
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2010



Fort Stevens
Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North

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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:

Fort Stevens, Reservation 358, is a 4.37 acre park located in northwest Washington, DC approximately six miles north of the United States Capitol and approximately two miles south of Silver Spring, Maryland. Fort Stevens is a component landscape of Rock Creek Park. Fort Stevens is bordered on the north by Rittenhouse Street, on the south by Quackenbos Street, on the west by Thirteenth Street, and Piney Branch Road on the east side.

Fort Stevens is listed on the National Register as part of the 1974 Civil War Fort Sites nomination and the 1977 Defenses of Washington revision of the 1974 nomination. The National Register lists Fort Stevens' period of significance as 1861-1865. The fort is listed on the National Register for its military significance. This CLI argues that Fort Stevens is eligible under National Register Criteria A through D. This CLI recommends expanding the period of significance to include the years 1866 and 1900 to 1938. Expanding the period of significance will recognize the Fort Stevens contribution to Civil War battlefield preservation and memorialization efforts that took place during the early part of the twentieth century, the fort's place in the development of parks and recreation in Washington, and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) partial reconstruction of the fort from 1936 to 1938.

Fort Stevens was one of the sixty-eight forts built as a defensive ring around Washington at the start of the Civil War. Known initially as Fort Massachusetts, construction started in September 1861. Fort Stevens guarded the Seventh Street Turnpike, present day Georgia Avenue, which was one of the major routes into the capital from the north. On July 9, 1864, Confederate General Jubal Early led his troops towards Washington following the Battle of Monocacy near Frederick, Maryland. On July 11th and 12th, fighting broke out between Union and Confederate troops at Fort Stevens. During the Battle of Fort Stevens, President Lincoln, First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln and members of Lincoln's cabinet visited the fort and observed the fighting. On July 12th, Lincoln stood on the northern parapet to watch the battle. Confederate bullets struck the fort and injured a surgeon standing near the president. While observing the fighting, President Lincoln became the second sitting president to come under enemy fire. The Union successfully fought off the Confederates and drove them towards Maryland. The Battle of Fort Stevens was the only battle to take place within Washington during the Civil War. The fort remained in use until 1866, when the Army relinquished control of it along with many other Washington area Civil War defenses.

For many years following the war, the remains of Fort Stevens was neglected. At the turn of the twentieth century, several houses were built on a portion of the site. In 1900, veterans and area residents formed the Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park Association to advocate for the preservation of the fort and the creation of a park on the site. Their efforts coincided with the work of other veterans and concerned citizens around the country working towards the preservation and commemoration of Civil War battlefields and related sites. In the 1890s, Congress established the first battlefield parks administered by the War Department. This spawned proposals for the preservation of battlefields and the creation of military parks around the country. Between 1901 and 1904, members of Congress introduced thirty-four bills calling for the creation of battlefield parks, including Fort Stevens. Between 1902 and 1928, multiple bills were submitted calling for the preservation of Fort Stevens and sections of the battlefield. This was due largely at the urging of the Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park Association and other advocates.

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In 1911, members of the Military Park Association and community members erected a monument to the Battle of Fort Stevens and President Lincoln. They selected a boulder found on the grounds of nearby Walter Reed Hospital, where fighting took place during the battle. The boulder marked the spot on the parapet where Lincoln observed the battle. In 1920, members of the VI Corps added a bronze bas-relief plaque depicting Lincoln under fire.

Though bills to preserve Fort Stevens failed, ideas continued to circulate as to how to reuse it and the other Civil War forts. In 1901, the forts were included in the Senate Park Commission's study of Washington. The commission, commonly known as the McMillan Commission, was established to develop a plan for the improvement of parks in the capital. The commission recommended acquiring Civil War fort properties for the creation of future parks and a Fort Drive linking them together. Though city officials had discussed the Fort Drive idea in the 1890s, the first formal outline of the Fort Drive came with the publication of the commission's report.

The acquisition of land at Fort Stevens, despite the nearly thirty year fight for preservation and inclusion in the Fort Drive plan, did not begin until 1925 as part of the development of parks in Washington. In 1924, the National Capital Parks Commission (NCPC) was established to develop and improve park and recreation facilities in Washington. The NCPC reviewed the McMillan Commission report and studied the Fort Drive idea. On March 3, 1925 they received their first appropriation to purchase land for the creation of the drive and in October of that year, the NCPC began to acquire land at Fort Stevens. The following year Congress created the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (NCPPC) which expanded the role of the NCPC. With the passage of the Capper-Crampton Act in 1930, which authorized the expansion of Washington's parks and provided sixteen million dollars for the purchase of land, much of the Fort Stevens and Fort Drive properties were purchased. By 1936, all the property that would become Fort Stevens park was purchased, or jurisdiction of land owned by the District government, was transferred to the National Park Service.

That same year, another memorial was erected at the fort. The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUCVW) dedicated a monument to the Grand Army of the Republic. The monument is a bronze bas relief of the fort mounted on a concrete pedestal.

Between 1936 and 1938, the Civilian Conservation Corps reconstructed the northwestern section of the fort, including one of the magazines, the parapet, gun platforms and the ditch. Following the completion of the recreation, Fort Stevens became a public park.

Today, a mixed residential and commercial section of Washington surrounds Fort Stevens. Beginning in the early twentieth century, development encroached on the fort and altered much of the Civil War landscape. At the time of the CCC reconstruction in the 1930s, a remnant of the earthworks still existed at the fort, but little else remained from the war era. The CCC incorporated the 1911 monument into the recreated parapet and left the DUCVW in place, maintaining the commemorative element of the landscape.

Fort Stevens is in good condition. Erosion has affected sections of the parapet and magazine and continues to be a concern, but these features retain their historic character. Recent rehabilitation work

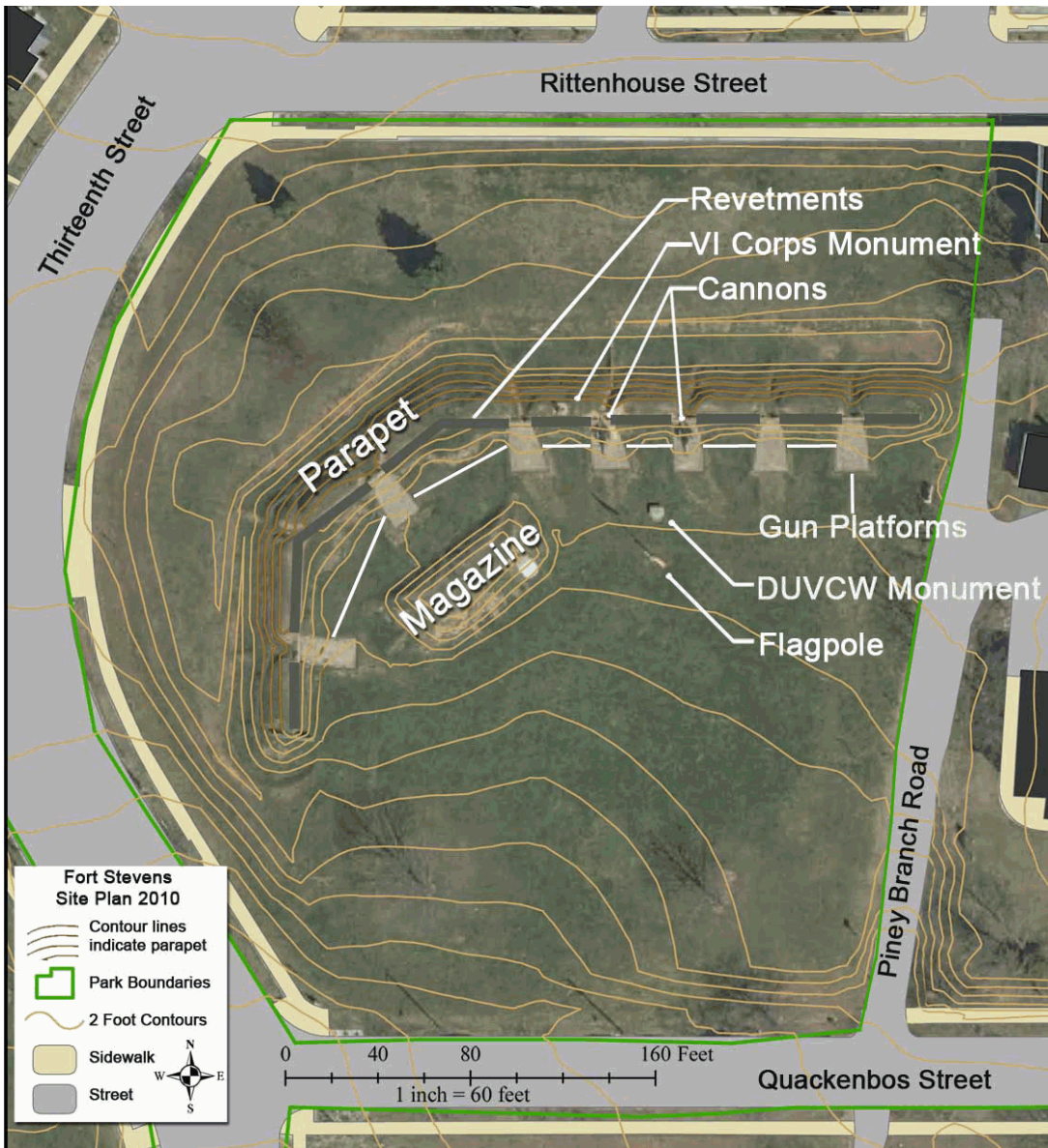
Fort Stevens

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repaired or replaced, with compatible materials, damaged and deteriorating features.

This CLI finds that Fort Stevens retains integrity from the 1900 to 1938 period of significance and evokes the historic period. Fort Stevens displays the seven aspects that determine integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, setting, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association through the retention of landscape characteristics and features.

Site Plan



Fort Stevens existing conditions (CLP 2010).

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Fort Stevens
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600147
Parent Landscape:	600138

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North -ROCR
Park Organization Code:	3472
Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:	Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North - ROCR
Park Administrative Unit:	Rock Creek Park

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/10/2010
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	09/15/2010

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the Fort Stevens CLI on 9/15/2010, 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:

Fort Stevens
Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North



United States Department of the Interior

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

August 9, 2010

Memorandum

To: Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital
Region

From: State Historic Preservation Officer, District of Columbia Historic
Preservation Office

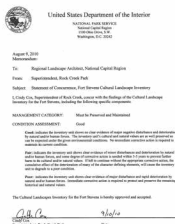
Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Fort Stevens Cultural Landscapes
Inventory

I, David Maloney, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Fort Stevens CLI as per Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, submitted on August 9, 2010.

David Maloney
District of Columbia
State Historic Preservation Officer

9/15/2010
Date

Signed concurrence memo from the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Officer.



Concurrence letter signed by superintendent, Rock Creek Park.

Geographic Information & Location Map

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Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Fort Stevens, Reservation 358, is a 4.37 acre park located in northwest Washington, DC approximately six miles north of the United States Capitol and two miles south of Silver Spring, Maryland. Fort Stevens is bordered on the north by Rittenhouse Street, on the south by Quackenbos Street, on the west by Thirteenth Street, and Piney Branch Road is the park's eastern border.

State and County:

Size (Acres): 4.37

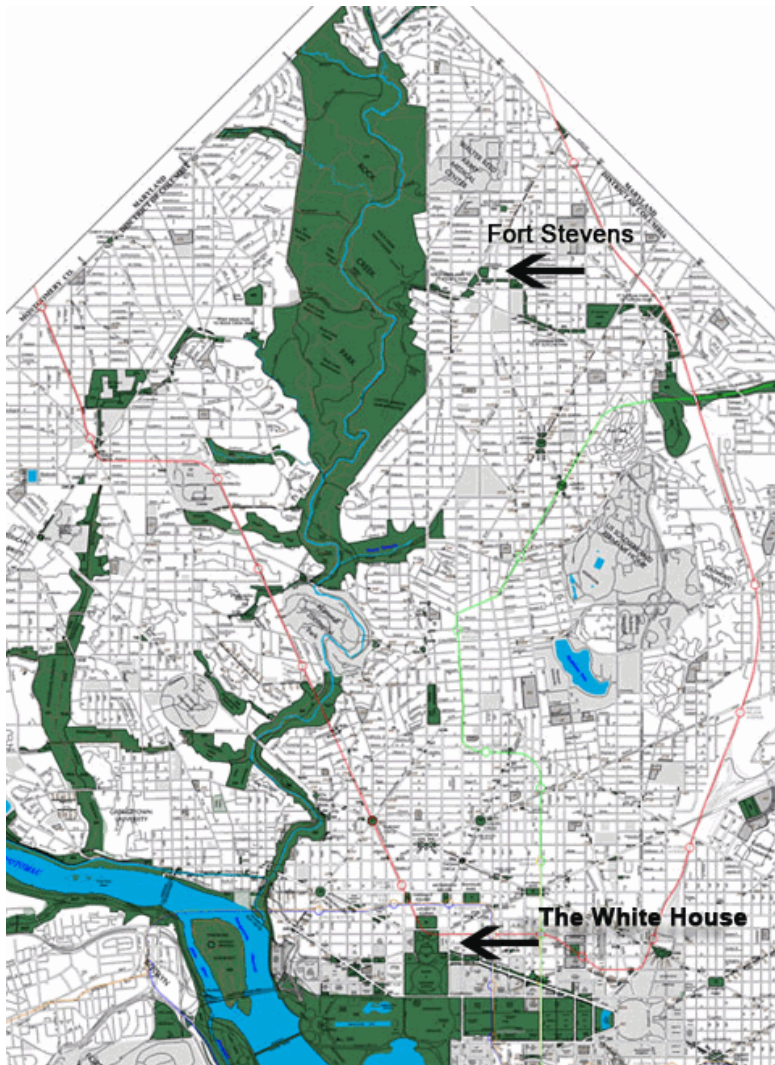
Boundary UTMS:

Source:	USGS Map 1:100,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	18
UTM Easting:	324,186
UTM Northing:	4,314,733

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Location Map:



Fort Stevens is located approximately six miles north of the United States Capitol and two miles south of Silver Spring, Maryland (CLP 2010).

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 09/10/2010

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Fort Stevens was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its military significance and association with the Civil War defenses of Washington. The fort was one of sixty-eight defensive forts constructed during the war to protect the nation's capital. Fort Stevens is one of nineteen forts surrounding Washington acquired by the National Park Service and listed as a group on the National Register.

