

# FORT TOTTEN HISTORIC DISTRICT

## Designation Report



New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission  
June 1999

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# FORT TOTTEN HISTORIC DISTRICT Borough of Queens Designation Report

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Front cover: Commanding Officer's Quarters, Building No. 422 (*Photo: Carl Forster*)

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## **FORT TOTTEN HISTORIC DISTRICT, QUEENS**

### **Boundaries**

The Fort Totten Historic District consists of a portion of Queens Tax Map Block 5917, Lot 1, bounded by a line beginning at a point along the western lot line of Queens Tax Map Block 5917, Lot 1, adjacent to the main entrance to Fort Totten at Totten Avenue, then extending northeasterly along part of the western lot line to the projecting pier, following the configuration of the projecting pier, northeasterly, easterly, southeasterly, and southerly along the continuation of the lot line of Lot 1, westerly from the lot line across the seawall and westerly across the grounds south of Shore Road to a point at the intersection of the southern curbline of Shore Road and the eastern curb line of Gen. R. W. Berry Drive, westerly across Gen. R. W. Berry Drive to the southern curbline of Sgt. Beers Avenue, westerly along the curbline of Sgt. Beers Avenue to a point along a line extending northerly that is located five feet east of the easternmost corner of Building 128, southerly along said line to a point at the intersection of a line extending easterly from the northeast corner of the parking lot, westerly along said line to the northeast corner of the parking lot, westerly along the northern edge of the parking lot to a point ten feet from the southeast corner of Building 123, northerly along said line to the northeastern curbline of Duane Road to a point at the intersection of a line extending westerly from the northern edge of Building 316, easterly along said line to the western curbline of Murray Avenue, northerly along the western curbline of Murray Avenue to a line extending easterly from the southern edge of Underhill Road, westerly along said line to the western curbline of Underhill Road, northerly and westerly along the western and southern curb lines of Underhill Road to the northeastern curbline of Duane Road, southwesterly across Duane Road and southwesterly along a line extending between Building 107 and 109 to the western lot line of Block 5917, Lot 1, and northwesterly along said western lot line, to the point of beginning, Borough of Queens.

### **TESTIMONY AT THE PUBLIC HEARING**

On May 4, 1999, the Landmarks Preservation Commission held a public hearing on the proposed designation of the Fort Totten Historic District (Item No. 2 ). The hearing had been duly advertised in accordance with the provisions of law. Twelve witnesses spoke in support of designation, including representatives of Queens Borough President Claire Shulman, the New York City Fire Department, the Bayside Historical Society, the Historic House Trust/New York City Parks Department, the Queens Historical Society, the Fort Totten Conservancy, the New York Landmarks Conservancy, the Historic Districts Council, and the Municipal Art Society. Several speakers urged the Commission to designate the district with larger boundaries. The Commission has received seven letters and other communications supporting this designation.

## INTRODUCTION

Fort Totten occupies a 136-acre site in northeast Queens, north of Bayside, on a peninsula jutting into the Long Island Sound. The Fort Totten Historic District, incorporating much of the peninsula, includes over 100 buildings and smaller secondary structures built between the 1830s and the 1960s.<sup>1</sup> The fort, originally called the Fort at Willets Point, was established in 1857 as a major component in the defense system of New York Harbor. Its surviving, although uncompleted, fortification displays the features of the last phase of the Third System of coastal fortification, an important period of American military construction. The fort's surviving structures from various phases of construction vividly depict the changing role of military technology and defense strategy between the Civil War and World War II. The major period of improvement and expansion for the fort occurred in 1885-1914, resulting in much of the historic character that exists today. In addition to upgrading the fortifications and batteries, installing torpedo buildings, and reconfiguring the parade grounds, the Army built about 80 structures, many of them to house the soldiers and officers who were stationed there. In 1898, the Fort at Willets Point was renamed in honor of Maj. Gen. Joseph G. Totten (1788-1864), who had been a major force in developing the Third System, and it was characterized as one of the most essential posts on the East Coast. The buildings and grounds, represent Fort Totten as a major military post and as one of the most intact, self-contained army posts in New York City.

Fort Totten is a tangible reminder of New York City's once-powerful harbor defense system which ranged from the inner harbor adjacent to Manhattan Island to the Narrows and Long Island Sound. 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. Fort Totten (the Fort at Willets Point) was planned as the counterpoint to Fort Schuyler on Throgs Neck (The Bronx), begun 1833, to guard the Long Island Sound entrance to New York Harbor. Although the Third System fort, begun in 1862 during the Civil War, was never completed because of advances in weaponry during that conflict, the army post retained its importance as the site of advanced training for Army Engineers and of research in military technology and military medicine. It also housed several major military commands, including the Eastern Artillery District, New York, and the Coast Defense of Eastern New York and the North Atlantic District, through much of the twentieth century.

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<sup>1</sup>The historic district boundary extends along the perimeter lot line of Queens Tax Map Block 5917, Lot 1, and across the peninsula. The configuration of the district is somewhat smaller than that eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and excludes more open land and additional recent structures than the National Register recommendation. See Laura V. Trieschmann and Kathryn A. Gettings, *Historic Architectural Inventory and Determination of Eligibility, Fort Totten, Bayside, Queens County, New York*, submitted by Tracerics, Chevy Chase, MD, to Planning and Environmental Division, Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1998, vol. 1, 10.

In 1968, Fort Totten became the home of the 77th United States Regional Support Command for the Army Reserve, and the United States Coast Guard took over a portion of the facility in 1969. The United States Department of Labor established a Job Corps Training Center on a portion of the site in 1971.<sup>2</sup> Both the Army and the Coast Guard retain some facilities at Fort Totten; however, much of the fort is to be turned over to the City of New York and will be operated under the jurisdiction of the Fire Department, the Parks Department, and the Historic House Trust.

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<sup>2</sup>Trieschmann and Gettings, vol. 1, 32. Audrey Brown Bollet, "Fort Totten's Early Roots," *Queens Times/Ledger*, May 18, 1995, 15.

## PHYSICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Notable structures have survived from four major periods of construction on Willets Point. These periods correspond to changing roles of military technology and defense strategy at Fort Totten, and the surviving physical structures of each period give tangible evidence of those roles and exert a strong historical presence.

These periods of construction are described briefly below and in greater detail in the History section following. The fort's open space, which reflects the topography of the peninsula, evolved as part of these campaigns. A description of the open space and landscape features concludes this section on Physical and Architectural Development.

### Period of Local Settlement, 1639-1857

Although the Dutch had taken over the peninsula from the Matinecock Indians in 1639, no pre-nineteenth-century structures survive at Fort Totten. The Willets family constructed a Greek Revival double house,<sup>3</sup> now known as Building 211, after Charles Willets purchased the peninsula, then known as Wilkins Point, in 1829 and changed the name to Willets Point. This house, the earliest surviving structure on the fort and the only one that predates the fort's establishment, was described in 1868 as "a large double house, which had been built on that portion of the point facing the river and commanding a view of Long Island Sound, for occupation as a summer residence."<sup>4</sup> At that time, the house had been moved to its present

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<sup>3</sup>Trieschmann and Gettings, vol. 1, appendix I, Building 211, 7, state that "based on previous documentation reports and on-site investigations, it has been determined that Building 211 was constructed . . . as a single-family dwelling (sic)." They are apparently referencing Memorandum, John V. Goff, Boston Affiliates, Inc., to Louis Aiese, Director of Planning, Fort Hamilton, "Status of Building 211 at Fort Totten," November 24, 1992. Subsequently, they state "documentation and research conducted during the Historic Architectural Survey . . . confirms the findings of Goff with regard to the circa 1829 construction date and the Gothic Revival style renovations." (p. 10).

<sup>4</sup>"Interesting Excerpts from A Manuscript Volume Entitled MEDICAL HISTORY OF THE POST AT WILLETS POINT," Prepared at Fort Totten, New York, July 9, 1946, by the Office of the Special Assistant to the Commanding General, Atlantic Division, Air Transport Command from "Description of Post by Calvin DeWitt, Assistant Surgeon in June 1868 (manuscript)," 14. DeWitt's original report is contained in Descriptive Commentaries from Medical Histories of Posts, Manuscript Collection, National Archives, Fort Totten, N.Y., Roll 5, Target 17. The description details the Officers Quarters, Enlisted Men's Quarters, Kitchens, Chapel and Library, Post Gardens, Post Hospital, Hospital Library, and the plan for burial [on the south side on elevated ground]. It also describes the botany and the zoology of the vicinity of the Post. DeWitt listed "one old house which was the original farmhouse [used as a boarding house for mechanics and laborers employed on the post]; and also a tavern." Ibid. The exact

location on Murray Avenue and remodeled as a Gothic Revival villa to serve as the living quarters for the commanding officer of the fort, Major Henry L. Abbot.

#### The Fort at Willets Point: Third System, Civil War, and Reconstruction Periods (1857-1885)

Construction of the original Third System battery (now called the Stone Fort or Building 518) began in 1862 at the north end of the peninsula under the direction of Col. William Petit Trowbridge. It was planned as a V-shaped structure with a polygonal bastion at the vertex of the ramparts with four tiers of casemates, but construction halted in 1864 when advances in Civil War weaponry made the plan obsolete. The two tiers of vaulted casemates that were built are of brick, faced with heavy granite blocks, and they command an impressive view of Long Island Sound and Fort Schuyler on Throgs Neck. The Quartermaster's Wharf (Building 605) was built in 1864, extending 460 feet into Little Bay with all necessary facilities for unloading vessels. Portions of this pier structure survive.<sup>5</sup>

Although the battery was obsolete as planned, the Army Engineers enhanced the defensive capability of the Fort at Willets Point in several phases -- 1868, 1872, and 1883; the main magazine was constructed of concrete and masonry with walls from 17 to 36 inches thick for the storage of gun powder in the hillside behind the battery in several phases -- 1868, 1872, and 1883. A barrel-vaulted vehicular access tunnel of concrete was built through the hillside in 1870, linking the battery with the rest of the post. Adjacent to the magazine and tunnel are vaulted masonry and concrete casemates, built into the south slope of the hill, for storing torpedo mines. Building 129, constructed sometime between 1871 and 1879 as a fireproof torpedo storehouse, is the oldest brick building at the post and the only surviving structure from the Army Engineers' initial period of research into torpedo technology and development of torpedo defense. The Queen Anne style and domestic appearance of Building 317, constructed in 1882-83, belies its initial use as a photographic laboratory; it is one of the oldest surviving frame buildings at Fort Totten and is the earliest surviving frame building constructed specifically for the purposes of this Army post, namely one of the technical and research functions carried out by the Army Engineers.

#### Endicott Board and Taft Board Period, 1885-1914

The major period of improvement and expansion at the fort occurred in 1885-1914, resulting in much of the historic character that survives today. This work was in part the outcome of recommendations for improved harbor defense for the New York area (in addition to other strategic locations in the United States) from two Congressionally-authorized boards of experts, the Endicott Board, issued in 1886, and the Taft Board, issued in 1906, as well as a

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locations of these two structures has not been determined; they were demolished prior to 1890. See Trieschmann and Gettings, vol. 1, 37.

<sup>5</sup>Trieschmann and Gettings, vol. 1, 37.



reflection of the important role of the Army Corps of Engineers at Willets Point in military weapons research. Initial efforts involved the construction of a number of utilitarian brick structures with modest Romanesque or Queen Anne style detail in about 1886 as torpedo storehouses and laboratories (Building 610, 611, 612, 615, and 620), all close to the shore of Little Bay and the Civil War battery. A torpedo storage vault, Building 517, was built at the same time in the slope behind the battery. This was followed by the construction of nine new concrete batteries above and behind the Civil War battery between 1892 and 1902. These are Battery Sumner 1 and 2 (Buildings 515 and 519), Battery Graham 1 and 2 (Building 516), Battery Mahan 1 and 2 (Buildings 639 and 640), Battery Burnes (Building 641), Battery Stuart (Building 642), and Battery Baker (Buildings 643 and 644). Battery King (Building 500), built in 1896, is completely concealed below a baseball field.

While the fortifications were upgraded by the Army Corps of Engineers, other improvements to the fort were undertaken by the Office of the Quartermaster General. Some 80 structures were built during this period, including housing for the soldiers and officers who were stationed there.<sup>6</sup> Many of these replaced earlier wood-frame structures. The first major building from this period is Building 208, a castellated Gothic Revival style wood frame structure built as the Officers Mess and Officers Club in 1887, facing the parade ground at the west. Now a designated New York City Landmark, it is leased to the Bayside Historical Society. Brick barracks with Colonial Revival details, Buildings 322, 323, and 325, were built at the south end of the parade ground between 1892 and 1894. (These three barracks were enlarged in 1904.) Building 405, a slightly later barracks dating from 1900 but similar in design to the earlier ones, was built north of the parade ground. Building 331, a brick and frame fire engine house, was erected in 1892 near the new barracks. A new bungalow style guardhouse, Building 103, was constructed in 1892, just inside the grand Romanesque Revival style entrance gates that had been installed in 1889. Building 637, the brick Engineers' Museum, was built in 1890-98 with Romanesque Revival detail, facing what is now Totten Avenue. Building 333 was constructed in 1897-98 near the barracks as the post mess hall for non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel. Building 222, built sometime between 1890 and 1898 as offices and a storehouse for the commissary, is located southwest of the intersection of Murray Avenue and Sgt. Beers Avenue. The Quartermaster's storehouse (Building 107), built in 1897, is located near the guardhouse, while another commissary storehouse, Building 601, dating from 1896-97, is on the shore of Little Bay. The bakery, Building 309, was built that same year, and is close to the barracks. Building 502, built in 1900 as an ordnance shop strategically situated near the batteries (and later an artillery repair shop), is now the Fort Totten Historical Center. All of these non-domestic structures have a sturdy utilitarian character enhanced by Romanesque Revival detail.

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<sup>6</sup>See David A. Clary, *Fortress America: The Corps of Engineers, Hampton Roads, and United States Coastal Defense* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1990), 114-115, for a discussion of the role of the Office of the Quartermaster General in building structures, other than fortifications, at Army facilities, and the reluctance of the Corps of Engineers to provide barracks and other housing at its coastal forts.

A major building campaign beginning in 1905 brought many significant structures to the area adjacent to the parade ground as part of the campaign to improve and enhance the facilities at Fort Totten. This coincided with a change in the fort's mission after the Army Engineers were withdrawn and the Coast Artillery installed. All of the buildings constructed during this campaign are brick structures, designed in variants of the Colonial Revival style but with a common vocabulary of details that echo the details used on the somewhat earlier barracks structures and reinforce the architectural cohesion of the fort. Virtually all were constructed according to standardized plans from the Office of the Quartermaster General. Building 206, the Post Headquarters, displays the characteristics of high style Colonial Revival architecture with neo-Georgian details. The use of such elaborate detail can be seen to convey the importance of the headquarters as the command post of the Fort Totten military installation, by then the home of the Coast Artillery. Housing for commissioned officers was built in single-family and twin-dwelling units in the area north and west of the parade ground, forming an enclave known as Officers' Row. This group includes Buildings 203, 400, 401, 402, 409, 411, 413, 415, 418, and 420. Field officers (with the rank of major or colonel) occupied the single-family dwellings, while lieutenants and captains occupied with twin dwellings.<sup>7</sup> Twin-dwelling units for non-commissioned officers were built off Shore Road, south of the parade ground (Buildings 306, 308, 309, 310, 312, and 314 (the last remodelled in the 1930s)). Building 207, a multi-unit dwelling to house enlisted officers, was constructed west of the parade ground between the post headquarters and the officers' mess. The last major barracks structure, Building 330, which is similar in architectural character and detail to the earlier barracks, was built in 1907-08 southeast of the parade ground. A new imposing neo-Georgian Commanding Officer's Quarters, Building 422, was constructed among the other houses of Officers Row in 1909.

The Colonial Revival style Hospital, Building 304, built in 1906 and enlarged in 1911-12, is located east of the parade ground along Shore Road facing Little Neck Bay. While the hospital is much larger in size, its details are similar to those of the contemporary houses as well as the earlier brick barracks. The somewhat more architecturally elaborate annex, Building 326, dates from 1914. During this period the mission of the fort was expanded to include research into and development of medical equipment and care for military personnel. Building 305, a modest Colonial Revival style dwelling, was built in 1907 to house the hospital steward. Building 319, the gymnasium, was built in 1905 south of the parade ground. Colonial Revival in form and detail, it complements the nearby residential structures.

The more utilitarian buildings constructed prior to 1914 are situated on the periphery of the fort. Building 128, built in 1907-08 as a stable, is located southwest of the non-commissioned officers' housing; Building 604, Building 607, and Building 614 are storage facilities situated close to Little Bay. Building 105 was constructed in 1910 as the permanent

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<sup>7</sup>See John R. Elting, Dan Cragg, and Ernest L. Deal, *A Dictionary of Soldier Talk: Definitions and Origins of Army Words and Phrases, Both Official and Slang, from the Revolution to the Present* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1984) for useful definitions of Army ranks and other terminology.

electric sub-station for Fort Totten, which connected the army base with the municipal power supply at Bayside, Queens.

### The Period between World War I and World War II, 1920-1940

While the 1920s saw little new construction at Fort Totten, a number of nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century utilitarian structures were converted for other uses.<sup>8</sup> The YMCA, Building 318, a neo-Georgian style brick building, situated next to the gymnasium, was built in 1926-27. The YMCA had a presence at Fort Totten prior to the construction of this building.<sup>9</sup>

Another building campaign to improve housing facilities at Fort Totten (as well as many other Army posts) took place beginning in 1933. This resulted in the construction of several Colonial Revival twin dwellings; Buildings 316 and 634 are within the boundaries of the historic district. Building 314, a frame twin dwelling, was remodeled in the Colonial Revival style to be more compatible with other nearby houses. Two other major structures date from 1938-39. Building 332, the theater, was constructed south of the barracks area, east of the gymnasium and the YMCA. The chapel, Building 638, is situated north of the parade ground, between Officers' Row and the Post Headquarters. Both were built according to standardized plans that display characteristics of the Colonial Revival style.

Among the secondary structures constructed at Fort Totten in 1937-38 are the many one-story garages set behind the officers' housing and the small brick transformer structures throughout the grounds. Both are evidence of continuing technological change at the fort.

### Open Space and Landscape Features

Fort Totten is located on a small ridge that forms a peninsula jutting into Long Island Sound that is protected by a stone sea wall. Historically the peninsula was known as Thorne's Point, subsequently Wilkins Point, and then Willets Point, after the major owners prior to acquisition by the U.S. government. The portions of Long Island Sound surrounding the peninsula on three sides are more specifically identified as Little Bay, Little Neck Bay, and the East River Channel, while the land side was historically wetlands, much of which has been filled in. The ridge rises to the northeast to a high point of 68 feet above sea level, but it drops abruptly at the north end at the site of the granite fortifications and on the west facing Little Bay. The road system of Fort Totten generally follows the topographical terrain of the ridge, creating a series of circular drives that focus attention on the parade ground and allow for vistas overlooking Long Island Sound.

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<sup>8</sup>See *Histories of Army Posts*, reprinted from "The Recruiting News," (New York [Governors Island]: Recruiting Publicity Bureau, 1924), 41.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

The rising slope at the intersection of Bayside Street and Totten Avenue, in front of Building 635, contains the simple granite grave marker of Charles A. Willets, the property owner who gave the point its name. The steep slope rising to the south of Totten Avenue remains open.

The major open space at Fort Totten is the parade ground, which had been established after the Civil War.<sup>10</sup> It was originally oriented in a north-south direction and fronted by buildings with the post gardens behind at the north and south. As part of the major building campaign in the early twentieth century, the parade ground was reoriented from a north-south to an east-west direction. It is likely that the trees surrounding the periphery date from that period. The parade ground is bisected by a pedestrian path, and the eastern section is sometimes called the park. Many of the major buildings of the fort continue to front the parade ground on the north, south, and west. Current plans to expand the parade ground into parklands include the demolition of several of the 1959 houses northeast of the parade ground (Buildings 406-408, 423-431, 504-514).

Two sections of the parade ground have been identified as containing archeological deposits and recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Section A at the southwest corner is bordered by Story Avenue and Murray Avenue and may contain intact structural remnants from the 1866-1885 period. Section B is at the northwest corner of the eastern section (the park) bordered by Weaver Avenue and the pedestrian path; it contains intact foundation remnants and the possible remains of a storehouse from the period of the 1860s-1910.<sup>11</sup>

Historic cast-iron lamp posts edge the roads throughout the fort. These presumably were installed after 1910 when the first permanent electric sub-station was constructed. The posts have fluted shafts set on molded bases with stylized acanthus caps surmounted by octagonal lanterns.

Additional open space is located near the north end of the fort on top of Battery King (Building 500), now a baseball field bounded by Abbott Road and North Loop Road.

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<sup>10</sup>A tracing of a map of Willets Point, dated 1866, does not show the parade ground, although it does show the fortification and the proposed location of officers' quarters. This map is reproduced as fig. 5 in Paula Bienenfeld and Hope Leininger, *A Phase IA/B Archaeological Survey of Fort Totten, Queens County, New York City, New York*, submitted by Tetra Tech, Falls Church, VA, to Planning and Environment Division, Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1998.

<sup>11</sup>See Paula Bienenfeld and Hope Leininger, *A Phase II Archaeological Investigation of Fort Totten, Queens County, New York City, New York*, submitted by Tetra Tech, Falls Church, VA, to Planning and Environment Division, Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1998.

## HISTORY OF FORT TOTTEN

### Local Settlement to Government Acquisition, 1639-1857<sup>12</sup>

The peninsula occupied by Fort Totten was taken from the Matinecock Indians by the Dutch in 1639. William Kieft, Governor General of New Netherlands, transferred the land by patent to the Englishman William Thorne, who had been forced to Long Island from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for assisting religious dissenters. The land became known as Thorne's Point, and his farmstead was called "one of the most valuable and handsome" in the area.<sup>13</sup> The property, some 152 acres, was held by the Thorne family until 1788, when Ann Thorne married William Wilkins and the peninsula became known as Wilkins Point. In 1829, Charles A. Willets (1781-1832), an area nurseryman, purchased the Wilkins farmland and changed the name of the peninsula to Willets Point. Possibly Willets hoped to sell the property to the Army, as the Army Board of Engineers had recommended fortifying various points in the New York Harbor, including Willets Point and Throgs Neck, in a report issued in 1821.<sup>14</sup> A property transfer did not take place, so Willets established a nursery and built a Greek Revival style house near the north end of the peninsula. This house, now known as Building 211, was subsequently moved and remodeled in the fashionable Gothic Revival style in 1867. Presumably other service buildings were constructed by either Wilkins or Willets, but none survive. Charles Willets died in 1832 and was buried on the property down the slope from the original site of the house. His simple granite grave marker survives near the intersection of Bayside Street and Totten Avenue. Willets's heirs sold the property in 1857 to George Irving, a New York broker and land speculator.

### The Fort at Willets Point: Third System, Civil War, and Reconstruction Periods (1857-1885)<sup>15</sup>

The defense of New York Harbor had been a matter of continuing interest to the United States government from the time of the Revolutionary War on. Initial efforts had focused on the inner harbor utilizing the First and Second Systems of fortifications; the result was the

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<sup>12</sup>The information in this section is based on Trieschmann and Gettings, vol. 1, 25-26, and Bienenfeld and Leininger, 10-11.

<sup>13</sup>This information is quoted in "Historic Preservation Plan for Fort Totten," prepared by Timelines, Inc. (1989).

<sup>14</sup>Trieschmann and Gettings, vol. 1, 25-26; Emanuel Raymond Lewis, *Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History* (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1970), 37-38.

<sup>15</sup>The information in this section is based in part on Trieschmann and Gettings, vol. 1, 26-29.



construction of Fort Jay (later Fort Columbus), Castle Williams and the South Battery on Governors Island, Castle Clinton at the southern tip of Manhattan, Fort Wood on Bedloe's (now Liberty Island), and Fort Gibson on what is now Ellis Island.<sup>16</sup> Following the War of 1812, the Federal government established a board to create a permanent system of defenses and fortification, which came to be known as the Third System. Organized in 1816, the board was headed by Simon Bernard, a French military engineer, Capt. J.D. Elliott of the Navy, and Maj. William McKee and Lt. Col. Joseph G. Totten of the Army Engineers.<sup>17</sup> Totten proved to be the most influential figure in the advancement of the Third System, serving for 26 years as Chief Engineer of the Army Engineers. In this capacity he was responsible for the design of most of the forts built in the United States between the 1820s and the 1860s; the Third System is often called the Totten system, in recognition of his achievement. Third System forts are generally polygonal in plan with one or more arched tiers of casemates on the seaward fronts and roof tiers of barbette emplacements (platforms from which guns were fired over parapets) surmounting the exterior walls, which were built of brick or stone or both materials. Casemate emplacement and the size and shapes of the embrasures (gun openings) were a major focus of Totten's innovations.<sup>18</sup> In addition to the Fort at Willets Point, two other forts were named after him, one in North Dakota and the other in North Carolina.

The Bernard Board was initially charged with dealing with seacoast defense "as an activity involving the efforts of several interrelated elements--a navy, fortifications, avenues of communication in the interior, and a regular army and well-organized militia."<sup>19</sup> The Board's first report was submitted in February 1821 and listed 18 defensive works as a top priority, followed by 32 for future construction as lesser priorities. However, by 1850, the Board envisioned a major scheme of harbor defense for the United States, with nearly 200 separate works, from the East Coast, to the Gulf of Mexico, to the Pacific Coast. In fact, because of the limitations of cost and manpower, far fewer fortifications were actually constructed.<sup>20</sup>

In New York, the system of harbor fortification gradually moved to the outer harbor. While the Narrows had been guarded initially by Fort Richmond and Fort Tompkins on the Staten Island side and Fort Lafayette on the Brooklyn side, these 1812 fortifications were replaced in 1847 and 1825 respectively by the present Fort Richmond and Fort Hamilton. Throgs Neck in the Bronx acquired Fort Schuyler, beginning in 1833, to guard the entrance from Long Island Sound. Finally, the last piece of New York harbor defense under the Third System was put into place with the acquisition of 110 acres of Willets Point from George Irving in 1857.

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<sup>16</sup>See Lewis, 21-36, for an explanation of the First and Second Systems.

<sup>17</sup>Clary, 37-38; Lewis, 37-38.

<sup>18</sup>See Lewis, 43-45, for further discussion of the characteristics of Third System forts.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid., 38.

<sup>20</sup>Ibid., 38-39.

The price, \$200,000, brought forth accusations of profiteering and an abortive congressional investigation. Even though Congress appropriated some \$155,000 to have plans drawn for a fortification, reputedly by Robert E. Lee, the work was not carried out despite continued calls for improving New York Harbor defenses.<sup>21</sup>

With the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861, a temporary camp known as Camp Morgan was set up at Willets Point to train military recruits and to accommodate volunteer units, among them the 15th New York Volunteers (Engineer), the 2nd Marine Volunteers (Infantry), and the 9th Indiana Volunteers (Infantry). With fears that Confederate troops might attack New York Harbor from Long Island Sound, Congress appropriated \$200,000 in 1862 for fortifications work at Willets Point. The land area of the fort was increased in 1863 with the purchase of an additional 26 acres. Work on the pentagonal casemated fortification had begun in 1862 at the north end of the peninsula. The Quartermaster's Wharf, jutting into Little Bay, was constructed at the same time to accommodate materials and supplies needed during construction. The fortification called for four tiers of casemates on the water side and two tiers on the land side with foundations extending twelve feet below sea level and walls eight feet thick. Guns and cannon were to be mounted in the casemates. Even as construction was underway, the fortification was made obsolete by advances in military technology.<sup>22</sup> The Rodman cannon could smash fort walls with heavy iron balls, while rifled guns and cannons could be fired with great accuracy over long ranges. Rifled projectiles could penetrate the masonry walls of fortifications and then explode inside. Only two tiers of casemates were completed at Fort Totten, and the work was subsequently abandoned.

The other major construction at the fort during the Civil War was the General Grant Hospital, completed in 1865 in the southern section of the site. Containing 1,410 beds in 37 wards, the hospital treated 5,283 soldiers in its one year of existence.<sup>23</sup>

Following the Civil War, three of the Army's four companies of Engineers were sent to the Fort at Willets Point because of existing storage facilities for the engineering materials remaining from the war. This was the first permanent garrison at the Fort where they were initially commanded by Gen. J.C. Duane and then, beginning in 1868, for some twenty years by Maj. Henry L. Abbot (1831-1927). The relocation and remodelling of the original Willets house

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<sup>21</sup>Trieschmann and Gettings, 26; Roberts. J. G. Barnard, Major of Engineers at West Point, stated the case in a letter to the editor of the *New York Times*, April 4, 1859, Supplement, 2:1: "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!"

<sup>22</sup>Willard B. Robinson, *American Forts: Architectural Form and Function* (Urbana, Il.: University of Illinois Press, 1977), 126; Clary, 67.

<sup>23</sup>*Histories of Army Posts*, 41.

occurred in 1867-68 in conjunction with the establishment of this permanent garrison.

Prior to 1866, the Army Engineers had headed the program at West Point. When this connection ended, a group of officers founded the Essayons Club at Willets Point to perpetuate the study of engineering in the Army.<sup>24</sup> This became the Engineer School for Application. The Engineer Depot for the eastern United States was established at Willets Point in 1870, and a torpedo school was set up in 1873.

Under Abbot's leadership, the Engineer School of Application carried out experiments and training in engineer reconnaissance, military bridges, weaponry, astronomy, photography, submarine mines, torpedoes, submarine rockets, and searchlights, beginning in 1872. Abbot's report on a system of coastal defense by submarine mines was published in 1881 as No. 23 of the Professional Papers of the Army Corps of Engineers.<sup>25</sup>

Few of the structures that were built between 1865 and 1885 survive. Those that do include the batteries behind the Civil War battery, the seacoast mortar battery, the torpedo research and storage facilities, as well as the photo laboratory (Building 317).

While frame barracks and other housing were constructed for enlisted men and officers, none of these survive. The frame officers quarters were of the type still seen on Governors Island around Nolan Park (located within the Governor's Island Historic District). Other structures built during this period included the observatory, library and theater, the first officers mess (designed in the Gothic Revival style and later replaced by the barracks on the south side of the Parade Ground), and the first chapel, also built in the Gothic Revival style.<sup>26</sup>

Dr. Walter Reed (1851-1902), who went on to achieve fame for his research in yellow fever, was stationed at the Fort at Willets Point as post surgeon in 1875-76.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>24</sup>Russell F. Weigley, *History of the United States Army* (New York: Macmillan Co., 1967), 273.

<sup>25</sup>"Abbot, Henry Larcom," *Dictionary of American Biography* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928), vol. 1, 13-14.

<sup>26</sup>Trieschmann and Gettings, vol. 1, 39.

<sup>27</sup>See Descriptive Commentaries from Medical Histories of Posts, Manuscript Collection, National Archives, Fort Totten, N.Y., Roll 5, Target 17, Report, Feb. 1876, Walter Reed, Assistant Surgeon, U.S. Army.



#### Endicott Board and Taft Board Period, 1885-1914<sup>28</sup>

By the 1880s, coastal and harbor defense had again become a national issue. In 1885, Congress authorized a board of experts to examine what defenses were needed at what ports. This became known as the Endicott Board after its president, Secretary of War William C. Endicott. As a result, New York was identified as one of five harbors most in need of new fortifications, and as part of the New York Harbor defense, the Fort at Willets Point was classified as one of the most essential on the East Coast.<sup>29</sup>

As the result of Congressional appropriations in the 1890, more facilities were constructed in the 1890s, especially a first phase of more permanent barracks and related service structures. The fort had been supplied with water from the Town of Flushing in 1886. The Engineers' Museum was also constructed in the 1890s.

The Fort at Willets Point was renamed in honor of Maj. Gen. Joseph G. Totten in 1898 by direction of President William McKinley.<sup>30</sup> However, the Engineer School of Application relocated to Washington in 1901, and the Engineering Depot closed in 1902.

