermilk Channel, facing Kimmel Road and south of Barry Road

Original name/use: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing (16th Infantry)

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing

Date: 1931 - construction

Architect: Office of McKim, Mead & White/Construction Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 3-½ and 4-½ on south, 4 and 4-½ on north



Building 12 is a brick-faced structure on a concrete foundation composed of fifteen sections, detailed and organized in such a way as to break up the building's bulk. Seven sections form a reverse U fronting a courtyard facing the Buttermilk Channel. Three sections extend to the west of the U and five sections extend to the east. The red brick facing is laid in common bond interrupted by rows of header courses above a high limestone base terminating

in a molding. On the sections to the west of the U facing south, the center section is marked by a shallow projecting pavilion surmounted by a pediment which intersects the slate-covered gabled roof. On the sections to the east of the U facing south, there are two sections marked by shallow projecting pavilions surmounted by pediments which intersect the slate-covered gabled roof. The sections at the ends of the U have slate-covered hipped roofs. The three

sections at the base of the U have a projecting central section surmounted by a pediment which intersects the slate-covered gabled roof. The central section also has limestone quoins, as opposed to the brick quoins which separate the other sections, and an open arcade at the first story which leads through the building to Barry Road. The roofs of all sections are punctuated by arched dormers. The main entrances to the fifteen sections face Kimmel Road or the courtyard. Each is approached by concrete steps with wrought-iron railings. The limestone entrance surrounds have pilasters supporting arched pediments. The paneled wood entrance doors below transoms and above granite door sills are set behind storm doors. The rear elevations (facing Barry Road) of the extending sections have projecting wings with gabled ends enclosing pediments with lunettes. (Glass hatchways have been added to the gabled roof slopes.) The rear elevations of the sections forming the U have projecting wings with flat roofs behind parapets. These sections also have

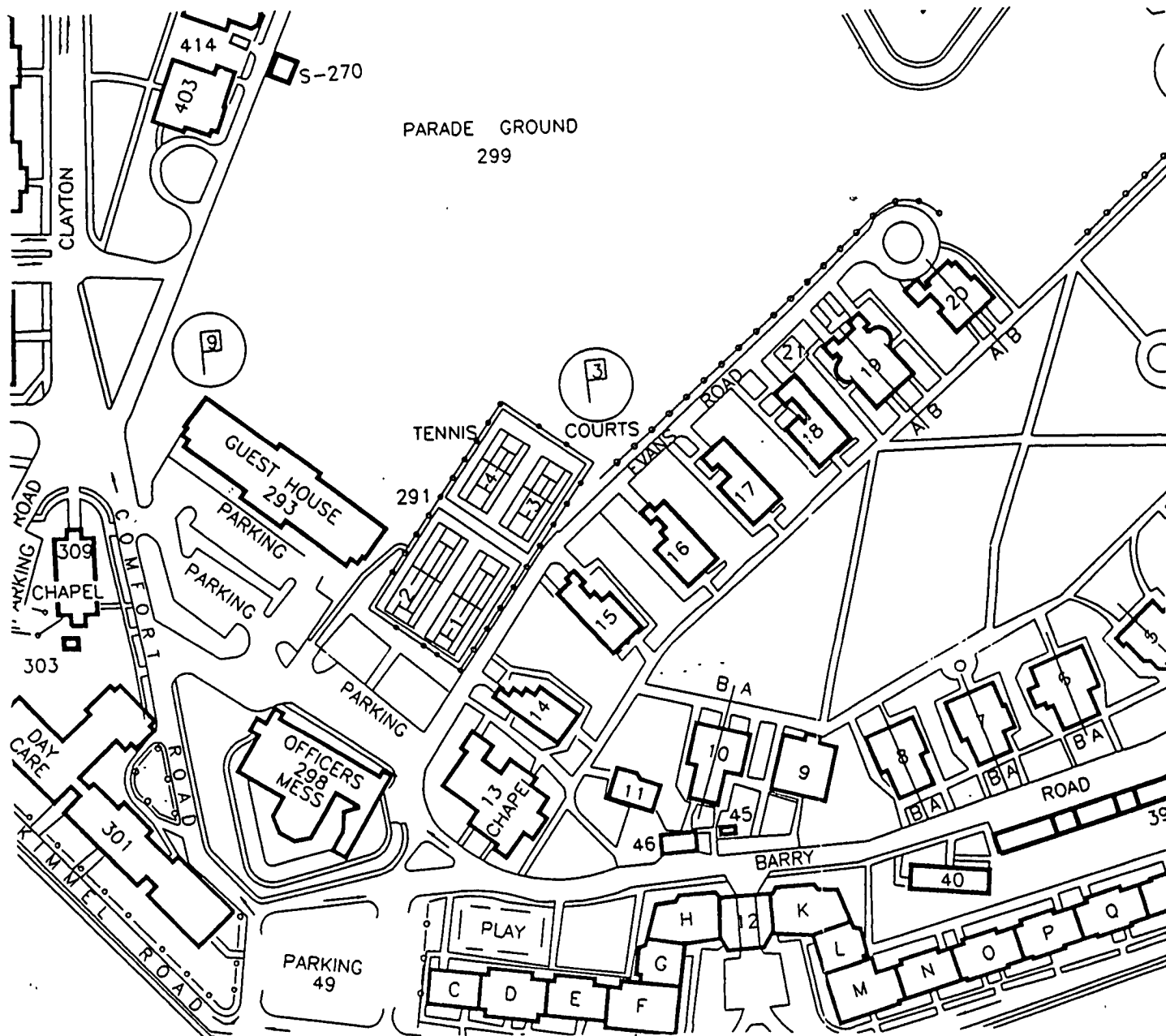
entrances on this side with brick pilasters flanking wood entrance surrounds. The brick walls on the rear are accented by projecting brick courses which create a decorative effect. The window openings all around the building have limestone sills (covered with a coating) and splayed brick lintels. The double-hung metal window sash are either four-over-four, six-over-six or eight-over-eight replacements. The walls terminate in a wood cornice below the roof line.

Building 12 was the first housing for officers' families constructed in accordance with the unified beautification plan for Governors Island by the Office of McKim, Mead & White of 1928. Similar in style to Building 400, it was carried out by the Office of the Quartermaster General and set the pattern for later officers' family housing on the island (Buildings 315 and 555), making particularly effective use of form and detail to minimize the large size of the building.



Sources: HABS NY-5715-9 (for background)  
NHL  
Milner, 6, 117-125  
LPC photos: 28: 3-36; 29: 2-21 (4/1/96)





BUILDING KEY MAP: BUILDINGS 13 - 20

**BUILDING NO. 13**

Corner of Barry Road and Evans Road at the south end of Nolan Park

Original name/use: Chapel of St. Cornelius the Centurion

Subsequent names/uses: Religious assembly, church offices, day care facility

Date: 1905-06 - construction

Architect: Charles C. Haight

Style: Neo-Gothic

Material: Limestone on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2



Building 13 is a two-story church structure with a raised basement, built of coursed white limestone dressed with rusticated rock-face. It is roughly cruciform in plan (106 feet long and 70 feet at the crossing) with a square, three-story tower at the northwest corner containing the principal entrance. The tower is surmounted by a parapet with four stone turrets. The steeply pitched intersecting gabled roofs are covered with slate and have copper gutters, ridges, and flashing. The paired entrance doors in the tower are cross-paneled wood and painted red. Most

of the window openings are lancet-arched with ornamental stone tracery. There are 35 leaded and stained-glass sash, covered with protective glass. The cornerstone reading "A.D. 1905" is at the east end of the building. A secondary entrance provides access to the raised basement at the southeast corner.

Building 13 is the second structure for the Chapel of St. Cornelius the Centurion on Governors Island. Designed by New York architect Charles Coolidge Haight, it replaced a

wood-frame structure which had served the island since 1847. Haight gave his neo-Gothic design an appropriate military garb with the turreted tower. In 1844 Fort Columbus was assigned its first chaplain, the Reverend John M. McVickar, a professor at Columbia College and an Episcopal clergyman. Dismayed at the lack of a place to worship -- services were held in a grove of trees -- McVickar worked to secure funding for a chapel, including a large grant from Trinity Parish in Manhattan. A small frame chapel was completed in 1847 near the site of the present church and was named the Chapel of St. Cornelius the Centurion, after one of the earliest converts to Christianity (from the Book of Acts, Chapter 10). By 1868, the Army no longer provided chaplains for the Governors Island post, and Trinity Church

assumed this function as well as support and maintenance of the building. In 1924, with the expansion of the post on Governors Island, the Army resumed assigning chaplains to Governors Island, while Trinity maintained the chapel. The Coast Guard took over administration of the chapel upon its arrival on Governors Island in 1966. In 1986, the Parish of Trinity Church deeded this property to the Coast Guard, with a stipulation stating that the property would revert to Trinity if the Coast Guard vacated the island.

Since the late nineteenth century, the chapel (in both buildings) has housed a variety of memorabilia commemorating troops stationed on Governors Island, e.g., regimental flags and standards.

*Sources:* NHL  
Milner, 7, 126-127  
Nickols

LPC photos: 5: 31-37; 6: 2-8 (3/25/96)

**BUILDING NO. 14**

Facing Nolan Park, east of Evans Road

Original name/use: Company Officer's Quarters: Single Unit  
Subsequent names/uses: Officer's Quarters: Family housing

Date: 1878-79 - construction

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Victorian vernacular

Material: Wood clapboard siding on wood frame  
Stories: 2



Building 14 is a one-family, two-story house, of wood frame construction set on a brick foundation. L-shaped in plan, it has clapboard-covered walls and a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles and penetrated by gabled projections rising above the second story windows at the front and double end chimneys. Decorative brackets are placed under the roof eaves. A full-width porch with a shallow hipped roof supported by square posts and with decorative scrollwork brackets and balustrades extends across the east facade. The porch steps

are of wood. The porch floor is supported by brick posts linked by latticework. The window openings with wood surrounds have six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paneled wood entrance door is set below a transom and behind a storm door. A screened-in porch is placed at the rear intersection of the "L." The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick steps leading from Nolan Park. A wood fence encloses the rear yard.

Building 14, built as one of a group of five houses, was constructed in 1878-79 as company officer's housing during the year that Fort Columbus became the Headquarters of the Military Division of the Atlantic and the Department of the East, a change in status which gave rise to an increased demand for officers' housing. Facing east onto the green

(Nolan Park), it followed the form of Buildings 4 and 5, and it was joined by eight other units (Buildings 6, 7, 8, 10, 15, 16, 17, and 18) built that same year. It retains its nineteenth-century character, especially with the restoration of the clapboard siding, quarter-sawn wood trim, and open front porch in recent years (post 1986).

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-16 (for background)  
NHL  
Milner, 128-133

LPC photos: 6: 9-15 (3/25/96)

**BUILDING NO. 15**

Facing Nolan Park, east of Evans Road

Original name/use: Company Officer's Quarters: Single Unit  
Subsequent names/uses: Officer's Quarters: Family housing

Date: 1878-79 - construction  
20th c. - garage added; one-story addition at southwest

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Victorian vernacular

Material: Wood clapboard siding on wood frame  
Stories: 2



Building 15 is a one-family, two-story house, of wood frame construction set on a brick foundation. L-shaped in plan, it has clapboard-covered walls and a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles and penetrated by gabled projections rising above the second story windows at the front and double end chimneys. Decorative brackets are placed under the roof eaves. A full-width porch with a shallow hipped roof supported by square posts and with decorative scrollwork brackets and balustrades

extends across the east facade. The porch steps are of brick. The porch floor is supported by brick posts linked by latticework. The window openings with wood surrounds have six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paneled wood entrance door is set below a transom and behind a storm door. An enclosed porch wing is placed at the rear intersection of the "L." One story has been added at the end of the "L," and a garage has been attached to that. The house is surrounded by lawn with

trees and plantings and approached by brick pathways leading from Nolan Park.

Building 15, built as one of a group of five houses, was constructed in 1878-79 as company officer's housing during the year that Fort Columbus became the Headquarters of the Military Division of the Atlantic and the Department of the East, a change in status which gave rise to an increased demand for

officers' housing. Facing east onto the green (Nolan Park), it followed the form of Buildings 4 and 5, and it was joined by eight other units (Buildings 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 16, 17, and 18) built that same year. It retains its nineteenth-century character, especially with the restoration of the clapboard siding, quarter-sawn wood trim, and open front porch in recent years (post 1986 and 1993).

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-16 (for background)  
NHL  
Milner, 134-138

LPC photos: 6: 16-23 (3/25/96)

**BUILDING NO. 16**

Facing Nolan Park, east of Evans Road

Original name/use: Company Officer's Quarters: Single Unit  
Subsequent names/uses: Officer's Quarters: Family Housing

Date: 1878-79 - construction  
1936-38 - one-story addition at the southwest  
1990s - large attached garage added at west

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Victorian vernacular

Material: Wood clapboard siding on wood frame

Stories: 2



Building 16 is a one-family, two-story house, of wood frame construction set on a brick foundation. L-shaped in plan, it has clapboard-covered walls and a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles and penetrated by gabled projections rising above the second story windows at the front and double end chimneys. Decorative brackets are placed under the roof eaves. A full-width porch with a shallow hipped roof supported by square posts and with

decorative scrollwork brackets and balustrades extends across the east facade. The porch steps are of brick. The porch floor is supported by concrete posts linked by latticework. The window openings with wood surrounds have six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paneled wood entrance door is set below a transom and behind a storm door. An enclosed porch wing is placed at the rear intersection of the "L." One story has been



added at the end of the "L," and a large garage has been attached to that. The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick pathways leading from Nolan Park.

Building 16, built as one of a group of five houses, was constructed in 1878-79 as company officer's housing during the year that Fort Columbus became the Headquarters of the Military Division of the Atlantic and the

Department of the East, a change in status which gave rise to an increased demand for officers' housing. Facing east onto the green (Nolan Park), it followed the form of Buildings 4 and 5, and it was joined by eight other units (Buildings 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 17, and 18) built that same year. It retains its nineteenth-century character, especially with the restoration of the clapboard siding, quarter-sawn wood trim, and open front porch in recent years (1985).

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-16  
NHL  
Milner, 139-142

LPC photos: 6: 24-30 (3/25/96)

**BUILDING NO. 17**

Facing Nolan Park, east of Evans Road

Original name/use: Company Officer's Quarters: Single Unit  
Subsequent names/uses: Officer's Quarters: Family housing

Date: 1878-79 - construction  
20th c. - garage, one-story addition, and enclosed porch at west (rear)

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Victorian vernacular

Material: Wood clapboard siding on wood frame  
Stories: 2



Building 17 is a one-family, two-story house, of wood frame construction set on a brick foundation. L-shaped in plan, it has clapboard-covered walls and a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles and penetrated by gabled projections rising above the second story windows at the front and double end chimneys. Decorative brackets are placed under the roof eaves. A full-width porch with a shallow hipped roof supported by square posts and with decorative scrollwork brackets and balustrades

extends across the east facade. The porch steps are of wood. The porch floor is supported by brick posts linked by latticework. The window openings with wood surrounds have six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paneled wood entrance door is set below a transom and behind a storm door. An enclosed porch wing is placed at the rear intersection of the "L." One story has been added at the end of the "L," and a garage has been attached to the southwest side of the "L." The house is

surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick pathways leading from Nolan Park.

Building 17, built as one of a group of five houses, was constructed in 1878-79 as company officer's housing during the year that Fort Columbus became the Headquarters of the Military Division of the Atlantic and the Department of the East, a change in status

which gave rise to an increased demand for officers' housing. Facing east onto the green (Nolan Park), it followed the form of Buildings 4 and 5, and it was joined by eight other units (Buildings 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, and 18) built that same year. It retains its nineteenth-century character, especially with the restoration of the clapboard siding, quarter-sawn wood trim, and open front porch in recent years (post 1986).

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-16 (for background)  
NHL  
Milner, 143-147

LPC photos: 6: 31-36 (3/25/96)

**BUILDING NO. 18**

Facing Nolan Park, east of Evans Road

Original name/use: Company Officer's Quarters: Single Unit

Subsequent names/uses: Officer's Quarters: Family housing

Date: 1878-79 - construction

20th c. - Attached garage at the west (rear)

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Victorian vernacular

Material: Wood clapboard siding on wood frame

Stories: 2



Building 18 is a one-family, two-story house, of wood frame construction set on a brick foundation (now painted). L-shaped in plan, it has clapboard-covered walls. The gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has gabled projections rising above the second story windows at the front and an end chimney. Decorative brackets are placed under the roof eaves. A full-width porch with a shallow hipped roof supported by square posts and with decorative scrollwork brackets and balustrades

extends across the east facade. The porch steps are of wood. The porch floor is supported by concrete posts linked by latticework. The window openings with wood surrounds have six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paneled wood entrance door is set below a transom and behind a storm door. An enclosed porch wing is placed at the rear of the house. The garage at the rear is of recent date. The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick

pathways leading from Nolan Park. The rear yard is enclosed by a latticework fence.

Building 18, built as one of a group of five houses, was constructed in 1878-79 as company officer's housing during the year that Fort Columbus became the Headquarters of the Military Division of the Atlantic and the Department of the East, a change in status

which gave rise to an increased demand for officers' housing. Facing east onto the green (Nolan Park), it followed the form of Buildings 4 and 5, and it was joined by eight other units (Buildings 6, 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16, and 17) built that same year. It retains its nineteenth-century character, especially with the restoration of the clapboard siding, quarter-sawn wood trim, and open front porch in recent years (post 1986).

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-16 (for background)  
NHL  
Milner, 148-152

LPC photos: 7: 1-9 (3/25/96)

**BUILDING NO. 19**

Facing Nolan Park, east of Evans Road

Original name/use: Company Officers' Quarters: Double Unit

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family housing

Date: 1891 - construction

1902 - octagonal wings added at north and south and porches extended.

Architect: Quartermaster General's Office

Style: Victorian vernacular

Material: Wood clapboard siding on wood frame

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 19 is a two-family, two-story with attic house, of wood frame construction set on a brick foundation. Cross-shaped in plan, it has clapboard-covered walls and intersecting gabled roofs covered with asphalt shingles and punctuated by end chimneys. Paired decorative brackets are placed under the roof eaves. Wrap-around porches flanking the front projecting wing have square posts and shallow hipped roofs with decorative scrollwork brackets and balustrades. The porch steps are

of wood at the south and brick at the north. The porch floor is supported by brick posts linked by latticework. The porches on the north and south sides are screened. The window openings with wood surrounds (some pedimented) have mostly one-over-one double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paneled wood entrance doors are set behind storm doors. One-story octagonal wings have been added at the north and south sides. Two garages have been added at the west. The

house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick pathways leading from Nolan Park.

Building 19 was constructed in 1891 as company officer's housing during the years that Fort Columbus was the Headquarters of the Military Division of the Atlantic and the Department of the East. Facing east onto the

green (Nolan Park), it followed the form of the earlier officers' quarters, while being one of the first buildings constructed on Governors Island according to standardized Quartermaster General plans. It retains its nineteenth-century character, especially with the restoration of the clapboard siding, quarter-sawn wood trim, and open front porch in recent years (post 1986).

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-17  
NHL  
Milner, 153-156

LPC photos: 7: 10-18 (3/25/96)

**BUILDING NO. 20**

Facing Nolan Park, east of Evans Road

Original name/use: Company Officer's Quarters: Single Unit  
Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family housing

Date: 1902 - construction  
1936-38 - interior reconfigured for two families, front porch reconfigured and rebuilt, south bay removed, decorative brackets and dentils removed from eaves.

Architect: Quartermaster General Corps

Style: Victorian/Colonial Revival

Material: Wood clapboard siding on wood frame  
Stories: 3



Building 20 is a two-family, three-story house, of wood frame construction set on a brick (at the east) and schist (at the west) foundation. Cross-shaped in plan, it has clapboard-covered walls and intersecting gabled roofs covered with asphalt shingles and punctuated by end chimneys. Wrap-around porches flanking the front projecting wing have square posts and shallow hipped roofs with decorative scrollwork brackets and balustrades. (The decorative

scrollwork has been replicated from the earlier houses on Nolan Park. The original balustrades had turned posts.) The porch steps are of wood. The porch floor is supported by brick posts linked by openwork brick infill. The porches on the north and south sides are screened. The window openings with wood surrounds have six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paneled wood entrance doors are set behind storm doors. A



garage has been added at the southwest. The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick pathways leading from Nolan Park.

Building 20 was constructed in 1902 as company officer's housing when Fort Columbus was the Headquarters of the Military Division of the Atlantic and the Department of the East. Facing east onto the green (Nolan Park), it was

the last of the officers' quarters to be constructed there. While it followed the general form of the earlier buildings, it was designed with Colonial Revival detail. Although reconfigured in 1936-38 as a two-family house, it retains its historic character, especially with the restoration of the clapboard siding, wood trim, and partially-open front porch in recent years (post 1986).

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-18  
NHL  
Milner, 157-161

LPC photos: 7: 19-29 (3/25/96)

**BUILDING NO. 25**

North end of Nolan Park, south of Andes Road

Original name/use: Ordnance Storehouse

Subsequent names/uses: school, carpenter shop, library, billiard rooms, court martial rooms,  
museum, offices

Date: 1811 - construction

c. 1880 - building extended and second story added with open porch

1936-38 - porch partially enclosed

1953 - additional sections of porch enclosed

Architect: Attributed to Lt. Col. Jonathan Williams

Style: Utilitarian

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 on front, 3 on rear



Building 25, located at the north end of Nolan Park, is a long narrow rectangular structure, approximately 180 feet long and 30 feet wide. It is two stories high on the south side, and three stories on north side, accommodating the slope which leads to the waterfront. The walls are brick laid in Flemish bond in the western

section and common bond in the eastern section. At the second story on the Nolan Park front is a cantilevered wood frame addition, covered with wood clapboards and supported by square columns. When added, this was an open porch. When the building was extended, the window openings were enlarged and the granite lintels

and sills added. The windows are mostly six-over-six double-hung sash set behind storm sash. Paneled wood doors set below vertical transom lights open onto Nolan Park. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Metal and wood doors of recent date are set at the lower level on the north side.