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

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Neighboring properties to the east, west and south of Fort Stevens are contributing lands. Piney Branch Road and the Emory United Methodist Church occupy what had been the eastern section of the fort. The church was torn down in 1861 to build Fort Stevens. The next year the fort expanded west and included the present day park land. Following the closure of Fort Stevens, the a new church was built in the 1870s and the present day building was constructed in the 1920s. The segment of Piney Branch Road between the church and the park is a remnant of the nineteenth century street built to bypass a toll on the Seventh Street Turnpike (Georgia Avenue). The road is a public right of way, but is currently used to access the park and the church.

Parcels of land on the south side of Quackenbos Street and Reservation 499 across Thirteenth Street to the west of Fort Stevens, were acquired for Fort Drive. This property, as well as Fort Stevens, were pieces of the planned drive connecting the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Because of changing traffic needs, residential development surrounding segments of the drive and the cost of such a project, the plans for the drive were abandoned. It was later revived in the 1960s as the Fort Circle Parks, an unfinished plan to connect the former defenses through parks, hiking and biking trails. Though a community garden is currently located on Reservation 499, it remains undeveloped, as does the section of land on Quackenbos Street. These parcels are the only green, or open, spaces neighboring the fort and remnants of the planned drive.

National Register Information

Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values
Significance Criteria:	D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1861 - 1866
Historic Context Theme:	Shaping the Political Landscape
Subtheme:	The Civil War
Facet:	Battles In The North And South
Time Period:	AD 1900 - 1938
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Subtheme:	Social and Humanitarian Movements
Facet:	Historic Preservation Movement

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Military
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Area of Significance Category:	Social History
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Statement of Significance:

Fort Stevens is listed on the National Register as part of the 1974 Civil War Fort Sites nomination and the 1977 Defenses of Washington revision of the 1974 nomination.

The National Register lists the period of significance as 1861 to 1865. This CLI recommends that the period of significance be extended to include the years 1866 and 1900 to 1938. This time period includes the abandonment of Fort Stevens in 1866; efforts by veterans and local community members to preserve the fort and create a military park; the dedication of a memorial to President Lincoln; the

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acquisition of the land for the creation of a park; and the Civilian Conservation Corps reconstruction completed between 1936 and 1938.

This CLI proposes the fort is eligible under four of the National Register's standards for evaluating the significance of properties. Under Criteria A: Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Fort Stevens is associated with several significant events in American history, including the Civil War, the post-war efforts to preserve and memorialize Civil War battlefields and sites, the Senate Park Commission, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. The fort is significant under Criteria B: Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past, for its association with President Lincoln, who came to the fort to observe the battle on July 11 and 12, 1864. Under Criteria C: Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, Fort Stevens is an example of work completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the National Capital Region. Under Criteria D: Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Fort Stevens is eligible under Criteria A for its association with the Civil War. Fort Stevens was one of the defensive ring of forts built to protect Washington at the start of the Civil War. Known initially as Fort Massachusetts, construction on the fort started in September 1861. Fort Stevens guarded the Seventh Street Turnpike, present day Georgia Avenue, which was one of the major routes into the capital from the north. On July 9, 1864, Confederate General Jubal Early led his troops towards Washington following the Battle of Monocacy. On July 11th and 12th, fighting broke out between Union and Confederate troops at Forts Stevens, DeRussy and Reno. The Union successfully fought off the Confederates and drove them back towards Maryland. The Battle of Fort Stevens was the only battle to take place within Washington during the Civil War. The fort remained in use until 1866, when the Army relinquished control of it along with many other Washington area Civil War forts.

Fort Stevens is also significant under Category A for its role in the battlefield preservation movement. Between 1902 and 1928, members of Congress introduced multiple bills to preserve Fort Stevens and sections of the battlefield. These were submitted largely at the urging of the Washington based Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park Association. Founded in 1900, the group sought to preserve the fort and battlefield, as well as erect a monument to President Lincoln. Their efforts coincided with the work of other veterans and concerned citizens around the country working towards the preservation and commemoration of Civil War battlefields and related sites. In the 1890s, Congress established the first battlefield parks administered by the War Department. This spawned proposals for the preservation of battlefields and the creation of military parks around the country. Between 1901 and 1904, members of Congress introduced thirty-four bills calling for the creation of battlefield parks, including Fort Stevens. Beginning in 1902 and continuing through 1928, multiple bills called for the purchase of Fort Stevens' land and the creation of a park on the site.

Under Criteria A, Fort Stevens is also eligible as part of the development of parks in Washington and as a feature of Fort Drive, the proposed parkway linking the Civil War forts in and around the city. Though city officials had discussed the idea in the 1890s and a road linking the forts was included with maps accompanying the 1898 Permanent System of Highways legislation, the first formal outline of the Fort Drive came with the publication of the Senate Park Commission's 1901 study of

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Washington. The commission recommended acquiring Civil War fort properties for the creation of future parks and the Fort Drive linking them together. Action on this idea did not take place until 1924 with the creation of the National Capital Parks Commission (NCPC) whose role it was to develop and improve park and recreation facilities in Washington. The NCPC reviewed the Senate Park Commission report and studied the fort drive idea. On March 3, 1925 they received their first appropriation to purchase land for the creation of the drive. On October 15, 1925 the NCPC acquired its first piece land at Fort Stevens. The following year Congress created the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (NCPPC) which expanded the role of the NCPC. With the passage of the Capper-Crampton Act in 1930, which authorized the expansion of Washington's parks and provided sixteen million dollars for the purchase of land, much of the Fort Stevens and fort drive properties were purchased. By 1936, all the property that would become Fort Stevens park was purchased, or jurisdiction of land owned by the District government, was transferred to the National Park Service.

Lastly, Fort Stevens is eligible for Criteria A because of its association with the Civilian Conservation Corps. Fort Stevens was the only Civil War fort reconstructed by the CCC in the nation's capital. Between 1936 and 1938, the CCC rebuilt the northwest section of the fort, which included a portion of the parapet, a weapons magazine, six gun platforms and the ditch surrounding the reconstruction. To recreate the wood revetments which supported the fort's walls, the CCC used concrete molded to resemble wood.

Fort Stevens is eligible under Criteria B: association with the lives of persons significant in our past. During the Battle of Fort Stevens, President Lincoln, First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln and members of Lincoln's cabinet visited the fort and observed the fighting. On July 12th, Lincoln stood on the fort's northern parapet to watch the battle. Confederate bullets struck the fort and injured a surgeon standing near the president. While at Fort Stevens, President Lincoln became the second sitting president to come under enemy fire.

Fort Stevens is eligible under Criteria C for its CCC-era reconstruction. Between 1936 and 1938, the Civilian Conservation Corps reconstructed the northwestern section of the fort, including one of the magazines, the parapet, gun platforms and the ditch. Fort Stevens is the only fort reconstructed by the CCC in the National Capital Region. As the 2005 Historic American Building Survey study of CCC activities in the National Capital Region states, "Fort Stevens is evidence of CCC activity in the National Capital Region, and specifically their efforts in creating a park infrastructure...for the metropolitan Washington area. It also retains physical integrity as a period reconstruction of a previously disappeared structure meant to provide a degree of historical interpretation and understanding" (Davidson: 103).

Under Criteria D: Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Fort Stevens has the potential to reveal archeological information related to prehistory as well as its role in the Civil War. The site also has the potential to reveal archeological evidence related to the settlement of Vinegar Hill, a free black community established during the early nineteenth century. The fort site was occupied by members of the community prior to and after the Civil War. Archeological excavation of the site and surrounding properties may provide additional information on fort construction, Civil War life, the Battle of Fort Stevens, and the lives of the inhabitants of Vinegar Hill and other community members.

State Register Information

Date Listed: 11/08/1964
Name: Civil War Fort Sites and Fort Circle Park System

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Site
Current and Historic Use/Function:
Primary Historic Function: Fortification-Other
Primary Current Use: Recreation/Culture-Other

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Fort Massachusetts	Historic
Fort Stevens	Both Current And Historic

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1769	Platted	Addition to Woodward's Lot patented to Charles Carroll
AD 1773	Land Transfer	Addition to Woodward's Lot conveyed to Charles Carroll
AD 1810	Established	Congress chartered the Columbia Turnpike-Road Company to build three turnpikes, including the Seventh Street Turnpike.
AD 1818 - 1822	Built	Construction begins on Seventh Street Road Turnpike
AD 1825	Built	Tollgate opens on Seventh Street Turnpike

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AD 1832	Established	Emory Methodist Church founded.
AD 1855	Purchased/Sold	Elizabeth Butler sells a portion of her land to the Emory Methodist Church
AD 1856	Built	Emory Methodist Church erects a brick chapel on the west side of the Seventh Street Turnpike.
AD 1859 - 1860	Built	Piney Branch Road is extended to bypass the tollgate on the Seventh Street Turnpike. It is located on the west side of the Emory Methodist Church.
AD 1861	Built	Union troops demolish the Emory Methodist Church to construct Fort Stevens. Originally known as Fort Massachusetts, the fort included ten guns and a single magazine and occupied the church's location on the Seventh Street Turnpike.
AD 1862	Expanded	Fort Stevens enlarged to the west. The expansion includes ten additional guns, a magazine, bombproof and blockhouse.
	Destroyed	Elizabeth Proctor Thomas' house is destroyed to accommodate the expansion of the fort.
	Built	Military Road built south of Fort Stevens
AD 1863	Established	Fort Massachusetts becomes Fort Stevens.
AD 1864	Military Operation	On July 9, 1864, Confederate General Jubal Early led his troops towards Washington following the Battle of Monocacy. On July 11th and 12th, fighting broke out between Union and Confederate troops at Fort Stevens. The Union successfully fought off the Confederates and drove them back towards Virginia. The Battle of Fort Stevens was the only battle to take place within Washington during the Civil War.
AD 1865 - 1866	Abandoned	Closing the defenses of Washington begins. Fort Stevens is closed and its components are auctioned off.

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AD 1870 - 1880	Built	The Emory Methodist Church is rebuilt on the eastern section of the fort site during the 1870s.
AD 1896 - 1899	Purchased/Sold	Elizabeth Thomas sells parcels of land to William DeWitt and W.V. Cox
AD 1898 - 1903	Built	Several houses are built on southern section of Fort Stevens site.
AD 1911	Memorialized	The VI Corps Monument is dedicated at Fort Stevens.
AD 1920	Memorialized	A bronze bas-relief depicting Lincoln under fire designed by J. Otto Schweizer was installed on the Lincoln boulder on the anniversary of the battle in 1920. The plaque included the dedication date and that it was erected by the Associated Survivor's of the VI Army Corps.
AD 1925 - 1936	Purchased/Sold	Fort Stevens Park property acquired through purchase, condemnation or land transfer.
AD 1933	Land Transfer	Under Executive Orders 6166 and 6228, management of Fort Stevens, along with several military parks and national cemeteries is turned over to the National Park Service.
AD 1934 - 1936	Demolished	House located on the fort site are demolished.
AD 1936	Memorialized	The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War dedicate a monument to the Grand Army of the Republic at Fort Stevens.
AD 1936 - 1938	Reconstructed	The Civilian Conservation Corps reconstructs a portion the northern parapet, including revetments, seven gun platforms and a magazine.
AD 1959	Restored	Eroded sections of the parapet and magazine are repaired.
AD 1966	Built	Replicas of five 30-pounder Parrott rifled guns and one 24-pounder smooth bore cannon are installed.
AD 1988	Built	A wayside is installed in the southwest corner of the fort.

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AD 2009	Built	New wayside installed below the gun platforms in the eastern section of the fort.
AD 2010	Rehabilitated	Extensive repair work to the revetments and gun platforms; replacement of magazine door and painting of flagpole, along with installation of a solar light, completed in summer 2010.

Physical History:

1688-1861

Settlement of Brightwood

European acquisition of land in the area around Fort Stevens began in 1688 when Colonel Henry Darnall acquired 6,000 acres of property. The land patent "Gyrle's Portion," a 1,776 acre section of Darnall's land, encompassed much of the area around Fort Stevens, Battleground National Cemetery and the communities along the Washington-Maryland border, including Silver Spring, Takoma Park and Forest Glen. The site of Fort Stevens, located approximately two miles south of the Maryland line, was part of "Addition to Woodward's Lot," a parcel of land surveyed by Charles Carroll in 1769 and conveyed to his son Daniel Carroll in 1773 following his death (District of Columbia Archives, Liber JAS70, folio F48, E. Butler to G. Proctor; Berger, Volume I: 26, 31-32, 145; Maryland State Archives, Patented Certificate 238, 1773/09/15, Addition To Woodward's Lot, Daniel Carroll, 43 Acres; Proctor 1949: 108).

In the early nineteenth century, the area around Fort Stevens was a largely uninhabited section of the nation's capital. Early settlers included James White, who received a land grant for 536 acres in 1772, and Robert Lamar Beall, who owned 338 acres adjacent to the future Fort Stevens (Grandine: 6; Proctor 1949: 106). In 1803, John Tayloe acquired land south of Brightwood and named it Petworth (Grandine: 5-6). Tayloe owned The Octagon, where President Madison and First Lady Dolley Madison lived temporarily after the British burned the White House during the War of 1812. The area surrounding Fort Stevens was by the 1820s home to farms, orchards, and country estates (Smith 2010: 126).

At this time only a few roads accessed the area, including the Milkhouse Ford Road, known today as Rock Creek Ford Road, which traveled east-west across northern part of the nation's capital (Ogilvie: 1). Congress chartered the Columbia-Turnpike Road Company in 1810 to build three turnpikes to serve Washington. The new roads would connect the nation's capital to the Bladensburg and Rockville, Maryland and Alexandria, Virginia (Grandine: 7). The planned Rockville road extended Seventh Street from Pennsylvania Avenue in downtown Washington and ran north paralleling Rock Creek to the District-Maryland line. There it turned west towards Rockville (Smith 1988: 89). Construction of the turnpike was delayed until 1818 due to financial problems and was ultimately completed by the Washington and Rockville Turnpike Company in 1822. The new street was known as the Seventh Street Turnpike, today's Georgia Avenue. Tolls were collected on the turnpike and in 1825 a tollgate opened north of the intersection with Milkhouse Ford Road (Grandine: 15; Ogilvie: 2; Boschke 1861). By 1847, Piney Branch Road was built and carried traffic southwest (Bushong: 46-47).

By the opening of the turnpike, free blacks had established a small community known as Vinegar Hill near the site of the future Fort Stevens. Vinegar Hill's borders stretched roughly from Fort Stevens to Military Road between 14th and 13th Streets (Proctor, "Ancient Cemetery Disclosed Near Vinegar Hill," *The Sunday Star*, February 2, 1936; Smith 1988: 93). Among the residents of the settlement was the family of Elizabeth Proctor Thomas, also

known as “Aunt Betty,” a woman who would figure largely in the story and lore of Fort Stevens. Thomas’ grandmother, Elizabeth Butler, owned a significant amount of land. Her property included the site of the future Fort Stevens and a portion of the Emory Methodist Church property. Census records and accounts differ on the date Elizabeth Thomas was born and the period in which her family moved to Washington. Further research is necessary to determine when her family acquired the land.