The mission of the fort changed as five companies of the Coast Artillery Corps were moved there. There was a major influx of personnel between 1902 and 1913 with the establishment of the Eastern Artillery District, New York, in 1906, and the Coast Defense of Eastern New York and the North Atlantic District in 1913. The building campaign that began in 1905 coincided with this change as there were many more officers on site who needed housing.

President Theodore Roosevelt appointed the Taft Board, named after Secretary of War William Howard Taft, in 1905 to review and update the harbor defense programs. By this time, emphasis had shifted from fortifications to ever increasing attention to weapons and firepower. Fort Totten was the site of innovations and experimentation with searchlights, electrification, and precision methods of fire control for greater accuracy of artillery, all under the jurisdiction of the Coast Artillery stationed there.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>28</sup>The information in this section is compiled in part from Trieschmann and Gettings, vol. 1, 29-30.

<sup>29</sup>Clary, 126-133; Robinson, 131-132.

<sup>30</sup>See U.S. War Dept., Adjutant General's Office, Historical Information Relating to Military Posts, Manuscript, National Archives, Vol. W: Willets Point, 235.

<sup>31</sup>Clary, 148, 151, discusses the ascendancy of the Coast Artillery over the Army Engineers as the emphasis on defense shifted its focus.

### World War I period<sup>32</sup>

No structures built at Fort Totten during this period survive. During the war, Fort Totten served as a training and administrative post. Units of the Coast Artillery, Infantry, Engineering, Field Artillery, Army Medical Corps, Signal Corps, Anti-aircraft, and members of the First Reserve Engineers were trained at Fort Totten before going to Europe. Company A of the First Reserve Engineers, sailed for France on July 14, 1917, becoming the first unit to leave the United States for the front.

### The Period between World War I and World War II, 1920-1945<sup>33</sup>

A new Torpedo Depot was established in 1921 which focused on improved torpedoes, naval mines, and anti-aircraft technology. The 62nd Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft) was stationed there in 1922. The batteries were abandoned completely in 1938. Many temporary structures were erected in 1940s for barracks, storage, etc. Few survive, and most are not within the boundaries of the historic district.

The first radar installation used in Anti-Aircraft Command on the east coast was constructed at Fort Totten in 1941. Fort Totten became the Headquarters of the Anti-Aircraft Command of the Eastern Defense Command. In 1944 the Eastern Defense Command Headquarters and the 1378 AAF unit of the North Atlantic Wing, Air Transport Command moved to Fort Totten. Fort Totten also served as the processing point for troops departing through La Guardia Field Terminal until 1947.

### Post World War II to Present, 1945 on<sup>34</sup>

Following World War II, Fort Totten remained in active service as the home of the 1362nd Service Unit in 1947 and the New York-New Jersey Sub-Area Headquarters for Civilian Component Activities in 1949. It housed the Fort Totten Medical Center for army personnel in 1947-49. The Development Branch of the Army Service Medical Program Agency moved to Fort Totten in 1948, being reorganized in 1957 as the U.S. Army Medical Equipment Research and Development Laboratory under direction of Army Surgeon General. The laboratory had the sole responsibility for conducting engineering research and development leading to new items of military equipment for the Army, including surgical, veterinary, dental, and optical equipment,

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<sup>32</sup>The information in this section is derived from *Histories of Army Posts*, 41.

<sup>33</sup>The information in this section is compiled in part from Trieschmann and Gettings, vol. 1, 31.

<sup>34</sup>The information in this section is compiled in part from Trieschmann and Gettings, vol. 1, 32-33.

hospital utensils, medical sets and kits, x-ray equipment, devices for insect and rodent control, and equipment for a combat casualty evacuation system.<sup>35</sup>

The First Regional Army Air Defense Command was organized in 1954 to provide overall anti-aircraft defense for New England, New York, New Jersey, and Greenland. Its mission was expanded in 1961 to the defense of Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Washington. First Anti-Aircraft Regional Command remained at Fort Totten until 1967 and included the 23rd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Group; the 41st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion (with 90-millimeter guns); the 66th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Missile Battalion (which monitored the Nike/Ajax and Nike/Hercules missile systems). The construction of additional housing, beginning in 1959, to the north and south of the earlier officers' housing, coincided with this command. These houses, most of which are outside the boundaries of the historic district, are of the so-called Capehart type, built in double and quadruple units.<sup>36</sup>

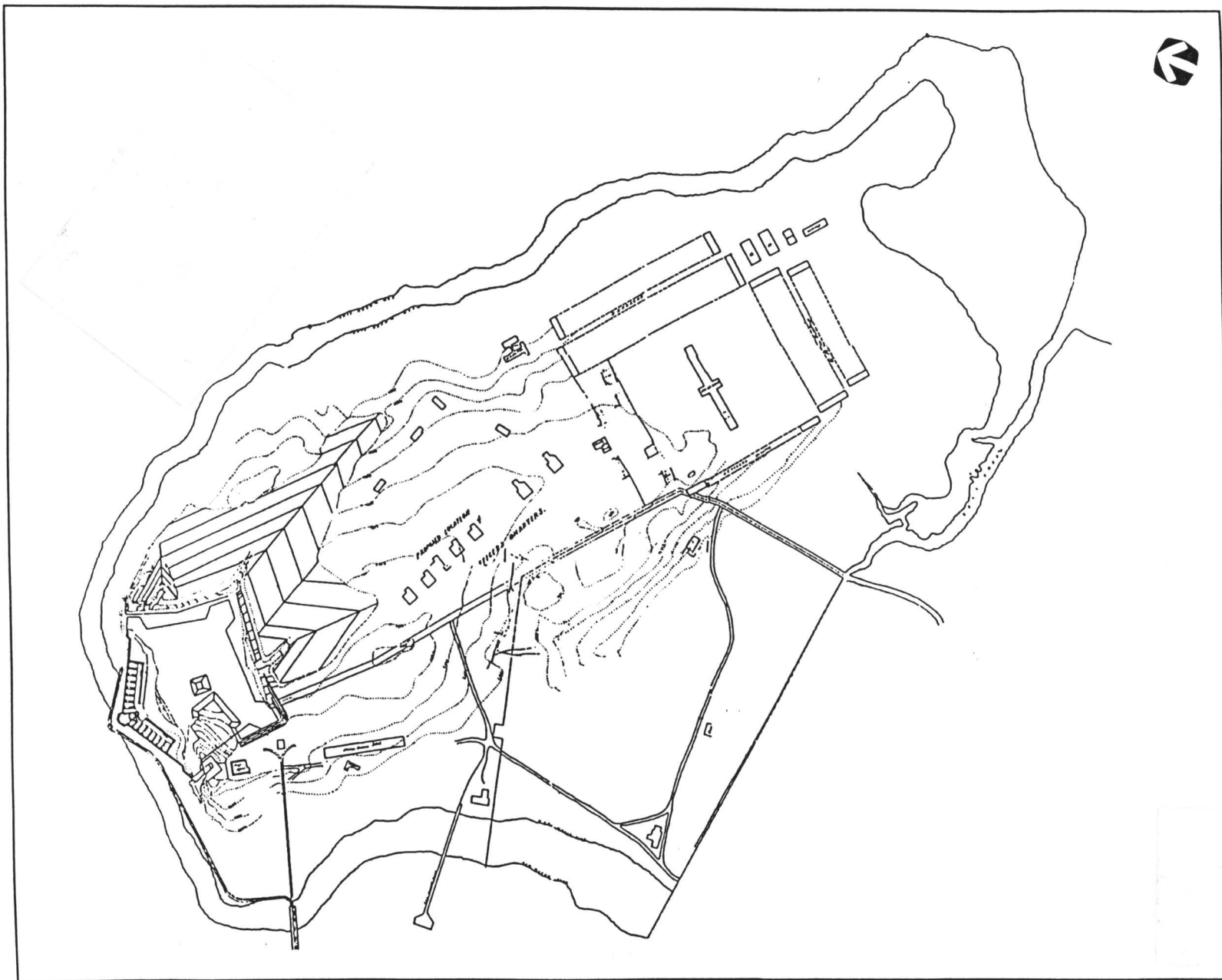
In 1967, Fort Totten was placed on inactive status as a sub-installation for Fort Hamilton, after the First Regional Army Air Defense Command was relocated. It continued to provide housing for military personnel in the New York City area and to serve as the headquarters of the 77th Regional Support Command (RSC), stationed at Fort Totten in 1969. The United States Coast Guard took over 9.6 acres with its related buildings near the shore of Little Bay in 1969. The parade ground and Buildings 322 and 323 were transferred to the United States Department of Labor in 1971 for use as a Job Corps Training Center. The Army Reserve remained an active presence, and the Ernie Pyle U.S. Army Reserve Center was dedicated in 1983. This building is outside the boundaries of the historic district. Other buildings at Fort Totten have been leased to various units of New York City government and non-profit entities.

Much of the property is scheduled to be transferred to the jurisdiction of the New York City Fire Department, the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, and the Historic House Trust of New York City. Buildings 100, 101, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 129, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 331, 332, 333, 336, 337, 400, 403, 404, 405, 409, 410, 411, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, and 421 will be under the jurisdiction of the Fire Department. The Department of Parks & Recreation will have jurisdiction over Buildings 502, and 604. Buildings slated for community-based non-profit organizations will be managed under the auspices of the Historic House Trust and include Buildings 203, 207, 208 (Bayside Historical Society), 211, 422, 633, 634, 635, 637, and 638.

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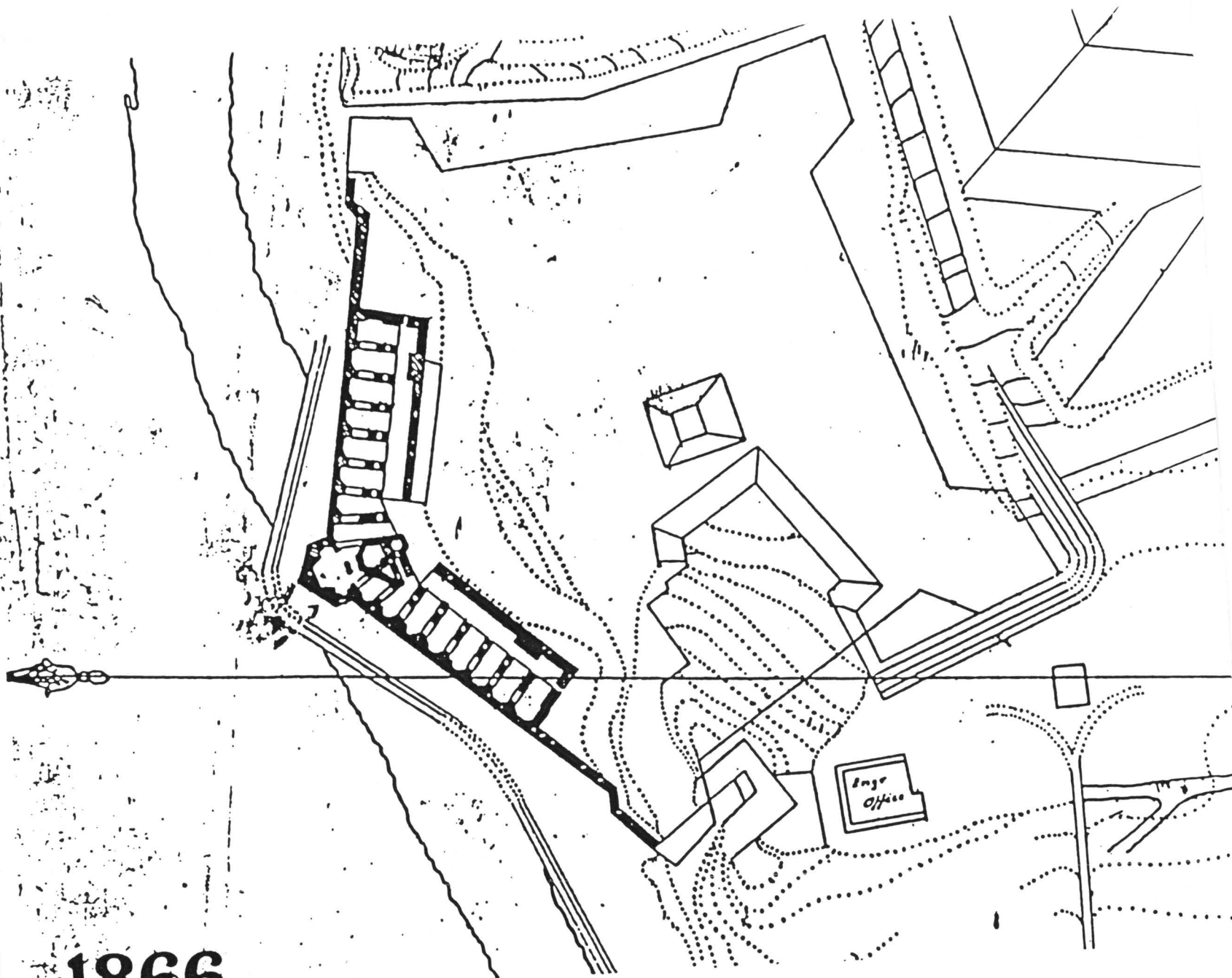
<sup>35</sup>Army Times, *Guide to Army Posts* (Harrisburg, Pa.: Stackpole Books, 1966), 244.

<sup>36</sup>The Capehart houses are named after Senator Homer E. Capehart, Republican of Indiana, who sponsored the program to enable private contractors to construct family housing on military posts. For further information, see William C. Baldwin, "Army Family Housing in the 1950s," University of Maryland School of Public Affairs, 1998: (website) <http://www.puaf.umd.edu/oep/webcourse/mfhp/50shsing.htm>.



Map of Willet's Point, Long Island, 1866

Source: *A Phase IA/B Archaeological Survey of Fort Totten, Queens County, New York City, New York, fig. 5*



**1866**

Fort, detail from map of Willet's Point, Long Island, 1866; showing original location of Building 211  
Source: *A Phase IA/B Archaeological Survey of Fort Totten, Queens County, New York City, New York, fig. 5*



Fort Totten, Battery  
*Photo: Carl Forster*





Fort Totten, Officers Row  
*Photo: Carl Forster*

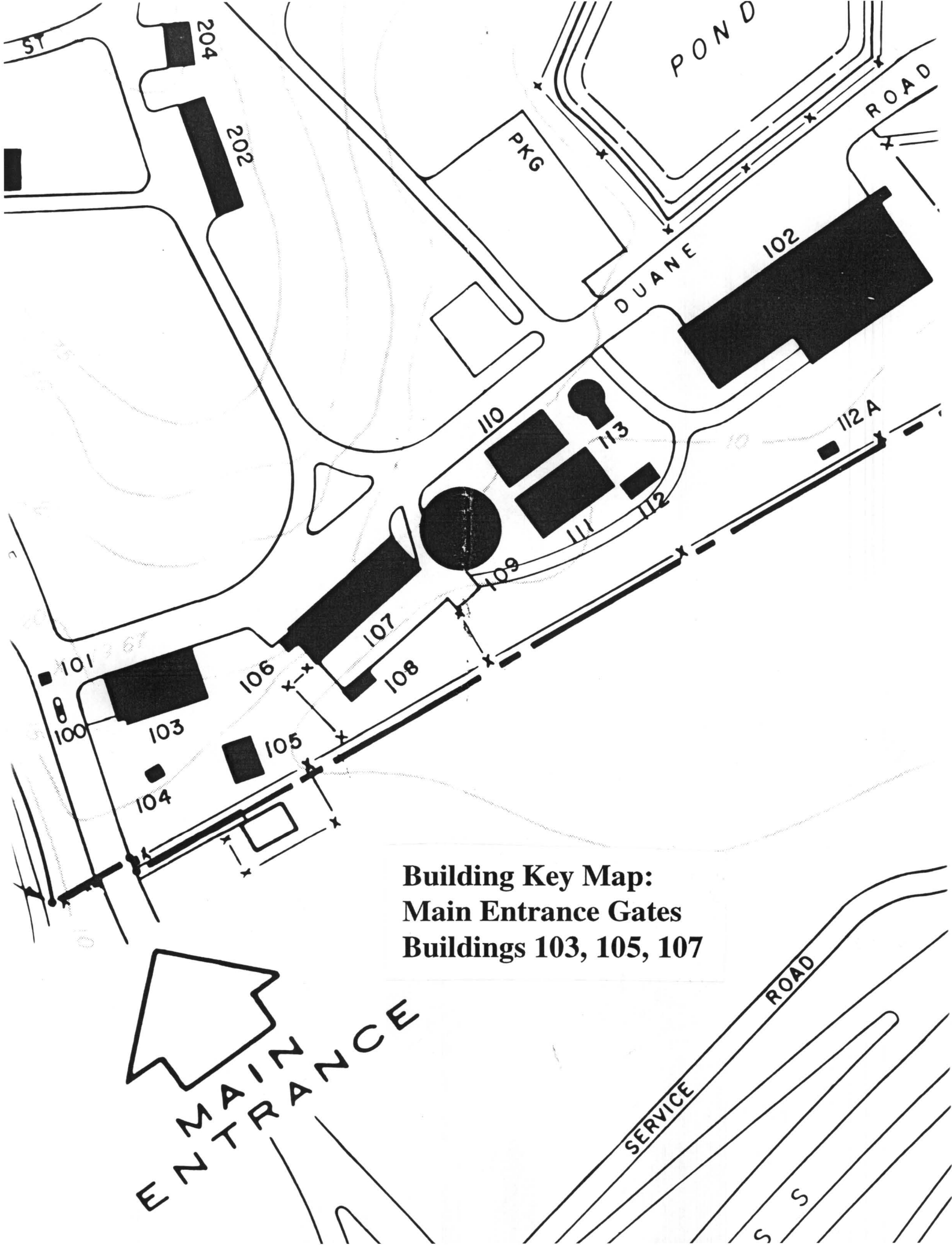


Fort Totten, Building No. 610, view toward Little Bay, Throgs Neck Bridge, and East River  
*Photo: Carl Forster*



## BUILDING ENTRIES

NOTE: The factual information in the following building entries is derived largely from:  
Laura V. Trieschmann and Kathryn A. Gettings, *Historic Architectural Inventory and  
Determination of Eligibility, Fort Totten, Bayside, Queens County, New York*, submitted by  
Traceries, Chevy Chase, MD, to Planning and Environmental Division, Mobile District, U.S.  
Army Corps of Engineers, 1998, 2 vols.



**Building Key Map:**  
**Main Entrance Gates**  
**Buildings 103, 105, 107**

## MAIN ENTRANCE GATES

Totten Avenue at west entrance to Fort Totten

Original name/use: Main entrance to Fort Totten

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1889 - construction

by 1904 - wrought-iron fence in place

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Romanesque Revival

Material: Rusticated granite blocks with wrought-iron gates flanked by wrought-iron fence set on concrete base



The Main Entrance Gates are composed of two tall gateposts, constructed of rusticated granite blocks, resting on rusticated granite bases and surmounted by pyramidal granite caps. The caps are surmounted by bronze-painted spheres, reputed to be disarmed harbor mines. Metal letters, spelling "FORT TOTTEN" are placed on the south post. Painted wrought-iron gates swing open and shut from the gateposts. Flanking the posts is a painted wrought-iron fence, set on a concrete base. A non-historic hurricane fence, topped by barbed wire, is set behind the wrought-iron fence.

When purchased by the U.S. Government in 1857, the Fort at Willets Point was accessed by a road that extended from Bell Boulevard at the southwest. Subsequently, the main entrance was placed at the west end of Totten Avenue, a continuation of Willets Point Boulevard, after the fort was enlarged with the purchase of 26 acres in 1863. The current gate with its two posts of rusticated granite blocks was installed about 1889, presumably replacing a structure less imposing and less permanent in appearance.

Source: Robert B. Roberts, *Encyclopedia of Historic Forts: The Military, Pioneer, and Trading Posts of the United States* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1988), 586.

LPC photos: 12:34 (5/20/99)

**BUILDING NO. 103**

Southwest corner of Totten Avenue and Duane Road

Original name/use: Guardhouse

Subsequent names/uses: Military Police Station, Emergency Medical Service Station

Date: 1892 - construction

1904 - full-width front porch added

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #2-388)

Style: Bungalow style

Materials: Brick with masonry bearing walls

Stories: 1-1/2



Building 103 is a one-and-a-half story rectangular structure of red brick, laid up in common bond, and set on a brick foundation, partially parged with stucco. The segmental-arched window openings have splayed brick lintels and contain non-historic replacement sash. The hipped roof with deep overhanging eaves is covered by asphalt shingles. It has a prominent central ventilator (sided with wood in a poor state of repair), and a tall brick chimney with a corbelled cap. A dormer, with bracketed overhang and paired, non-historic, replacement sash, is placed on the front slope where it intersects with the front porch. The porch, added by 1904, has been enclosed with non-historic brick infill and metal-framed sash. The building, originally square in plan, was extended one bay to the south at the same time the porch was added. The slope of the roof would have been altered at the same time. All entrance doors and brick and concrete steps leading into the building are of relatively recent date.

Building 103 was constructed in 1892 to serve as a guardhouse. Erected by builder James McFerran for the Office of the Quartermaster General using a standard Army building plan, 2-388, it displays the forms and massing of what is called the Bungalow style. This brick guardhouse was the second to be built just inside the main entry gates. It replaced the original frame guardhouse, which had been built sometime after 1866.

Building 103 functioned for many years as a guardhouse and was then the station house for the Fort Totten Military Police. Today it serves as a station of the Emergency Medical Service of the City of New York.

LPC photos: 10:1-5 (3/12/99)

**BUILDING NO. 105**

Southwest of Building No. 103, off Totten Avenue and Duane Road

Original name/use: Permanent electric sub-station

Subsequent names/uses: switch station

Date: 1910 - construction

1996 - rehabilitation after a fire

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Utilitarian with some ornamental detail

Material: Brick with masonry bearing walls

Stories: 1



Building 105 is a small one-story rectangular building constructed of red brick, laid in American bond. The gabled roof with an overhang and molded rafter ends is intersected by a small dormer on the east side. Both the roof and the dormer are covered by asphalt shingles. The segmental-arched window and door openings with brick lintels contain non-historic sash and doors.

Building 105 was constructed in 1910 as the permanent electric sub-station for Fort Totten, which connected the army base with the municipal power supply at Bayside, Queens. Utilitarian in form and function, the building incorporates modest ornamental detail at the openings and roof. The building has continued to serve as a switching station, following repair of major fire damage in the summer of 1996.

LPC photos: 10:6-7 (3/12/99)



**BUILDING NO. 107**

Duane Road, west side, at intersection with Underhill Road

Original name/use: Quartermaster's Storehouse

Subsequent names/uses: Engineers Storehouse, motor vehicle repair, Fire Marshall's Office

Date: 1897 (designed 1891) - construction

1900 - enlarged with the addition of Building 106 (one-story storage shed)

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (drawn by M. R. King)

Style: Romanesque ornament

Material: Brick with masonry bearing walls

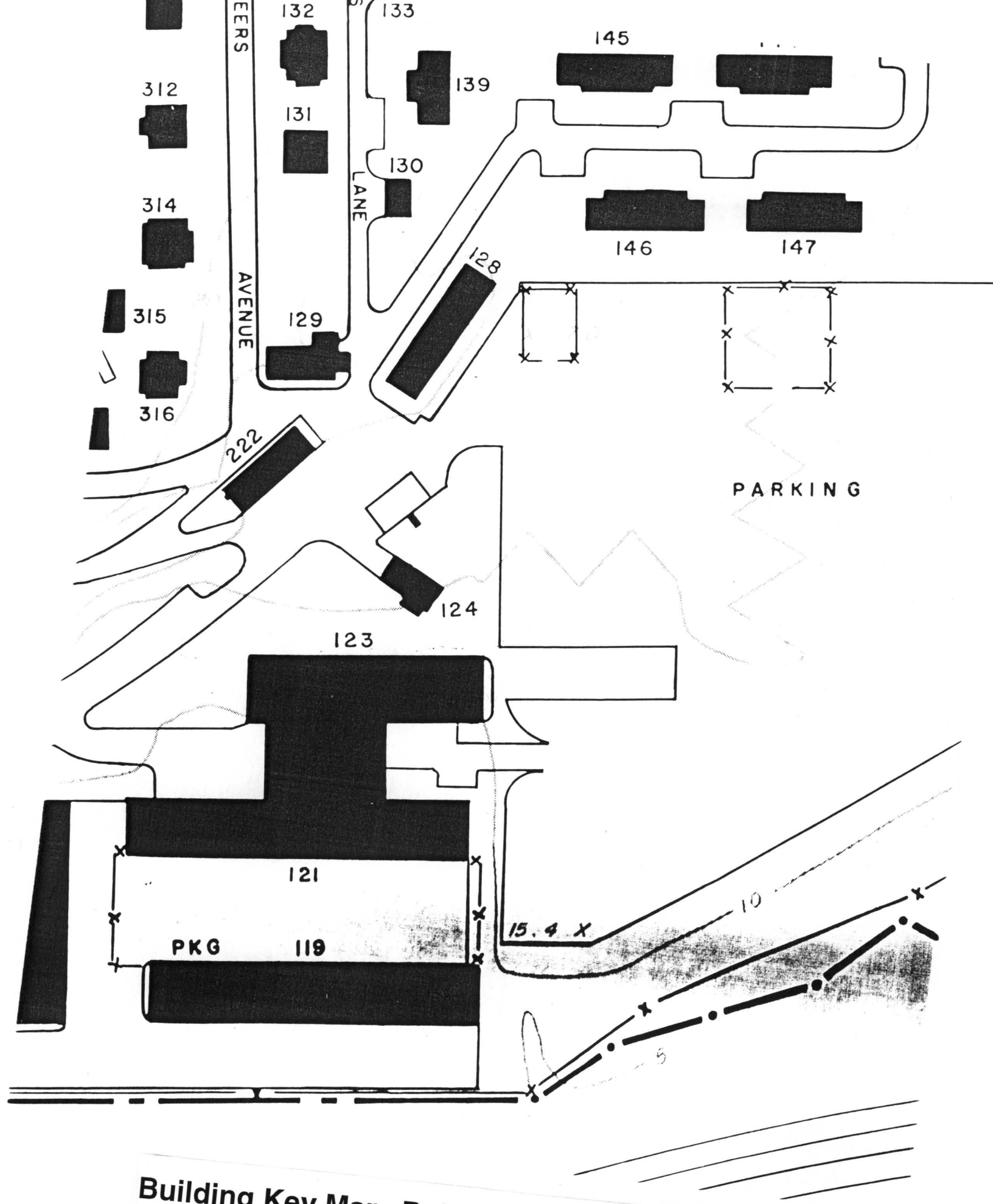
Stories: 1-1/2



Building 107 is a one-and-a-half-story rectangular structure, constructed of red brick laid in American bond on a brick and raked limestone foundation. (Varying degrees of the foundation materials are visible depending on the slope of the site.) The shallow hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles, rising above a dentiled brick cornice. The window and door openings have stone sills and lintels, although all contain non-historic replacement sash and doors. The original brickwork has been altered for the creation, removal, and subsequent infill of entrances. Building 106, attached to Building 107 at the northeast corner, is a small brick structure set on a concrete foundation and covered by an asphalt-shingled sloping shed roof. The entrance opening contains a non-historic metal door.

Building 107 was constructed in 1897 as the Quartermaster's Storehouse, although plans for the building had been drawn in 1891 by M. R. King. Erected by the contractors, Leonard Brothers, for the Office of the Quartermaster General, it displays details of the Romanesque Revival style. Designed to be fireproof, an important consideration in the storage of goods, it was one of a group of storehouses constructed during the 1880s and 1890s. The one-story shed, now called Building 106, was added in 1900 to provide even more storage space. The building was altered at basement level to accommodate motor vehicle repair in the mid 20th century. It was subsequently leased to the Bureau of Fire Investigation, Borough of Queens Command of the Fire Department of New York.

LPC photos: 12:27-31 (5/20/99)



Building Key Map: Buildings 124, 128, 129

BUILDING NO. 124 [Army facility]  
East side of Duane Road, adjacent to parking area

Original name/use: Blacksmith's shop  
Subsequent names/uses: Lubritorium

Date: 1912 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Utilitarian with some ornamental detail

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls  
Stories: 1



Building 124 is a one-story rectangular structure built of red brick laid in American bond on a concrete foundation. The slate-covered gabled roof has an overhang with exposed rafter ends. A tall corbelled brick chimney projects from the west slope of the roof, while a round metal ventilator is placed on the ridge. The north and south elevations have tall openings with historic paneled wood garage doors, presumably added when the building was converted from use as a blacksmith shop to a lubritorium. These are flanked by segmental-arched window openings with brick lintels and limestone sills. Similar openings are placed on the east and west elevations. Some openings have been covered with plywood, while others contain nine-over-nine wood sash. A brick mechanical room, mostly below ground, is placed at the southwest corner. It is covered by a concrete slab.

Building 124 was constructed in 1912 as a blacksmith's shop, a reminder of the importance of horses to the military in the years before World War I. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, it displays modest ornamental detail in the gable ends, chimney, and window lintels. In the 1920s the building was converted for use as a lubritorium to service the anti-aircraft motor transport work at the base and functioned as such until the late 1960s.

LPC photos: 6:1-5 (3/10/99)

BUILDING NO. 128 [Army facility]

Intersection of Duane Road and Murray Avenue, south of Sgt. Beers Lane

Original name/use: Quartermaster's Stable

Subsequent name/uses: Barracks for non-commissioned officers, Quartermaster Company  
offices

Date: 1907-08 - construction

1913 - reconstruction after a fire

1937 - conversion to barracks, new entrance, window openings altered and added,  
building enlarged from 1-1/2 to 2-1/2 stories

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2-1/2



Building 128 is a two-and-one-half story rectangular structure built of red brick laid in American bond on a limestone foundation. The asphalt-covered gabled roof has a slight overhang with a boxed cornice and molded vergeboard at the gable ends. A brick chimney projects from the south slope. The rectangular window openings on all four elevations have brick soldier-course lintels and limestone sills. All have six-over-six replacement metal sash. The main entrance, on the north side, is approached by a concrete staircase, and has an elliptical arch of brick with limestone keystone and impost blocks. The non-historic metal doors are set below a glass fanlight. Another entrance on the west elevation has paired metal doors, placed in an opening with a brick lintel and a limestone keystone.

Building 128 was constructed in 1907-08 as the Quartermaster's Stable and contained stalls for 39 horses, a reminder of the importance of these animals to the military in the years before World War I. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, it was originally a one-and-a-half story building with stalls on the first floor and a hayloft above; it probably displayed details characteristic of the Queen Anne style. The building was severely damaged in a fire in 1913 and reconstructed as a stable. By 1937, the need for horses had diminished, much of the area around the stable had been built up with residences, and additional barracks for bachelor non-commissioned officers were needed. Thus the stable was converted and enlarged to its current form with the Colonial Revival style details seen today. Subsequently the building was put into use as offices for the Army Quartermaster.