Building 25 is one of the oldest surviving buildings from the rebuilding of Fort Jay as Fort Columbus. Built for ordnance storage, it

was situated south of the main road which led to the wharf. Since its original construction, the building has been enlarged and adapted for many uses, perhaps most notably as the first office of the post commander in 1878 after the Headquarters of the Military Division of the Atlantic and the Department of the East was transferred to Fort Columbus. The initial enlargement of the structure seems to coincide with this use. Although altered many times, the building still retains its historic character.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-7  
NHL  
Milner, 7, 162-166

LPC Photos: 7: 30-34 (3/25/96)

NOLAN PARK  
South of Andes Road

Original name/use:     The Green  
Subsequent names/uses:     Nolan Park

Date:   c.1871 - basic configuration established

Architect:     Undetermined

Style:   Romantic park

Nolan Park is a landscaped, roughly rectangular area around which officers' housing and several major administrative buildings were constructed beginning early in the nineteenth century. Referred to as "the green" in nineteenth-century documents, it had acquired its present configuration with tree-shaded walks and a central bandstand by c. 1871. While the bandstand does not survive, the diagonal walks crossing the park and the large trees date from the nineteenth century. The smaller paths fronting the houses and other buildings probably date from the late 1930s, when the WPA was carrying out extensive landscape work on the island. The park provides an important historic setting for the buildings surrounding it.

Sources:     NHL

BUILDING NO. S-40  
East of Barry Road

Original name/uses: Temporary storage  
Subsequent name/uses: Jewish Chapel

Date: 1918 - construction  
1960s (?) - altered for use as worship and meeting space

Architect: Undetermined

Style: None

Material: Clapboard siding on wood frame  
Stories: 1



Building S-40 is a one-story rectangular frame structure set on a brick foundation (now painted). The original wood siding was laid vertically, then subsequently covered with asbestos shingles. In more recent years (post 1983), this has been replaced by horizontal clapboard. The gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The portion of the building used for worship purposes has multi-paned window sash set behind storm sash. The

remainder of the building has one-over-one sash set behind storm sash.

Building S-40 was originally constructed for temporary storage in 1918 as the Army was expanding its facilities on the island during World War I. In the mid-twentieth century (perhaps the 1960s) it was converted for purposes of Jewish worship and as a meeting space.

Sources: NHL  
LPC photos: 14: 20-26 (3/26/96)

**BUILDING NO. 96**

Between Kimmel Road and Omaha Dock

Original name/use: USCG Group: New York Engineers: Shops

Subsequent names/uses: same

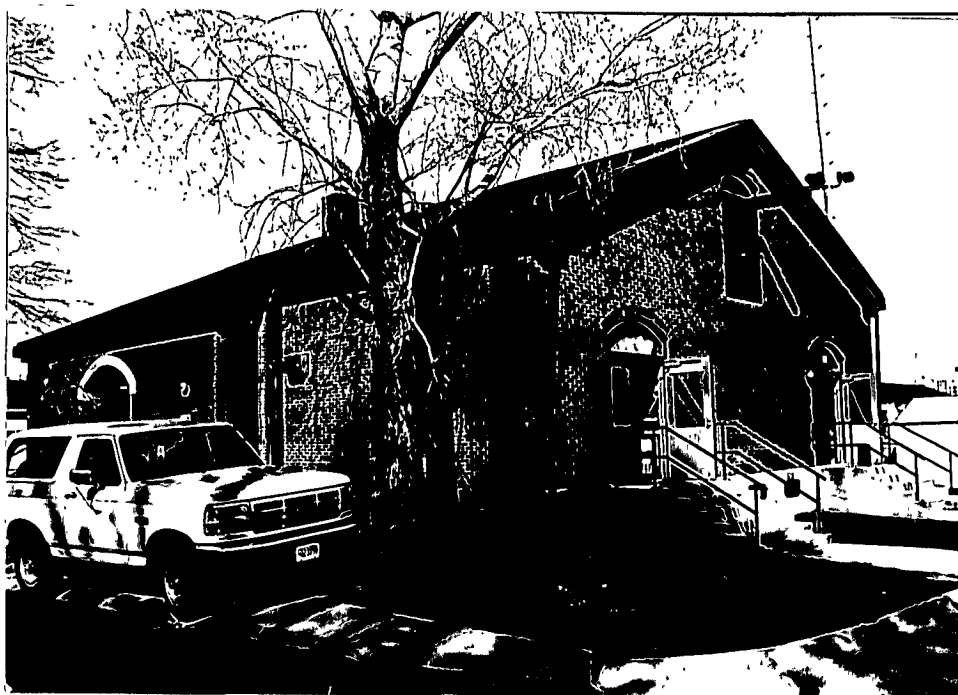
Date: 1986 - construction

Architect: Undetermined

Style: None

Material: Brick veneer on steel frame

Stories: 1

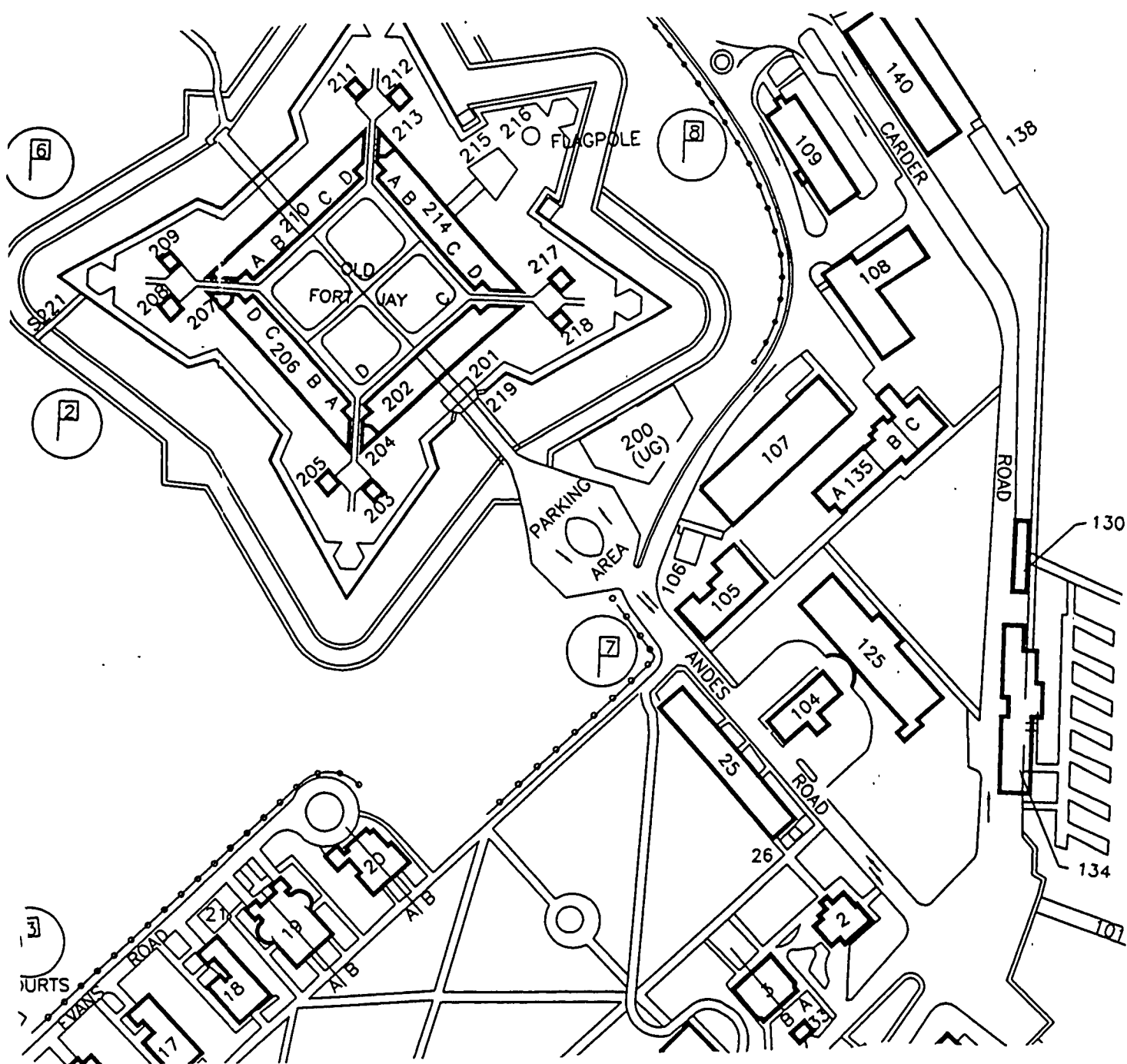


Building 96 is one-story structure faced with brick laid in American bond on a concrete foundation. The gabled roof is covered with standing-seam metal roofing. The building was

constructed as a replacement for several frame structures near Omaha Dock which contain shop facilities for the Coast Guard engineers.

Sources: Milner, 167-170

LPC photos: 14: 3 (3/26/96)



BUILDING KEY MAP: BUILDINGS 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109

**BUILDING NO. 104**  
**North of Andes Road**

Original name/use: Storehouse No. 1, New York Arsenal  
Subsequent names/uses: Museum and offices of Military Service Institute of the U.S., Army  
offices, Coast Guard offices

Date: 1850 - construction  
1884/95 - second story windows added  
1934 - second story windows enlarged; roof dormers added  
c.1950 - entrance porch added at west  
1985 - east entrance enclosed and mechanical equipment installed

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Utilitarian arched

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2-1/2



East Facade

Building 104 is a two-and-one-half-story red brick building rising from a granite watertable set on rubble stone foundation. Three wood frame dormers project from the asphalt-shingled gable roof (two on the east elevation and one on west elevation). Brownstone soffits run the full

perimeter of the building below the roofline. Projecting from the east elevation is a three-story brick tower with a pyramidal roof which originally contained the main entrance. Elliptical arched openings survive at the first story, but have been fenced in to protect air-



conditioning equipment. The clock has been removed from the circular opening at the third story. A small gabled roof brick entrance porch with paired doors is on the west elevation. Large elliptical openings at the first story have brick arches. Projecting brick moldings are placed above the first and second stories. Some of the window openings have splayed brick lintels. Others have cast stone lintels and sills on the east side, and granite sills and brownstone lintels on the west and north sides. The window sash are six-over-six aluminum replacements.

Building 104 was constructed as an ordnance storehouse for the New York Arsenal in 1850, after the arsenal boundary line was extended south to Andes Road in 1849. It stands on a

small rise, overlooking the original main dock area. The clock tower, a typical feature of arsenal storehouses, placed on the east side of the building, made it even more prominent. In 1882, the building was loaned to the Military Service Institution of the United States, founded in 1878 at the impetus of General Winfield Scott Hancock, the commanding officer of Fort Columbus. At that time it was converted to a museum with offices and a meeting room. Window openings were added at the second floor sometime between 1884 and 1895. The museum was closed in 1917 and its collections given to the Smithsonian Institution. After the New York Arsenal left Governors Island in 1920, the building was given to the Second Corps Area of the Army. Since then it has been used as offices.



West Facade

Sources: HABS NY-5715-6B  
NHL  
Milner, 171-175

LPC photos: 17: 18-28 (3/27/96)

**BUILDING NO. 105**

North of Andes Road, west of Building 104

Original name/use: Armory and Offices, New York Arsenal

Subsequent names/uses: Offices, museum

Date: 1853 - construction of north end

1860 - construction of south end

1882 - construction of west wing at south end and wing joining north and south ends

1940 - additions at east and west sides

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Utilitarian

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2



Building 105 consists of two brick structures -- that at the north oriented east-west and that at the south oriented north-south, both with gabled roofs -- joined by another gabled section. The two earliest structures are faced with red brick, laid up in common bond, with granite trim and are set on granite bases. Window openings have splayed brick lintels, and the southern end is accented with a brick string course. This

section has a raised stepped roof gable pierced by a lunette. The roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The windows contain multi-pane double-hung sash behind storm sash.

Building 105 was built in several stages for the New York Arsenal. The north end was built in 1853 as an armory and office. The south end was built in 1860 as an office, and also housed

a museum. The south end was expanded to the west in 1882 and linked to the north end at the same time. After the New York Arsenal closed in 1920, the building was turned over to the

Second Corps Area of the Army, which expanded it further in 1940. It has remained in use as offices.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-6G  
NHL

LPC photos: 17: 5-17 (3/27/96)

**BUILDING NO. 106**

East of Andes Road, west of Building 105

Original name/use: Reservoir pumphouse

Subsequent names/uses: Pumphouse

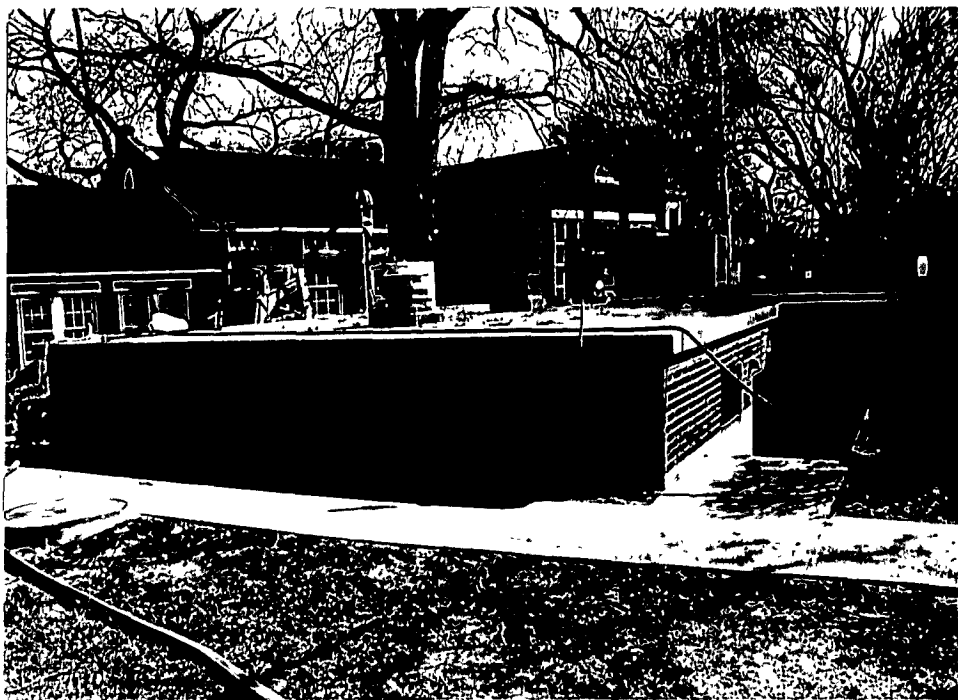
Date: 1941 - construction

Architect: None

Style: None

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 1



Building 106 is a small rectangular building is located adjacent to Building 107 and west of Building 105. It is of brick masonry laid in American bond and is covered with a flat concrete roof slab. It has metal hopper windows, louvered vents, and metal doors.

This structure was built as a reservoir pumphouse and has remained in that use.

Sources: NHL  
Milner, 176-179

LPC photos: 17: 3-4 (3/27/96)

**BUILDING NO. 107**

East of Andes Road, northwest of Building 105

Original name/use: Storehouse [for gun carriages], New York Arsenal

Subsequent names/uses: Storage, offices

Date: 1856-57 - construction of western section

1908/18 - construction of eastern section and southwestern corner

1940 - construction of section at southeast corner

c.1980 - brick entry porch at the north end of the western section

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Utilitarian

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 1



Building 107 is a one-story rectangular red brick structure set on a bluestone rubble foundation on the west and a concrete foundation on the east. The double gable roof (each section has its own gable) is covered with asphalt shingles (which replaced corrugated metal roofing). A brick chimney is at the north side. The unpretentious main entrance faces east and has a splayed brick arch with keystone and

is flanked by brick pilasters. The window openings have concrete sills and concrete and stone lintels. The double-hung six-over-six or nine-over-nine sash set behind storm sash were installed in 1979. Some new sash have been installed in 1996. The brick entry porch at the north end dates from about 1980.

The western section of Building 107 was built in 1856-57 as a storage shed for gun carriages. This was the fourth storehouse to be constructed for the New York Arsenal on Governors Island. The building burned in 1904 and was rebuilt. It was then doubled in size between 1908 and 1918 when the eastern section was constructed. A brick addition was built at the southwest

corner at that time. When the New York Arsenal closed in 1920, the building was turned over to the Second Corps Area of the Army which continued to use it for storage. An addition was made at the southeast corner in 1940, when the building was converted for office space. It has remained in that use.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-6C  
NHL  
Milner, 180-185

LPC photos: 16: 22-34 (3/27/96)

**BUILDING NO. 108**

Northeast of Andes Road, south of Carder Road.

Original name/use: Office building: First Army  
Subsequent names/uses: Marshall Hall, offices

Date: 1945 - construction

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls  
Stories: 2 with basement



Building 108 is an L-shaped two-story structure with basement, constructed of brick laid up in a five-course American bond on a brick basement set on a concrete slab. The intersecting gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A raking wood cornice outlines the roof. The window openings have splayed brick lintels and brick header sills. The six-over-six double-hung metal window sash are replacements. The main entrance is located at the west end of south elevation and has a wood surround consisting of

Tuscan columns supporting a flat entablature. The cornerstone at the west end reads "Erected A.D. 1945." An elevated deck has been constructed at the north wing.

Building 108 was built in 1945 to contain offices for the First Army. Named Marshall Hall for General George C. Marshall, it has continued in that use. The late use of the neo-Georgian style is typical of architecture on military bases of the period and continues the trend begun on Governors Island in the 1920s.

Sources: NHL  
Milner, 186-191  
LPC photos: 15: 25-35 (3/27/96)

**BUILDING NO. 109**

North of Andes Road near the ferry landing, off Carder Road.

Original name/use: Storehouse, New York Arsenal

Subsequent names/use: Commissary, Offices - Captain of the Post

Date: 1918 - initial construction in wood  
post 1945 - rebuilt in brick

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Utilitarian

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 1 with high basement



Building 109 is a one-story structure set on a high basement (most prominent at the north side) constructed of brick on a brick foundation. The facing is of brown brick. Brick quoins adorn the corners, and brick diamond panels accent the side walls. The window openings have splayed brick lintels. The double gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and brick lunettes are placed in the gable ends. The windows have six-over-six double-hung wood

sash set behind storm sash. A rustic stained-wood entrance door is approached by brick steps. A small wing with a hipped roof is located on the south side.

Building 109 was the last building constructed for the New York Arsenal on Governors Island. Initially constructed in 1918 to enable the arsenal to meet the demands of World War I, the building was turned over to the Second

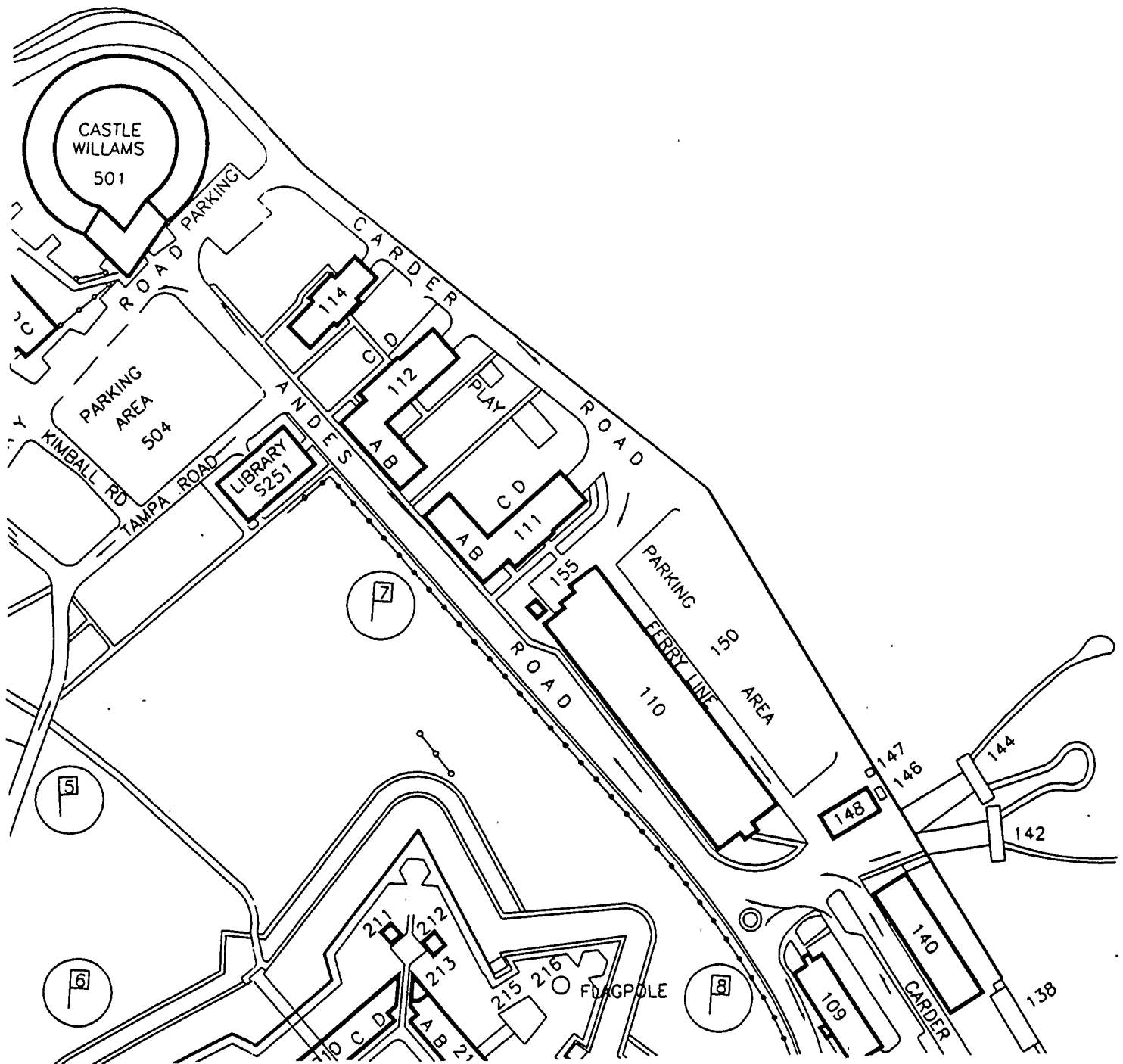


Corps Area of the Army in 1920 and used as a post commissary in the 1930s-40s. After it was

rebuilt in brick in 1945, it was put into use as offices.

