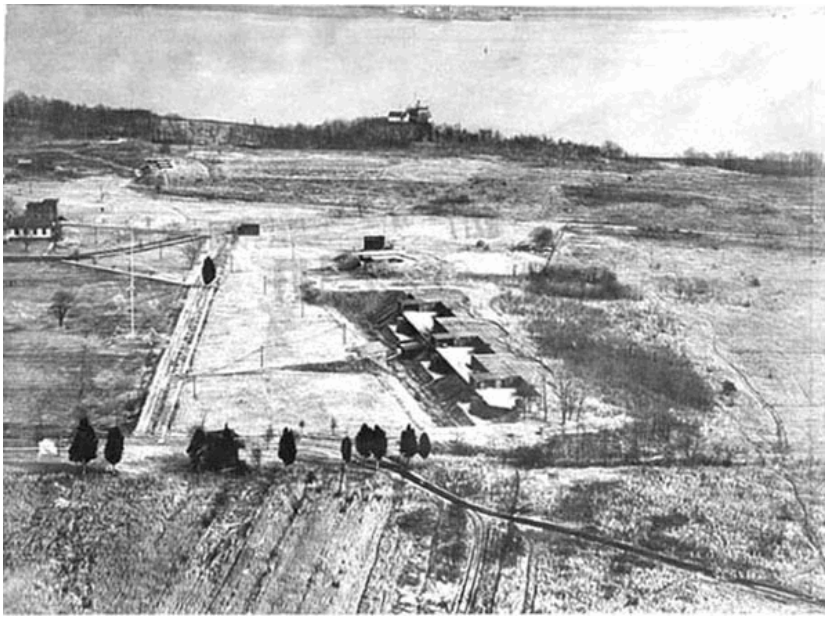
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2004



# Fort Hunt
George Washington Memorial Parkway - Fort Hunt Park

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# Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

## Inventory Summary

### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

### CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

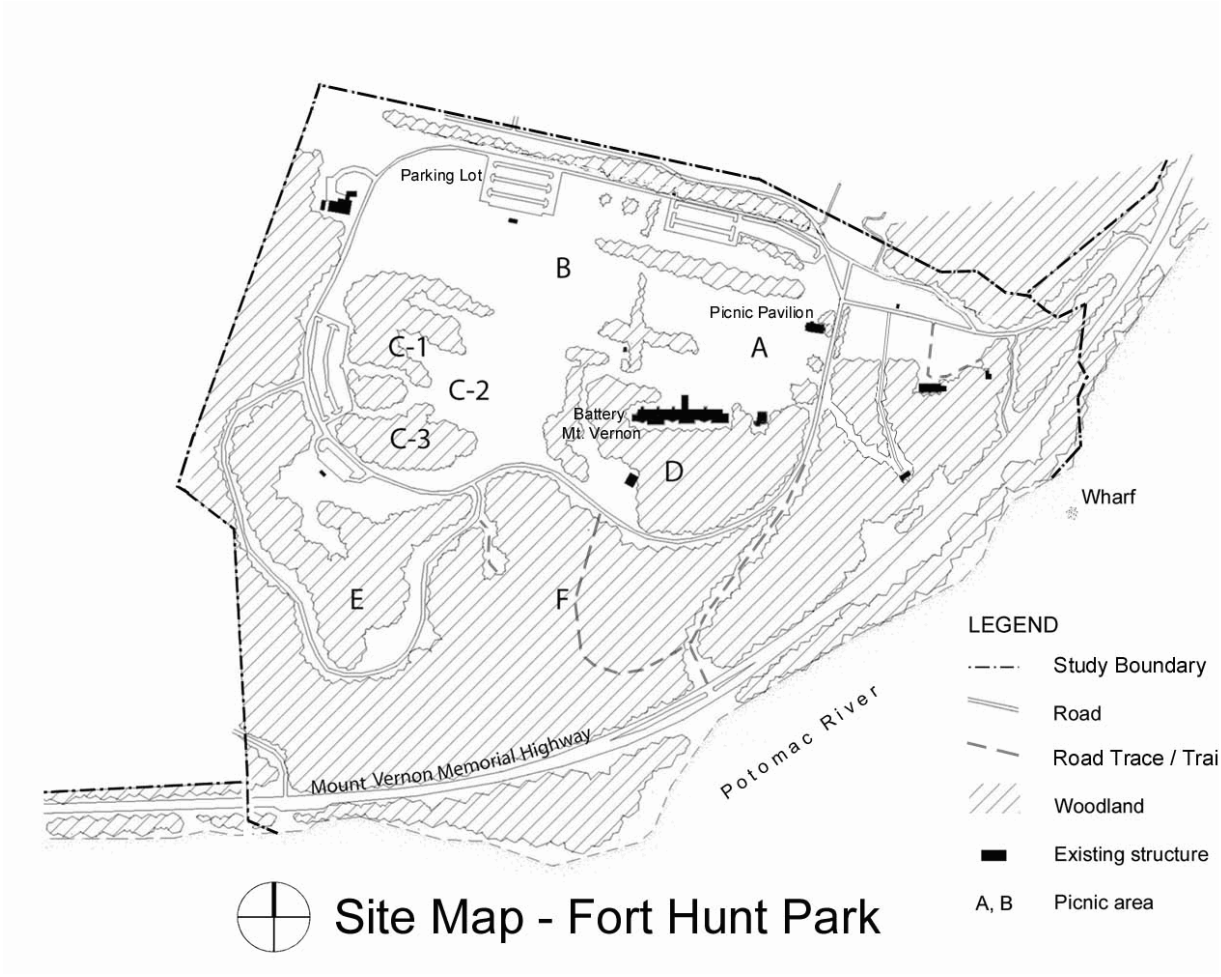
The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

### Inventory Unit Description:

The national park site known as Fort Hunt Park is a recreational area of 190 acres in Fairfax County, Virginia. The park, under the administration of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP), adjoins the west side of Mount Vernon Memorial Highway (MVMH; this is the southern half of the road currently known as GWMP, and will be called Mount Vernon Memorial Highway in this CLI). Fort Hunt Park is situated 11.5 miles south of Washington, D.C., and 2.5 miles north of Mount Vernon. A successional woodland of varying density surrounds the park on the east, south, and west, while on the northern edge a thin row of trees extends along a fenceline just south of Fort Hunt Road (the eastern half of this road lies within park boundaries). The belt of trees surrounds an open central area, comprising about 1/2 to 2/3 of the total acreage. The park's central area is encircled by a loop road and composed of grass-covered picnic areas and playing fields, which are subdivided and demarcated by lines and groupings of trees, many following historic road alignments. A few service roads cross the open area. A second, shorter loop road runs through a wooded picnic area at the southwest end of the park. The period of significance for the Fort Hunt landscape is 1893-1942. The integrity of the landscape related to this period remains good. The majority of the characteristic features which serve to define this landscape are in fair condition.

**Site Plan**


Parking Lot
B
Picnic Pavilion
A
C-1
C-2
C-3
Battery
Mt. Vernon
D
Wharf
E
F
LEGEND
Study Boundary
Road
Road Trace / Trai
Woodland
Existing structure
A, B
Picnic area
Mount Vernon Memorial Highway
Potomac River
Site Map - Fort Hunt Park

## Property Level and CLI Numbers

| | |
|---|---|
| **Inventory Unit Name:** | Fort Hunt |
| **Property Level:** | Landscape |
| **CLI Identification Number:** | 600177 |
| **Parent Landscape:** | 600177 |

## Park Information

| | |
|---|---|
| **Park Name and Alpha Code:** | George Washington Memorial Parkway - Fort Hunt Park -GWMP |
| **Park Organization Code:** | 330H |
| **Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:** | George Washington Memorial Parkway - Fort Hunt Park - GWMP |
| **Park Administrative Unit:** | George Washington Memorial Parkway |

## CLI Hierarchy Description

Fort Hunt Park is one of 10 park units within the administrative unit of George Washington Memorial Parkway that are considered individually significant cultural landscapes in the Cultural Landscapes Inventory. There are no component landscapes within Fort Hunt Park.

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

**Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:**

The Fort Hunt Level II CLI was completed by a three-person team from the National Park Service's National Capital Region. Kay Fanning, Architectural Historian (employed under a cooperative agreement with NCSHPO, the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers), served as team leader, assisted by two interns, Katarzyna Piotrowska-Nosek (US/ICOMOS, International Council on Monuments and Sites, International Summer Intern Program) and Bryne D. Riley (NCPE, National Council for Preservation Education). Kay Fanning conducted secondary research; edited notes; conducted site visits; developed maps; analyzed photos; and wrote and edited the site history and most of the text. Katarzyna Piotrowska-Nosek analyzed historic and contemporary photos and maps, assisted with research, edited text, and entered information into CLAIMS. Bryne D. Riley produced maps and assisted with field work and research.

Research material was gathered from the following collections: NPS National Capital Region Land Use Coordination Files; List of Classified Structures (LCS); GWMP park ranger and maintenance files, photos, and maps; National Archives and Records Administration II (NARA II), Cartographic and Still Picture divisions; NCR Museum Resource Center (MRCE) photo files; and the National Register of Historic Places, the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER). Of particular help was the excellent Historic Resource Study prepared for GWMP by Matthew Laird, Ph.D., of Cultural Resources, Inc., in August 2000.

**Concurrence Status:**

**Park Superintendent Concurrence:** Yes

**Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:** 09/15/2009

**National Register Concurrence:** Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

**Date of Concurrence Determination:** 06/17/2004

**National Register Concurrence Narrative:**

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the Commonwealth of Virginia concurred with the findings of the Fort Hunt CLI on 6/17/04, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the Date of Eligibility Determination refers to this Section 110 Concurrence and not the date of National Register Eligibility, since that is not the purview of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory.

**Concurrence Graphic Information:**

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

September 1, 2009

Memorandum:

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Fort Hunt Park Cultural Landscape Condition Reassessment

I, Dottie Marshall, Superintendent of George Washington Memorial Parkway, concur with the condition reassessment for the Fort Hunt Park cultural landscape:

CONDITION REASSESSMENT: Good

**Good:** indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

**Fair:** indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

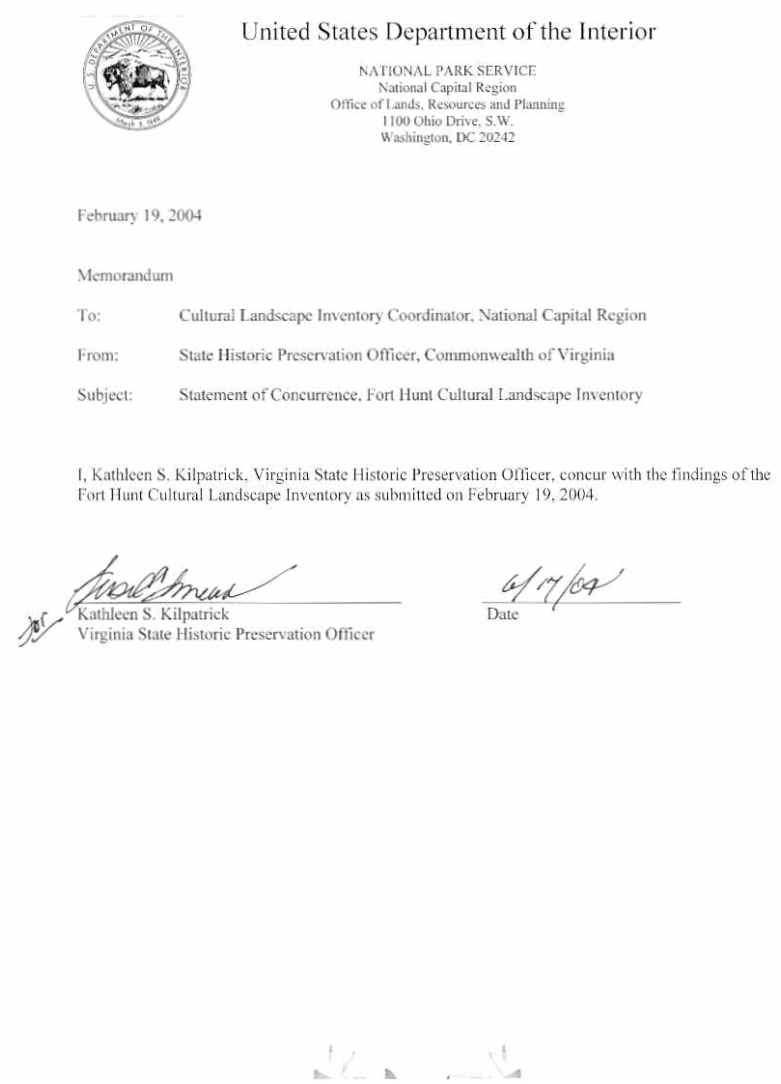
**Poor:** indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The cultural landscape condition reassessment for the Fort Hunt Park is hereby approved and accepted.

D Marshall — 9/15/09

Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway — Date

*Concurrence memo for FY2009 condition update, signed by GWMP superintendent on 9/15/2009*



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Office of Lands, Resources and Planning
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, DC 20242

February 19, 2004

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region

From: State Historic Preservation Officer, Commonwealth of Virginia

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Fort Hunt Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Kathleen S. Kilpatrick, Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Fort Hunt Cultural Landscape Inventory as submitted on February 19, 2004.

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

6/17/04
Date

*Concurrence memo for FY2004 signed by the Virginia SHPO on 6/17/2004.*

**Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:** Change in Condition

**Revision Date:** 09/15/2009

**Revision Narrative:**

The condition of the cultural landscape was reassessed and has been changed to Good due to improvements made by the park.

Site visits and meetings with park staff in 2009 informed the condition reassessment for this Cultural Landscape Inventory. Accordingly, updates were made to the Condition chapter of this document. The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment.

**Revision Date:** 04/21/2004

**Revision Narrative:**

Following a site visit to Fort Hunt Park with a HABS team surveying CCC work in the National Capital Region parks, some additional information concerning the historic CCC-era fireplaces and an NPS grill was added to Small-Scale Features.

## Geographic Information & Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the Fort Hunt Park study area correspond to the historic boundaries of the Coastal Defense Fortification known as Fort Hunt. On the west and north sides, the study area is circumscribed by residential streets. On the east and south sides, the boundary of the study area corresponds to the shore of the Potomac River. The study area therefore includes a section of Mount Vernon Memorial Highway (the southern half of George Washington Memorial Parkway).

**State and County:**

**State:** VA

**County:** Fairfax County

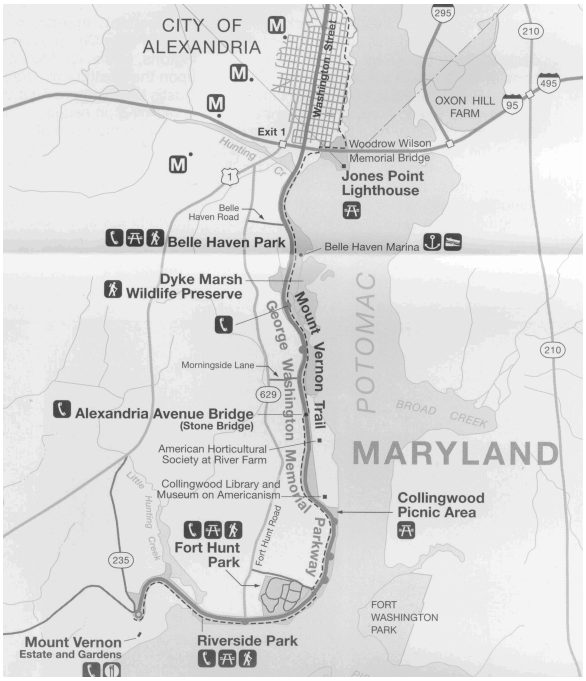
**Size (Acres):** 190.00

**Boundary UTMS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Source:** | GPS-Differentially Corrected |
| **Type of Point:** | Area |
| **Datum:** | NAD 83 |
| **UTM Zone:** | 18 |
| **UTM Easting:** | 322,382 |
| **UTM Northing:** | 4,287,768 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Source:** | GPS-Differentially Corrected |
| **Type of Point:** | Area |
| **Datum:** | NAD 83 |
| **UTM Zone:** | 18 |
| **UTM Easting:** | 320,910 |
| **UTM Northing:** | 4,286,525 |

**Location Map:**




*Section of map in current park brochure showing location of Fort Hunt Park. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway, brochure. Washington, D.C.: GPO, 2000.*

**Regional Context:**

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**

Mount Vernon Memorial Highway was built as a scenic parkway linking Washington, D.C., with Mount Vernon. A primary purpose of the highway was the provision of a variety of recreational amenities to the people of the Washington area. The road was designed to offer a pleasant driving experience: the roadbed was carefully fit into the existing topography, and the landscaping used vegetation, much of it native, to screen or highlight views. Adjacent park areas – incuding some historic sites – were included for picnicking, hiking, boating, and nature study along the gently curving road. Fort Hunt today preserves several historic resources: a portion of George Washington's River Farm; an intact military fortification, including its landscape; and the site of a CCC camp, NP-6, whose men were responsible for many New Deal conservation projects carried out in the Washington area in the 1930s. The remnants of these uses are visible in a landscape which is today heavily used for company picnics and other large gatherings.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

Fort Hunt Park lies in the Coastal Plain on a river terrace along the western shore of the Potomac River in Virginia's Tidewater region. Maps obtained from the U.S. Dept. of the Interior in 1977 in preparation for installation of the new maintenance facility provide some basic geological and soil information. The park lies on Quaternary Estuarine Deposits, defined as "intermixed marine and possible non-marine deposits in the ancestral Potomac River valley" with "some erosional remnants along G.W.M.P. between West Grove and Fort Hunt." The bedrock "consists of fine to coarse quartz sand, silty clays, and fine quartz gravels" and can range up to 50 meters in thickness. ("Fort Hunt Maintenance Facilities," Geology map, 853/40005, DSC TIC, April 1977) The soil is of the Metapeake-Matepex-Woodstown Association ("Fort Hunt Maintenance Facilities," Soil Map, 853/40004, DSC TIC, April 1977; information from USDA Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey of Fairfax County, May 1963).

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**

Fort Hunt Park is administered by the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP), a federal park, and administrative unit, under the jurisdiction of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service.

**Management Unit:** George Washington Memorial Parkway

**Tract Numbers:** GWMP 404V

## Management Information

## General Management Information

**Management Category:** Must be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 06/13/2003

**Management Category Explanatory Narrative:**

The Management Category Date is the date the CLI was first approved by the park superintendent.

## Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

**Management Agreement:**

**Type of Agreement:** Other Agreement

**Other Agreement:** conservation easements

**Expiration Date:** 08/08/2001

**Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:**

The Department of the Interior, or George Washington Memorial Parkway, holds a conservation easement over the residential tracts located directly north of Fort Hunt Road.

**NPS Legal Interest:**

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

**Explanatory Narrative:**

The Department of the Interior possesses the land of Fort Hunt Park in Fee Simple. The tracts comprising the park were purchased, either outright or through condemnation, by the War Department in the 1890s and early 1900s. The site was transferred to the jurisdiction of the War Department's Office of Public Buildings and Public Grounds in 1932 and then transferred to the National Park Service in 1933.

**Public Access:**

**Type of Access:** Unrestricted

## Adjacent Lands Information

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

**Adjacent Lands Description:**

Fort Hunt Park is a recreational area associated with Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, the historic name for the southern half of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Mount Vernon Memorial Highway is a landscaped parkway which crosses the narrow eastern neck of the site on the historic Fort Hunt Overpass, a brick grade-separation structure. Mount Vernon Memorial Highway was designed and built by the federal government to provide a scenic motor route from Washington to Mount Vernon, and to serve as an example of ideal parkway design. Its distinctive features include grade separations, spiral curves, road embankments, a landscape designed to be seen from motor vehicles, and reliance on native vegetation in groupings based on picturesque landscape aesthetics. The highway was built to honor the bicentennial of George Washington's birth; to preserve historic sites along the Potomac River, most of which had some association with Washington's life; to protect the river watershed; and to provide a range of recreational amenities for Washington-area residents. Fort Hunt is therefore integral to the purpose of this historic model parkway.

Residences immediately to the north of Fort Hunt, on Fort Hunt Road, are built on land which was formerly the property of the military base. GWMP still owns Fort Hunt Road and a portion of the frontage of the deep lots along the eastern end of this road. Additionally, it maintains conservation easements over several of these properties.

## National Register Information

**Existing NRIS Information:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Name in National Register:** | Fort Hunt |
| **NRIS Number:** | 80000353 |
| **Primary Certification:** | Listed In The National Register |
| **Primary Certification Date:** | 03/26/1980 |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Significance Criteria:** | A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history |

**Period of Significance:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Time Period:** | AD 1882 - 1924 |
| **Historic Context Theme:** | Shaping the Political Landscape |
| **Subtheme:** | Political and Military Affairs 1865-1939 |
| **Facet:** | America Becomes A World Power, 1865-1914 |
| **Other Facet:** | None |
| **Time Period:** | AD 1933 - 1943 |
| **Historic Context Theme:** | Transforming the Environment |
| **Subtheme:** | Conservation of Natural Resources |
| **Facet:** | The Conservation Movement Matures 1908-1941 |
| **Other Facet:** | None |

**Area of Significance:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Area of Significance Category:** | Military |
| **Area of Significance Subcategory:** | None |
| **Area of Significance Category:** | Conservation |
| **Area of Significance Subcategory:** | None |

**Statement of Significance:**

The period of significance for Fort Hunt Park extends from 1893, when land was first acquired here by the federal government for a Coastal Defense fortification, to 1942, when the Civilian Conservation Corps was disbanded and the camp that had been station at the fort was removed. Fort Hunt is significant under Criterion A, association with events that have made a significant contribution to U.S. history, for its use during the 1890s-1942, which collectively represent distinct changes in American military, economic, and social life. The landscape is significant for its development as a Coastal Defense Fortification, a companion fortification to the older Fort Washington on the Maryland shore of the Potomac River directly opposite. Both forts were placed along the river several miles south of Washington, at a point where the channel narrows, to help protect the city from enemy vessels. Fort Hunt was part of an improved system of Coastal Defenses erected throughout the United States in the 1890s following the recommendations of the Endicott Board, which had been convened to assess the changing needs of modern naval warfare and the United States' new role as an international power.

At Fort Hunt, six structures built for defense needs during the 1890s still stand: four concrete gun emplacements, a concrete battery commander's station, and a wooden single-family dwelling. Other than the dwelling, these structures reflect the modern use of reinforced concrete, a 19th-century innovation in the use of an ancient building material. The obsolescence of these batteries less than 30 years after their construction reflected the rapidly changing nature of modern warfare.

Thirteen acres immediately surrounding these historic structures were included within the boundaries of the Fort Hunt National Register site, listed in 1980. This area includes some land to the north, along Fort Hunt Road, where a seventh historic structure once stood, a deteriorated barn then being used as a maintenance facility; the barn has since been removed, following Section 106 review. This action did not affect the National Register boundaries.

This National Register nomination did not examine the cultural landscape at the fort. Careful analysis makes it clear that certain features of the historic landscape of Fort Hunt Park also remain. At least one major line of trees reflects a land tract and field division dating from the mid-19th century. The landscape was most affected by the military activities carried out between 1893 and 1917 (the most active period of the fort, though it remained in operation until 1924). The four gun emplacements were set on the plateau near the brow of the terrace overlooking the river. All batteries were nearly surrounded by heavy earth embankments, and the land behind Battery Mount Vernon was excavated into a long, deep trench. The historic gun emplacements are still clearly visible. Volunteer successional vegetation has grown up along the east, south, and west sides of the emplacements, obscuring the structures. Historic road patterns from this military period are still clearly evident. Some modern roads follow historic road alignments, while other historic roadbeds have been removed and grassed over. Some of these latter remain visible since they are lined by allees of trees, and serve to demarcate field edges. The current landscape, therefore, bears the clear imprint of the years between 1890 and 1917.