LPC photos: 5:29-33 (3/10/99)



**BUILDING NO. 129**

Murray Avenue, east side, at Sgt. Beers Avenue and Sgt. Beers Lane

Original name/use: Torpedo storehouse

Subsequent names/uses: Commissary; housing and office of the Surgeon General

Date: 1871-79 - construction

c. 1904 - converted to commissary

post 1924 - dormers added in conjunction with conversion to housing and office

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Utilitarian with Colonial Revival details

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

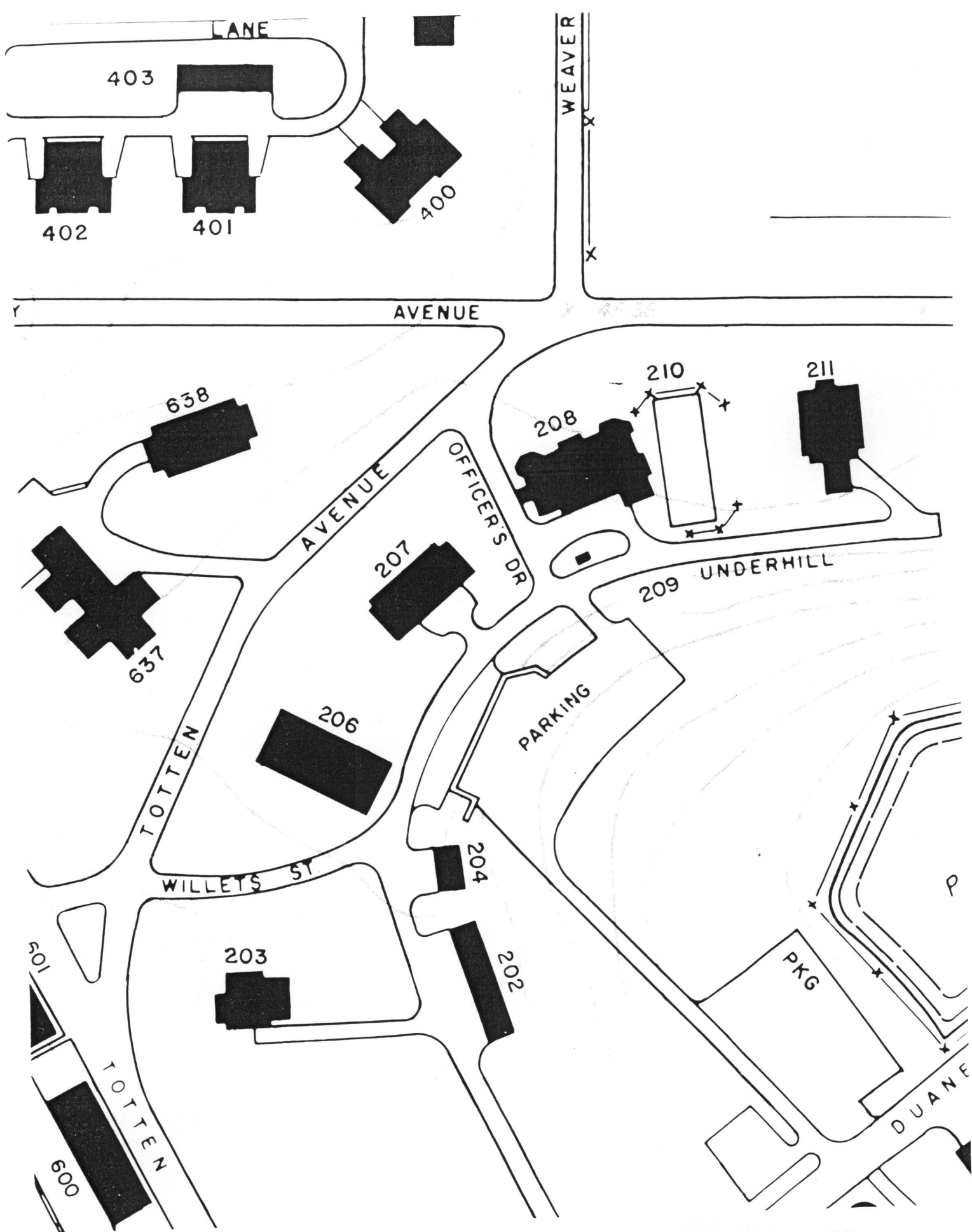
Stories: 2



Building 129, a rectangular structure, is built of red brick laid in American bond (now covered with sand paint) on a concrete foundation with a limestone watertable. The steep slate-covered gabled roof rises above a corbelled brick cornice at the east and west elevations and is punctuated by slate-covered dormers. The window openings have limestone lintels and sills and contain six-over-six wood sash. The two entrances contain paneled wood doors. Two, mostly below-ground, brick mechanical rooms are located at the southwest corner of the building. They are covered with concrete slabs, while tall brick chimneys rise from them.

Building 129 was erected sometime between 1871 and 1879 as a fireproof torpedo storehouse. It is the oldest surviving brick building at Fort Totten and its original use is significant because the fort became the center for torpedo research and development for the U.S. Army during this period. By 1904, the building had been converted to a commissary. The roof dormers, a Colonial Revival detail, were added sometime after 1924, possibly when the building was converted again for use as housing and the office of the fort Surgeon General.

LPC photos: 5:19-23 (3/10/99)



**Building Key Map: Buildings 203, 206, 207, 208, 211**

**BUILDING NO. 203**

Totten Avenue, south side, west of Willets Street

Original name/use: Field Officer's Quarters

Subsequent names/uses: Officer's Quarters: single-family dwelling

Date: 1905 - construction

1909- enlarged to add servant's room at southeast corner

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #145-B)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 203 is a two-story-with-attic house faced with red pressed brick set on a foundation of rough cut stone. A T-shaped building, it has a cross-gabled roof that is covered with slate shingles. A wooden porch with Tuscan columns supporting a shallow hipped roof wraps around the north front and east side of the house. The columns are linked by balustrades with turned posts. The porch, which sits on a parged brick and latticework base, is approached by wooden steps. The eastern portion of the porch is screened behind the Tuscan columns. The main entrance has paired paneled wood doors. The window openings have prominent keystones and splayed brick lintels and limestone sills. The central windows in the gable ends are arched. 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 above a corbeled brick molding demarcate the main roof. A small enclosed entry porch at the southwest corner has wood siding. A one-story brick addition has been constructed at the southeast corner.

Building 203 was constructed in 1905, along with Building 635, as a single-family dwelling identified as Field Officer's Quarters (rank of major or colonel). Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General using a standard building plan, 145-B, the house displays forms and details of the popular Colonial Revival style. It was constructed during a major residential building campaign which coincided with the installation of the Coast Artillery at Fort Totten. The same plan was used for Building 403 on Governors Island, built at the same time as this house.

Related structure: Remnants of a historic wood-frame gazebo are located on the lawn west of the house.

LPC photos: 9:24-28 (3/12/99)

BUILDING NO. 206 [Army facility]  
Totten Avenue, south side, east of Willets Street

Original name/use: Post Headquarters  
Subsequent names/uses: Headquarters 301st SPT GP (A)

Date: 1905 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Colonial Revival/Neo-Georgian

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



Building 206 is a rectangular two-story brick structure with a basement and attic. Set on a rusticated stone foundation topped by a wide limestone beltcourse, its red brick facades are laid up in stretcher bond. The gabled roof is covered with slate and punctuated by gabled dormers, which are sided with slate and trimmed with wood moldings. The wide center dormers contain double-hung three-over-three sash that are flanked by paired double-hung one-over-one sash. Semi-circular fanlights extend above the triple windows in the pedimented gables of the dormers. The narrower dormers contain double-hung two-over-two sash. The roof is set off by an elaborate corbelled wood cornice above a wide molded fascia. The entrance facade, approached from Totten Avenue, is divided into three bays by brick pilasters with Ionic brownstone capitals and stone bases. Carved brownstone arches with decorative spandrels incorporating shields mark the first story. The entrance is approached by stone steps with non-historic wrought-iron railings. It contains paired wood and glass doors and sidelights beneath a decorative fanlight. The stone infill at basement level and the brick infill at the first and second stories between the pilasters is different in shade, texture, and pointing from that used elsewhere, suggesting that these are replacement materials, and that the arches originally may have been open. The window sash are six-over-six double-hung wood and were probably installed in conjunction with the brick infill. The gable end, at attic level, contains a Palladianesque window opening with a tripartite window below a semi-circular fanlight. The wall of the gable end is covered with slate. Each of the side elevations is nine bays, with brick pilasters with brownstone Ionic capitals marking the bay closest to the entrance facade. This bay has detailing, with similar later infill, like that on the entrance facade. Otherwise the window openings above the basement level have splayed brick lintels and brownstone keystones and sills. These openings contain double-hung two-over-two wood sash. The rear facade is flanked by brick pilasters with brownstone Ionic capitals. The window openings and sash are like those on the side elevations. A rear entrance with paired metal and glass doors flanked by sidelights and placed below a transom is approached by non-historic metal steps. The treatment of the gable end is like that seen on the entrance facade. A fire escape has been added to the southern elevation.

Building 206 was constructed in 1905 as the post headquarters to meet the needs of command facilities for the rapidly expanding fort and the newly installed Coast Artillery. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, it displays the characteristics of high style Colonial Revival architecture with neo-Georgian details. The use of such elaborate detail can be seen to convey the importance of the headquarters as the command post of the Fort Totten military installation.

Since its opening, Building 206 has functioned as post headquarters and subsequently as headquarters for the Army Reserve support facility still located at Fort Totten.

LPC photos: 9:19-23 (3/12/99)



BUILDING NO. 207

Totten Avenue, west side, north of Officers Drive

Original name/use: Enlisted Personnel Quarters

Subsequent names/uses: Enlisted Officers' Quarters

Date: 1905

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 207 is a two-and-one-half story rectangular residence, faced in red brick laid in stretcher bond above a rusticated foundation of schist. The building has a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. The horizontal and raking cornices at the edge of the roof are enriched with corbels and dentils. On the front roof slope two wide gabled dormers are faced with slate shingles, have Palladianesque window surrounds, and are framed with wood pilasters carrying raking denticulated cornices. A two-story wood porch extends across the entire front facade. Two sets of wooden stairs approach the porch. At both levels, Tuscan columns are linked by wood balustrades. The second-story columns support a shallow hipped roof. The porch base is supported on concrete piers with wooden screens between them. The two entrances to the residence have paired paneled wood doors below transoms. Similar entrances are located at the second story. All of the first and second-story window openings have splayed brick lintels with keystones. The windows have stone sills and contain two-over-two wood sash. Paired arched windows with keystones and stone sills are placed at attic level in the gable ends.

Building 207 was constructed in 1905 as Enlisted Personnel (lower-ranking non-commissioned officers) Quarters, part of a campaign to meet the housing needs of the rapidly growing fort and the newly installed Coast Artillery. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, the building displays the forms and details of the popular Colonial Revival style. Under construction at the same time as the adjacent Post Headquarters, Building 207 replaced a frame building, the assistant engineer's office, constructed between 1866 and 1871 during the first development phase of the Fort at Willets Point. It remained in use as housing for enlisted officers until the late 1960s.

LPC photos: 8:22-26 (3/12/99)

**BUILDING NO. 208**

Totten Avenue, south of Officers Drive, at the intersection of Murray Avenue and Weaver Avenue

Original name/use: Officers' Mess Hall and Club

Subsequent names/uses: Fort Totten Officers Club; Bayside Historical Society

Date: 1887 - construction

1904-10 - entrance porticoes added at north and south and rear porch constructed

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan 6167-1018X)

Style: Gothic Revival

Material: Wood siding on wood frame

Stories: 3

Designated New York City Landmark September 24, 1974

National Register listing



Building 208 is a three-story wood frame structure, faced in wood siding to simulate stone and set on a granite foundation. The building employs an irregular U-shaped plan with octagonal corner pavilions and a central entrance pavilion, all topped by crenelation. The north and south wings created by this plan project westerly to the rear of the building. Simulated quoins mark the corners of the pavilions. The wood siding is painted a dark red, while the trim is painted a contrasting shade of cream. The roof of the main portion of the building is sloped and historically has been covered with metal sheeting. The front entrance portico has a non-historic brick platform and brick posts that support a shallow-arched entablature with crenellation. The paired entrance doors of paneled wood are set below a transom with a label molding. All of the building's window openings have wood surrounds with label moldings and contain two-over-two wood sash. The portico at the north side of the building rests on a granite foundation and has paired wood posts supporting a shallow-arched entablature surmounted by a parapet. It is approached by a flight of concrete steps with metal balustrades. The entry contains paired wood and glass doors. The portico at the south side is similar, but twice as wide. The entablature has the arches incised in the wood frieze rather than being fully carved, and it is surmounted by crenellation. The entry contains a single paneled door below a label molding. A two-story porch covers much of the rear elevation between the two wings. It is open at the first story with plain wood posts on a wood platform carrying the second story porch that has been enclosed with wood siding. It is covered with a shed roof. A small one-story shed-roofed addition is placed on the north side of the southern wing, adjacent to the rear porch.

Building 208 was constructed in 1887 as the Officers' Mess Hall and Club for the Army Engineers at the Fort. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General using a standard building plan, 6167-1018X, the building is a rare surviving example of the castellated Gothic Revival style in New York City, here executed in wood frame and covered with wood siding. The prototype for the building is the stone library building at West Point, designed by Major Richard Delafield and built in 1841 (demolished 1961). The prototype is especially fitting as the Army Engineers ran West Point until 1866. The first mess hall at Fort Totten, built between 1866 and 1871, also a Gothic Revival frame structure, was located on what is now the south side of Story Avenue, south of the Parade Ground, the site of Buildings 322 and 323. The construction of Building 208 signalled the start of what was to be a major building campaign at the fort. Building 208 was slightly enlarged in the early 20th century with the addition of porticoed entrances on the north and south elevations and a second story porch at the rear.

The building is now the headquarters of the Bayside Historical Society.

LPC photos: 8:28-31 (3/12/99)

**BUILDING NO. 211**

Murray Avenue [Totten Avenue], west side, fronting Parade Ground between Weaver Avenue and Story Avenue

Original name/use: Double house (farmhouse)

Subsequent names/uses: Engineers office; commanding officer's house; officers' housing

Date: c. 1829 - original construction

1867-68 - house moved to present location, enlarged, remodeled in Gothic Revival style

c. 1890 - house rehabilitated after fire

1940 - two-story addition for staircase at north side; rear wing may have been extended at this time.

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Gothic Revival villa

Material: Asbestos shingles (originally wood clapboards) on wood frame

Stories: 2 with attic



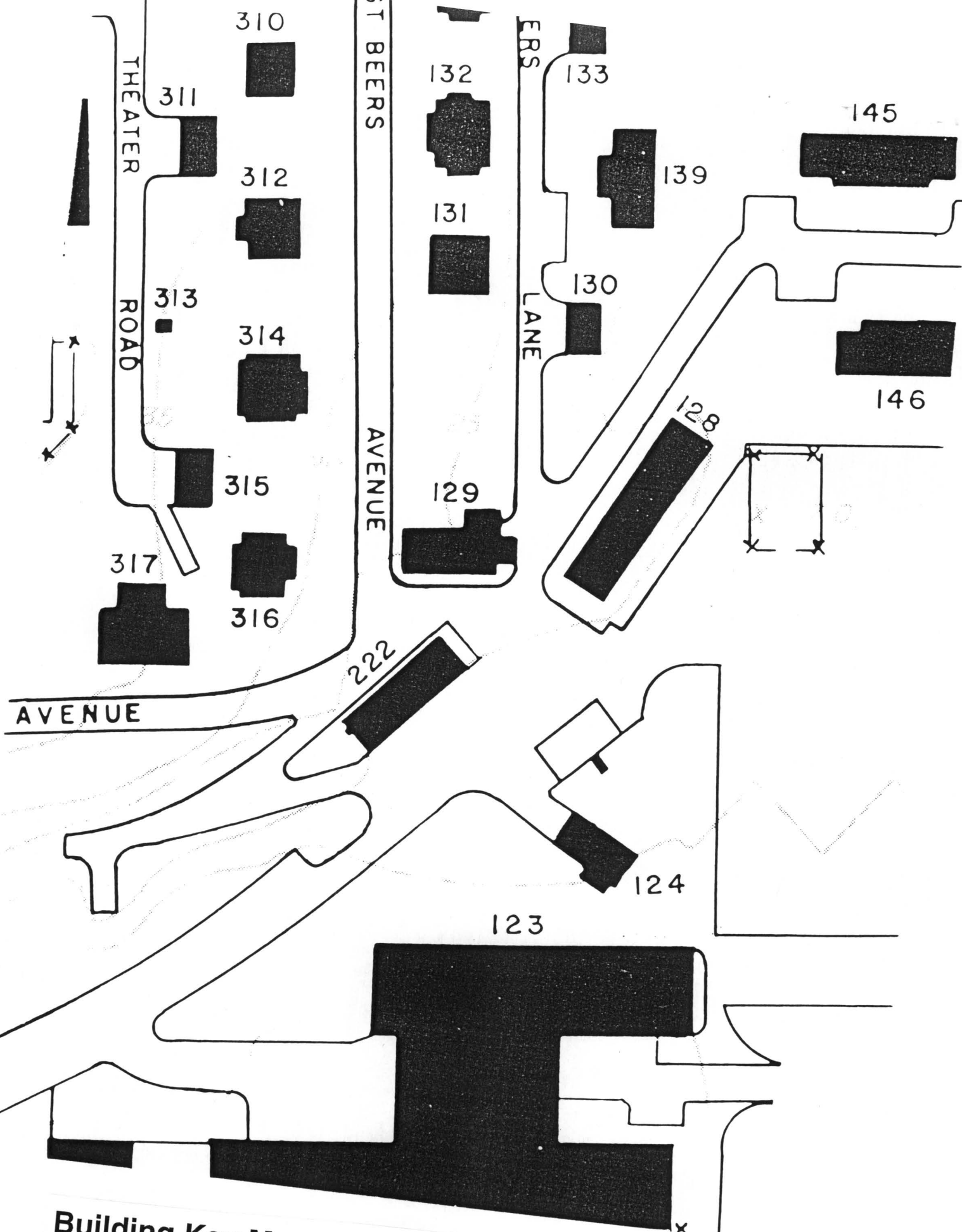
Building 211, a two-story house with attic, is constructed of wood frame set on a rough stone foundation, in some places covered with or replaced by poured concrete. Cross-shaped in plan, the building has asbestos siding (covering wood clapboards) and steep intersecting gabled roofs covered with asphalt shingles and punctuated by tall chimneys with corbelled caps. Decorative brackets are placed under the roof eaves. A wood porch wraps around the front and the south side of the house. The porch has chamfered square posts linked by railings of square balusters; the posts support a shallow hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. The main entrance is placed in a surround and has paired doors below a four-light transom (now covered with plywood). Most of the window openings have been covered with plywood or contain the remains of six-over-six double-hung wood sash. Historically, the openings on the first story facing the porch had full-length twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash. The rear wing of the house has been enlarged by a one-story and basement wood-frame addition. The addition rests on a brick foundation and is covered with asbestos shingles. A two-story addition on the north side encloses a stairway.

Building 211, originally constructed c.1829 for the Willets family as a Greek Revival style double house, is the oldest surviving building at Fort Totten and the only one to predate the establishment of the fort. The house originally faced north and was located at the northwestern corner of the post on one of the highest points of the peninsula. When the Army acquired the property and began the construction of the battery under the direction of the Army Corps of Engineers, it used the house as an engineers' office. In 1867, General Duane was ordered "to remove the house used as an Engineers Office [sic] to another part of the post, and to repair and remodel it for the occupancy of the officer in charge of the Fort." The house was moved to its current location and enlarged and remodeled as a single-family dwelling in the fashionable Gothic Revival style. It was then occupied by Maj. [later Brig. Gen.] Henry L. Abbot, Engineer and Post Commander, with his family. The house remained the living quarters of Fort Totten's commanding officer until it was superseded by the construction of Building 422 in 1909. The single-family house was converted into a two-family house in 1940, which resulted in some exterior changes.

While the building has been vacant for many years and deteriorated, it is to be restored by the Bayside Historic Society under the supervision of the Historic House Trust.

Source: "Interesting Excerpts from a Manuscript Volume Entitled MEDICAL HISTORY OF THE POST AT WILLETS POINT," prepared at Fort Totten, New York, July 9, 1946, by the Office of the Special Assistant to the Commanding General, Atlantic Division, Air Transport Command from "Description of Post by Calvin DeWitt, Assistant Surgeon in June 1868." Memorandum, John V. Goff, Boston Affiliates, Inc., to Louis Aiese, Director of Planning, Fort Hamilton, "Status of Building 211 at Fort Totten," November 24, 1992.

LPC photos: 7:1-4 (3/10/99)



Building Key Map: Building 222



BUILDING NO. 222 [Army facility]

Southwest of intersection of Murray Avenue and Sgt. Beers Avenue

Original name/use: Storehouse and office for the commissary

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1890-98 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: some Colonial Revival detail

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

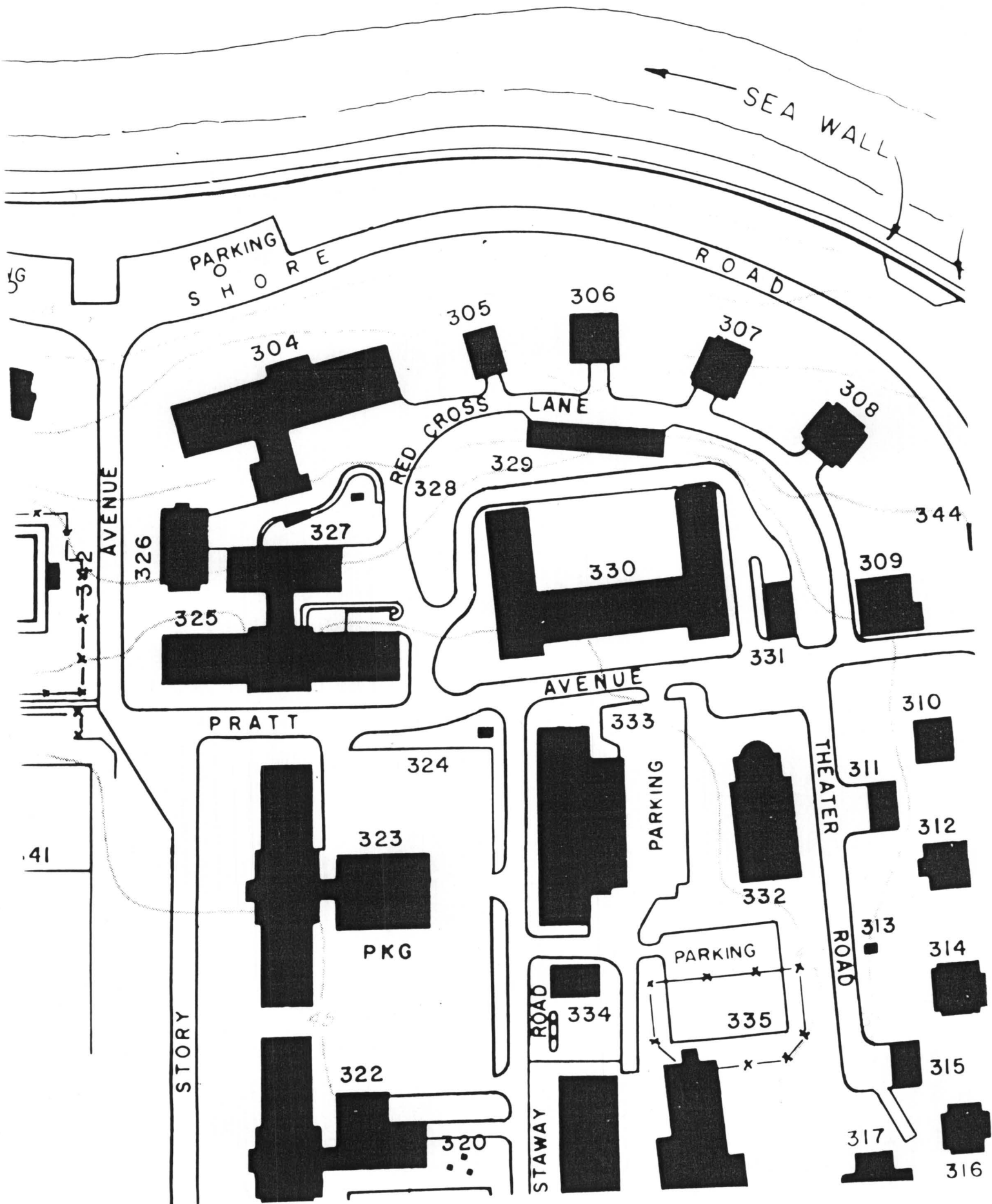
Stories: 1 with basement



Building 222 is a one-story rectangular structure with a high basement visible at the south because of the sloping site. It has a shallow gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. Faced in red brick laid in American bond, it has contrasting limestone detail, including bandcourses, window sills, and keys accenting the blind oculuses in the gable ends. The gables have corbelled brickwork creating parapets rising above the roof slopes. The two entrances on the north side are approached by a concrete platform and contain paired metal doors below transoms. Similar doors are located at the basement level on the south side. One-over-one wood sash remain on the south side of the building; the window openings on the other three sides have one-over-one metal sash.

Building 222 was constructed sometime between 1890 and 1898 as a storehouse and office space for the commissary, which subsequently located nearby in Building 129. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, the building has the characteristic form of a fireproof storehouse while displaying some Colonial Revival details. The building has always been used for office and storage purposes.

LPC photos: 5:24-28 (3/10/99)



Building Key Map: Buildings 304-309

**BUILDING NO. 304**

Shore Road, west side, south of Story Avenue

Original name/use: Post Hospital

Subsequent names/uses: Walter Reed Hospital

Date: 1906 - construction

1911-12 - north wing constructed

1928 - one-story addition at the rear for kitchen and mess hall

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (A.W. Hodgkins for north wing)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 304 is a symmetrically-organized structure, comprising a two-story-with-attic central section surmounted by an asphalt-covered gabled roof with prominent chimneys and flanking two-story-with-attic wings at the north and south with asphalt-covered hipped roofs. The red brick walls are laid up in common bond (now painted) and set on a stone foundation. The central section has an entrance porch with a concrete platform set on stone piers with chamfered square Tuscan columns of wood supporting a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. The entrance with paired doors (now covered with plywood) is placed below a seven-light transom. Window openings on the building have segmental arches with splayed brick lintels and stone sills and contain two-over-two wood double-hung sash. Wood cornices extend along the roofline. All of the roof slopes have prominent gabled dormers covered with asphalt shingles. The dormers contain multi-light sash. Fire escapes have been added to the north and south ends of the two wings. A one-story brick ell with a prominent chimney extends from the rear of the central section. A one-story wood-frame entry addition, ornamented with Tuscan posts and covered with clapboard, is placed on the south side of the ell.

Building 304 was constructed in 1906 as the Post Hospital, the third such hospital structure at Fort Totten. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, it is an imposing example of the Colonial Revival style, here adapted to this special building type. As originally built the hospital accommodated 48 beds; the north wing was built in 1911-12 to designs by A.W. Hodgkins for the Office of the Quartermaster General, expanding the capacity to 68 beds. Hodgkins's design incorporated two-story open-air porches (subsequently removed). The one-story ell containing a kitchen and mess hall was constructed at the rear in 1928. The hospital, which is sited facing Shore Road and Little Neck Bay, was located in a largely residential section of the fort. It replaced several frame barracks. While Fort Totten was an active military installation, the building remained in hospital use. It was named in honor of Dr. Walter Reed, who was the Post Surgeon at Fort Totten in 1875-76. It has been vacant for many years.

LPC photos: 2: 7-11 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 305**

Shore Road, west side, south of Story Avenue

Original name/use: Hospital Steward's House

Subsequent names/uses: Officer's housing: single-family dwelling

Date: 1907 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (adapted from Building Plan #82-D)

Style: Colonial Revival, American four-square plan

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2



Building 305 is a one-family, two-story house, faced with red brick laid in stretcher bond set on a rough stone foundation. Square in plan, it has a hipped roof covered with slate shingles set with copper flashing and punctuated by a chimney with a corbelled cap. An ogee-molded cornice and frieze set off the roofline. A full-width screened porch composed of square posts with Tuscan columns linked by balustrades extends across the east facade. It is surmounted by a shallow hipped roof covered with standing seam metal. The porch steps are of wood. The porch floor is supported by stone piers linked by louvered wood screens. The entrance has a paneled wood and glass door. The window openings have segmental arches with splayed brick lintels and stone sills and contain non-historic metal sash. The rear elevation has a one-story wood porch that rests on a brick foundation and is covered by a hipped roof clad in standing seam metal. The porch has been enclosed with clapboards and contains an additional projecting entryway. A basement hatchway is placed on the north side of the house.

Building 305 was constructed in 1907 as a single-family dwelling for the Hospital Steward, who was responsible for the administration of the adjacent hospital. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to an adaptation of a standard building plan, 82-D, it is a relatively modest example of the Colonial Revival style utilizing the American four-square plan. While this is a single dwelling, it echoes the form and massing of the five adjacent twin dwellings (Buildings 306, 307, 308, 310, and 312), built between 1905 and 1906. Like the hospital, Building 305 faces Shore Road and Little Neck Bay and replaced a frame barracks. The building remained in use as housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 2:25-29 (3/10/99)



BUILDING NO. 306

Shore Road, west side, south of Story Avenue

Original name/use: Housing for non-commissioned officers: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1905-06 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #82-D)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 306 is a two-family, two-story-with-attic house, faced with red brick laid in stretcher bond set on a rough stone foundation. Rectangular in plan, it has a gabled roof covered with slate shingles set with copper flashing and punctuated by two central brick chimneys with corbelled caps. An ogee-molded cornice and frieze set off the roofline. A full-width screened porch composed of square posts with Tuscan columns linked by balustrades extends across the east facade. It is surmounted by a shallow hipped roof covered with standing seam metal. The porch steps are of wood. The porch floor is supported by brick piers linked by louvered wood screens. Each of the two entrances has a paneled wood and glass door. The window openings have segmental arches with splayed brick lintels and stone sills and contain non-historic metal sash. A lunette half-window is placed in each gable end. The rear elevation has a one-story wood porch that rests on a brick foundation and is covered by a hipped roof clad in standing seam metal. The porch has been enclosed with clapboards and contains two rear entrance doors flanked by window openings. Each half of the building has a basement hatchway, placed on the north and south ends.

Building 306 was constructed in 1905-06 as a twin dwelling for non-commissioned officers. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standard building plan, 82-D, it is a relatively modest example of the Colonial Revival style utilizing the American four-square plan for each of the two units. It was constructed as one of a group of five adjacent twin dwellings (Buildings 306, 307, 308, 310, and 312), all built between 1905 and 1906 to meet housing needs as Fort Totten expanded in conjunction with the installation of the Coast Artillery. Like the hospital, Building 306 faces Shore Road and Little Neck Bay and replaced a frame barracks. The building remained in use as housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 2:30-34 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 307**

Shore Road, west side, south of Story Avenue

Original name/use: Housing for non-commissioned officers: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1905-06 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #82-D)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 307 is a two-family, two-story-with-attic house, faced with red brick laid in stretcher bond set on a rough stone foundation. Rectangular in plan, it has a gabled roof covered with slate shingles set with copper flashing and punctuated by two central brick chimneys covered with parged stucco. An ogee-molded cornice and frieze set off the roofline. A full-width screened porch composed of square posts with Tuscan columns linked by balustrades extends across the east facade. It is surmounted by a shallow hipped roof covered with standing seam metal. The porch steps are of wood. The porch floor is supported by brick piers linked by louvered wood screens. Each of the two entrances has a paneled wood and glass door. The window openings have segmental arches with splayed brick lintels and stone sills and contain non-historic metal sash. A lunette half-window is placed in each gable end. The rear elevation has a one-story wood porch that rests on a brick foundation and is covered by a hipped roof clad in standing seam metal. The porch has been enclosed with clapboards and contains two projecting entryways. Each half of the building has a basement hatchway, placed on the north and south ends.

Building 307 was constructed in 1905-06 as a twin dwelling for non-commissioned officers. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standard building plan, 82-D, it is a relatively modest example of the Colonial Revival style utilizing the American four-square plan for each of the two units. It was constructed as one of a group of five adjacent twin dwellings (Buildings 306, 307, 308, 310, and 312), all built between 1905 and 1906 to meet housing needs as Fort Totten expanded in conjunction with the installation of the Coast Artillery. Like the hospital, Building 307 faces Shore Road and Little Neck Bay and replaced a frame barracks. The building remained in use as housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 3:3-7 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 308**

Shore Road, west side, near Gen. R.W. Berry Drive

Original name/use: Housing for non-commissioned officers: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1905-06 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #82-D)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 308 is a two-family, two-story-with-attic house, faced with red brick laid in stretcher bond set on a rough stone foundation. Rectangular in plan, it has a gabled roof covered with slate shingles set with copper flashing and punctuated by two central brick chimneys with corbelled caps. An ogee-molded cornice and frieze set off the roofline. A full-width screened porch composed of square posts with Tuscan columns linked by balustrades extends across the east facade. It is surmounted by a shallow hipped roof covered with standing seam metal. The porch steps are of wood. The porch floor is supported by brick piers which are linked by louvered wood screens. Each of the two entrances has a paneled wood and glass door. The window openings have segmental arches with splayed brick lintels and stone sills and contain non-historic metal sash. A lunette half-window is placed in each gable end. The rear elevation has a one-story wood porch that rests on a brick foundation and is covered by a hipped roof clad in standing seam metal. The porch has been enclosed with clapboards and contains two rear entrance doors flanked by window openings. Each half of the building has a basement hatchway, placed on the north and south ends.