In a profile in the Washington Post, Thomas relayed that she was a descendent of Proctors and Butlers from Maryland who were a mix of free black and American Indian families. The article reported that Elizabeth Thomas’ ancestors were “the wealthiest negroes of that time” (“Never Rode on Train,” Washington Post (WP) Feb 5, 1911). Census data from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries reveals that Proctors and Thomases, as well as Savoy families all lived in the Fort Stevens area. Nineteenth century Prince George’s County census data also lists numerous free blacks sharing these surnames (1850; Census Place: Piscataway, Prince George’s, Maryland; Roll M432_295; Page: 113B; Image: 493; Brown: 143-147). Census records from 1850 reported the Proctor and Butler families living “West of the 7th Street Turnpike” owned property valued at \$6,000. Among the family members were thirty-five year old Eliza and twenty-year-old Betty Proctor (Elizabeth Thomas). Seventy-five-year-old Elizabeth Butler was the head of the household and the owner of the land (1850; Census Place: West of 7th St Turnpike, Washington, District of Columbia; Roll M432_57; Page: 270B; Image: 546).

In 1850, a marriage license was issued for Elizabeth Thomas, then Proctor, and James Savoy. They had several children together and according to the 1860 census they were living with Elizabeth Butler. Some time between 1860 and 1866, the marriage ended, presumably James Savoy died. In 1866, a marriage license was issued for James Thomas and Elizabeth Savoy (Pippenger 1996). The 1870 census lists Elizabeth Thomas and James Thomas living with her five children. The census also notes she owned land valued at \$500 (1870; Census Place: West Part, Washington, District of Columbia; Roll M593 127; Page: 759A; Image: 515).

Adjacent to the Butler land was the Emory Methodist Church, founded in 1832. The church land, like Elizabeth Thomas’ land, would figure prominently in the story of the battle. In 1854, Elizabeth Butler sold part of her property to the trustees of the church, who included Levi Osborn, Enos and Alfred Ray (District of Columbia Archives, Liber JAS, folio 85, 1854). In 1856, the congregation of fifty-nine whites and thirteen blacks built a brick structure which replaced the frame building they had used since their founding (Grandine: 15).

Elizabeth Butler died in 1861 and according to her will, she divided up all her land between her children and grandchildren, including Elizabeth Thomas and her siblings George, Sarah and Catherine (District of Columbia Archives, Docket/File no. 0S4509, book 08:417, box 0030, Elizabeth Butler, March 15, 1860). They and their descendants remained property owners in this area well into the twentieth century. Thomas lived on the site of the fort or in the immediate vicinity throughout her life.

After the opening of the Seventh Street Turnpike, businesses were established adjacent to the road and clustered near the tollgate. In 1852, the turnpike was planked in wood and by the

1860s, a post-office, tavern and racetrack were in operation in the vicinity. Tax assessments in 1855 revealed thirty-one people owned property from Rock Creek Church Road to the District line (Smith 1988: 89). Six people owned land of more than 100 acres, but the majority of the parcels were small tracts. Of the thirty-one owners, five were African-American. Four of the African-American property owners were women (Grandine: 8; Smith 1988: 89-90).

In Elizabeth Butler's 1860 will she described a strip of land she wanted retained as a "family burial place forever." She noted the graveyard was "by the New Piney Branch Road" (District of Columbia Archives, Docket/File no. 0S4509, book 08:417, box 0030, Elizabeth Butler, March 15, 1860). According to historian Katherine Grandine, residents long annoyed by the toll built an extension of Piney Branch Road to bypass the tollgate. The bypass stretched from the intersection of the Piney Branch and Milk House Ford Roads with the turnpike and ran behind the Emory Methodist Church and across the site of the future Fort Stevens. Grandine dates the construction of the bypass between 1865 and 1871 (Smith 2010: 131). Butler's will suggests it was in place earlier. A Civil War era topographic drawing of Fort Stevens includes documentation of a road roughly on the site of the Piney Branch bypass (National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Record Group 77, 170-90). If this information is correct, following the war, residents re-opened it. The road appears on a September 1868 survey of Emory's property (Record of the County Surveys, 1868, Levy Court No. 1 and 2).

The area became known as Brightwood in 1861 when the post office relocated from Oak Grove, a community just south of the District-Maryland line, to the intersection of Milkhouse Ford and Piney Branch Roads and the Seventh Street Turnpike. Initially called Brighton, the name was changed to Brightwood to avoid confusion with a Maryland post office of the same name (Smith 1988: 91; Grandine: 18). John Clagett Proctor, a columnist on Washington history and culture for the Washington Star from 1928 to 1951, wrote that Brightwood "never had any definite metes and bounds, and any of the territory from Silver Spring south to Rock Creek Church road and from Chillum on the east all the way over to Rock Creek on the west, geographically, may have been regarded years ago as covered by this designation" (Proctor 1949: 98). The area today is a much smaller community. Today's boundaries stretch roughly from Rock Creek Park on the west, Walter Reed Army Medical Center at the north, Georgia Avenue to the east and the southern border of Madison Street (Smith 2010: 124).

The 1861 Boschke map reveals a smattering of settlements along Piney Branch Road, Milkhouse Ford Road and the Seventh Street Turnpike. Most sites contain one large building and what appear to be outbuildings. A small group of structures are located along the intersection of the Seventh Street Turnpike and Piney Branch Road. Another cluster is located at Oak Grove. Though the owner of the structure is not identified, there is a building to the rear of the Emory Methodist Church on the site of Fort Stevens. Cultivated fields, farm roads, woodlands and gently sloping terrain are the primary features of the area.

The Boschke map tells little about the character of the buildings in the area, except a few of the properties along the Turnpike suggest grand structures. The land belonging to S. Reeve, A. Shoemaker and Matthew Gault Emery, the mayor the Washington from 1870 to 1871, include what appear to be circular and semi-circular drives signifying formal entrances and the presence of more well-to-do residences. The Boschke map does not identify Elizabeth Butler's

property. According to the 1854-55 tax assessment as cited by Grandine, Elizabeth Butler owned the most land out of all the Black property owners in the area (Grandine: 11).

Several of the larger landowners in Brightwood included men with strong business and political ties to Washington City. A number of them owned property that figured in, or was impacted by, the Battle of Fort Stevens. Seventy-seven acres along the turnpike belonged to Henry Williard, owner of the Williard Hotel. Thomas Carbery, who served as Mayor of Washington from 1822 to 1823, and Thomas Lay, who was an official at the city post office, both owned land and resided in Brightwood (Grandine: 9; Smith 1988: 92). The ancestors of John Clagett Proctor owned a large amount of property to the south of Silver Spring, west of Oak Grove and accessible by the Seventh Street Turnpike. Proctor resided most of his life in Brightwood.

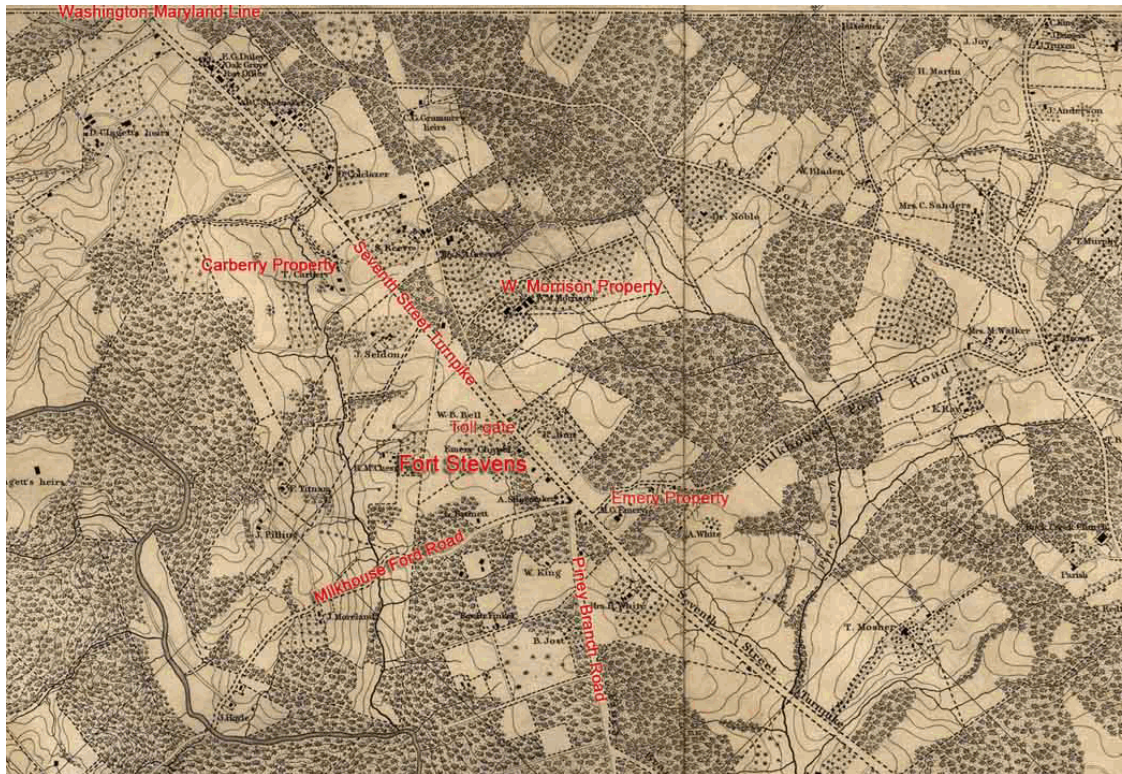
Two other prominent business men were John Saul and William Cammack. Both men operated large nurseries in the area. Cammack was a florist and gardener who sold vegetables at city markets. His greenhouses were located at the corner of the turnpike and Rock Creek Church Road. The intersection was known as Cammack's Corner (Grandine: 10). In 1854, the horticulturalist Saul, purchased 80 acres along the Turnpike for his nursery business. That same year he became the first chairman of Washington's Parks Commission and was a member of the Parking Commission in the 1870s. The commission was part of Alexander "Boss" Shepherd's efforts to improve the city while he lead Washington's Board of Public Works. The commission was responsible for the planting of 60,000 trees in the city during the mid-nineteenth century (<http://www.bfsaul.com/history.html>; "Street Trees of Washington." Harper's New Monthly Magazine, Vol 77, No. 458, 1888).

Saul was a native of Ireland who came to Washington in 1851 to work on the improvement of the National Mall for Andrew Jackson Downing. He was employed on the project until 1853 when work on it ceased. He then started what would become a successful seed business. In the 1870s, he purchased more land in Brightwood for the expansion of his orchards and nurseries. An 1890 Baltimore and Ohio Railroad map shows that Saul owned property stretching from the Seventh Street Turnpike to Fourteenth Street (Grandine: 9-10; "Real Estate Map of the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company between Washington, DC and Rockville, MD," 1890, Library of Congress). Descendents of Saul founded two local businesses still in operation today: the B.F. Saul Company and Chevy Chase Bank (<http://www.bfsaul.com/history.html>; Battleground to Community, Cultural Tourism, DC).

Farther north along the Seventh Street Turnpike just north of the District-Maryland line was John Preston Blair's country retreat, Silver Spring. He purchased the property in 1842 and built his mansion in 1845. Blair, a newspaper editor and owner of Washington's Blair Mansion, moved permanently to the estate in the 1850s. His son Montgomery Blair, lawyer in the Dred Scott case and postmaster general under President Lincoln, owned a farm known as Falkland. Takoma Park, Maryland is largely comprised of land from both the Silver Spring and Falkland estates (Cooling 1989: 90, 115-116).

Fort Stevens

Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North



1861 Boschke map with sites relevant to the history of Brightwood and Fort Stevens highlighted (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division).

1861-1864

The Defenses of Washington and the Battle of Fort Stevens

On April 12, 1861, Confederate troops fired on Fort Sumter, marking the beginning of the Civil War. Three days after the attack, Lincoln called for volunteers from loyal states to protect Washington. Only a few hundred marines, a handful of officers and fifty-three “men of ordnance” located at the Navy Yard were available to guard the capital immediately prior to the outbreak of the war (Cooling and Owen 1988: 3; Cooling 1991:19). By the end of April, 11,000 soldiers traveled to Washington to guard the city (Cooling 1991: 31). On April 17th, Virginia seceded from the Union.

Concerned about the close proximity of its secessionist neighbor, Union troops in the capital crossed the Potomac in late-May to establish a presence in Northern Virginia. Rudimentary defenses were built in Arlington during the first weeks of the war. These defenses were primarily for guarding roads and bridges crossing the Potomac and provided more of a foundation for the construction of future forts than an adequate defense of the city (Cooling and Owen 1988: 4-5; Cooling 1991: 38). These locations later became Forts Corcoran, Haggerty, Bennett, Runyon, and Ellsworth.

When Major General George McClellan took over as Union Army Commander on the Potomac on July 27, 1861 he immediately saw the need to build up the city's protection. During the first months of the war all thought was focused on guarding the city from a southern attack. After the Union defeat at Manassas in July 1861, attention turned to the capital's continued vulnerability and the need to protect the city on all sides. Only one area north of the Potomac above Chain Bridge was guarded and key roads were not picketed. McClellan also found that soldiers were not organized effectively to guard the city (Cooling 1991:56). According to the Major General, "there was nothing to prevent the enemy shelling the city from heights, within easy range, which could be occupied by a hostile column without resistance" (Cooling 1991:56). Following Manassas, McClellan stated that the Confederates may have believed the capital's defenses were stronger than they were and because of this the city was spared a major attack.

On July 8th, the House of Representatives voted in favor of the construction of a ring of forts around Washington. McClellan supported proposals for the construction of a system of forty-eight forts, batteries and other forms of defense (Cooling and Owen 1988: 6). McClellan appointed General John G. Barnard, chief engineer of the Corps of Engineers, in August to oversee their construction. Barnard was a West Point graduate who had helped construct defenses in New York, Florida, Louisiana and during the 1846 Mexican War. At the time of his appointment the only fort protecting the city was Fort Washington. Constructed following the War of 1812, Fort Washington was located twelve miles south of Washington on the west side of the Potomac. Other than Fort Washington, the city had little military might to defend it from attack (Cooling and Owen 1988: 6; Cooling 1991: 57; Leepson: Capital Defense: Washington, DC in the Civil War, www.historynet.com).