During the period between the First and Second World Wars, military activity at Fort Hunt ceased. In the 1930s, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp NP-6 was stationed at the old fort. Its men carried out numerous work projects in the Washington area. At Fort Hunt, they excavated a sizable lake bed, probably to drain an existing swamp as well as to create an attractive picnic area. The extent

of CCC additions and alterations to the Fort Hunt landscape is not known.

The changes described above may be further revealed through archeological investigation. Therefore, the park has the potential for significance under Criterion D, archeological resources. The park has the potential for prehistoric information from archeology, since prehistoric sites exist in the vicinity. The park also has the potential for historic archeological information. An 18th-century tenant farm dating from before Washington's acquisition of the Piscataway Neck property is visible on maps prepared by Washington. It stood somewhere within Picnic Area F. This area continued to be farmed by Washington as part of his River Farm, and may have been cultivated by later owners in the 19th century. Since the time of the tract's acquisition by the Army in 1893, it does not appear that this area was much used; it seems to have been allowed to revert to successional growth, and now may be covered by woodland, or may be in the area the CCC excavated for a lake. In addition, there is the potential for archeological remains at the former sites of the two World War II POW enclosures and at the site occupied by the picnic pavilion, where the old Fort Hunt hospital, called the "Creamery" during World War II, once stood.

## Chronology & Physical History

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Historic Site

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Battery (Defense)

**Primary Current Use:** Picnic Shelter

| Other Use/Function | Other Type of Use or Function |
|---|---|
| Campground/Picnic Area | Both Current And Historic |
| Defense-Other | Historic |
| Farm (Plantation) | Historic |
| General Storage-Other | Historic |
| Leisure-Passive (Park) | Both Current And Historic |
| Parade Ground | Historic |
| Parkway (Landscape) | Both Current And Historic |
| Playground | Current |
| Sports/Athletic Field | Current |

**Current and Historic Names:**

| Name | Type of Name |
|---|---|
| Fort Hunt | Historic |
| Fort Hunt Park | Both Current And Historic |

**Ethnographic Study Conducted:** No Survey Conducted

**Chronology:**

| Year | Event | Annotation |
|---|---|---|
| AD 1653 - 1654 | Established | Giles Brent patented large tracts of land in Northern Virginia, among them the lands lying along the Potomac River between Hunting and Little Hunting Creeks, known as the Piscataway Neck tract. Piscataway Neck included the future site of Fort Hunt Park. |
| | | Giles Brent |
| | | Giles Brent |
| AD 1690 | Settled | By about 1690, a tenant named Robert Williams occupied that part of Piscataway Neck which included the site of Fort Hunt Park. The lands were still owned by the Brent family. |
| AD 1711 | Land Transfer | In 1711, the tract passed to Robert Brent. Brent probably leased the Piscataway Neck tract to tenants who grew tobacco, and Robert Williams may have remained one of the tenants. |
| | | Robert Brent |
| AD 1722 | Land Transfer | Robert Brent died in 1722 and his six-year old daughter Elizabeth received a share of the Piscataway Neck lands, including the future park site. |
| | | Elizabeth Brent |
| AD 1739 | Settled | In about 1730, Elizabeth Brent married William Clifton, and by 1739 the couple seems to have been living on the Piscataway Neck tract. Clifton purchased other adjoining lands and eventually increased his estate to 1806 acres. |
| | | William Clifton |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| AD 1760 | Purchased/Sold | George Washington purchased 500 acres of Clifton's Piscataway Neck lands in a public auction held on May 20, 1760. The Clifton tract became part of Washington's River Farm. |
| | | George Washington |
| AD 1766 - 1799 | Farmed/Harvested | Washington cultivated his lands at River Farm. It is not known what crops he grew there, but a map he drafted in 1766 shows farm fields, a woodlot, and pasture for livestock. |
| | | George Washington |
| AD 1799 | Land Transfer | When George Washington died in 1799, he left the 2077-acre River Farm to his secretary Tobias Lear's two young stepsons, Lawrence Augustine Washington and George Fayette Washington, to be held in trust for them until they came of age. |
| | | Tobias Lear |
| AD 1816 | Land Transfer | Lear died in 1816 and L.A. Washington soon after. The entire River Farm estate then passed to George Fayette Washington. Washington lived in the eastern part of River Farm from 1818-25. Between 1826 and 1952, River Farm may have been leased to tenants. |
| | | Lawrence and George Fayette Washington |
| | | George Fayette Washington |
| AD 1852 | Purchased/Sold | George Fayette Washington sold 791.25 acres of the River Farm estate, including the site of Fort Hunt Park, to Henry Allen Taylor. |
| | | Henry Allen Taylor |
| AD 1855 | Purchased/Sold | Henry Allen Taylor sold a 300-acre tract at Sheridan's Point to Lewis Linton. |
| | | Lewis Linton |
| AD 1855 - 1871 | Farmed/Harvested | Lewis Linton farmed his Sheridan's Point land. |
| | | Lewis Linton |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| AD 1871 | Land Transfer | Lewis Linton divided his farm in half in March 1871 and deeded the two parcels to his younger sons, Frank and Jerome. Frank was given a 100-acre tract to the west called "Homestead" or "Park" farm. Jerome received 100 acres on Sheridan's Point. |
| | | Frank Linton and Jerome Linton |
| AD 1876 | Purchased/Sold | Jerome Linton sold 7.5 acres of his farm, leaving with 92.5 acres. |
| | | Jerome Linton |
| AD 1877 | Purchased/Sold | Frank Linton sold Park Farm to Nicholas Eckhardt, who renamed it "Piney Grove." |
| | | Nicholas Eckhardt |
| AD 1879 | Purchased/Sold | Jerome Linton defaulted on his mortgage and his Sheridan's Point farm was sold at public auction to Thomas F. Burroughs. |
| | | Thomas F. Burroughs |
| AD 1880 | Purchased/Sold | Thomas F. Burroughs sold the Sheridan's Point (Jerome Linton) farm to Annie M. Pelton. |
| | | Annie M. Pelton |
| AD 1882 | Land Transfer | Nicholas Eckhardt transferred his Piney Grove (Frank Linton) farm to Louisa J. Grau. |
| | | Louisa J. Grau |
| AD 1893 | Established | Military use of the new Coastal Defense fortification, later to be named Fort Hunt, began in 1893 with the purchase of the Pelton tract. |
| | Purchased/Sold | The 92.5-acre Pelton (Sheridan's Point) farm was condemned in September 1892 and sold to the federal government in June 1893 for construction of the new Coastal Defense fortification. |
| AD 1897 | Built | The first gun emplacement at Fort Hunt, Battery Mount Vernon, was completed on the former Pelton tract. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| AD 1898 | Developed | The post was first occupied in March 1898 and was considered completed in August, during the Spanish-American War, fought from April to December 1898. |
| AD 1899 | Built | Batteries Robinson and Porter were completed in September 1899. The post had been officially named "Fort Hunt" on April 13. |
| AD 1900 | Built | Most of the fort's public buildings were completed by September 1899. |
| AD 1901 | Built | The Battery Commander's Station was completed in August 1901. The fourth and last gun emplacement, Battery Sater, was finished sometime in the summer. |
| AD 1903 | Purchased/Sold | The federal government condemned and purchased the 100-acre Grau farm in March 1903. |
| AD 1906 | Purchased/Sold | In June, the federal government acquired a 1152'-long, 30'-wide strip of land at the northwest corner of the Fort Hunt tract, part of a parcel left by Lewis Linton to his daughters. This was used as a right-of-way for construction of Fort Hunt Road. |
| | Purchased/Sold | In October, the federal government purchased 1.633 acres adjoining the northeast boundary of Fort Hunt from John and Sarah B. Miller for $50. The Fort Hunt tract was now complete. |
| AD 1917 | Altered | In August, the guns at Fort Hunt were removed and shipped to France for use by American military forces engaged in fighting World War I. |
| AD 1924 | Abandoned | The War Department declared Fort Hunt surplus on April 5, 1924, and the post stood vacant for the next four years. |
| AD 1928 - 1931 | Maintained | In January, Fort Hunt was again garrisoned when the 16th Infantry Brigade was transferred there; they remained for three years. |
| AD 1929 - 1932 | Built | A major roadway, Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, was constructed through the eastern end of Fort Hunt. Fort Hunt Overpass was built as part of this construction. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| AD 1932 | Land Transfer | Fort Hunt was transferred to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks, U.S. Corps of Engineers, a division of the War Department. |
| AD 1933 | Land Transfer | In July, Fort Hunt was transferred to the National Park Service, along with the other park properties administered by the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks. |
| AD 1933 - 1942 | Maintained | Fort Hunt housed Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp NP-6 from October 17, 1933, until March 1942. Their work was conducted within the National Capital Parks. |
| AD 1935 | Built | By October, 18 new CCC buildings stood at Fort Hunt, occupying much of the same area as the fort had. |
| | Excavated | The CCC crew stationed at Fort Hunt undertook at least one major landscaping project there in about 1935, when they began excavating a small lake in a swampy ravine which extended into the site due west of Sheridan's Point. |
| AD 1941 - 1946 | Established | After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941, Fort Hunt was selected as the site for the new Nitrate Film Depository. By July 1942, the four gun emplacements had been converted into storage facilities. The depository was closed in 1946. |
| AD 1942 | Built | By November 1942, the old post hospital had been renovated for MIS-X use and assigned the code name the "Creamery." In December, a new building - the "Warehouse" - was completed for the MIS-X Technical Section. |
| AD 1942 - 1944 | Developed | To house the Joint Interrogation Center, the Army used existing buildings and erected many new temporary structures - 87 buildings in all by July 1942. The largest were the 2 POW compounds, Enclosure A, occupied Aug. 1942, and Enclosure B, April 1944. |
| AD 1942 - 1945 | Established | From 1942 through 1945, Fort Hunt was home to the top-secret MIS-X program, established to help American POWs escape from German camps and to actively resist their incarceration through the supply of escape materials. |

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| AD 1942 - 1946 | Established | The Joint Interrogation Center, known as MIS-Y, opened at Fort Hunt on May 15, 1942, under a special use permit granted to the Secretary of War by the Department of the Interior. |
| AD 1946 | Removed | On November 15, 1946, the War Department declared Fort Hunt surplus. By late 1946, the Army Corps of Engineers began removing the temporary military buildings, along with most CCC structures. |
| AD 1948 | Developed | The National Park Service began developing the former fort as a park. A small number of recreational facilities were constructed. |
| | Land Transfer | Fort Hunt lay under the jurisdiction of the Military District of Washington until it was reoccupied by the National Park Service in January 1948. |
| AD 1963 - 1964 | Built | New recreational facilities were installed, including buildings, roads, and landscaping, all funded through Mission 66. The most prominent structure was a picnic pavilion built on the site of the old post hospital, the "Creamery" of WWII. |
| AD 1970 - 2002 | Maintained | Since 1970, Fort Hunt has been managed as a park. There has been little additional construction or landscaping. |
| AD 1973 | Land Transfer | Through a quitclaim deed dated June 11, the section of Fort Hunt Road from Standish Road to Vernon View Drive was given to the Commonwealth of Virginia, while the NPS retained the eastern section, from Standish Road to the park entrance. |
| AD 1974 | Land Transfer | A "Deed of Exchange in Interests in Land" dated June 7 allowed homeowners along the NPS section of Fort Hunt Road legal access to their driveways to reach Fort Hunt Road and public roads. It also gave the NPS a conservation easement over their properties. |

**Physical History:**

16th and 17th centuries

(Unless otherwise noted, all information contained in this history is based on the study by Matthew R. Laird, Ph.D., for Cultural Resources, Inc., titled "'By the River Potomac': An Historic Resource Study of Fort Hunt Park, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Mount Vernon, Virginia," August 2000.)

Prehistoric occupation of the area which includes Fort Hunt Park is known to have begun more than 3000 years ago. Extensive archeological investigation of the vicinity over the last 30 years has led to the identification of sites from the Archaic Period (8000-1000 B.C.) along the Potomac River shore between Fort Hunt and Little Hunting Creek. No complete archeological survey of Fort Hunt Park has been undertaken and it is not known whether any prehistoric sites exist within current park boundaries.

The area of Fort Hunt Park began to be settled by the mid-17th century. It was located in Virginia's northern frontier, north of the Rappahannock River and west of the Potomac. The first English settler was Captain Giles Brent, formerly of Maryland, who patented large tracts of land in the "freshes" of Potomac, in what is today called Stafford County.

Giles Brent arrived in Virginia in 1647 and established a plantation, "Peace," at the confluence of the Potomac River and Aquia Creek. Between 1653 and 1654, Brent patented large tracts to the north of his plantation, including the lands along the Potomac River between Hunting and Little Hunting Creeks, known as the Piscataway Neck tract (then part of Westmoreland County). Piscataway Neck included the future site of Fort Hunt Park. In 1676, settlers built a fort near Little Hunting Creek for protection against attacks by Susquehannock Indians.

By inheritance or sale, the Piscataway Neck lands passed through many hands in the Brent family, from Brent's son, to a cousin, George Brent, Sr., to the cousin's son, George Brent, Jr., who inherited the tract in 1699. None of the Brents seems to have lived on the tract. By 1699, the tract included 1143 acres, and a tenant named Robert Williams occupied part of the land, including the area of Fort Hunt Park. Williams had been living there since at least 1690. By 1711, the tract had passed to George Brent, Jr.'s brother, Robert. Robert Brent probably leased the Piscataway Neck tract to tenants who grew tobacco, and Robert Williams may have remained one of the tenants.

1730-1759: Ownership of Elizabeth and William Clifton

Following Robert Brent's death in 1722, his Virginia lands were divided among his children. His six-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, received "a partial share" of the Piscataway Neck lands, including the future park site. About 1730, Elizabeth Brent married William Clifton, and by 1739 the couple seems to have been living on the Piscataway Neck tract. In that year, Clifton bought an additional 500 acres from one of his brothers-in-law, George Brent. The following year he purchased 555 acres from another brother-in-law, Henry Brent. As Laird states: "Ultimately, William Clifton would amass an estate of 1806 acres through his wife's inheritance

and purchases from her brothers. This land, including what would become Fort Hunt Park, would henceforth be known as Clifton's Neck." (HRS, 6)

In the 1740s and 1750s, Elizabeth and William Clifton lived on a 500-acre parcel in the eastern part of the Piscataway Neck tract, renting the remainder of the land to tenant farmers. (HRS, 6) By 1747, William Clifton had fallen into debt, and he mortgaged Clifton's Neck to several prominent citizens of Maryland, "a transaction that created a vexing legal entanglement that would not be resolved completely for 50 years." (HRS, 7)

In 1751, Clifton leased 200 acres of the tract lying along the Potomac River to John Sheridine, including a spit of land which jutted into the river and became known as Sheridan (after Sheridine) Point. An adjoining parcel of 200 acres was rented to a woman named Jane Hester and her sons. Hester's tract was valued more highly than Sheridine's, perhaps because it included more cleared or "improved" land. Both were lifetime leases. Neither tenant was allowed to sell or sublet their lands, and they were required to plant orchards "of at least one hundred apple trees." (HRS, 7)

Clifton defaulted on his mortgage in 1755, at which time his debt totaled more than 1000 pounds. His creditors sued and the court ordered Clifton to sell his Piscataway Neck lands. They were purchased by a George Johnston, but Clifton countersued

"to regain the land, and in April 1759 the General Court in Williamsburg nullified the sale. To settle the issue, the Williamsburg authorities appointed a panel of local commissioners . . . to arrange the sale of the property within four months, and to work out an equitable settlement with Clifton's creditors. The Fairfax commissioners still had not resolved the situation by October 1759 . . ." (HRS, 10-11)

One commissioner soon resigned and was replaced by Clifton's young neighbor, George Washington.

1760-1852: George Washington's River Farm

George Washington moved to the Mount Vernon estate in 1760 at the age of 28, after the death of its owner, his brother Lawrence. Mount Vernon, just south of Clifton's Neck, had been home to the Washington family for almost a century. It was one among a neighborhood of river farms in Fairfax County.

Washington had recently married the wealthy young widow, Martha Custis. The marriage made Washington a man of considerable wealth and social standing, giving him ownership of

"a third of the vast Custis estate, and responsib[ility] for the other two-thirds as [the] guardian of Martha's children . . . . As a new member of Virginia's landed elite, George assumed that key to his success as a gentleman farmer lay in increasing his farm's productivity. This meant acquiring more land." (HRS, 3)

After some complicated dealings, Washington purchased 500 acres of Clifton's Piscataway

Neck lands in a public auction held in Alexandria on May 20, 1760. Though further legal problems prevented him from gaining clear title for over 30 years, "for all intents and purposes, Washington now legally owned the 1,806 acres of Clifton's Neck." (HRS, 14; Laird cites W.W. Abbott [ed.], The Papers of George Washington: Colonial Series [Charlottesville, 1983-98]: 9: 409-10n.) The deed allowed Clifton to occupy the land for a year, and also allowed several of the tenant farmers to remain, paying rent to Washington under the terms of their former leases. Some tenants stayed until the 1770s. Washington soon bought 238 more acres of adjoining Neck lands, for a total of 2044 acres. (HRS, 14; Fairfax County Deed Book D: 839.)

The Clifton tract became known as Washington's River Farm (he also referred to it as "the farm on the Neck"). Eventually it was one of five adjacent farms along the river owned by Washington (along with Mansion House, Dogue Run, Muddy Hole, and Union) and, at 5000 acres, the second largest.

Washington drafted the first known map showing Clifton's Neck as part of the Mount Vernon estate, though fewer than 1000 of River Farm's 1806 acres are depicted; apparently Washington chose to represent only those fields that he was actively farming, and not those worked by tenants. In his Historic Resource Study of Fort Hunt Park, Matthew Laird offers a succinct description of how the Sheridine and Hester farms, which included the future site of Fort Hunt Park, appeared on this map:

"The boundary between the Sheridine and Hester tenant tracts appears to have been the eastern line of Washington's Field No. 1, which ran north from the Potomac through a ravine. The Sheridine leasehold likely lay to the east of this line, encompassing approximately two-thirds of Fort Hunt Park, while the Hester tract included the western third of the property. Washington did not include the Sheridine parcel on his map, most likely because the family was still living there and farming the land for themselves. The Hester parcel is depicted, however, and the map indicates that two buildings – possibly the dwelling house and kitchen, or other outbuilding – were situated west of the ravine, most likely within Fort Hunt's current boundaries…. The apple orchard that Hester was required to plant under the terms of her lease appears to have been located a short distance west of the buildings." (HRS, 7)

By 1765, Washington had divided his River Farm tract into six fields. The majority of the land fell into Fields 1, 2, and 3, the boundaries of which probably corresponded with those of the Clifton tenant farms. Located within each field were several structures, along with orchards or garden plots; these probably indicate the presence of former tenant farmsteads. North of the farm fields was a parcel of 182 acres labeled on the map "woods and pasture." The woodlot would have provided fuel and material for fencing and other construction, and livestock would have grazed on the pasture. A stream tributary of Little Hunting Creek, called Carney's Cut, ran "southeast from the heart of the property", and at its head was a "small, well-defined area with at least 3 buildings and adjacent gardens" – the location of the slave quarters. (HRS, 15)

The current boundaries of Fort Hunt Park do not correspond precisely to the land area shown on the 1766 map. The modern Sheridan Point appears at the southeast boundary of the survey,

"so only the western portion of the NPS property is depicted in 'Field No. 1' of the 1766 map." (HRS, 15) The rest, including the Sheridine farm, lay directly east of Field 1 and is not shown. Two unidentified structures depicted in the southeast quadrant of Field 1 apparently stood within the park's current boundaries, and may indicate the location of Jane Hester's tenant farm. By 1766, the Hester farm had probably been vacated, and its fields were likely cultivated as part of River Farm. Though each farm functioned independently, Washington kept a close eye on their operations.

George Washington considered farming to be his primary occupation. He kept abreast of new scientific theories and agricultural techniques, and experimented with crop rotation and diversification, different kinds of fertilizers, and new kinds of machinery. During the 1760s, Washington gradually moved away from reliance on a monoculture of tobacco, which led to exhaustion of the soil, to cultivation of a greater array of crops; while he always grew some tobacco, "by the Revolutionary era Mount Vernon had become the model of a diversified plantation economy." (HRS, 16) Over his lifetime, Washington raised over 60 different crops at Mount Vernon, from barley and chicory to spelt, turnips, and wheat. He raised livestock at River Farm and perhaps his other properties.

Like the rest of the Washington farms, River Farm was worked by slave labor. Washington inherited a number of slaves and through marriage to Martha Custis assumed responsibility for dozens more. Laird writes: "As he brought the fields on the Neck into production during the 1760s and 1770s, Washington moved increasing numbers of laborers to the quarters at the River Farm." (HRS, 17) After 1772 Washington ceased buying slaves, and he tried not to sell them or break up their families. Therefore, the black population of the Washington farms grew steadily. From six slaves in 1761, the slave population of River Farm had increased to 33 in 1774, to 49 in 1786, and finally to 57 men, women, and children in the 1790s. By this time, all five farms were overpopulated with slaves.

Washington worked his slaves hard for most of their lives and they lived in great privation. After a visit to the Washington estates, the Polish nobleman Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz described the slaves' living conditions: they occupied "miserable" huts, near which they cultivated tiny vegetable gardens. Slaves were not allowed to keep any livestock other than small numbers of poultry. (HRS, 20)

Washington continued to cultivate River Farm into the 1790s. A 1793 map of Mount Vernon shows the River Farm slave quarter occupying the same location on Carney's Cut, "in the central portion of the tract, though it now was considerably larger than it had been in 1766." (HRS, 17) However, this site appears to have stood outside the current park boundaries.

In 1796, Washington tried to lease River Farm, but he was unable to find a tenant. An advertisement he placed in a Philadelphia newspaper in early 1796 paints a vivid picture:

"The largest of these [farms], called River Farm, contains 1207 acres of ploughable land; 879 of which, are in seven fields, nearly of a size, and under good fences; 212 acres (in one enclosure) are, generally in a common grass pasture; and 116 acres more, are in five grass lots,

and an orchard (of the best grafted fruit) all of them contiguous to the dwelling house and barn. On the premises, are a comfortable dwelling house (in which the Overlooker resides) having three rooms below, and one or two above; an old barn (now in use) and a brick one [sic] building 60 by 30 feet; besides ends and wings, sufficient for stabling 20 working horses, and as many oxen; and an excellent brick dairy, with a fine spring in the middle of it. Thirty black labourers (men and women) being the usual number which have been employed on this farm, are, with their children, warmly lodged chiefly in houses of their own building. The soil is a loam, more inclined to clay than sand, and with slight dressings yields grain well, particularly wheat. Encompassed on two sides by the river Potomack, and on a third by a navigable creek, the inlet therefrom, in a variety of places, afford an inexhaustible fund of rich mud for manure and compost. The water abounds in a variety of fish and wild fowl; and one or more shad and herring fisheries might be established thereon." (HRS, 25, quoting Fitzpatrick, Writings of Washington, 34: 433-434)

In 1795, Washington's personal secretary, Tobias Lear, married Martha's niece Frances. As a wedding present, Washington gave them a rent-free lease to 360 acres in the eastern part of River Farm, a property known as "Wellington" or "Walnut Tree Farm," located north of today' s Fort Hunt Park. Washington's will, written shortly before his death in 1799, transferred River Farm to Lear's stepsons, George Fayette and Lawrence Augustine Washington, "to be divided equally between them when they reached their majority." (HSR, 26) Until that time, Lear had responsibility for the lands.