*Sources:* HABS NY 5715-6F  
NHL  
Milner, 192-197

LPC photos: 15: 14-24 (3/27/96)



BUILDING KEY MAP: BUILDINGS 110, 111, 112, 114

**BUILDING NO. 110**

North of Andes Road, west of the ferry slip

Original name/use: Storehouse, New York Arsenal

Subsequent names/use: Quartermaster storehouse, depot, offices

Date: 1870/79 - construction

1930s - window openings enlarged

1955 - utility wing added at west

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Utilitarian Romanesque Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2-½



Building 110 is a two-and-one-half-story rectangular red brick structure with a shallow gable roof covered with asphalt roll-roofing. Large brick pilasters mark the bay divisions. The main entrance at the east end of the building is set in an elliptical brick arch. The entrance doors are paneled wood and glass set below a transom with vertical lights. The first story on the south side of the building fronts an areaway well, but the two stories on the north

side are completely exposed. The window openings, which were re-worked by the WPA in 1938, have brownstone lintels (most of them stuccoed over) and concrete sills. The paired double-hung window sash are wood replacements with applied muntin grids. All the entrance steps, wing walls, and doorways on the south side of the building (facing Andes Road) are of recent date.

Building 110, first proposed in 1870 and constructed prior to 1879, was constructed for the New York Arsenal to store obsolete arms from the Civil War that had been accumulated for sale on the New York market. By that time the arsenal had expanded its site on Governors Island along the north shore, west of the ferry slip. The building was constructed against the

slope of the hill rising up to the fort. In the 1880s the Quartermaster Corps asked for use of part of the building for storage. Although the request was denied, the Quartermaster had gained control of the building before 1902. The Quartermaster Department had offices in the building during World War I, and the building has remained in office use.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-6D  
NHL  
Milner, 7, 198-204

LPC photos: 1: 2-19 (3/25/96)

Related Structure

BUILDING NO. 155 - Brick transformer building, one-story, built in 1948.

*Source:* NHL

**BUILDING NO. 111**

Between Carder Road and Andes Road

Original name/use: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing (16th Infantry)

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing

Date: 1934 - construction

Architect: Rogers & Poor

Style: Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 3-½



South Facade

Building 111 is a three-and-one-half-story L-shaped structure with brick facing laid in Flemish bond set on a limestone basement with a graceful rolled molding. Each section of the "L" has a slate-covered roof punctuated by triangular dormers and prominent end chimneys. (The east-west section is gabled and the north-south section is hipped.) The main entrances on the east and south sides have prominent limestone surrounds with a broken pediment on the south and a triangular pediment

on the east. Cast-iron lamps are placed on the pilasters. Within each limestone surround is a wood surround with wood panels and an eagle-adorned transom. The entrance doors themselves are paneled wood set behind storm doors. The entrance steps are granite. The first story window openings have limestone keystones and sills and splayed brick lintels, and a limestone stringcourse sets off the second story. The window openings at the second and third stories have limestone sills and splayed

brick lintels. The window sash are double-hung six-over-six metal replacements, except for those at the northern end which are eight-over-eight metal replacements. The courtyard side of the building is accented by three prominent projecting two-story bays of wood surmounted by parapets with Greek key motifs. The windows in these bays are also replacements. The entrance bay on the south side is distinguished by a large arched opening above the entranceway and a triangular pediment surmounted by an eagle intersecting the roof. A wood entablature with dentils and a guttae motif above the entrance bay sets off the roofline. At the northern end of the building,

doors set below transoms open onto a deck, and an entrance to basement-level parking is set below that.

Building 111 was constructed in 1934 with its mirror image, Building 112, to accommodate officers of the 16th Infantry and their family members. These buildings were an outgrowth of the plan by the Office of McKim, Mead & White for expanded facilities on Governors Island. The neo-Georgian style is consistent with other contemporary buildings on the island and is one that was very popular on military bases during the period.



Courtyard Elevations

Sources: NHL  
Milner, 7, 205-211

LPC photos: 1: 20-37 (3/25/96)

**BUILDING NO. 112**

Between Carder Road and Andes Road

Original name/use: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing (16th Infantry)

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing

Date: 1934 - construction

Architect: Rogers & Poor

Style: Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 3-½



Facing West

Building 112 is a three-and-one-half-story L-shaped structure with brick facing laid in Flemish bond set on a limestone basement with a graceful rolled molding. Each section of the "L" has a slate-covered roof punctuated by triangular dormers and prominent end chimneys. (The east-west section is gabled and the north-south section is hipped.) The main entrances on the west and south sides have prominent limestone surrounds with a broken pediment on the south and a triangular pediment

on the west. Cast-iron lamps are placed on the pilasters. Within each limestone surround is a wood surround with wood panels and an eagle-adorned transom. The entrance doors themselves are paneled wood set behind storm doors. The entrance steps are granite. The first story window openings have limestone keystones and sills and splayed brick lintels, and a limestone stringcourse sets off the second story. The window openings at the second and third stories have limestone sills and splayed

brick lintels. The window sash are double-hung six-over-six metal replacements, except for those at the northern end which are eight-over-eight metal replacements. The courtyard side of the building is accented by three prominent projecting two-story bays of wood surmounted by parapets with Greek key motifs. The windows in these bays are also replacements. The entrance bay on the south side is distinguished by a large arched opening above the entranceway and a triangular pediment surmounted by an eagle intersecting the roof. A wood entablature with dentils and a guttae motif above the entrance bay sets off the roofline. At the northern end of the building,

doors set below transoms open onto a deck, and an entrance to basement-level parking is set below that.

Building 112 was constructed in 1934 with its mirror image, Building 111, to accommodate officers of the 16th Infantry and their family members. These buildings were an outgrowth of the plan by the Office of McKim, Mead & White for expanded facilities on Governors Island. The neo-Georgian style is consistent with other contemporary buildings on the island and is one that was very popular on military bases during the period.



Courtyard Elevations

Sources: NHL  
Milner, 7, 212-218

LPC photos: 2: 2-19 (3/25/96)



**BUILDING NO. 114**

Across from Castle Williams, between Carder Road and Andes Road

Original name/use: Fort Jay Nurses' Quarters

Subsequent names/uses: Bachelor Officers' Quarters

Date: 1934 - construction

Architect: Rogers & Poor

Style: Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 2 and 2-½



Building 114 is a rectangular brick structure with a two-and-a-half story central pavilion flanked by two-story wings. The red brick facing is laid in Flemish bond rising from a limestone base with a rolled molding. The roof of the central pavilion is gabled and covered with standing-seam metal, while the roofs of the wings are flat behind metal parapets. The entrances, located on the east and west elevations differ because of the slope on which the building is situated. The east entrance has an arched limestone pediment and is approached

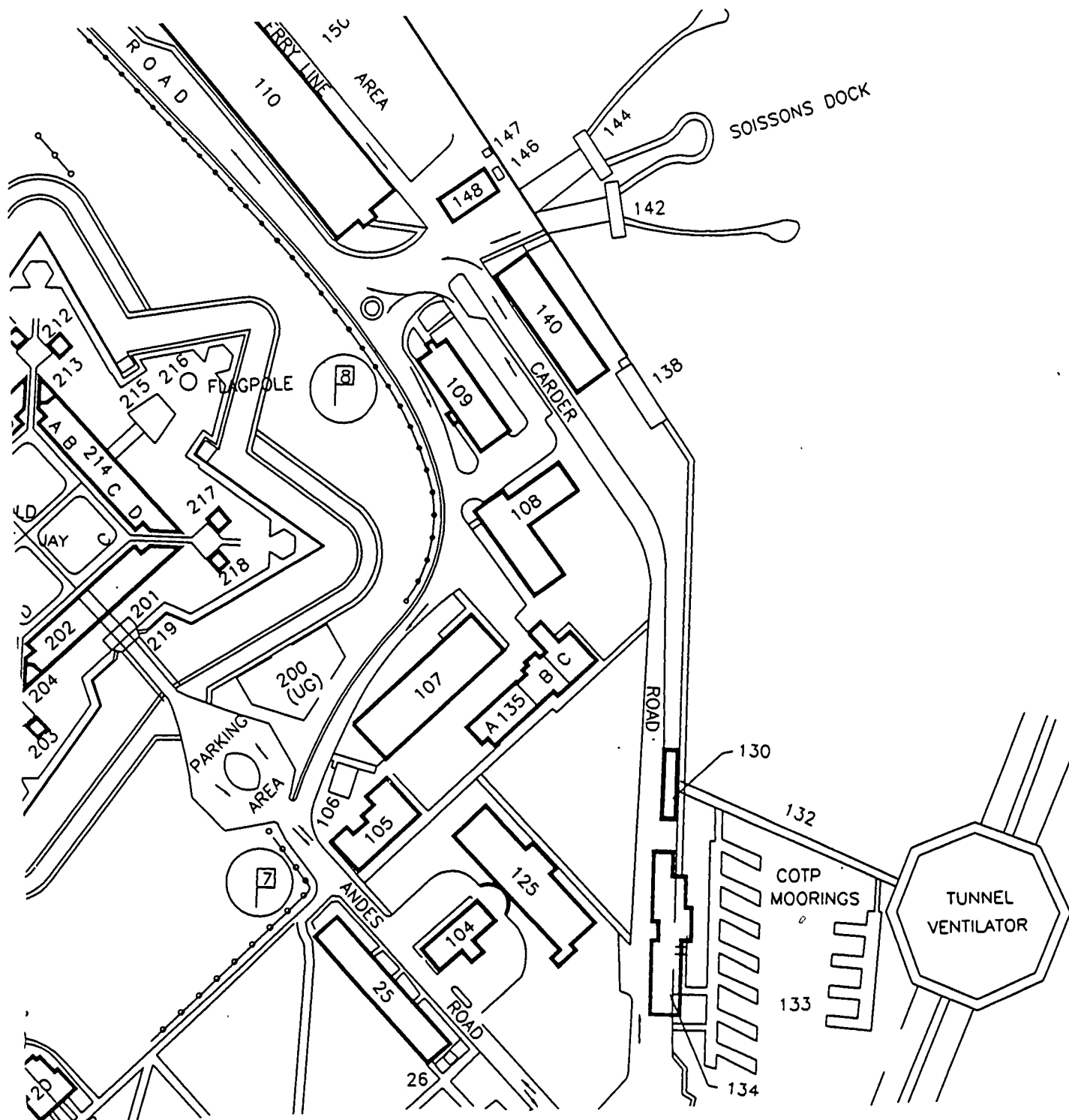
by granite steps. The wood paneled door is set below a transom. The west entrance is set behind a columned limestone porch with granite steps and a concrete block foundation. The entrance door is paneled wood below a transom. The window openings have limestone sills and splayed brick lintels. The double-hung wood sash are eight-over-eight behind storm sash, except for those in the top story of the central pavilion which are four-over-four. A wood cornice sets off the roofline.

Building 114 was constructed in 1934 to house the Fort Jay nurses' quarters. (The hospital, now Building 515, was located fairly nearby.) The architects, Rogers & Poor, repeated forms and details that had been used on the two

adjacent buildings (Nos. 111 and 112), but the scale is smaller. The Coast Guard converted the building for use as bachelor officers' quarters.

*Sources:* NHL  
Milner, 219-224

LPC photos: 2: 29-35; 3: 2-9 (3/25/96)



BUILDING KEY MAP: BUILDINGS 125, 130, 135, 140

**BUILDING NO. 125**

Hilltop site north of Andes Road in the midst of the New York Arsenal buildings

Original name/use: First United States Army Headquarters Building/Second Corps Area Headquarters

Subsequent names/uses: Pershing Hall, offices

Date: 1934 - construction

1978 - exterior fire escapes added, ground floor doorways created on south side, doorway below loggia converted to window

Architect: Lorimer Rich

Style: Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 3 with attic



North Facade

Building 125 is a rectangular three-story-with-attic brick structure set on a brick foundation. The red brick facades are laid up in Flemish bond. The gabled roof is covered with slate and punctuated by glass hatchway covers (installed in 1984). Two tall brick chimneys rise from the roof. The two major facades are not identical. The south facade, oriented

towards the New York Arsenal buildings, has a first-story entrance (now converted to a window) set in a limestone surround and flanked by semi-circular granite stairs set on a brick base with wrought-iron railings. These stairs lead to a recessed loggia set behind three two-story brick arches. Flagpoles project from the brick pilasters. The loggia is enclosed by

wrought-iron railings. The north facade with a projecting central pavilion is oriented towards New York Harbor. It has a first story entrance set in a rusticated limestone surround. The granite steps approaching this entrance are flanked by wing walls with two wrought-iron lamp standards. The three French sash windows above the entrance are protected by a wrought-iron balcony. A pediment containing an oculus and the date "1934" in wrought iron numerals intersects the main roof above the center pavilion. A recessed basement fronts an areaway on this side of the building. A limestone beltcourse runs around the building marking the division between the first and second stories. All the window openings have stone surrounds. Those at the first and third stories have limestone sills and splayed brick lintels. The window lintels at the second story are limestone. The double-hung wood window sash are eight-over-eight at the first and third stories and twelve-over-twelve at the second story. All are set behind storm sash. The roof cornice is copper on the south side and stone on the north side. Drain pipe covers bear Army insignia. Fire escapes added at the east and west ends in 1978 have some decorative detail. Ground level doorways with wood pediments and paneled doors were added that

same year flanking the semi-circular stairs.

When initially planned, Building 125 was to be the headquarters and administrative offices of the Second Corps Area, a subset of the First Army. Major General Dennis E. Nolan was the Commander of the Second Corps Area as well as the Commander of the First Army, so when the building opened it served both staffs. The First Army played a major role in preparation for the war in Europe, then served in Europe with great distinction. The First Army command returned to Governors Island in 1946, remaining there until 1966. Building 125 was dedicated as Pershing Hall on August 10, 1954, in honor of John J. Pershing, General of the Armies, First Commander of the United States Army in 1918. When the Coast Guard took over Governors Island in 1966, the building served as headquarters for the Third District.

The neo-Georgian design of Pershing Hall, by New York City architect Lorimer Rich, is compatible with other contemporary buildings on the island, although the placement on a hilltop site within the New York Arsenal buildings is quite confined, especially on the south side.



South Facade

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-10  
NHL  
Milner, 225-229

LPC Photos: 17: 29-37; 18: 1A-10A (3/27/96)

**BUILDING NO. 130**

At COTP Moorings, off Carder Road.

Original name/use: Workshop, New York Arsenal

Subsequent names/uses: Shops, utility shed, and offices

Date: 1843 - initial construction (southeast end)

1971 - northwest end added

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Utilitarian

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 1



Building 130 is a single-story structure constructed of brick laid up in common bond on a concrete and brick foundation. The brick walls of the southeast end show evidence of the its 1843 date. The gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A passageway through the earlier portion of the building leads to the causeway (Structure 132) connecting the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel ventilator structure.

Building 130 was initially built in 1843 as work shop for the New York Arsenal. Additions were made over the years, expanding the structure to the northwest. All subsequently demolished, they were replaced by the existing structure which dates from 1971.

Sources: NHL

Milner, 230-234

LPC photos: 18: 11A-20A (3/27/96)

**BUILDING NO. 134**

At COTP Moorings, off Carder Road.

Original name/use: USCG Group: Station New York

Subsequent names/uses: Station New York OPS Building

Date: 1986 - construction

Architect: Undetermined

Style: None

Material: Brick veneer on steel frame

Stories: 2



Building 134 is a two-story rectangular steel-frame structure with a brick veneer laid in American bond and set on a concrete foundation. The gabled roof is covered with metal. The entrance has aluminum and glass

doors and the windows have aluminum and glass sash.

Building 134 was built in 1986 to replace several other shore facilities.

Sources: Milner, 235-238

LPC photos: 18: 23A-36A (3/27/96)

Related Structures

Structures 132 and 133 - moorings and docks linked to Building 134



## BUILDING NO. 135

Between Andes Road and Carder Road, east of Buildings 107 and 108

Original name/use: Quarters of Commanding Officer of New York Arsenal and storehouse

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' quarters, offices, warehouse

Date: c.1835 - construction of storehouse

1839 - construction of officer's quarters

1852 - addition to south of officer's quarters joining it with storehouse

1879 - porches added to officer's quarters

1884 - one-story brick addition at west side of officer's quarters

1935 - addition and changes at west of officers' quarters

1977 - storehouse gable roof replaced with mansard roof

Architect: Army Corps of Engineers

Style: Greek Revival, utilitarian

Material: Brick masonry on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2, 2-½, and 3



Building 135 consists of three sections set at right angles to each other. The northern section is a two-and-a-half story brick residence with an asphalt-covered gabled roof. The brick is laid in common bond above a brick basement. The entrance is set in a Greek Revival granite

surround which encloses wood pilasters and sidelights flanking the paneled door set below a transom and behind a storm door. The window openings have brownstone sills and lintels, and the double-hung wood window sash is six-over-six behind storm sash. Brownstone

stringcourses mark the base of the pediments formed by the roof gable. These pediments contain lunette windows formed by brick arches with brownstone sills. The wood porch on the east and north sides was added about 1879, although the decorative and structural ironwork may date from WPA renovations in the 1930s. The flat porch roof has a denticulated wood cornice. A two-story flat-roofed enclosed wood porch on a brick base projects from the west side of the house. The two-story flat-roofed middle section of Building 135, built as an extension to the residence, is faced with brick with brownstone trim. The entrance in this section has colonnettes supporting a projecting entablature. The door is paneled wood behind a storm door. The southern section of Building 135, a three-story storehouse, has been the most heavily modified. The first story is of rusticated granite with large arched openings and brick trim. The second story is brick. The window openings have paired double-hung one-over-one and six-over-six wood sash behind storm sash. The third story, an asphalt-covered mansard, is punctuated by roof dormers. A one-story shed addition of wood and brick is placed at the south end of this section.

Building 135, originally constructed as two freestanding buildings, formed the core of the New York Arsenal. The southern section was

one of two ordnance storehouses built at the arsenal about 1835 after appropriations were made by Congress in 1833. The northern section was built in 1839 in the Greek Revival style as the quarters for the Commanding Officer of the arsenal. (Another officer's quarters was built adjacent to the other ordnance storehouse. Neither of these early structures survive.) A two-story addition for residential and office use was constructed at the south side of the officer's quarters in 1852, abutting the ordnance storehouse. Porches were added at the east, north, and west facades of the residence in 1879. A one-story brick addition was constructed at the southwest corner of the officer's quarters in 1884. These structures retained their original uses until the New York Arsenal closed in 1920. In 1935 the Army undertook major work on the residence, enclosing the two-story porch at the west, constructing a two-story, two-bay brick addition behind the 1852 addition, and converting the officer's quarters for the use of two families. The cast-iron work on the porch may also date from this period. When the storehouse was converted for office use in 1939, the second story window openings were enlarged. The original gabled roof of this building was replaced by a mansard in 1977, adding a full third story for additional office space.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-6A  
NHL  
Milner, 239-245

LPC photos: 16: 3-21 (3/27/96)



**BUILDING NO. 140**

East of the ferry slip, north of Carder Road

Original name/use: Storehouse, New York Arsenal

Subsequent names/uses: armory, bank, post office, security office

Date: 1875 - construction

1938 - porch removed from north facade and main entrance reoriented to the west

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Romanesque Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 1



Building 140 is a one-story rectangular structure constructed of red brick laid in common bond on a brownstone water table. The asphalt-covered gabled roof has wooden eaves and brackets. A cross-gabled wing projects on the north side. The bay divisions on the north and south walls are marked by brick pilasters with brownstone capitals. Each bay has a tall brick arch with brownstone keys and impost blocks. The double-hung wood window sash within the arches are six-over-six below transoms and set

behind storm sash. Iron pintles for shutters survive at the window openings. Large arched entrance openings are set in the east and west ends and in the northern projection. The entrances themselves with paneled doors below arched transoms have been modified several times. The west entrance is approached by a ramp and the east entrance by steps. Circular panels at the west end contain relief seals of the War Department and the U.S. Army (both now gilded). A similar panel in the northern wing is

a decorative star shape. The walls of the building terminate in a corbeled and dentiled brick cornice (now painted) below the eaves.