Building 308 was constructed in 1905-06 as a twin dwelling for non-commissioned officers. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standard building plan, 82-D, it is a relatively modest example of the Colonial Revival style utilizing the American four-square plan for each of the two units. It was constructed as one of a group of five adjacent twin dwellings (Buildings 306, 307, 308, 310, and 312), all built between 1905 and 1906 to meet housing needs as Fort Totten expanded in conjunction with the installation of the Coast Artillery. Like the hospital, Building 308 faces Shore Road and Little Neck Bay and replaced a frame barracks. The building remained in use as housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 3:8-12 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 309**

Pratt Avenue, east side, between Red Cross Lane and Sgt. Beers Avenue

Original name/use: Post Bakery

Subsequent names/uses: Offices; Police Dept. K-9 Unit

Date: 1897- construction

1912 - building enlarged to the east and roof slope altered

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #49-A)

Style: Utilitarian

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 1



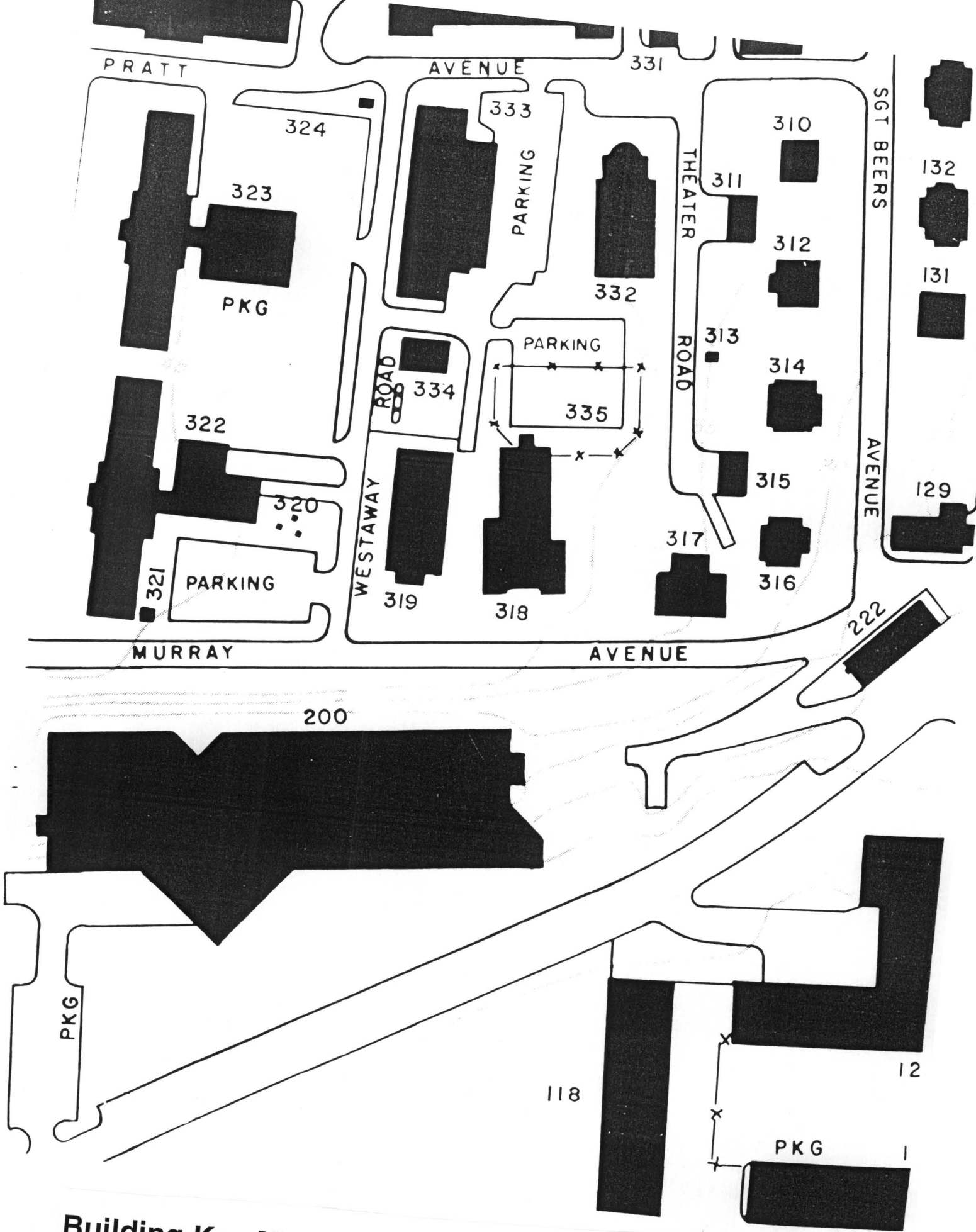


Building 309 is a one-story square structure of red brick, laid up in American bond, and set on a rough stone foundation. The segmental-arched window openings contain one-over-one wood sash. The flattened hipped roof with deep overhanging eaves is covered by asphalt shingles and has prominent brackets. Two tall brick chimneys (one parged) project from the roof. The central segmental-arched brick entrance frames a rectangular opening containing a non-historic door. The double steps leading to the entrance are of recent date. The window openings flanking the door have been enlarged. The shed-roofed brick addition on the south side of the building postdates the 1912 enlargement.

Building 309 was constructed in 1897 as the post bakery. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standard plan for bakeries, 49-A, that had been developed in 1894, it exhibits a utilitarian form and a minimum of detail. This was the second bakery structure on the post; the first bakery, built in 1866, was located further to the southeast. The present location was close to the three large barracks structures built in the 1890s (Buildings 322, 323, and 325) as well as the new mess hall (Building 333) under construction at the same time. The building was enlarged in 1912.

The building now houses the New York City Police Dept. K-9 unit.

LPC photos: 3:13-17 (3/10/99)



Building Key Map: Buildings 310, 312, 314, 316, 317

BUILDING NO. 310

Sgt. Beers Avenue, north side, west of Pratt Avenue

Original name/use: Housing for non-commissioned officers: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1905-06 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #82-D)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 310 is a two-family, two-story-with-attic house, faced with red brick laid in stretcher bond and set on a rough stone foundation. Rectangular in plan, it has a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles (originally slate). The two central brick chimneys have corbelled caps. A molded cornice with corner returns enriches the roofline. A full-width screened porch composed of square posts with Tuscan columns linked by balustrades extends across the south facade. It is surmounted by a shallow hipped roof covered with standing seam metal. The porch steps are of wood. The porch floor is supported by brick piers linked by louvered wood screens. Each of the two entrances has a paneled wood and glass door. The brick segmental-arched window surrounds are accented by stone sills. They frame rectangular window openings which contain non-historic metal sash. A lunette half-window is placed in each gable end. The rear elevation has a one-story wood porch that rests on a brick foundation and is covered with a hipped roof clad in standing seam metal. The porch has been enclosed with clapboards; it has two rear entrance doors flanked by window openings. Each half of the building has a basement hatchway, placed on the east and west ends.

Building 310 was constructed in 1905-06 as a twin dwelling for non-commissioned officers. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standard building plan, 82-D, it is a relatively modest example of the Colonial Revival style utilizing the American four-square plan for each of the two units. It was constructed as one of a group of five adjacent twin dwellings (Buildings 306, 307, 308, 310, and 312), all built between 1905 and 1906 to meet housing needs as Fort Totten expanded in conjunction with the installation of the Coast Artillery. Building 310 was built in a residential enclave of predominately frame dwellings, facing what is now Sgt. Beers Avenue; the frame dwellings were subsequently demolished. The building remained in use as housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 4:31-35 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 312**

Sgt. Beers Avenue, north side, between Pratt Avenue and Murray Avenue

Original name/use: Housing for non-commissioned officers: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1905-06 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #82-D)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 312 is a two-family, two-story-with-attic house, faced with red brick laid in stretcher bond and set on a rough stone foundation. Rectangular in plan, it has a gabled roof which is covered with asphalt shingles (originally slate) and punctuated by two central brick chimneys with corbelled caps. A molded cornice with corner returns enriches the roofline. A full-width screened porch composed of square posts with Tuscan columns linked by balustrades extends across the south facade. It is surmounted by a shallow hipped roof covered with standing seam metal. The porch steps are of wood. The porch floor is supported by brick piers linked by louvered wood screens. Each of the two entrances has a paneled wood and glass door. The brick segmental arched window surrounds are accented by stone sills. They frame rectangular openings which contain non-historic metal sash. A lunette half-window is placed in each gable end. The rear elevation has a one-story wood porch that rests on a brick foundation and is covered with a hipped roof clad in standing seam metal. The porch has been enclosed with clapboards and has two rear entrance doors flanked by window openings. Each half of the building has a basement hatchway, placed on the east and west ends.

Building 312 was constructed in 1905-06 as a twin dwelling for non-commissioned officers. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standard building plan, 82-D, it is a relatively modest example of the Colonial Revival style utilizing the American four-square plan for each of the two units. It was constructed as one of a group of five adjacent twin dwellings (Buildings 306, 307, 308, 310, and 312), all built between 1905 and 1906 to meet housing needs as Fort Totten expanded in conjunction with the installation of the Coast Artillery. Building 312 was built in a residential enclave of predominately frame dwellings, facing what is now Sgt. Beers Avenue; the frame dwellings were subsequently demolished. The building remained in use as housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 5:3-7 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 314**

Sgt. Beers Avenue, north side, between Pratt Avenue and Murray Avenue

Original name/use: Housing for non-commissioned officers: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1910 - construction

c. 1933 - exterior refaced in brick, porch enclosed, enclosed projecting entry added

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #82-N)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick veneer on wood frame

Stories: 2 with attic





Building 314 is a two family, two-story with attic, wood-framed house, which is clad in red brick laid in a Flemish bond above a concrete foundation. Rectangular in plan, the building has a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles and punctuated by two brick chimneys with corbelled caps. An enclosed porch, located at the center of the main facade, has side entrances to the individual housing units. Each of the two entrances is approached by concrete steps and has a paneled wood and glass door, placed behind a storm door. The window openings are square-headed with brick lintels and sills and contain non-historic metal sash. The rear elevation, which faces north, has a one-story kitchen wing, originally a porch, that is set on a concrete foundation and covered with a flat roof clad in standing-seam metal. It has been faced with brick and contains two rear entrance doors flanked by window openings. Each half of the building has a basement hatchway, placed on the east and west ends.

Building 314 was constructed in 1910 as a twin dwelling for non-commissioned officers. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standard building plan, 82-N, it was a frame structure clad in stucco with porches on the north and south sides. Building 314 was built in a residential enclave of predominately frame dwellings, facing what is now Sgt. Beers Avenue; the frame dwellings were subsequently demolished. In the 1930s, the house was resurfaced in brick veneer, the porch on the north enclosed, the porch on the south removed and replaced with the projecting entry, and it was given modest Colonial Revival detail to harmonize with other nearby dwellings under construction. The building remained in use as housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 5:8-12 (3/10/99)

BUILDING NO. 316

Sgt. Beers Avenue, north side, at Murray Avenue

Original name/use: Housing for non-commissioned officers: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1933

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #625-2510 to 2516)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 316 is a two-family, two-story-with-attic house, faced with red brick laid in American bond and set on a brick foundation. Rectangular in plan with one-story sunroom wings projecting at the east and west, it has a gabled roof covered with slate shingles set in copper flashing and punctuated by two brick end chimneys with corbelled caps. The sunroom wings have flat roofs covered in standing-seam metal. Centered on the front of the house, which faces south, is a projecting entryway with separate side entrances to the individual housing units. It has large segmental arch openings with limestone keystones and is further embellished with continuous stone sills, lintel courses, and a molded cornice. Its hipped roof is covered with standing-seam metal. The two side entrances are approached by concrete steps with metal railings. Each entrance contains a wood-paneled door and storm door topped by a fanlight. At the front of the entryway the arched opening contain French doors and fanlights; iron railings extend across the base of the openings. Other window openings, including those in the sunroom wings, are square-headed with splayed brick lintels and limestone sills and contain non-historic metal sash. The rear elevation, which faces north, has a one-story enclosed porch faced with asbestos shingles and covered with a flat roof clad in standing seam metal. It contains two side-facing rear entrance doors approached by concrete steps and two window openings facing north. Each half of the building has a basement hatchway, placed on north side below the enclosed porch.

Building 316 was constructed in 1933 as a twin dwelling for non-commissioned officers. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standard building plan developed by the Army Corps of Engineers, 625-2510 through 2516, it displays forms and details characteristic of the Colonial Revival style. Building 316 was built as part of a group, which also includes Building 634, and it replaced earlier, more dilapidated housing. Funding to construct Building 316 was provided by the Emergency Relief and Construction Act of 1932 under the direction of the War Department's Construction Program. The building remained in use as housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 5:15-18 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 317**

Murray Avenue, east side, between Westaway Road and Sgt. Beers Avenue

Original name/use: Photographic laboratory

Subsequent names/uses: Bachelor housing for non-commissioned officers  
residence for Army band members

Date: 1882-83 - construction

1910 - conversion for housing

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Queen Anne

Material: Asphalt shingles (originally wood clapboards) on wood frame

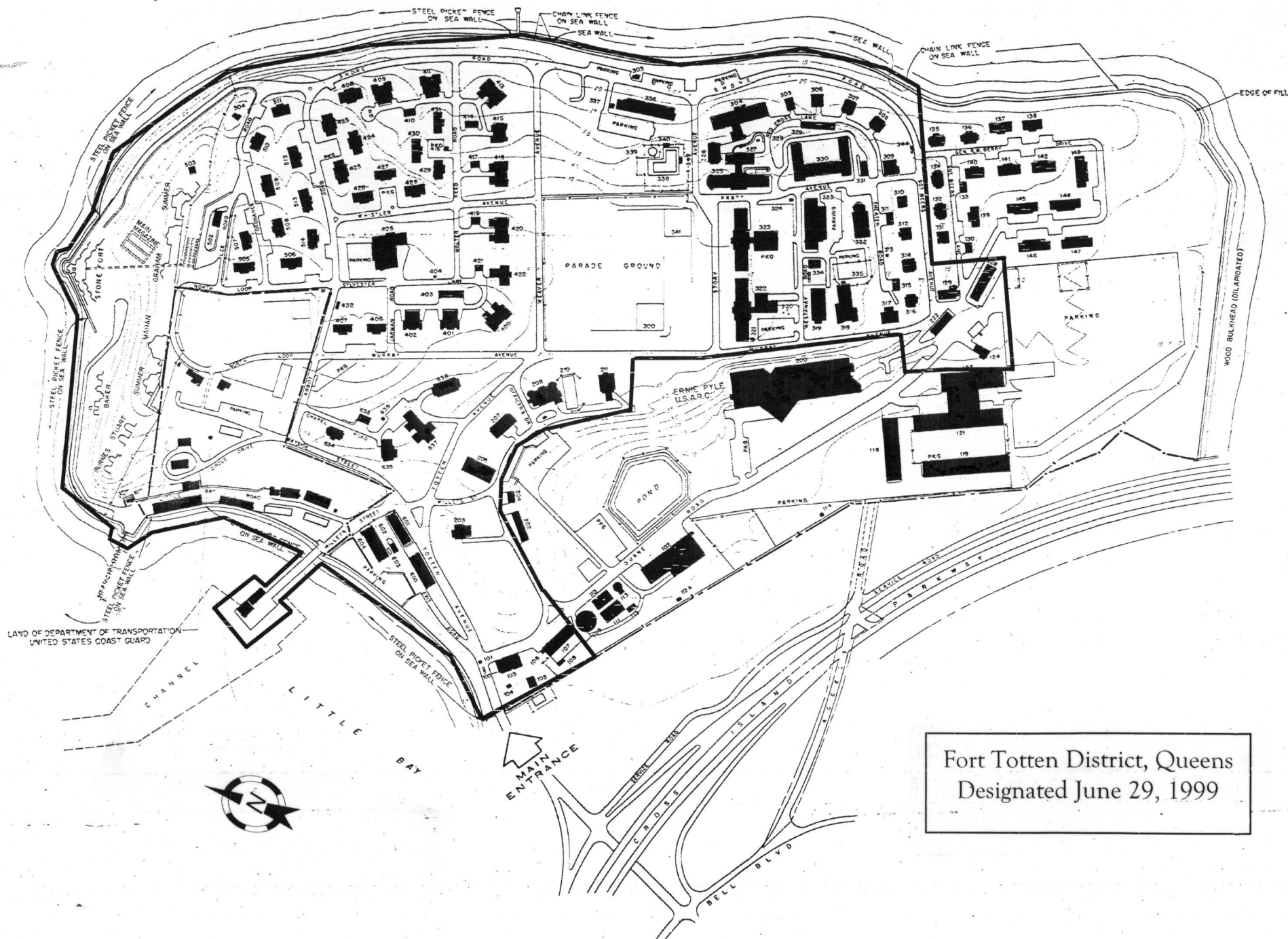
Stories: 1 with attic



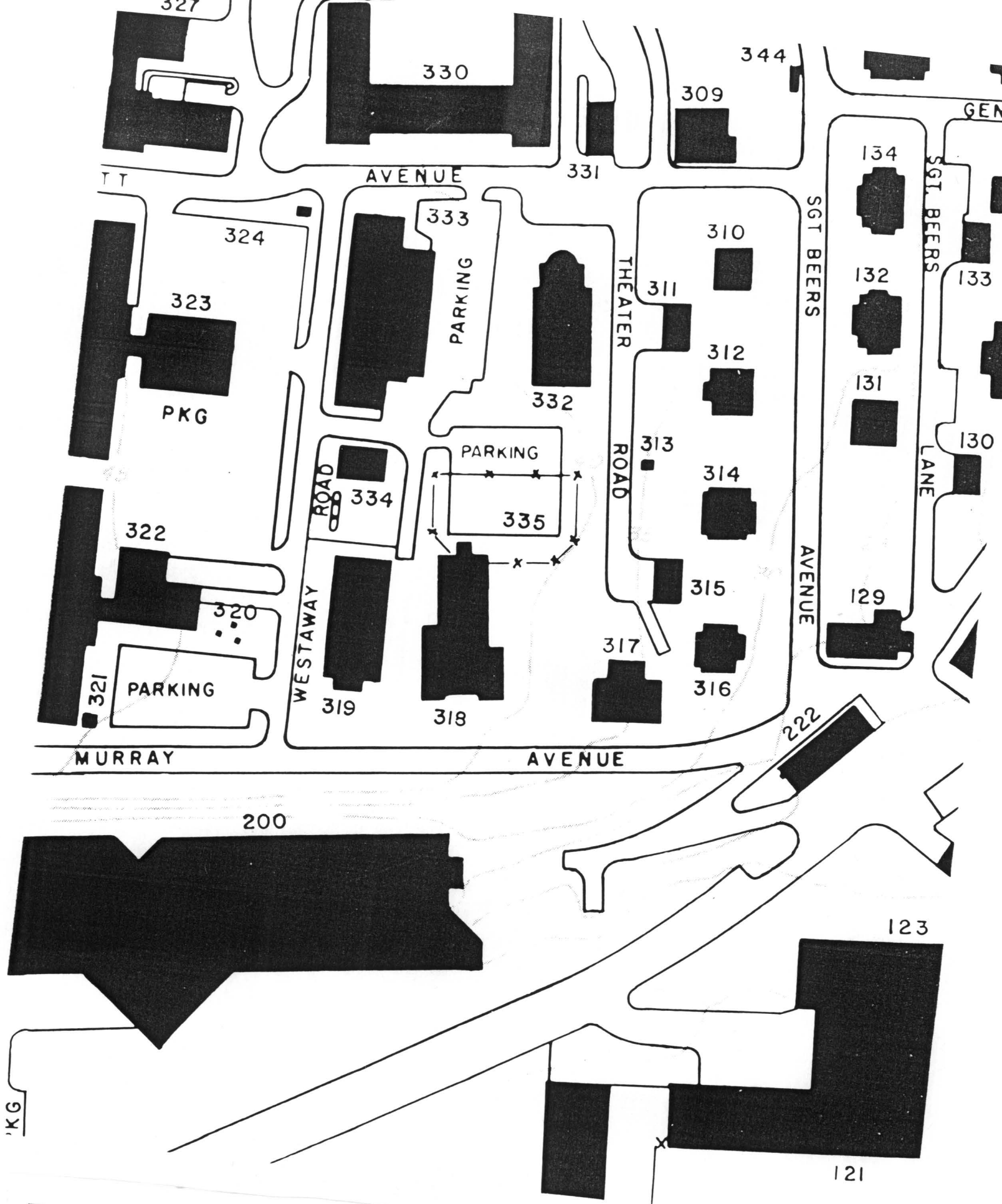
Building 317 is a one-story building with attic constructed of wood frame set on a high stone foundation, covered with stucco. Cross-shaped in plan, it has asbestos siding (originally wood clapboards) and intersecting gabled roofs covered with asphalt shingles and punctuated by one brick chimney with a corbelled cap. Exposed rafter ends under the roof eaves provide a decorative accent. A partially screened wood porch wraps around the front of the building. The porch has square posts, linked by cross balustrades, that support a sloping roof covered with asphalt shingles. The porch platform is carried on brick piers, linked by louvered wood screens, and is approached by wood steps with cross balustrade railings. The two entrances have wood surrounds and paneled wood doors. The window openings have storm sash and wood surrounds; the first-story windows contain four-over-four sash, the gables contain six-over-six. A small open wood porch with wood steps is located on the south side of the rear wing. A second set of wood steps, both on the rear (east side) of the rear wing provides additional access.

Building 317 was constructed in 1882-83 as a photographic laboratory; it is one of the oldest surviving frame buildings at Fort Totten and is the earliest surviving frame building constructed specifically for the purposes of the fort, namely, one of the technical and research functions carried out by the Army Engineers. It is typical in size, scale, and detailing of the residential Queen Anne-style buildings erected by the Office of the Quartermaster General during the first major phase of construction at Fort Totten (1861-1885). Since no frame dwellings survive from this period, the building is a significant reminder of the initial residential development of the fort. The photographic department documented the various innovative experiments and technical developments taking place on the post. An earlier photographic laboratory, built sometime between 1871 and 1879, had been located to this west of this building. Building 317 was constructed on the site of the post observatory. By 1910 the building had been converted for use as bachelor housing for non-commissioned officers; it later served as the residence for Army band members.

LPC photos: 6:6-10 (3/10/99)







Building Key Map: Buildings 318, 319, 322, 323



**BUILDING NO. 318**

Murray Avenue, east side, between Westaway Road and Sgt. Beers Avenue

Original name/use: Army YMCA [Fort Totten]

Subsequent names/uses: Fort Totten YMCA; Police Dept. Community Relations unit

Date: 1926-27

Architect: Undetermined

Style: Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 2



Building 318 has a two-story main section with a U-shaped plan and a one-story rear section. Both sections are faced in red brick laid up in Flemish bond and set on a stone foundation. A limestone plaque bearing the date "1926" marks the foundation on the front. The main section has intersecting slate-covered hipped roofs with brick end chimneys with corbelled caps. Brick quoins at the first story mark the corners of the building. The main entrance, approached by stone steps, has an elaborate stone surround supporting a modillioned broken pediment with central urn, above a frieze embellished with "YMCA." The entrance contains paired paneled wood doors below a transom (filled in). Wrought-iron lanterns flank the entrance. The first story window openings of the central section have splayed stone lintels with keystones and stone sills and contain eight-over-twelve double-hung wood sash. Stone plaques are placed above the window openings. A stone beltcourse demarcating the second story is penetrated by the second story window openings, which also have stone lintels with central panels penetrating the cornice frieze; these openings contain eight-over-eight wood sash. The rear section has a slate-covered gabled roof. The arched openings on the sides have been covered with plywood. A small hipped-roof addition for mechanical equipment has been constructed at the east end.

Building 318 was constructed in 1926-27 as the Army YMCA at Fort Totten. Erected for the YMCA organization as a recreational and service facility, it displays a variant of the Colonial Revival style, namely the neo-Georgian. The YMCA had played an active support role in World War I, and it had a presence at Fort Totten prior to the construction of this building, one of many permanent facilities constructed by the YMCA on army posts throughout the United States during this period. The building remained in active use as YMCA for many years, and subsequently was used by the Community Relations unit of the New York City Police Department.

LPC photos: 6:11-15 (3/10/99)

BUILDING NO. 319 [Army facility]  
Southeast corner of Westaway Road and Murray Avenue

Original name/use: Post gymnasium  
Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1905

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls  
Stories: 1 with basement



Building 319 is a one-story structure of red brick laid up in stretcher bond set on a high basement of rough stone topped with a smooth stone beltcourse. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has prominent modillions under the eaves. A wooden entrance portico has Tuscan columns, set on concrete posts, supporting a shallow hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. The wide elliptical-arched entrance with splayed brick lintel and stone keystone has had its infill somewhat modified from the original. Paired paneled doors are flanked by sidelights and placed below a fanlight. The square-headed openings at basement level have been filled in and covered with stucco. The first-story window openings are arched with stone sills and keystones and splayed brick lintels and linked at impost block level by a continuous stone stringcourse. Some of these openings have been filled in, while the others contain replacement sash. A brick and concrete staircase provides access to the rear of the building at the southeast corner.

Building 319 was constructed in 1905 as the post gymnasium to help meet the recreational needs of the rapidly expanding population of Fort Totten, including the newly installed Coast Artillery. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, it displays the form and detail of the Colonial Revival style, making it compatible with other contemporary buildings on the post. It replaced a frame gymnasium building dating from about 1890 that had been located slightly to the east of this one. This location also made it readily accessible to the nearby residential enclave of barracks and other dwellings for enlisted and non-commissioned officers. The building has remained in use as a gymnasium.

LPC photos: 6:16-20 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 322**

Story Avenue, south side, east of Murray Avenue, facing the Parade Ground

Original name/use: Artillery barracks and mess hall

Subsequent names/uses: Barracks; classrooms, offices  
training facility [Jobs Corp; NYC Fire Dept.]

Date: 1892 - construction

1904 - 1-1/2 story rear ell added

1941 - one-story addition to ell

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #41-A)

Style: Colonial Revival detail

Materials: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 3 and 2 with attic



Building 322 is a symmetrically-organized structure, comprising a three-story central section surmounted by an asphalt-shingled hipped roof with a prominent central ventilator and flanking two-and-a-half story wings with asphalt-shingled hipped roofs with prominent gabled roof dormers at the ends. The red brick walls are laid up in American bond above a brick basement and terminate in a corbelled brickcourse below the boxed roof cornice. The walls of the central section and the wings have regularly spaced segmental-arched window surrounds with recessed rectangular windows and stone sills. Most retain their two-over-two wood double-hung sash (in bad repair). The main entrance to the building is through a small projecting shed-like brick entry with a sloping roof covered in standing-seam metal. Secondary entrances are placed on the south side of the building in the side wings. A one-and-a-half story rear ell of red brick projects to the south from the central section of the building. It has a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. The window openings are like those on the main building. This ell was enlarged by a one-story flat-roofed brick addition on the east side. The window openings are like those found elsewhere on the building.

Building 322 was constructed in 1892 as an artillery barracks and mess hall to house 133 men. Erected by builders Whaley & Taylor for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standard plan for barracks, 41-A, the building displays detail characteristic of the Colonial Revival style, typically used for domestic architecture but here adapted to a very large structure. It was built as one of three identical barracks, Buildings 322, 323, and 325, to meet the housing needs of the rapidly expanding fort, which at the time was still known as the Fort at Willets Point. Located at the south side of the parade ground, the building replaced early frame barracks and dwellings. The rear ell was added after 1904. The side wings originally had two-story porches on the north and south sides, which were removed by 1941. It remained in use as military housing and was subsequently converted for use as offices, classrooms, and a training facility for the Jobs Corps under the U.S. Dept. of Labor. It is in similar use by the New York City Fire Department.

LPC photos: 6:21-25 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 323**

Story Avenue, south side, west of Pratt Avenue, facing the Parade Ground

Original name/use: Artillery barracks and mess hall

Subsequent names/uses: Barracks; classrooms, offices  
training facility [Jobs Corps, NYC Fire Dept.]

Date: 1892 - construction

1904 - 1-1/2 story rear ell added

1941 - one-story addition to ell

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #41-A)

Style: Colonial Revival detail

Materials: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 3 and 2 with attic



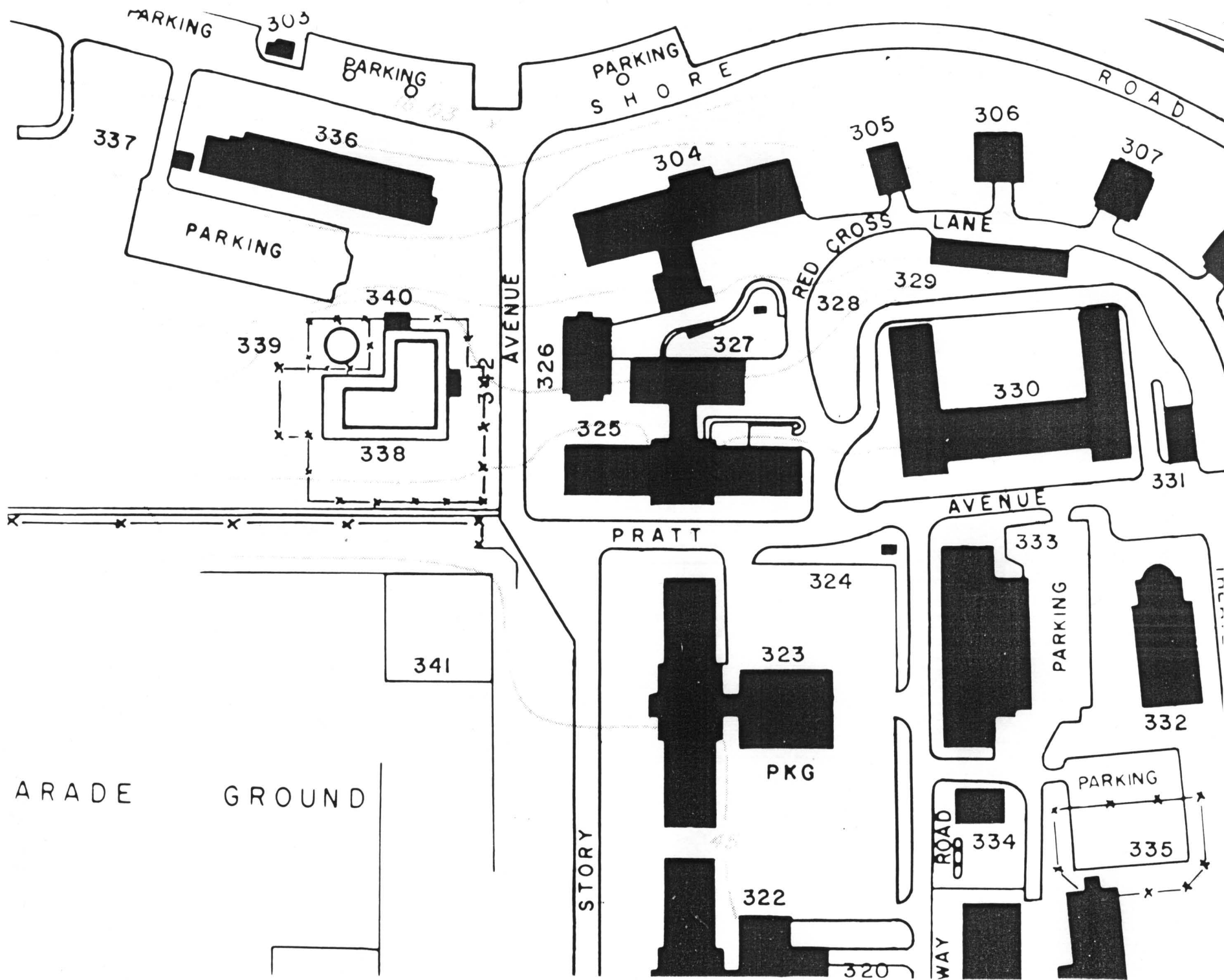


Building 323 is a symmetrically-organized structure, comprising a three-story central section surmounted by an asphalt-shingled hipped roof with a prominent central ventilator and flanking two-and-a-half story wings with asphalt-shingled hipped roofs with prominent gabled roof dormers at the ends. The red brick walls are laid up in American bond above a brick basement and terminate in a corbelled brickcourse below the boxed roof cornice. The walls of the central section and the wings have regularly spaced segmental-arched window surrounds with recessed square-headed windows and stone sills. Most retain their two-over-two wood double-hung sash (in bad repair). The main entrance to the building is through a small projecting brick entry with a sloping roof covered in standing-seam metal. Secondary entrances are placed on the south side of the building in the side wings. A one-and-a-half story rear ell of red brick projects to the south from the central section of the building. It has a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. The window openings are like those on the main building. This ell was enlarged by a one-story flat-roofed brick addition on the west side. The window openings are like those found elsewhere on the building.