After Washington's death in 1799, all his farms quickly deteriorated. They were described in c. 1829 as a "widespread… agricultural ruin" studded with the "the ruins of capacious barns, and long extended hedges…". (HRS, 26, quoting Jackson, ed. Diaries of George Washington, I:xxxvii)

In the early 19th century, River Farm (including all of the future Fort Hunt Park) was still part of Washington's estate, while Wellington was probably leased to tenants. (HRS, 27; Fairfax Co. Land Tax records 1800-1823) When Lear died in 1816, Wellington was transferred to his stepsons. Lawrence Augustine Washington soon died, and River Farm then passed to young George Fayette Washington. G.F. Washington had married in 1813, and he and his wife seem to have lived on the River Farm property – probably on the Wellington estate – between 1818 and 1825. It is not known whether G.F. Washington worked all of River Farm with slave labor or whether he leased some of the land. In 1826, George Fayette Washington left River Farm to live elsewhere. For the next 28 years he probably leased the farm to tenants, though the record is not clear. (HRS, 26)

1852-1882: Small-Scale Farming

In June 1852, George Fayette Washington sold 791.25 acres of the River Farm estate, including the site of Fort Hunt Park, to Henry Allen Taylor. Three years later, Taylor sold a 300-acre tract at Sheridan's Point to Lewis Linton, a physician from New Jersey, one of a large number of Northern settlers who moved to Fairfax County in the antebellum years. At the time Linton bought it, no taxable buildings seem to have stood on the property, but he probably soon built a house since, by 1857, the land had buildings worth $500. The previous year, the Alexandria,

Mount Vernon, and Accotink Turnpike had been built. This toll road greatly improved the access of farmers on nearby properties to local markets. The road passed close by the north end of the Linton farm. (HRS 27-28)

A military map dated 1865 shows Linton's house standing in the southern part of the current Fort Hunt Park (U.S. War Department, Engineer Bureau, "Extract of Military Map of Northeastern Virginia Showing Forts and Roads," 1865, HRS fig. 6, p. 29). The 1860 agricultural schedule records that 175 acres of the Linton farm were "improved" and 125 acres were wooded. According to the census, Linton raised considerable amounts of wheat, oats, Indian corn, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, and hay. In addition, he owned small numbers of horses, cattle, and hogs.

By 1861, it was becoming clear that war was imminent. In January, Fort Washington – located directly across the river from River Farm – was repaired and garrisoned. This defensive structure had been built for the protection of Washington in 1809, then destroyed and rebuilt by 1824.

The opening shots of the Civil War were fired in April. Though Lewis Linton supported the Union, most men of Fairfax County were Secessionist sympathizers. By May, Union troops had occupied Alexandria, where they remained until the end of the war. The war, however, had little effect on the area around Mount Vernon, other than causing difficulties in travel. It did not affect the land that would become Fort Hunt since no fighting occurred in the immediate vicinity, and the Linton farm survived the war years without damage.

After the war, Linton divided his farm operations between two of his sons, John and Jerome. The 1870 Agricultural Schedule of the U.S. Census suggests that both men prospered, growing winter wheat, rye, Indian corn, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, hay, and vegetables for market, as well as producing butter and raising milk cows and hogs. One son sold "forest products" from his woodlots. (HRS, 31)

Lewis Linton divided his farm in half in March 1871 and deeded the two parcels to his younger sons, Frank and Jerome. Frank was given a 100-acre tract called "Homestead," or "Park," farm, which had improvements worth $1000. Jerome received 100 acres at Sheridan's Point, which, within two years, had $700 worth of improvements, including a house and farm buildings. Together, the two farms included almost all of today's Fort Hunt Park.

In 1877, Frank Linton sold Park Farm to Nicholas Eckhardt. The same year, Jerome claimed a Homestead Exemption on his farm (now reduced slightly to 92.5 acres, 7.5 acres having been sold to a neighbor in 1876). An 1879 map of the Mount Vernon District in Fairfax County shows Jerome Linton's farmhouse near Sheridan's Point, and identifies the former Homestead farm as Eckhardt's "Piney Grove." Jerome defaulted on his mortgage in 1879, and his Sheridan's Point Farm was sold at public auction to Thomas F. Burroughs. Its buildings were valued at $1000. (HRS, 31) The next year, Burroughs sold the Sheridan's Point (Jerome Linton) farm to Annie M. Pelton. Pelton and her husband were among a new, post-war wave of Northern immigrants to Fairfax County. In 1882, Eckhardt transferred 100 acres of his

Piney Grove (Frank Linton) farm to Louisa J. Grau. The value of both former Linton farms had declined, the Pelton farm from $1000 to $500, the Grau tract from $1000 to $600.

1882-1924: Fort Hunt and the Coastal Defense Fortification System

In the late 19th century, the United States was fast assuming a new role as an international power. The U.S. possessed a new, modern navy equipped with advanced warships, but its aging coastal defense system was rapidly becoming obsolete. In 1885, Congress authorized President Grover Cleveland to appoint a board for the purpose of examining the condition of coastal defenses and suggesting measures for their improvement. The Board on Fortifications or Other Defenses – also known as the "Endicott Board," after its president, Secretary of War William C. Endicott – presented its report to Congress in 1886. The Endicott Board had determined that the United States was "not equipped to repel a seaborne attack by a major naval power." (HRS, 36) Since America's coastal forts had first been built, the world's navies had begun using powerful rifled guns and armor-plated ships. The report ranked the 11 American ports most urgently needing improved defenses, one of which was Washington, D.C. It noted that "the channel of the Potomac River narrowed considerably above Mount Vernon, above which point the capital could easily be shelled." (HRS, 37)

In March 1890, the Army's Engineer Board recommended that a coastal artillery battery be built at Sheridan's Point to "operate in coordination with Fort Washington to defend the capital from naval assault." (HRS, 37) The Engineer Board recommended the federal government acquire the Pelton, Grau, and Linton farms, which together comprised nearly 300 acres. A congressional act of August 1890 provided appropriations for U.S. forts and armaments, including funds for land purchases. Acquisition by condemnation was also allowed. The 92.5-acre Pelton farm was condemned in September 1892 and transferred to the government the following June. The Peltons received $13,576.87 for their property. (HRS, 37-38)

An 1893 map prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a proposed National Road from Washington to Mount Vernon depicted "a relatively detailed picture of the landscape of the property that would soon become Fort Hunt." ("Portions of Alexandria and Fairfax Counties, Virginia, Showing the Route Surveyed for a National Road from Washington, D.C. to Mount Vernon, Virginia," HRS, fig. 8, p. 34, source: Fairfax County, Virginia, Regional Library) Two buildings – probably the Pelton (Jerome Linton) farmstead – appear at the end of a farm road, a site now located in the southwest corner of Fort Hunt Park, near Sheridan's Point. The Grau (Frank Linton) farmstead at Piney Grove is not shown; the house may have been torn down. The Grau family is not listed in the 1900 census, suggesting they had moved (though the 1890 tax records show the Grau land was occupied by buildings worth $600; HRS, 33).

Construction of the first gun emplacement on the former Pelton tract began in late 1896. The work was carried out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and during construction, the inspectors lived in the Pelton farmhouse (the former Jerome Linton farmhouse); it "appears no other sizable buildings [stood] on… property at this time." (HRS, 38) The battery was supposed to be completed by September 1897, but construction proved slower than anticipated and the contract was repeatedly extended. Construction was accelerated in March 1897 because of the threatened war with Spain. The Sheridan's Point Battery – later renamed

Battery Mount Vernon – was soon completed on a site along the western edge of the former Pelton tract, and its three breech-loading, disappearing 8-inch guns were mounted by April 1, 1898. The Spanish-American War was declared later that month and lasted until December 1898. (HRS, 38)

On March 13, 1898, 48 troops of Battery K of the 4th U.S. Artillery occupied the new post and took control of the guns while construction was still proceeding. The men were soon joined by several companies of a Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry regiment. All the soldiers lived in a temporary camp; the battery was not completed until August 1898. The old farmhouse, which stood south of Battery Mount Vernon, in the line of fire, was soon moved to another location on the federal reservation. (HRS, 38, 40)

By order of President William McKinley, the Sheridan's Point post was given the official name of "Fort Hunt" on April 13, 1899. The name honored the late Brevet Major General Henry Jackson Hunt (1819-1889), "an artillery officer who had seen distinguished service in the Mexican and Civil Wars" and later served as governor of the Soldiers' Home in Washington, D.C. (HRS, 40)

Construction of two smaller, 60-foot-square concrete batteries began in October 1898. These were "designed to draw enemy ships into range of the main battery's guns". Each had a single five-inch rapid firing gun placed on a balance pillar mount. (HRS, 40) Battery Robinson was sited about 135 yards from the river and Battery Porter was located 420 yards east of Battery Mount Vernon.

Several new mechanical systems were installed at Fort Hunt in 1899: an artesian well, a steam pumping station, and a sewage system which drained into the river. By early 1900, most of the fort's public buildings had been completed, including housing for commissioned and non-commissioned officers, and for married and single enlisted men. Most officers resided in semi-detached houses while enlisted men lived in communal barracks. According to Laird, "at least 23 support structures [were] also built . . . between 1900 and 1918, including mess hall, hospital, barns, storehouse and equipment buildings, power plants, stables, wharfhouse, latrines," a school for soldiers' children, and recreational facilities. (HRS, 42, and Table 1 on p. 46) Most buildings had water and sewer connections and "were wired for electricity by 1902." (HRS, 56) Freight arrived by boat from Washington every day except Sunday.

Photographs from the 1920s suggest that, from its earliest years, the post had a simple domestic landscape, with sidewalks, hedgerows, and the occasional small flower bed. Young shade trees dotted lawns and lined roads. (NARA Still Photographs RG 35, CCC Records)

Though Batteries Robinson and Porter were completed in September 1899, and the gun mounts arrived in January 1901, the guns did not arrive until June 1902. In August 1902, the Corps of Engineers turned both batteries over to the artillery. (HRS, 40)

The corps also built a "battery commander's station," a concrete observation tower with range-finding and sighting equipment for directing the guns, completed in August 1901. The

station stood on the western edge of the Pelton tract, about 263 feet northwest of Battery Mount Vernon. (HRS, 40, 42)

The fourth and last battery built at Fort Hunt was Battery Sater, placed about 300 yards east of Battery Mount Vernon. The 110-feet by 60-feet concrete battery housed three three-inch 15-pound rapid-firing guns. Construction began in June 1900 and the emplacements were completed by the following summer; the guns, however, were not shipped until November 1903. In January 1904, the Corps of Engineers turned Battery Sater over to the troops. (HRS, 42)

All four batteries were named in 1903 under the order of President Theodore Roosevelt. The name of Battery Mount Vernon recognized Washington's nearby estate. Battery Robinson was named after First Lt. Levi H. Robinson, killed fighting Indians in Wyoming in 1874, and Battery Porter was named for First Lt. James E. Porter, also killed fighting Indians, in Montana, in June 1876. Battery Sater honored Lt. William A Sater, who died in battle during the Spanish-American War. (HRS, 42)

For years, William Grau, owner of the Sheridan's Point farm (the former Frank Linton farm), which adjoined Fort Hunt on the west, was rebuffed in his offers to sell the government his property. In 1898, the officer in charge of the Sheridan's Point post wrote Grau, then living in New York City, asking his permission

"to cut brush and trees on the lower portion of his farm that interfered with Battery Mount Vernon's guns. Grau agreed, though he would come to regret the decision. 'You may imagine my feeling,' he recalled, 'when I was able to visit my farm, and saw every standing tree cut down, five acres of solid timber ruined, besides shade trees in the pasture for cattle, one oak tree among them, which stood there since George Washington owned the place, and was a beauty to look at.'" (HRS, 56, quoting Chief of Engineers, Gen. Corr., Doc. File 17158/8, NARA RG 77.)

The Grau farm was finally condemned in March 1903. Grau received $28,800 for his 100-acre tract, plus $8800 for buildings and machinery. (HRS, 57)

Two smaller land purchases completed Fort Hunt. In June 1906, the government acquired for $100 a 1152-feet-long, 30-feet-wide strip of land at the northwest corner of the tract, running along the edge of a 100-acre parcel which had been left by Linton to his daughters. This land was used as a right-of-way for construction of a new road to the fort, which still exists today under the name "Fort Hunt Road." Under the terms of the sale, the Lintons could continue to use an old road across their property, while the government would maintain it and build a fence along the federal side; after the new road was completed, the older road would be abandoned. The following October, the government purchased 1.633 acres adjoining the northeast boundary of the post from John and Sarah B. Miller, for which they paid $50. The Fort Hunt reservation now comprised some 197.413 acres, for which the federal government had paid a total of $42,526.87. (HRS, 57)

Fort Hunt was a one-company post, typically occupied by anywhere from 80 to 120 men under

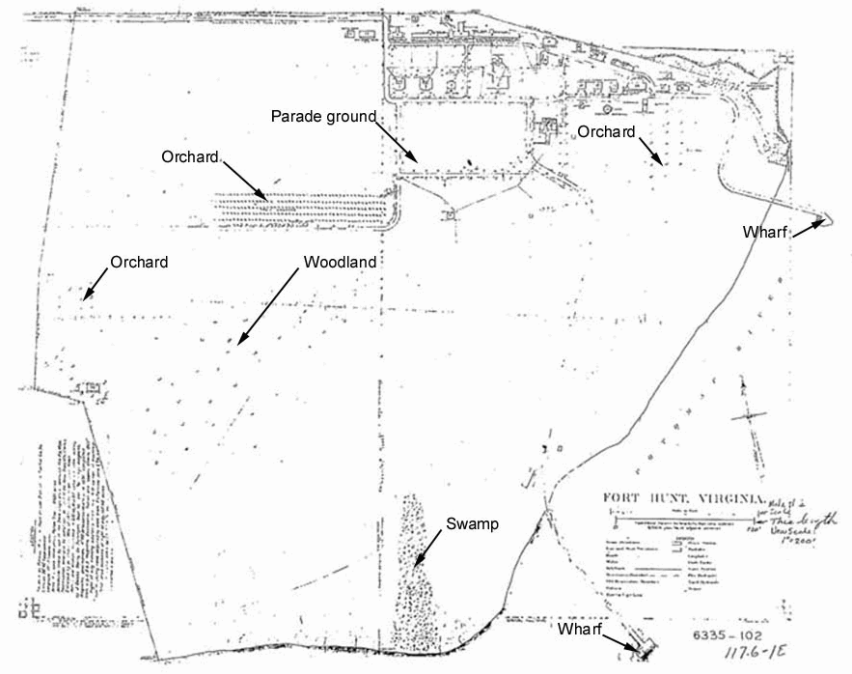
the command of a captain. From April 1899 to August 1903, Fort Hunt was manned alternately by Batteries K, A, and N of the 4th U.S. Artillery. The soldiers of Fort Hunt were never called upon to defend Washington; rather, they faced a tedious routine of "target practice [and] official inspections," as well as "the endless round of parades, ceremonies, and dedications that characterized official life in Washington, D.C." (HRS, 57, 56) In December 1900, the men of Fort Hunt marched in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the federal government's relocation to Washington, and in September 1901, they joined the funeral cortege of the assassinated President McKinley. The only casualty at Fort Hunt occurred in 1902, when a soldier accidentally shot himself. The wound was not serious. In 1905, the post was briefly rocked by two separate embezzlement scandals. (HRS, 56, 59-66)

For years, little happened to alter the routine of life at Fort Hunt. Mobilization before the First World War "initiated a reorganization of the establishment of Fort Hunt, and ultimately brought an end to its period of active service." (HRS, 66) After the U.S. entered the war in 1917, Coast Artillery districts were reorganized; by September, Fort Hunt was manned by the 1st and 2nd Companies, Coast Defense Command of the Potomac, under the new Middle Atlantic Coast Artillery District.

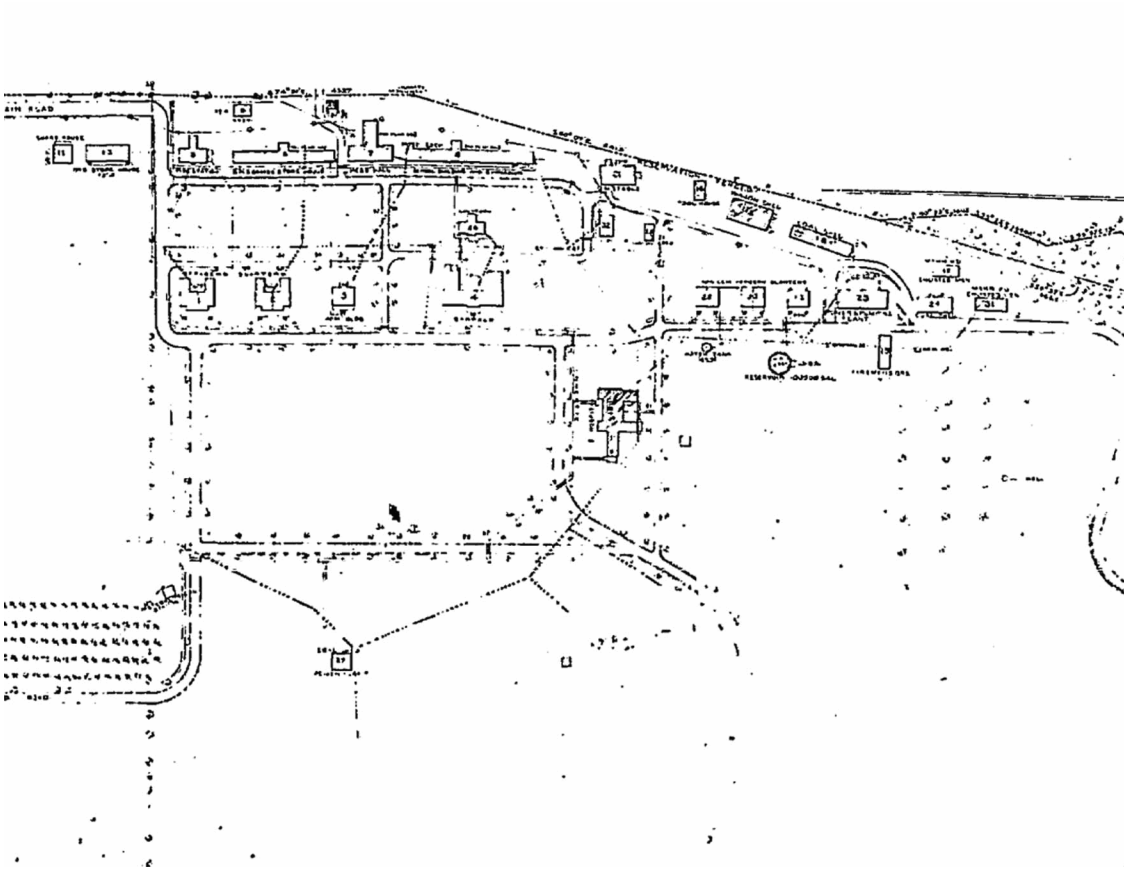
World War I brought radical changes to the nature of warfare. The introduction of the German U-boat "posed a far greater threat to American territory and commerce than conventional warships, and, consequently, Fort Hunt no longer served a compelling defensive purpose." (HRS, 66) Across America, guns were removed from coastal defense installations and shipped to France, where they usually were mounted on rail cars and moved around the countryside to support American infantry. In August 1917, the guns at Fort Hunt were taken for this purpose. Repair and upgrading of the gun emplacements stopped and "after 19 years of service, Fort Hunt was suddenly superfluous." (HRS, 66) Another contributing factor was that, by this time, newer defenses had been built around Washington. (Moore, "The Fort Hunt Saga," 3)

After the removal of its guns, new uses were found for Fort Hunt. Troops were often housed there, conveniently near Washington. The artillery kept a "token presence at the post for the next several years, though resident units were plagued by nearly constant reorganization." (HRS, 67) From about 1921 through 1923, Fort Hunt housed the U.S. Army Finance School. In May 1923, only 23 men were posted at Fort Hunt, including two officers and eight men of the coast artillery company, two ordnance men, and two instructors and nine students of the Finance School. (HRS, 67)

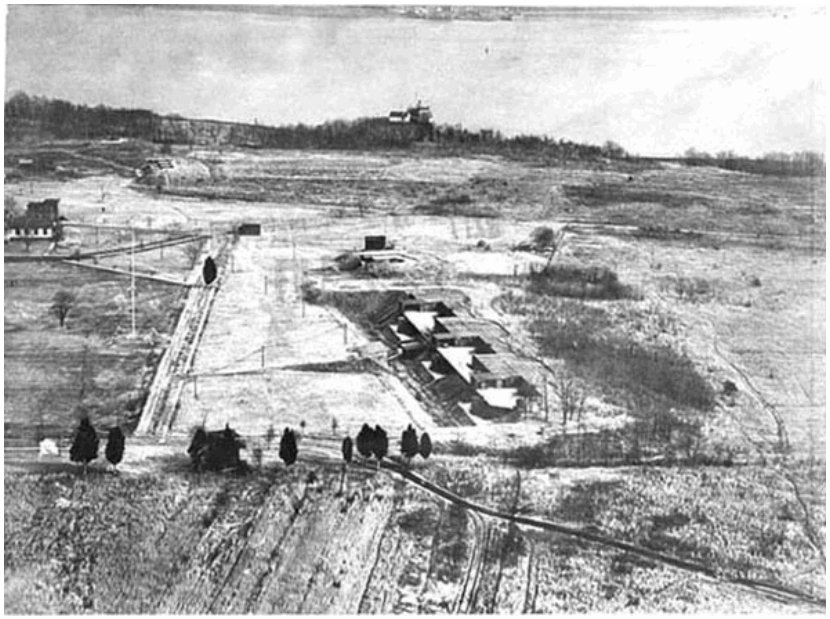
Following the war, the War Department considered abandoning Fort Hunt. A study of American harbor defenses by the department's War Plans Division recommended that both Fort Hunt and Fort Washington be closed by the spring of 1924. At the end of 1923, the only person remaining at Fort Hunt was a caretaker. The post's land was then valued at $80,000. There were 26 buildings, a water plant, and a wharf, together worth $309,725.55. (HRS, 67-68) The landscape apparently remained intact, though many areas surrounding the parade ground and the batteries, which presumably had formerly been mown, had become overgrown with meadow grasses. (NARA Still Photographs RG 35, CCC Records)



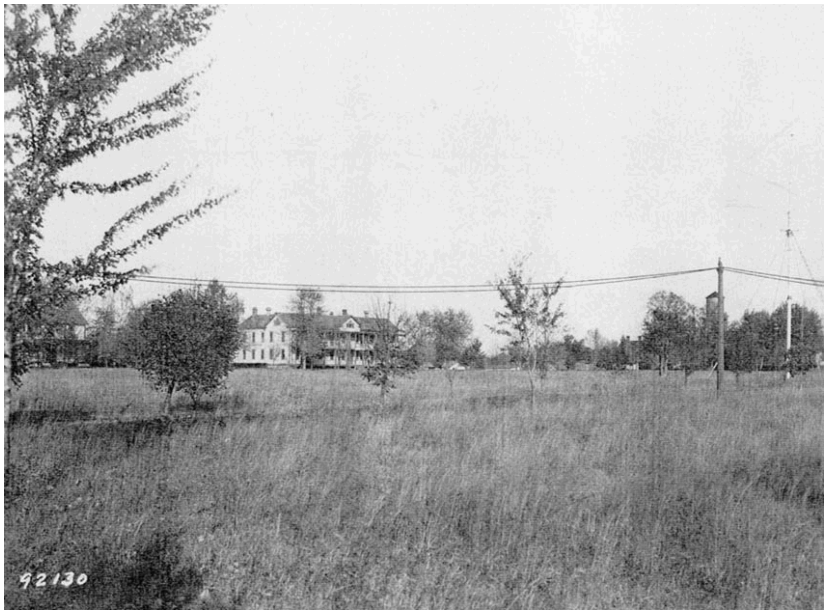

*Map of Fort Hunt Army post, 1906, with important landscape features noted. (NARA RG 79, 853/81006; NCR CLP Digital Photofile historic maps-new, fhapa1-1 flat)'*