The initial forts north of the Potomac, like those to the south, were constructed to protect roads entering the city from Maryland. Heavily trafficked thoroughfares and streets that occupied "the best ground for an enemy's approach" were the first entries to be secured (Barnard: 13). The site for Fort Reno, originally called Fort Pennsylvania, was selected in August. The location was chosen partly because it was near three major thoroughfares: River Road, Brookeville Road and Rockville Road (Wisconsin Avenue). Rockville Road and River Road entered the city from Maryland and needed to be protected (Cooling 1991:62). Fort Reno, located in Tenleytown on present day Nebraska Avenue, was also the highest point in Washington and provided views to the surrounding country. Both Fort Reno and Fort Gaines, located on the grounds of the future American University, provided protection from enemy troops approaching between Rock Creek and the Potomac.

Fort Stevens was constructed to guard the Seventh Street Turnpike, a major entry point from present day Silver Spring, Maryland to Washington. The fort was originally named Fort Massachusetts for the Seventh and Tenth Massachusetts, who, along with the Second Rhode Island and Thirty-Sixth New York regiments, built the fort. In 1863, the name was changed to Stevens in honor of Brigadier General Isaac Ingalls Stevens, the governor of Washington Territory who died at the Battle of Chantilly in September 1862. Forts Slocum and Totten, east of Fort Stevens, were constructed to aid in the defense of the Seventh Street Turnpike (Barnard: 13; Cooling and Owen 1988: 7). In Northeast Washington, Fort Lincoln guarded the Baltimore Turnpike and Baltimore Railroad. Forts Bunker Hill, Saratoga, Slemmer, and

Fort Stevens

Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North

Thayer were constructed soon after to fill in gaps in the defense between Forts Lincoln and Stevens.

Seizure of Land

In order to construct the forts, the military seized land from private owners when necessary. In his 1871 report on the defenses of Washington, Barnard wrote about the acquisition of the land. He stated,

"The sites of the several works being determined upon, possession was at once taken, with little or no reference to the rights of the owners or the occupants of the lands—the stern law of ‘military necessity’ and the magnitude of the public interests involved in the security of the nation’s capital being paramount to every other consideration. In one case a church, and in several instances dwellings and other buildings were demolished, that the sites be occupied by forts" (Barnard: 85).

At Fort Stevens, several landowners were greatly affected by the construction of the fort. On August 1st, 1861 the military took possession of William M. Morrison’s property (James R.D. Morrison, et al., HR Rep. 697, 54th Congress). Morrison owned a farm and orchard to the northeast of the fort. The Army dug rifle pits that extended from Fort Stevens to Fort Slocum across Morrison’s farm. They cut down trees on his land for the construction of barracks, rifle pits, targets for practice and for fuel. Morrison died in 1863 and at the time of the battle in 1864 his house was destroyed.

Rifle trenches were built without consideration of fields or orchards, as evidenced by Morrison’s experience. In addition, land surrounding the forts was cleared for two miles. Two to three thousand men worked in the autumn of 1862 to clear land around the capital. New York soldiers near Fort Lyon in Fairfax County cut down the oak trees at Spring Bank, part of the property belonging to George Mason’s family (Cooling 1991: 76). In letters home and memoirs of the war, soldiers described the destruction of the trees. One remarked on the ten-man groups who daily went out with axes, as leveling “the old monarchs of the hills.” Another said, “It was a sad necessity that thus compelled the spoiling of nature’s fairest handiwork and stripped the beautiful hills of their green robes,—but so it must be” (Cooling 1991: 76). Timber cut down was used to build forts when possible. Margaret Leech wrote in *Reveille in Washington*, “On both sides of the river, the farmers were ruined. Not only were their orchards and vegetable gardens trampled and their fields filled with tents, but the very face of the land was changed, as its soil was shifted into high mounds and deep ditches” (Leepson: *Capital Defense: Washington, DC in the Civil War*, www.historynet.com).

At the time of the battle, the area around Fort Stevens was described as “swept bare or left with stands of tree stumps” (Judge: 279). Major Nathaniel Michler’s 1866-1867 topographical map shows a largely barren landscape from Fort Stevens west to Fort DeRussy (Topographical Sketch of the Environs of Washington, D.C., Survey of Locality for Public Park and Site for a Presidential Mansion) to Accompany Report of N. Michler, Major of Eng'rs, Bvt. Brig. Gen'l U.S.A.). The trees around the Emory Methodist Church were cut down and used for the construction of barracks and other fort structures. Later the church was torn down and a weapons magazine was built in its place. Following the war, a group of parishioners wrote to

President Johnson regarding compensation and described the loss of the trees.

"It is hardly just to estimate the grove of primeval trees which surrounded the church and shielded it and its congregation from the winds of winter and from the summer suns, by its value as timber for building defenses...trees were the growth of centuries and another century may pass before another growth of equal beauty and utility will crown the eminence on which it stood. The present generation of worshippers can never live to enjoy such shades again" (Floyd: Part II, Appendix N).

The seizure of land caused extreme hardship, but no compensation was discussed or promised. In some cases the amount of timber, acres cleared and kind of trees was given to owners so they could use it in the future for claims (Barnard: 85; Floyd: 54). Brigadier General Irvin McDowell issued orders in 1861 for officers and commanders of brigades occupying the land on which the forts were constructed to prepare statements documenting the property damaged or destroyed and its value in order to compensate the owners. McDowell issued these orders following rumors and reports of troops occupying private homes and destroying land and property in Virginia. When McClellan took charge he issued orders of his own and stated that those purposely destroying property would be arrested and tried. The incidents of abuse to personal property lessened, but the military continued to seize land it felt was necessary for the defenses of Washington (Floyd: 54-56).

The land upon which Fort Stevens was built belonged to Elizabeth Thomas, her siblings and the Emory Methodist Church. In 1861, soldiers tore down the Emory Methodist Church to construct a magazine. A school building belonging to the church was also destroyed (Battleground to Community, Cultural Tourism DC; Cox 1901: 135; Floyd: Part II, Appendix N).

Building the Forts

Though Virginia had been the initial focus of the fortifications, Barnard found a stronger defense was necessary between forts in Arlington and Alexandria. Alexandria lacked proper protection and under Barnard the line of fortification was extended to include it. The Virginia forts between Arlington and Alexandria included Scott, Reynolds, Barnard, Worth, Ward and Williams, among others. Multiple batteries were constructed between the forts to increase defense.

In September 1861, the forts received official names and by the end of the year included "twenty-three forts south of the Potomac, fourteen forts and three batteries between the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, and eleven forts beyond the Anacostia." By 1865, sixty-eight forts surrounded Washington. The defensive works surrounding Washington also included ninety-three detached batteries, twenty miles of rifle pits and thirty-two miles of military roads(<http://www.nps.gov/cwdw/historyculture/index.htm>).

Barnard based the construction of the forts on Dennis Hart Mahan's 1836 "A Treatise on Field Fortification." Mahan was a West Point graduate who went on to teach civil and military engineering at the academy following four years studying engineering and military institutions in Europe for the War

Department(www.nps.gov/cwdw/historyculture/dennis-hart-mahan.htm).

Barnard followed Mahan's book closely and the forts shared many of the same features. They contained magazines for weapons storage and bombproofs—earth covered structures lined with wood in which soldiers could shelter during attack (Floyd Part I-V: 2). Each fort complex contained barracks, stables and a mess hall, along with any other necessary support structures (Brown: 31). The forts were surrounded by two layers of protection: a ditch and an abatis—an arrangement of trees sharpened into spikes and pointing outward in the direction of an approaching enemy (Cooling and Owen 1988: 17; <http://www.nps.gov/archive/pete/mahan/abatis.html>).

The walls of the fort, called parapets, were constructed of dirt shoveled into twelve to eighteen foot wide berms (Handly: 15). Initially the parapets had been smaller, but shortly after their 1861 construction it became apparent they needed to be enlarged. The parapets had a uniform exterior slope of 45 degrees from the height of the slope to the ditch surrounding the fort. The interior slope of the wall was supported by timber posts, or revetments. The posts were usually five and a half feet long and four to six inches in diameter. Openings for guns, called embrasures, were notches cut out of the parapet at a 45-degree angle and were spaced between twenty-three and thirty feet apart (Brown: 23-24; Handly: 15). Cannons rested on gun platforms below the embrasures. The platforms were built on packed soil and logs to protect against recoil following firing and to prevent the gun from damaging the revetment. When completed in 1861, Fort Stevens “had a 168-yard perimeter, 10 guns, and required a garrison of 200” (Brown 35; Cooling and Owen 2010: 173).

The main forts were approximately a half-mile apart (Cooling and Owen 1988: 6; Barnard: 63). Rifle trenches, like the ones that crossed Morrison's land, stretched between Fort Stevens and Fort DeRussy to the west and Fort Slocum to the east. In addition, military roads connected the defenses. Twenty-three miles of road were laid around the capital during the Civil War. Construction of Military Road was completed in September 1862. The road initially traveled between Fort Sumner, located near present day Glen Echo and Bethesda, and Fort Stevens. It was later extended to reach Fort Lincoln in northeast Washington (Barnard: 77-78). A segment of the road near Fort Stevens is present day Missouri Avenue. Barnard's 1871 report on the defenses of Washington includes a map with a forked road connected to the south side of Fort Stevens that appears to be a section of Military Road. One section of the road travels southeast and intersects with Milkhouse Ford Road in the direction of Fort Slocum. The other section heads southwest and intersects with Milkhouse Ford Road and then continues on to Fort DeRussy following the path of present day Military Road. The forked section of the road does not appear on later maps.

During the construction of Fort Stevens, and continuing through the war, Camp Brightwood, occupied by the 7th and 10th Massachusetts, 36th New York and 2nd Rhode Island was established nearby. Elisha Hunt Rhodes, a soldier with the 2nd Rhode Island Infantry, arrived at Camp Brightwood in August 1861. On August 6th, he wrote in his diary, “We marched out the 7th St. Road, and after passing the hotel at Brightwood turned down a country road and went into camp on the farm of a Mr. Ray...Here we are to make a permanent camp and to be brigaded with other Regiments.” According to Rhodes, the camp was located over the District

line in Maryland on the road to Rockville, but a farm belonging to Mr. Ray was located farther south of the intersection of the Seventh Street Turnpike and Blagden Mill Road (Rhodes: 41). Rhodes later identifies Camp Brightwood as being located in Washington and other sources confirm this. Matthew Gault Emery's hill-top property has also been identified as the site of a camp. During the Civil War, his home just south of the intersection of the Seventh Street Turnpike and Milkhouse Ford Road served as a signal station where soldiers signaled Fort DeRussy with torches and flags (Battleground to Community, Cultural Tourism DC).

Camp Brightwood, like many other Civil War army camps and forts in Washington, attracted fugitive slaves seeking protection and looking for work. Fugitive slaves who escaped to or were brought behind Union lines were commonly referred to as "contrabands." Charles Harvey Brewster, a Massachusetts soldier who lived at Camp Brightwood, wrote home telling of David, the seventeen-year-old who worked as his attendant. In 1862, Brewster wrote that there were five to six escaped slaves with his company. How large the contraband population was around Fort Stevens requires further research, but between 1864 and 1865 soldiers at the fort set up a school for black children in one of the buildings (Blight: 31, 78; Cooling and Owen 2010: 177).

The Moreland Tavern, located at present day Georgia Avenue and Military Road, served as brigade headquarters (Smith 2010: 131; Battleground to Community, Cultural Tourism DC). Other soldiers' camps, including Camp Stetson and Camp Doubleday, occupied by troops from New York and Maine were located in the vicinity (Cooling and Owen 1988: 156). Soldiers camped on the White farm on the west side of the Seventh Street Road and the 10th Massachusetts also camped on the Lay farm in addition to Camp Brightwood.

Soldiers in these camps built the defenses of Washington. At the end of August, Rhodes recorded that, "The month has been passed in hard work. We have built a large fort and named it Fort Slocum after our first colonel. The city of Washington is now surrounded by a chain of forts and is considered safe from attack" (Rhodes: 41, 50).

Soldiers assigned to the forts spent their days marching, drilling, maintaining the fort and its weapons. The troops were able to visit Washington and some soldier's wives even lived with them. They were supplied with good food, received regular mail, and in 1862 they were living in barracks instead of the tents they had occupied since the forts were first established. Brown wrote that new quarters were completed at Fort Stevens in 1863 and celebrations, including "balls and parties," were thrown to mark the occasion (Brown: 27-28). A report in a Pittsfield, Massachusetts newspaper stated that the winter quarters for Camp Brightwood in 1862 were constructed at a cost of \$3,000 and were, "by far the most comfortable of any about Washington..." The officers' quarters included a parlor with a bed and stove ("Ninth Regiment," The Pittsfield Sun, February 13, 1862).

The barracks and officers' quarters were constructed of timber cut from land surrounding the fort and from Emory Methodist Church and houses and fences belonging to Matthew Emery and William Morrison. Bricks from chimneys of destroyed buildings were used to construct baking ovens (Cox 1902: 3).

In 1862, a panel of generals and engineers, including Barnard, was appointed by Secretary of War to “examine and report upon a plan for the present forts and sufficiency of the present system of defenses for the city.” They devoted two months to the study and determined Washington needed, “25,000 infantry, 9,000 artillerists, and 3,000 cavalry – a total of 37,000 men emplaced in the city’s defense works at all times.” Barnard later reported that the defenses of Washington were “but a skeleton, so to speak, of a fortified line” (War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series 1, Volume 29: 315). The panel determined that Fort Stevens, along with several other forts and many of the batteries, needed to be enlarged to provide an adequate defense (Cooling 1989: 93).

Work on enlarging Fort Stevens began in September 1862. A second magazine was to be constructed and this required tearing down Elizabeth Thomas’ house. The story of the destruction of her house has become a part of the history of Fort Stevens. Thomas recalled many times later in life that at the time her house was demolished she was holding her six-month-old baby and weeping over the destruction of her home beneath a sycamore tree. As soldiers removed the belongings from her house, a tall, slender man dressed in black approached her and said, “It is hard, but you shall reap a great reward.” Thomas identified the man as President Lincoln (Cooling and Owen 2010: 175).

After Fort Stevens was enlarged, Barnard later wrote,

"The very insignificant work originally thrown up as Fort Massachusetts, occupying one of the most important positions along the line, was greatly enlarged and furnished with a powerful armament, mostly of siege guns, well protected by embrasures and traverses. The extension of the work had a stockaded gorge, flanked by a block-house. It contained an extensive bomb-proof; besides which a hollow in rear of the site is capable of sheltering large bodies of men from curved artillery fire" (Barnard: 51).