Building 323 was constructed in 1892 as an artillery barracks and mess hall to house 133 men. Erected by builders Whaley & Taylor for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standard plan for barracks, 41-A, the building displays detail characteristic of the Colonial Revival style, typically used for domestic architecture but here adapted to a very large structure. It was built as one of three identical barracks, Buildings 322, 323, and 325, to meet the housing needs of the rapidly expanding fort, which at the time was still known as the Fort at Willets Point. Located at the south side of the parade ground, the building replaced early frame barracks and dwellings. The rear ell was added after 1904. The side wings originally had two-story porches on the north and south sides, which were removed by 1941. It remained in use as military housing and was subsequently converted for use as offices, classrooms, and a training facility for the Jobs Corps under the U.S. Dept. of Labor. It is in similar use by the New York City Fire Department.

LPC photos: 6:26-33 (3/10/99)

Building Key Map: Buildings 325, 326



**BUILDING NO. 325**

Pratt Avenue, east side, south of Story Avenue

Original name/use: Artillery barracks and mess hall

Subsequent names/uses: Barracks; classrooms, offices, training facility

Date: 1893-94 - construction

1904 - 1-1/2 story rear addition for kitchen wing [Building 327]

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #41-A)

Style: Colonial Revival detail

Materials: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 3 and 2 with attic



Building 325 is a symmetrically-organized structure, comprising a three-story central section surmounted by an asphalt-shingled hipped roof with a prominent central ventilator and flanking two-and-a-half story wings with asphalt-shingled hipped roofs with prominent gabled roof dormers at the ends. The red brick walls are laid up in American bond above a brick basement and terminate in a corbelled brickcourse below the boxed roof cornice. The walls of the central section and the wings have regularly spaced segmental-arched window surrounds with recessed square-headed windows and stone sills. Most contain non-historic one-over-one metal double-hung sash. The main entrance to the building is through a small projecting brick portico with a cross-gabled roof covered in standing-seam metal. Secondary entrances are placed on the east side of the building in the side wings. A one-and-a-half story rear section (Building 327) of red brick is placed parallel to the central section of the building. It has a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. The window openings are like those on the main building except for two arched openings in the gable end on the south side. A two-story brick addition containing garage facilities was constructed on the north side of Building 327. Building 327 is linked to the central section of the main building by a one-story hyphen of brick covered with parged stucco with a shallow gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. The window openings are like those found elsewhere on the building.

Building 325 was constructed in 1893-94 as an artillery barracks and mess hall to house 133 men. Erected by the Jason Curran Manufacturing Co. for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standard plan for barracks, 41-A, the building displays detail characteristic of the Colonial Revival style, typically used for domestic architecture but here adapted to a very large structure. It was built as one of three identical barracks, Buildings 322, 323, and 325, to meet the housing needs of the rapidly expanding fort, which at the time was still known as the Fort at Willets Point. Located at the southern edge of the parade ground, the building replaced early frame barracks. The rear wing (Building 327) was added after 1904 to serve as a kitchen. The side wings originally had two-story porches on the north and south sides, which were removed by 1941. It remained in use as military housing and was subsequently converted for use as offices, classrooms, and a training facility.

LPC photos: 2:12-19 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 326**

Story Avenue, south side, west of Shore Road

Original name/use: Hospital annex (isolation facility)

Subsequent names/uses: same; vacant

Date: 1913-14 - construction

by 1924 - wood porches added

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Colonial Revival/Neo-Georgian

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic

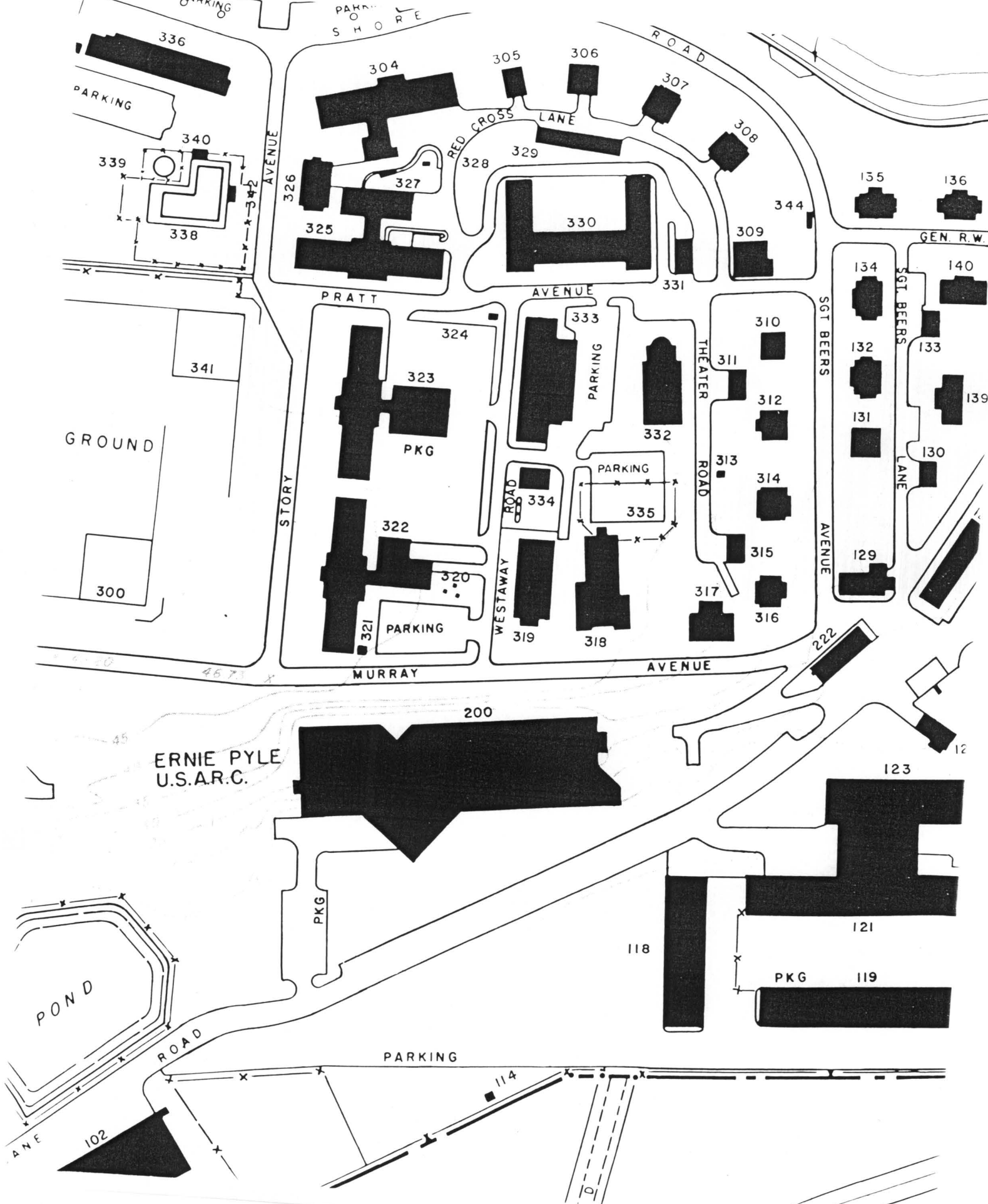


Building 326 is a two-and-a-half story rectangular structure built of red brick laid in American bond on a brick foundation, set off by a stone bandcourse. The slate-covered hipped roof, rising above a denticulated and bracketed cornice, has a central chimney with a corbelled cap and centrally-placed arched dormers of wood on each of the roof slopes. The corners of the building and the central section on the main (north) facade are marked by brick quoins. The window openings have splayed brick lintels with limestone keystones and stone sills and either have been covered with plywood or contain deteriorated multi-pane double-hung wood sash. The main facade has an entrance arcade with concrete steps approaching the center of three elliptical archways. The doors have been removed and plywood placed across the openings. At the second story, Tuscan piers flank the openings to an enclosed open-air porch. These retain full-height multi-light wood doors. Wooden porches are placed on the east and west sides of the building. The east porch is two stories high, enclosed with clapboards, and has a recessed entrance with paneled wood doors. The one-story wood porch on the west side has Tuscan columns supporting the flat porch roof.

Building 326 was constructed in 1913-14 as an annex to the hospital and was specifically designed as an isolation facility with 36 beds. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, the building displays a variant of the Colonial Revival style, namely the neo-Georgian, in its form and details. The presence of such an isolation facility is indicative of the growing sophistication of medical treatment and the growth of medical research at Fort Totten in the years prior to World War I. At one time the building was linked by an elevated wooden walkway to the main hospital building (Building 304). This walkway was removed sometime after 1957. The building has been vacant for many years.

LPC photos: 2:20-24 (3/10/99)





**Building Key Map: Buildings 330-333, 336**



BUILDING NO. 330 [Army facility]  
Pratt Avenue, east side, north of Theater Road

Original name/use: Coast Artillery barracks  
Subsequent names/uses: Barracks; offices

Date: 1907-08 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Colonial Revival

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



Building 330 is a barracks structure with an irregular H plan. It has a two-story-with-attic central section surmounted by an asphalt-shingled gabled roof with prominent ventilators and aluminum-clad hipped roof dormers. The flanking two-story-with-attic wings (forming the legs of the H) have asphalt-shingled gabled roofs with prominent ventilators and end chimneys. An overhanging cornice with returns sets off the roof. The red brick walls are laid up in American bond above a rusticated stone basement. The walls of the central section and the wings are marked by regularly spaced segmental-arched window surrounds with stone sills and recessed square-headed windows. Most contain two-over-two metal double-hung sash. A porch platform of concrete, set on brick piers, extends across the front of the central section. It has cast- and wrought-iron railings. The two segmental-arched entrances have paneled wood and glass doors. Secondary entrances are placed on the east side of the building in the side wings.

Building 330 was constructed in 1907-08 as the coast artillery barracks to house 218 men. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, the building displays detail characteristic of the Colonial Revival style, typically used for domestic architecture but here adapted to a very large structure. This was the last historic multi-story barracks erected at Fort Totten. Located at the northern edge of the residential enclave for non-commissioned officers, the building replaced the early frame commissary. A porch originally ran across the front of the building. It remained in use as military housing and was subsequently converted for use as offices by the army.

LPC photos: 4:11-15 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 331**

Pratt Avenue, east side, at Red Cross Lane

Original name/use: Post Fire Engine House

Subsequent names/uses: same; vacant

Date: 1892 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Utilitarian; possibly Queen Anne detail originally

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls (1st story)

wood siding (originally corrugated metal sheeting) on wood frame (2nd story)

Stories: 2



Building 331 is a two-story rectangular structure built of red brick laid in American bond at the basement and first story and wood frame (now covered with clapboard, originally corrugated metal) at the second story. The steep asphalt-shingled gabled roof has exposed rafter ends and is pierced by a square tower with an asphalt-shingled hipped roof and chimney on the south side. Most of the historic window and door openings at the lower level have been bricked in, although a large vehicle entry survives on the east side. All of the window sash at the second story are non-historic metal replacements.

Building 331 was constructed in 1892 as the post fire engine house. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, it displays a form characteristic of contemporary fire house design with room for equipment on the first story, sleeping quarters on the second story, and a bell tower projecting above the roof line. This was the first fire engine house built on the post, and it was strategically located adjacent to the bakery and the original frame commissary and near frame residential structures. Erected during a period of rapid expansion at the fort, this facility greatly reduced the loss of buildings to fire at a time when most of the post's structure were wood.

LPC photos: 4:26-30 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 332**

Northwest corner of Pratt Avenue and Theater Road

Original name/use: War Department Theater

Subsequent names/uses: Movie theater, auditorium

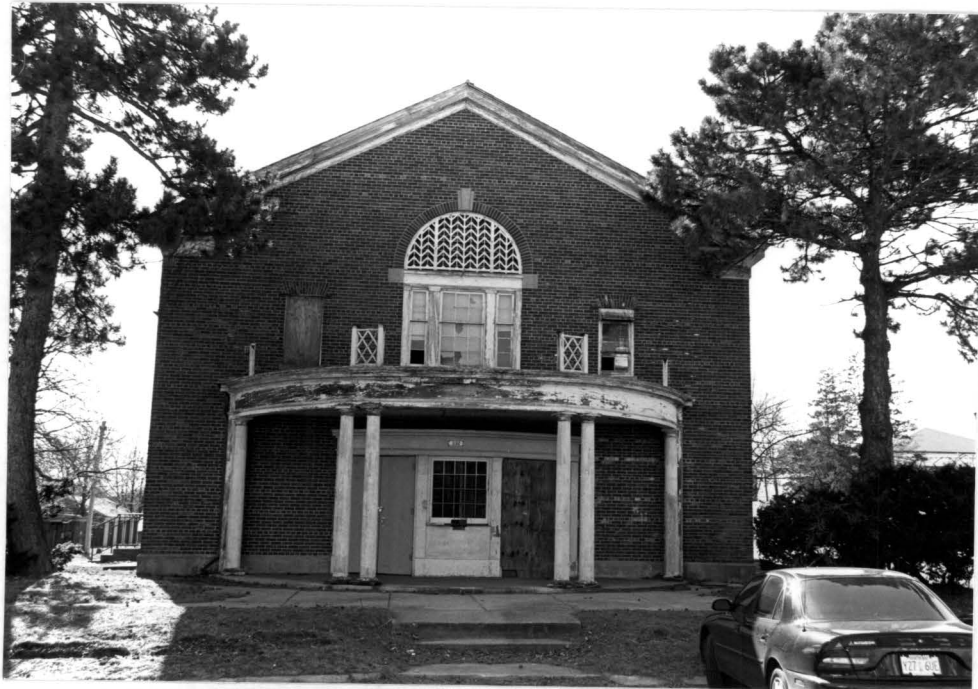
Date: 1938-39 - construction

Architect: Construction Division of the Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 2



Building 332 is a two-story theater building faced with red brick laid in American bond and set on a concrete foundation. The rectangular block of the building has a slate-covered gabled roof with a wood cornice that returns on the gable ends. A one-story entrance portico of wood with Tuscan columns curves out from the facade. The remnants of a latticework balustrade can be seen on the porch roof. It shelters two doors (now covered by plywood) flanking a multi-light ticket window, all capped by a continuous bowed lintel supported by paneled wood pilasters. Above the porch is a large arched opening with stone keystone and impost blocks framing a tripartite sash window set below a lunette with latticework infill (the center window has double-hung, six-over-nine sash, the sidelights have two-over-three sash). The center arch is framed by two small square-headed windows with double-hung sash. This is flanked by two smaller openings. All windows have stone sills. The sides of the building are unadorned except for regularly spaced shallow brick buttresses. The west end has a tall brick chimney and a small shed-roof addition for mechanical equipment.

Building 332 was constructed in 1938-39 as the post theater to provide recreational facilities for the personnel at Fort Totten. Erected by WPA workers for the Office of the Quartermaster General, the theater building displays Colonial Revival detail adapted to the auditorium form. Funded by the Work Relief Appropriations Act of 1937 under the War Department's Construction Program, this was one of many contemporary theaters erected at army posts throughout the United States, largely for the showing of films. This was the second theater building at Fort Totten; the first, built in the 1870s, had been located somewhat to the north of this site and razed for a new mess hall by 1898. Building 332 remained in use as an auditorium, but it has been vacant for a number of years.

LPC photos: 4:21-25 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 333**

Southwest corner of Westaway Road and Pratt Avenue

Original name/use: Mess hall for non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel

Subsequent names/uses: Post Exchange; Fire Dept. Quartermaster Office

Date: 1897-98 - construction

1950s - frame addition on south side

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Utilitarian

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls; frame on concrete foundation

Stories: 1





Building 333 is a symmetrically-organized structure, comprising a long one-story section running parallel to Greenaway Road surmounted by an asphalt-shingled hipped roof with prominent ventilators and an intersecting wing projecting to the south, also with an asphalt-shingled hipped roof with a prominent chimney. The red brick walls are laid up in stretcher bond above a rough-cut stone basement and terminate in a corbelled brickcourse below the boxed roof cornice. The walls of the main section are divided into bays created by shallow brick pilasters linked by dentilwork. Regularly spaced segmental-arched window openings with stone sills and splayed brick lintels contain non-historic metal sash. The window openings on the projecting wing are similarly detailed. The two main entrances to the building originally were at the east and west ends of the main section. These are approached by stone steps with brick sidewalls and contain metal doors below brick-filled transoms and segmental-arched lintels. Steps still lead to a now-sealed entrance on the north side. A frame addition with a sloping roof, constructed on what had been the concrete loading dock, projects from the intersecting wing. At the eastern end, it is enclosed by aluminum siding. The addition takes the form of an open porch, now sheltering the main building entrance, on the western end.

Building 333 was constructed in 1897-98 as the post mess hall for non-commissioned officers and enlisted personnel. Erected by W. M. Crilly for the Office of the Quartermaster General, the building employs a standard form for such structures and has minimal detail. This was the second freestanding mess hall at the fort, the first being the mess hall for officers (Fort Totten Officers Club - Building 208). The site was close to housing for non-commissioned officers as well as the barracks for the enlisted men. The building later served as the post exchange, and is now the Quartermaster's Office for the New York City Fire Department.

LPC photos: 4:16-20 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 336**

Shore Road, west side, between Weaver Avenue and Story Avenue

Original name/use: Barracks

Subsequent names/uses: same; dormitory

Date: c. 1965 - construction

Architect: Undetermined

Style: None

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

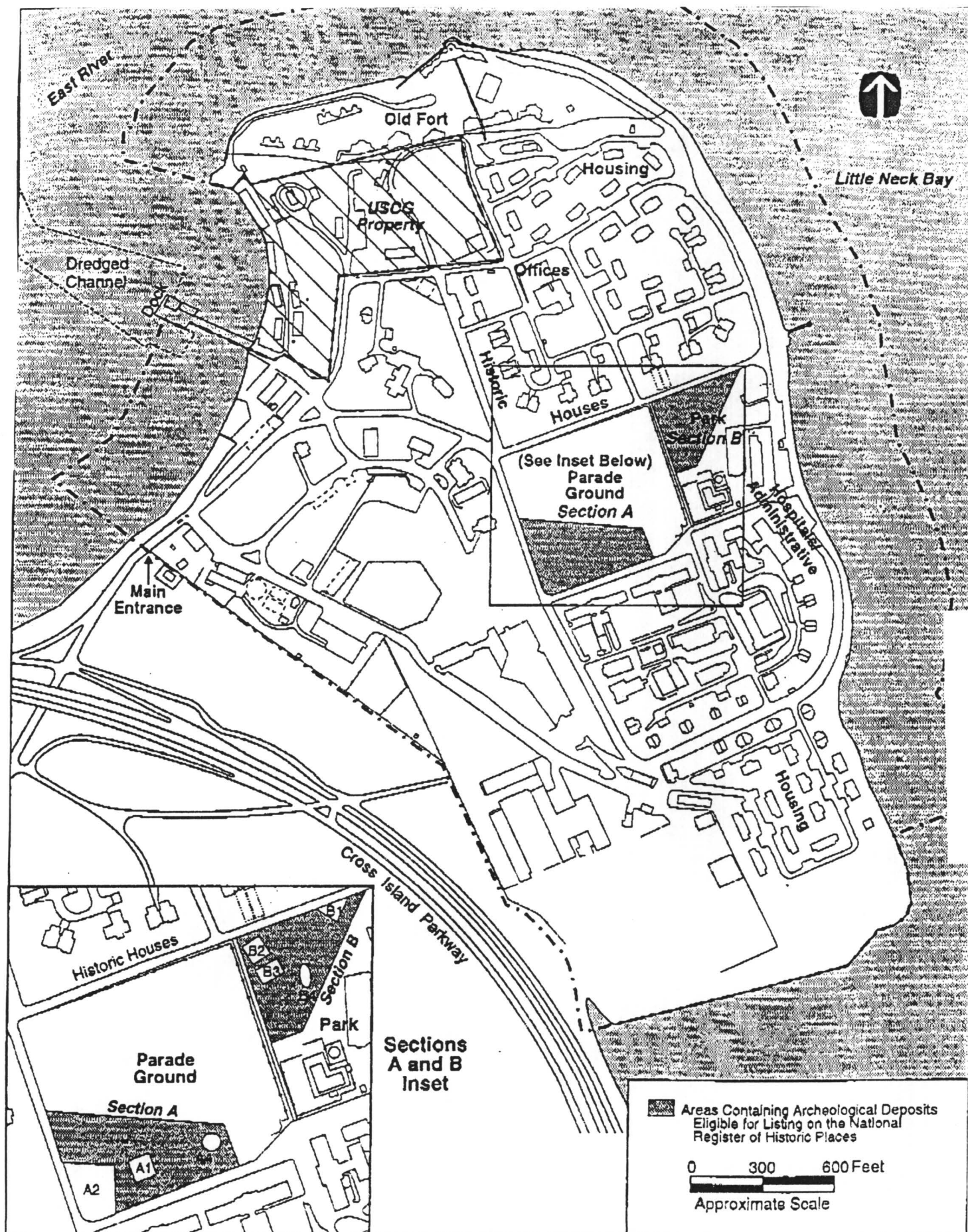
Stories: 3



Building 336 is a three-story structure with a small one-story entrance wing at the north end. It is faced with red brick and has a flat roof. Regularly spaced window openings mark the east and west sides of the building.

Building 336 was constructed in the 1960s as a modern barracks for enlisted personnel as Fort Totten was undergoing its last period of expansion. It has subsequently been converted for use as a dormitory for personnel undergoing training by the New York City Fire Department.

LPC photos: 2:2-4 (3/10/99)



Map of Areas within Fort Totten Containing Archeological Deposits Recommended as Eligible for Listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

## PARADE GROUND

Bounded by Weaver Avenue, Shore Road, Story Avenue, and Murray Avenue

Original name/use: Parade ground

Subsequent names/uses: same; playing fields and other recreational facilities

Date: 1867 - originally established

c. 1906 - reoriented from north-south to east-west

Landscape architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

The parade ground is a large open grass-covered field with a number of features added to accommodate recreational uses, including an in-ground swimming pool in the eastern section, north of Story Avenue, and baseball diamonds and bleachers in the western half. The parade ground is bisected by a pedestrian path, and the eastern section is sometimes called the park. Large trees border the parade ground at the north, east, and west. A historic gazebo is placed near the northeast corner, close to Shore Road, providing views of Long Island Sound. Octagonal in form, it is of wood frame with decorative posts and latticework, set on a brick base. It is covered by an asphalt-shingled eight-sided peaked roof.

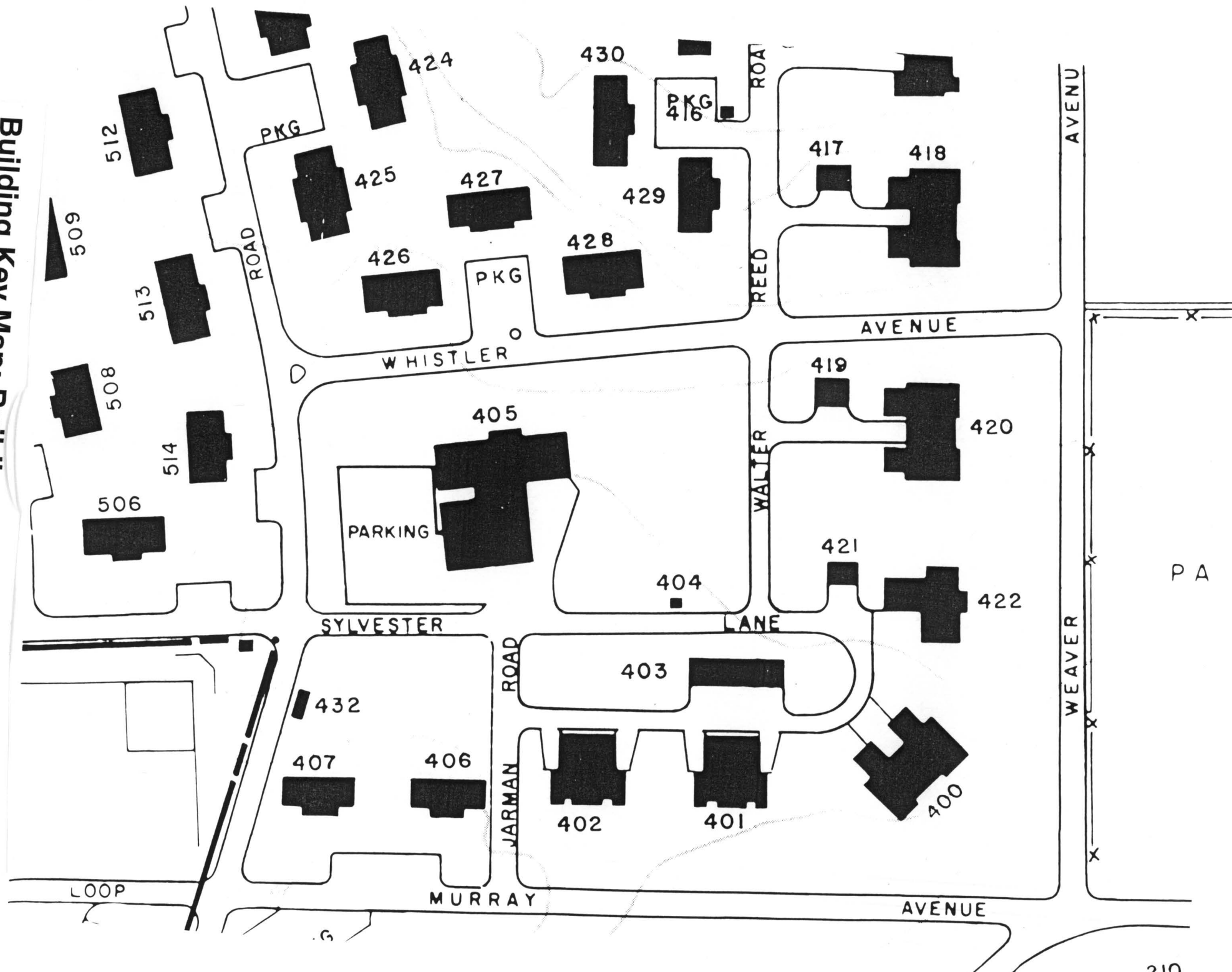
The parade ground was established after the Civil War. It was originally oriented in a north-south direction and fronted by buildings with the post gardens behind. As part of the major building campaign in the early twentieth century, the parade ground was reoriented from a north-south to an east-west direction. It is likely that the trees surrounding the periphery date from that period. Many of the major buildings of the fort continue to front the parade ground on the north, south, and west.

Two sections of the parade ground have been identified as containing archeological deposits and recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Section A at the southwest corner is bordered by Story Avenue and Murray Avenue. It appears to date from 1866-1885 and includes deposits relating to the Civil War Barracks and associated features. Section B is at the northwest corner of the eastern section (the park) bordered by Weaver Avenue and the pedestrian path; it appears to date from the 1860s-1910 and includes possible remains of officer's quarters and associated features.

References: Hope Leininger and Paula Bienenfeld, *A Phase II Archaeological Investigation of Fort Totten, Queens County, New York City, New York*, submitted by Tetra Tech, Falls Church VA, to Planning and Environment Division, Mobile District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1998.

LPC photos: 2:1 (3/10/99)

**Building Key Map: Buildings 400, 401, 402, 405, 406, 407**





**BUILDING NO. 400**

Northeast corner of Murray Avenue and Weaver Avenue

Original name/use: Captains' Quarters: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' housing: four units

Date: 1906 - construction

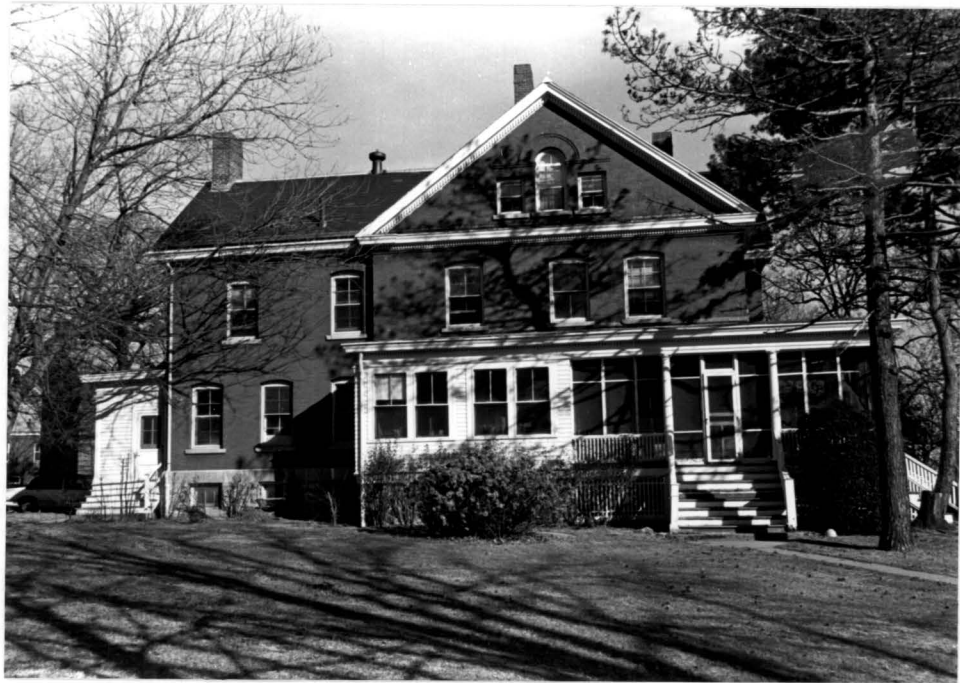
1925 - internal modifications to create four units

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #142-A)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2-1/2





Building 400 is a two-and-one-half story double house faced with red pressed brick laid in stretcher bond and set on a foundation of coursed stone. 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 slate shingles set with copper flashing. One-story screened porches wrap around the corners of the facade and are approached by wooden steps. Tuscan columns linked by balusters support hipped roofs covered with asphalt shingles. The northern ends of the porches are enclosed with clapboard siding and have two-over-two wood sash windows. Elsewhere on the house, the segmental-arched and round-arched window openings have splayed brick lintels and stone sills. The double-hung two-over-two wood sash are placed behind storm sash. Raking denticulated wood cornices outline the gable ends, and denticulated wood cornices demarcate the roof slopes. The east and west gables enclose Palladian windows. Small enclosed wood-frame porches set on brick piers project from the rear wings. Each has a shallow hipped roof. Secondary entrances to the house are located in the rear wings adjacent to the enclosed porches.