Building 140, like Building 110, was built for the New York Arsenal to store obsolete ordnance accumulated after the Civil War. It replaced a temporary storehouse and shed for shot and shell, built after 1860 but prior to 1867. Architecturally, Building 140 remains

one of the most distinguished of the arsenal structures. After the New York Arsenal closed in 1920, this building was turned over to the Second Corps Area of the Army, which continued to use it as a warehouse. In 1938, under the WPA, a porch was removed from the north facade and the main entrance was oriented to the west. Since then, the building has served a variety of service functions.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-6E  
NHL  
Milner, 246-250

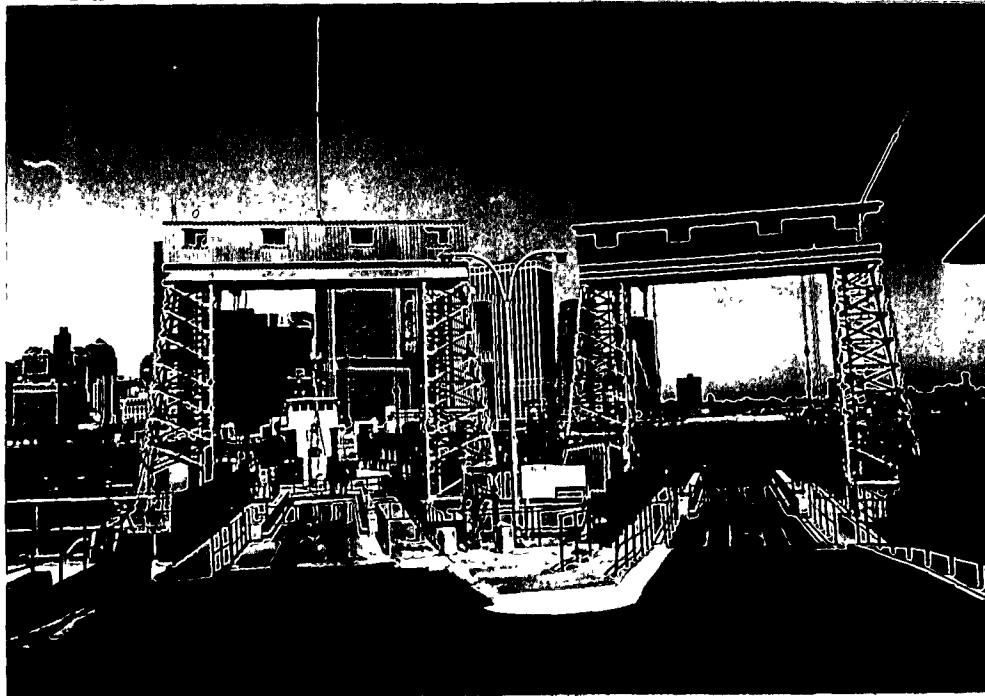
LPC photos: 15: 3-13 (3/27/96)

STRUCTURES NOS. 142 and 144  
Ferry landing

Original name/use: Soissons Dock, Ferry slips  
Subsequent names/uses: Same

Date: 1947

Material: Wood and steel



Structures 142 and 144 are the two ferry piers and related structures which accommodate the ferries between Governors Island and the Battery Maritime Building in lower Manhattan. The timber piers have steel gantry structures at their land ends.

Permanent Army-operated ferry service was established between Governors Island and Manhattan during the tenure of General

Winfield Scott Hancock. Following World War I, this landing was named Soissons Dock in commemoration of the preparations of the 16th Regiment for an attack on German forces near Soissons, France, on July 18, 1918. The regiment suffered 1,734 casualties, 57 percent of its total strength. A commemorative plaque is placed on Building 148. The present ferry slip structures date from 1947.

Sources: NHL

LPC photos: 29: 31-36 (4/1/96)

**BUILDING NO. 148**

Southwest of the ferry landing

Original name/use: Ferry waiting room

Subsequent name/uses: same

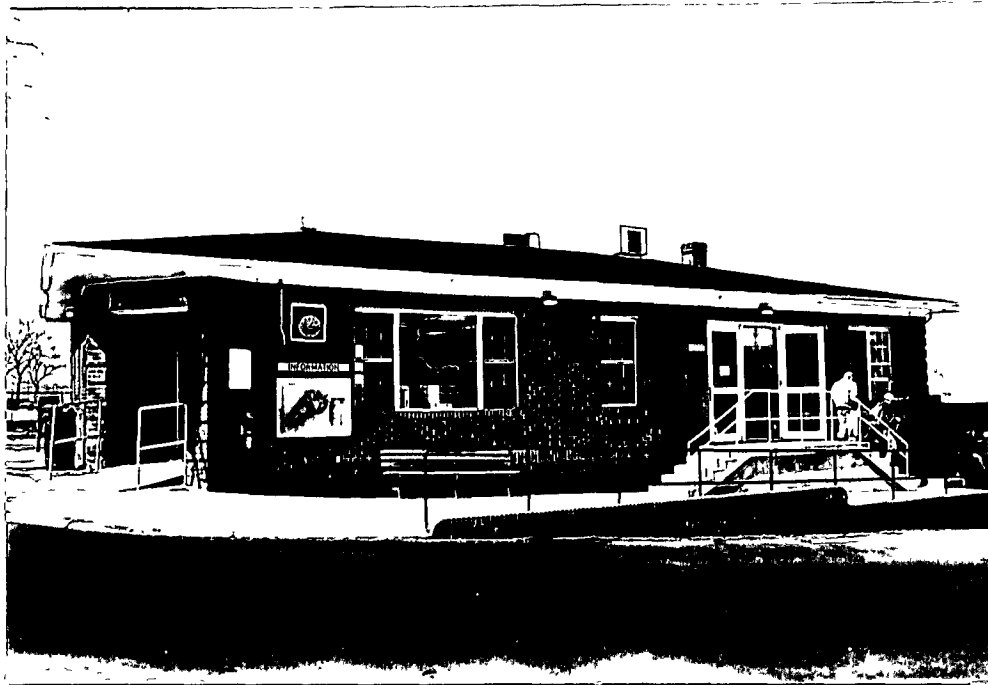
Date: 1917 - construction

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Colonial detail

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 1



Building 148 is a one-story rectangular structure of red brick, laid up in common bond, and set on a brick foundation marked by header courses. Brick quoins accent the corners. The window openings have splayed brick lintels and brick header sills. Glass block has been placed in some of the window openings while others have six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The hipped roof is covered by asphalt shingles and has a prominent

ventilator. The entrance doors and concrete steps are of relatively recent date. A bronze plaque placed on the south end of the building explains the significance of Soissons Dock.

Building 148 was constructed in 1917 to provide waiting facilities for the ferry service. Presumably it replaced an earlier waiting room structure.

*Sources:* NHL  
LPC photos: 29: 22-27 (4/1/96)

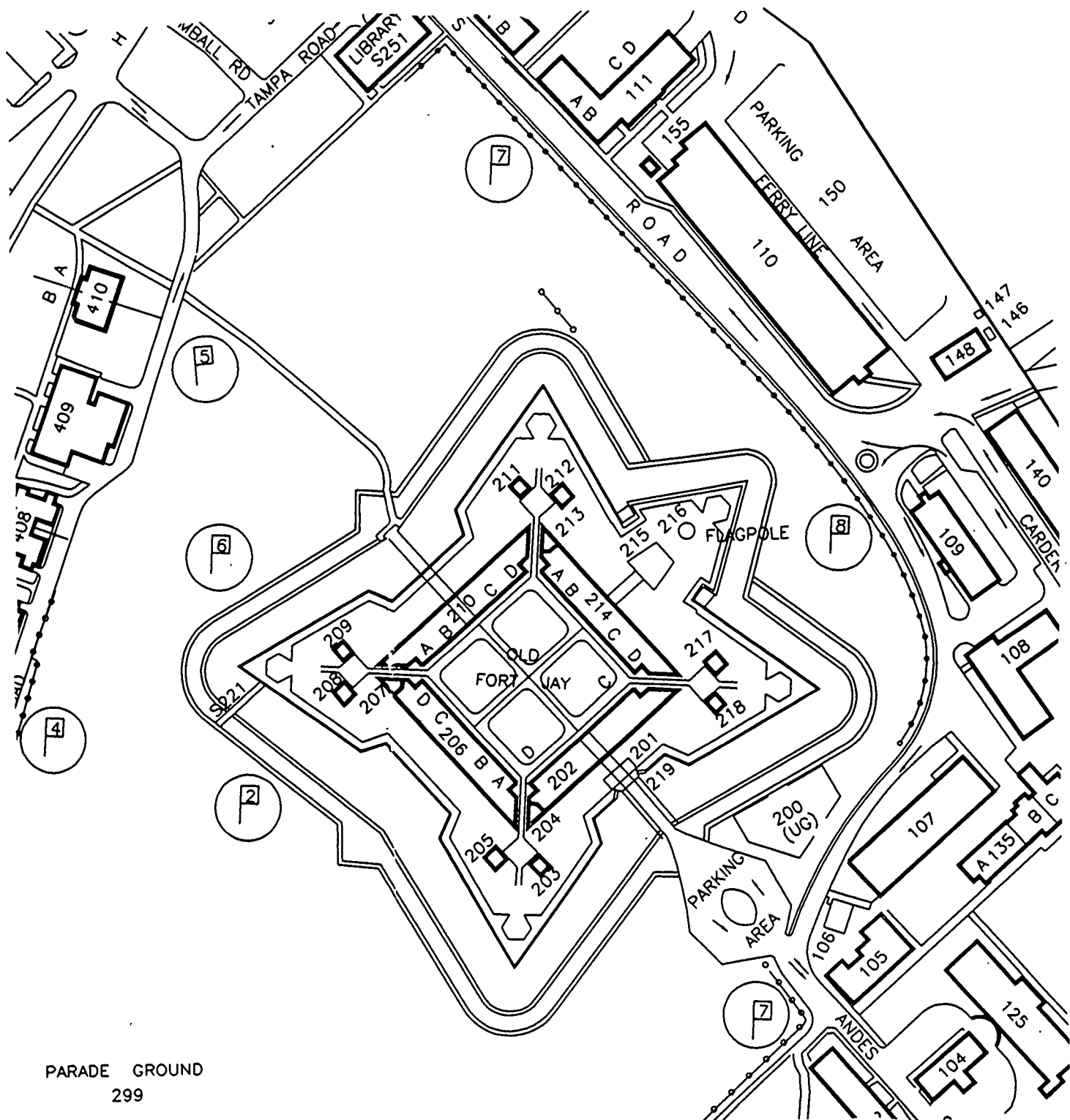
Related Structures

Structures 146 and 147 - These are one-story brick transformer buildings, built in 1934.

*Sources:* NHL

LPC photos: 29: 28-30 (4/1/96)





BUILDING KEY MAP: OLD FORT JAY, BUILDINGS 201 - 218, S-251

**BUILDING NO. 201 (FORT JAY)**

Near the center of the historic district, south of Andes Road and northwest of Nolan Park

Original name/use: Fort Jay/fortification

Subsequent name/use: Fort Columbus (1806-1904)

Date: 1794-96 - earthen Fort Jay constructed

1806-09 - masonry Fort Columbus constructed

1904 - the name Fort Jay was reinstated by Secretary of War Elihu Root

Architect: Lt. Col. Jonathan Williams

Style: Military

Material: Granite, sandstone, and brick on masonry bearing wall

*Designated New York City Landmark September 19, 1967*

*National Register listing*



Entry Gate

Building 201, Fort Jay, is surrounded by a nearly-intact sodded glacis. The fort is sunken to allow the glacis (a kind of berm) to cover the wall up to the base of the fort's parapet and then slope down and away from the fort on all sides. The fort is a masonry structure with four bastions enclosed by a dry moat. It is

surrounded by three walls; an inner scarp wall, a moat wall, and an outer counterscarp wall. The scarp walls are constructed of dressed ashlar granite surmounted by a projecting granite cordon and a brick parapet. (Much of the brick was replaced in the 1940s and 1990s.) The moat walls are constructed of red sandstone

laid up in a range-coursed ashlar pattern, topped by one course of bluestone. Steps leading up and over the moat wall are placed around its interior perimeter. The counterscarp walls are constructed of brick masonry units, topped by a brick header course. Inside the bastioned walls is a monumental classically-styled entry gateway of brownstone with paired piers supporting an entablature and flanking an arch. Above the gateway is a sandstone sculpture, a trophy with a large eagle and military symbols. A small one-story brick structure (also identified as Building 201) on a red sandstone base is set behind the upper portion of the gate. It was originally used as a guard house. The chains at the entrance are the remains of a drawbridge which once spanned the moat. The walls of the vault leading into the interior quadrangle through and under Building 202 are lined with brick above a granite base. A similar vault leads through and under Building 410 to the west side of the moat. The quadrangle was used a parade ground early in the nineteenth century. Today it is a playground area, surrounded by four barracks structures (Buildings 202, 206, 210, 214), converted for officers' family housing (see below). Extending southward from the fort towards the Buttermilk Channel is the later parade ground (Site No. 299), which is also a golf course.

Fort Jay, long the dominant structure on Governors Island, continues to be a central feature. It is situated near the center of the island's historic district, which until the early twentieth century was the center of the island and is still its highest point. Fort Jay, a bastioned, pentagonal-shaped plan, which has its roots in European fort design from as early as the sixteenth century, was used extensively by the French and Spanish while colonizing America. It is one of the best preserved examples of its type in the country. The fort's present configuration dates to 1806-09 when it replaced the earthen Fort Jay of 1794-96. This new fort was named Fort Columbus. (Secretary of Foreign Affairs John Jay for whom the fort had been named had by then fallen out of favor with the public due to his treaty negotiations with the British.)

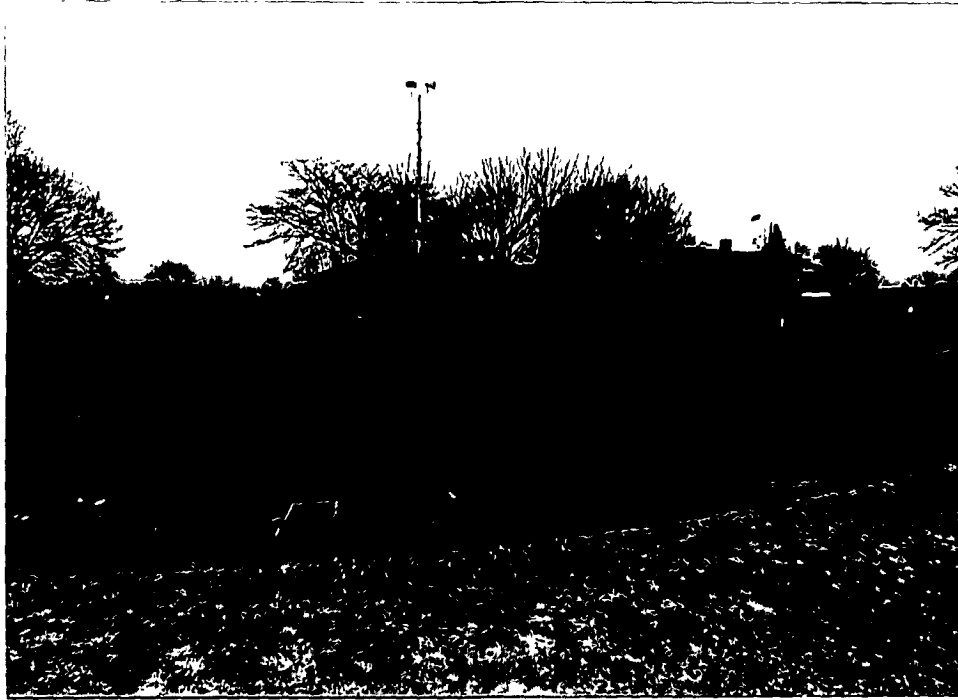
Fort Jay represents an important period of American history, a time when the young nation was beginning to coordinate and promote a national defense. In response to British and French interference with shipping and foreign trade in the late eighteenth century, the United States enacted the First American System of fortifications, which legislated, although did not entirely fund, a series of coastal fortifications. The large earthen fort completed in 1796 at Governors Island was typical of others along the coast in its design. Because of inadequate funding by the government, this original Fort Jay was completed in large part by volunteer civilians from New York City's trade, social, and educational societies. A plaque at the entry to Fort Jay commemorates these efforts as "The best tradition of free men." It was given to the Fort in 1952 by the alumni of Columbia College, since many of the early contributors of labor were students and professors of Columbia.

In the first few years of the nineteenth century, the nation again instigated a large-scale campaign to fortify its coastal regions against naval attack, in light of probable war with Great Britain. For the Second American System of fortifications, as this effort was called, Governors Island (which had been ceded to the federal government by New York in 1800) was considered a key strategic location for protecting New York Harbor from an enemy invasion. By the time of the War of 1812, the island was home to some of the most advanced and powerful defenses in the nation. It is widely believed by military historians that New York was spared attack by the British in that conflict because of these strong deterrents in New York Harbor.

The fortifications of the Second American System were the first to be supervised by Americans; prior to that French engineers had been used to build American forts. Lt. Col. Jonathan Williams, an American-trained engineer, was familiar with French fort design from travel in Europe, and was placed in charge of the defense of New York Harbor. From 1806-09, the old Fort Jay was rebuilt as Fort Columbus, a masonry structure built on the

same site and using portions of the earlier structure. The walled counterscarp, gate, sallyport, magazine, and two barracks were retained from the older fort, and were incorporated into the new, more substantial structure. The new fort retained three sides of the old fort, adding fourteen feet to each; on the north wall, a ravelin with two retired casemated

flanks was added. Williams indicated in an 1808 report that the north side was modified "expressly to take off a Line of Fire which could not avoid the city and to form two Lines commanding the East and the Entrance of the North River." Four bastions were built, and when completed, the new structure was capable of mounting 104 guns.



Moat and Walls

*Sources:* HABS NY-4-6; 31-GOVI, 1  
NHL  
Milner, 251-254.

LPC photos: 20: 2-18, 21-24, 27-34; 21: 1-3, 10-11; 23: 6-9 (3/28/96)

#### Related Structures

Structure 215 - powder magazine located underground in the north ravelin, approached by a ramp under Building 214, built 1806-09.

Structure 216 - 77-foot high steel flag pole in north ravelin

Structure 219 - concrete vehicle bridge over moat to east entrance, built 1952.

Structure 221 - wooden footbridge over moat at southwest bastion, built 1952.

*Sources:* HABS NY-4-6  
NHL

LPC photos: See above

**BUILDING NO. 202**

Interior quadrangle of Fort Jay

Original name/use: Fort Columbus barracks

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' family housing

Date: 1834-36 - construction

1920-21 - changes to rear at basement level

1934 - porches in end bays enclosed

Architect: Engineering Department or Quartermaster Department

Style: Greek Revival

Material: Brick and brownstone on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2

*Designated New York City Landmark September 19, 1967*

*National Register listing*



Building 202 is a long, relatively narrow two-story barracks structure. The brick facing is laid up in Flemish bond on a granite and sandstone foundation. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Two-story Doric columns of brownstone (now painted) support a wood cornice below the roofline. Two porch bays at the south end and one porch bay at the north end have been enclosed with windows and wood

panels. The porch bases and steps have been rebuilt. Open interior wood staircases lead up to the second story level of the porches. The window openings have splayed brick lintels and sandstone sills with six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The arched vault leading from the entry gate extends through and under the building. The north end wall is angled, the result of the incorporation of

a small triangular structure into this building. The rear wall faced with brick is surmounted by a wood cornice. The six-over-six windows are set behind storm sash.

Building 202 is one of four buildings constructed inside the Fort Columbus quadrangle to house the Fort Columbus garrison, at a time when the military presence on Governors Island was growing. The barracks in the original fort of the 1790s, which survived demolition during its reconstruction in 1806-09, had very badly deteriorated by the late 1820s. These quadrangle buildings have been in continuous use as housing for officers and/or enlisted men; under the Coast Guard they have

served as family housing. Numerous alterations have been made to the interiors to improve the living quarters.

A report on Governors Island by the Surgeon General's Office in 1875 described the quadrangle buildings as equipped with basement kitchens for the troops and officers quartered inside the fort. Several two-story triangular buildings at the corners of the barracks housed tailors, married soldiers, a bakery, barbershop, sculleries, and privies. The HABS report of 1934 states that at one time there were eight such structures around the quadrangle, five of which have been incorporated into the barracks structures.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-1A  
NHL  
Milner, 255-260

LPC photos: 21: 6-9, 12-14 (3/28/96)

#### Related Structures

Buildings 203 and 217 - one-story brick garages, built 1937-38.

LPC photos: 21: 15-16; 32-33 (3/28/96)

Building 204 - one-story triangular structure on a granite and sandstone foundation, built 1834-36 (see above).

LPC photos: 21: 27-31 (3/28/96)

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-1A  
NHL

**BUILDING NO. 206**

Interior quadrangle of Fort Jay

Original name/use        Fort Columbus Barracks  
Subsequent names/uses:        Officers' family housing

Date: 1834-36 - construction  
1860s - iron balconies placed at second story; triangular structure incorporated into barracks building  
1920-21 - changes at basement level in rear

Architect:        Engineering Department or Quartermaster Department

Style: Greek Revival

Material:        Brick and brownstone on masonry bearing walls  
Stories:        2

*Designated New York City Landmark September 19, 1967*  
*National Register listing*



Building 206 is a long, relatively narrow two-story barracks structure. The brick facing is laid up in Flemish bond on a granite and sandstone foundation. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Two-story Doric columns of brownstone (now painted) support a wood cornice below the roofline. Continuous iron balconies approached by iron staircases are

placed in front of the second story windows. The window openings have splayed brick lintels and sandstone sills with six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paneled wood entrance doors below transoms opening onto the porch are set behind storm doors. The porch bases and steps have been rebuilt. The east end wall is angled, the result

of the incorporation of a small triangular structure into this building. The rear wall faced with brick is surmounted by a wood cornice. The six-over-six windows are set behind storm sash.