By 1864, Fort Stevens was 375-perimeter yards and “boasted the following ordnance: four 24-pounder seacoast cannon firing in a barbette, six 24-pounder siege guns in an embrasure, two 8-inch siege howitzers (in an embrasure), and five 30-pounder Parrotts firing through embrasures...a 10-inch siege and a 24-pounder Coehorn mortar, plus three vacant platforms” (Cooling 1989: 134). On the former site of Emory Methodist Church guns faced east and north east and south. In the expanded section of the fort, guns faced west and north. The fort was accessed from the south. Three new batteries and rifle pits were also constructed between Fort Stevens and Fort Slocum to the east (The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series 1, Volume 29: 316).

On May 17, 1864, A.P. Howe, the Brigadier-General, Inspector of Artillery, reported that Fort Stevens was under the command of Colonel R.C. Benton, with two companies of the Eleventh Vermont Volunteers and one company of the New Hampshire Heavy Artillery. One lieutenant colonel, fourteen commissioned officers, one ordnance-sergeant and 423 men were stationed at the fort. Howe’s report came two months before the battle. He wrote the following on the state of the fort: “ammunition, full supply and in good order. Implements, complete and in good order. Drill in artillery, fair. Drill in infantry, fair. Discipline, fair. Garrison of sufficient

strength” (The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series 1, Volume 36: 894).

The Battle of Fort Stevens

On July 9, 1864 Confederate General Jubal Early, following his victory at Monocacy, near Frederick, Maryland approximately forty miles northwest of the capital, led his troops towards Washington. The city was poorly defended at the time. General Ulysses S. Grant had ordered reinforcements of troops from Washington for his Virginia campaigns, leaving the capital short of soldiers. Upon receiving word via telegraph of Early’s plans to invade the capital, Grant ordered the two remaining VI Corps Divisions to Washington by boat and rail. On July 10th, Grant informed President Lincoln approximately 6,000 men were on their way to the city (Floyd Part I-VII: 5). That same day, only 17,277 men were available around the capital to fight Early’s forces and only 9,000 to 9,500 were present at the forts. This figure is far below the 37,000 soldiers an 1862 panel studying the defenses of Washington determined the city needed (Cooling and Owen 2010: 19; Floyd VII: 6).

To make up for the lack of armed protection in the city, men were gathered from every possible location and in any condition to defend the capital. Major William H. Fry pulled together nearly 500 men from a cavalry depot at Giesboro Point, near Anacostia, and set out to engage Early’s men in Maryland north of Rockville. Their skirmishes were, according to historian Benjamin Franklin Cooling, “the opening shots of the battle for Washington” (Floyd Part I-VII: 5). Members of the Veteran Reserve Corps and the Quartermaster’s Corps, two groups of men consisting of clerks at the War Department, old soldiers, semi-invalids and anyone who could fight, were called up to serve. Many were assigned to the forts. With these men operating and defending the forts, able-bodied soldiers were available to fight.

When rumors of the battle started and after gunfire broke out, Brightwood residents gathered what they could carry and fled. Aldace Walker, a soldier with the VI Corps, reported that the bombproof at Fort Stevens was “filled for days with terrified women and children” (Walker: 32). According to an article in Baltimore’s The Sun newspaper, one family a mile north of Fort Stevens, heard of the coming invasion and “removed the female members of the family to the fort.” By the time the men returned home their house had been occupied by the Confederates. Following the battle, they found their possessions badly damaged and in disarray (“The Late Invasion Particulars of the Stomaching Near Washington Residences Destroyed,” The Sun, July 15, 1864).

At Fort Stevens, members of the 25th New York Cavalry and Company K of the 150th Ohio Volunteer Infantry were manning the guns, lining the rifle pits and were spread out along the skirmish line. The 150th Ohio Volunteer Infantry guarded the northern defenses of Washington and was made up of 100 day men—soldiers who were to serve no more than a hundred days. These men, like the Quartermaster’s and Veterans Corps, were a mix of young and old, wounded and sick, and some ill-trained soldiers who were unable to engage in heavy fighting. Some members of Company K were students from Oberlin College, including twenty-year-old Private William Leach who became the first Union casualty of the battle (Judge: 233).

Fort Stevens

Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North

Confederate troops under the leadership of Brigadier General John McCausland headed towards Fort Reno via the Georgetown Pike. His troops were fired upon at Forts Bayard, Simmons, Mansfield and Reno. He then moved his troops towards Forts Kearny and DeRussy by mid-morning on the 11th (Floyd VII: 6). Around noon on the 11th, the 62nd Virginia Mounted Infantry approached Fort Stevens and fled into the fields near the fort and sharpshooters took up positions in the farmhouses near the road. Later in the day, several houses harboring Confederate sharpshooters were burned to the ground (Judge: 237). Confederates occupied William Morrison's orchards, located southeast of the future cemetery. At the end of the day Union troops managed to cut the trees down and during the battle Morrison also lost his home (Grandine: 26).

Around noon on July 11th, Early arrived just north of Fort Stevens. He rode ahead and was within view of Fort Stevens (Cooling and Owen 2010: 19). He observed the fort and thought it was poorly manned. Early deployed his troops to the fort, but as they advanced, Union reinforcements led by Major George G. Briggs started to arrive. The Rebels got within fifty yards of Fort Stevens. Skirmishes and heavy fire from Fort Stevens erupted. Cannon shots from Forts Slocum, Stevens and DeRussy tried to push his soldiers back. Early's forces were fatigued by the July heat, the battle at Monocacy and skirmishes with Union troops and were in no condition for a vigorous fight. Their slowed pace worked to the Union's advantage as the VI Corps, led by Major General Horatio Wright, made its way to Washington. Early's men tried to penetrate the defenses of Washington from Fort Reno to Fort Totten with little success (Harvey 10). Early and his men retreated from the battlefield.

On the night of the 11th, Early and his generals decided to attack the forts at daybreak. They used Francis Blair's mansion, Silver Spring, as their headquarters. In the early morning of the twelfth, Early received word that the defenses of Washington had been reinforced and that more Union troops were most likely on the way (Cooling and Owen 2010: 19).

When the VI Corps began to arrive at the docks on the morning of July 12, they were greeted by cheering citizens and President Lincoln. The President had been at Fort Stevens in the morning and had ridden down to the wharf to greet the troops (Cox 1901: 8). Members of the public, along with Secretary of State William Seward, Secretary of the Navy Gideon Wells, and President and Mrs. Lincoln followed Wright and his men to Fort Stevens to observe the fighting. Elisha Hunt Rhodes, then a captain in the VI Corps, led a regiment from the wharf downtown to Fort Stevens on the twelfth. When they arrived at the fort, Rhodes assembled his regiment at the "old camp" at the rear of the fort. He wrote, "We did not expect in 1861 that these forts would ever be of service, but now we are glad that we helped build them" (Rhodes: 171).

Until mid-afternoon of the twelfth, military action around the fort consisted of a few skirmishes and shots fired at the Rebels whenever they were in reach of Fort Stevens's guns. President Lincoln was there to watch the action (Floyd, VII: 7). Rhodes recorded in his diary that,

"Fort Stevens was firing shells into the Rebel lines while Fort Slocum was sending its shots with fearful screams after Early's men. Our column passed through the gate of Fort Stevens,

and on the parapet I saw President Lincoln standing looking at the troops. Mrs. Lincoln and the other ladies were sitting in a carriage behind the earthworks. We marched in line of battle into a peach orchard in front of Fort Stevens, and here the fight began...It was a fine little fight but did not last long" (Rhodes: 170-171).

George Stevens, a soldier in the VI Corps published a memoir of his service during the war. He wrote of the battle:

"From the parapets of Fort Stevens could be seen the lines of rebel skirmishers, from whose rifles the white puffs of smoke rose as they discharged their pieces at our pickets. The valley beyond the fort presented a scene of surpassing loveliness, with its rich green meadows, its fields of waving corn, its orchards and its groves. To the right was Fort Slocum, and on the left Fort DeRussy...The principal force of the enemy seemed to be in front of Fort Stevens, and here it was determined to give them battle. The barracks just in rear of the fort were converted into a hospital for our second division, and all preparations were made for receiving our wounded men" (Stevens, 374).

Stevens later described Lincoln's presence at Fort Stevens on the twelfth:

"Four o'clock came, but, except that the rebel skirmishers were sending their bullets whizzing over the fort, all was quiet. President Lincoln and his wife drove up to the barracks, unattended, except by their coachman...the cavalry, whose duty it was to attend upon his excellency, being left far behind. The carriage stopped at the door of the hospital and the President and his affable lady entered into familiar conversation with the surgeon in charge...Thus, for nearly an hour, they chatted of various things, when General Wright and his staff arrived on the ground, accompanied by several ladies and gentleman from the city" (Stevens: 375 – 376).

The cabinet members and others were described as watching the battle with "breathless interest" (Stevens: 376). The President remained on the parapet, but Mrs. Lincoln, disturbed by what she saw, retreated from the view (Floyd VII: 7).

On this second and last day of fighting, Lincoln earned the distinction of being the second sitting president to come under enemy fire. President Madison had been the first when he went to observe the fighting of the Battle of Bladensburg during the War of 1812 (Ketcham: 577). It was on July 12th that another much repeated episode in the lore of the battle occurred. While Lincoln again stood on the parapet and sharpshooters—one who occupied a tree located where Walter Reed Army Medical Center is today—were taking shots at him, someone shouted at the President, "Get down you fool!" Various people have claimed responsibility for, or have been identified as, uttering these words over the years, including Vinegar Hill resident Elizabeth Thomas and future Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. Major General Wright relayed years later that he said to Lincoln, "Mr. President, I know you are commander of the armies of the United States, but I am in command here, and as you are not safe where you are standing, and I am responsible for your personal safety, I order you to come down." Whether he listened to this advice or that of the person who referred to him as a fool, Lincoln stepped down (Cox 1901: 13).

According to Benjamin Franklin Cooling, the battlefield encompassed an area roughly bounded by “Walter Reed Army Medical Center (north), eastward beyond Piney Branch Road, Oregon Avenue beyond Rock Creek Park on the west, and south to Military Road/Missouri Avenue (behind Union lines). Skirmishing took place across the northern lines from west and north of Tennallytown to Rockville and east to the rail and turnpike to Baltimore at Fort Lincoln” (Cooling and Owen 2010: 173). Cooling notes that the “epicenter” of the fighting took place “in the high ground vicinity of 13th Street and Van Buren Street north of Fort Stevens and south of Walter Reed...and eastward beyond Battleground National Cemetery and Piney Branch Road” (Cooling and Owen 2010: 173).

Fighting was intense by mid-afternoon. Gun fire erupted from sharpshooters occupying nearby houses and the line of Confederate soldiers. Cannons from Forts Stevens and DeRussy fired. To the north of the cemetery site, shells hit the Carberry and Reeves houses, where sharpshooters were hiding, and caught fire. The destruction of homes during the battle was described, “The forts began a systematic obliteration of any nearby structure that could harbor a nest of sharpshooters. Nearest to Fort Stevens, the houses of Richard Butts and W.M. Morrison to the east of the road, and of W. Bell to the west, shuddered and smoked and splintered under the rain of hot metal; they would soon be fully afire” (Judge: 237).

The battlefield stretched out a mile from Fort Stevens and fighting kept up until after dusk. Union troops near Fort Reno and the other defenses were engaged in battles with the Rebels into the early morning hours (Floyd VII: 7-8). According to Leland Brown, gun and cannon fire from Forts Totten and DeRussy helped defeat the Confederates (Brown: 42). The Confederates withdrew towards Rockville by midnight and whether intentionally or not, Blair’s Falkland was burned down (Judge: 252-257).

Early’s army retreated from the Washington area after dark and headed towards the Shenandoah Valley. Union troops engaged the Rebels near Poolesville, Maryland as they left, but the battle was largely over. Battle casualty numbers differ. Some report a total Union and Confederate toll of 874 injured and killed, while others report casualties numbering 573 Union and 500 Confederate (Floyd VII, 8). Historians Benjamin Franklin Cooling and Walton Owen state fifty-nine Union soldiers were killed and one-hundred-forty-five were wounded (Cooling and Owen 2010: 182).

Battle memoirist Stevens described the wounded in his account:

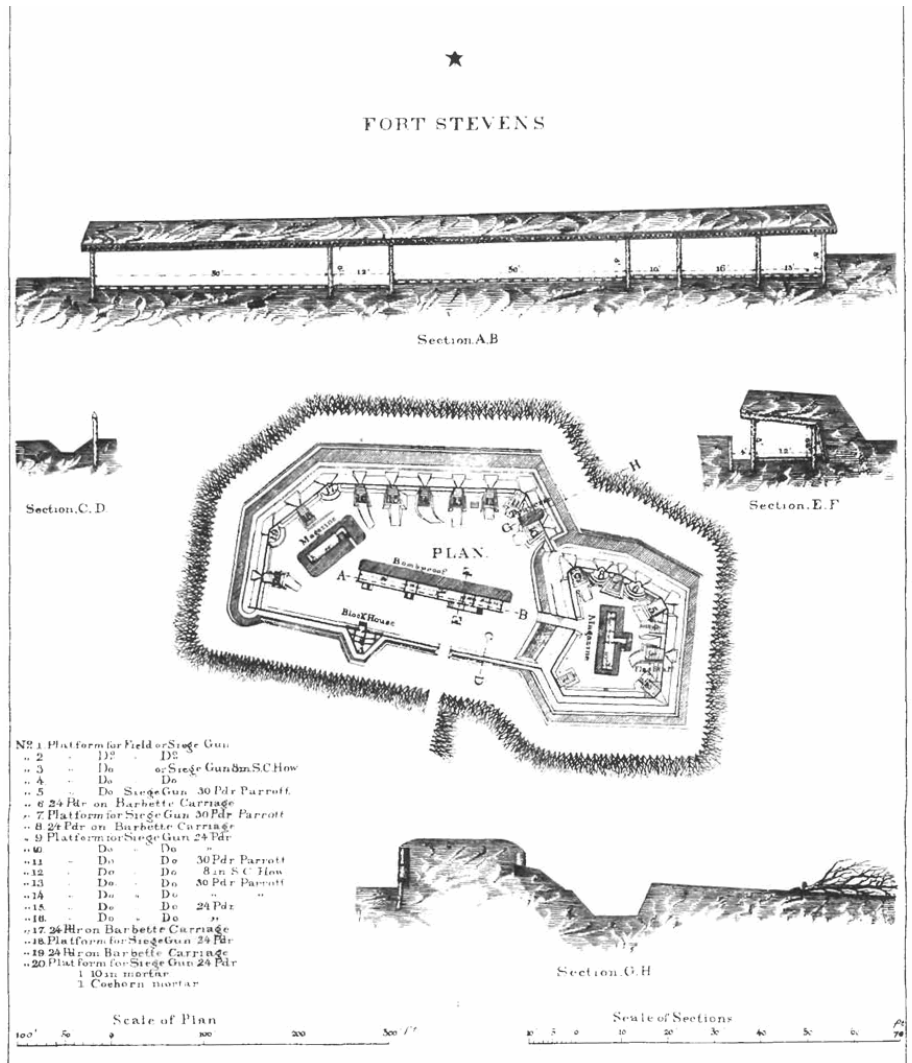
“The fight had lasted but a few minutes, when the stream of bleeding, mangled ones, began to come to the rear. Men, leaning upon the shoulders of comrades, or borne painfully on stretchers...were brought into the hospital by scores...In the orchard, in the road, about the frame house and upon the summit...their forms were stretched upon the green sward and in the dusty road, stiff and cold. Many more had come to the hospital severely injured, maimed for life or mortally wounded” (Stevens: 377).