*Detail of 1906 map showing arrangement of post buildings. (NARA RG 79, 853/41006; NCR CLP Digital Photofile historic maps-new, 853_41006)*



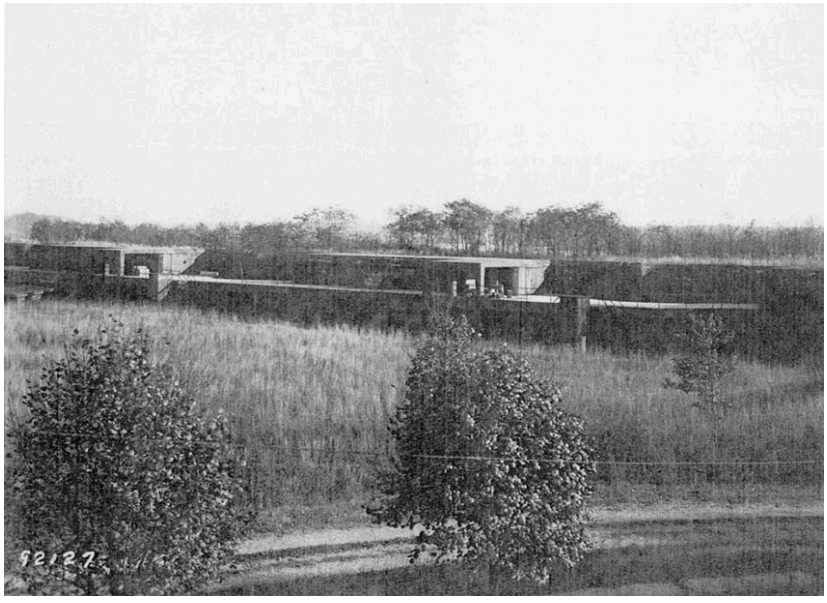
*Aerial photograph from 1923, looking east to Potomac River. Battery Mount Vernon can be seen at center. Eastern red cedars, the dark trees visible in the bottom center of the photo, stand along the old pasture line. (MRCE, Fort Hunt Birdseye 1923)*




*View of Finance School looking north across the parade ground, now Picnic Area A, October 31, 1923. (NARA RG 111, #92130)*




*Officers' quarters along entrance road, October 31, 1923. The existing Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters is the house on the far right. The young trees are red maples, two of which are still living. (NARA RG 111, #92119)*




*View of Battery Mount Vernon from the northwest, October 31, 1923. (NARA RG 111, #92127)*




*Battery Sater seen from the northeast, October 31, 1923. (NARA RG 111, #92122)*

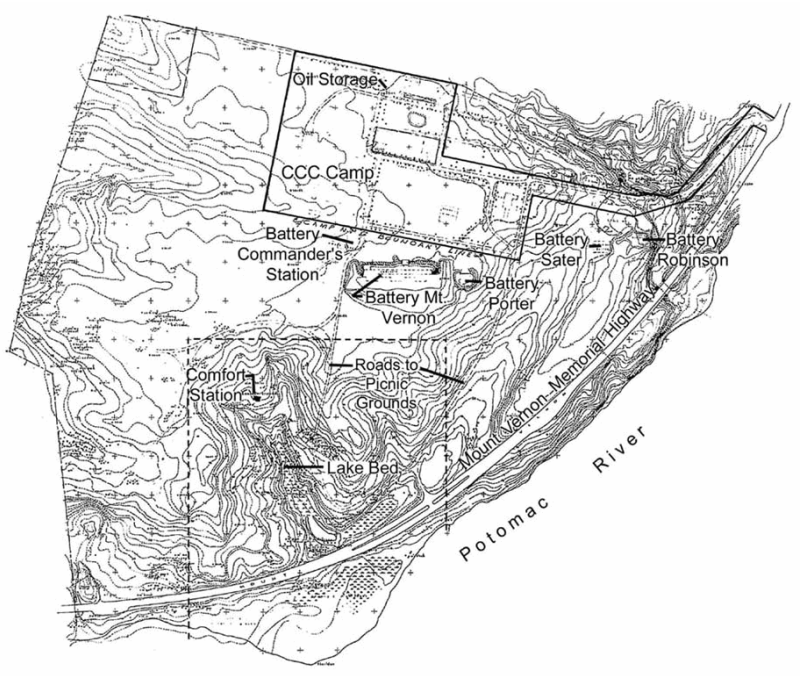
1924-1932: Fort Hunt as Surplus Property

The War Department declared Fort Hunt surplus on April 5, 1924, and it stood vacant for the next four years. While the buildings were left standing, most equipment was removed. (HRS, 68) In the summer of 1925, three of the temporary World War I buildings – two barracks and a bathhouse – were demolished because of their poor condition. However, in January 1928, Fort Hunt was garrisoned once again when the 16th Infantry Brigade was transferred there: "elements of the 16th Infantry Brigade remained at Fort Hunt for the next three years." (HRS, 69)

The War Department permitted an African American ROTC unit to train at Fort Hunt in the spring of 1931. The unit returned the next two years as well. Temporary – and separate – quarters, a mess, and a lavatory were set up for the ROTC men at a site west of Battery Mount Vernon and south of the battery commander station, near an incinerator. In May 1931, the War Department once again decided to dispose of Fort Hunt, and the post was vacant by October. (HRS, 69)

Also in the early 1930s, a major transportation project was constructed through the eastern end of Fort Hunt. Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, constructed by the Bureau of Public Roads as a "model modern motorway," was built along the Potomac shore from Washington, D.C. to Mount Vernon between 1929 and 1932. The road incorporated numerous defining parkway features: grade separations, limited numbers of intersections, adjoining recreational areas, and a simplified picturesque landscaping designed to be viewed from motor vehicles. Construction of the parkway seems to have necessitated the building of a new entrance route to Fort Hunt north of the existing post entrance, and a bridge, the Fort Hunt Overpass, which carried the

new highway over the old road leading to Sheridan's Point and the disused wharf. (Davis, "Mount Vernon Memorial Highway and the Evolution of the American Parkway," 1997; HRS, 69-70)




*Topographic map from 1930s. (NARA RG 79, 853/80036)*

1932-1942: Bonus Marches, Land Transfer, & Civilian Conservation Corps Camp NP-6

In the 1930s, Fort Hunt served as a site for the temporary tent cities built to house the World War I veterans who came to Washington in the three so-called "Bonus Marches" of 1932, 1933, and 1934. The Bonus Marches resulted from the nationwide economic suffering brought on by the Great Depression. Veterans demanded immediate payment of federal funds which had been set aside as bonuses for their wartime service, though they were not due to be released until 1945.

The first Bonus March was the largest. On May 11, 1932, men began walking from Oregon to Washington, their numbers growing along the route to perhaps as many as 20,000. Calling themselves the "Bonus Expeditionary Force," the veterans arrived in Washington that summer. The District police superintendent helped them find food and housing, and they were allowed to occupy 27 temporary camps distributed throughout the city. President Herbert Hoover ordered the Veterans' Affairs administrator to use Fort Hunt as the site for a 300-bed hospital. A prefabricated structure for the hospital arrived at the fort on June 13, opened two days later, and received patients until July 31. The Senate defeated a Bonus Bill in June, and the Army evicted marchers from their camps on July 28. All patients were evacuated from the Fort Hunt hospital by August 5 and the hospital closed on August 12. On August 28, 1932, Fort Hunt was transferred to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks (OPBPP), U.S. Corps of

Engineers, a division of the War Department. (HRS, 70-72)

Hoover's poor handling of the Bonus March crisis may have helped Franklin D. Roosevelt win his first term as president in November 1932. However, Roosevelt, like Hoover, opposed paying the veterans their bonus at a time of national fiscal crisis. (HRS, 72)

A second Bonus March came to Washington in 1933. Men arrived by train and other conveyances, rather than on foot, to attend a "bonus convention," held from May 7-12. They were housed at Fort Hunt (at that time occupied only by the small ROTC contingent) in existing buildings and tents. On May 16, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt inspected living conditions at the camp and spoke briefly to the marchers. Three days later, the men were bused from Fort Hunt back to Washington. They were permitted to march from the Washington Monument to the gates of the White House, where FDR spoke to a small delegation. He invited all marchers to enroll in his newly created "Forest Army," the program called Emergency Conservation Work (ECW), soon to become known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Some 2657 of the 3000 marchers accepted this offer. (HRS, 72-74)

Established by the Federal Unemployment Relief Act on March 31, 1933, the CCC was charged with carrying out a wide variety of conservation work – from clearing brush and fighting fires to building roads and trails – in national parks and on other public lands. Fort Hunt housed CCC Camp NP-6 from October 17, 1933, until March 1942, and their work was conducted within the National Capital Parks.

In the first 6-month period, 200 enrollees of Company 1241, young men from New York and Virginia, lived at Fort Hunt and worked in local federal parks, where they cleared trees and brush, installed landscape plantings, and built bridle paths. At first they lived in tents and occupied the remaining Army buildings. Later, prefabricated wood-frame structures were constructed, devised by the Army as "sturdy, all-purpose building[s] for CCC use": "with only slight alteration they could serve as administrative and recreational buildings, mess halls, and barracks. Once erected, they were usually creosoted and covered with tar paper, though occasionally they were painted brown or green." (HRS, p. 76)

In July 1933, the post was transferred to the National Park Service, along with the other park properties administered by the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks, under an Executive Order issued by President Roosevelt. The third and final Bonus March in May 1934 temporarily stopped CCC operations at the camp. Another bonus bill had failed in Congress, and about 1500 protestors attended a convention in Washington from May 12-27. The men were housed at Fort Hunt, living in tents and the vacated CCC buildings. Receiving little political support, the marchers once more failed in their objective. However, they were again offered the chance to join the CCC, and 565 of them enrolled. After the marchers left Fort Hunt, the CCC company returned.

By October 1935, 18 new buildings stood at Fort Hunt. The camp occupied much of the same area as the fort had. Only two of the new buildings were permanent, a frame structure housing the officers' mess and a masonry oil house (possibly the small brick building which is still

extant). The buildings were heated by coal stoves. Many had sewer and water connections and almost all were wired for electricity (see HRS, 77, Table 2).

The CCC crew undertook at least one major landscaping project at Fort Hunt. In about 1935, they began excavating a small lake in a swampy ravine which extended into the site due west of Sheridan's Point. They removed soil with shovels and mechanical dredging equipment, and used chains to pull up trees. Historic photos in the CCC collection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) show the men at work, and indicate they made considerable progress. It is not known, however, whether the lake was ever completed and filled. The lake bed is still a prominent topographical feature within the woodland of Picnic Area F.

The lake was to form the focal point of a large public recreational area. A National Park Service planting plan from the time shows three picnic areas grouped around the lake, trails running along its shores, and a loop road north of the lake bed. It depicts the site as being far more covered with woodland than it is today, and shows irregular, picturesque glades or meadows opened up within the woodland. Other NARA photos record the large-scaled, rough-hewn, rustic "parkitecture" constructed – presumably by the CCC – for these picnic areas: signs carved into hewn logs, log picnic tables, and grills made of boulders left in a rough-faced, natural state. Of the historic landscape features, only several of the grills remain on site today.

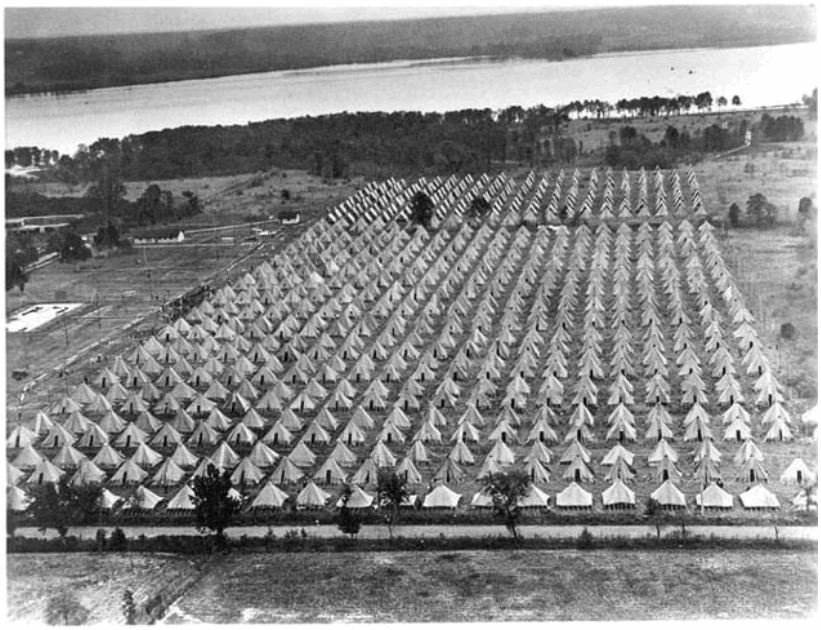
In October 1937, CCC Company 2387 replaced Company 1241. Enrollees generally worked a 40-hour, five-day week. In the evening they could attend courses, lectures, or films at the camp, or visit the camp library. Also, an NPS Model Laboratory was set up at Fort Hunt, and about 20 of the CCC men were employed under NPS personnel in the building of relief maps for Eastern parks. (HRS, 79)

The CCC remained in existence for 9 years, from March 1933 to July 1942. Especially towards the end, desertion was common throughout the camps. From July 1940 to June 1941, 82 men fled the Fort Hunt camp. The camp also faced a brief strike and another embezzlement scandal, but life generally was peaceful.

The Fort Hunt CCC Camp was regarded as a "model facility," and it occasionally played host to illustrious foreign visitors. In December 1938, a future British Prime Minister, the Right Honorable Anthony Eden, paid a brief visit. In June 1939, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt brought England's King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to see the camp following a visit to Mount Vernon, during a royal tour of Canada and the United States. The First Lady described the occasion in her memoirs, This I Remember (1949). Though it was a hot day, the royal couple took pains to examine the entire camp, and closely questioned the men on their diet, food, and work. After inspecting the barracks and the mess hall, the king studied a display of photographs showing the work of the CCC across the country, which had been arranged outside on bulletin boards. (HRS, 82-94)

Either on that day or shortly thereafter, two pin oak trees (Quercus palustris) were planted to honor the royal visit by Dr. Richard St. Barbe Baker, a forester who helped inspire FDR to

create the CCC. Baker was the founder of The Men of the Trees, an international group dedicated to the planting of trees and preservation of forest ecosystems. Baker and a small group of colleagues had followed in the wake of the royal tour, planting trees to commemorate each visit. At Fort Hunt, the two oaks were planted at the spot where the King had viewed the exhibit. (Both trees still stand by the loop road in Area B; see photo in Analysis and Evaluation: Vegetation section. Richard St. Barbe Baker to Gary Everhart, Letter, 19 May 1976, and St. Barbe Baker, "Fort Hunt, Virginia: New Idea for Bicentennial," Land Use Coordination Files, NCR)



*Tents occupied by participants in second Bonus March, set up on old parade ground at Fort Hunt, view looking east to Potomac River, May 1933. (MRCE, "Fort Hunt Bonus Camp, 1933)"*



*View of field and trees at Fort Hunt during CCC occupation, March 18, 1935, precise location not known. (NARA RG 35, "View on Reservation)"*



*Woodland edge at Fort Hunt during CCC occupation, c. March 1935, precise location not known (NARA RG 35, "Fort Hunt picnic area)"*



*Tree surgery at Fort Hunt, c. March 1935, precise location not known. Note young successional growth, and log picnic table at left. (NARA RG 35, 'Tree Surgery in Fort Hunt picnic area')*



*CCC crew clearing trees from lake bed at Fort Hunt in what is today Picnic Area F, c. 1935. The view seems to be looking west. (NARA RG 35, 'Clearing lake area')*




*Entrance to picnic area, Fort Hunt, probably in today's Area F, c. 1935. Note "tables" sign made out of tree trunk and the log railings. These features no longer exist. (NARA RG 35, untitled photo)*



*Aerial photograph, 1938, looking southeast to the Potomac River. Battery Sater is visible at left, and the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway can be seen in the background. (MRCE, "Birdseye 1938)"*



*North elevation and trench of Battery Mount Vernon, looking southwest. (MRCE, "Rear of fort, 1938)"*

1938-1946: World War II and Secret Military Operations

During World War II, Fort Hunt housed several critical secret operations, including the Signal Intelligence Service; the Joint Interrogation Center for German POWs, known as MIS-Y; and the top-secret MIS-X, which sent coded communications and special packages containing escape equipment to American POWs held in German camps. Also located at Fort Hunt for a brief time was the National Archive and Records Administration's (NARA) Nitrate Film Depository.

These activities began before the war. In 1938, a secret radio monitoring station or "listening post," known as the Signal Intelligence Service, was established at the fort. Its mission was to intercept radio transmissions from Mexico, Japan, Germany, and Italy, the "four countries that posed the greatest perceived threat to American national security." (HRS, 88) The service was assisted by units handling cryptoanalytic and translation duties. Twenty-six enlisted men assigned to the service lived in the old post hospital from October 1939 and shared a mess with the CCC company.

At the start of World War II, CCC enrollees were employed on national defense work. Laird says: "In 1941, Fort Hunt was designated a 'Defense Camp' by the War Department, and renamed CCC Camp NP(D)-6. Enrollees trained in civil defense procedures, and work projects were geared towards improving war readiness." (HRS, 87) The Fort Hunt camp was closed in March 1942, and the CCC was officially terminated in July 1942.

NARA Nitrate Film Depository

Immediately following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, officials of the National Archives and Records Administration met to consider strategies to protect cellulose nitrate film, both photographic prints and motion pictures, from "sabotage or enemy attack" for the duration of the war. (HRS, 89) A committee was formed and, after a search, Fort Hunt was selected as the site for the new Nitrate Film Depository. By July 1942, the four gun emplacements had been converted into storage facilities housing a total of 45 storage vaults with a combined capacity of 13,428 cubic feet. The NARA quickly transferred their nitrate film materials there and offered the remaining spaces to other federal agencies. Eventually the vaults also housed materials from the "War Department, Veterans' Administration, Navy Department, Library of Congress, Treasury Department, Veterans' Administration, Navy Department, Lend-Lease Administration, Post Office Department, Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Agriculture Department, and the Office of Strategic Services." (HRS, 90)

However, problems with the storage vaults quickly became apparent. The old batteries were often damp. Twelve were so wet that they were "essentially unusable." (HRS, 90) Problems with the units were compounded by the inability of NARA staff to monitor them adequately. By mid-1945, NARA archivists had moved most of their film back to their main building in Washington. All film material had been removed from Fort Hunt by the end of 1946.

MIS-Y – Joint Interrogation Center

Other clandestine activities of a more military nature took place at Fort Hunt during the war. The old post was used as a "special interrogation center," called MIS-Y. German POWs believed to possess critical knowledge of enemy activities were taken to the fort and questioned by both Army and Navy intelligence officers. Fort Hunt was one of two interrogation centers established in the U.S. based on a British system of interrogating prisoners; the other was in California. Both were classified as Temporary Detention Centers rather than POW camps in order to circumvent the Geneva Convention's provisions on prisoners' rights. (HRS, 91-92)

The Joint Interrogation Center at Fort Hunt was opened on May 15, 1942, under a special use permit granted to the Secretary of War by the Department of the Interior, which extended for the duration of the war plus an additional year. The War Department gained the right to use all of the Fort Hunt property (except for the vaults of the Nitrate Film Depository).

The special use permit contained guidelines "to protect the physical integrity of Fort Hunt during its wartime occupation." The War Department was directed to "preserve and protect all objects of a geological and historical nature," including structures and "trees, shrubs, and other natural terrain features". Any new housing construction would be subject to NPS review. Within a year of the war's end, the War Department would be responsible for removing all structures of a "strictly military technical nature" and for restoring the site "as nearly as possible to its condition at the time of the issuance of this permit, at the option of the Secretary of the Interior." (HRS, 90-91; also copy of Special Use Permit at GWMP-Turkey Run, Cultural Resource files [Matt Virta], folder "Fort Hunt, Shoemaker").

The first prisoners handled at Fort Hunt were seamen from German U-Boats, which had devastated Allied shipping in the North Atlantic. Laird states: "As a 'Detailed Intelligence Center,' Fort Hunt was designed for the 'scientific' and intensive interrogation of enemy POWs suspected to possess 'long term technical or strategic information.'" (HRS, 95) The center was known only by its code name, "P.O. Box 1142," its Alexandria mailing address.

For its new facility, the Army used existing buildings and erected many new temporary structures. When the Fort Hunt interrogation center opened in July 1942, there were 87 buildings: "barracks, latrines, and mess halls for the garrison troops, officers quarters, and numerous supply and physical plant buildings . . . . The general layout of the post remained essentially the same, however, with the majority of buildings arrayed around the central parade ground." (HRS, 92, & 93, Table 4)

The largest new structures were the two POW compounds, Enclosure A, occupied August 1942, and Enclosure B, open by April 1944. Enclosure A stood in the southwest corner of the site (today picnic areas E and C-3). A "self-contained complex," it included a two-story rectangular building with 22 rooms for POWs), as well as five interrogation rooms, a kitchen, offices, and store rooms. Two single-story buildings housed more offices, and were "attached to the east side of the main building in the form of a double-crossed 'T'." The compound was enclosed within two chain-link fences placed 15' apart. A guard tower stood at each corner. (HRS, 95)

Enclosure B stood due south of Battery Mount Vernon. It differed from the earlier enclosure in its separation of functions. Four wings projected from a central structure, surmounted by a guard tower. The main, central building housed double rooms for POWs, rooms for interrogation and assembly, and officers' rooms. New prisoners were processed in the south wing, which held medical examination rooms, showers, etc. Each wing had its own latrine and guard room. The cross-shaped configuration of Enclosure B resulted in four exercise pens between the wings, enclosed by concrete walls and chain-link fences topped with barbed wire. Wire barriers and wood screening were "erected parallel with the POW room windows to prevent contact between prisoners", and an "electrical contact system" along the walls notified the central guard tower of suspicious movements. (HRS, 95) Prisoners' rooms were bugged.

In all, 3451 POWs passed through Fort Hunt, and nearly 5000 interviews were conducted. (HRS, 94-112; see also Moore, "The Fort Hunt Saga" [article] and "The Faustball Tunnel" [book], and Shoemaker, "The Escape Factory" [book]) After their period of interrogation, which usually lasted several weeks, POWs were moved to "permanent detention camps" elsewhere in the U.S. Laird says:

"The importance of the interrogation operations at Fort Hunt during the Second World War is difficult to measure but, without question, the information gathered from the thousands of POWs who passed through the camp between 1942 and 1945 was invaluable to the Allied war effort." (HRS, 112-113)

Only one prisoner ever tried to escape; in June 1944, U-Boat captain Werner Henke was shot attempting to scale the fence of Enclosure A. (HRS, 112, and Ken Ringle, "War & Ambivalence," Washington Post, 22 April 2001)

MIS-X

Fort Hunt was also home to the top-secret MIS-X program. Details of MIS-X have only recently been made public. Even at the time, few people, other than the President and certain War Department officials, knew of its existence: "even Fort Hunt's post commander would not be certain what was going on within his own camp." (HRS, 114) Like MIS-Y, MIS-X was based on a British intelligence program. MIS-X attempted to help American POWs escape from German camps and to actively resist their incarceration. Fort Hunt was chosen to be the program's site in about October 1942.

Select air crewmen were taught how to evade capture, how to behave in camps, if captured, and how to escape. They were instructed in various means of communicating with prisoners through secret codes, a knowledge which would also enable them, if captured, to communicate with their superiors in the U.S. Finally, these air crewmen assembled special escape kits, which were shipped from Fort Hunt to German POW camps disguised as care packages.