Building 206 is one of four buildings constructed inside the Fort Columbus quadrangle to house the Fort Columbus garrison, at a time when the military presence on Governors Island was growing. The barracks in the original fort of the 1790s, which survived demolition during its reconstruction in 1806-09, had very badly deteriorated by the late 1820s. These quadrangle buildings have been in continuous use as housing for officers and/or enlisted men; under the Coast Guard they have

served as family housing. Numerous alterations have been made to the interiors to improve the living quarters.

A report on Governors Island by the Surgeon General's Office in 1875 described the quadrangle buildings as equipped with basement kitchens for the troops and officers quartered inside the fort. Several two-story triangular buildings at the corners of the barracks housed tailors, married soldiers, a bakery, barbershop, sculleries, and privies. The HABS report of 1934 states that at one time there were eight such structures around the quadrangle, five of which have been incorporated into the barracks structures.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-1B  
NHL  
Milner, 261-266

LPC photos: 20: 19-20; 21: 19-26 (3/28/96)

### Related Structures

**Buildings 205 and 208 - one-story brick garages, built 1935-37.**

LPC photos: 21: 34-35; 22: 18 (3/28/96)

**Building 207 - one-story triangular structure on a granite and sandstone foundation, built 1834-36 (see above).**

LPC photos: 22: 14-18 (3/28/96)

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-1B  
NHL



**BUILDING NO. 210**

Interior quadrangle of Fort Jay

Original name/use: Fort Columbus Barracks

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' family housing

Date: 1834-1836 - construction

1860s - iron balconies placed at second story

1880 - triangular structures incorporated into barracks building

1920-21 - changes at basement level in rear

Architect: Engineering Department or Quartermaster Department

Style: Greek Revival

Material: Brick and brownstone on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2

*Designated New York City Landmark September 19, 1967*

*National Register listing*



Building 210 is a long, relatively narrow two-story barracks structure. The brick facing is laid up in Flemish bond on a granite and sandstone foundation. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Two-story Doric columns of brownstone (now painted) support a wood cornice below the roofline. Continuous iron balconies approached by iron staircases are

placed in front of the second story windows. The window openings have splayed brick lintels and sandstone sills with six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paneled wood entrance doors below transoms opening onto the porch are set behind storm doors. The porch bases and steps have been rebuilt. A vaulted passageway leads through

and under the building to the west side of the fort. The north and south end walls are angled, the result of the incorporation of small triangular structures into this building. The rear wall faced with brick is surmounted by a wood cornice. The six-over-six windows are set behind storm sash.

Building 210 is one of four buildings constructed inside the Fort Columbus quadrangle to house the Fort Columbus garrison, at a time when the military presence on Governors Island was growing. The barracks in the original fort of the 1790s, which survived demolition during its reconstruction in 1806-09, had by the late 1820s very badly deteriorated. These quadrangle buildings have been in continuous use as housing for officers

and/or enlisted men; under the Coast Guard they have served as family housing. Numerous alterations have been made to the interiors to improve the living quarters.

A report on Governors Island by the Surgeon General's Office in 1875 described the quadrangle buildings as equipped with basement kitchens for the troops and officers quartered inside the fort. Several two-story triangular buildings at the corners of the barracks housed tailors, married soldiers, a bakery, barbershop, sculleries, and privies. The HABS report of 1934 states that at one time there were eight such structures around the quadrangle, five of which have been incorporated into the barracks structures.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-1C  
NHL  
Milner, 267-272

LPC photos: 20: 25-26; 22: 2-10; 23: 6-9 (3/28/96)

#### Related Structures

Buildings 209 and 211 - one-story brick garages, built 1935-37.

LPC photos: 22: 11-12, 32 (3/28/96)

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-1C  
NHL

**BUILDING NO. 214**

Interior quadrangle of Fort Jay

Original name/use: Fort Columbus Barracks

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' family housing

Date: 1834-36 - construction

1860s - iron balconies placed at second story

1898 - triangular structure incorporated into barracks building

1920-21 - changes at basement level in rear

Architect: Engineering Department or Quartermaster Department

Style: Greek Revival

Material: Brick and brownstone on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2

*Designated New York City Landmark September 19, 1967*

*National Register listing*



Building 214 is a long, relatively narrow two-story barracks structure. The brick facing is laid up in Flemish bond on a granite and sandstone foundation. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Two-story Doric columns of brownstone (now painted) support a wood cornice below the roofline. Continuous iron balconies approached by iron staircases are

placed in front of the second story windows. The window openings have splayed brick lintels and sandstone sills with six-over-six double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. The paneled wood entrance doors below transoms opening onto the porch are set behind storm doors. The porch bases and steps have been rebuilt. A vaulted passageway leads through

and under the building to the powder magazine under the north ravelin. The east end wall is angled, the result of the incorporation of a small triangular structure into this building. The rear wall faced with brick is surmounted by a wood cornice. The six-over-six windows are set behind storm sash.

Building 214 is one of four buildings constructed inside the Fort Columbus quadrangle to house the Fort Columbus garrison, at a time when the military presence on Governors Island was growing. The barracks in the original fort of the 1790s, which survived demolition during its reconstruction in 1806-09, had very badly deteriorated by the late 1820s. These quadrangle buildings have been in continuous use as housing for officers and/or

enlisted men; under the Coast Guard they have served as family housing. Numerous alterations have been made to the interiors to improve the living quarters.

A report on Governors Island by the Surgeon General's Office in 1875 described the quadrangle buildings as equipped with basement kitchens for the troops and officers quartered inside the fort. Several two-story triangular buildings at the corners of the barracks housed tailors, married soldiers, a bakery, barbershop, sculleries, and privies. The HABS report of 1934 states that at one time there were eight such structures around the quadrangle, five of which have been incorporated into the barracks structures.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-1D  
NHL  
Milner, 273-279

LPC photos: 22: 19-29 (3/28/96)

#### Related Structures

Buildings 212 and 217 - one-story brick garages, built 1935-37.  
LPC photos: 21: 15-16; 22: 30-31 (3/28/96)

Building 213 - one-story triangular structure on a granite and sandstone foundation, built 1834-36 (see above).  
LPC photos: 22: 33-36 (3/28/96)

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-1D  
NHL

**BUILDING NO. S-251**

Corner of Andes Road and Tampa Road

Original name/use: Quartermaster storehouse and shop

Subsequent names/uses: Tampa Memorial Library

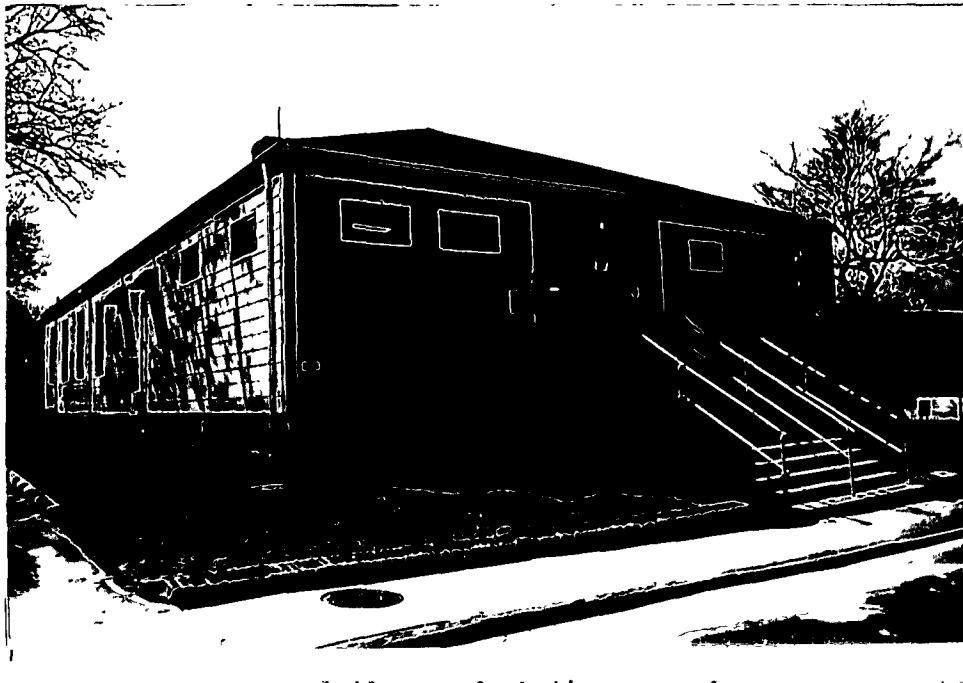
Date: c.1908 - construction

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Utilitarian

Material: Asbestos shingles and wood siding on wood frame

Stories: 1



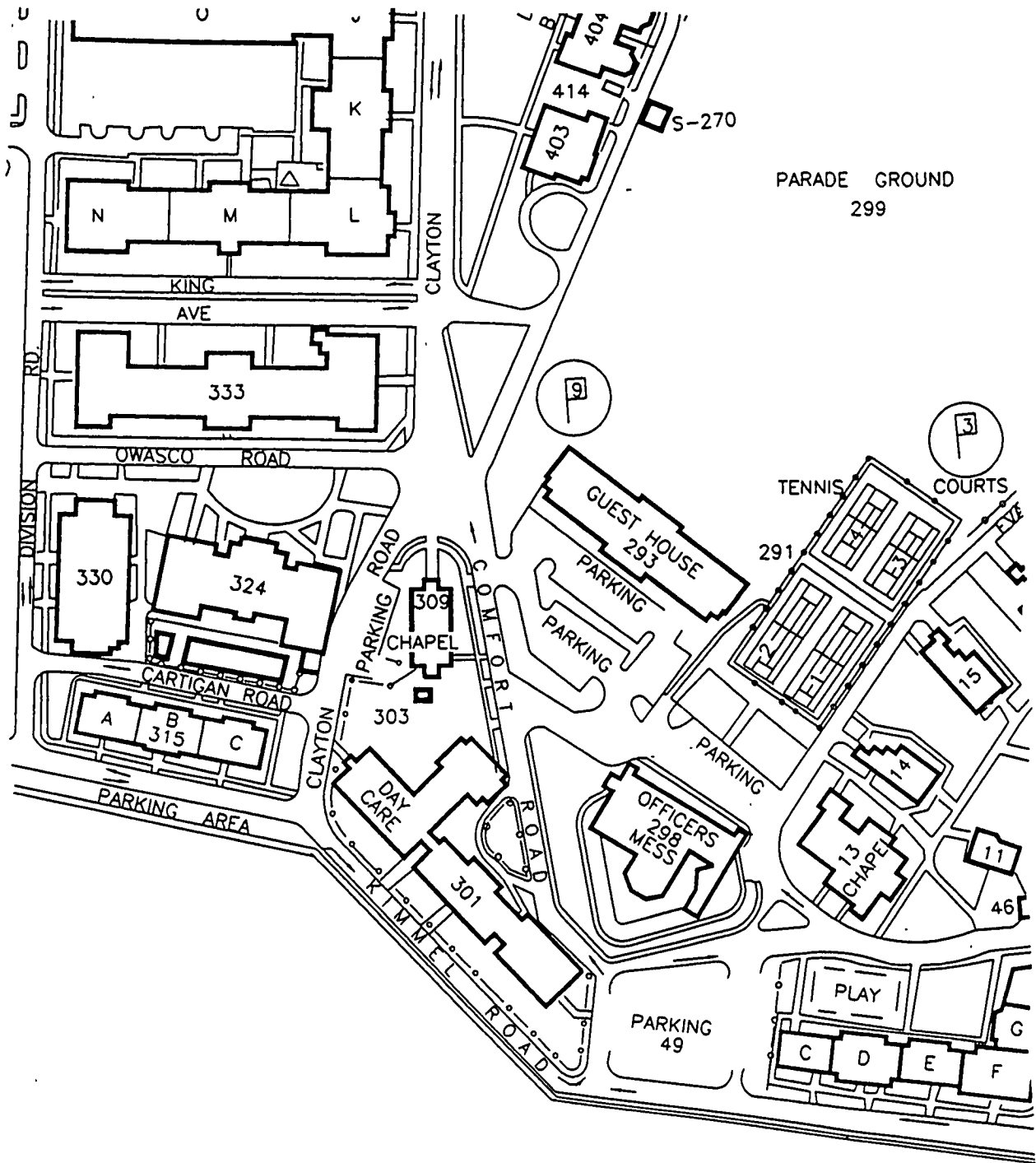
Building S-251 is a rectangular one-story wood frame structure set on a high brick basement (now painted). The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The northern half of the structure is covered with asbestos shingles and lit by small clerestory windows. The northern entrance is approached by concrete steps. The southern half of the structure is covered with aluminum siding, although the wood framing is exposed at the corners, and has large eight-over-eight windows. A wooden entrance porch

is placed at the southern end.

Building S-251 was built about 1908 to serve the needs of the Fort Jay Quartermaster for storage and as a workshop. The structure, named the Tampa Memorial Library in commemoration of the sinking of the *Tampa* battleship in 1918, has served as the base library.

Sources: NHL

LPC photos: 2: 20-28 (3/25/96)



BUILDING KEY MAP: BUILDINGS 293 AND 298

**BUILDING NO. 293**

Facing Comfort Road east of Barry Road

Original name/use: Governors Island Guest House (Super 8 Motel)

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1986 - construction

Architect: Undetermined

Style: "Colonial"

Material: Brick veneer on steel frame

Stories: 2



Building 293 is a two-story building with red brick facing. The hipped and gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The windows contain paired, double-hung aluminum sash with applied muntin grids. Pedimented entrance porticos, each with four Doric columns, are placed at the center of the south and north elevations.

This motel structure replaced a one-and-a-half-

story frame structure on a brick base built as quarters for officers of the Quartermaster Corps. That structure was extensively renovated for guesthouse use in the late 1930s.

The parking lot in front of Building 293 is the site of the Fort Columbus cemetery. The bodies were removed to Cypress Hills Cemetery, Queens, in 1889 as the post was expanding and constructing new buildings.

Sources: NHL  
Milner, 280-283

LPC photos: 5: 28-29

**BUILDING NO. 298**

Corner of Comfort Road and Barry Road and overlooking Buttermilk Channel

Original name/use: South Battery or Half Moon Battery

Subsequent names/uses: Barracks, Officers' Mess Hall, Catholic Chapel, Court Martial Rooms, Recreation and Lecture Hall, Dining Hall (Corbin Hall), Officers' Club, South Battery Club

Date: 1812 - construction

1840s and 1860s - barracks building constructed and enlarged

1936-37 - second story rebuilt as Corbin Hall

Architect: Army Corps of Engineers (based on designs of Lt. Col. Jonathan Williams)

Style: Military with neo-Georgian details on addition

Material: Red sandstone and brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2



North Facade

Building 298 has a lower level consisting of the red sandstone block wall of the original fortifications which incorporates and is surmounted by a cross-gabled structure faced with brick laid up in Flemish bond. The gabled roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The main entrance is created by tooled rusticated stone blocks. The entrance doors are glass and

shielded by a projecting canvas canopy. Window openings have splayed brick lintels and brownstone sills with eight-over-two and two-over-two double-hung wood sash set behind storm sash. A prominent Palladian window in a wood surround fronted by a wooden balustrade is placed at the second story level to the right of the entranceway. A brick wing projecting to



the south facing Buttermilk Channel has an asphalt-covered hipped roof. This wing features arched window openings with stone keystones and sills containing window sash with intertwined muntins. Pedimented wood doorways and wood Palladian windows in this wing face an outdoor terrace built on the sandstone wall. Copper flashing has been placed around the window surrounds. A massive air conditioning unit has been placed on the roof at the southwest end.

The South Battery, the third component of the fortification of Governors Island in preparation for war with Britain at the beginning of the nineteenth century, was designed to guard against a harbor invasion by way of Buttermilk Channel, which separates the island from Brooklyn. It had an arrowhead shape with thirteen cannon mounted *en barbette*, i.e., on an

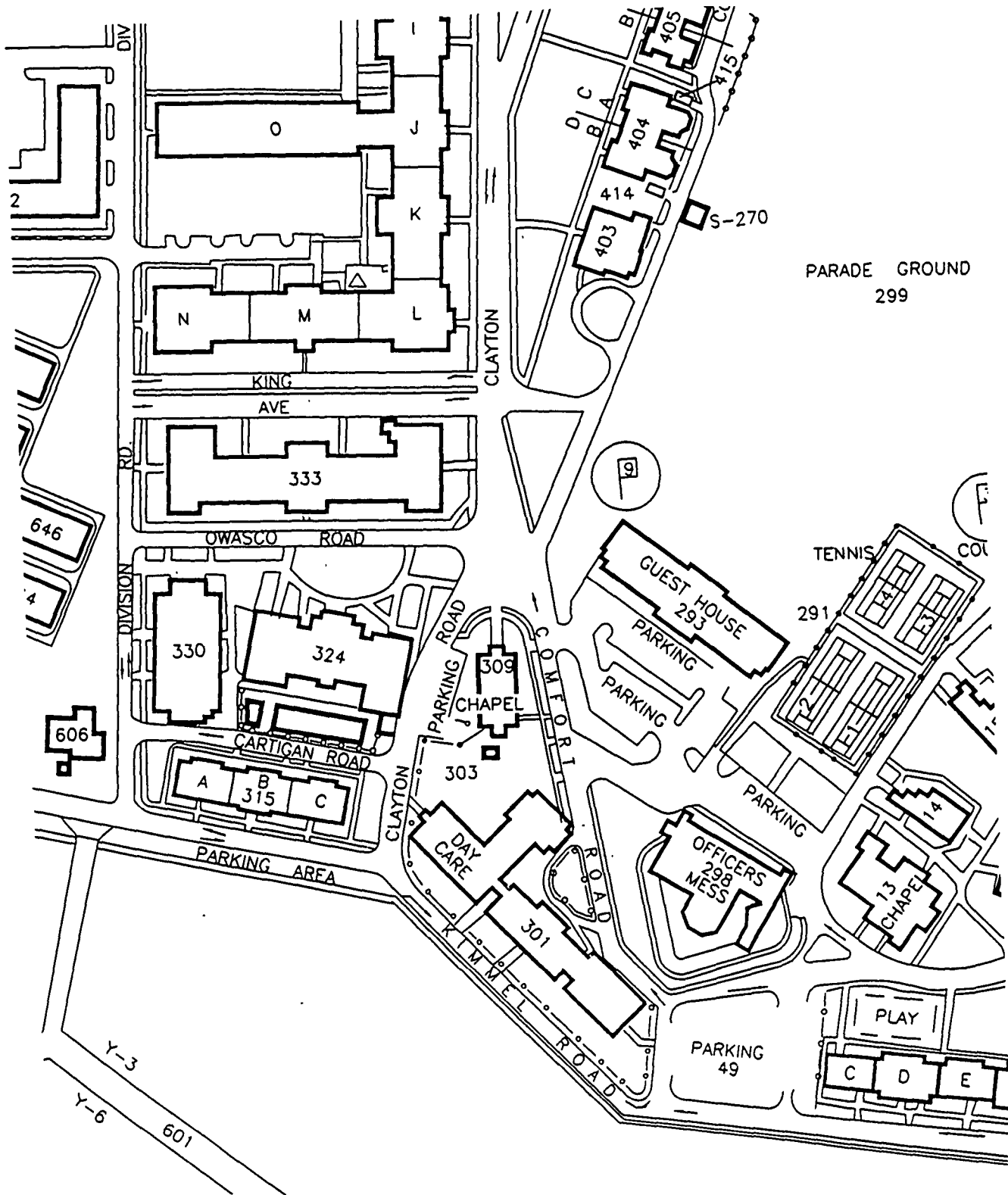
open parapet. Like its counterparts, Fort Jay and Castle Williams, the South Battery was a solid masonry structure, built of red sandstone, in keeping with the objectives of the Second American System. In the 1840s, a one-story barracks building with a gable roof was constructed within the battery. Prior to 1863, a second story was added. Building 298 served as barracks for non-commissioned staff until 1878, when it was converted to an officers' mess hall and part was used as a Catholic chapel. In the mid-1880s court martial rooms were located here. A major remodeling project in 1904 converted the South Battery to an amusement hall and lecture room for enlisted men. The WPA rebuilt the second floor as Corbin Hall in 1936-37; by 1939 the building was in use as the Officers' Club, a function it still serves.



Wall Facing Buttermilk Channel

Sources: HABS NY-5715-11  
NHL  
Milner, 284-290

LPC photos: 25: 28-36; 26: 2-15 (3/28/96)



BUILDING KEY MAP: BUILDINGS 301, 309, 315, 324, 330, 333

**BUILDING NO. 301**

Overlooking Buttermilk Channel, south of Kimmel Road.