Jubal Early later recalled of the forts surrounding Washington, “were found to be exceedingly strong, and consisted of what appeared to be enclosed forts of heavy artillery, with a tier of

Fort Stevens

Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North

lower guns, the whole being connected by curtains with ditches in front, and strengthened by palisades and abattis. The timber has been felled within cannon range all around and left on the ground...as far as the eye could reach, the works appeared to be...impregnable" (Kelly: 37).



Fort Stevens following the 1862 expansion. The original section of the fort is located to the east, or right side of the drawing (National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 77, 170-75-89).

Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North



Modified 1865 map of the defenses of Washington. Forts and batteries owned by the National Park Service and other individuals or agencies are highlighted (DSC 832/20041).

Fort Stevens

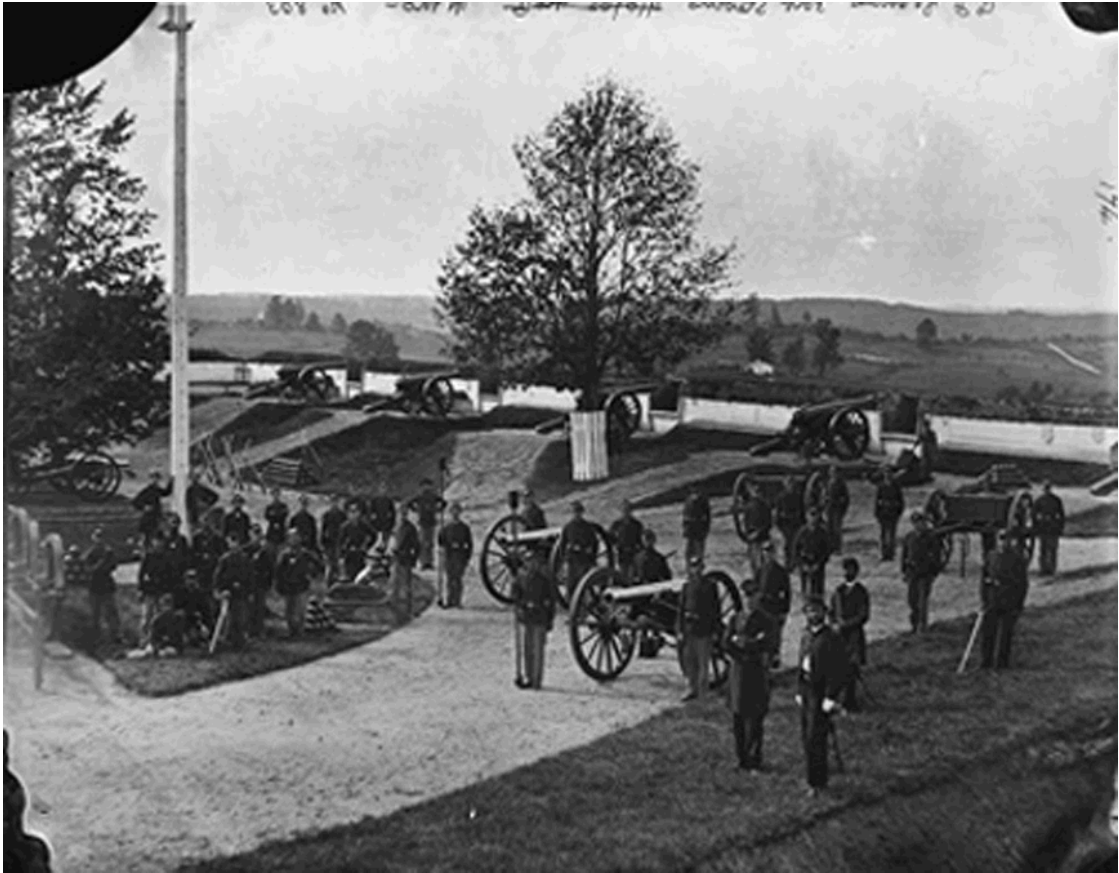
Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North



Officer's quarters, Fort Stevens, 1865 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division).

Fort Stevens

Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North



3rd Massachusetts Regiment, Heavy Artillery, at Fort Stevens, 1865 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division).



Camp Brightwood, D.C.
Contrabands in 2nd R.I. camp

Fugitive slaves with soldiers at Camp Brightwood, c. 1861-1864 (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division).

1865-1899

After the War

On April 9, 1865 Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox. Within a short amount of time nearly all the forts guarding Washington were abandoned. On June 23, the War Department issued General Order 89 temporarily agreeing to maintain twenty-five of the forts, including Forts Stevens, Slocum, Totten and Reno. The others would be abandoned and the land

returned to its owners (Cooling and Owen 1988: 16). In July, parapets at several of the forts, including Stevens, were re-sodded (Floyd Part II: 9). In September, further reductions were made in the maintenance of the forts and only eleven forts and one battery remained in operation. By November, the War Department abandoned still more forts and The New York Times reported in March 1866 that “Forts Carroll, Stanton, Baker, Mahan, Lincoln, Totten, Slocum, Stevens, Reno and Sumner” were being dismantled. Battery Rodgers and Fort Whipple remained in use (“From Washington,” The New York Times, March 18, 1866). By July 1866 all the forts were closed except for Fort Foote, which the Army operated until 1878 and later was used as a training facility during World War I (Cooling and Owen 1988:16; Floyd Vol. II, Ch. 1: 6-10). In October, the government began disposing of the forts by auctioning off their materials. Auctions started with the Virginia forts on October 9th and on the 14th materials from Fort Stevens and the other defenses north of the city were scheduled to begin. Everything from hinges, nails and buckets, to barracks, stables and store-houses were for sale (Daily Constitutional Union, October 16, 1865; Brown: 34).

During the Civil War, Brightwood houses were destroyed or badly damaged by bullets and shells. Fields and orchards were trampled or cut down and livestock was lost. Aldace Walker, the VI Corps soldier, remarked that “all the crops in the neighborhood were trodden down” (Walker: 32). During the battle area houses were destroyed and several suffered bullet and shell damage. Rebel sharpshooters occupied the Reeves and the Carberry homes until they were burned to the ground by Union fire. Annie Osborne, a descendent of the Beall’s, who lived on property adjacent to the fort and where fighting took place, recalled her family home being burned to the ground (Proctor 1949: 108; Handly: 88). Some homes were used by Union troops during the war, including Matthew Gault Emery’s home, which served as a signal station (Battleground to Community, Cultural Tourism DC).

Following the war, residents applied for compensation for property damage incurred during the construction of the fort and during the battle. In 1874, the claims of several Brightwood residents, including Enos Ray, Sarah Matthews (a relative of Elizabeth Thomas), William Beal and James Mulloy, whose property was seized for the establishment of Battleground National Cemetery, were ordered by Congress to be referred to the Committee on Claims (A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774 – 1875, Congressional Record, Senate, 43rd Congress, 1st Session). Enos and Alfred Ray and other members of Emory Methodist Church wrote to President Johnson seeking compensation and describing the abandonment of fort structures, including the officers’ quarters, mess hall and barracks on their property (Floyd Part II: Appendix N). James Mulloy was compensated, but further research is necessary to determine if the others received payment (Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1871: 182).

Elizabeth Thomas filed a claim in 1902 stating that she and her two siblings, Sarah Proctor Diggs and George Proctor, were the owners of ten acres of land upon which they had built a house, stable with a barn, cow shed and other outbuildings. According to the claim, in June, 1861 Union troops under the command of General Isaac I. Stevens, for whom Fort Stevens was later named, took possession of their land. The claim goes on to state that in 1863 Union troops destroyed all the buildings on the property and during their occupation the troops “destroyed claimant’s garden, orchard, and shrubbery, and took and used her fences for

firewood.” Rifle pits were dug across Thomas’ land and the fort occupied 3 acres of her property. Losses to Thomas and her siblings were valued at \$10,507. In 1904 the Claims Court found that the destruction of the land was a matter of military necessity and the reasonable value to their property was \$1,835. According to the claim, Thomas had not filed for damages earlier because she had put the matter and all the paperwork in the hands of a Captain Howlett of the Thirty-sixth New York. Howlett died before being able to file the claim and Thomas was unable to get back the documents she gave the captain (58th Congress, 3rd Session, Doc. No. 53, Court of Claims, Congressional No. 10915).

Several historians and Washington Star columnist John Clagett Proctor have written that Mrs. Thomas was never compensated for the loss of her land or home though newspaper accounts suggest otherwise. In 1914 Senate bill 4307 was introduced by New Jersey Senator James E. Martine “for the relief of Elizabeth Thomas.” The Washington Post reported in 1913 that Thomas’ claim for \$1,835 was included in the Omnibus War Claims bill. Two years later the paper reported that appropriations were made for Thomas, along with several Maryland and Washington residents, in “accordance with the findings of the United States Court of Claims.” According to the paper, Thomas was awarded \$1,835. Further research is necessary to determine if Thomas was awarded this money or any other compensation (“Bill For Everybody’s Good, Mr. M’Adoo Tells Bankers,” WP, October 14, 1913; “Benefit by War Claims Bill,” WP, March 7, 1915; A Bill for the Relief of Elizabeth Thomas, 63 S. 4307, February 2, 1914).

The heirs of William Morrison, whose fields and orchards had been taken and the timber from his land used, filed a successful claim for damages in 1894. Two years later the Morrison family was awarded \$6,100 for the loss (53rd Congress, 3rd Session, Mis. Doc. No. 61; 54th Congress, 1st Session, Report No. 697).

In 1890 a letter to the editor of the Washington Post signed, “One of the Sufferers,” complained,

“Oh, that some of the members of Congress could have lost property at Fort Stevens. . . . By order of the United States commander at Fort Stevens all the houses near the fort were destroyed to prevent the sharp-shooters of the Army taking possession of them. The sufferers thereby were loyal citizens; their property was in the District; they lost their all. For twenty-five years they have been trying (without success) for compensation from Congress” (“Injustice Long Prolonged,” WP, May 23, 1890).

Following the war, the community began to put itself back together. By 1870, the Emory Methodist Church built a stone building to replace the building destroyed by Union troops. Schools for black and white children opened. Black children were originally educated in abandoned Army barracks located adjacent to Fort Stevens (Cooling and Owen 2010: 177). Land was soon after donated for a school building by Elizabeth Butler’s family. It became known as the Military Road School and operated as a public school for black children until 1954 (National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Military Road School; www.militaryroadschoolalumniassociation.org; <http://www.mrspt.org>).

The black and white communities tended to settle on particular roads. The black population was concentrated largely along Military Road, Shepherd Road, 'A' Road and Milkhouse Ford Road. The white population lived on Seventh Street and Piney Branch Roads (Grandine: 38). Prominent Washingtonians continued to reside, or own property, in the area. Alexander "Boss" Shepherd purchased part of the Carberry property, located to the northwest of Battleground National Cemetery, in the late 1860s and built a \$15,000 house, by far the most expensive home in the area (Smith 1988: 93).

In 1871, Congress authorized the Washington City government to acquire Seventh Street Turnpike and operate it as a free road. After the city took over, the tollgate was removed and the turnpike renamed the Seventh Street Road. The road was paved with cobblestones and later macadamized (Smith 2010:131; Smith, 1988: 93; Grandine: 36). By the end of the 1880s, the Seventh Street Road underwent another name change and became Brightwood Avenue.

Beginning in 1873, horse-car service transported Brightwood residents on the Seventh Street Road at Rock Creek Ford Road (formerly Milkhouse Ford Road) down to the city (Smith, 2010: 131). The area continued to grow and occupations reflected a shift from the area's agricultural roots to work outside the community. Census records from 1880 indicate Brightwood residents were blacksmiths, printers, servants, laborers, and government employees ("Georgia Avenue: Brightwood's Road from the Past to the Future," 42; 1880; Census Place: Washington, District of Columbia, District of Columbia; Roll 121; Page: 29A; Enumeration District 2; Image: 0059; Smith 2010: 132). That year it was reported 414 people were living on the Seventh Street Road. There were one-hundred and forty-six heads of household: sixty were Black and eight-six, white (Smith, 1988: 93; "Georgia Avenue: Brightwood's Road from the Past to the Future," 42).

Brightwood followed Mount Pleasant and Petworth, both developed in the 1880s and located south of the neighborhood, and Takoma Park and Brookland to the east. An 1890s real estate map reveals that Brightwood still consisted of large tracts of land, whereas in adjacent neighborhoods plats were crisscrossed with newly laid streets (Real Estate Map of the Metropolitan Branch...1890). The site of Fort Stevens and the battlefield still listed familiar names from the 1860s. B. Thomas and G. Proctor are noted as owning land bordered by Rock Creek Ford Road and Piney Branch Road. The Emory Methodist Church still occupied land to the east of Piney Branch and the west of Brightwood Avenue. Anna C. Beall was listed as the owner of land immediately to the north of the church and Elizabeth Thomas' property. Tracts belonging to the Ray, Savoy, Matthews and Saul families were nearby.

Following the development of suburbs north of Florida Avenue and outside L'Enfant's plan for Washington, the engineer commissioners urged the creation of a street plan to conform to L'Enfant's design. Congress funded a ten year mapping project beginning in 1879 and the city was given authority to approve the subdivision of property. This did not begin until 1888. Subdivisions were then required to conform to the city's master plan. The plan, however, was not developed and implemented until after the passage of the Highway Act of March 2, 1893. In 1898 a map was completed that included the layout of streets in Brightwood (Scott: 118-120). Historian Katherine Grandine wrote of the plan:

"For Brightwood...the map largely erased its separate physical identity. As much as possible, a straight grid street pattern was imposed on the landscape. Many of the older roads were shifted, straightened where appropriate, and widened...Shepherd Road became Concord Avenue; Piney Branch Road, Colorado Avenue; and Rock Creek Ford Road was joined to Peabody Street...it must have shocked older residents to see their farmlands platted and their houses located in the middle of the proposed streets" (Grandine: 67).