Most of the MIS-X men lived and ate with other personnel at the fort. By November 1942, the old post hospital had been renovated for MIS-X use, and assigned the innocuous code name the "Creamery" (the building stood on the site of what is now the park's main picnic pavilion). The Creamery housed the "Correspondence Section," where the officers were trained in the sending and receiving of codes.

In December, a new, separate building – known as the "Warehouse" – was completed for the "Technical Section." The Warehouse was composed of a center section with two wings, each measuring 75 feet x 25 feet. Security at the Warehouse was tight, with only a single door. Activities there began in February 1943. In one wing, technical staff "designed and built escape and evasion materials," ran a press for printing counterfeit German Reichmarks, and assembled the POW escape kits. (HRS, 115) For this purpose, MI-X created two phony organizations, the War Prisoner's Benefit Foundation and the Servicemen's Relief, as cover for smuggling the phony packages to the German camps. The men of the technical staff "devise[d] ways to hide escape aids within seemingly mundane items":

"After much trial and error, the craftsmen became expert at hiding compasses and tissue-paper maps in the handles of shaving brushes, shoe brushes, and Ping-Pong paddles. Checkerboards were steamed apart, and maps, documents, and currency inserted. Shoe heels could easily contain other materials." (HRS, 116)

Soon the service began to collaborate with American manufacturers, who hid materials in their products, though they never knew the items' purpose. Baseballs hid miniature radio transmitters; playing cards could be peeled apart to reveal segments of maps; cigarette cartons concealed crystal radio receivers. Gillette razor blades were magnetized to act as compasses,

and other tiny compasses were hidden in uniform buttons. (HRS, 116)

By 1944, Fort Hunt was sending 80-120 packages a day to German camps. They varied in size, but the procedure remained consistent. Some packages were "straight," containing no hidden materials. A smaller number were "'loaded'" with the special goods. Prisoners were informed by coded communication when packages were on the way. (HRS, 116)

The MIS-X program proved successful – even too successful, as POWs became inundated with duplicate items. Out of a total of 95,532 U.S. servicemen held in German camps, 737 were able to escape and return to their units. Most of these had been aided by MIS-X, which also succeeded in collecting "critical intelligence from behind German lines" through its correspondence with prisoners. (HRS, 117) After the D-Day invasion, however, Hitler instituted harsher treatment of escaped prisoners, including execution of any prisoners found in so-called Death Zones. American policy regarding POWs was reversed; prisoners "were no longer expected to attempt escape, though they might continue resistance efforts at their own discretion." (HRS, 117) Mail delivery to the camps also became less certain.

In March 1945, the "MIS-X program began to wind down correspondence and technical operations . . . [and] MIS-X [was] ordered . . . to debrief" American POWs. When Germany surrendered on May 8, MIS-X came to an abrupt end. After Japan surrendered on August 14, "the War Department ordered all MIS-X records at Fort Hunt destroyed" and, for 36 hours, "the men burned records non-stop." (HRS, 117)
After the war's end, the War Department began to vacate Fort Hunt. By October 1946, all intelligence personnel had been moved out, and on November 15, the War Department declared Fort Hunt surplus. The last soldiers left soon after. (HRS, 118) By late 1946, men from the Army Corps of Engineers began removing the temporary buildings, along with most CCC structures; the sole remaining CCC structure seems to be the small masonry oil house, still standing near the parking lot in Picnic Area A). It is possible that the top-secret nature of work done at Fort Hunt during World War II may have led to the decision to have all structures removed, even those of the CCC which the War Department had agreed to protect.

1946-Present: Fort Hunt as a National Park

Fort Hunt lay under the jurisdiction of the Military District of Washington until it was reoccupied by the National Park Service in January 1948. In the meantime, a small number of security and firefighting personnel were stationed there. (HRS, 118)

Only a few buildings and structures then remained: one former NCO's quarters (Building #118); a freestanding double officer's quarters (#101); the old post hospital – the "Creamery" of MIS-X (#128); the stables (#114); the NPS museum laboratory and storehouse (#15 and #105); a utility building (#123); a pump house (#125); a water tower (#126); the historic Battery Commander's Station (#47) and the four artillery batteries. Between January and September of 1948, the Museums Division of the Park Service ran a lab at Fort Hunt which built exhibits for Manassas National Battlefield Park and Guilford Courthouse National Military Park. In June 1948, the Military District of Washington turned Fort Hunt over to the U.S. Park

Police. (HRS, 118)

During the 1950s, the NPS received many proposals concerning new uses for Fort Hunt. Developers hoped to turn it to recreational use by building a swimming pool, a golf course, or picnic grounds. Since the fort stood in the midst of prime residential real estate, the State of Virginia proved especially persistent in trying to acquire this federal reservation. All attempts were unsuccessful, however, as the NPS was determined to retain the property. (HRS, 118)

Details of Fort Hunt's use and management during the 1950s are not known. Basic recreational amenities were added: picnic tables, volleyball courts, and playground equipment are depicted in a small collection of photographs at the NPS Museum Resource Center (MRCE). A comfort station may have been built in these years near the old lake bed in Area F. It is not known if the lake held any water in this decade.

By the early 1960s, the NPS recognized the need for additional recreational facilities at Fort Hunt. Rehabilitation to provide improved buildings, roads, parking, picnic facilities, and landscaping was funded through the National Park Service's Mission 66 program. Work seems to have been carried out in 1963 and largely completed by 1964.

A December 1960 memo from Cornelius W. Heine, Chief of the Division of Public Use and Interpretation of National Capital Parks, to the Chief of the Landscape Architecture Branch of National Capital Parks, laid out recommendations for public use development at the park. Heine focused on three activities: picnicking, interpretation, and recreation. He suggested adding picnic tables, fireplaces, drinking water, and parking to picnic areas A, B, and D (though these had different identifying letters in the memo). Other recommendations included paving the existing gravel and dirt roads; adding parking lots at each picnic site; building two new comfort stations, one northwest of "picnic site 12" and one in the "vicinity of the drill field (the present clubhouse could be replaced…)"; and building an open picnic shelter and an amphitheater with a council ring.

Heine also recommended temporarily closing several overused picnic sites, installing a softball diamond, creating a self-guided nature trail, and establishing a trail "in the vicinity of those batteries that offer an interesting view." (He added: "Consider closing off the batteries from the public.") New interpretative needs included signage explaining the significance of the area and the batteries. It is not certain how many of these recommendations were carried out. In addition, Heine described the condition of Area A as "overgrown and pretty washed out" and stated that the center of the site, beyond the Battery Commander's Station, then included "both open fields and woodland". (Heine, memo, Dec. 1960, Fort Hunt Park folder, Land Use Coordination files, NCR)

After being closed for several months during construction, Fort Hunt Park reopened to the public about June 1964. (Letter, sender and recipient not identified on copy, March 9, 1964, Fort Hunt Park file, Land Use Coordination files, NCR) Work completed in 1963-1964 seems to have followed many of Heine's recommendations. A new 8000-square-foot picnic pavilion was built on the site of the old post hospital, the "Creamery" of World War II (removed

sometime between 1948 and 1963); two comfort stations were built; some of the existing gravel and dirt roads were repaved, while others were removed. There are a couple of interpretive waysides and three softball diamonds.

A couple of actions undertaken in the 1970s related to Fort Hunt Road. The Army had constructed the road in the early 20th century as a new entrance drive running east from Vernon View Drive past Standish Road to the fort. Officers may have been allowed to build homes along the road; other, private houses were built following transfer of the post to the NPS. Through a quitclaim deed dated June 11, 1973, the section of the road from Standish Road west to Vernon View Drive was given to the Commonwealth of Virginia, while the NPS retained the 1172-feet-long eastern section, extending from Standish Road to the park entrance. A "Deed of Exchange in Interests in Land" dated June 7, 1974, allowed homeowners along the NPS section of the road legal access to their driveways to reach Fort Hunt Road and public roads. This deed also gave the NPS gained a conservation easement over their properties (see below under "Agreements"). (Information provided by Sean McCabe, Park Ranger, GWMP, July 16 & August 17, 2001; see also Deed of Exchange, June 7, 1974, Land Records, Fairfax County, Book 4046, Page 479; Right-of-Way Permit #6:800:0209; and Letter from Robert Stanton, Regional Director, NCR, to Representative Stan Parris, 10 April 1990. Copies of the two latter documents can be found in Fort Hunt Park file, Land Use Coordination files, NCR.)

Fort Hunt was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in October 1979 and listed on March 26, 1980. The boundaries included only a small area of the fort property, 13 of the total 157.4 acres, drawn to encompass the historic batteries and stable building. Only a few structures were listed as significant contributing features: the four batteries, the Battery Commander's Station, the remaining single non-commissioned officer's quarters, and the c. 1900 Quartermaster Stable (the former maintenance building). The latter was then so deteriorated that it was demolished later that year and replaced by a new maintenance building placed on a two-acre site south of Battery Sater and just off the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. The concrete-block structure was heated and cooled by solar power. (HRS, 121)

Under a right-of-way permit dated August 26, 1987, Fairfax County was allowed to construct a new storm sewer underneath the NPS section of Fort Hunt Road. The permit required the county to rebuild the road to NPS design standards, and allowed the county to operate and maintain the new storm sewer, as well as the existing sanitary sewer and water main. (Conversations with Sean McCabe, Park Ranger, GWMP, July 16 & August 17, 2001; Right-of-Way Permit #6:800:0209; and Letter from Robert Stanton, Regional Director, NCR, to Representative Stan Parris, 10 April 1990, Fort Hunt Park file, Land Use Coordination Files, NCR.)

In February 1992, the restroom in picnic area F had deteriorated to such an extent that it was demolished. Park management believed that the structure had probably been built in the 1950s (though 1930s maps show a comfort station in this area). Another restroom, which stood near the maintenance building, was removed in the early 1990s.

Today, regular maintenance practices at Fort Hunt include mowing of open areas, regular assessment of the condition of trees and removal of those judged imminently hazardous, litter pickup, and basic custodial services. Many trees in picnic areas and along roads suffer from soil compaction. Seven or eight years ago, young replacement oak, cedar, and pine trees were planted in picnic area F. Wood chips have also been added in one area to reduce compaction. (See Analysis and Evaluation: Vegetation. Information supplied by Adam Badowski, GWMP, September 17, 2001)



*Picnic at Fort Hunt, 1955. (MRCE, picnic 3183-I)*



*Construction of picnic pavilion in Area A in 1964, view west towards former parade ground, military road, and barracks area. (MRCE, "Construction 1964, 8708-A)"*



*New loop road in 1964, view looking west. (MRCE, "Construction 1964, 8708-B)"*



*Army band playing at east end of old parade ground in front of picnic pavilion in Area A, during visit to Fort Hunt by Gen. Pershing in 1965; view looking west. (MRCE, "Army Band, 9203-E, 1965)"*

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The landscape of Fort Hunt Park today presents clear, though subtle, evidence of its many disparate historic uses. Knowledge of the park's history enables one to see the broad outlines of the site's past in the simple juxtaposition of open fields and woodlands, the spatial patterns traced by roads and treelines, and the relative positions of various structures. The site retains considerable historic integrity from the era it served as a Coastal Defense fortification, 1893-1924. The post's activities are clearly evident in vegetation patterns, structures, and topography, even though views which were fundamental to the military mission are now obscured, most wooden structures have been removed, and much of the formerly open site has grown up into woodland. The occupation of the CCC Camp, which was posted at the old fort for almost a decade, is not as readily visible; but the lake bed they excavated remains, along with trails and rustic grills. Further research into their projects at Fort Hunt might reveal evidence of vegetation management and other construction activities.

The military activities of the World War II era (1938-1946) left little obvious imprint on the land. This, however, is suggestive in itself, as the presence here of MIS-X and MIS-Y was meant to be secret. The site was deemed suitable for these clandestine purposes because of its proximity to Washington and the seclusion from surrounding neighborhoods afforded by a woodland border. A few sites within the park may contain archeological evidence of these uses.

### Landscape Characteristic:

#### Buildings And Structures

Contributing

The most prominent historic features at Fort Hunt are the four batteries (also called gun emplacements) and the Battery Commander Station. All were built at the turn of the 20th-century as a result of the Endicott Report on Coastal Defense Fortifications. Many other Coast Defense era buildings were erected at the fort to serve as housing, offices, and hospitals. The only remaining building of this type is the Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters, situated along the entrance road near Battery Sater. Most of these were frame structures set on brick piers, and thus created little disturbance to soil; footings, however, may remain. Most of the structures built for the CCC camp during the 1930s and for military purposes during the 1940s were temporary prefabricated wooden buildings which have left no visible remains. All four batteries are maintained as mothballed structures and remain in fair to good condition. (See the Historic Resource Study and the LCS for further details on contributing structures.)

Battery Mount Vernon lies along the western edge of the former Pelton tract. The concrete emplacement, begun in 1896 and completed in 1898, measures about 90 feet x 420 feet and has 3 levels. The first and second levels contain tile-lined magazines and loading rooms. The upper level supported 3 8-inch rifled guns mounted in disappearing carriages on emplacements set 135 feet apart. The concrete walls and apron on the battery's south elevation were covered by a

thick earthen embankment to protect the structure from enemy fire. Battery Mount Vernon is listed as a contributing feature in the National Register nomination for Fort Hunt Park.

Battery Porter and Battery Robinson, built between November 1898 and June 1901, are two nearly identical 60-foot-square concrete batteries with two levels, the upper level supporting the gun mounts and the lower levels containing a single magazine. The batteries were protected against enemy fire by earth embankments piled against the concrete aprons of their south elevations. The batteries both had a single 5-inch rapid firing gun placed on a balance pillar mount. They were intended to draw enemy ships into range of Battery Mount Vernon's guns, and to sweep the minefield in the river between forts Hunt and Washington. Battery Robinson is sited about 135 yards from the river, a short distance east of Battery Sater; Battery Porter is located 420 yards from the left flank of Battery Mount Vernon. These structures are listed as contributing features in the National Register nomination for Fort Hunt Park.

The fourth and last battery built at Fort Hunt was Battery Sater, located about 300 yards east of Battery Mount Vernon. The concrete battery, 110 feet by 60 feet, supported 3 3-inch 15-pound rapid-firing guns. It had two levels, with the lower containing magazines and loading rooms. Rangefinder stations were placed at either end. Construction began in June 1900 and the emplacements were completed by the following summer; however, the guns were not shipped until November 1903. This battery was built to augment the naval mine or torpedo field between Fort Hunt and Fort Washington against torpedo boats and other small craft; the larger guns at both forts were meant to fire at capital ships. The front was protected against enemy fire by an earthen embankment. This structure is listed as a contributing feature in the National Register nomination for Fort Hunt Park.

The Battery Commander's Station - also referred to as the Battery Commanders Observation Station or the Watch Commander Station - mounted a Type A rangefinder, provided fire control for the batteries, and served as a meteorological observation station. The 15-foot-square, 20-foot-high, concrete and steel-frame tower is located 263 feet northwest of Battery Mount Vernon. A cantilevered steel observation platform circles the tower at a height of 15 feet. The building has a single door on the east side, a narrow slit window facing the river to the south, and larger windows on the north and east sides. The station was built following the directives of a report of March 15, 1899, prepared by the Board of Artillery Officers to recommend locations for position finders to aid in the defense of Washington. The station was to be placed outside the range of enemy fire and partially screened by trees. It was to communicate with Fort Washington by means of cable lines laid under the river and with the batteries by buried telephone lines. It is assumed these suggestions were carried out; certainly the current placement of mature trees around the station effectively screens views of the building from the south. Now in poor condition and surrounded by a dilapidated snow fence, the structure is listed as a contributing feature in the National Register nomination for Fort Hunt Park.

The sole remaining Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters was built in 1905 following standard plan 87-e of the Office of the Quartermaster General (March 1901). It was the easternmost of

a row of three houses which stood facing a street. Each house had a small front lawn with a shade tree and simple foundation plantings. A sidewalk and a planting strip lay between yards and street. The remaining house is a one-and-a-half story, two-bay wood-frame structure, sheathed in weatherboards and standing on a brick foundation. It has a front gable roof covered with composition shingles, a corbeled brick chimney, a shed-roofed screened porch, and a small enclosed shed at the rear (from the 1950s). The vacant structure is mothballed because it contains unabated lead and asbestos. This structure is listed as a contributing feature in the National Register nomination for Fort Hunt Park.

The Fort Hunt Overpass was designed by noted landscape architect Gilmore Clarke as part of the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. It was built by the Bureau of Public Roads beginning in 1929 and transferred to the NPS in 1932. Clarke was a supervising landscape architect of the highway, and he created a series of eight bridges along its route which were meant to reflect, through their materials and design, the character of the pastoral landscape. Most are of reinforced concrete construction faced with lightly rusticated local stone, and have somewhat formal, though simple, compositions. The Fort Hunt Overpass is the single exception to this general rule. It is faced with the less formal material of red brick, laid in four-course common bound with a five-course brick arch ring. It is also the only overpass, and as such is not visible from the highway itself. The two-hinged spandrel-filled reinforced concrete structure is a single arch with curving wing walls and a coping of Indiana limestone. Expansion joints are located between the wing walls and the central arch abutments. The parapet is a steel-backed timber guard rail. The arch has a clear span of 26 feet and a clearance of 16.5 feet. The overall length is 75.7 feet. The structure, a property of the National Capital Region of the National Park Service, carries the parkway over the Fort Hunt underpass. (See HAER VA-42, c. 1993, and Timothy Davis, “Mount Vernon Memorial Highway and the Evolution of the American Parkway,” Ph.D. Dissertation, University of Texas at Austin, 1997)

Though it is not listed on the National Register nomination for Fort Hunt as a contributing feature, a building which likely possesses historic significance is a small rectangular brick structure, 12 feet 3 inches x 15 feet, standing next to the loop road between Areas A and B. Its gable roof is covered with slate shingles. It has a single door in the west elevation; the sole window opening is in the south side. The building is identified on a February 1945 map as “Building 105,” a brick storeroom; it may be the structure built by the CCC as an oil storage facility in c. 1935.

Several dozen wooden pilings in the Potomac River remain from the two historic wharves. Supplies for Fort Hunt were unloaded at the northern one after being shipped down the river from Washington. At the other, near Sheridan's Point, construction materials for the batteries were unloaded and transported by a narrow-gauge rail to the fort. It is not known who legally owns the pilings of the two wharves. The transfer of Fort Hunt to the National Park Service included “all appurtenances,” which could be interpreted to include the wharf pilings. The List of Classifield Structures (LCS) coordinator for the National Capital Region will be asking the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior for clarification on this issue before submitting a

Determination of Eligibility for the pilings to the Virginia SHPO. If they are determined eligible and are listed on the LCS, they should be considered contributing features of the CLI as well.

Non-Contributing

A large picnic pavilion constructed of brick and timber is located in Picnic Area A, near the park's entrance. This is the major modern structure at Fort Hunt Park today. Plans were developed in 1963 and the structure was completed by 1964 or 1965. Built with Mission 66 funds during a major rehabilitation of the park in the 1960s, the pavilion is a partially open structure, recalling CCC camp and park architecture in its use of stone foundation walls and chimneys, exposed timber trusses, and wood siding. It has a front gable on the east elevation and a wing projecting to the north. It includes nearly 8000 square feet of space, and houses an office, lobby, stage, restrooms, and large fireplaces, along with numerous picnic tables in its central open area. The pavilion was built on the site of the old post hospital, which became the secret "Creamery" used by MIS-X during World War II. (See History, and HRS, p. 120)

In area D stands a second, much smaller and simpler picnic shelter. This is a wood-truss gable roof supported on six steel posts, three on each of the long sides. The structure rests on a concrete slab and is located just south of Battery Mount Vernon. It shelters a number of picnic tables.

Also constructed in 1964 as part of the Mission 66-funded rehabilitation are two concrete-block comfort stations, one located next to the parking lot in Area B and the other next to the parking lot in Area E. Both are simple rectangular structures with low pitched roofs and clerestory windows. They contain restrooms for men and women and are located on sewer lines (rather than septic systems, which had been used by one or more previous comfort stations). The buildings are partially screened by landscape plantings of native evergreen and flowering trees, including American holly (Ilex opaca), flowering dogwood (Cornus florida), and redbud (Cercis canadensis). Picnic tables and other small-scale features are placed near both stations.

A maintenance facility, built in the early 1970s to serve the southern half of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, is located near the eastern boundary of Fort Hunt Park. The main building contains storage rooms and an office and is fronted by a paved area and parking lot; two trailers and gas pumps stand in front. The concrete-block building was designed to use solar energy. Its roof is composed of four raked sections, triangular in profile. A driveway off the park entrance road, just beyond Battery Sater, leads to the maintenance complex, which is screened from view within the park by dense landscaping.

A U.S. Park Police District Substation is located at the west end of Fort Hunt Park. A driveway off the main loop road leads to a stable, a trailer which contains the office, and horse paddocks. The stable is a two-story, three-bay structure, probably pre-fabricated. It is sheathed with manufactured siding, with a one-story extension at the left and a small cupola. The complex is largely screened from view by a dense landscaping of specimen trees and

shrubs, though one paddock lies along the road.

Conclusion

The historic structures at Fort Hunt Park retain integrity from the Coastal Defense Fortification era. The four original emplacements, all in fair to good condition, still exist in their original locations. The Battery Commander's Station is in poor condition but also still stands on its historic site. These were the five most important structures at Fort Hunt. The Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters also stands in its historic location and provides an example of the types of wooden structures which once housed the soldiers.