Original name/use: Public School 26

Subsequent names/uses: Child Development Center

Date: 1934 - construction

1959-60 - wings added

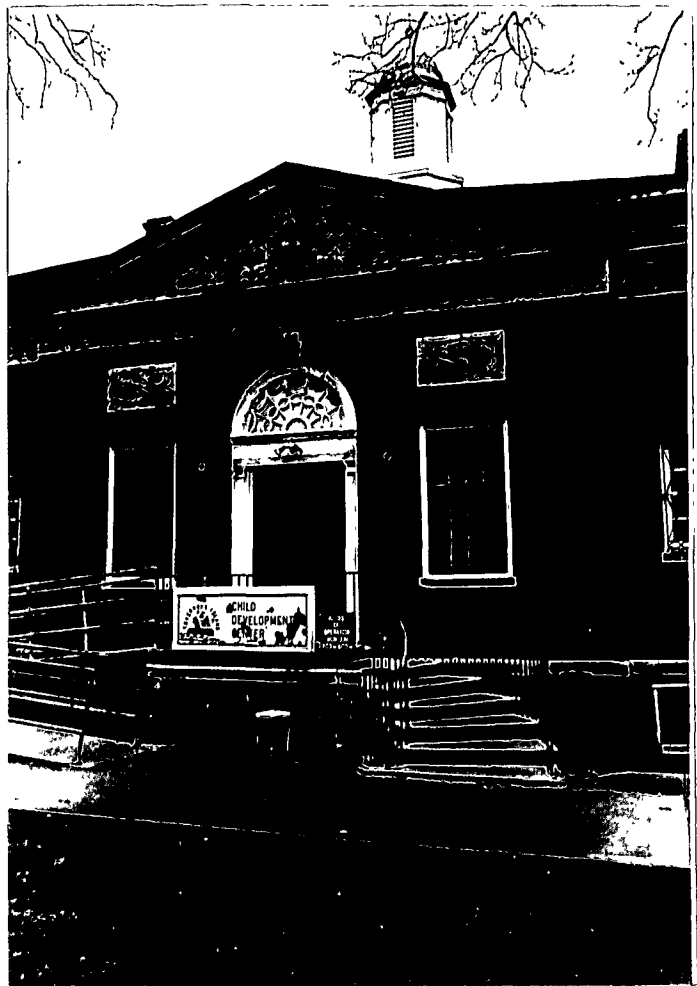
Architect: Eric Kibbon

Style: Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 1 with basement

Building 301 is a one-story structure with a modified L plan. The reddish-brown brick facing is laid up in Flemish bond on a brick foundation. Brick quoins mark the corners and the bay divisions. The central section has a asphalt-covered pyramidal roof with a cupola and a projecting pedimented entrance pavilion on the north side. Semi-circular cast stone steps on a brick base (modified on one side with a ramp) with wrought-iron railings approach the arched entranceway. The entrance surround has wood pilasters supporting a transom with decorative fanlight. The cast stone pediment contains an eagle in relief. The doors are aluminum and glass. On the south (Kimmel Road) side, the entrance pavilion has three arched French doors opening onto a veranda of brick and cast stone. The paneled doors are wood and glass. Both the central section and the wings have a cast stone bandcourse above the basement and window openings with cast stone sills and splayed brick lintels. The window sash are double-hung metal replacements with applied muntin grids.



This school building was constructed in 1934 when the army base at Governors Island expanded to accommodate the needs of the 16th Regiment. The architect, Eric Kibbon, practiced in New York City during the 1930s. The neo-Georgian design is not only compatible with the many residential structures built on the base at the time, but was also one that was popular for public school design. The incorporation of a cast stone eagle placed in the

pediment of the entrance pavilion is particularly appropriate for a school on a military base. Wings at the east and north, added in 1959-60, are stylistically compatible with the center pavilion. After the construction of a larger public school (c. 1970) on the portion the island which is outside the boundaries of the historic district, this building was converted to a daycare center.

*Sources:* NHL

LPC photos: 24: 2-27 (3/28/96)

**BUILDING NO. 309**

Intersection of Clayton Road and Comfort Road

Original name/use: Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Chapel

Subsequent name/uses: Same

Date: c.1942 - construction  
1970s - building re-sided

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Vernacular

Material: Vinyl siding on wood frame

Stories: 1



Building S-309 is a one-story rectangular frame structure, covered with vinyl siding. The gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. A tower at the north end, rising behind the entrance porch, has a copper finial. A brick chimney is at the south end. The window openings have six-over-six sash on the north end; the other window openings on the sides

have sixteen-over-sixteen sash set behind storm sash.

Building S-309 was built as a Roman Catholic chapel about 1942 as the Army base was expanding during the Second World War. It has remained in that use.

Sources: NHL

LPC photos: 14: 30-37 (3/26/96)

**BUILDING NO. 315**

Overlooking Buttermilk Channel, facing Craig Road South

Original name/use: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing (16th Regiment)

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing

Date: 1938-40 - construction

Architect: Construction Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 3-1/2



Building 315 is a three-and-one-half story rectangular structure. The red brick facing is laid in common bond interrupted by rows of header courses above a cast stone base terminating in a molding. The north and south facades are organized into three sections. On the south, this organization is marked by a shallow projecting pavilion surmounted by a pediment which intersects the slate-covered gabled roof. On the north facade, three projecting wings are surmounted by slate-covered hipped roofs. The roofs are punctuated by arched dormers. The entrances to each of

the three sections are on the south facade. Each is approached by concrete steps with wrought-iron railings. The cast stone entrance surrounds have pilasters supporting an arched pediment. The paneled wood entrance doors below transoms and above granite door sills are set behind storm doors. The window openings all around the building have cast stone sills and splayed brick lintels. The double-hung metal window sash are either six-over-six or eight-over-eight replacements. The walls terminate in a wood cornice below the roof line.

Building 315 was constructed in 1938-40 as one of a pair with Building 555 as family housing for officers of the 16th Regiment. Situated on landfill overlooking the Buttermilk Channel, it was part of the unified beautification plan proposed in 1928 for Governors Island by the Office of McKim, Mead & White.

Construction was delayed until funding became available in the late 1930s. Stylistically it is compatible with other contemporary structures on the island and the earlier work of the McKim, Mead & White firm.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-9 (for background)  
NHL  
Milner, 7, 291-296

LPC photos: 24: 28-36; 25: 2-5 (3/28/95)

**BUILDING NO. 324**

Facing Owasco Road, north of Cartigan Road

Original name/use: Army YMCA [Fort Jay]

Subsequent names/uses: Fort Jay YMCA, vacant

Date: 1926 - construction

Architect: May & Hillard

Style: Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 2 and 1



Building 324 is a rectangular structure with a two-story center section flanked by one-story wings. The red brick facing is laid up in Flemish bond. A limestone bandcourse bearing the date "1926" marks the foundation. The center section has an asphalt-covered hipped roof and a projecting two-story wood entrance portico with a gabled pediment. The portico is approached by granite steps. The entrance has a limestone surround and paired paneled wood doors. A panel reading "Army YMCA" is placed above the door. The flanking wings have asphalt-covered pyramidal roofs and

pedimented doorway surrounds of wood. The window openings have splayed brick lintels; those which have not been boarded up retain six-over-six double-hung sash. On the rear elevation of the central section, the frame second story has been covered with aluminum siding. An open-air swimming pool is also located on this side of the building.

This building, constructed in 1926 to the designs of the New York architectural firm of May & Hillard as the Army YMCA, was the first large-scale masonry structure built after



World War I. The neo-Georgian style set the pattern for the buildings which followed. It replaced an earlier, much smaller YMCA

building. The building has been vacant for several years.

*Sources:* NHL  
LPC photos: 23: 21-35 (3/28/95)

**BUILDING NO. 330**

Facing Owasco Road, north of Cartigan Road

Original name/use: War Department Theater

Subsequent names/uses: movie theater, auditorium

Date: 1937-39 - construction

Architect: Construction Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Neo-Georgian detail

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 2



Building 330 is a two-story theater building on a concrete foundation faced with reddish-brown brick laid in American bond. The main block of the building has brick quoins at the corners and a slate-covered hipped roof. On the north side is a two-story gabled projection above the entrance portico. This projection has three blind arches with cast stone keystones and impost blocks, brick quoins, and a raking wood cornice outlining the gable. A metal sign bar bearing the letters "THEATRE" extends across the arches. A one-story wood entrance portico with a flat roof extends across the north front and

shelters the freestanding ticket booth and the entrances to the theater. Openings along the east and west sides of the building have wood double-hung six-over-six sash and auxiliary entrances/exits. A projecting wing with a hipped roof has been added at the south end of the building.

This theater design, with a rectangular plan and neo-Georgian detail, was typical of those constructed on military bases during this period. It has continued to be used for the showing of films and as an auditorium.

Sources: NHL

Milner, 297-301

LPC photos: 23: 10-20 (3/28/96)

**BUILDING NO. 333**

Between King Avenue and Owasco Road, Division Road and Clayton Road

Original name/use: Detachment Barracks: First Army

Subsequent names/uses: Offices, Training Center

Date: 1938-40 - construction

Architect: Construction Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 3



Building 333 is a three-story structure arranged in a U-shaped plan with the long section fronting Owasco Road and the projecting wings fronting Clayton Road and Division Road. The red brick facing laid in common bond interrupted by header courses rises from a concrete foundation. A limestone bandcourse separates the first story from the upper stories. The intersecting asphalt-covered roofs are gabled and are further intersected by a center cross-gabled projection in the long section. On the Owasco Road side, this projection contains

an entrance porch composed of stone columns and pilasters (now painted) supporting an iron balustrade. The doorway has a granite sill. The paired paneled wood and glass doors are set below a transom. The entrance porches facing Clayton Road and Division Road are similarly detailed, but are also enclosed with wood and glass panels. Palladian windows are located at the second story above these entrance porches. The side of the building facing King Avenue is oriented around a courtyard and has two-story open galleries (now partially

enclosed) with square cast stone columns linked by wrought-iron railings rising above a first story window arcade. On all sides of the building at the first story, blind arcades with limestone keystones frame segmental-arched window openings. Square-headed window openings with limestone sills are used at the second and third stories. The windows are metal double-hung six-over-six replacement sash. A cast-stone bandcourse is placed below the eaves of the roofline. The pediments formed by the gable ends are filled in with stucco and enclose lunettes.

Building 333 was constructed in 1940 as one of a pair with Building 550 as barracks for the First Army, designed to house 375 people. Both were built flanking Building 400 and were part of the unified beautification plan proposed

in 1928 for Governors Island by the Office of McKim, Mead & White. Construction was delayed until funding became available in the late 1930s. Stylistically compatible with other contemporary structures on the island and the earlier work of the McKim, Mead & White firm, it is very similar in its general design (although on a smaller scale) to Building 400. When built, the main entrance was oriented to Owasco Road.

After the First Army moved its headquarters to Bristol, England, in 1943, the barracks were turned over to the Second Service Command which converted part of the building for office space. In 1946 the building housed a WAC detachment. In 1966 the Coast Guard converted the building to classrooms for training purposes.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-9 (for background)  
NHL  
Milner, 302-307

LPC photos: 25: 6-27 (3/28/95)



## BUILDING NO. 400

Facing Clayton Road between Wheeler Avenue, King Avenue, and Division Road; intersected by Early Bird Road

Original name/use: 16th Infantry Regimental Barracks

Subsequent names/uses: Liggett Hall/barracks, administration, training center

Date: 1929-30 - construction

1950s - enclosure of porches and arcades on the quadrangle

1967-68 - Dormitory wing (Section O) added (Roberts and Schaefer Co., Inc. Architects and Engineers); rear wing extended from Section G

Architect: Office of McKim, Mead & White  
Erected by the Quartermaster Corps

Style: Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 3, 4, and 4-½

Building 400 is U-shaped in plan, facing Regimental Row across Clayton Road. The building forms three sides of a quadrangle, broken by a monumental, arched sallyport, spanning Early Bird Road. The structure is faced with red brick laid in common bond interrupted by header courses, set on a concrete foundation. The four-and-one-half-story central section with a steeply pitched slate-covered gabled roof with prominent paired end chimneys, is crowned by a cupola surmounted by a copper weather vane rising above the sallyport. The sallyport arch of alternating brick and stone voussoirs is set within a shallow projection delineated by quoins and surmounted by an boldly scaled pediment enclosing an incised date stone "MCMXXIX" [1929] below the stone relief Seal of the United States. A cornerstone at the base of the arch is inscribed "Erected by the Quartermaster Corps, 1929." The three-story sections extending from the central block are punctuated by shallow gabled entrance projections with pediments intersecting the slate-covered gabled roofs. (Solar panels have been added to some of



Detail of Sally Port

the roof slopes.) The entrances with wood and glass paneled doors are approached by small limestone porches set on granite steps, with Tuscan columns and pilasters supporting flat roofs surmounted by wrought-iron balustrades. These sections terminate in four-story corner pavilions surmounted by slate-covered hipped roofs surmounted by copper finials. The faces of the corner pavilions are articulated by shallow pedimented projections set against fourth-story parapet-like wall sections with oculi. Entrance porches in the corner pavilions are like those in the three-story sections. The facades facing Wheeler Avenue and King Avenue are arranged and detailed like the Clayton Road facade with four-story corner pavilions flanking three-story sections. The returns of the corner pavilions facing Division Road are similarly detailed. Each of these facades has a first-story blind arcade, pierced by segmental-arched windows. The arcades have limestone keystones and limestone bandcourses separate the first and second stories and surmount the third stories. Window openings have limestone sills (in some places replaced by cast stone). The window sash are six-over-six double-hung metal replacements. The inner sides (Division Road side) of the building are arranged around a vast quadrangle. The central block is detailed on this side like the Clayton Road facade, but the other sections have two-story open galleries with square cast stone posts above first-story arcades, which were originally open (now mostly enclosed with window infill). Some of the galleries have also been enclosed. The window sash are six-over-six double-hung metal replacements. A three-story wing (Section O) with simple neo-Georgian detail extends into the quadrangle. A smaller two-story wing has been added to the main block extending from Section G. Metal towers for navigational equipment have been placed in the courtyard adjacent to Sections K and L. The inner walls of the sallyport extending through the main block of the building are faced with brick, with brick pilasters supporting a stucco-covered groin vaulted ceiling.

At the time of its construction, Building 400 was the first Army building designed to house an entire regiment. It remains one of the largest Army buildings in the world, more than 1000 feet long with two 225-foot wings at each end. Building 400 was the centerpiece of a building campaign and "Island Beautiful" program in the 1930s, which included improvements and landscaping throughout the island, conducted in part by the WPA. While Building 400 introduced an unprecedented scale to the island's mix of buildings, it reflected the island's historic associations through its materials, its skillful articulation of detail, and its architectural references to Fort Jay. In particular, its monumental archway echoes and is on axis with the fort's sallyport.

Building 400's origins date to 1900, when a board of officers was convened under Secretary of War Elihu Root to inspect Governors Island and to recommend an improvement plan. One of the recommendations was that "the buildings proposed for the island be erected only on plans prepared by competent architects." In 1902, Elihu Root selected McKim, Mead & White to prepare a preliminary plan for the improvements. This plan called for the nearly complete elimination of existing buildings, and the creation of a 1700-foot parade ground lined with barracks to house an entire regiment. Federal appropriations for the plan initially funded only the land expansion (which doubled the island's acreage) and construction of the sea wall. It was not until nearly three decades later, that construction on this building began. This "model barracks," designed by the Office of McKim, Mead & White (successors to the named principals), was built to house the 1375 men of the 16th Infantry, part of the Second Corps Area, which was headquartered on the island between the World Wars. In 1928 the federal Deficiency Act appropriated \$1,086,000 for construction of the building, and \$30,000 for architects' fees.



Central Section Facing Clayton Road



Three-story Section Facing Clayton Road





Central Section Facing Division Road



King Avenue Facade

According a *New York Times* article of 1929, the Army was not in complete agreement with the architects regarding the building's placement. The Second Corps Area recommended it be placed lengthwise instead of crosswise on the island, extending down the Buttermilk Channel side of the island, citing ventilation from the westerly winds as an advantage of that location. Nonetheless the siting of the building called for in the McKim, Mead & White plan was heeded, and the building was built along the edge of the original southwestern shoreline. It was the first permanent structure built entirely on the landfill, and because of insecurity over the landfill's stability, the foundations of the building rest on piles set into bedrock in the harbor. Building 400 also separates the island's historic area from its landfill portion and post World War II construction. Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, as part of his long crusade for an airfield on Governors Island, accused the Army of constructing Building 400 across the island to thwart his plans.

The original plan was a network of interlocking sections linked by an arcade and external two-story porch that served as a corridor (these were enclosed in the 1950s), dividing both the squads and the spaces according to function. A series of 14 self-contained sections for squads of men was divided into eight sections in the main sections of the building, four sections in the corners and end pavilions, and two sections in the central block in the middle of the building. Within each section were kitchens, mess rooms, sleeping rooms, day rooms for officers, and storage. The drill hall was located on the top floor of the central block.

In 1957, Building 400 was named Liggett Hall by the Army after First Army commander Lieutenant General Hunter Liggett. In 1959 the structure was redesigned to house 807 men in peacetime instead of the 1375 men for whom it was originally designed. A series of alterations in the 1960s and early 1970s were conducted by the Coast Guard to upgrade living conditions in the building, including the addition of two new wings and closing portions of the first-story arcade.



Courtyard Facade

*Sources:*       HABS NY-5715-8  
                  NHL  
                  Milner, 308-315

LPC photos:     8; 9; 10; 11: 2-17 (3/26/96); 26: 16 (3/28/96)

### Related Structures



Structure 431 - red brick and cast stone exedra and bench, built in April 1938 as a "Monumental Setting for Bronze Plaque" by the WPA. The plaque itself bearing the date of 16 June 1937 commemorates the 300 year purchase of Governors Island. This structure faces the sallyport of Building 400 and fronts Hay Road. It is a prominent feature is the triangular park-like area between Regimental Row and Building 400.

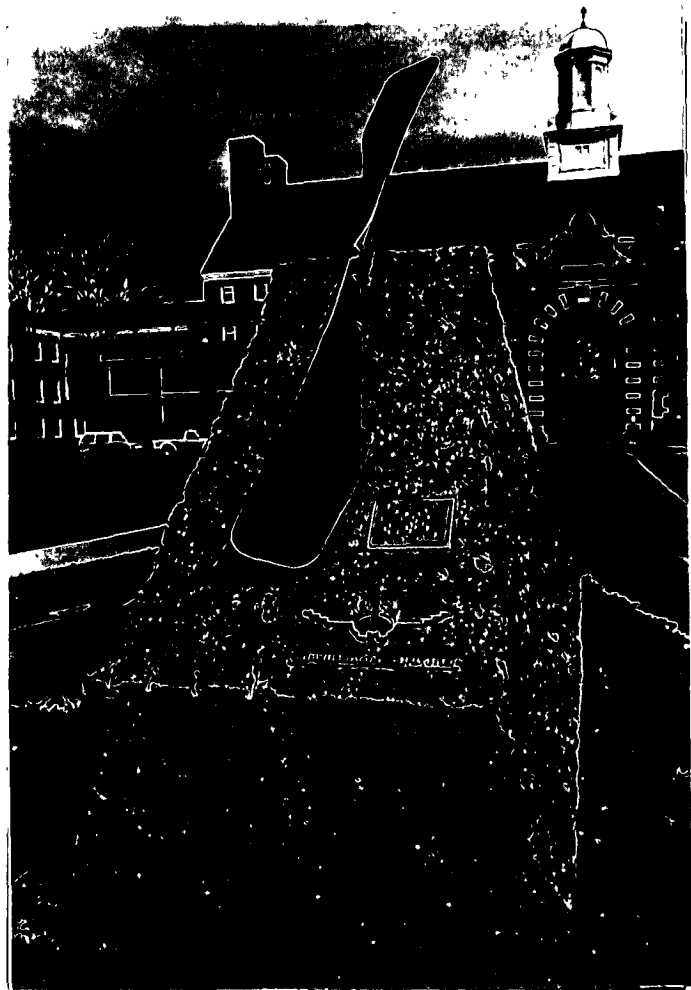
Source: NHL

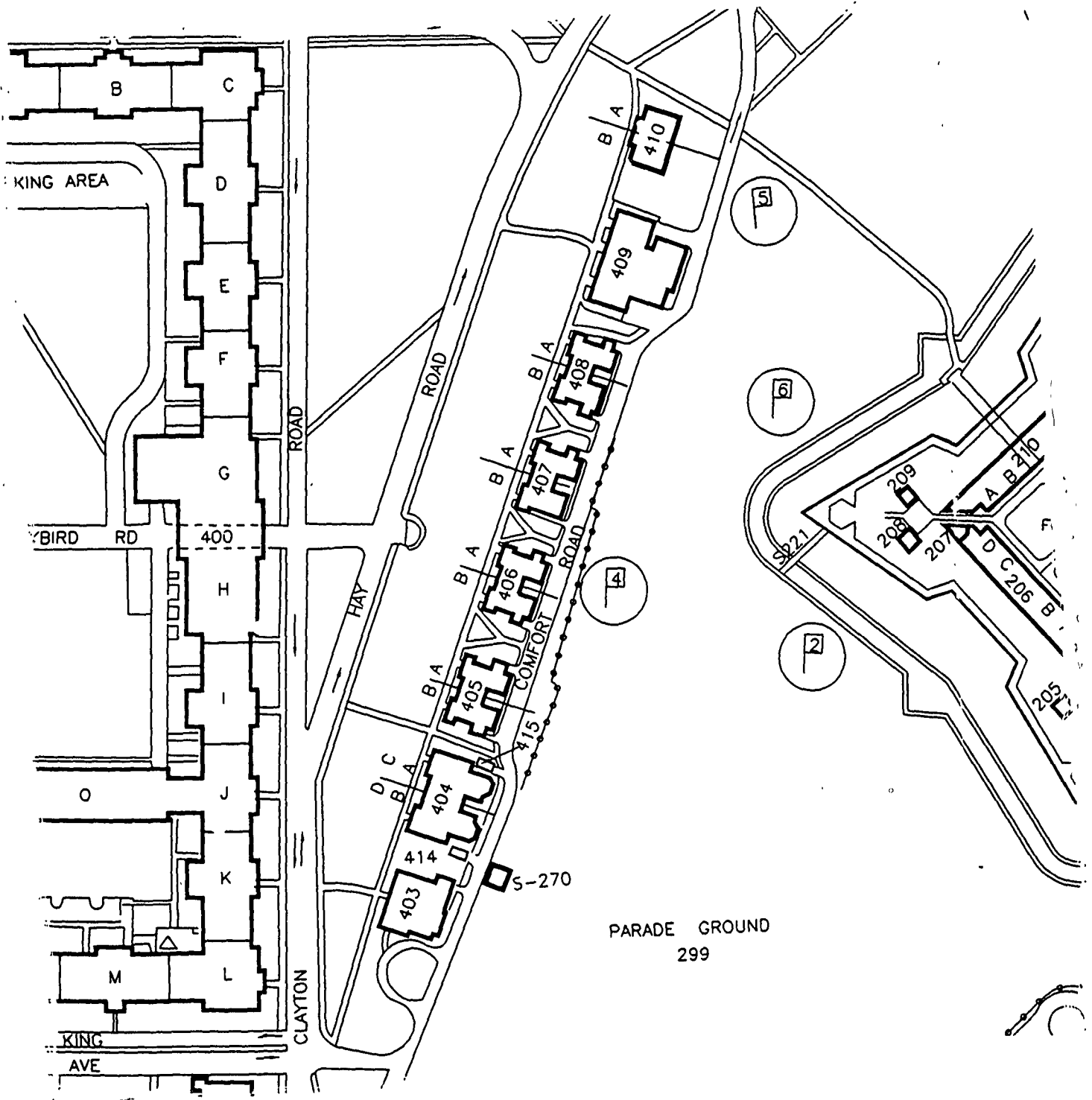
LPC photos: 11: 18-19 (3/26/96)

Structure 456 - Early Bird Monument - rough-cut granite marker with a bronze propeller cast from a wooden propeller used by the Wright brothers. It was dedicated in 1954 in honor of pioneer aviators by the Early Birds, an organization of aviators who flew solo before December 17, 1916. The island was used as an airstrip in pioneering flights by Wilbur Wright in 1909 and Glenn Curtiss in 1910. The monument is situated on a small triangular plot at the intersection of Division Road and Early Bird Road.