Hopkins real estate maps from 1896 show a system of superimposed city blocks, streets, circles and radiating avenues surrounding Fort Stevens and on land belonging to Elizabeth Thomas and her family, the Bealls and John Saul. Development was underway in Brightwood and its neighboring communities, but for many years after the implementation of the 1893 act, large sections of land remained untouched (Real Estate Plat-Book of Washington, District of Columbia, Supplement, Volume Three).

The strong force behind the development of Brightwood was made up of local men who would later become leaders in the effort to preserve Fort Stevens. In 1891, they founded the Brightwood Avenue Citizens Association to lobby for improvements to streetcar service in the neighborhood and other public works projects (Grandine: 94). The first large-scale residential development, in a sense, occurred unintentionally. Local landowner Archibald White sold 82 acres of his land in 1891 for the establishment of a university. The university plan fell through due to financial problems and the land was instead subdivided into a residential development known as Brightwood Park.

The development bordered Petworth to the south, Matthew Gault Emery's family property and Shepherd Road to the north and Brightwood Avenue to the west. Sections of land belonging to the Ray family made up its eastern border. Brightwood Park consisted of 33 blocks, or sections of blocks, with lots sizes averaging 50 feet wide by 150 feet deep (Grandine: 55). By 1894, thirty-four frame houses were finished. Shortly afterwards, Harry Wardman, the developer responsible for an enormous amount of residential construction throughout Washington, started building in Brightwood Park. In 1938, when Wardman died, an estimated one-eighth to one-tenth of Washington's residents lived in Wardman houses or apartment buildings (Smith 1988: 95). By the end of the 1920s, Brightwood would become home to major Wardman development projects. The first homes he built in the area were located in Brightwood Park. He constructed six detached wood-frame houses between 1897 and 1899 on 9th and Longfellow Streets ("Wardman's World," WP, October 15, 2005; Smith 1988: 95).

Fort Stevens
Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North



1878 Hopkins Real Estate Map illustrating Brightwood's proximity to other developing areas in Washington and its growth since the Civil War (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division).



1919-1921 Baist Real Estate Map showing the development around Brightwood. Fort Stevens is circled and some of the property owned by Elizabeth Thomas or her heirs is noted (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division).

1900-1925

The Preservation Battle Begins

At the time Brightwood was beginning its transition from a rural community to what would become a densely developed suburb, veterans of the Civil War began paying attention to the condition of Fort Stevens and the other defenses of Washington. In the 1880s, a veteran of the battle, Corporal Lewis Cass White of Co. H, 102d PA returned to the area and purchased the northwest corner of the intersection of Brightwood Avenue and Piney Branch Road where he built a large home. According to the program for the 1964 centennial commemoration of the battle, White was upset about the condition in which he found the fort and battleground.

White's visit to Fort Stevens and his later move to Washington came at a time when efforts to preserve Civil War battlefields and establish battlefield parks was underway around the country. Chickamauga and Chattanooga were created in 1890, Shiloh in 1894, Gettysburg in 1895 and Vicksburg in 1899. The battlefields were preserved as memorial sites, but they were also used for the study of military maneuvers. Troop positions and lines of battle were marked. By the time they officially became parks, Union and Confederate veterans had been holding joint reunions and encampments on the battlefields for several years (Lee, "The First Battlefield Parks,"

http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/history_military/nmpidea5.htm).

Following the creation of the first battlefield parks, bills for the establishment of multiple battlefield parks were submitted to Congress. Between 1901 and 1904, thirty-four bills were introduced to "authorize twenty-three additional historical reservations in nine different states and the District of Columbia." Fort Stevens was one of the many parks proposed (Lee, Later Evolution of the National Military Park Idea,

http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/history_military/nmpidea6.htm).

The 1998 Historic Resources Study on the Civil War Defenses of Washington, notes that until the 1890s there were few newspaper or other accounts of the defenses' condition. The study quotes an 1869 description of the forts:

"About two miles outside of Washington, and completely encircling the city, is a chain of fortifications, completely connected by a military-road, forming a boulevard, which, by the aid of trees and shrubbery, judiciously cared for, would be equal to the famed drives surrounding the city of Paris. All of the fortifications on the north and east sides have long since been dismantled and are now either grass-grown or leveled with the surrounding earth, and completely obliterated by the farmer's ploughshare" (Floyd Part II: 11).

A journalist described the forts in the 1870s as being covered with flowers, grass, and shrubs. Soldiers' blankets, clothes and other litter from the war, were still present (Floyd Part II: 11). Veterans of the 25th New York Cavalry located the line of the battle and some of the original breastworks during an 1891 visit. General Wright during a visit to the fort was able to locate the spot on the parapet where Lincoln stood during the battle. It may have been during this visit that Wright remarked, "hardly a man in the VI Corps who came here on double quick to the help of comrades in arms would recognize the place" (Jacob: 144).

In 1896, City Engineer Major William Powell, suggested a plan for developing, "Fort Drive, a magnificent speedway, 130 feet wide, running from Anacostia Park...touching all the old forts to Fort Stevens, making a drive about five miles long. The Commissioners' object is to provide for the preservation of what remains of all the old forts and connect them with a handsome driveway." The Civil War forts would be preserved and according to Powell's plan, Fort Stevens would be called Fort Stevens Square. Neighbors of the proposed drive opposed it fearing it would damage the value of their property. Powell spoke two years before the release of the permanent highway plan for Washington, which included a drive between the forts ("A Drive to the Forts," WP, April 19, 1896; Floyd Part II: Appendix W).

In 1900, Lewis Cass White, Gen. Thomas M. Vincent, Gen Frank Wheaton, Gen. George Getty, Gen. Fred C. Ainsworth, Gen. John C. Breckinridge and others, founded the Fort Stevens-Lincoln Military Park Association, or also known as the Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park Association, to lobby for the establishment of a military park at the fort. The goal of the organization was to assist the Grand Army of the Republic with Memorial Day exercises at Battleground National Cemetery and “to restore, preserve, and mark, as far as possible, the historic spots associated with the Battle of Fort Stevens, including...this the old fort, the batteries and connecting earthworks and the nearby roads” (John Clagett Proctor and Maud Proctor Callis Papers, Historical Society of Washington). The group also worked towards locating the Lincoln Memorial at Fort Stevens.

The Brightwood Avenue Citizens’ Association became very involved in the effort to establish a park. At the association’s June 1900 meeting it was reported that governors of several states had written letters in support of preserving Fort Stevens. The Confederate Veterans’ Association also supported the preservation of the fort (“Brightwood Citizens’ Meeting”, WP, June 2, 1900; “For Park at Fort Stevens,” WP, March 4, 1900).

One of the Brightwood Avenue Citizens’ Association’s founders and long time Brightwood resident, Louis Peirce Shoemaker, was credited with the idea of establishing a city park at the site of the fort. He was a child and living with his grandmother near Fort Stevens at the time of the battle and recalled to the Association how they gathered valuables and fled her house. Shoemaker served as President of the association from 1900-1917. He was a descendent of Isaac Peirce of Peirce Mill, where he was born, and a major portion of Shoemaker’s land would become Rock Creek Park. He was active in several northwest Washington neighborhood associations and lobbied hard for improvements to Brightwood. Through his efforts to promote Brightwood and the surrounding area, Walter Reed General Hospital, a medical facility for members of the military, was moved from Fort McNair in Virginia to land that belonged to Thomas Carberry. Shoemaker also worked with Georgia Senator Augustus Bacon to aid the area. In 1909, residents supported changing the name of Brightwood Avenue to Georgia in the hopes it would help their cause. Unfortunately, Bacon died shortly after the avenue changed its name (Grandine: 73; Smith 1988: 95).

Second National Bank President William Van Zandt Cox was another prominent resident active in both the Military Park Association and the Brightwood Avenue Citizens’ Association. In the latter organization he served as president and served several terms as head of the history committee. Cox lectured, wrote papers and worked on events that commemorated the battle. He also was vice chairman of a committee to mark historic sites in Washington. In 1900, he presented a paper on the battle to the Columbia Historical Society. At that time the rifle trenches on the northwest side of the fort were still standing and well preserved.

During a Brightwood Avenue Citizens’ Association meeting in February 1900, Cox read a history of the fort and battle and remarked, “let us save all that remains of those silent reminders of the terrible days of war, as a monument to the bravery of the American soldier.” He offered a resolution that was unanimously adopted which stated, “the Brightwood Avenue

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Citizens' Association recommends that the property from and including Fort Stevens and the old rifle trenches to Rock Creek Park be obtained by the United States or the District of Columbia, properly marked and sacredly preserved." Cox went on to state that he would dedicate a portion of the old earthworks that included the parapet on which Lincoln stood to the Federal or District governments ("Park at Fort Stevens," WP, February 10, 1900).

In 1899, Cox purchased a portion of the fort property from Elizabeth Thomas. Shortly afterwards he was issued a building permit for six, single-family detached homes. Cox offered to donate the land he purchased for the preservation of Fort Stevens provided he could "erect half a dozen neat, two-story, six-room frame houses on the part that does not in any way encroach upon the fortifications" (University of Maryland, "Georgia Avenue: Brightwood's Road from the Past to the Future," 73). Thomas sold other parcels of the fort land in 1896 and 1898 to a William E. DeWitt, who also acquired building permits in 1898 for two, two-story frame houses on the site. The 1903 Baist Map documented seven structures at Fort Stevens.

Articles in The Evening Star from March 1911 reported that a group of Virginia and Maryland Capitalists purchased part of the fort including the rifle pits and "part of the fortifications" between Peabody and Underwood Streets. They planned to improve the area and call it Fort Stevens Terrace ("Old Fort Stevens Sold," The Evening Star, March 22, 1911). A July 1911 article in The Washington Times reported that Cox bought "the last remaining walls" of the fort ("Old Fort Stevens Scene of a Narrow Escape for Lincoln," The Washington Times, July 8, 1911). In March he met with members of the Grand Army of the Republic and other Union veterans groups to discuss Memorial Day exercises at the fort as well as working together to meet with Congress concerning the establishment of a park and preserving fort. Baist Maps from 1913 show that Cox owned a good portion of Square 2940, the land that included the fort (Baist 1913: sheet 20).

Senate Park Commission, McMillan Plan

In January 1902, the Senate Park Commission released its study of Washington. The commission, commonly known as the McMillan Commission, was established to improve the parks, public buildings and public spaces in Washington. William Van Zandt Cox contributed an account of the battle to Park Improvement Papers that were part of the commission's study of the city. Cox was a member of the Washington Board of Trade and served as President from 1904 to 1905 and acted as secretary for the Committee on Parks and Reservations ("W.V. Cox Dies at 71," WP, July 25, 1923). The Board of Trade also endorsed establishing a park at Fort Stevens. In their 1900 Annual Report, excerpts of which were included in "Park Improvement Papers, No. 1", and submitted by Cox, the Board stated that the idea for establishing a park at the fort had first been discussed by Union veterans as early as 1867. The board felt that "other historical battlefields and forts of the civil war in the District of Columbia could be similarly utilized to great advantage in the way of securing beautiful national parks, not only to be enjoyed by the people, but instructive in history." Cox's paper went on to say that the Union Veterans' Union, an organization of more than 100,000 former soldiers, endorsed the creation of a park and resolutions they adopted in support of its creation would be forwarded to Congress (Park Improvement Papers No. 1, 11-12).

Included in Cox's paper was an excerpt of an editorial in The Evening Star endorsing the

proposal, as well as the creation of the fort drive. "With Fort Stevens preserved as a nucleus for this boulevard of drive, it would be the easier to secure favorable action by Congress toward the consummation of the plans prepared and earnestly advocated by Engineer Commissioner Powell." Senator Proctor's bill was included in the paper and Cox also lent support of the fort drive proposal. "A boulevard, much like that suggested by Major Powell a few years ago, can easily be made on natural and proper topographical lines between the points mentioned, passing through a country the most interesting historically and beautiful beyond compare and covering the entire line of battle" (Park Improvement Papers, No. 1, 15-17).

The Senate Park Commission recommended acquiring the fort sites for future parks as well as creating the fort drive. Fort Stevens would be included in a proposed "northern park circuit of great interest...having views off into the country..." The forts east of the Anacostia could be "linked together readily by means of a permanent system of highways...comparable in beauty with that along the Potomac Palisades, but utterly different in character" (Moore: 111). Though these plans were discussed early in the century, it was several more years before any action was taken to build the Fort Drive.

In 1902, the Military Park Association lobbied Congress to create a park at Fort Stevens. Civil War veteran, former Secretary of War, and Vermont Senator Redfield Proctor introduced Senate Bill 4476 sponsored by the Military Park Association to create the park. The bill encompassed more than Fort Stevens, though the site was the most important feature of the proposal. The bill included the preservation of northern defenses from Fort Reno to Fort Totten, including rifle pits that were still in good condition. Land between the sites would be acquired where necessary. The bill also spoke favorably of the Fort Drive idea and the connection of the park with the drive. It did not pass (Cooling, 1989:242-243; Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park, 4247 S.doc.433). That same year, a memorial was erected to the 122nd New York Volunteers, VI Army Corps at Battleground National Cemetery on the fortieth anniversary of the battle.

In 1903 and 1904, newspapers reported on the condition of the fort. According to an article in the Washington Times, "a part of the old works are standing in a fair state of preservation" ("Where Stood the Brave Defenders of the Capital," The Washington Times, March 15, 1903). The following year the New York Tribune provided a description of the fort as being best preserved of all the forts in and around the city. A few houses had been built within the "enclosure," but the western half was well preserved. Some of the rampart was still intact, as well as the "embrasures through which the cannon hurled their shot and shell. A slight depression is still visible to indicate the location of the bombproof." The article stated that two flights of steps were necessary to climb in order to reach the level of the fort, and went on to say, "it is hoped that the march of improvements in this direction may be checked and that the ground will be purchased by the government for a National Park..." ("When the Capital was in Danger," New York Tribune, July 10, 1904) An additional article from the same time period stated that "time and tourists" were wearing away the parapets, but Confederate bullets were still being found and sold by local children (Washingtoniana Collection, Fort Stevens Vertical Files, un-named newspaper, N.D).