Building 400 was constructed in 1906 as a twin dwelling for captains. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General using a standard plan, 142-A, the buildings displays forms and details characteristic of the popular Colonial Revival style. It was built as part of a group of four, Buildings 400, 413, 418, and 420. Building 404 (1902-05) in the Governors Island Historic District uses the same plan. Originally intended to provide apartments for four officers in each building, all were altered during construction to contain only two units. They were subsequently converted in 1925 into four units. The building enjoys an imposing location on the north side of the parade ground, and it replaced an earlier frame dwelling. It remained in use as officers' housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 7:5-9 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 401**

Murray Avenue, east side, between Jarman Road and Weaver Avenue

Original name/use: Lieutenants' Quarters: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' housing

Date: 1906 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #120-F)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2-1/2



Building 401 is a two-and-one-half story double house faced with red pressed brick laid in stretcher bond and set on a foundation of coursed stone. A gabled front section projects from the gabled-roof main block of the house. A hipped-roof section projects from the rear of the house. All roofs are covered with slate shingles. One-story screened porches project from the corners of the facade and are approached by wooden steps. Tuscan columns linked by balusters support flat roofs covered with asphalt shingles. The porches are carried on stone piers, linked by louvered screens. The entrances to the house, placed within the porches, have paired paneled wood and glass doors placed below transoms. The window openings have splayed brick lintels and stone sills. The double-hung six-over-two wood sash are set behind storm sash. A wood entablature with a denticulated cornice emphasizes the front wing of the building while the molded cornices set off the eaves. Stone string courses beneath the attic windows also add decorative emphasis to the side wings. Two small wood entry porches set on stone piers project from the rear section. Each has a flat roof carried by Tuscan columns linked by latticework and is approached by wooden steps with wood railings. The entrance in each porch has a paneled wood and glass door placed below a transom. Secondary entrances to the house are located at basement level adjacent to the entry porches.

Building 401 was constructed in 1906 as a twin dwelling for lieutenants. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General using a standard plan, 120-F, the building displays forms and details characteristic of the popular Colonial Revival style. It was built as one of a pair with Building 402. The building enjoys a location north of the parade ground, and it replaced an earlier frame dwelling. It remained in use as officers' housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 8:6-10 (3/12/99)

**BUILDING NO. 402**

Southeast corner of Murray Avenue and Jarman Road

Original name/use: Lieutenants' Quarters: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' housing

Date: 1906 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #120-F)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 402 is a two-story-with-attic double house faced with red pressed brick laid in stretcher bond and set on a foundation of coursed stone. A gabled front section projects from the gabled-roof main block of the house. A hipped-roof section projects from the rear of the house. All roofs are covered with slate shingles, in poor repair. One-story screened porches project from the corners of the facade and are approached by wooden steps. Tuscan columns, linked by balusters, support flat roofs covered with asphalt shingles. The porches are carried on stone piers, linked by louvered screens. The entrances to the house, placed within the porches, have paired paneled wood and glass doors set below transoms. The window openings have splayed brick lintels and stone sills. The double-hung six-over-two wood sash are set behind storm sash. A wood entablature with a denticulated cornice emphasizes the front wing of the building while the molded cornices set off the eaves. Stone string courses beneath the attic windows also add decorative emphasis to the side wings. Two small wood entry porches resting on stone piers project from the rear section. Each has a flat roof carried by Tuscan columns linked by latticework, and is approached by wooden steps with wooden replacement railings. The entrance in each porch has a paneled wood and glass door placed below a transom. Secondary entrances to the house are located at basement level adjacent to the entry porches.

Building 402 was constructed in 1906 as a twin dwelling for lieutenants. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General using a standard plan, 120-F, the building displays forms and details characteristic of the popular Colonial Revival style. It was built as one of a pair with Building 401. The building enjoys a location north of the parade ground, and it replaced an earlier frame dwelling. It remained in use as officers' housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 8:11-16 (3/12/99)

BUILDING NO. 405

Whistler Avenue, west side, between Abbot Road and Walter Reed Road

Original name/use: Barracks

Subsequent names/uses: same; Childhood Development Center; Fire Department training center

Date: 1900 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #123)

Style: Colonial Revival

Materials: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 -1/2



Building 405 is a 2-1/2 story T-shaped structure with a projecting entrance pavilion at the center of its primary (east) facade. It is surmounted by an asphalt-shingled cross-gabled roof with a centered front gable emphasizing the entrance pavilion. The red brick walls are laid up in American bond above a rusticated stone basement and terminate in a corbelled brickcourse below the boxed roof cornice. The walls of the main section and the rear section have regularly spaced segmental-arched window openings with stone sills and inset square-headed window frames. They contain non-historic one-over-one metal sash. The gables on the front and sides of the building have Palladian windows with a central arched surrounds flanked by two square-headed openings, all with ornamental lintels. The main entrance to the building is through a wood porch with Tuscan posts which rests on brick piers and is surmounted by a shallow hipped roof. Non-historic brick balustrades link the posts. The segmental-arched entrance has non-historic wood and glass doors located below a wood-covered transom. Secondary entrances are placed on the south side of the building in the rear wing. This wing was enlarged on the north by a one-story shed-roofed brick addition. A small shed-roofed entryway is located on the west end of the rear wing.

Building 405 was constructed in 1900 as a barracks to house 140 men. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standard plan for barracks, 123, the building displays detail characteristic of the Colonial Revival style, typically used for domestic architecture but here adapted to a very large structure. It was built to meet the housing needs of the rapidly expanding fort, which by this time had been renamed Fort Totten. Located among a group of residential structures, south of the batteries and north of the parade ground, the building was constructed on a site that had been part of the Engineers' Drill Ground. It remained in use as military housing and was subsequently converted for use as offices, classrooms, and a training facility.

LPC photos: 7:22-26 (3/10/99)



BUILDING NOS. 406 and 407

Murray Avenue, east side, between Jarman Road and Abbot Road

Original name/use: Family housing: twin dwellings (Capehart type)

Date: 1959

Architect: Undetermined

Style: None

Materials: Wood and brick veneer on concrete block

Stories: 2

Building 406 and 407 were constructed as twin dwellings in 1959. They were built under a program that resulted in the construction of numerous houses on military bases throughout the United States and are known as Capehart houses. Approximately 30 such structures were built at Fort Totten to accommodate the housing needs of Army personnel and their families.

Building Key Map: Buildings 408, 409, 411



BUILDING NO. 408

Shore Road, west side, between Abbot Road and Walter Reed Road

Original name/use: Family housing: twin dwellings (Capehart type)

Date: 1959

Architect: Undetermined

Style: None

Materials: Wood and brick veneer on concrete block

Stories: 2

Building 408 was constructed as a twin dwellings in 1959. They were built under a program that resulted in the construction of numerous houses on military bases throughout the United States and are known as Capehart houses. Approximately 30 such structures were built at Fort Totten to accommodate the housing needs of Army personnel and their families.

BUILDING NO. 409

Shore Road, west side, between Abbot Road and Walter Reed Road

Original name/use: Captains' Quarters: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' housing

Date: 1906 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #142-B)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2-1/2



Building 409 is a two-and-one-half story double house faced with red pressed brick laid in stretcher bond and set on a foundation of coursed stone. Two gabled dormers project from the front slope of the gabled-roof main block of the house. A hipped-roof section with hipped dormers on the side slopes and tall brick chimneys projects from the rear of the house. All roofs, including those of the dormers, are covered with slate shingles. One-story screened porches wrap around the corners of the facade and are approached by wooden steps. Tuscan columns, linked by balusters, support flat roofs covered with asphalt shingles. The porches are carried on stone piers, linked by louvered screens. The entrances to the house, located within the porches, have paired paneled wood and glass doors placed below transoms. The window openings have splayed brick lintels and stone sills. The double-hung six-over-two wood sash are set behind storm sash. Denticulated wood entablatures extend across the front and side wings; while molded cornices extend along the slopes of the gable and at the eaves on the rear section. Two small wood entry porches set on stone piers project from the rear section. Each has a flat roof carried by Tuscan columns linked by latticework and is approached by wooden steps with wooden replacement railings. The entrance in each porch has a paneled wood and glass door placed below a transom. Secondary entrances to the house are located at basement level adjacent to the entry porches.

Building 409 was constructed in 1906 as a twin dwelling for captains. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General using a standard plan, 142-B, the buildings displays forms and details characteristic of the popular Colonial Revival style. It was built as one of a pair with Building 411. The building enjoys a location facing Shore Road and was constructed as part of a campaign to provide housing for higher ranking officers at Fort Totten, coinciding with the installation of the Coast Artillery. It remained in use as officers' housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 1:28-32 (3/10/99)

BUILDING NO. 411

Northwest corner of Shore Road and Walter Reed Road

Original name/use: Captains' Quarters: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' housing

Date: 1906 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #142-B)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2-1/2

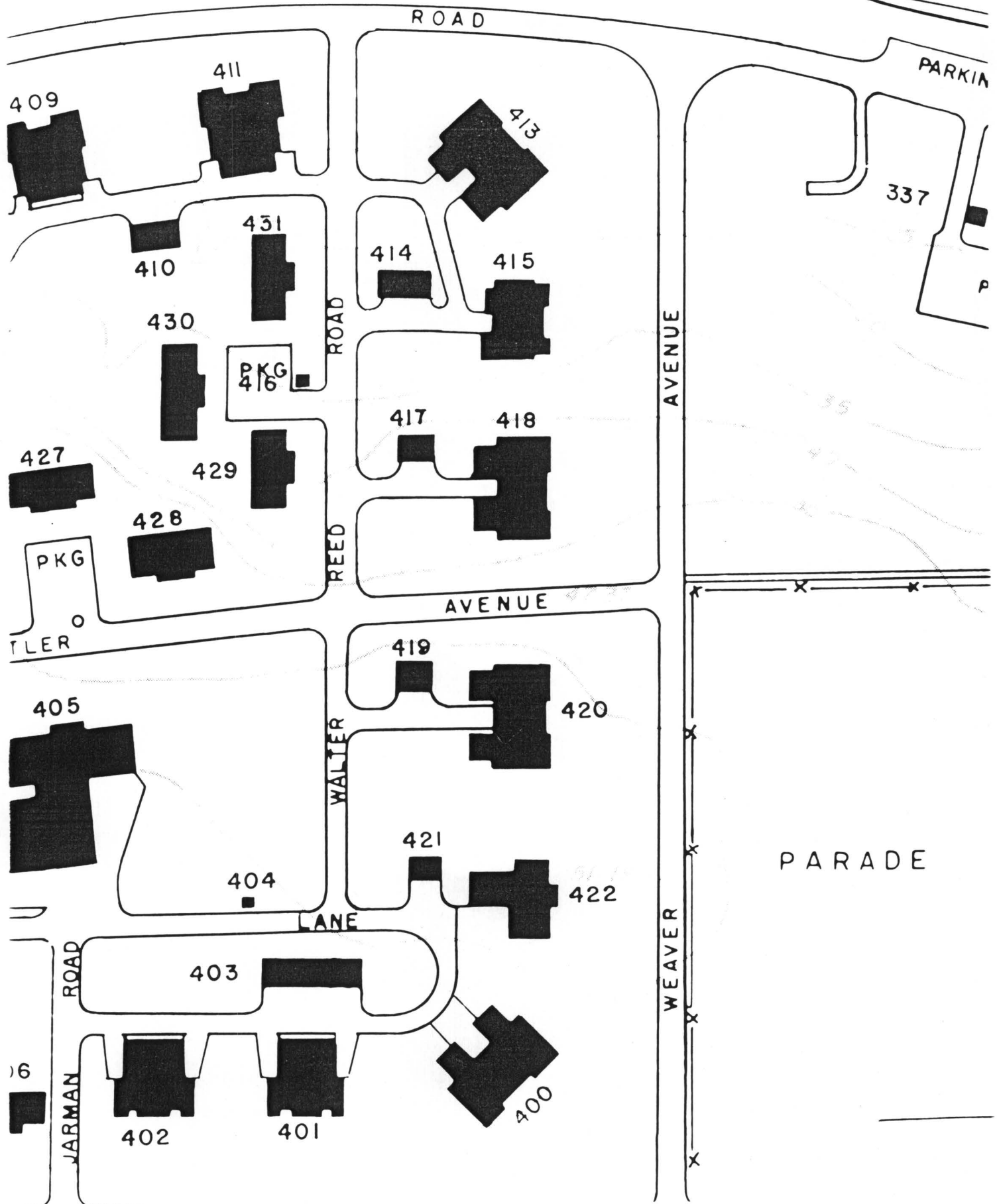


Building 411 is a two-and-one-half story double house faced with red pressed brick laid in stretcher bond and set on a foundation of coursed stone. Two gabled dormers project from the front slope of the gabled-roof main block of the house. A hipped-roof section with hipped dormers on the side slopes and tall brick chimneys projects from the rear of the house. All roofs, including those of the dormers, are covered with slate shingles. One-story screened porches wrap around the corners of the facade and are approached by wooden steps. Tuscan columns, linked by balusters, support flat roofs covered with asphalt shingles. The porches are carried on stone piers, linked by louvered screens. The entrances to the house, located within the porches, have paired paneled wood and glass doors placed below transoms. Elsewhere on the house, the window openings have splayed brick lintels and stone sills. The double-hung six-over-two wood sash are set behind storm sash. Denticulated entablatures extend across the front and side wings while molded cornices are employed to set off the slopes of the gables and the eaves of the rear section demarcate the roof slopes. Two small wood entry porches set on stone piers project from the rear section. Each has a flat roof carried by Tuscan columns linked by latticework and is approached by wooden steps with wooden replacement railings. The entrance in each porch has a paneled wood and glass door placed below a transom. Secondary entrances to the house are located at basement level adjacent to the entry porches.

Building 411 was constructed in 1906 as a twin dwelling for captains. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General using a standard plan, 142-B, the building displays forms and details characteristic of the popular Colonial Revival style. It was built as one of a pair with Building 409. The building enjoys a location facing Shore Road and was constructed as part of a campaign to provide housing for higher ranking officers at Fort Totten, coinciding with the installation of the Coast Artillery. It remained in use as officers' housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 1:19-23 (3/10/99)





**Building Key Map: Buildings 413, 415, 418, 420, 422**

**BUILDING NO. 413**

Northwest corner of Shore Road and Weaver Avenue

Original name/use: Captains' Quarters: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' housing: four units

Date: 1906 - construction

1925 - internal modifications to create four units

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #142-A)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2-1/2



Building 413 is a two-and-one-half story U-shaped double house faced with red pressed brick laid in stretcher bond and set on a foundation of coursed stone. 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 slate shingles set with copper flashing. Four brick chimneys with corbelled caps project from the roof. One-story screened porches wrap around the corners of the facade and are approached by wooden steps. Tuscan columns linked by balusters support hipped roofs covered with asphalt shingles. The porch rests on parged brick piers linked by louvered screens. Elsewhere on the house, the segmental-arched and round-arched window surrounds have stone sills. They frame square-headed windows with double-hung two-over-two wood sash placed behind storm sash. Some sash have been replaced by non-historic metal sash. Denticulated wood cornices cap the facades and outline the gables. The front and rear gables are parged. The east and west gables enclose Palladian windows. Small screened wood-frame porches set on piers project from the rear wings. Each has a shallow hipped roof. Secondary entrances to the house are located in the rear wings adjacent to the porches.

Building 413 was constructed in 1906 as a twin dwelling for captains. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General using a standard plan, 142-A, the building displays forms and details characteristic of the popular Colonial Revival style. It was built as part of a group of four, Buildings 400, 413, 418, and 420. The same plan was used for Building 404 in the Governors Island Historic District. Originally intended to provide apartments for four officers in each building, all were altered during construction to contain only two units. In 1925 each unit was divided into duplexes, creating four apartments. The building enjoys an imposing location on the north side of the parade ground, and it replaced an earlier frame dwelling. It remained in use as officers' housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 1:14-18 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 415**

Weaver Avenue, north side, between Whistler Avenue and Shore Road

Original name/use: Officers' Quarters: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' housing

Date: 1906 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #120-D)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2-1/2



Building 415 is a two-and-one-half story double house faced with red pressed brick laid in stretcher bond and set on a foundation of coursed stone. 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 slate shingles set with copper flashing. A one-story screened porch extends across the front of the building and is approached by wooden steps. Tuscan columns, linked by balusters, support a hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles. Latticed wood screens conceal the supports beneath the porch. The basement windows have been infilled and parged. The building has flat-arched window surrounds with stone sills. The double-hung two-over-two wood sash are placed behind storm sash. Molded wood cornices extend along the eaves of the roof and the slopes of the gable. A Palladianesque motif with a pair of windows flanking a blind-arched window is employed on the main facade. Enclosed one-story wood-frame wings set on brick piers project from the rear wings and wrap around their sides. Each is faced with clapboard siding and has a shallow hipped roof. Each contains a secondary entrance to the house, approached by wooden steps. Although the surfaces of these one-story wings may have been modified, apparently their placement and configuration are original to the house.

Building 415 was constructed in 1906 as a twin dwelling for officers (probably lieutenants who differed in grade from those occupying Buildings 401 and 402). Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General using a standard plan, 120-D, the building displays forms and details characteristic of the popular Colonial Revival style. This is the only example of housing constructed according to this plan at Fort Totten. The building enjoys a location facing the parade ground and was constructed as part of a campaign to provide housing for higher ranking officers at Fort Totten, coinciding with the installation of the Coast Artillery. It remained in use as officers' housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 1:9-13 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 418**

Northeast corner of Weaver Avenue and Whistler Avenue

Original name/use: Captains' Quarters: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' housing: four units; Fire Dept. Operations office

Date: 1906 - construction

1925 - internal modifications to create four units

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #142-A)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2-1/2



Building 418 is a two-and-one-half story double house faced with red pressed brick laid in stretcher bond and set on a foundation of coursed stone. A gabled front section projects from the gabled-roof main block of the building. Two gabled-roof wings project from the rear of the building. All the roofs are covered with slate shingles set with copper flashing. One-story screened porches wrap around the corners of the facade and are approached by wooden steps. Tuscan columns, linked by balusters, support hipped roofs covered with asphalt shingles. Latticed wood screens conceal the supports beneath the porch. The porches have been enclosed at their north ends by clapboard siding with two-over-two wood sash windows. Elsewhere on the building, the segmental-arched and round-arched window surrounds have stone sills. They contain square-headed windows with double-hung two-over-two wood sash placed behind storm sash. Raking denticulated wood cornices outline the gables, and denticulated wood cornices extend along the roof slopes. The east and west gables have Palladian windows. The front gable has paired round-arched windows. Small wood-frame porches that rest on brick piers project from the rear wings. Each has a shallow hipped roof. The porch at the east is screened and has latticework linking the Tuscan posts, while that at the west is enclosed by clapboard siding. Both have entrances approached by wood steps. Secondary entrances to the house are located in the rear wings adjacent to the porches.

Building 418 was constructed in 1906 as a twin dwelling for captains. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General using a standard plan, 142-A, the building displays forms and details characteristic of the popular Colonial Revival style. It was built as part of a group of four, Buildings 400, 413, 418, and 420. The same plan was used for Building 404 in the Governors Island Historic District. Originally intended to provide apartments for four officers in each building, all were altered during construction to contain only two units. They were subsequently converted in 1925 into four units. The building enjoys an imposing location on the north side of the parade ground, and it replaced an earlier frame dwelling. It remained in use as officers' housing through 1995 and now serves the operations division of the New York City Fire Department.

LPC photos: 1:1-5 (3/10/99)



**BUILDING NO. 420**

Northwest corner of Weaver Avenue and Whistler Avenue

Original name/use: Captains' Quarters: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' housing: four units

Date: 1906 - construction

1925 - internal modifications to create four units

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #142-A)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2-1/2



Building 420 is a two-and-one-half story double house faced with red pressed brick laid in stretcher bond and set on a foundation of coursed stone. 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. The roofs are covered with slate shingles and are punctuated by four chimneys with corbelled caps. One-story screened porches wrap around the corners of the facade and are approached by wooden steps. Tuscan columns, linked by balusters, support hipped roofs covered with asphalt shingles. Latticed wood screens conceal the supports beneath the porch. The north end of the east porch has been enclosed by clapboard siding with two-over-two wood sash windows. Elsewhere on the house, the segmental-arched and round-arched window surrounds have stone sills and square-headed windows which contain double-hung two-over-two wood sash placed behind storm sash. Some windows have non-historic metal sash. Raking denticulated wood cornices outline the gables, and denticulated wood cornices extend along the roof slopes. The east and west gables enclose Palladian windows; the gables on the front and rear wings have paired round-arched windows. The gable end of the western rear wing has been parged. Wood-frame porches set on brick piers project from the rear wings. Each has a shallow hipped roof. The porch at the east has been enclosed by clapboard siding, while that at the west is screened with latticework linking the Tuscan posts that support the roof. Both have entrances approached by wood steps. Secondary entrances to the house are located in the rear wings adjacent to the porches.

Building 420 was constructed in 1906 as a twin dwelling for captains. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General using a standard plan, 142-A, the building displays forms and details characteristic of the popular Colonial Revival style. It was built as part of a group of four, Buildings 400, 413, 418, and 420. The same plan was used for Building 404 in the Governors Island Historic District. Originally intended to provide apartments for four officers in each building, all were altered during construction to contain only two units. They were subsequently converted in 1925 into four units. The building enjoys an imposing location on the north side of the parade ground, and it replaced an earlier frame dwelling. It remained in use as officers' housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 7:15-19 (3/10/99)

**BUILDING NO. 422**

Weaver Avenue, north side, between Murray Avenue and Whistler Avenue

Original name/use: Commanding Officer's Quarters

Subsequent names/uses: same; offices for Queens County AIA

Date: 1909 - construction

post 1926 - one-story porch added to east side of facade

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #3-655)

Style: Colonial Revival (Neo-Georgian)

Materials: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2-1/2

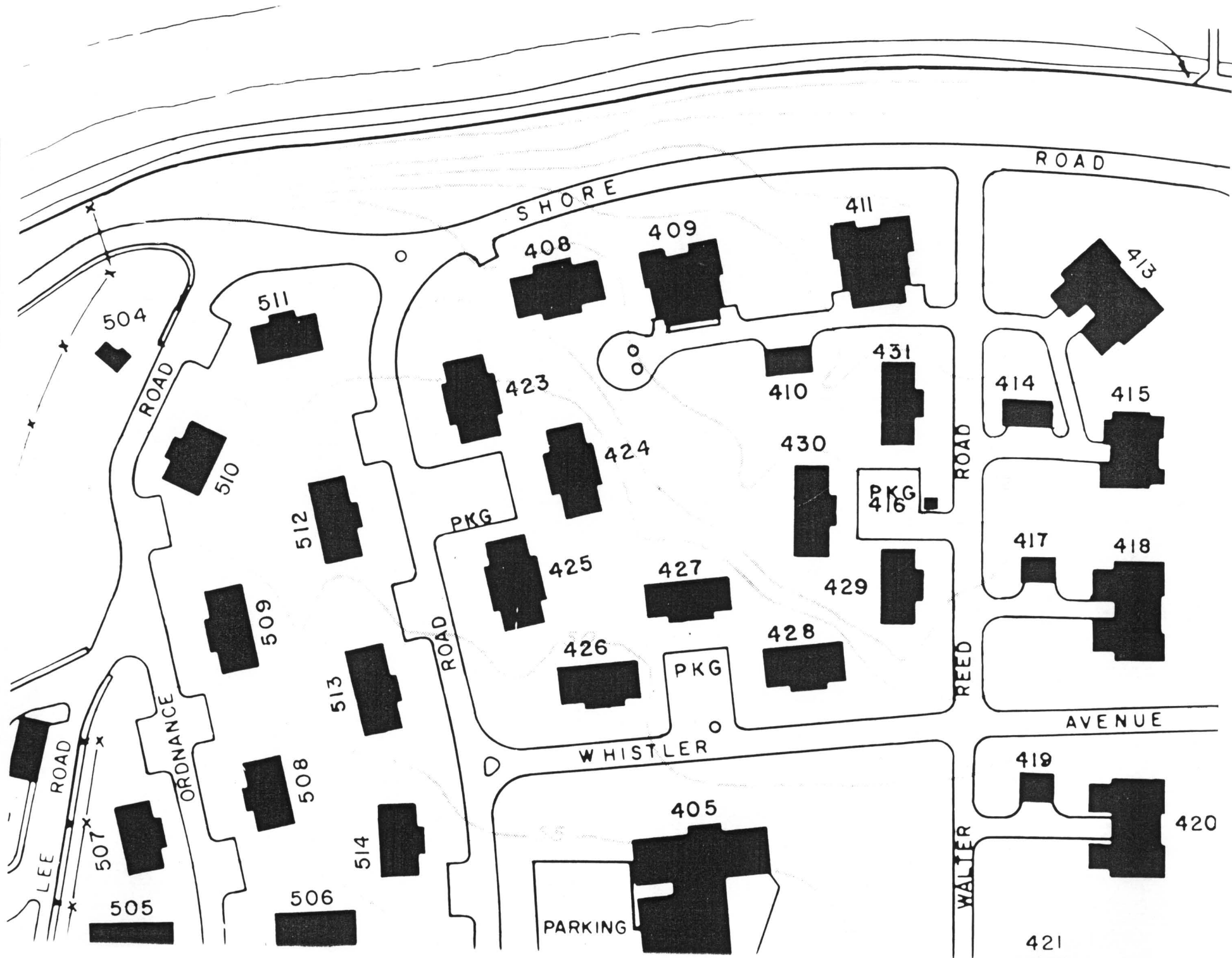


Building 422 is a two-and-one-half story, T-shaped single-family house. It is faced with red brick laid in Flemish bond framed with brick quoins. Set on a brick and concrete foundation, a full-height gabled portico projects from the main block of the house which is surmounted by a slate-shingled gabled-roof with prominent end chimneys. A gabled-roof wing projects from the rear of the house. The portico has Tuscan columns which support an entablature and pediment lit by a fanlight. A concrete platform set on a brick base extends across the front of the house and is approached by concrete steps. The entrance has an elliptical arched surround outlined by a stone molding. The opening contains paired wood and glass doors flanked by sidelights and a leaded glass transom. Above the entrance, paired French doors flanked by narrow sidelights open onto a bowed balcony with an intricate wrought-iron balustrade. At the first story on the main block of the house, the window openings have splayed brick and stone lintels and stone sills. Elsewhere on the house, the window openings have splayed brick lintels and stone sills. The windows retain their historic double-hung wood sash, either eight-over-one or four-over-one, which are placed behind storm sash. Raking modillioned wood cornices outline the gables, and modillioned wood cornices extend along the roof slopes. The cornices at the rear wing are without modillions. A one-story enclosed porch with louvered glass is located to the east of the entrance portico. A small entry portico with Tuscan columns supporting a hipped roof is placed on the eastern elevation of the rear wing. A larger screened wood-frame porch set on brick piers is placed along the western elevation of the rear wing. Both have entrances approached by wood steps. A secondary entrance to the house is located in the rear wing at basement level.

Building 422 was constructed in 1909 as quarters for the commanding officer of Fort Totten. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standardized plan, 3-655, the house displays the imposing features of the neo-Georgian variant of the Colonial Revival style. It enjoys a striking location, appropriate for the commanding officer, at the north side of the parade ground. Prior to the construction of this house, the commanding officer and his family had lived in the nineteenth-century residence, now known as Building 211. The enclosed porch on the east side of the facade was constructed following a fire in 1926, which severely damaged the interior of the house. The building remained in use as the commanding officer's residence until 1995; it now contains offices.

LPC photos: 7:10-14 (3/10/99)

Building Key Map: Buildings 423-431



BUILDING NOS. 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, and 431

Clustered west of Shore Road, between Abbot Road, Whistler Avenue, and Walter Reed Road

Original name/use: Family housing: twin dwellings (Capehart type)

Date: 1959

Architect: Undetermined

Style: None

Materials: Wood and brick veneer on concrete block

Stories: 2

Buildings 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, and 431 were constructed as twin dwellings in 1959. They were built under a program that resulted in the construction of numerous houses on military bases throughout the United States and are known as Capehart houses. Approximately 30 such structures were built at Fort Totten to accommodate the housing needs of Army personnel and their families.





BUILDING NO. 500 (Coast Guard facility)  
North Loop Road, north of Abbot Road

Original name/use: Battery King  
Subsequent names/uses: Baseball diamond

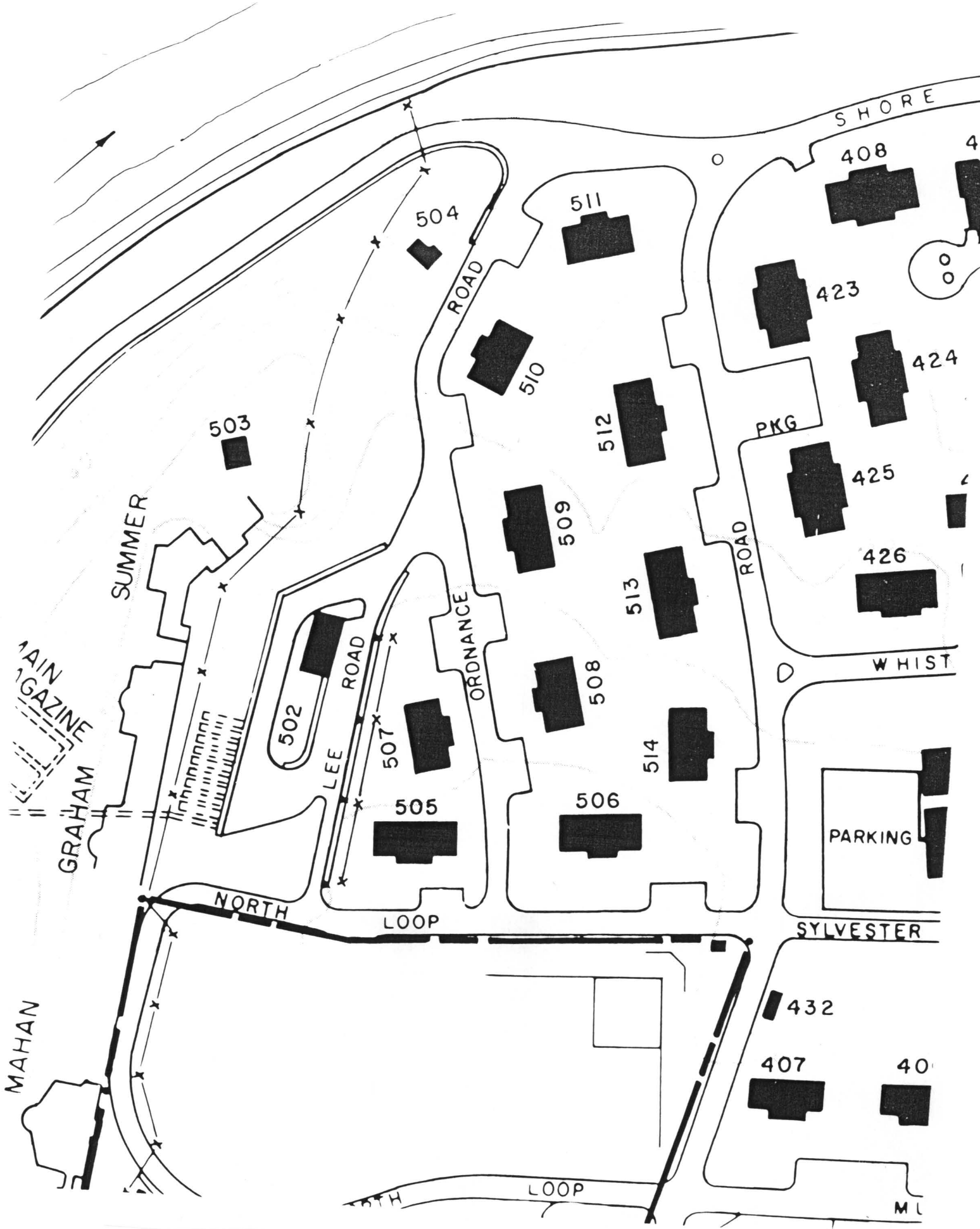
Date: 1896 - construction

Architect: Army Corps of Engineers

Material: Concrete and earth

Building 500, Battery King, is constructed of concrete and earth and is completely covered by the surface of the baseball diamond now in place.