Source: NHL

LPC photos: 10: 20-21 (3/26/96)





BUILDING KEY MAP: BUILDINGS 403 - 410

## Regimental Row, between Clayton Road, Hay Road, and Comfort Road

Date: 1904-06 - construction  
1931 - attached garage added at northeast corner

Architect: Quartermaster General Office

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls  
Stories: 2 with attic



Building 403 is a two-and-one-half story house faced with red pressed brick set on a foundation of schist. A gabled front wing projects from the gabled-roof main block of the house. Both roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. A wooden porch with Tuscan columns supporting a shallow hipped roof covered with standing-seam metal wraps around the west front and the north side of the house. The columns are linked by balustrades with turned posts. The

porch, which sits on a rebuilt base, is approached by two sets of wooden steps. The northern portion of the porch is screened behind the Tuscan columns. The paired paneled wood entrance doors are set behind storm doors. The window openings have prominent keystones and splayed brick lintels and slate sills. The double-hung two-over-two wood sash are set behind storm sash. Raking denticulated wood cornices outline the gable ends, and denticulated wood

cornices set off the main roof slopes. A small enclosed porch at the southeast corner has aluminum siding. The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick pathways leading from Clayton Road.

Building 403 was built as the last of a group of six brick houses facing the southwestern shoreline of Governors Island, now approximately the line of Hay Road. This group, designed according to standardized Quartermaster General plans, incorporated five

double sets (Buildings 404, 405, 406, 407, and 408) of officers' housing as well as this single-unit dwelling. The houses share general forms and material, although the details vary slightly with the construction dates. In recent years, Building 403 has been the site of meetings between President Ronald Reagan and foreign political leaders, notably French President François Mitterand (1986) and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev (1988). These visits are commemorated by plaques on the inner porch wall.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-12  
NHL  
Milner, 316-319

LPC photos: 5: 19-28 (3/25/96)



**BUILDING NO. 404**

Regimental Row, between Hay Road and Comfort Road

Original name/use: Officers' Quarters: Double Set

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing  
Colonels' Row, Brick Row

Date: 1902-05 - construction

1931/41 - freestanding brick garages (Buildings 414 and 415) added

1936-38 - sun-porch wing added on north side

1952 - converted into four-unit dwelling; front entrance porches removed and copper canopies installed over front entrances

Architect: Quartermaster General office

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 404 is a two-and-one-half story brick double house faced with red pressed brick and set on a foundation of schist. A gabled front section projects from the gabled-roof main block of the house. Two gabled-roof wings project from the rear of the house. All roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The original

entrance porches have been removed from the house and the brickwork and entrances redone. Two sets of brick steps approach the entrances which are surmounted by copper canopies. The paneled wood entrance doors are set behind storm doors. The segmental-arched and round-arched window openings have splayed brick

lintels and slate sills. The double-hung two-over-two wood sash are set behind storm sash. Raking denticulated wood cornices outline the gable ends, and denticulated wood cornices set off the main roof slopes. The north and south gables enclose Palladian windows. A small brick sun-porch wing on a concrete block foundation has been added to the north side of the house. The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick pathways leading from Clayton Road and Hay Road.

Building 404 was built as the one of a group of six brick houses facing the southwestern shoreline of Governors Island, now approximately the line of Hay Road. This group, designed according to standardized Quartermaster General plans, incorporated five double sets (Buildings 404, 405, 406, 407, and 408) of officers' housing as well as a single-unit dwelling (Building 403). The houses share general forms and material, although the details vary slightly with the construction dates. In 1952 when Building 404 was converted into a four-unit dwelling, the front porch was removed and the entrances modified.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-12  
NHL  
Milner, 320-324

LPC photos: 5: 11-18 (3/25/96)

**BUILDING NO. 405**

Regimental Row, between Hay Road and Comfort Road

Original name/use: Officers' Quarters: Double Set

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing  
Colonels' Row, Brick Row

Date: 1893 - construction

1931 - attached garages added

Architect: Quartermaster General Office

Style: Romanesque Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 405 is a two-and-one-half story double house faced with red pressed brick and set on a foundation of schist. A gabled front section projects from the gabled-roof main block of the house. Two hipped-roof wings project from the rear of the house. All roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Hipped-roof dormers with paired windows project from the main roof slope. The two entrance porches have slender wood columns supporting shallow hipped roofs covered with standing seam metal roofs.

Wooden balustrades with turned posts link the columns. The brick porch bases and steps have been rebuilt. The paneled wood entrance doors below transoms are set behind storm doors. The segmental-arched and round-arched window openings have splayed brick lintels and slate sills. The double-hung one-over-one wood sash are set behind storm sash. Raking wood cornices outline the gable ends, and denticulated wood cornices set off the main roof slopes. The north and south gables enclose arched

windows. Small brick garages have been added to the north and south sides of the house. The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick pathways leading from Hay Road.

Building 405 was built as the one of a group of six brick houses facing the southwestern shoreline of Governors Island, now approximately the line of Hay Road. This

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-12  
NHL  
Milner, 325-329

LPC photos: 5: 2-10 (3/25/96)

group, designed according to standardized Quartermaster General plans, incorporated five double sets (Buildings 404, 405, 406, 407, and 408) of officers' housing as well as a single-unit dwelling (Building 403). The houses share general forms and material, although the details vary slightly with the construction dates. Buildings 405 and 406 were the first two houses to be constructed.

**BUILDING NO. 406**

Regimental Row, between Hay Road and Comfort Road

Original name/use: Officers' Quarters: Double Set

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing  
Colonels' Row, Brick Row

Date: 1893 - construction

1931 - attached garages added

Architect: Quartermaster General Office

Style: Romanesque Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 406 is a two-and-one-half story double house faced with red pressed brick and set on a foundation of schist. A gabled front section projects from the gabled-roof main block of the house. Two hipped-roof wings project from the rear of the house. All roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Hipped-roof dormers with paired windows project from the main roof slope. The two entrance porches have slender wood columns supporting shallow hipped roofs covered with standing seam metal roofs.

Wooden balustrades with turned posts link the columns. The brick porch bases and steps have been rebuilt. The paneled wood entrance doors below transoms are set behind storm doors. The segmental-arched and round-arched window openings have splayed brick lintels and slate sills. The double-hung one-over-one wood sash are set behind storm sash; the rear window sash are two-over-two. Raking wood cornices outline the gable ends, and denticulated wood cornices set off the main roof slopes. The north

and south gables enclose arched windows. Small brick garages have been added to the north and south sides of the house. The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick pathways leading from Hay Road.

Building 406 was built as the one of a group of six brick houses facing the southwestern shoreline of Governors Island, now

approximately the line of Hay Road. This group, designed according to standardized Quartermaster General plans, incorporated five double sets (Buildings 404, 405, 406, 407, and 408) of officers' housing as well as a single-unit dwelling (Building 403). The houses share general forms and material, although the details vary slightly with the construction dates. Buildings 405 and 406 were the first two houses to be constructed.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-12  
NHL  
Milner, 330-334

LPC photos: 4: 22-31 (3/25/96)

**BUILDING NO. 407**

Regimental Row, between Hay Road and Comfort Road

Original name/use: Officers' Quarters: Double Set

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing  
Colonels' Row, Brick Row

Date: 1894 - construction

1931 - attached garage added

1936-38 - Quarter 407B completely remodeled; porch rebuilt and enclosed

Architect: Quartermaster General Office

Style: Romanesque Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 407 is a two-and-one-half story double house faced with red pressed brick and set on a foundation of schist. A gabled front section projects from the gabled-roof main block of the house. Two hipped-roof wings project from the rear of the house. All roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Hipped-roof dormers with paired windows project from the main roof slope. The north entrance porch has slender wood columns supporting a shallow hipped roof

covered with a standing seam metal roof. Wooden balustrades with turned posts link the columns. The brick porch base and steps have been rebuilt. The paneled wood entrance door below a transom is set behind a storm door. The south entrance porch has been rebuilt, enlarged, and enclosed as a sun-porch. The segmental-arched and round-arched window openings have splayed brick lintels and slate sills. The double-hung four-over-four wood

sash are set behind storm sash. Raking wood cornices outline the gable ends with denticulation below the gable pediments, and wood cornices set off the main roof slopes. The north and south gables enclose arched windows. A small brick garage has been added to the northeast corner of the house. The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick pathways leading from Hay Road.

Building 407 was built as the one of a group of six brick houses facing the southwestern shoreline of Governors Island, now

approximately the line of Hay Road. This group, designed according to standardized Quartermaster General plans, incorporated five double sets (Buildings 404, 405, 406, 407, and 408) of officers' housing as well as a single-unit dwelling (Building 403). The houses share general forms and material, although the details vary slightly with the construction dates. Buildings 407 and 408 were the second two houses to be constructed. The front porch was rebuilt and enclosed when 407B was remodeled in 1936-38.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-12  
NHL  
Milner, 335-340

LPC photos: 4: 11-21 (3/25/96)



**BUILDING NO. 408**

Regimental Row, between Hay Road and Comfort Road

Original name/use: Officers' Quarters: Double Set

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing  
Colonels' Row, Brick Row

Date: 1895 - construction  
1931 - garages added  
20th c. - entrance porches rebuilt

Architect: Quartermaster General Office

Style: Romanesque Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 408 is a two-and-one-half story double house faced with red pressed brick and set on a base of rusticated schist. A gabled front section projects from the gabled-roof main block of the house. Two gabled-roof wings project from the rear of the house. All roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Gabled dormers with paired windows project from the main roof slope. The two entrance porches have brick columns (not original) supporting shallow

hipped roofs covered with standing seam metal. The brick porch bases and steps have been rebuilt. The paneled wood entrance doors are set behind storm doors. The segmental-arched and round-arched window openings have splayed brick lintels and slate sills. The double-hung two-over-two wood sash are set behind storm sash. Raking wood cornices outline the gable ends with denticulation below the gable pediments, and denticulated wood cornices set

off the main roof slopes. The north and south gables enclose arched windows. A small brick garage has been added to the north side of the house, and a basement level garage approached by a ramp with retaining walls has been added to the south side. The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick pathways leading from Hay Road.

Building 408 was built as the one of a group of six brick houses facing the southwestern

shoreline of Governors Island, now approximately the line of Hay Road. This group, designed according to standardized Quartermaster General plans, incorporated five double sets (Buildings 404, 405, 406, 407, and 408) of officers' housing as well as a single-unit dwelling (Building 403). The houses share general forms and material, although the details vary slightly with the construction dates. Buildings 407 and 408 were the second two houses to be constructed.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-12  
NHL  
Milner, 341-345

LPC photos: 4: 2-10 (3/25/96)

**BUILDING NO. 409**

Regimental Row, between Hay Road and Comfort Road

Original name/use: Bachelor Officers' Quarters

Subsequent names/uses: Colonels' Row, Brick Row

Date: 1910 - construction

1931 - garages added at the north and south sides

20th c. - wood porch columns replaced, in part, by brick columns

Architect: Quartermaster General Office

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 409 is a two-and-one-half-story residence, faced with brown brick laid in common bond above a limestone foundation. It has a T-shaped plan with the main block facing Hay Road and the rear wing projecting east. Both sections have slate-covered hipped roofs with hipped-roof dormers. A two-story wood porch extends across the entire west facade. Three sets of wooden stairs approach the porch. At the first story level, square wood posts on

pedestals are linked by wood balustrades. (The wood posts have been replaced by brick posts at the center of the porch.) At the second story level, round Tuscan columns, linked by wood balustrades, support a shallow hipped roof. A wooden staircase leads from the first story level to the second story level. The porch base has been rebuilt with concrete posts and wood screens. The three entrances to the residence have paired paneled wood doors below

transoms. The window openings have splayed brick lintels. The two-over-two double-hung wood sash are set behind storm sash. Wood cornices accent the rooflines. Garages have been added at the north and south sides of the building. The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick pathways leading from Hay Road.

Building 409 was constructed in 1910 as bachelor officers' quarters at the north end of Regimental Row facing Hay Road. By that time the other officers' quarters to the south had been constructed, and the new landfill project was well underway. Larger in size than the one- and two-unit dwellings, Building 409 still shares a similarity of form and detail with them. Particularly notable is the double-story full-length porch.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-12  
NHL  
Milner, 346-350

LPC photos: 3: 20-32 (3/25/96)

**BUILDING NO. 410**

Regimental Row, between Hay Road and Comfort Road

Original name/use: Officers' Quarters: Double Unit

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing  
Colonels' Row

Date: 1917 - construction

20th c. - screened-in porch added at rear

Architect: Quartermaster General Office

Style: Modified Arts and Crafts

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2



Building 410 is a two-story double house, faced in brown brick laid in common bond and set on brick basement marked by a soldier course band. The rectangular structure has an asphalt-covered hipped roof with wide eaves and end chimneys. A screened entrance porch has brick posts supporting a shallow hipped roof with flared eave brackets. It is approached by two sets of concrete steps with brick wing walls. The entrances have paneled wood doors behind storm doors. The window openings around the

house have limestone sills. The six-over-six double-hung wood sash are set behind storm sash. Small enclosed utility porches have been added at the rear. The house is surrounded by lawn with trees and plantings and approached by brick pathways leading from Hay Road.

Building 410 was the last dwelling to be constructed on Regimental Row facing Hay Road. By that time the new landfill would have been completed. Although designed as a

double unit, it is smaller in size and scale than the other double units to the south. It also differs from them in the color of the brick and in the form of the roof. Although designed

according to a standardized Quartermaster plan, it is the only house of its type on Governors Island.

*Sources:* NHL  
Milner, 351-355

LPC Photos: 3: 10-19 (3/25/96)



**BUILDING NO. 501**

Overlooking Upper New York Bay at the intersection of Hay Road and Andes Road and bordered by Craig Road North and Andes Road

Original name/use: Castle Williams/fortifications

Subsequent names/uses: Barracks and prison

Date: 1807-11 - construction

1895/1904 - parapet wall extended

pre-1916 - two-story structure added to southeast corner

1936-38 - interior timber framing replaced by steel and concrete structure

Architect: Lt. Col. Jonathan Williams

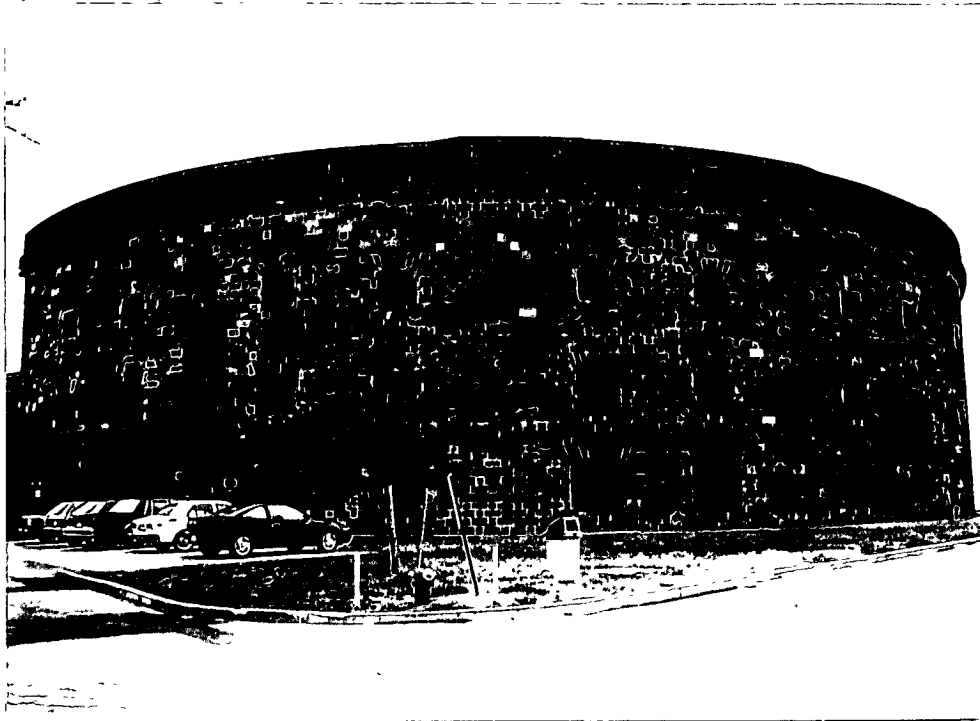
Style: Military: *fort circulaires*

Material: Newark red sandstone, granite, and brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 3

*Designated New York City Landmark September 19, 1967*

*National Register listing*



Facing East River

Building 501, Castle Williams, has three-tiered masonry walls forming three-fifths of a circle two hundred feet in its outer diameter, enclosing a large interior courtyard. A two-

story L-shaped gate house completes the circle around a large interior courtyard. Built of tooled Newark red sandstone, the walls are eight feet thick at the base and seven feet thick



at the top, casemated with arches to support three tiers of guns, and topped with a six-foot granite parapet set on a projecting molded cornice. The arched gun embrasures have splayed brick sills and iron grilles. The gate house, which contains the only entry to the fort, has a small turret at the southeast corner and large wooden gates on the east elevation. The entrance is a through a massive arch with keystone and imposts giving the name and date of the structure. Window openings cut into the second-story level of the gate house have cast stone lintels and sills.

Castle Williams is one of the most significant structures on Governors Island. At the time of its construction, it served as a prototype for seacoast fortifications in America and is today one of the best examples of its type in existence. Castle Williams was built with a commanding view of the harbor, on an outcropping of rocks about 100 feet out into the channel, which until that time had been a navigational hazard. With its "twin," Castle Clinton, across New York Harbor at the Battery, and Fort Jay and the South Battery on the island, Castle Williams was designed as part of a comprehensive strategy for defending New York Harbor.

In 1805, Lt. Col. Jonathan Williams was placed in charge of defenses for New York Harbor, as part of the federal Second American System of fortifications. He was the Chief Engineer of the U.S. Army and the first superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point, and he had a solid theoretical knowledge of fortifications, learned while living in France in 1776-85 under the auspices of his great-uncle, Benjamin Franklin. It is believed that Williams was influenced by the work of the French engineer Montalembert, who advocated the use of multiple circular tiers in fort design.

With less wall space than angular traces, the circular design required less troops and granted greater protection to guns and men. Casemate emplacement allowed heavy guns to be fired

within closed spaces, thus allowing the arrangement of armament in multiple tiers rather than exposing the cannon on top of exposed parapet walls as in traditional fort design. The arrangement greatly increased the volume of fire attainable. Williams further strengthened the Castle's effectiveness by designing the apertures of the casemated embrasures through which the guns were fired so that cannon shot could not pass between the muzzle of the gun and the side of the embrasure. Further, the gun carriages were constructed to allow an angle of 54 degrees for the range of fire, ensuring that the lines of fire would cross each other at less than 20 feet from the exterior wall. These innovative features made Castle Williams one of the most formidable forts in the defense system, and a key factor in deterring British attack on the city during the War of 1812.

Williams' original assessment of New York's defense recognized the importance of the islands in the inner Harbor. In an 1805 report to the Secretary of War, he stated that "there does not appear to be any force that could prevent a ship of war from attacking the city." His remedy was the strategic placement of fortifications in and around the inner harbor, a plan in which Governors Island was a key site. Three fortifications were built there: Fort Jay, Castle Williams, and the South or Half Moon Battery. The construction work was carried out by local builders Hilliard & Louder.

Castle Williams was the largest of the three circular forts designed by Williams for the harbor's defense, which included the single-tiered Castle Gansevoort and Castle Clinton. Castle Clinton was planned as the twin to Castle Williams to create a crossfire against naval attack, but it was not completed beyond the first tier, since the Secretary of War did not approve the costs of a second fort the size of Castle Williams.

In 1810 the fort was named Castle Williams in honor of Lt. Col. Williams, under a salute of

17 guns. (Stokes, 5: 1527) The guns of Castle Williams, never fired in defense, were fired many times as salutary greetings to dignitaries arriving in the harbor, and for many years the fort's "sunset gun" marked the end of the day for New Yorkers.

By mid-century, due to advances in weaponry technology, the defense of New York Harbor focused on the Narrows and the Long Island Sound; thus the fortifications at Governors Island were quickly obsolete. During the Civil War, the Army Engineering Department approved the Castle as able to safely accommodate 150 Confederate prisoners of war, but nearly 1000 were confined there during the war years. Following the war, the Castle continued to be used as a prison, as well as quarters for new recruits and transient troops. During these years, the third tier was used to house the prisoners and recruits, and while the first two tiers still contained guns, bedding for troops was placed in between the gun carriages.