Integrity of structures from other historic periods is virtually non-existent. The small brick building in Area A, which may have been an oil storage house built c. 1935, is probably the sole building to remain from the CCC era. All traces of the World War II military occupation of the site have been removed.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Battery Commander's Station

Feature Identification Number: 105801

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 12123

LCS Structure Name: Observation Station-Fort Hunt

LCS Structure Number: FH-OS

Feature: Battery Mount Vernon

Feature Identification Number: 105802

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 12119

LCS Structure Name: Batteryu Mount Vernon-Fort Hunt

LCS Structure Number: FH-BMV

Feature: Battery Porter

Feature Identification Number: 105803

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 12120

LCS Structure Name: Battery Porter-Fort Hunt

LCS Structure Number: FH-BP

Feature: Battery Robinson

Feature Identification Number: 105804

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 12122

LCS Structure Name: Battery Robinson-Fort Hunt

LCS Structure Number: FH-BR

Feature: Battery Sater

Feature Identification Number: 105805

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 12121

LCS Structure Name: Battery Sater - Fort Hunt

LCS Structure Number: FH-BS

Feature: brick storage building

Feature Identification Number: 105806

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: comfort station in Area B

Feature Identification Number: 105807

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: comfort station in Area E

Feature Identification Number: 105808

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Fort Hunt Overpass

Feature Identification Number: 105809

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 17253

LCS Structure Name: Fort Hunt Bridge-G.Washington Memorial Parkway

LCS Structure Number: SP-5

Feature: maintenance facility

Feature Identification Number: 105810

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters

Feature Identification Number: 105811

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 17227

LCS Structure Name: Non-Commission Officers Quarters-Fort Hunt

LCS Structure Number: FH-NCOQ

Feature: picnic pavilion

Feature Identification Number: 105812

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: shelter in Area D

Feature Identification Number: 105813

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: U.S. Park Police buildings

Feature Identification Number: 105814

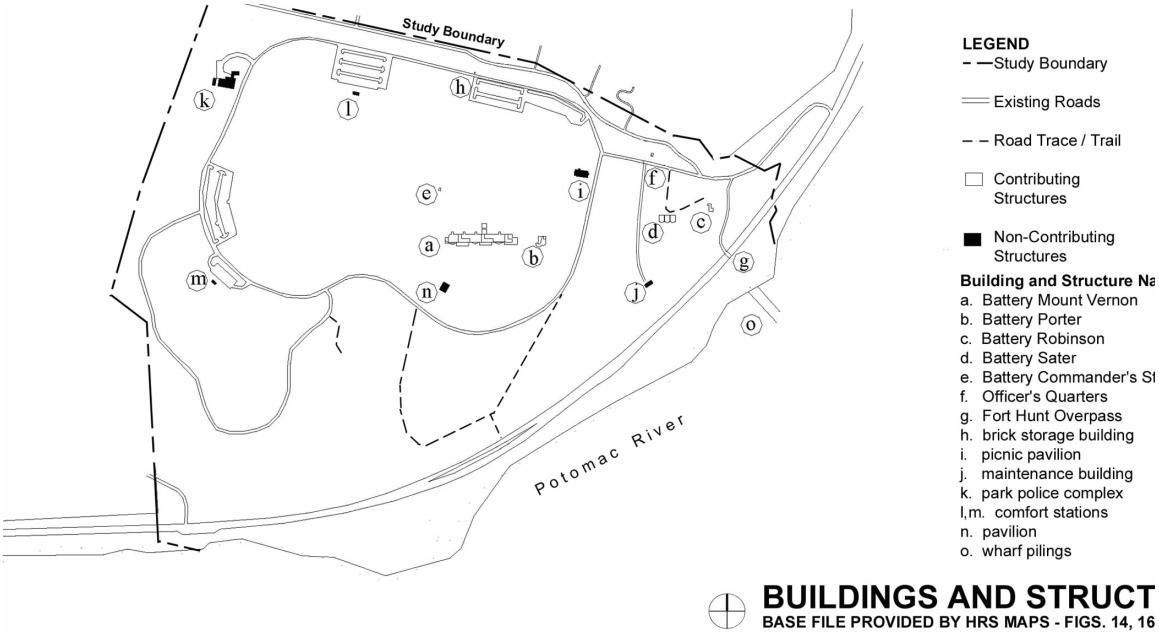
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: wharf pilings

Feature Identification Number: 105815

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**







*Fort Hunt Overpass, view from east, July 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'Fort Hunt overpass, view from east)'*



*Maintenance complex, view from west, July 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt ℍaintenance complex, general view)*



*Front and side elevation of Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters, view from south, April 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt ℴfficer's quarters, front and side elevations)*



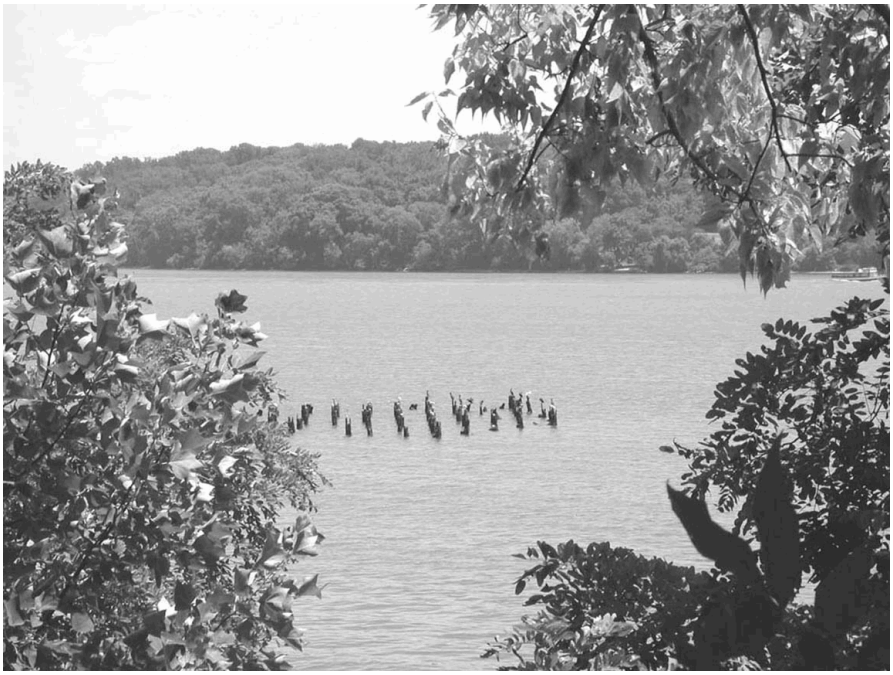
*Picnic pavilion in Area A, front elevation, seen across historic parade ground, April 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt picnic pavilion, looking E)*



*Shelter in Area D, view looking northeast, April 2001; behind is heavily overgrown south front of Battery Mount Vernon. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt shelter, Area D, looking NE)*



*Stable, U.S. Park Police District Substation, view looking east, July 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt [park police stable]'*



*View of pilings, northernmost of two historic wharves in Potomac River, looking northeast from Mount Vernon Trail, July 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'wharf, pilings]'*



*View of Battery Commander's Station from north, April 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt Batt Com Sta, looking S)*



*View west down trench of Battery Mount Vernon, April 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt Battery MV, looking W down trench)*



*Battery Porter seen from north, June 2001; note gun platform in center and overgrown vegetation. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt "Battery Porter, looking S)"*



*View of gun platform of Battery Robinson from southeast, July 2001. (NCR CLP digital photofile "Battery Robinson, view of platform)"*



*Battery Sater seen from the north, April 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt "Battery Sater, looking SE)"*



*Brick storage structure north of Loop Road, probably built by CCC c. 1935, view from south, April 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt "close up, brick storage building)"*



*Comfort station in Area E, seen from northwest, April 2001; note flowering trees surrounding view of structure. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt "comfort station, Area E, flowering trees)"*

### Circulation

Fort Hunt park is reached by an exit road running west off Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. This road forks before reaching the park. The left, or east, branch – the Fort Hunt underpass – leads under the bridge known as the Fort Hunt Overpass before circling back to join the northbound lanes of the highway; the right, or west, branch leads into the park.

When the National Park Service improved the park's facilities in the 1960s under Mission 66, certain existing roads were retained and reused, while others were obliterated. Today, the main road is a paved loop road, built c. 1963-1964, which circles the park's perimeter, just inside the belt of woodland. It runs close to the park boundaries on most sides except due south and southwest. Five parking lots of various sizes are placed along this road, in Areas A (which has two) B, C, and E; additionally, there are several very small lots, or places to pull off, along the road. A second, shorter paved loop road circles around Picnic Area E in the southwest corner of the park. This road is now closed.

A few service roads allow passage across the fields in the central part of the site or into the woodland. Some were built on historic road beds remaining from the fort era. Other historic roads were removed. A memo, apparently dating from the early 1960s, recommended covering the beds of removed roads with 4" of topsoil before seeding and sodding, and installing vertical 6-inch curbs along park roads to prevent people from parking next to picnic tables. (See M.R. Cutler, Chief of Program Coordination, "Memo, re: prioritization of work, Fort Hunt picnic access and parking," nd, in Land Use Coordination Files, NCR). The most prominent service road is a dirt and gravel route which curves across the middle of the central open area, from north to south. It is not clear whether this was placed on an existing historic roadbed. Another service road extends west from the picnic pavilion through picnic area A, following a historic road bed. Other historic road beds are evident along the edges of Area A; some are lined with

allees of trees, while others are present as slightly raised grass lanes. Along the north boundary of the park, immediately outside a chain-link fence, is Fort Hunt Road, built by the Army in the early 20th century. The eastern section of this road still lies within the park's boundaries, as do the driveway entrances for the several houses along this stretch of the road. A short access road leads to the 1970s maintenance building at the east end of the park and another, probably from the 1960s, leads to the U.S. Park Police District Substation at the west.

Road traces lead into the dense woodlands of Picnic Area F. One dirt-and-gravel road leads to the site of an old comfort station and beyond to a wet area of natural seeps. A trail leading east from this road trace follows the historic route of the CCC-era loop trail which led along the north and south shores of the CCC-created lake; the trail also was probably built by the CCC crew stationed at Fort Hunt. North of the lake bed are the remnants of a gravel and dirt loop road (also probably built during the CCC era), which formerly led to an entrance to the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway (the entrance no longer exists). Another trail leads through the woodland between Areas E and F, running above the narrow ravine at the south end of the park. A short social trail leads from the loop road through Area E to the adjoining neighborhood, emerging from the woods at the end of Bushrod Road.

The circulation pattern retains a high degree of integrity from the Coastal Defense Fortification era. The first section of the loop road, the service roads and tree allees around the historic parade ground in Area A, and Fort Hunt Road all follow historic alignments.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: access road to northbound Mount Vernon Memorial Highway

Feature Identification Number: 105816

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: CCC trails in areas E and F

Feature Identification Number: 105817

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: loop road through Area E

Feature Identification Number: 105818

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: north-south service road through center of property

Feature Identification Number: 105819

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: park loop road

Feature Identification Number: 91848

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: remnant loop road in Area F

Feature Identification Number: 95706

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: routes of historic roads in Area A

Feature Identification Number: 95707

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: service road through Area C-3

Feature Identification Number: 95708

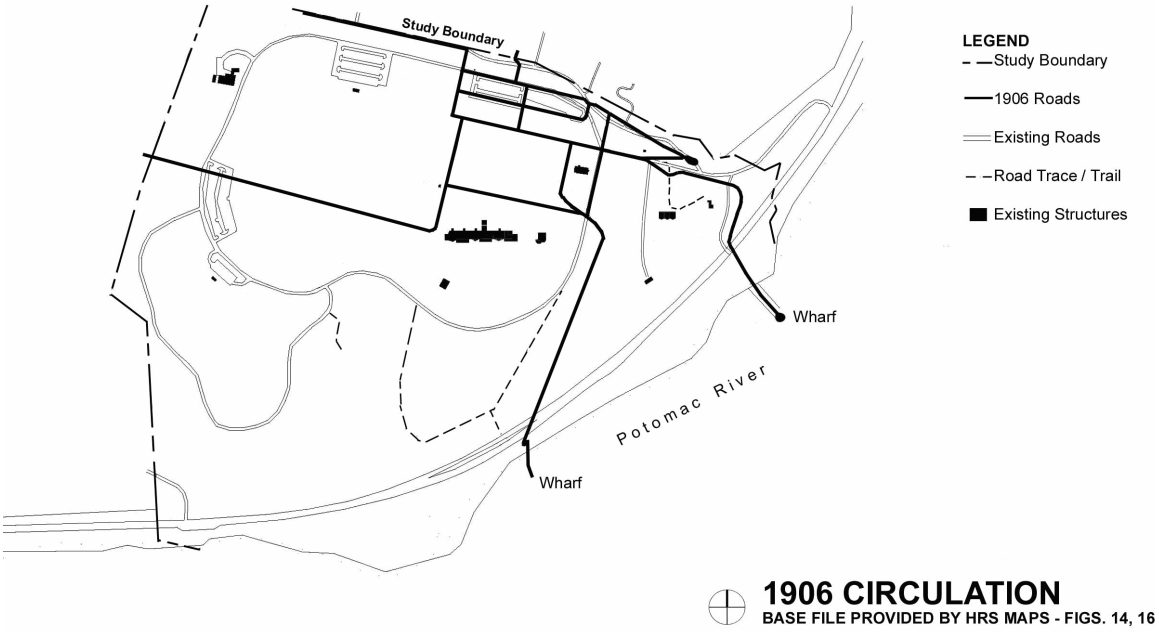
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: spur road to site of demolished comfort station in Area F

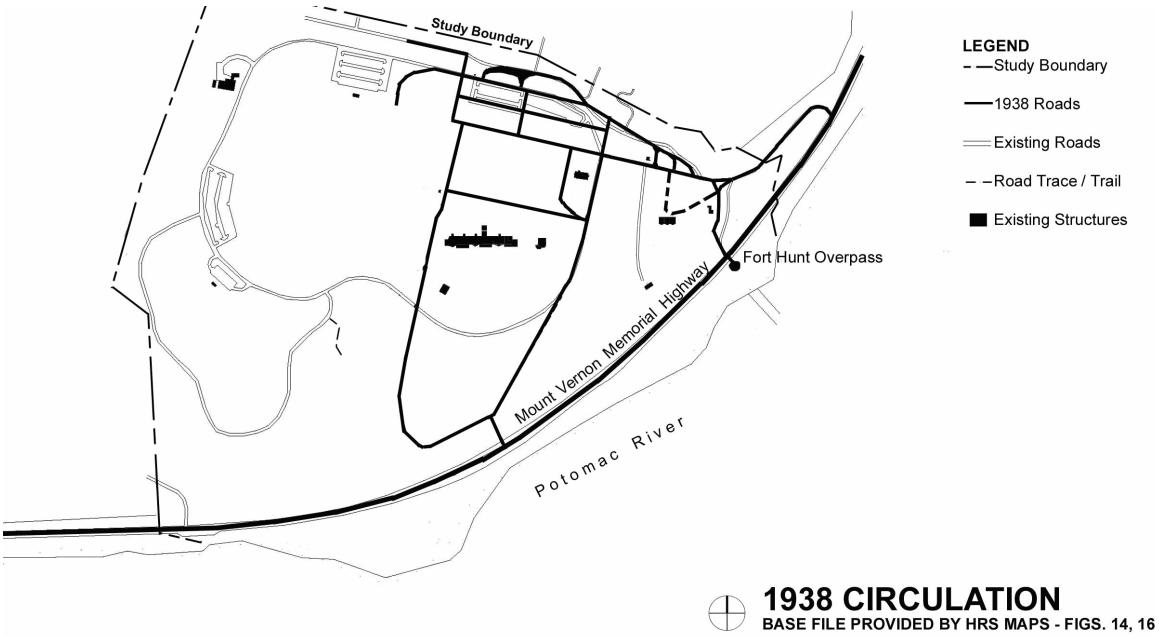
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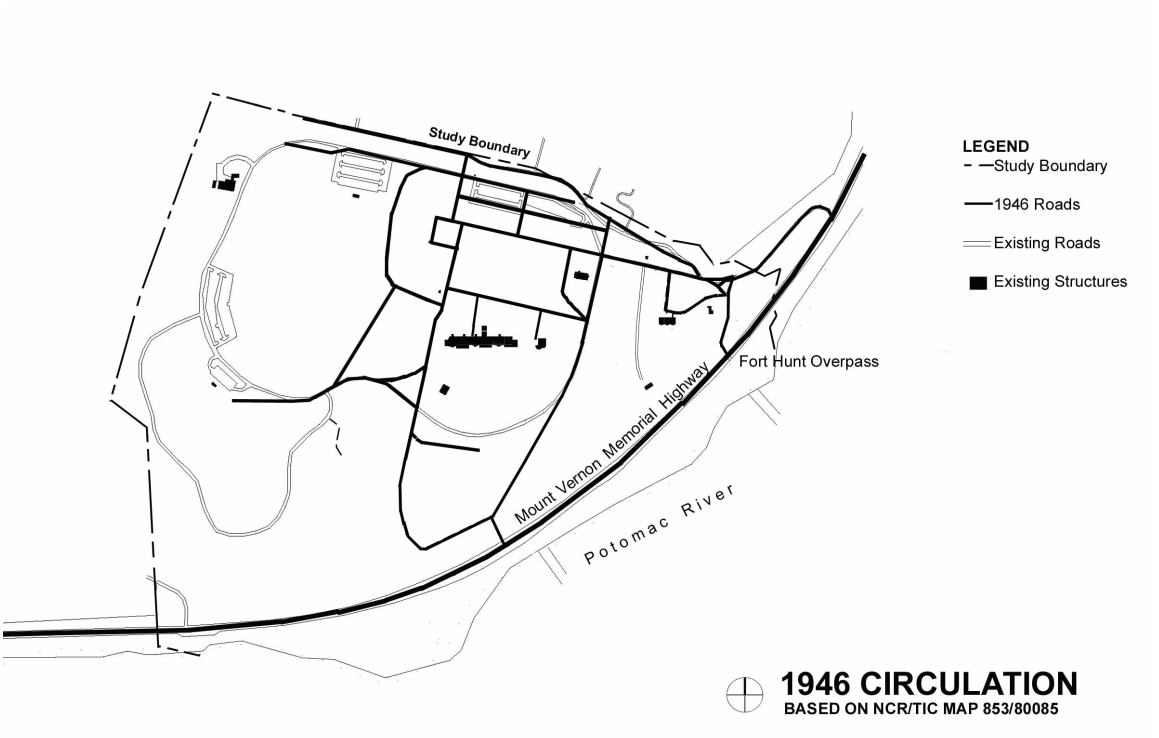
**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



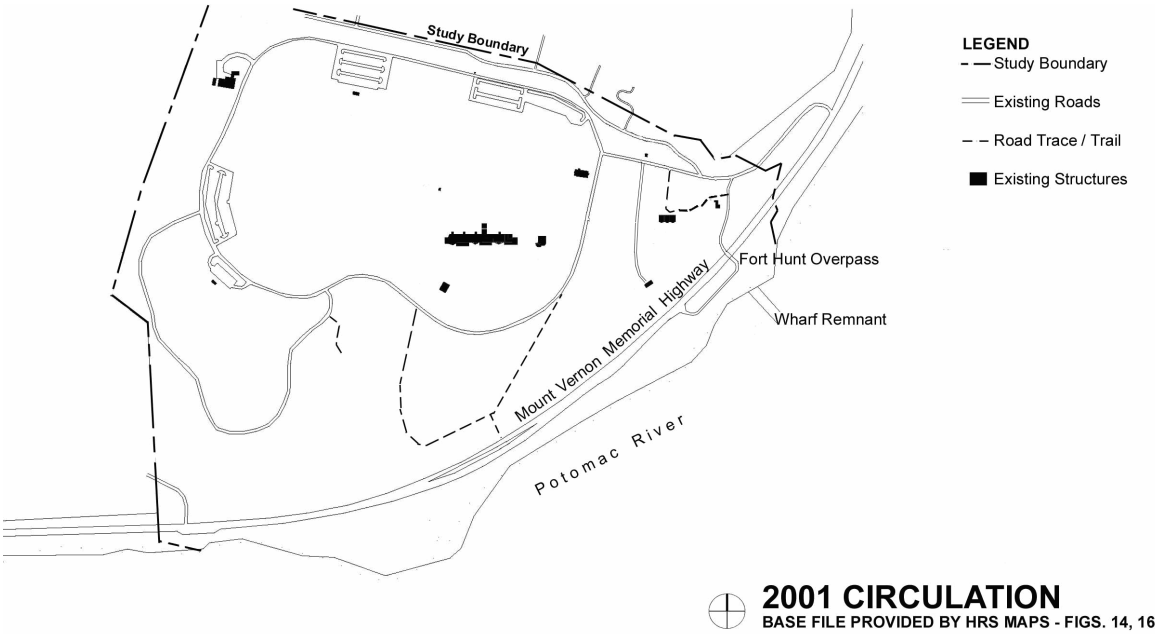

*Road system at Fort Hunt in 1906, during tenure as Army base (CLP digital photofile "Graphics/Fort Hunt/Fort Hunt new circulation/circ1906)"*




*Circulation system at Fort Hunt in 1938, during tenure of Civilian Conservation Corps NP-6. (CLP digital file 'Graphics/Fort Hunt/Fort Hunt new circulation/circ1938.jpg)'*




*Circulation at Fort Hunt in 1946, road system developed during World War II. (CLP digital file 'Graphics/Fort Hunt/Fort Hunt new circulation/circ1946.jpg)'*




*Current circulation at Fort Hunt Park. (CLP digital file 'Graphics/Fort Hunt/Fort Hunt new circulation/circ2001.jpg')*



*Entrance road to Fort Hunt Park, view from east, April 2001; drive to maintenance complex is at left. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'loop road, beginning, looking W')*



*Service road across center of property, between areas A-D and B-C, view looking north from loop road, April 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'service road between Areas B&D, 2)'*



*Service road along route of historic road, northern edge of parade ground, now Picnic Area A, looking west, June 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'service road through Area A, looking W)'*



*Old spur road leading to comfort station (demolished) in Area F, looking west, July 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'old road in Area F)'*

**Land Use**

Fort Hunt park is divided into several Picnic Areas, labeled A-F; there are three sections within Area C, C1, C2, and C3. Historically, activities at Fort Hunt were concentrated around the old parade ground which now forms the central field of Area A. Today, Fort Hunt Park is dedicated to recreational use. Most visitors come from the local community, but the park is sometimes used for picnics or games by larger groups from the Washington area or out of town, such as civic groups, private businesses, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and 4-H clubs. Primary uses include picnicking, softball, and volleyball. Horseshoe pitches and a children's playground are available in Area A. Visitors can follow roads, road traces, and hiking trails through the woodlands along the south and east sides of the park. A weekly summer concert series has long been popular. Concerts are staged on a moveable wooden platform placed just north of Battery Mount Vernon. Many people walk their dogs at the park and allow them to run off-leash, though this is illegal.

Visitors are allowed to explore the historic gun emplacements, which have been preserved and are interpreted by historic waysides. Formerly horseback riding was allowed, but today only park police ride in the park (their station at the west end of the park includes stables and paddock).

The use of Fort Hunt Park for picnicking and other types of family recreation maintains a historic land use. The site became a park to provide a recreational amenity along Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. This use has continued, interrupted only from 1938 to 1946 by the military activities associated with World War II.

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Volleyball court in Area A, looking north, June 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt "volleyball game in Area A)"*



*Playground in Area A, with picnic pavilion behind, looking northeast, June 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt playground, Area A)"*

### Natural Systems And Features

The park possesses what is essentially a single large open field in its center, surrounded by a band of successional woodlands of varying width and composition (no careful vegetation survey has ever been carried out). In the largest woodland area, along the slope at the south edge of the site, field surveys suggested that mature tulip poplar trees predominate to the south, while farther east are large numbers of mature black oaks. Historically, the fort site extended to the

Potomac River, where two wharves were once located (pilings remain); this land is now within the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway (MVMH) corridor.

A line of mature trees running between Areas B and C1 follows a linear depression which appears to be an old stream bed. These trees, of similar age and regularly spaced, may have been planted. Along the south side of the park, in Picnic Area F, two springs rise from the slope. A 1906 map indicates that below these springs there was formerly a swamp occupying a slight ravine, extending inland from the river. In the 1930s, the CCC crew stationed at Fort Hunt excavated a long, linear pond, referred to in contemporary documents as a "lake," in this ravine. Water flowed from the springs through short channels down to the lake bed, and at the far end the water drained out into the Potomac River, passing through a culvert underneath the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. This area near the parkway is still swampy. Just south of the old lake bed, near the edge of MVMH, is a wet area where two or more natural seeps emerge.

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Line of red maple trees, possibly along old streambed, between Areas B and C-1, looking west, April 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'line of trees betw. B and C)'*

**Small Scale Features**

Fort Hunt Park contains a variety of small-scale features, including signs, picnic tables, water fountains. Few, however, have any historic value.

Contributing

Probably in the late 19th century, the Army placed granite boundary markers shaped like small obelisks at certain points – intersections – along the property's boundary. A thorough search was not carried out, but apparently not all of these remain today. One granite marker can be

found in the front yard of a house on Fort Hunt Road, on the NPS boundary (which extends several feet into the yards of these lots). The obelisk is almost entirely buried, except for its crown. Nearby stands a wooden obelisk of apparently the same size, probably another type of boundary marker.

In Picnic Area F are five fireplaces or grills made out of rough-hewn boulders. These fireplaces are examples of CCC "parkitecture," or rustic park architecture, and are among the few visible remnants of the CCC activity at Fort Hunt, which was concentrated in this area around the lake excavated by a CCC crew in the mid-1930s. The fireplaces are somewhat dilapidated. They are placed near each other, north of the lake bed and south of the historic CCC road trace. Next to one of the fireplaces stands another type of grill, a stone structure about two feet square and 18 inches high, made of rock-faced random ashlar. On top of this base is a metal post and pan. Because it has a much more formal character than the CCC fireplaces, presumably this grill is an NPS feature from the 1960s.