Battery King was constructed as part of the effort to upgrade the fortifications at Fort Totten through the construction of "modern" batteries during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. These batteries featured open platforms containing gun emplacements behind thick concrete parapets that were hidden behind large earthworks on the shore side. Concrete magazines, for weapons and ammunition storage, were located below the platforms. In 1938, the batteries were declared obsolete and subsequently abandoned. Battery King was further modified for use as a baseball diamond.



**Building Key Map: Buildings 502, 505-514**

**BUILDING NO. 502**

Lee Road, northwest of Ordnance Road

Original name/use: Ordnance shop

Subsequent names/uses: Fort Totten Historical Center

Date: 1900 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Romanesque Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 1 with basement



Building 502 is a small one-story-with-attic gable-roofed rectangular structure built of red brick laid up in stretcher bond set on an exposed basement of rough-cut stone. The segmental-arched window surrounds have stone sills and corbelled brick lintels and one-over-one double-hung wood sash. The two entrances on the south side have similarly articulated brick lintels. The slate-covered roof with one end chimney and central ventilator, has overhanging eaves which are set off by box cornices with corner returns.

Building 502 was constructed in 1900 as the ordnance shop. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, the building has features characteristic of the Romanesque Revival style adapted to a structure designated for functional and utilitarian use. It is strategically located adjacent to the torpedo vaults, batteries, and main magazine at the northern end of the fort; all of these facilities had been enhanced and strengthened at the end of the nineteenth century. In recent years, the building has housed the Fort Totten Historical Center, a small museum devoted to the history of Fort Totten.

LPC photos: 12:1-5 (5/20/99)

BUILDING NOS. 505 and 507

Bounded by Lee Road, Ordnance Road, and North Loop

Original name/use: Family housing: twin dwellings (Capehart type)

Date: 1959 - construction

Architect: Undetermined

Style: None

Materials: Wood and brick veneer on concrete block

Stories: 2

Buildings 505 and 507 were constructed as twin dwellings in 1959. They were built under a program that resulted in the construction of numerous houses on military bases throughout the United States and are known as Capehart houses. Approximately 30 such structures were built at Fort Totten to accommodate the housing needs of Army personnel and their families.

BUILDING NOS. 506, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, and 514  
Cluster bounded by Shore Road, Abbot Road, North Loop, and North Ordnance

Original name/use: Family housing: twin dwellings (Capehart type)

Date: 1959 - construction

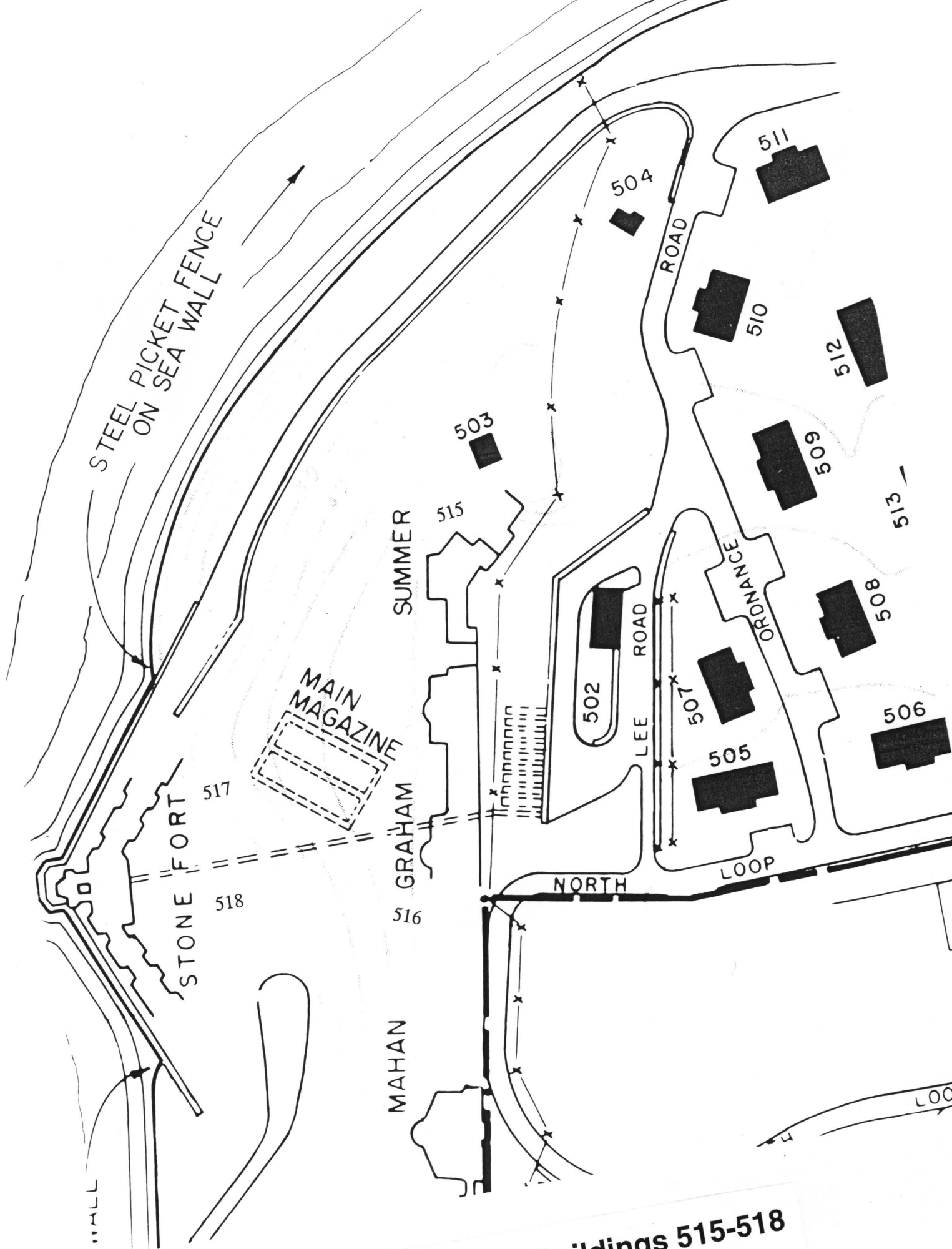
Architect: Undetermined

Style: None

Materials: Wood and brick veneer on concrete block

Stories: 2

Buildings 506, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, and 514 were constructed as twin dwellings in 1959. They were built under a program that resulted in the construction of numerous houses on military bases throughout the United States and are known as Capehart houses. Approximately 30 such structures were built at Fort Totten to accommodate the housing needs of Army personnel and their families.



Building Key Map: Buildings 515-518





BUILDING NOS. 515 and 519  
South of Civil War fortification

Original name/use: Battery Sumner 1 and 2  
Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1892-1902 - construction

Architect: Army Corps of Engineers

Material: Concrete and earth

Buildings 515 and 519, Battery Sumner 1 and 2, are constructed of concrete and earth. They are multi-tiered concrete structures built using the forms of post and lintel construction, set against the side of the ridge rising behind the Civil War battery.

Battery Sumner 1 and 2 was constructed as part of the effort to upgrade the fortifications at Fort Totten through the construction of "modern" batteries during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. These batteries featured open platforms containing gun emplacements behind thick concrete parapets that were hidden behind large earthworks on the shore side. Concrete magazines, for weapons and ammunition storage, were located below the platforms. Battery Sumner held one breech-loading rifle, U.S. disappearing carriage model 1896, and one eight-inch breech-loading rifle, Buffington-Crosier disappearing carriage model 1894. In 1938, the batteries were declared obsolete and subsequently abandoned.

BUILDING NO. 516

South of Civil War fortification

Original name/use: Battery Graham 1 and 2

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1892-1902 - construction

Architect: Army Corps of Engineers

Material: Concrete and earth

Building 516, Battery Graham 1 and 2, is constructed of concrete and earth. It is a multi-tiered concrete structure built using the forms of post and lintel construction, set against the side of the ridge rising behind the Civil War battery.

Battery Graham 1 and 2 was constructed as part of the effort to upgrade the fortifications at Fort Totten through the construction of "modern" batteries during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. These batteries featured open platforms containing gun emplacements behind thick concrete parapets that were hidden behind large earthworks on the shore side. Concrete magazines, for weapons and ammunition storage, were located below the platforms. Not all of the batteries proved to be necessary, and no weapons were mounted on Battery Graham. In 1938, the batteries were declared obsolete and subsequently abandoned.

BUILDING NO. 517

South of Civil War fortification

Original name/use: Torpedo storage vault

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1886 - construction

Architect: Army Corps of Engineers

Material: Concrete and earth

Building 517, the torpedo storage vault, is constructed of concrete and earth and set in the side of the hill behind the Civil War fortification. The form of the vaults is apparent in the series of openings set in the concrete wall.

When the torpedo storage vault was constructed in 1886, the Army Engineers at the fort were beginning to undertake research into the operations and fabrication of torpedoes. The location of the structure, set into the slope below the Civil War fortification, was somewhat removed from the major structures of the fort and made them less vulnerable to any accidents that might occur in the torpedo storage vault itself.

LPC photos: 12:6, 26 (5/20/99)

**BUILDING NO. 518**

North shoreline of Willets Point

Original name/use: Fort Totten Battery

Subsequent names/uses: Civil War fort, Stone Fort

Date: 1862-64 - construction

1868 - construction of main magazine begun

1870 - construction of vehicular tunnel begun

1872; 1883 - additional construction on main magazine

Architect: Army Corps of Engineers

Material: Granite blocks, brick, concrete

Designation New York City Landmark, September 24, 1974

National Register listing



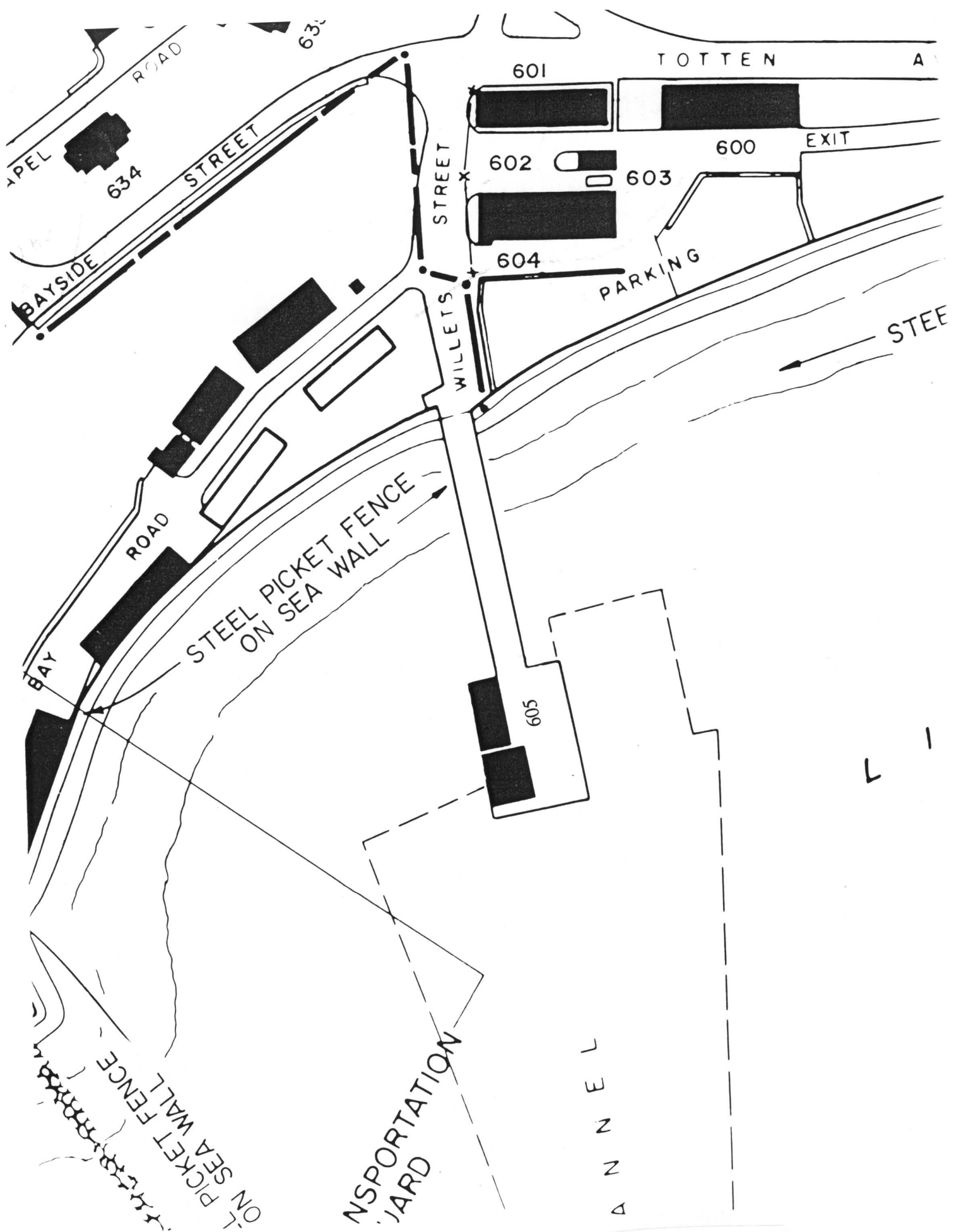


Building 518, the Fort Totten Battery, is a two-tiered casemated structure, constructed of granite blocks over brick masonry along the shore of Willets Point. The plan is in the shape of a shallow V with a polygonal bastion at the vertex of the two ramparts. The walls extend twelve feet below sea level and are eight feet thick. As seen from the water's edge, the rough granite block walls are pierced by gun embrasures. Seen from the land side, the battery takes the form of vaulted chambers with supporting arches and unvaulted supporting piers at the upper level. The main magazine, built in the hillside behind the battery, is constructed of concrete and masonry with walls ranging from 17 inches to 37 inches thick, enclosing two vaulted chambers. (It is not visible.) The vehicular tunnel leads past the main magazine, through the hillside to the east end of the battery. The barrel-vaulted tunnel is of concrete and is nine feet wide and ten feet high.

The Fort Totten Battery was constructed between 1862 and 1864, although never completed. Constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers under the direction of Col. William Petit Trowbridge, it is a late example of a Third System fortification developed by Gen. Joseph Totten. Casemate emplacement and the size and shapes of the embrasures (gun openings) were major focuses of Totten's innovations. The original plan called for four tiers of casemates on the seaward sides of the battery and two tiers to be built up the slope of the hill behind the battery. The two-tiered casemates were to be used as quarters for the soldiers, magazines, and storerooms. Because of advances in military technology during the Civil War, the structural system of the battery was made obsolete, and only two tiers of casemates on the seaward side were built. Construction on the main magazine, designed to store 200,000 of powder, began in 1868; it was eventually completed after two more phases of construction in 1872 and 1883. Work on the vehicular tunnel began in 1870. It is reportedly the first vehicular tunnel in New York City. The battery, the magazine, and the vehicular tunnel are not in use, but they may be visited on tours conducted by the Fort Totten Historical Center.

LPC photos: 12:7-26 (5/20/99)





**Building Key Map: Buildings 601, 604, 605**

**BUILDING NO. 601**

Northwest corner of Totten Avenue and Willets Street

Original name/use: Quartermaster's Commissary Storehouse

Subsequent names/uses: Office and storage; U.S. Customs Service

Date: 1896-97 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #91-A)

Style: Queen Anne ornament

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 1-1/2 with high basement



Building 601 is a long one-and-a-half story gable-roofed rectangular structure built of red brick laid up in American bond set on an exposed basement of rough-cut stone. The splayed brick segmental-arched window openings (several of which have been modified in form or filled in) have stone sills and contain non-historic one-over-one double-hung metal sash. The two entrances on the south side have similarly articulated brick arches and contain non-historic metal doors. Additional entrances with splayed brick segmental arches are located at basement level on the north side. A wood cornice with returns defines the roofline. The slate-covered roof has three chimneys and four hipped-roof dormers on the south slope.

Building 601 was constructed in 1896-97 as the Quartermaster's Commissary Storehouse. Erected by the Leonard Brothers Construction Company for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standardized plan, 91-A, the building displays a form typical of storehouses of the period and ornamental detail derived from the Queen Anne style. The location, close to the wharf, made the storehouse particularly convenient for the storage of goods as they were unloaded on the site. The building remained in use as offices and for storage, and is now under the jurisdiction of the United States Custom Service.

LPC photos: 9:29-33 (3/12/99)

BUILDING NO. 604

Exit Road, west of Willets Street

Original name/use: Storehouse

Subsequent names/uses: Storage warehouse

Date: 1904-10 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Queen Anne/Renaissance Revival ornament

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2-1/2



Building 604 is a two-and-a-half story gable-roofed rectangular structure built of red brick laid up in American bond set on stone foundation. Brick quoins mark the corners, and a brick stringcourse circles the building. The segmental-arched window openings (several of which have been modified in form or filled in) have stone sills and splayed brick lintels and contain two-over-two double-hung wood sash. Ocular windows are placed in the gable ends. The entrance on the west end has been modified by filling the opening with concrete block and installing non-historic doors. A corbelled brick cornice with returns demarcates the asphalt-shingled roof with three chimneys and three ventilator caps.

Building 604 was constructed sometime between 1904 and 1910, as documented by historic maps, as a storehouse. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, the building displays a form typical of storehouses of the period and detail derived from the Queen Anne and Renaissance Revival styles. The location, close to the wharf, made the storehouse particularly convenient for the storage of goods as they were unloaded on the site. The building has remained in use as offices and for storage.

LPC photos: 10:8-12 (3/12/99)

BUILDING NO. 605 [Coast Guard facility]  
Projecting into Little Bay

Original name/use: Quartermaster's Wharf  
Subsequent names/uses: same; Coast Guard wharf

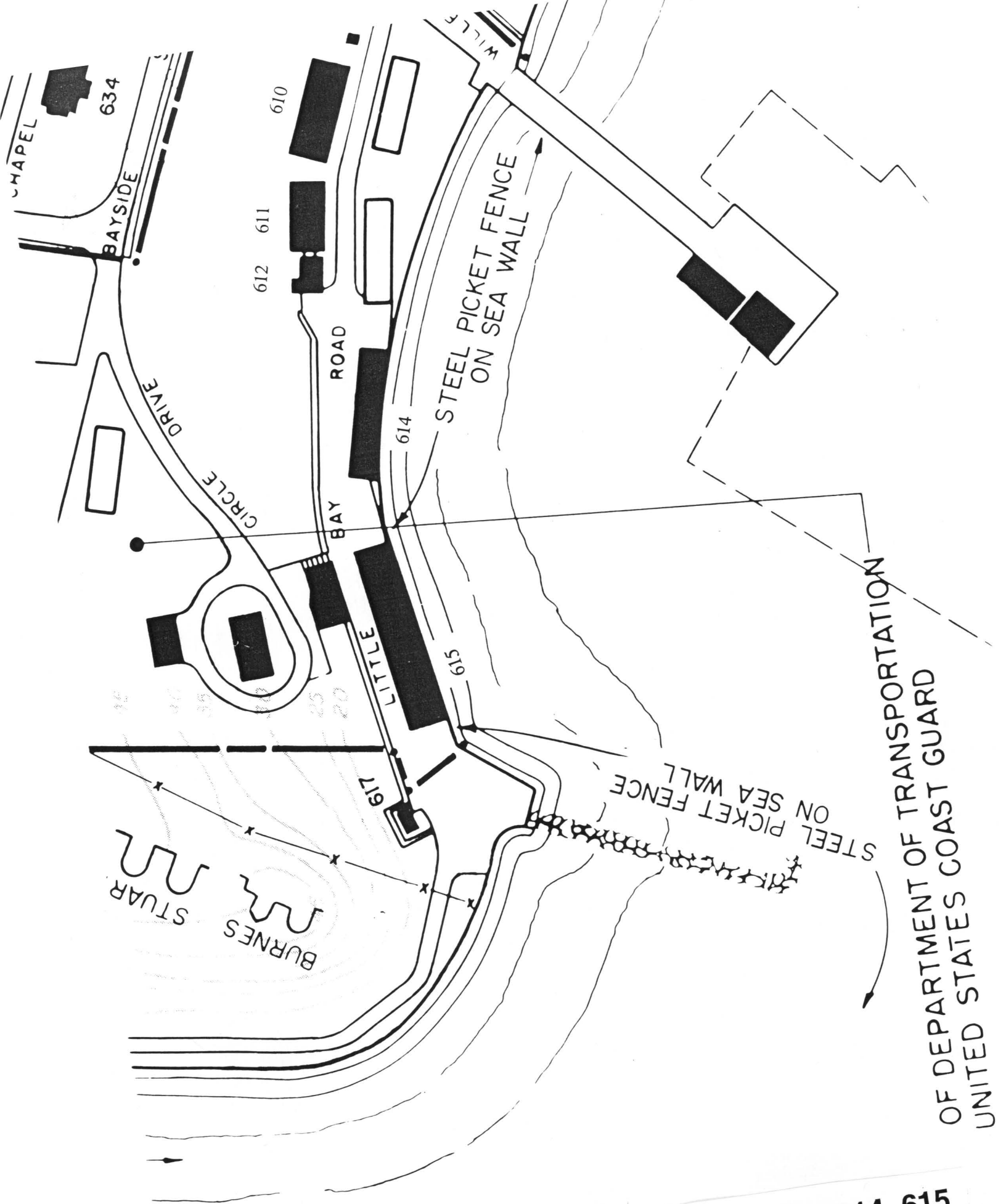
Date: 1864 - original construction  
c. 1970 - reconstruction

Architect: Army Corps of Engineers

Material: Stone, concrete

The reinforced concrete wharf on a rough stone base projects into Little Bay from the shoreline.

The Quartermaster's wharf was one of the first facilities constructed at the Fort at Willets Point. Designed and erected by the Army Corps of Engineers, it provided docking facilities for the men and materials needed to construct the original fortification during the Civil War. The wharf continued to play a similar role during subsequent building campaigns at the fort. Much of the structure was rebuilt under the jurisdiction of the United States Coast Guard when it took over the operation of a portion of Fort Totten in 1969.



Building Key Map: Buildings 610, 611, 612, 614, 615

BUILDING NO. 610 [Coast Guard facility]  
Little Bay Road, east side, north of Willets Street

Original name/use: Torpedo laboratory  
Subsequent names/uses: Offices; Police Dept. detective unit

Date: c. 1886 - construction  
mid 20th century - one-story wing added at south

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Queen Anne detail

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls, stone foundation  
Stories: 2-1/2 with high basement





Building 610 is a two-and-a-half story gable-roofed rectangular structure built of red brick laid up in American bond set on a massive exposed stone basement. The window openings have stone sills and lintels and contain non-historic double-hung sash. The entrance at basement level on the west end has a non-historic door, and an additional entrance has been created on the east side that is approached by a concrete platform set in the slope of the hill. Prominent eave brackets demarcate the gable ends of the asphalt-shingled roof with one chimney and gabled dormer on the west slope. The one-story wing on the south end is of brick and has a central roof monitor.

Building 610 was constructed c. 1886 as a torpedo laboratory. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, the building is fireproof, functional and utilitarian in form, and displays detail that is characteristic of the Queen Anne style. It was constructed as the Army Engineers at the fort were beginning to undertake research into the operations and fabrication of torpedoes. The location of the building, set into a slope and close to the water, was somewhat removed from the major structures of the fort and made them less vulnerable to any accidents that might occur in the torpedo laboratory itself. A one-story wing was added to the south side of the building in the mid twentieth century. It has been converted for office use and currently houses a detective unit of the New York City Police Department.

LPC photos: 10:13-17 (3/12/99)

BUILDING NO. 611 [Coast Guard facility]  
Little Bay Road, east side, north of Willets Street

Original name/use: Torpedo laboratory  
Subsequent names/uses: Offices; Coast Guard unit

Date: c. 1886 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Queen Anne/Romanesque detail

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls  
Stories: 2-1/2



Building 611 is a two-and-a-half story gable-roofed rectangular structure built of red brick laid up in American bond set on stone foundation. The segmental-arched window openings have stone sills and splayed brick lintels and contain two-over-two double-hung replacement sash. The entrances at ground level on the west end appear to be somewhat modified in form and contain non-historic doors. Two entrances on the east side, one through paired wood doors, the other through a window, are reached by wood staircases that span the slope behind the building. A corbelled brick cornice with returns demarcates the asphalt-shingled roof with one chimney.

Building 611 was constructed c.1886 as a torpedo laboratory. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, the building is fireproof, functional and utilitarian in form, and displays detail that is characteristic of the Queen Anne and Romanesque Revival styles. It was constructed as the Army Engineers at the fort were beginning to undertake research into the operations and fabrication of torpedoes. The location of the building, set into a slope and close to the water, was somewhat removed from the major structures of the fort and made them less vulnerable to any accidents that might occur in the torpedo laboratory itself. It has been converted for office use.

LPC photos: 10:18-22 (3/12/99)

BUILDING NO. 612 [Coast Guard facility]  
Little Bay Road, east side, north of Willets Street

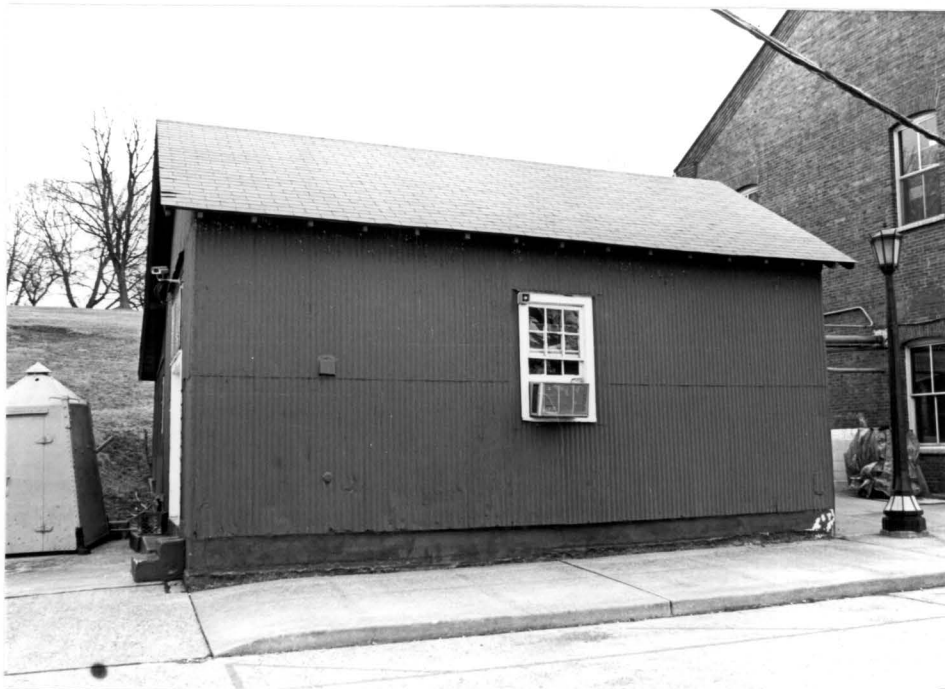
Original name/use: Torpedo laboratory annex  
Subsequent names/uses: Storage shed, boat house

Date: c.1886 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Utilitarian

Material: Metal siding on wood frame  
Stories: 1



Building 612 is a small rectangular gabled-roof structure, built of wood frame on a concrete foundation and covered with corrugated metal siding. A large entranceway at the north end is framed in simulated rustication below a lintel and contains paired wood doors below a transom. A shed-roofed wing projects from the east side of the building. Exposed rafter ends demarcate the asphalt-shingled roof.

Building 612 was constructed in about 1886 as a small annex structure to the torpedo laboratory known as Building 611. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, it is utilitarian in form and materials. It was constructed as the Army Engineers at the fort were beginning to undertake research into the operations and fabrication of torpedoes. The location of the building, set into a slope and close to the water, was somewhat removed from the major structures of the fort and made them less vulnerable to any accidents that might occur in the torpedo laboratory itself. The building was later used for storage and as a boat house.

LPC photos: 11:26-30 (3/12/99)

BUILDING NO. 614 [Coast Guard facility]  
Little Bay Road, west side, north of Willets Street

Original name/use: Wharf shed  
Subsequent names/uses: Storage and equipment shed

Date: 1904-10 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Utilitarian

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls  
Stories: 1



Building 614 is a one-story gable-roofed rectangular structure built of reddish brown brick laid up in American bond set on a stone foundation. The window openings have brick sills and contain six-over-six double-hung wood sash. The entrances on the north and south ends have brick corbelled surrounds and contain historic cross-paneled wood doors (the north door has been slightly modified.) The roof is covered with tarpaper.

Building 614 was constructed sometime between 1904 and 1910, as documented by historic maps, as a wharf shed. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, the building is utilitarian in its form and detail. Its location, close to the shore, was convenient for the storage of equipment and materials used in wharf operations. It continues to be used for storage.