The Castle served as an Army prison until 1966 when the Coast Guard took over the island. Under the Coast Guard, the Castle has been used for meeting rooms, a day care facility, and most recently as storage and shop space.

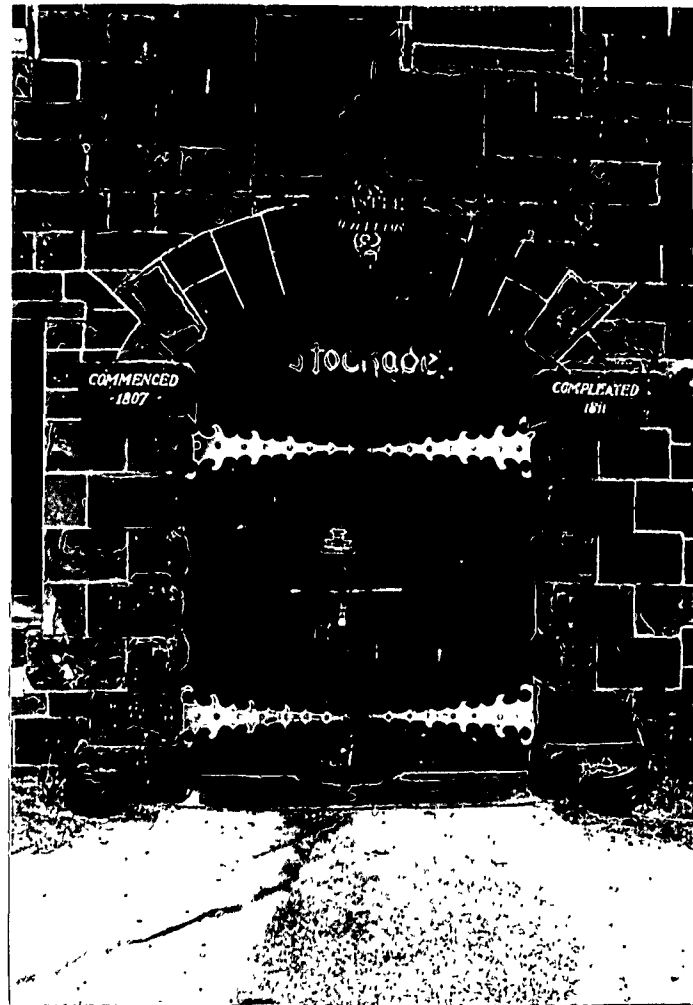
The Castle has been altered slightly over time. Based on photographic evidence cited in HABS documentation, sometime between 1895 and 1904 the parapet wall was extended outward and heightened with courses of granite ashlar. Sometime before 1916, masonry magazines at each end of the circular portion of the Castle were demolished, and their stones used to construct a two-story structure in the southeast corner of the Castle; windows and a door were cut in the existing first story wall. In the 1930s the WPA replaced the Castle's original heavy timber framing system with a steel and concrete system. In 1947, a number of alterations to the interior were made, primarily to improve access among the cells.



Gate House and Circular Fort

Sources: HABS NY-5715-2  
NHL  
Milner, 356-362, 404-410

LPC photos: 27: 14-36 (4/1/96)



Detail of Gate

**BUILDING NO. 513A, B, C**

Between Hay Road and Craig Road North

Original name/use: Quarters

Subsequent names/uses: Enlisted Bachelors' Housing

Date: 1970 - construction

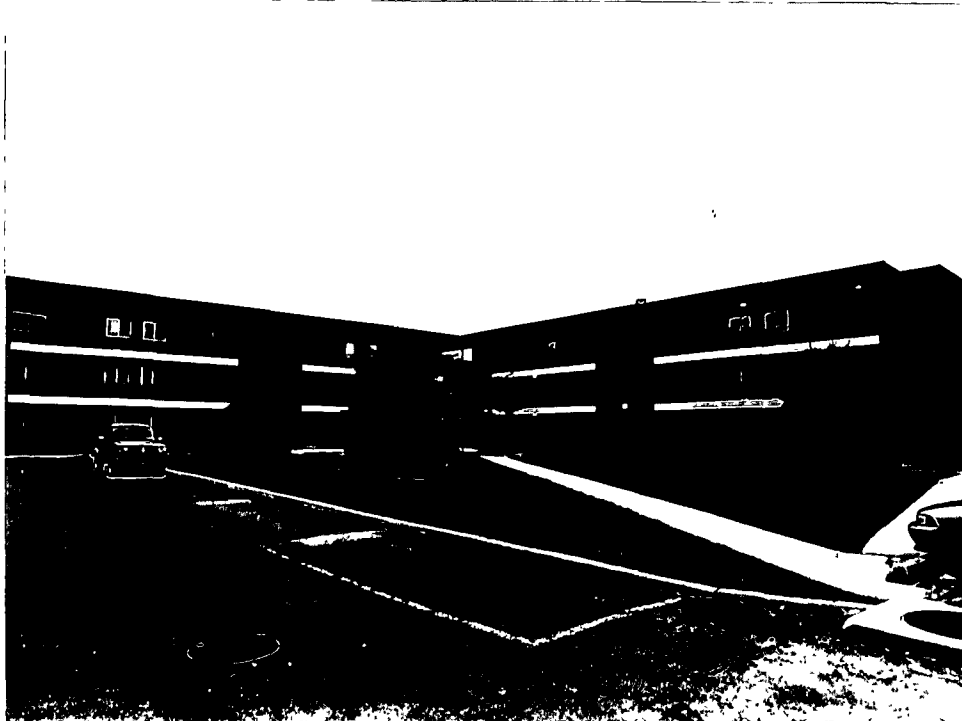
1993 - extensive interior and exterior renovations

Architect: Undetermined

Style: None

Material: Brick veneer on steel frame

Stories: 3



Building 513 consists of three freestanding three-story rectangular sections arranged at right angles to each other. Each section is faced with red brick and has cantilevered wrap-around balconies at the second and third floors. A low brick parapet on each section conceals the flat roof.

This three-part building was constructed in 1970 in an effort to provide upgraded living accommodations for Coast Guard personnel. The placement of the building, just to the southwest of Castle Williams, detracts from the ambience of that historic structure.

Sources: NHL

Milner, 363-373

LPC photos: 27: 2-13 (3/28/96)

**BUILDING NO. 515**

Facing Hay Road, north of Clayton Road

Original name/use: Post Hospital

Subsequent names/uses: Enlisted Bachelors' Housing

Date: 1935 - construction

1950s - second-story porches of wing at west enclosed

Architect: Office of McKim, Mead & White/Construction Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 4 and 3



Building 515 is a symmetrically-organized structure, comprising a four-story central section surmounted by slate-covered gabled roof with end chimneys and flanking three-story wings with slate-covered hipped roofs. The red brick walls are laid up in common bond and accented with limestone trim. The slightly projecting three-bay-wide entrance pavilion is articulated by rusticated pilasters and crowned by a triangular pediment with a decorative

frieze and an oculis window that appears to retain its original decorative sash. A granite double-staircase with limestone walls leads to a veranda at the second story; the stairs and veranda retain their original wrought-iron railings. The entrance doors are metal and glass. The walls of the flanking wings are articulated by blind arcades at the first story and by pilaster strips at the second and third stories. At the rear of the building, the flanking

wings have second-story porches which appear to have been originally open and were enclosed in the 1950s. Windows throughout the building are metal double-hung replacement sash.

Building 515 was designed by the Office of McKim, Mead & White as the Post Hospital. While not apparent from the exterior, the plan of the building is organized with double-loaded corridors around two interior courts, which

would have provided light, air, and cross ventilation for the hospital patients.

Constructed in 1935, it was part of the unified beautification plan proposed in 1928 for Governors Island by the firm. Stylistically it is compatible with other contemporary structures on the island and the earlier work of the firm. In the late 1980s the building was converted for use as enlisted bachelors' housing.

*Sources:* NHL  
Milner, 8, 374-380

LPC photos: 19: 2-17 (3/27/96)

**BUILDING NO. S-517**

South of Building 515 facing Clayton Road

Original name/use: Medical clinic

Subsequent name/use: Dental clinic

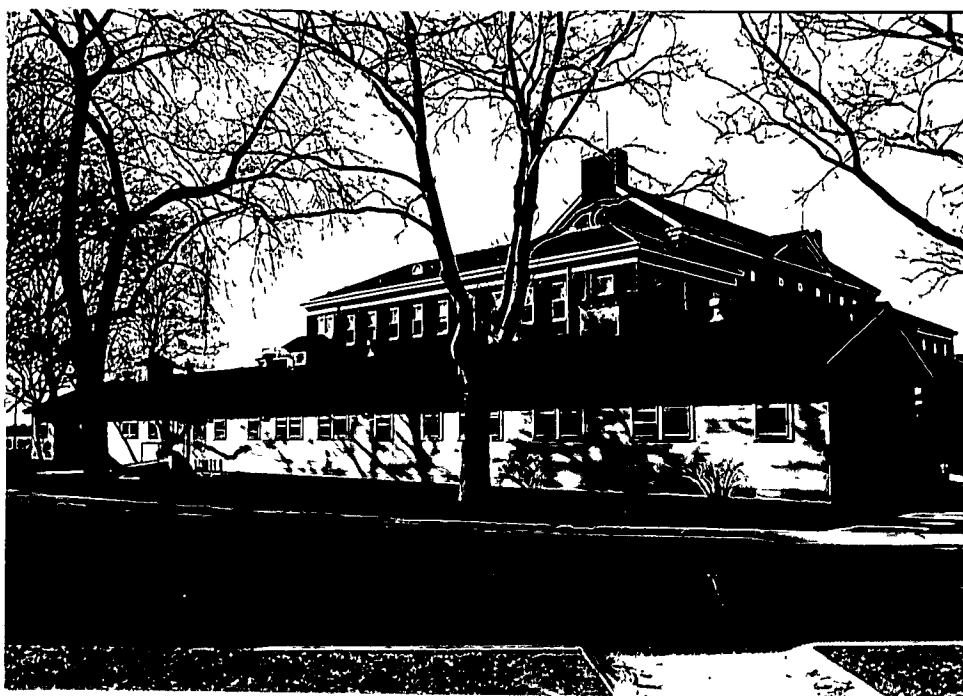
Date: c. 1942 - construction

Architect: Undetermined

Style: None

Material: Wood siding on wood frame structure

Stories: 2



Building S-517 is a one-story frame structure attached by a enclosed walkway to the south wing of Building 515. Irregular in plan, the building has tongue-and-groove wood siding covered with asbestos shingles. The intersecting gabled roof has prominent eave brackets and is covered with asphalt shingles.

The six-over-six window sash are covered with storm sash.

Built during World War II as a "temporary" medical clinic, the building is now used as a dental clinic.

Sources: NHL

LPC photos: 19: 29-37 (3/27/96)

**BUILDING NO. 550**

Between Short Avenue and Wheeler Avenue, Division Road and Clayton Road.

Original name/use: Detachment Barracks: First Army

Subsequent names/uses: Offices, Training Center, HSCM Henry "Hank" McCoy Memorial Clinic

Date: 1938-40 - construction

c. 1960 - arcaded porches enclosed facing Wheeler Avenue

c. 1994 - freestanding entrance structure added on Wheeler Avenue facade and steel and glass enclosed ambulance structure added on Division Road end

Architect: Construction Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 3



Building 550 is a three-story structure arranged in a U-shaped plan with the long section fronting Short Avenue and the projecting wings fronting Clayton Road and Division Road. The red brick facing, laid in common bond interrupted by header courses, rises from a concrete foundation. A limestone bandcourse separates the first story from the upper stories.

The intersecting asphalt-covered roofs are gabled and are further intersected by a center cross-gabled projection in the long section. On the Short Avenue side, this projection contains an entrance porch composed of stone columns and pilasters (now painted) supporting an iron balustrade. The doorway has a granite sill. The paired paneled wood and glass doors are



set below a transom. The entrance porch facing Clayton Road is similarly detailed, but is also enclosed with wood and glass panels. A Palladian window is located at the second story above this entrance porches. The side of the building facing Wheeler Avenue is oriented around a courtyard and has two-story open galleries (now partially enclosed) with square cast stone columns linked by wrought-iron balustrades rising above a first story window arcade. On all sides of the building at the first story, blind arcades with limetstone keystones frame segmental-arched window openings. Square-headed window openings with limestone sills are used at the second and third stories. (Some of the arcades remain open on the courtyard side.) The windows are metal double-hung six-over-six replacement sash. A cast stone bandcourse is placed below the eaves of the roofline. The pediments formed by the gable ends are filled in with stucco and enclosed lunettes. A freestanding steel entrance structure with a pyramidal roof has been added to the courtyard side. A similar glass-enclosed structure for ambulances has been placed at the Division Road end of the building.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-9  
NHL  
Milner, 381-385

LPC photos: 26: 18-36 (3/28/95)

Building 550 was constructed in 1940 as one of a pair with Building 333 as barracks for the First Army, designed to house 375 people. Both were built flanking Building 400 and were part of the unified beautification plan proposed in 1928 for Governors Island by the Office of McKim, Mead & White. Construction was delayed until funding became available in the late 1930s. Stylistically compatible with other contemporary structures on the island and the earlier work of the McKim, Mead & White firm, it is very similar in its general design (although on a smaller scale) to Building 400. When built, the main entrance was oriented to Short Avenue.

After the First Army moved its headquarters to Bristol, England, in 1943, the barracks were turned over to the Second Service Command which converted part of the building for office space. In 1966 the Coast Guard converted the building to classrooms for training purposes. About 1994, it was converted again for use as the base clinic (previously located in Building 515).

**BUILDING NO. 555**

Overlooking Upper New York Bay, facing Craig Road North.

Original name/use: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing (16th Regiment)

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' Quarters: Family Housing

Date: 1938-40 - construction

Architect: Construction Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 3-1/2



Building 550 is a three-and-one-half story rectangular structure. The red brick facing is laid in common bond interrupted by rows of header courses above a cast stone base terminating in a molding. The north and south facades are organized into three sections. On the north (facing Craig Road North), this organization is marked by a shallow projecting pavilion surmounted by a pediment which intersects the slate-covered gabled roof. On the south facade, three projecting wings are surmounted by slate-covered hipped roofs. The

roofs are punctuated by arched dormers. The entrances to each of the three sections are on the north facade. Each is approached by concrete steps with wrought-iron railings. The cast stone entrance surrounds have pilasters supporting an arched pediment. The paneled wood entrance doors below transoms and above granite door sills are set behind storm doors. The window openings all around the building have cast stone sills and splayed brick lintels. The metal double-hung window sash are either six-over-six or eight-over-eight replacements.

The walls terminate in a wood cornice below the roof line.

Building 555 was constructed in 1938-40 as one of a pair with Building 315 as family housing for officers of the 16th Regiment. Situated on landfill overlooking the Upper New York Bay, it was part of the unified beautification plan

proposed in 1928 for Governors Island by the Office of McKim, Mead & White.

Construction was delayed until funding became available in the late 1930s. Stylistically it is compatible with other contemporary structures on the island and the earlier work of the McKim, Mead & White firm.

*Sources:* HABS NY-5715-9 (for background)  
NHL  
Milner, 9, 386-389

LPC photos: 19: 18-28 (3/27/95)

## **OTHER SECONDARY STRUCTURES WITHIN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**STRUCTURE 26** (east of Building 25) - reinforced underground storage vault built to house an emergency generator, built 1940.

*Source:* NHL

**BUILDINGS 33, 35, 36** (along Barry Road) - one-story red brick garages, built 1934-35.

*Source:* NHL

LPC photos: 14: 11-15 (3/26/96)

**BUILDING 39** (along Barry Road) - one and two-story brick and frame multi-car garage, built 1938.

*Source:* NHL

LPC photos: 14: 16-18 (3/26/96)

**BUILDING 45** (northwest of Barry Road behind Building 10) - one-story red brick transformer building, built 1933.

*Source:* NHL

LPC photos: 14: 27-28 (3/26/96)

**BUILDING S-46** (northwest of Barry Road behind Building 11) - one-story wood frame garage, built c. 1942.

*Source:* NHL

LPC photos: 14: 29 (3/26/96)

**BUILDING 85** (east of Kimmel Road) - one-story red brick storehouse with a hipped roof, built 1932.

*Source:* NHL

LPC photos: 14: 9-10 (3/26/96)

**STRUCTURES 91 and 95** (Omaha Dock, east of Kimmel Road) - pier with temporary structure.

LPC photos: 14: 6-7 (3/26/96)

**BUILDING 92** (west of Kimmel Road) - one-story red brick transformer building, built 1942.

*Source:* NHL

**BUILDING 519** (south of Building 515) - brick one-story building to house emergency generator plant for the hospital, built 1958

*Source:* NHL

**BUILDING 525** (south of Craig Road North) - one-story red brick storehouse, built 1964.

*Source:* NHL

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## FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture, and other features of this area, the Governors Island Historic District contains buildings and other improvements which have a special character and special historical and aesthetic interest and value and which represent one or more eras in the history of New York City and which cause this area, by reason of these factors, to constitute a distinct section of the city.

The Commission further finds that, among its important qualities, the Governors Island Historic District, located on the island in New York Harbor one-half mile south of Manhattan Island and across the Buttermilk Channel from Brooklyn, includes some 100 structures, built between the early nineteenth century and the 1980s, on approximately 121 acres incorporating both the original island and early twentieth-century landfill; that the island is significant for its role as a major component in the defense system of New York Harbor, with three surviving fortifications from an important and innovative period of American military construction; that the island also is significant as a major military post, a role which began in the 1820s, and which is illustrated by a range of historic structures dating from the early nineteenth century to the 1930s; that notable structures have survived from four major periods of construction on Governors Island; that these periods correspond to the various military roles that the island has performed, and that the physical complex of each period gives tangible evidence of those roles and exerts a strong historical presence; that the square four-bastioned Fort Jay and the nearly circular, casemated Castle Williams, both designed by Lt. Col. Jonathan Williams, the Army's Chief Engineer, are tangible reminders of the city's once powerful harbor defense system; that the surviving buildings of the New York Arsenal, established by 1833 and located north of what is now Andes Road adjacent to the main docks, recall that important function on the island; that the barracks within Fort Jay, the Greek Revival hospital building, also known as the Block House, the Commanding Officer's House, and the first pair of residential buildings facing Nolan Park recall the early days of the Fort Columbus garrison, established on Governors Island in 1821; that the expansion of Fort Columbus as the Headquarters, Military Division of the Atlantic and Department of the East, is expressed in the significant groups of houses facing Nolan Park and along Regimental Row; that both groups of houses have retained a high degree of integrity, contributing to a sense of place; that the large-scale building campaign implemented by the Army in the late 1920s, based in part on plans of 1902 and 1928 by the Office of McKim, Mead & White, is reflected in Building 400, the largest military building in the world at the time of its construction, and other residential, administrative, and service buildings, all in the popular neo-Georgian style; that during this period of expansion, many earlier buildings were renovated and adaptively re-used, a process which has continued throughout the history of Governors Island as a military post; that the primary open space features of the historic district, including the glaxis of Fort Jay, the parade ground to the south of Fort Jay, Nolan Park, and the triangular park area between Hay Road and Clayton Road are essential components of the district's historic and physical character; that the 16th Regiment and the First Army, both headquartered on Governors Island, have played significant roles in United States military history; that among the important generals associated with Governors Island have been Winfield Scott Hancock, Hugh A. Drum, Omar N. Bradley, and Roscoe B. Woodruff; that beginning in 1966 the United States Coast Guard headquartered its Third Coast Guard District and the Atlantic Area on the island, making

it the largest Coast Guard base in the world; that under the aegis of the Coast Guard, Governors Island has served as the site of historic meetings between President Ronald Reagan and French President François Mitterand (1986) and between President Reagan and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev (1988); and that Governors Island survives as a remarkable historic site, which by virtue of its location, design, planning, and singleness of purpose, has a strongly defined sense of place.

Accordingly, pursuant to Chapter 21, Section 534 of the Charter of the City of New York and Chapter 3 of Title 25 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York, the Landmarks Preservation Commission designates as a Historic District the Governors Island Historic District consisting of a portion of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1, Lot 10, bounded by a line beginning at a point at the intersection of the northern lot line of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1, Lot 10 and a line extending northwesterly from the southwestern curbline of Division Road, then extending along the northern, eastern, and southern lot lines of Manhattan Tax Map Block 1, Lot 10, northwesterly along a line extending southeasterly from the southwestern curbline of Division Road, northwesterly along the southwestern curbline of Division Road, and northwesterly along a line extending northwesterly from the southwestern curbline of Division Road, to the point of beginning, Borough of Manhattan.

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 Fort Columbus (Fort Jay, Buildings 202, 206, 210, 214), HABS NY-5715-1A,  
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 New York Arsenal, Storehouse (Building No. 110), HABS NY-5715-6D;  
 New York Arsenal, Storehouse (Building No. 140), HABS NY-5715-6E;  
 New York Arsenal, Building No. 109, HABS NY-5715-6F;  
 New York Arsenal, Office (Building No. 105), HABS NY-5715-6G;  
 Building No. 25, HABS NY-5715-7;  
 Infantry Regimental Barracks (Liggett Hall; Building No. 400), HABS NY-5715-8;  
 Barracks (Building No. 550), HABS NY-5715-9;  
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 Building No. 125), HABS NY-5715-10;  
 Half Moon Battery (South Battery; Corbin Hall; Officers' Club; Building No.  
 298), HABS NY-5715-11;  
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