Non-Contributing

Underneath the central part of the site runs an elaborate utilities system dating from the late 19th/early 20th centuries. There are numerous heavy iron grates and manhole covers leading to this system.

Most of the park's drinking fountains are octagonal concrete water fountains of a type used in the National Capital parks from as early as the 1920s. However, it is not known when these fountains were installed; it may have been as late as the 1960s. The fountains have battered sides, molded in four successively narrower tiers. Some include a concrete step for children. They can be found near the parking lot in Area A, near the comfort stations in Areas B, C, and E, in Area F. Six were identified in all.

Picnic tables are grouped or scattered in irregular configurations throughout the park, with the majority found in Picnic Areas A, B, and C-3. Most are made of curved steel pipe supporting seats and tabletops made of wood planks. There are also picnic tables made of recycled plastic molded to resemble grained wood boards; these are located among the Virginia pines in Area C-3.

Trash cans can be found near picnic tables or placed along field edges. Most, if not all, of the trash cans are of a standard square-topped enclosed design made of molded brown plastic. Galvanized metal ash cans painted red can be found in picnic areas.

The park provides some recreational equipment. There are three softball diamonds with backstops located in Areas A, D, and between Areas B and C-1. Near the playground in Area A are a couple of volleyball courts. Playground equipment in Area A includes swings and a slide. Near Battery Mount Vernon in Area A are three horseshoe pitches. For the summer concert series, a temporary wooden platform is erected in front of the north side of Battery

Mount Vernon (see illustration in Land Use).

The park has a variety of signs: standard NPS signs, with white lettering on brown backgrounds; various regulatory signs; and a series of waysides providing information on the batteries and other historic features. None possess historic significance.

A few different types of fences are used in the park. A chain-link fence runs along the south side of Fort Hunt Road, just inside the park's northern boundary, and continues along the west boundary. A somewhat dilapidated snow fence surrounds the Battery Commander's Station to help keep visitors away from this structure. Set into the ground just north of the station are several heavy iron or steel posts, some of which support heavy chains. It is not known how old these features are. Modern board fences enclose several horse paddocks at the park police station at the west end of the site.

A modern steel water fountain is located in the center of the small paved rest area just outside the park entrance. Next to it is a pipe or pump which feeds water into a dog bowl, fixed in place within the plaza. Two benches made of wood timbers with curved arms stand to either side of the area.

Other recent, non-contributing features include: an NPS metal barrier gate across the entrance to the loop road in Area E; stone culvert headwalls where the old stream bed separating Areas B and C1 passes under the loop road, at its far west end; a plank footbridge in Area F, crossing one of the spring channels which fed the lake; and, also in Area F, several tree stumps arranged in a rough circle, where nature talks were once given.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: brown plastic trash cans

Feature Identification Number: 95711

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: chain-link fence along park boundary at north and west

Feature Identification Number: 95712

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: 6 drinking fountains

Feature Identification Number: 95710

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: fire hydrant

Feature Identification Number: 95713

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: fire hydrants

Feature Identification Number: 95714

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: footbridge in Area F

Feature Identification Number: 95715

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: granite boundary marker

Feature Identification Number: 95716

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: horseshoe pitches

Feature Identification Number: 95717

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: interpretive waysides

Feature Identification Number: 95718

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: metal ash cans

Feature Identification Number: 95719

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: metal barrier gate

Feature Identification Number: 95720

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: metal posts and chain near Battery Commander's Station

Feature Identification Number: 95721

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: NPS regulatory signs

Feature Identification Number: 95722

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: pay phone

Feature Identification Number: 95723

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: playground equipment

Feature Identification Number: 95724

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: portable toilets

Feature Identification Number: 95725

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: recycled-plastic picnic tables

Feature Identification Number: 95726

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: recycling bins

Feature Identification Number: 95727

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: snow fence around Battery Commander's Station

Feature Identification Number: 95728

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: steel and wood picnic tables

Feature Identification Number: 95729

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: stone culvert headwalls

Feature Identification Number: 95730

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: stone fireplaces in Area F

Feature Identification Number: 95731

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: stump seats

Feature Identification Number: 95732

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: three softball diamonds with backstops

Feature Identification Number: 95733

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: volleyball nets and courts

Feature Identification Number: 95734

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: wooden boundary marker

Feature Identification Number: 95735

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



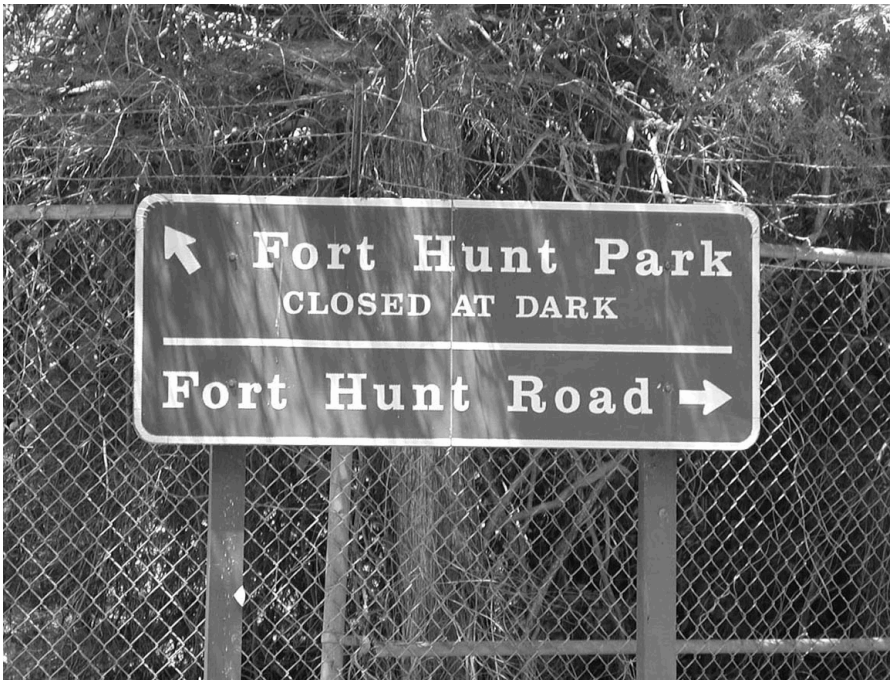
*Concrete water fountain, probably dating from 1920s, near parking lot in Area A, view from south, June 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt concrete water fountain, Area A)*



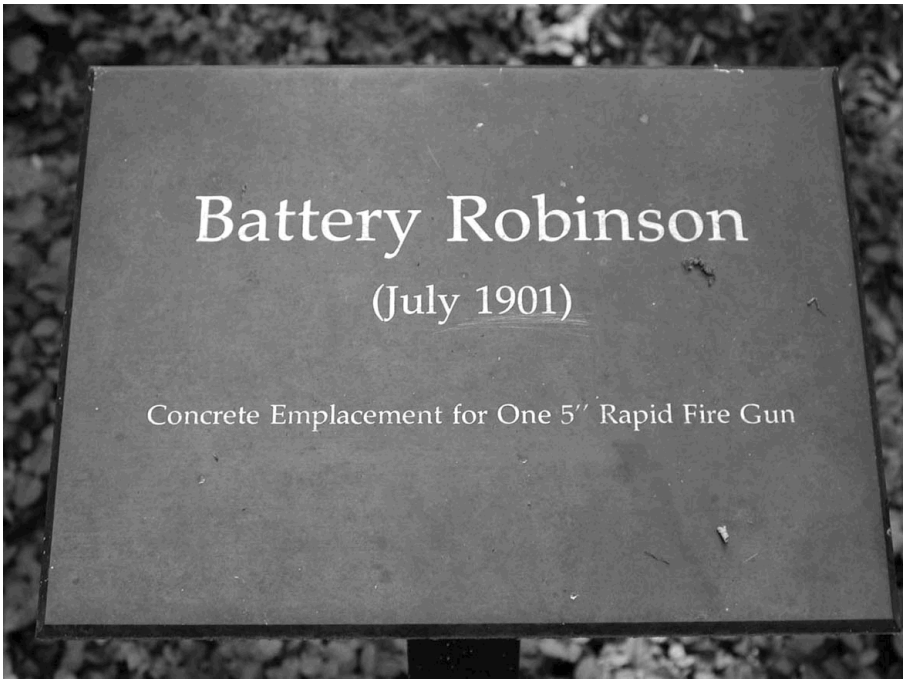
*Wooden boundary marker standing near granite boundary marker north of Fort Hunt Road, Sept. 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt, Wooden boundary marker, view 4, BW)*



*Picnic tables in Area C-2 or C-3, July 2001. The woodland is mostly Virginia pine. Note plastic tables in middle ground. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt, picnic tables in Area C3)*




*Entrance sign to park. Chain-link fence extends along north side of park, inside the boundary, and along west side. View from east, July 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'ign, entrance)'*




*Interpretive wayside at Battery Robinson, July 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'ign, Batt Robinson)'*




*NPS regulatory signs and fire hydrant near entrance drive to Park Police complex, view from north, July 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'signs and hydrant)'*



*Historic grill in Area F remaining from CCC era, Sept. 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'stone grill in Area F, view 1, BW)'*

### Archeological Sites

While there are several areas of potential archeological interest within Fort Hunt Park, there are no contributing archeological sites. Archeological surveys carried out at Fort Hunt in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s have been limited in scope and failed to yield any important artifacts or information. Since the late 1970s, the NPS has conducted three limited archeological

investigations at Fort Hunt Park. In 1978, NPS archeologists performed tests on the proposed site of the new park maintenance building and along the route of its planned access road. They found no evidence of prehistoric or historic occupation. (HRS, 121) In 1985, a second archeological survey was carried out prior to construction of a new parking lot. Twenty-two shovel test pits were excavated between the entrance road, the maintenance building, and the park loop road. These yielded a small number of prehistoric artifacts, "primarily quartz and quartzite lithic debitage," which probably had been carried in with gravel applied to the entrance road. (HRS, 121)

In October 1991 and February 1992, Matthew Virta, an archeologist with the Denver Service Center–Eastern Applied Archaeology Center (now Cultural Resource Manager for GWMP), carried out test excavations in several areas along the path of a proposed sewer line connection through Picnic Area A. The only test pits to yield significant remains were near the picnic pavilion, the area once occupied by the original post hospital, the secret "Creamery" of World War II. Two features of interest were identified: a cement drainage trough and a burned fence post. Another test pit revealed a concrete "collar," which may have been the opening to a "utilities vault or a manhole entrance." (HRS, 122) Virta recommended that the sewer line be relocated west of the picnic area.

Virta investigated two architectural features which had been discovered during sewer construction. The first, located north of the gravel service road, was a section of "subsurface brick paving capped with asphalt, and formed into a U-shaped channel." (HRS, 122) This may have been a remnant of a gutter along an original fort-era road. The second feature, southeast of the picnic pavilion, may have been a remnant of a second brick drainage channel. (HRS, 122) Neither feature was damaged by the sewer construction.

Research suggests, however, that a few areas possess the potential for archeological significance. These include the tenant farm indicated on George Washington's 1766 map of River Farm, reproduced by Matthew Laird in his Historic Resource Study of Fort Hunt (see Fig. 2, p. 8; map taken from Lawrence Martin, ed., The George Washington Atlas, U.S. George Washington Bicentennial Commission, Washington: 1932). At the time Washington acquired the Piscataway Neck tract, this small farmstead was occupied by Jane Hester. By 1766, the buildings had probably been vacated and Washington was cultivating the fields. Eventually the site became part of the Linton property. Figure 3 in the Historic Resource Study shows the presumed location of this tenant farm within Fort Hunt Park.

Other areas of potential interest include the sites of the two World War II-era POW camps known as Enclosure A and Enclosure B. Enclosure A stood between Picnic Areas C3 and E; its site straddles the park's main loop road. The loop road also passes through the former location of Enclosure B, in Area D. Both enclosures included substantial masonry structures, and were the scene of intense activity during the war years.

As extensive research has not been carried out, the archeological integrity of Fort Hunt Park is

not known. A Section 106 Phase I archeological survey, recently undertaken just outside Fort Hunt Park along the Mount Vernon Trail at Bridge 12, located a prehistoric archeological site (Virta 2001).

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature Identification Number: 105800

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

**Spatial Organization**

The park has two main spatial divisions, an enclosing belt of woods running inside the park's boundary and the large, grassed, central recreational area within the main loop road. Picnic Areas E and F lie within the woods on the south side of the park. A band of mature specimen trees and patches of woodland grows along a historic north-south pasture line, separating Picnic Areas A and D on the east from Picnic Areas B and C1-C3 on the west. At the mid-point of this line of trees stands the Battery Commander's Station. These trees block most east-west views, though there are some openings.

The east and west ends of this open central recreational area are punctuated by other small patches of woodland and lines of trees which mark boundaries of grassy picnic areas and playing fields. All of the existing historic fort structures, along with the park's entrance, the picnic pavilion, and the maintenance building, are located in the eastern half of the park; the western half has, in addition to its playing fields and picnic facilities, a U.S. Park Police District Sub-station and two public comfort stations. In Area A, allees of trees run along historic road beds, further demarcating this section.

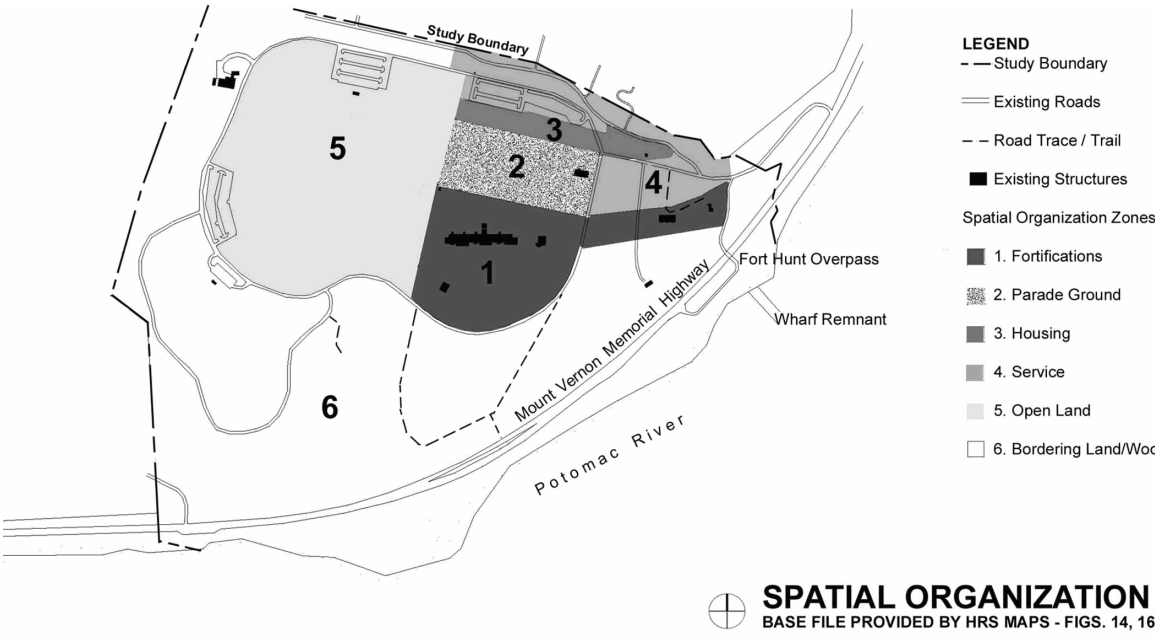
The park's spatial organization possesses a high degree of integrity from the Coastal Defense era; the fort's layout is clearly discernable on the landscape. The most important buildings from this time period – the four batteries and the commander's station – still exist in their original locations, as does one of three officer's quarters, situated along a section of the park's entrance road corresponding to a historic fort road (this may have been the road historically known as Nathan Hale Drive). The first section of the loop road, running through Area A, also corresponds to its historic alignment. Just inside the northern boundary of the park is Fort Hunt Road, built by the Army in the early 20th century and still following its original alignment.

The parade ground is still clearly visible as the main playing field in Area A. The historic roads surrounding it are likewise visible, as a service road to the north and road traces to the west and south. All the former roads are lined by allees of trees, as they were historically. Some of the trees themselves may date from the fort era, particularly those lining the north side of the parade ground, and those around another, smaller field between the parade ground and the parking lot; here can be found a preponderance of old sugar, silver, and red maples defining historic road edges.

The integrity of the park's other historic eras is poor. The only apparent indication of the 19th-agricultural spatial organization is the wide band of trees corresponding generally to the

19th-century pasture line which separated the Pelton and Grau tracts. The Pelton and Grau lands were purchased by the federal government through condemnation in 1893 and 1903, respectively (the Pelton farm was condemned in 1892 and transferred in 1893; the Grau farm was condemned in 1903, but it is not known whether it was transferred to the government the same year). There are few remnants of 1930s CCC use; the only remnants identified are the excavated lake bed within the woods in Area F, and the small brick structure in Area B, next to the loop road, apparently built by the CCC c. 1935 as an oil storage house. Other CCC buildings were converted for use by the military during World War II and removed in 1946. There are no known visible remnants of this second era of military use.

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**





*View southwest across Picnic Area A (old parade ground), June 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'Area A, looking sw across service road, also old tree)'*

### Topography

The topography of Fort Hunt Park retains a high degree of historic integrity from the Coastal Defense fortification period. Much of the Fort Hunt Park site is level, though along the south and east sides the ground slopes fairly steeply. These slopes are covered by woodland. A ravine runs along the south boundary. Another ravine, extending due east from Sheridan's Point into Area F of the park, was historically the location of a swamp which was drained and excavated by the CCC crew as a recreational lake bed. The lake bed is still clearly visible in the woods.

The four batteries were placed a short distance back of the brow of the hill to take advantage of the views to the river. The ground is banked up around the east, south, and west sides of all four batteries. The largest emplacement, Battery Mount Vernon, is set within a deep trench; a service road leads into this trench from the east. The battery is set along the west side of this depression, and rises perhaps 20 feet above the bottom of the trench.

North of the batteries, the land is essentially flat. In some areas, however, the ground is irregular, with sudden depressions and, occasionally, long furrows, as if it had at one time been heavily worked over and has since settled unevenly. The bed of the loop road is raised several inches above ground level.

At its eastern border, the site of the historic fort – now included within Mount Vernon Memorial Highway – slopes down a steep bank to the Potomac River. Fill supports the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway where it crosses the narrow eastern neck of the historic fort site on

the Fort Hunt Overpass.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature Identification Number: 95736

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

**Vegetation**

The contemporary landscape of Fort Hunt Park is relatively simple. It may appear to have happened by accretion or accident rather than design. Close study, however, reveals certain underlying design patterns and differences in the treatment of various areas. The park landscape is essentially comprised of a large central open field surrounded by a border of successional woodland. The open area is divided by trees, which grow in lines, as individual specimens (whether intentionally planted or simply retained), or patches of woodland. In Area A, the site of the historic fort, trees line the historic parade ground and the edges of old road beds. The fields are covered with grass.

In 1906, Fort Hunt was a mostly bare site (see map #117.6-1E, 853/41006 on CD, copy in library, Virginia Division building, GWMP – Turkey Run). A swamp extended inland from the shore of the Potomac River, at Sheridan's Point, and a single small wooded area occupied the northeast corner of the site. There were a few orchards; the largest was in the shape of a long, narrow rectangle and stood in the center of the site, extending west from the Battery Commander's Station and north of an abandoned east-west road. A line of trees ran along the pasture line separating the former Pelton tract to the east from the Grau tract to the west, passing just west of the commander's station and through the large orchard. The fort primarily occupied the northeast corner of the site (today Picnic Area A). Trees lined the boundaries of the parade ground and fort roads in the area presently occupied by Picnic Area A. Woodland covered the southwest section of the property, while the east half was open.

In the 1920s, at the end of the fort era, the land remained open. The fort presented a largely domestic landscape: rows of frame buildings, small neat lawns, hedges, and shade trees (see NARA RG 11, Still Pictures Division, Records of the Chief Signal Officer). Young deciduous trees stood in front of buildings, including the row of three Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters. Buildings had almost no foundation plantings; a few small flower beds were laid out next to walkways. The plateau north of the four batteries seems to have been kept clear of trees, while small trees and shrubs were beginning to establish themselves on the slopes and the lower river terrace. The Parade Ground (now the central part of Picnic Area A) was a grassy meadow bordered by young deciduous trees. Nearly a dozen mature Eastern red cedars (Juniperus virginiana) grew along the central part of the old pasture line between the Pelton and Grau tracts, near the Battery Commander's Station. Mature trees seem to have been growing along the periphery of the property.

The Mount Vernon Memorial Highway was built between 1929-1932, and passed through the eastern and southeastern edges of Fort Hunt Park. Planting of the new highway (actually a parkway) used primarily native trees and shrubs, many of which had been retained in place

during construction, or moved from the road corridor and subsequently replanted. Fort Hunt was included within the administrative boundary of the parkway as a recreational area.

In the 1930s, following construction of the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, the former fort was occupied by the Civilian Conservation Corps. By then the site seems to have become more overgrown (see the group of photos filed under NARA RG 35, Still Pictures Division, Records of the CCC). The fields had become meadows covered with tall grasses. In some areas a deciduous woodland was becoming established, though with dense undergrowth and invasive vines. The swamp area, where the lake bed was excavated, lay in a broad, shallow depression between low hills. It was covered by a young, open, successional woodland.

Civilian Conservation Corps-era planting plans suggest the entire park was to have been treated as a picturesque landscape: an overall cover of woodland was opened here and there into fields or small glades, with flowing, irregular woodland edges. This treatment was to occur along the southern slope as well as on the central plain. It seems possible that the CCC-era landscaping plan was at least partially implemented, but that institutional memory of its design was lost and appropriate management practices abandoned between the 1930s and 1950s. If this was the case, information was likely lost because of the transfer of the park to the military during World War II. Post-war development of Fort Hunt Park in the 1950s and 1960s was probably implemented with little or no reference to the earlier work. Further research would be necessary to determine the sequential changes made to the landscape during these years and the reasons behind them.

Today, the park retains a few remnants of most of its historic eras, though most date from the Coastal Defense Fortification era of 1893-1924. The park is divided into eight picnic areas. The vegetation of each area will be discussed in the order in which it occurs along the main loop road.

Along the entrance road stands the sole remaining Non-Commissioned Officers Quarters, formerly one of three houses. A large, venerable red maple stands in front of this house and a second one stands to its left. Both are remnants of the historic, early-20th-century domestic landscape. Field surveys did not detect any other historic plant materials remaining.

Area A is nearest the park entrance. The main playing field in Area A is the historic parade ground, established during the Coastal Defense fortification era. A large picnic pavilion from c. 1963 stands at its east end. Flanking the parade ground is a pair of long, narrow fields, one each to the north and south. All fields are lined by allees, or double rows of trees; some allees frame service roads, others the grassed beds of historic roads. Particularly around the northern field and along the north edge of the parade ground field, old maples – probably dating to the fort era – can be found. Species include silver maple (Acer saccharinum), sugar maple (Acer saccharum), and red maple (Acer rubrum). The south end is bordered with an allee composed of evenly spaced basswoods or lindens (Tilia species) and sycamores (Platanus species, possibly Platanus x acerifolia).

Along the historic pasture line which passes through the center of the site from north to south, separating picnic areas A and D from B and C, grow dense, irregular groupings of native trees. Some of these could be described as specimen trees, in that they are broad, mature trees, with spreading branches on all sides. Others grow in small areas of successional woodland, which have probably resulted from mowing practices. Large trees around the Battery Commander's Station may have been planted to screen this structure. Species found on the pasture line area include black gum or tupelo (Nyssa sylvatica), basswood (Tilia sp.), and Eastern red cedars; there are some exceptionally large specimens of the latter.