LPC photos: 11:20-24 (3/12/99)

BUILDING NO. 615 [Coast Guard facility]  
Little Bay Road, west side, north of Willets Street

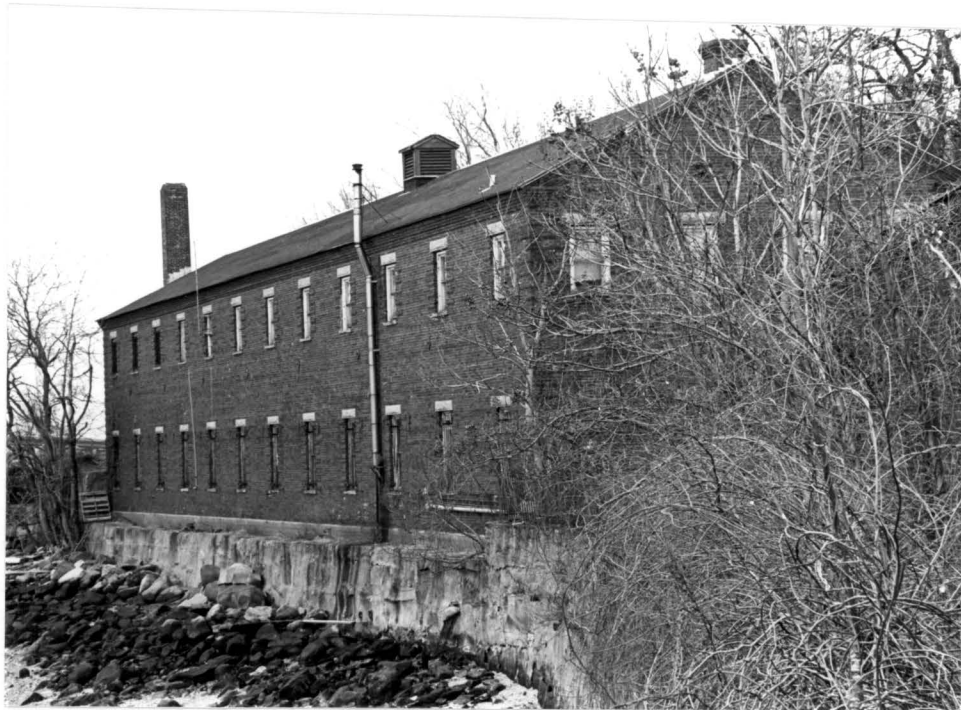
Original name/use: Torpedo storehouse  
Subsequent names/uses: Offices and storage; Coast Guard unit

Date: c.1886 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Romanesque detail

Materials: Brick on masonry bearing walls, stone foundation  
Stories: 2-1/2 with high basement

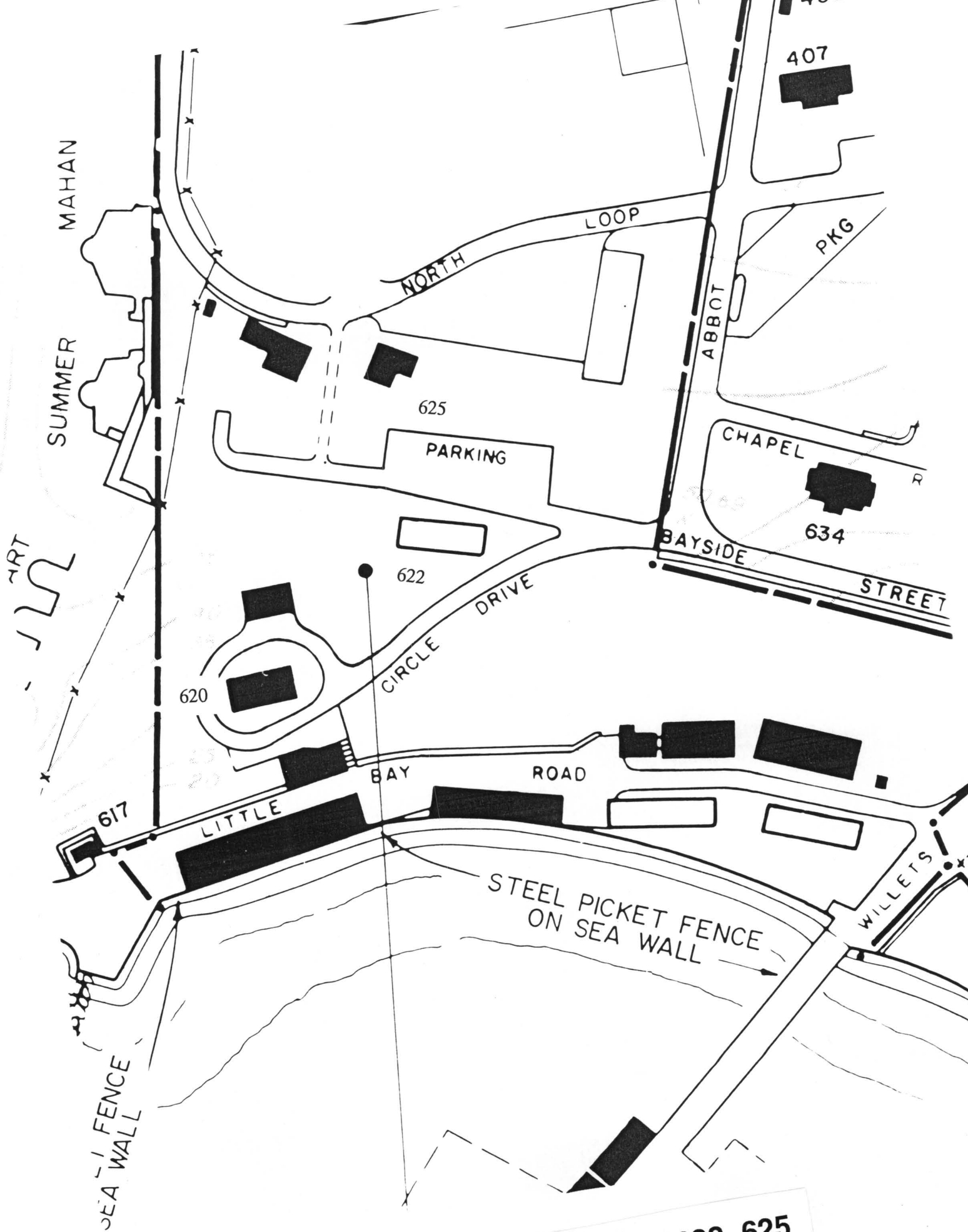




Building 615 is a long two-and-a-half story gable-roofed rectangular structure built of red brick laid up in American bond and set on stone foundation. Brick quoins mark the corners. The window openings have stone sills and rusticated stone lintels, as well as brick rustication at the sides. It contains two-over-two double-hung wood sash at the lower level and non-historic one-over-one metal sash at the upper level. The vehicular entrance on the north end has a massive stone lintel. A corbelled brick cornice with returns demarcates the asphalt-shingled roof with two chimneys and a central ventilator.

Building 615 was constructed c.1886 as a torpedo storehouse. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, the building is fireproof, functional and utilitarian in form, and displays detail that is characteristic of the Romanesque Revival style. It was constructed as the Army Engineers at the fort were beginning to undertake research into the operations and fabrication of torpedoes. The location of the building, set into a slope and close to the water, as well as close to the torpedo laboratory buildings, was somewhat removed from the major structures of the fort and made these structures less vulnerable to any accidents that might occur in the torpedo storehouse itself. Portions of the building have been converted for office use.

LPC photos: 11:12-15, 25 (3/12/99)



Building Key Map: Buildings 620, 622, 625

BUILDING NO. 620 [Coast Guard facility]  
Circle Drive

Original name/use: Torpedo laboratory  
Subsequent names/uses: Offices; housing for Coast Guard personnel

Date: c. 1886 - construction  
c. 1970 - building converted for residential use; exterior clad with artificial siding

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Utilitarian

Material: Artificial siding on masonry bearing walls, stone foundation  
Stories: 2-1/2 with basement



Building 620 is a two-and-a-half story gable-roofed rectangular structure. Originally built of brick, it is now covered with artificial siding. The building is set on a prominent stone foundation. None of the window openings nor the window sash are historic. The entrance on the east side was added when the building changed to its current use. The asphalt-shingled roof has a central chimney.

Building 620 was constructed c.1886 as a torpedo laboratory. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, the building is fireproof, functional and utilitarian in form. As originally constructed, it must have been similar in appearance to Building 610. It was built as the Army Engineers at the fort were starting research on the operations and fabrication of torpedoes. The location of the building, was somewhat removed from the major structures of the fort and made them less vulnerable to any accidents that might occur in the torpedo laboratory itself. When the building was converted for residential use, the exterior was reclad in artificial siding and a new entryway was added on the east side.

LPC photos: 11:6-10 (3/12/99)

BUILDING NO. 622 [Coast Guard facility]  
Intersection of Circle Drive and Bayside Street

Original name/use: Temporary barracks  
Subsequent names/uses: Dental clinic; Bayside Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Date: 1940 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: None

Materials: Artificial siding on wood frame  
Stories: 2 with attic



Building 622 is a two-story frame structure, covered with artificial siding and set on a concrete foundation. Eave brackets emphasize the asphalt-shingled gabled roof. A slightly lower wing at the north end contains garage facilities.

Building 622 was constructed in 1940 as a temporary barracks. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, it is a functional structure designed without detail. Structures similar to this were built at army posts throughout the United States as the country began to prepare for a military buildup in conjunction with World War II. At a later time, this barracks structure was used as a dental clinic, and it is now leased to the Bayside Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

LPC photos: 10: 23-28 (3/12/99)

BUILDING NO. 625 [Coast Guard facility]  
West of North Loop

Original name/use: Storage building

Subsequent names/uses: Maintenance shop; storage for ambulance corps

Date: 1906 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Utilitarian

Materials: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 1

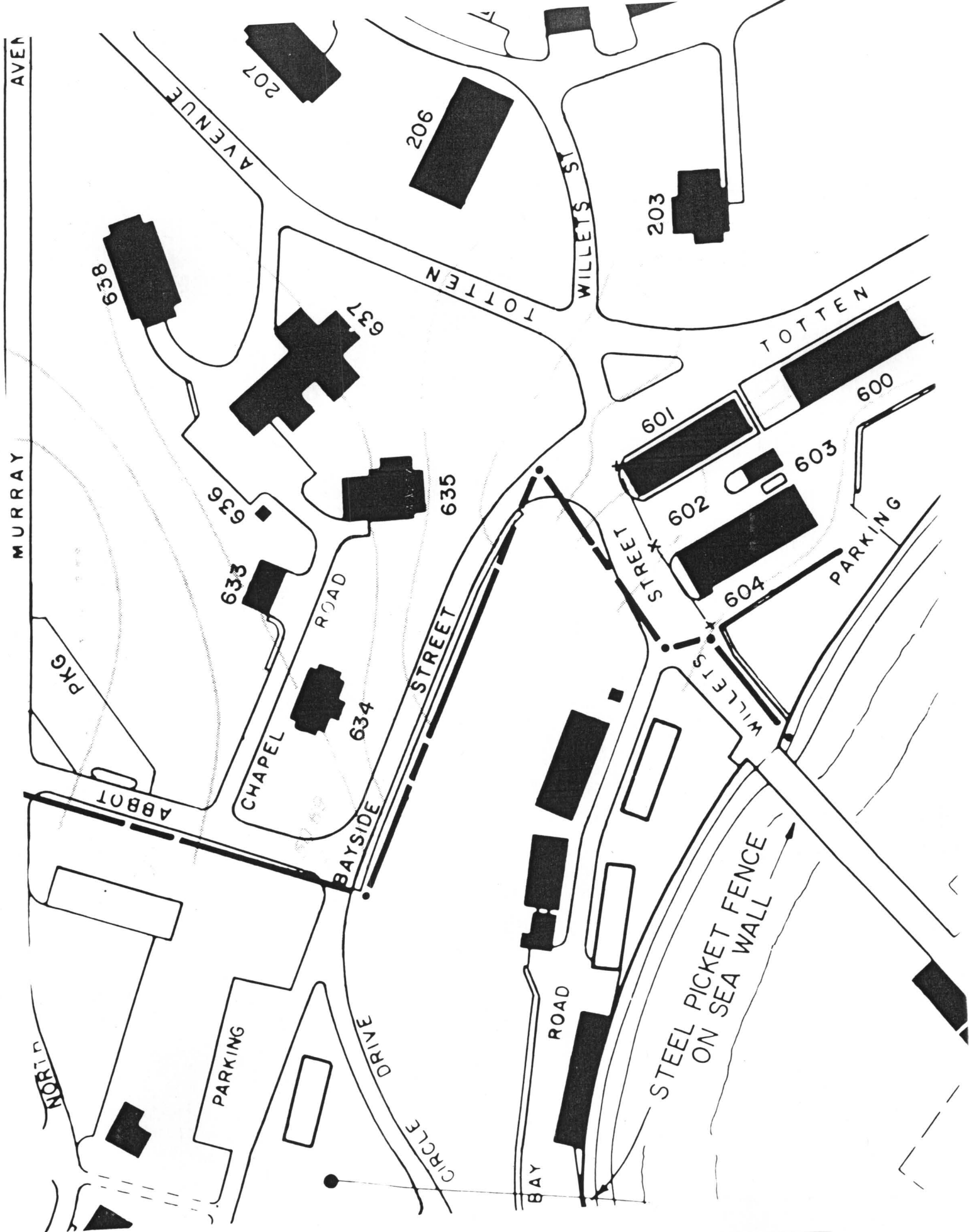


Building 625 is a small one-story structure of red brick laid in American bond on a stone foundation. The main section has a flattened gable roof, and a gabled wing projects to the south. The segmental-arched window openings have splayed brick lintels and stone sills and contain six-over-six double-hung wood sash. Several historic wood-paneled doors survive. The roof is covered with slate, in need of repair.

Building 625 was constructed in 1906 for storage purposes. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, it is utilitarian in its form and detail. It is located near the batteries and main magazine at the north end of the fort and likely was originally built to store materials pertinent to those functions. It was later used as a maintenance shop; the structure appears to have been enlarged for that purpose. The building is being repaired by the Bayside Volunteer Ambulance Corps for its use.

LPC photos: 11:1-5 (3/12/99)





Building Key Map: Buildings 634, 635, 637, 638

BUILDING NO. 634

Bayside Street, east side, between Abbot Road and Willets Street

Original name/use: Housing for non-commissioned officers: twin dwelling

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1937 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #625-2510 to 2516)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 634 is a two-family, two-story-with-attic house, faced with red brick laid in American bond and set on a brick foundation. The building is rectangular in plan with one-story sunroom wings projecting at the north and south. It has a gabled roof covered with slate shingles set in copper flashing. Two brick chimneys with corbelled caps are located at the north and south ends of the roof. The sunroom wings have flat roofs covered in standing-seam metal. A projecting entryway is centered on the western front of the house. The entryway has a hipped roof covered with standing-seam metal. Each of the two entrances, placed in an arched opening with fanlight, has a paneled wood door, set behind a storm door. They are approached by concrete steps with metal railings. The arched openings are marked by keystones. The north and south elevations of the entryway have full-length arched openings with French doors placed below fanlights. Other window openings, including those in the sunroom wings, are square-headed with splayed brick lintels and limestone sills and contain six-over-six double-hung wood sash. The first floor windows of the front elevation have side lights. The rear elevation, which faces east, has a one-story enclosed porch faced with asbestos shingles and covered with a flat roof clad in standing seam metal. It contains two side-facing rear entrance doors approached by concrete steps and two window openings facing east. Each half of the building has a basement hatchway, placed on north side below the enclosed porch.

Building 634 was constructed in 1937 as a twin dwelling for non-commissioned officers. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standard building plan developed by the Army Corps of Engineers, 625-2510 through 2516, it displays forms and details characteristic of the Colonial Revival style. Building 634 was built as part of a group which also includes Building 316, and it replaced earlier, more dilapidated housing. Funding to construct Building 634 was provided by the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1936 under the direction of the War Department's Construction Program. Building 634 replaced a frame dwelling that had been built between 1866 and 1871 as the Ordnance Sergeant's Cottage. The building remained in use as housing through 1995.

LPC photos: 9:11-15 (3/12/99)

**BUILDING NO. 635**

Bayside Street, east side, north of the intersection of Willets Street and Totten Avenue

Original name/use: Field Officer's Quarters

Subsequent names/uses: Officer's Quarters: single-family dwelling

Date: 1905 - construction

1909 - enlarged to add servant's room

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #145-B)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2 with attic



Building 635 is a two-story-with-attic house faced with red pressed brick set on a rough cut stone foundation. The T-shaped building has a cross-gabled roof, covered with slate shingles. A wooden porch with Tuscan columns supporting a shallow hipped roof wraps around the west side and south front of the house. The columns are linked by balustrades with turned posts. The porch, which sits on a parged brick and louvered screen base, is approached by wooden steps on both the south and west sides. The main entrance has paired paneled wood doors behind storm doors. The window openings have prominent keystones and splayed brick lintels and limestone sills. The central windows in the north and south gable ends are arched. These gable ends are also parged. The double-hung two-over-two wood sash are placed behind storm sash. Raking denticulated wood cornices outline the gable ends, and denticulated wood cornices above a corbeled brick molding enrich the main roof. A small enclosed entry porch at the northwest corner of the north elevation has wood siding. A one-story brick addition has been constructed at the northeast corner.

Building 635 was constructed in 1905, along with Building 203 as a single-family dwelling identified as Field Officer's Quarters (rank of major or colonel). Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General using a standard building plan, 145-B, the house displays forms and details of the popular Colonial Revival style. It was constructed during a major residential building campaign which coincided with the installation of the Coast Artillery at Fort Totten. Building 403 (1904-06) in the Governors Island Historic District has the same plan.

Related structure: Down the sloping lawn of the house, closer to the intersection is a memorial granite headstone which reads: "In memory of Charles A. Willets, 1781- 1832" [photo - 9:18]

LPC photos: 9:6-10 (3/12/99)



**BUILDING NO. 637**

Totten Avenue, north side, at intersection with Chapel Road

Original name/use: Engineers' Museum

Subsequent names/uses: Officers' commissary; Quartermaster's storehouse; offices

Date: 1890-98 - construction

1910 - enlarged for conversion to storehouse

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General

Style: Romanesque and Colonial Revival detail

Materials: Brick on masonry bearing walls

Stories: 2





Building 637 is a two-story structure arranged in a cross-T-shaped plan with the front projecting towards Totten Avenue and a deep rear wing projecting east. The red brick facing, laid in American bond, with granite quoins, rises from a stone foundation topped by a limestone bandcourse. The intersecting asphalt-covered roofs are hipped above wood cornices. A one-story entrance porch with Tuscan columns, linked by square balusters, supports an asphalt-covered hipped roof. The porch extends across the front and rests on concrete piers linked by latticework screens. The entrance has non-historic metal doors below a transom. The window openings throughout the building have stone lintels and sills and contain two-over-two double-hung wood sash, most of which are placed behind metal bars. A secondary entrance on the east side of the building contains non-historic metal doors below a transom. A one-story brick addition projects from the north side of the rear wing.

Building 637 was constructed between 1890 and 1898 as the Engineers' Museum. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General, the building displays detail characteristic of the Romanesque Revival and Colonial Revival styles. Army Engineers had always been an important part of the Fort at Willets Point. Three of the Army's four engineer companies had been stationed there in 1865 following the Civil War, and in 1870 the fort was named the official Engineer Depot for the Eastern United States. The fort served as an ongoing educational, experimental, and training facility. The construction of the Engineers' Museum was tangible recognition of the engineers' importance, although the building's tenure in this role proved to be short-lived as the Engineer School of Application relocated to Washington in 1901, and the Engineering Depot closed in 1902. It was being used as an officers' commissary by 1905, coinciding with the installation of the Coast Artillery, and it was enlarged for use as the Quartermaster's storehouse in 1910. Subsequently, it was used as offices.

LPC photos: 9:1-5 (3/12/99)

BUILDING NO. 638

Intersection of Murray Avenue and Totten Avenue

Original name/use: Chapel

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1938-39 - construction

Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General (Building Plan #6167-110-127)

Style: Colonial Revival

Material: Brick on reinforced concrete structure

Stories: 1-1/2





Building 638 is a one-and-one-half-story rectangular structure, faced with red brick, laid in American bond, and accented by clinker brick. It is set on a concrete foundation topped by a limestone bandcourse. Brick quoins mark the corners of the building. The asphalt-covered gabled roof terminates in a hip at the north end. A square tower interrupts the roof at the south end. The tower contains the arched entrance with paired paneled wood doors below a wood-paneled transom. The arch has a stone keystone and impost blocks. A blind stone panel is placed on the wall above the entrance arch. Arched openings filled with louvers mark the second level of the tower. A slate-covered spire, surmounted by a weathervane, rises from the tower. The main tower entrance is flanked by two single entrances with stone lintels and containing paneled wood doors. A concrete platform with wrought-iron railings extends across the front. The long sides of the building, at the east and west, are punctuated by tall arched window openings with stone impost blocks. These contain multi-pane sash set with colored glass, below fixed transoms. Secondary entrances with stone lintels and wood-paneled doors are also placed on these sides. Wood-frame shed-roof additions have been constructed at basement level on these sides. The cornerstone, placed at the southwest corner, reads: "Erected by the Quartermaster Corps United States Army 1938."

Building 638 was constructed in 1938-39 as the Fort Totten Chapel. Erected for the Office of the Quartermaster General according to a standardized plan, 6167-110-127, the building displays the forms and details of a Colonial Revival-style religious structure. Chapels of similar design were constructed at army posts throughout the United States. This was the second chapel structure at the fort; the first, a Gothic Revival-style frame structure, had been built between 1871 and 1879 and located somewhat further to the east along Murray Avenue. Funding for the construction of the new chapel was provided by the Work Relief Appropriations Act of 1936 under the direction of the War Department's Construction Program. It has remained in use for purposes of religious worship.

LPC photos: 8:17-21 (3/12/99)

STEEL PICKET FENCE  
ON SEA WALL

MAHAN

639  
640

SUMMER

643

BAKER

644

BURNES  
STUART

642

641

NORTH

PARKING

CIRCLE DRIVE

BAY

ROAD

LITTLE

STEEL PICKET  
ON SEA WA

STEEL PICKET FENCE  
ON SEA WALL

Building Key Map: Buildings 639-644

BUILDING NOS. 639 and 640  
South of Civil War fortification

Original name/use: Battery Mahan 1 and 2  
Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1892-1902 - construction

Architect: Army Corps of Engineers

Material: Concrete and earth

Buildings 639 and 640, Battery Mahan 1 and 2, are constructed of concrete and earth. They are multi-tiered concrete structures built using the forms of post and lintel construction, set against the side of the ridge rising behind the Civil War battery.

Battery Mahan 1 and 2 was constructed as part of the effort to upgrade the fortifications at Fort Totten through the construction of "modern" batteries during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. These batteries featured open platforms containing gun emplacements behind thick concrete parapets that were hidden behind large earthworks on the shore side. Concrete magazines, for weapons and ammunition storage, were located below the platforms. Battery Mahan carried two twelve-inch breech loading rifles, U.S. disappearing carriage model 1897. In 1938, the batteries were declared obsolete and subsequently abandoned.

BUILDING NO. 641

South of Civil War fortification

Original name/use: Battery Burnes

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1892-1902 - construction

Architect: Army Corps of Engineers

Material: Concrete and earth

Building 641, Battery Burnes, is constructed of concrete and earth. It is a tiered concrete structure built using the forms of post and lintel construction, set against the side of the ridge rising behind the Civil War battery.

Battery Burnes was constructed as part of the effort to upgrade the fortifications at Fort Totten through the construction of "modern" batteries during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. These batteries featured open platforms containing gun emplacements behind thick concrete parapets that were hidden behind large earthworks on the shore side. Concrete magazines, for weapons and ammunition storage, were located below the platforms. Battery Burnes was a smaller battery for pillar-mounted rapid-fire guns and mortars; it carried two three-inch rapid-fire guns. In 1938, the batteries were declared obsolete and subsequently abandoned.

BUILDING NO. 642

South of Civil War fortification

Original name/use: Battery Stuart

Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1892-1902 - construction

Architect: Army Corps of Engineers

Material: Concrete and earth

Building 642, Battery Stuart, is constructed of concrete and earth. It is a tiered concrete structure built using the forms of post and lintel construction, set against the side of the ridge rising behind the Civil War battery.

Battery Stuart was constructed as part of the effort to upgrade the fortifications at Fort Totten through the construction of "modern" batteries during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. These batteries featured open platforms containing gun emplacements behind thick concrete parapets that were hidden behind large earthworks on the shore side. Concrete magazines, for weapons and ammunition storage, were located below the platforms. Battery Stuart was a smaller battery for pillar-mounted rapid-fire guns and mortars. It contained two five-inch rapid-fire guns of balanced pillar mounts set on concrete platforms. In 1938, the batteries were declared obsolete and subsequently abandoned.

BUILDING NOS. 643-644  
South of Civil War fortification

Original name/use: Battery Baker  
Subsequent names/uses: same

Date: 1892-1902 - construction

Architect: Army Corps of Engineers

Material: Concrete and earth

Buildings 642 and 643, Battery Baker, are constructed of concrete and earth. They are tiered concrete structures built using the forms of post and lintel construction, set against the side of the ridge rising behind the Civil War battery.

Battery Baker was constructed as part of the effort to upgrade the fortifications at Fort Totten through the construction of "modern" batteries during the last two decades of the nineteenth century. These batteries featured open platforms containing gun emplacements behind thick concrete parapets that were hidden behind large earthworks on the shore side. Concrete magazines, for weapons and ammunition storage, were located below the platforms. Battery Baker was a smaller battery for pillar-mounted rapid-fire guns and mortars. It contained two three-inch rapid-fire guns. In 1938, the batteries were declared obsolete and subsequently abandoned.

## **SECONDARY BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES AT FORT TOTTEN**

Building No. 100 (beyond main gate on Totten Avenue) - security guard station.  
LPC photos: 12:32-33 (5/20/99)

Building No. 101 (Totten Avenue) - transformer structure

Building No. 104 (south of Totten Avenue) - transformer structure

Building No. 108 (west of Duane Road) - transformer structure

Building No. 209 (east of Underhill Road) - one-story brick transformer structure, built in 1937.

Building No. 303 (east of Shore Road) - one-story brick pumphouse with asphalt-covered peaked roof. LPC photos: 2:5-6 (3/10/99)

Building No. 311 (south of Theater Road) - one-story brick garage with slate-covered peaked roof, built in 1937. LPC photos: 5:1-2 (3/10/99)

Building No. 313 (east of Theater Road) - one-story brick transformer structure, built in 1937.

Building No. 315 (east of Theater Road) - one-story brick garage with slate-covered peaked roof, built in 1937. LPC photos: 5:13-14 (3/10/99)

Structure No. 320 (north of Westaway Road)

Building No. 321 (east of Murray Avenue) - one-story brick transformer structure, built in 1937.

Building No. 324 (intersection of Pratt Avenue and Westaway Road) - one-story brick transformer structure, built in 1937.

Building No. 328 (north of Red Cross Lane) - one-story brick transformer structure, built in 1937.

Building No. 329 (west of Red Cross Lane) - one-story brick garage with slate-covered peaked roof, built in 1937. LPC photos: 3:1-2 (3/10/99)

Building No. 334 (south of Westaway Road) - post exchange gas station, built in 1940.

Building No. 337 (west of Shore Road) - transformer structure

Structure No. 338 (north of Story Avenue) - swimming pool

Structure No. 339 (east of swimming pool) - communications equipment

Building Nos. 340 and 342 (north of Story Avenue) - swimming pool structures

Building No. 403 (west of Sylvester Lane) - one-story brick garage with peaked roof, built in 1937. LPC photos: 8:3-5 (3/12/99)

Building No. 404 (east of Sylvester Lane) - one-story brick transformer structure, built in 1937.

Building No. 410 (west of Shore Road and north of Walter Reed Road) - one-story brick garage with slate-covered peaked roof, built in 1937. LPC photos: 1:26-27 (3/10/99)

Building No. 414 (south of Walter Reed Road) - one-story brick garage with slate-covered peaked roof, built in 1937. LPC photos: 1:24-25 (3/10/99)

Building No. 416 (north of Walter Reed Road) - one-story brick transformer structure, built in 1937.

Building No. 417 (south of Walter Reed Road) - one-story brick garage with slate-covered peaked roof, built in 1937. LPC photos: 1:6-8 (3/10/99)

Building No. 419 (south of Walter Reed Road, west of Whistler Avenue) - one-story brick garage with slate-covered peaked roof, built in 1937. LPC photos: 7:20-21 (3/10/99)

Building No. 421 (south of Walter Reed Road, east of Sylvester Lane) - one-story brick garage with slate-covered peaked roof, built in 1937. LPC photos: 8:1-2 (3/12/99)

Building No. 432 (south of Abbot Road, west of Sylvester Road) - garage built in 1959

Building No. 501 (northwest corner of Abbot Road and North Loop) - one-story brick transformer structure, built in 1937.

Building No. 503 - transformer structure

Building No. 504 - transformer structure

Building No. 602 (Exit Road, west of Willets Street) - one-story brick structure built in 1897 as the Main Oil House and Fuel Office (storage of flammable materials).

Building No. 609 (Little Bay Road, north of Willet Street) - one-story brick transformer structure, built in 1937.

Building No. 617 (North end of Little Bay Road) - one-story storage shed constructed of brownstone blocks, stepped gable ends. LPC photos: 11:16-19 (3/12/99)



Building No. 619 (east side of Little Bay Road) - one-story brick communications bunker, built c. 1904, converted to power house.

Building No. 621 (east of Circle Drive) - one-story brick garage. LPC photos: 11:11 (3/12/99)

Building No. 623 (west of North Loop) - one-story brick transformer structure, built in 1937.

Building No. 624 (west of North Loop) - one-story brick machine shop structure, built c. 1886. LPC photos: 10:29-31 (3/12/99)

Building No. 633 (east of Chapel Road) - one-story brick garage with slate-covered peaked roof, built 1937. LPC photos: 9:16-17 (3/12/99)

Building No. 636 (East of Chapel Road) - one-story brick transformer structure, built in 1937.

*Note: The National Register study considers the 1937 garages to be historic, contributing resources and the 1937 transformer structures to be historic, non-contributing resources. Anything constructed after 1940 is deemed non-contributing for National Register purposes because of insufficient age.*

## FINDINGS AND DESIGNATION

On the basis of a careful consideration of the history, the architecture, and other features of this area, the Landmarks Preservation Commission finds that the Fort Totten Historic District contains buildings and other improvements which have a special character and special historical and aesthetic interest and value 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 Fort Totten Historic District, located in northeast Queens, north of Bayside, on a peninsula jutting into the Long Island Sound, includes over 100 buildings and smaller secondary structures built between the 1830s and the 1960s; that the fort, originally called the Fort at Willets Point, was established in 1857 as a major component in the defense system of New York Harbor and that its surviving, although uncompleted, fortification displays the features of the last phase of the Third System of coastal fortification, an important period of American military construction; that the fort's structures from various phases of development vividly depict the changing role of military technology and defense strategy between the Civil War and World War II; that the major period of improvement and expansion for the fort occurred in 1885-1914, resulting in much of the historic character that exists today; that during that period in addition to upgrading the fortifications and batteries, installing torpedo buildings, and reconfiguring the parade grounds, the Army built about 80 structures, many of them to house the soldiers and officers who were stationed there; that the majority of the buildings are brick, designed in variants of the Colonial Revival style but with a common vocabulary of details that reinforce the architectural cohesion of the historic district; that in 1898, the Fort at Willets Point was renamed in honor of General Joseph G. Totten, who had been a major force in developing the Third System, and it was characterized as one of the most essential posts on the East Coast; that the buildings, grounds, and other structures represent Fort Totten as a major military post and as one of the most intact, self-contained army posts in New York City; that Fort Totten is a tangible reminder of New York City's once powerful harbor defense system which ranged from the inner harbor adjacent to Manhattan Island to the Narrows and Long Island Sound; that although the Third System fort, begun in 1862 during the Civil War, was never completed because of advances in weaponry during that conflict, the army post retained its importance as the site of advanced training for Army Engineers and of research in military technology and military medicine; that it also housed several major military commands, including the Eastern Artillery District, New York, and the Coast Defense of Eastern New York and the North Atlantic District, through much of the twentieth century; that among the important historical figures associated with Fort Totten are Walter Reed, Army Surgeon at the fort in 1875-76, and Major Henry L. Abbot, who headed the Engineer School of Application and carried out notable experiments in the technology of coastal defense; that the history of Willets Point prior to its acquisition by the Army is recalled by Building 211, originally a Greek Revival house, and the grave marker of Charles A. Willets; and that Fort Totten survives as a remarkable historic site, which by virtue of its location, design, planning, and singleness of purpose, has strongly defined sense of place.

Accordingly, pursuant to Chapter 74, Section 3020 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 Fort Totten Historic District consisting of a portion of Queens Tax Map Block 5917, Lot 1, bounded by a line beginning at a point along the western lot line of Queens Tax Map Block 5917, Lot 1, adjacent to the main entrance to Fort Totten at Totten Avenue, then extending northeasterly along part of the western lot line to the projecting pier, following the configuration of the projecting pier, northeasterly, easterly, southeasterly, and southerly along the continuation of the lot line of Lot 1, westerly from the lot line across the seawall and westerly across the grounds south of Shore Road to a point at the intersection of the southern curblineline of Shore Road and the eastern curb line of Gen. R. W. Berry Drive, westerly across Gen. R. W. Berry Drive to the southern curblineline of Sgt. Beers Avenue, westerly along the curblineline of Sgt. Beers Avenue to a point along a line extending northerly that is located five feet east of the easternmost corner of Building 128, southerly along said line to a point at the intersection of a line extending easterly from the northeast corner of the parking lot, westerly along said line to the northeast corner of the parking lot, westerly along the northern edge of the parking lot to a point ten feet from the southeast corner of Building 123, northerly along said line to the northeastern curblineline of Duane Road to a point at the intersection of a line extending westerly from the northern edge of Building 316, easterly along said line to the western curblineline of Murray Avenue, northerly along the western curblineline of Murray Avenue to a line extending easterly from the southern edge of Underhill Road, westerly along said line to the western curblineline of Underhill Road, northerly and westerly along the western and southern curb lines of Underhill Road to the northeastern curblineline of Duane Road, southwesterly across Duane Road and southwesterly along a line extending between Building 107 and 109 to the western lot line of Block 5917, Lot 1, and northwesterly along said western lot line, to the point of beginning, Borough of Queens.

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