Area B lies directly west of Area A on the other side of the old pasture line. Area B is primarily an open field, with a large picnic area, including a comfort station, along the north end. The 1963-64 landscape planting around the comfort station includes American holly (Ilex opaca), redbud (Cercis canadensis), and dogwood (Cornus florida). These small native flowering trees serve to beautify the rest stops and partially screen the utilitarian structures from view. The edges and medians of the large parking lot in Area B are planted with willow oaks (Quercus phellos).

Adjacent to the north side of the loop road in Area B – the site of the former CCC camp – stands the pair of tall, multi-trunked pin oaks (Quercus palustris) planted in 1939 to commemorate the visit of the King and Queen of England by forester Richard St. Barbe Baker. In 1976, Baker himself referred to these trees as "Canadian white oaks," though they have recently been correctly identified as pin oaks by James L. Sherald, Chief of Natural Resources and Science, Center for Urban Ecology, NCR-NPS. (Richard St. Barbe Baker, "Fort Hunt, Virginia: New Idea for Bicentennial," c. 1976, Fort Hunt file, Land Use Coordination files, NRC; James L. Sherald, Ph.D., to author, e-mail, September 27, 2001)

Also in the western half of the park are Areas C1-C3. Area C1 is separated from Area B by a treeline of red maples, all of similar age and size, growing along an old streambed. Separating Areas C1 and C2 is a treeline defining an old roadbed. Part of Area C1 is being used as a nursery for young American holly trees. Area C3, adjoining the main loop road, is a successional woodland composed primarily of Virginia pines (Pinus virginiana) with smaller numbers of with sweetgum (Liquidamber styraciflua).

Area E lies adjacent to Area C3 in the southwest corner of the park. Much of this picnic area is contained within the circle defined by a secondary loop road, now closed to vehicles. The western half of Area E is covered by a young, dense successional woodland. The atmosphere here is noticeably damp. The secondary loop road passes close to the park's boundary, and houses are visible through the trees. The eastern half of Area E, on the other hand, has open lawns surrounded by woodland, forming picturesque glades punctuated by specimen trees. The primary picnic section of Area E lies close to the main loop road and includes a comfort station, with a screen planting from about 1963 composed of native flowering trees. Many mature Northern red oaks (Quercus rubra) grow in this area, though they are suffering from soil

compaction caused by heavy visitor use. Some have died as a result and been replaced in kind, though there has been difficulty establishing these trees because of continuing compaction of the poor soils. Eastern red cedars have also been planted. There are many large turkey oaks (Quercus laevis).

Area D is just south of Area A in the eastern half of the park. This picnic area has few vegetative features. It is essentially a small field with an open-sided, roofed picnic shelter at one end and a softball diamond at the other. Woods lie along the north and east ends of Area D, camouflaging the south elevation of Battery Mount Vernon to its north.

East of Area E and south of Area D lies Area F, a dense, mature deciduous woodland in the southeast corner of the site, adjoining the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Predominant species include tulip poplars (Liriodendron tulipifera) and Northern red oaks. In this area can be found the CCC-era lake bed, now overgrown with successional vegetation.

Dense successional woodland, overgrown with invasive vines, has grown up around the east, west, and particularly the south sides of the four historic gun emplacements. These woods block most direct views of the emplacements.

The woodland surrounding the site varies in width and density. A thin fringe of trees along Fort Hunt Road, inside the park's northern boundary and just south of Fort Hunt Road, screens the park from the older houses along this road (the park possesses conservation easements over these lots). To the east and south the woodland is denser, screening the park from more recent residential development on these sides. Area E – within the secondary loop road and along the park's border – has a successional woodland composed of young, tall, mainly deciduous trees.

Screen plantings of native trees were placed near the maintenance building and the park police substation in the 1960s/1970s. In 1977, it was proposed to use evergreen trees to screen the new maintenance building from the parkway (MVMH); it is not known whether this additional planting was implemented. (See Manus J. Fish, Jr., Regional Director, NCR, to Charles Conrad, Executive Director, NCPC, Letter, 17 August 1977, Land Use Coordination Files, NCR).

In the Ranger files of the George Washington Memorial Parkway are handwritten vegetation surveys listing species of trees, shrubs, vines, wildflowers, and birds found at Fort Hunt Park. There is no record of who conducted the surveys nor when or for what purpose, and there is no indication of where within the park these particular species were found. The utility of these lists, therefore, is limited, though judging from the condition of the paper, it seems safe to assume they were composed at some time since the 1960s. The vegetation of Fort Hunt has likely not changed radically since then. (The vegetation lists are included here in Supplemental Information.)

Conclusion

Available information indicates that the park retains fair historic integrity from the fort era. Integrity from other historic eras is poor; as far as can be ascertained, there is little remaining vegetation from the early recreational, CCC, or World War II eras, except for the pair of oaks planted near the end of CCC occupation. (Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, strictly speaking, lies outside of Fort Hunt Park.)

Little information has been found regarding intent, but certain broad deductions can be made about how the park's landscape has been allowed to develop. The center plateau area has always been devoted to active recreational pursuits, such as softball and volleyball games, as well as picnicking. Its distinct spatial divisions, created by the treelines separating mown playing fields, result primarily from two factors: maintaining the historic placement of trees along historic road beds or the edges of fields and parade grounds, or allowing successional vegetation to develop along what might be natural streambeds or old road traces. In the first instance, many of the trees in historic lines appear to be the original fort-era trees.

Invasive vegetation poses a problem in the woodlands and fringes of woodland growing along the park's boundaries. The southern area faces a particularly severe infestation of vines, where many mature forest trees, such as tulip poplars, are being suffocated. English ivy and other groundcovers are also encroaching into the park's woodlands from adjoining neighborhoods along the southeast boundary, and probably along other sections of the boundary as well. Volunteer and invasive vegetation also surrounds the historic batteries and blocks historic views from the batteries. Such vegetation causes deterioration to the structures while, at the same time, offering some protection from weathering and excessive visitor use.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Allees and other old trees within Area A

Feature Identification Number: 95737

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: dense vegetation surrounding gun emplacements

Feature Identification Number: 95738

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: open, grassed fields

Feature Identification Number: 95739

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: pair of "Canadian" oaks (possibly pin oaks) planted in 1939 to commemorate royal visit

Feature Identification Number: 95740

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: screen plantings near two comfort stations

Feature Identification Number: 95741

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: screen plantings near U.S. Park Police District Substation and maintenance facility

Feature Identification Number: 95742

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: trees along historic pasture line

Feature Identification Number: 95743

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: trees along old streambed and roadbeds

Feature Identification Number: 95744

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: trees lining loop road

Feature Identification Number: 95745

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: woodland border around entire perimeter

Feature Identification Number: 95746

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: woodland to south in Areas E and F

Feature Identification Number: 95747

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Allee of trees at west end of parade ground, along historic pasture line, June 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt, "allee, old pasture line, between Areas A & B, looking north)"*



*View looking north of historic parade ground beyond allee of linden and sycamore trees which lines its southern edge, April 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt "horseshoe pitches and allee along A, looking N)"*



*Pair of pin oaks (Quercus palustris) planted in 1939 to commemorate the visit of the King and Queen of England to CCC Camp NP-6; Area B, looking north, July 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt "Commemorative Canadian oaks)"*



*Line of red maples growing along streambed, dividing Area B from Area C-1, looking north, April 2001. These trees were probably planted along a field edge or other boundary. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt "line of trees along old streambed)"*



*Secondary loop road and successional woodland in west end of Area E, view looking north, July 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'loop road in Area E)'*



*Picturesque open glade in west side of Area E, looking north, July 2001; note large sassafras tree (Sassafras albidum) in left center. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'glade, east end of Area E)'*



*Young eastern red cedars and Northern red oaks have been planted in the main picnic area of Area E, where mature oaks have been lost; looking south, September 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'young cedars, Area F)*



*Dense vegetation obscures the south elevation of Battery Mount Vernon, which borders Area D; view north, April 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'heavily overgrown front of BMV from parking lot, Area D)'*



*Mature tulip poplars in Areas E & F, at south end of park, are smothered by invasive vines; looking south, July 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt 'invasive vines, Area F)'*

### Views And Vistas

Views played a critical role in the history of Fort Hunt Park. The site was selected for the fort because it occupied a location on a terrace above the Potomac River at a point where the river narrowed and changed its course, curving eastward to run due north to Washington. Fort Hunt was built as a companion to the older Fort Washington on the Maryland shore directly opposite. The four gun emplacements were arranged along the brow of the river terrace to take advantage of the sightlines offered by the sloping terrain. Soldiers manning the guns had clear panoramas south down the river, as well as east to Fort Washington. The relatively high block of the Battery Commander's Station allowed men stationed in this structure to view the entire prospect and direct the military action. That Fort Hunt was never used for its intended military purpose is an accident of the rapidly changing nature of warfare in the 19th century, not of any flaws in the design or siting of the structures or the post.

All of these views are now obscured by the dense woodland which grows along the southern and eastern boundaries of the park. Two of the emplacements – Batteries Robinson and Sater – are situated at the edge of the woodland, which merges into the wooded western edge of the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. While Batteries Porter and Mount Vernon are located in open fields between Picnic Areas A and D, dense vegetation, including mature trees, has been allowed to grow along their east, south, and west sides, blocking views. The historic view from the Battery Commander's Station may still be visible, because of the structure's height (20 feet). The station stands within the band of woods and specimen trees which grows along the old pasture line running north-south through the park. These trees, as well as the denser woodland to the south, may block clear views from this structure (the structure's poor condition precluded an investigation).

Certain important internal views and vistas exist within the park. One reason the site was

selected for use as a POW camp during World War II was its relative seclusion within the belt of dense successional woodland which had become established since the fort was founded in the 1890s. This visual buffer against surrounding neighborhoods is an important historical feature of the park, and still serves a vital role today by screening the park and its recreational activities from the residential development on the north, east, and south sides.

Some landscapes within the park appear to have been altered or designed by the National Park Service with views in mind. No documentation has been found regarding views; rather, the author has compared the results of field studies with historic maps in making the following observations. There are clear views and vistas across playing fields, though the belt of trees and woodlands separating Areas A and D from Areas B and C1-3 blocks east-west views. The allees of trees lining Area A, the former parade ground of Fort Hunt, not only recall the alignment of historic roads, but provide dramatic vistas along their length. From some locations, visitors can gain clear, dramatic vistas of the Battery Commander's Station, notably from Picnic Areas C1-C3. Vegetation surrounding the station appears to have been located or managed so as to allow the structure to stand as a focal point. The LCS entry for the station also notes that it "would be partially screened by trees" to protect it from enemy fire; these trees would likely have been placed south of the station, where there are today, in fact, numerous mature trees and a small area of woodland. In addition, there are a few secluded glades where views are limited, and mature specimen trees appear to have been placed to create intimate pastoral landscapes. The land immediately west of Area A (between Areas A and B) is a flat lawn ringed by mature spreading deciduous trees. The east side of the land bordered by the minor loop road through Area E is similar -- a rolling lawn dotted with specimen trees, including a huge sassafras (Sassafras albidum) and a number of young Eastern red cedars. Mature trees surround both these areas, blocking clear views to the rest of the park on three sides, and leaving a fourth side open to the nearby road. The history and design intent of these picturesque glades is not known; therefore the views within these glades cannot, at this time, be considered contributing.

Historic integrity for the external views and vistas, looking east and south from the gun emplacements and Battery Commander's Station, is low. Historic integrity for internal views and vistas, directed within the park to the dense border of trees which surrounds it, is high.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Historic views south down Potomac River and east to Fort Washington from Battery Mount Vernon, Battery Robinson, Battery Sater, Battery Porter, and Battery Commander's Station (these views are now mostly blocked by vegetation)

Feature Identification Number: 91849

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: views across fields in central area

Feature Identification Number: 95780

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: views down allees of trees lining historic road alignments

Feature Identification Number: 95781

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: views of neighborhoods through surrounding woods

Feature Identification Number: 95782

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: views of surrounding woods from central area

Feature Identification Number: 95783

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: vistas to four batteries and to Battery Commander's Station

Feature Identification Number: 95784

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Blocked view south from Battery Sater; April 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt "Battery Sater, blocked view looking S)"*



*View east down Picnic Area A, possibly part of historic parade ground, June 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt "Area A, north side, looking W)"*



*Secluded glade within belt of trees between Areas A and B, view looking south, April 2001. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt "view S along old pasture line, treeline betw A&B)"*



*View east to Fort Washington from Mount Vernon Trail along Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, July 2001. Batteries and Battery Commander's Station once allowed clear views of the Maryland fort. (NCR CLP Digital Photofile Fort Hunt \"view of Fort Washington)"*

# Condition

## Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Fair

**Assessment Date:** 06/13/2003

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment. The Date Recorded information refers to the date when condition was first assessed by the author of the report.

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 09/15/2009

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

The condition of the cultural landscape ws reassessed and has been changed to Good.

Site visits and meetings with park staff in 2009 informed the condition reassessment for this Cultural Landscape Inventory. Accordingly, updates were made to the Condition chapter of this document. The Assessment Date refers to the date that the park superintendent concurred with the Condition Assessment.

### Impacts

**Type of Impact:** Adjacent Lands

**External or Internal:** External

**Impact Description:** Residential development surrounds Fort Hunt Park on the north, west, and south sides. Neighbors' activities frequently impinge on the park. To the north, yards of lots along Fort Hunt Drive actually extend over the park boundary. Here and in other areas, people "borrow" the park's lands for their yards, and plant and build on park property.

**Type of Impact:** Soil Compaction

**External or Internal:** Both Internal and External

**Impact Description:** This situation described in 2003 has been somewhat by the opening of 3 new picnic shelters all of which are permit only sites. Also no dead or dying trees are currently found on the site and tree replacement is an ongoing maintenance procedure (2009).

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|---|---|
| | Soil compaction is a particular problem in the picnic area within Area E. Heavy trampling of the soils in this area have helped cause the deterioration and even death of some mature Northern red oaks. Young Northern red oaks, Eastern red cedars, and pines were planted 7-8 years ago to replace some of the trees which have been lost, but continuing heavy visitor use has made it difficult to establish these (2003) |
| **Type of Impact:** | Structural Deterioration |
| **External or Internal:** | Both Internal and External |
| **Impact Description:** | Both of the structures listed below have had stabilization measures taken in the last few years and while work still needs to be done they are in better condition than at the time of the 2003 condition assessment (2009).<br><br>Some of the structures, notably the Battery Commander's Station and the Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters, have not been adequately maintained and suffer from exposure, toxic materials (asbestos and lead paint) in their interiors, and so on (2003) |
| **Type of Impact:** | Vandalism/Theft/Arson |
| **External or Internal:** | External |
| **Impact Description:** | The structures, particularly the four gun emplacements, periodically suffer from vandalism. Sometimes they are spray-painted with graffiti, which park staff then removes. Also, people sometimes break into the emplacement vaults. This is minor impact. |
| **Type of Impact:** | Vegetation/Invasive Plants |
| **External or Internal:** | Internal |
| **Impact Description:** | Much of the intrusive vegetation has been removed and what vegetation remains does not impact the stuctures but does have a negative impact on the historic views (2009).<br><br>Invasive vines and successional vegetation, including large trees, surround the historic batteries on three sides, blocking historic views which were integral to the selection of the site for the fort and the placement of the batteries (2003). |
| **Type of Impact:** | Visitation |

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** Heavy visitation in picnic areas damages soil and turf, and creates wear on recreational equipment and other facilities. These issues are addressed by ongoing maintenance procedures.

## Treatment

### Treatment

**Approved Treatment:** Undetermined

**Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:**

No approved cultural landscape treatment document currently exists.

**Approved Treatment Completed:** No

### Approved Treatment Costs

**Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:**

There are currently no approved treatment documents for historic structures or landscape features.

## Bibliography and Supplemental Information

## Bibliography


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| **Citation Author:** | Inashima, Paul Y. |
| **Citation Title:** | Archaeological Survey Report, An Archeological Investigation of Selected Construction Locales Along the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Package GWMP 325-42, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. |
| **Year of Publication:** | 1985 |
| **Source Name:** | CRBIB |
| **Citation Number:** | 013496 |

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|---|---|
| **Citation Author:** | Nelson, Robert T |
| **Citation Title:** | Fort Hunt, Virginia, An Historical Sketch |
| **Year of Publication:** | 1962 |
| **Source Name:** | CRBIB |
| **Citation Number:** | 000895 |
| **Citation Type:** | Narrative |
| **Citation Location:** | George Washington Memorial Parkway-Turkey Run, Cultural Resource Manager files |

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| **Citation Author:** | =EDAW, Inc. |
| **Citation Title:** | HRS, Mount Vernon Memorial Highway |
| **Year of Publication:** | 1984 |
| **Source Name:** | CRBIB |
| **Citation Number:** | 450435 |
| **Citation Type:** | Both Graphic And Narrative |
| **Citation Location:** | National Capital Region, NPS, Cultural Landscape Office Library |

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| **Citation Author:** | Davis, Timothy M., et.al. |
| **Citation Title:** | Mount Vernon Memorial Highway |
| **Year of Publication:** | 1990 |
| **Source Name:** | HAER |
| **Citation Type:** | Both Graphic And Narrative |
| **Citation Location:** | Library of Congress |

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|---|---|
| **Citation Author:** | Moore, John Hammond |
| **Citation Title:** | The Faustball Tunnel: German POWs in America and Their Great Escape |
| **Year of Publication:** | 1978 |
| **Source Name:** | Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal |
| **Citation Type:** | Both Graphic And Narrative |
| **Citation Location:** | excerpt in GWMP-Turkey Run, Cultural Resource Manager files |

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| **Citation Author:** | Weber, Sandra S. |
| **Citation Title:** | Fort Hunt-The Forgotten Story |
| **Year of Publication:** | 1983 |
| **Source Name:** | Other |
| **Citation Type:** | Both Graphic And Narrative |
| **Citation Location:** | GWMP-Turkey Run, Cultural Resource Manager files |

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|---|---|
| **Citation Author:** | Matthew R. Virta |
| **Citation Title:** | Mount Vernon Trail Bridge 12, Phase I Archeological Investigations, Section 106 Survey, GWMP, Fairfax County, Virginia, NPS-NCR |
| **Year of Publication:** | 2001 |
| **Source Name:** | Other |
| **Citation Type:** | Both Graphic And Narrative |
| **Citation Location:** | GWMP files |

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|---|---|
| **Citation Author:** | Matthew R. Virta |
| **Citation Title:** | Testing at Fort Hunt (memo) |
| **Year of Publication:** | 1992 |
| **Source Name:** | Other |
| **Citation Type:** | Narrative |
| **Citation Location:** | GWMP files |

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| **Citation Author:** | Moore, John Hammond |
| **Citation Title:** | The Fort Hunt Saga: Guns, Bonus Marchers, U-Boats, and Picnics |
| **Year of Publication:** | 1980 |
| **Source Name:** | Other |
| **Citation Type:** | Both Graphic And Narrative |
| **Citation Location:** | GWMP-Turkey Run, Cultural Resource Manager files |

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| **Citation Author:** | Davis, Timothy M. |
| **Citation Title:** | Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, Washington DC: The Evolution of a Contested Urban Landscape |
| **Year of Publication:** | 1999 |
| **Source Name:** | Other |
| **Citation Type:** | Both Graphic And Narrative |
| **Citation Location:** | National Capital Region, NPS, Cultural Landscape Office Library |

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|---|---|
| **Citation Author:** | Timothy M. Davis |
| **Citation Title:** | Mount Vernon Memorial Highway and the Evolution of the American Parkway |
| **Year of Publication:** | 1997 |
| **Source Name:** | Other |
| **Citation Type:** | Both Graphic And Narrative |
| **Citation Location:** | National Capital Region, NPS, Cultural Landscape Office Library |

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| **Citation Author:** | Ringle, Ken |
| **Citation Title:** | War & Ambivalence |
| **Year of Publication:** | 2001 |
| **Source Name:** | Other |
| **Citation Type:** | Both Graphic And Narrative |
| **Citation Location:** | National Capital Region, NPS, Cultural Landscape Office Library |

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| **Citation Author:** | Redding, Whitney |
| **Citation Title:** | POW's Secret Friend |
| **Year of Publication:** | 1993 |
| **Source Name:** | Other |
| **Citation Type:** | Both Graphic And Narrative |
| **Citation Location:** | GWMP-Turkey Run, Cultural Resource Manager files |

## Supplemental Information

**Title:** National Capital Region Cultural Landscape Program (NCR CLP) Digital Photofiles

**Description:** NCR CLP maintains digital files of photos taken at Fort Hunt during site visits in April, June, July, August, and September 2001.

**Title:** Plant Surveys, Fort Hunt Park

**Description:** The following lists of the trees, shrubs, vines, and flowers found at Fort Hunt Park are taken from handwritten notes in the Ranger files of the GWMP Virginia District Building at Turkey Run. The notes were contained in folders labeled "Trees," "Shrubs," etc. None of the lists are dated or have names of surveyors. Judging just from the condition of the paper, it would seem that they date from the 1960s, if not later.

Trees
Virginia pine (Pinus virginiana)
Southern white cedar (Chamaecyparis thyoides)
Eastern red cedar (Juniperus virginiana)
largetooth aspen (Populus grandidentata)
hickory (Carya sp.)
white oak (Quercus alba)
southern red oak (Quercus falcata)
scarlet oak (Quercus coccinea)
pin oak (Quercus palustris)
willow oak (Quercus phellos)
tulip tree (Liriodendron tulipifera)
sassafras (Sassafras varifolium kumtze)
sweet gum (Liquidamber styraciflua)
black cherry (prunus serotina)
shadblow – serviceberry (Amelanchier canadensis)
black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia)
silk tree Albizzia (Albizia julibrissin)
smooth sumac (Rhus galabra)
American holly (Ilex opaca)
red maple (Acer rubrum)
box elder (Acer negundo)
black gum (Nyssa sylvatica)
flowering dogwood (Cornus florida)
persimmon (Diospyros virginiana)

Shrubs
arrowwood (Viburnum dentatum)
elderberry (Sambucus canadensis)

red osier dogwood (Cornus sericea Michx.)
highbush blueberry (Vaccinium corymbosum)
blackberry (Rubus spp.)

Vines
trumpet creeper (Campsis radicans)
Japanese honeysuckle (Lonicera japonica)
poison ivy (Rhus radicans)
Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia)
common greenbriar (Smilax rotundifolia)

Flowers
galingale (Cyperus ovulapis)
lady's thumb (Polygonum persicaria)
lamb's quarters (Chenopodium album)
lizard's tail (x Gastrolea beguinii)
duck potato (Sagittaria latifolia)
arrow arum (Peltandra virginica)
Deptford pink (Dianthus armeria)
thimbleweed (Anemone virginiana)
red clover (Trifolium pratense)
yellow clover (Trifolium agrarium)
white melilot (Melilotus alba)
tick trefoil (Desmodium canadense)
partridge pea (Cassia fasciculata)
violet bushclover (Lespedeza violacea)
purple milkwort (Polygala sp.)
common St. John's wort (Hypercium perforatum L.)
pale St. John's wort (Hypercium ellipticum)
Indian hemp (Apocynum cannabum)
milk vine (Vincetoxicum shortii)
heal-all (Prunella vulgaris)
cancer weed (Salvia lyrata)
wood mint (Blephilia hirsuta)
jimson weed (Datura stramonium)
horse nettle (Solanum carolinense)
thoroughwort (Eupatorium hyssopifolium)
cudweed (Gnaphalium obtusifolium)
Roman wormwood (Corydalis sempervirens)
ragweed (Ambrosia sp.)
sneezeweed (Helenium flexuosum)
ox-eye daisy (Chrysanthemum lecanthemum)
wild carrot (Daucus carota var. Carota)

spotted touch-me-not (Impatiens pallida)
common pokeberry (Phytolacca americana)
American germander (Teucrium canadense)