Nebraska newspaper The Falls City Tribune in 1904 recommended Fort Stevens as a historic site in Washington worth visiting. The paper's "Campfire Tales" column stated, "Sacred as the spot should be, it was for many years neglected. In recent years, however, a dilatory Congress has seen to its care, and now it is attractive enough to take many visitors daily to the high ground five miles north of the city..." ("Camp Fire Tales," The Falls City Tribune, September 23, 1904). The New York Tribune also reported that the fort and Battleground National Cemetery had become memorial sites for the war. "Each year on Memorial Day the people of the neighborhood go there to listen to the recital of those acts of patriotism and devotion, and the children of the public schools with loving hands strew the graves with flowers, to the solemn strains of music." Veterans groups, women's organizations and the Brightwood Avenue Citizens Association planned commemorations on Memorial Day, Flag Day and the anniversary of the battle ("When the Capital was in Danger the President was in the Battle," The New York Tribune, July 10, 1904; Floyd Part II, 13)

The Military Park Association voted in 1906 to appoint a committee of five members to "do all in the committee's power to aid in securing an appropriation from Congress to establish a park in the vicinity of Fort Stevens" (The Evening Star, December 20, 1906 included in Proctor Papers, Historical Society of Washington). The group voted to endorse a plan introduced in bills by both houses of Congress to authorize the President to appoint a commission to "consider and recommend a system of national parks for military, historical, and other purposes." They also resolved that they would work with Congress to have a "suitable and permanent marker, suitably inscribed" to Lincoln placed on the parapet (The Evening Star, December 20, 1906). That same year, Missouri Senator William Warner introduces a bill similar to the 1902 park bill. It, like its predecessor, did not pass (Cooling 1989: 243).

William Van Zandt Cox spoke at the 1907 dedication of the memorial to Company K, 150th Ohio National Guard at Battleground National Cemetery. He mentioned that a temporary marker was in place on the earthworks at Fort Stevens honoring the service of the Ohio soldiers. During his remarks he said, "We have been trying to save Fort Stevens from physical destruction, and we feel that the ground should be acquired by the government before the centennial of the birthday of the great Lincoln" (Dedication Program, 6, MRCE).

Four years later The Evening Star published an editorial on the fort. "Fort Stevens, which should be a national and everlasting memorial, seems to be slipping away. Efforts for its preservation have not yet produced the result desired." The paper advocated creating a park that included the fields north, east and west of the Brightwood Road including Battleground National Cemetery. The paper reported on the deteriorated condition of the fort (The Evening Star, March 27, 1911).

"The ramparts of Fort Stevens have been leveled, with the exception of a section at the west end of the works. Washington's suburbs have grown around the fort and invade it. A small street crosses the parade ground of the fort and a row of small frame houses has been built there. Part of the north face of the fortification which fronted the southern forces remains, though the breastworks have been considerably worn down and the fronting ditch half filled by the wear of the seasons" (Floyd Part II: 14; The Evening Star, March 27, 1911).

Despite the poor conditions reported in the paper and without any luck establishing a park at the fort, Lewis Cass White and Cox were able to raise \$250 through private donations to erect a monument to Lincoln in November 1911. Earlier that year, Louis Shoemaker wrote to President Taft to recommend Brightwood as a new location for the botanic garden and suggested that a statue of Lincoln be erected on the parapet at Fort Stevens ("Urges Fort Stevens Park," WP, June 30, 1911). The monument for which White and Cox raised money was a two and a half-ton boulder found on a section of the battlefield then part of the grounds of Walter Reed Army Medical Center. It was placed on the parapet where the President stood during the battle. The boulder rested atop a two-tiered square pedestal. The base was smooth stone and the support immediately under the boulder was rough faced in keeping with the surface of the monument. Anchored on each of the corners of the pedestal were 32-pound cannon balls that were, according to the program from the 1964 Civil War centennial celebration, fired from Fort Stevens and found in nearby fields after the war. In an undated photograph of the boulder, a low border fence surrounds the boulder and a wayside in front of the monument describes its significance.

Months prior to the installation of the boulder, "only a rude board nailed to a tree marked the site" (Cooling 1989: 243). A few days before the anniversary of the battle in 1911, The Washington Times published a photograph of Elizabeth Thomas pointing to the sign which was reportedly fastened to a black locust. Another picture in this article also reveals a section of a frame house near the flagpole. According to the article, "Aunt Betty...today lives in a neat cottage less that (sic) twenty feet from the still visible cellar of her former home" (The Washington Times, July 8, 1911). Nearly five thousand people witnessed the unveiling along with seven veterans of the battle and Elizabeth Thomas. W.V. Cox was master of ceremonies. During the dedication he said,

"This rugged boulder is not what a grateful people should erect to the memory of Lincoln and the brave boys who fell in saving their country's Capital; but, such as it is, as inornate as it is, it comes as a free-will offering from men and women who have red blood in their veins, and who feel that it would be a crime to let this hallowed spot be forgotten. It is hoped that Congress will save this old fort, with its sacred tradition, and erect the memorial to Abraham Lincoln here instead of in the lowlands of the Potomac, where Lincoln never was, and could not have gotten even with rubber boots, as one of our members has said" ("Unveil Lincoln Stone," WP, November 8, 1911).

The main speaker at the dedication was former Louisiana congressman Floyd King, a Confederate veteran of the battle, who remarked that he was glad Early's men had retreated. During the ceremony the list of Union and Confederate dead was recited and a children's choir sang "America" (Jacob: 143).

In 1912, the Lincoln Memorial Commission released their report on finding an appropriate location and design. Fort Stevens had been considered, along with other sites, including Meridian Hill and Delaware Avenue near Union Station, but the Fort was not chosen because, according to the report, "Seventh Street is not a great radial avenue in the city plan, and it would be impossible to coordinate this site with any of the chief monuments of the Capital"

("Lincoln Memorial Commission Report," Floyd Part II: Appendix A, page 24).

A bronze bas-relief depicting Lincoln under fire designed by J. Otto Schweizer was installed on the Lincoln boulder on the anniversary of the battle in 1920. The plaque included the dedication date and that it was erected by the Associated Survivor's of the VI Army Corps. Schweizer was a Swiss-born artist well known for the many historic figures and events he depicted in his work, including the All Wars Memorial to Colored Soldiers and Sailors, also known as the State Memorial for the Colored Soldiers of Pennsylvania, located in Philadelphia, and the Von Steuben statue at Valley Forge National Historical Park ("Otto Schweizer, Sculptor, Was 92," The New York Times, December 3, 1955).

The dedication ceremony was organized by the Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park Association and included remarks by several people, including W.V. Cox and VI Army Corps member George T. Stevens gave a talk titled, "A Memory of Fort Stevens." General Wright's great-grandchildren unveiled the tablet ("Unveil Memorial at Fort Stevens," WP, July 13, 1920).

Elizabeth Thomas was not in attendance at this celebration. She died in 1917, but at the end of her life she was still an important Brightwood figure. In 1909, a neighborhood group known as The Elizabeth Thomas Citizens Association was established ("Brightwood Citizens Act," Jan 16, 1909, The Washington Bee). Thomas served as president. In 1924, the National Federation of Colored Women's Club of America celebrated Lincoln-Thomas Day and honored the President and Thomas with recitations of the Gettysburg Address at Black churches. According to archivist Philip Ogilvie, who compiled a wealth of information on Thomas, two teachers who boarded with Thomas for many years, took up the fight for compensation for her losses during the Civil War following her death (Elizabeth Thomas, 1821-1917, Ogilvie, 1998).

At the time of the dedication of the Schweizer bronze, veterans groups and the Military Park Association were lobbying to have a statue of Lincoln that had recently been removed from its long term location outside the District Courthouse relocated to Fort Stevens. The Fort was still several years away from becoming a park, but efforts to call attention to the site persisted. In 1919, the courthouse was about to undergo renovations and the statue was to be removed because it interfered "with the architectural beauty of the courthouse...it was out of alignment with the plans for improving the courthouse grounds." The decision to remove the statue was based on recommendations by the Commission of Fine Arts and supported by the Department of Public Buildings and Grounds ("Lincoln Statue will be Moved," WP, November 10 1919).

The statue was the first public monument to the president and was erected in 1868. An uproar over its removal developed and organizations and cities around the country offered to take the statue. Supporters of Fort Stevens jumped into the fray ("Seek Site for Statue," WP, December 14, 1919,). The Brightwood Citizens Association proposed moving the statue to the fort. A veterans group unanimously adopted a resolution to support moving the statue to Fort Stevens and offered to assist the Citizens Association in their efforts to acquire it. In the program for the 1920 Memorial Day services at Battleground National Cemetery, the Brightwood Citizens Association included a picture of the Lincoln statue below the parapet at Fort Stevens. Given

the controversy surrounding relocating the statue, it was returned to its original location at the courthouse in 1923.

Brightwood Becomes a Suburb

At the turn of the century Brightwood and the development of Brightwood Park included 294 households according to the 1900 census. Sixty-six black and 126 white households were located in Brightwood (Grandine: 61). There were twenty-six farms still in the area. Following the deaths of John Saul and Archibald White in the 1890s, further development occurred with the subdivision of their large land holdings in 1901 and 1906 (Grandine: 68). Other longtime landowners died within a few years of the new century, including the Butts and Beall families, and Alfred Ray whose property had been part of Camp Brightwood.

In a speech given during the opening of the neighborhood's new fire station in 1897, W.V. Cox remarked on the growth of Brightwood. The local school had been enlarged, but was now too small; streets were improved; sewers installed; and houses that stood empty for years were now occupied (Grandine: 60). By 1900 the neighborhood's water supply improved with the construction of a reservoir located where the Rock Creek Tennis Center is located today on 16th and Kennedy Streets.

The Brightwood Avenue Citizens' Association dropped the word avenue from their name in 1903 to reflect the organization's focus on the community of Brightwood and not the thoroughfare. Since the organization's founding, many new communities were established along the street and were starting their own neighborhood organizations. Louis P. Shoemaker discussed in a 1904 pamphlet published by the Brightwood Citizens' Association the advantages of living in the area—land was more affordable and Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Sixteenth Streets were in the process of being extended (Grandine: 68).

The Washington Post reported in 1910 that Harry Wardman was building homes on John Saul's land, then called Saul's Addition, and the real estate company N.L. Sansbury was involved in the sales of lots there and in the vicinity. Sansbury had reportedly earned \$200,000 from sales in the area from December 1909 to January 1910 ("Sales in the Suburbs," WP, January 2, 1910).

Harry Wardman left his mark throughout the early part of the twentieth century on many Washington neighborhoods. In Columbia Heights he built six hundred and fifty rowhouses between 1902 and 1913. One-hundred and eighty rowhouses were put up from 1903 to 1908 in Bloomingdale, located near present day North Capitol Street and Rhode Island Avenue, northwest. His largest development in Brightwood began in 1924 with Fort Stevens Ridge. The 700-rowhouse project was to meet the needs of the growing population of the city that surged before and after World War I ("Wardman's World," WP, October 15, 2005).

Wardman capitalized on the historic significance of the site when he named his Brightwood development Fort Stevens Ridge. The subdivision, "comprises some 50 acres of ground lying just east of Georgia Avenue, and centering around the historic site of old Fort Stevens." The first houses were constructed on Rittenhouse Street and were representative of the four building styles used in the more than one thousand homes planned for the development.

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Rittenhouse was a major thoroughfare in the project and several new streets were laid to accommodate the massive scheme (“Fort Stevens Ridge Dwellings Sought,” WP, May 17, 1925; “Ft. Stevens Ridge Dwellings Selling Fast,” WP, July 19, 1925). In 1927, The Washington Times reported on the progress of the development and the condition of the area. “For many years after the historic battle of Fort Stevens, this section of the city remained in its war-ridden and desolate condition. True, there were a few houses, a church, and an occasional store in the neighborhood of the fort, but, for the most part, nothing was done to improve the section for a great while after the Civil War” (The Washington Times, October 29, 1927).

Fort Drive, Again

While Fort Stevens Ridge was under construction, interest in the Fort Drive sprouted again. Little had been done to create the drive since the Senate Park Commission’s 1901 report. In 1912, city residents hoping to preserve Forts Dupont and Davis in southeast Washington, were successful in having a resolution passed in Congress for the creation of parks at both sites and the construction of a highway to connect the two. Melvin Hazen, the District Surveyor, recommended acquiring the land through condemnation to connect the forts, as well as constructing the Fort Drive (“Surveyor for New Parks,” WP, September 19, 1912). “This Fort Drive is recommended by the Park Commission in 1902 and should not be delayed, for these old historical forts of the Civil War are fast being obliterated by reason of subdivisions and other improvements” (Annual Report of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia Vol. II: 86, 1912). Fort Dupont received over sixteen acres of land in 1916 and after World War I, the park grew further (Floyd Part II, Ch. III: 7). Hazen advocated for the fort drive again in his 1922 annual report (“Boulevard Girdle Urged for Capital,” WP, September 20, 1922).

In November 1919, a bill authorizing the District Commissioners to survey and submit a plan on the creation of the Fort Drive was submitted to Congress. It failed to pass. Over the next four years bills were submitted and one eventually passed in 1924. By that time, other organizations had gotten involved in the fort drive idea and the development of parks in the capital.

The Washington Board of Trade passed a resolution in 1919 encouraging Congress to acquire lands for the creation of the drive and recreation areas in the city. The newly formed Washington Committee of 100 of the Federal City conducted a study published in 1924 which recommended the creation of the Fort Drive (Floyd Part II, ch. III: 3). The committee influenced the introduction of a bill that led Congress to create the National Capital Parks Commission (NCPC) in 1924.

The NCPC was established to manage the comprehensive development of Washington’s park and recreation facilities and implement the McMillan Commission’s recommendations. They reviewed the commission report and studied the fort drive idea. On March 3, 1925 they received their first appropriation to purchase land for the creation of the Fort Drive. The following year Congress created the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (NCPPC) which expanded the role of the NCPC to include the continuous development of parks, parkways and recreation facilities in the capital and surrounding region (Floyd Part II, ch. III: 3-4). Land for the sections of the drive that included Fort Stevens became known as Reservation 499 and was acquired between 1932 and 1933. Reservation 499 is located across

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Thirteenth Street to the west of the Fort and stretches passed Rock Creek Ford Drive and down to Missouri Avenue and Military Road where it continues west and connects with Rock Creek Park. Elizabeth Thomas and her family at one time owned a large section of this land.



Dedication of the VI Army Corps Monument/Lincoln Boulder, 1911. Seated woman is Elizabeth Thomas (Courtesy of the Historical Society of Washington).

1925-1935

Finally a Park

Another bill was introduced in 1925 for the establishment of a park at Fort Stevens (Handly: 59). Representative Samuel E. Cook of Indiana introduced the bill and in his statement during hearings before the Committee on Military Affairs, Cook mentioned that the fort was “still well preserved” and that land around the fort would be relatively inexpensive to acquire. Cook reported that the breastworks, ditch and other parts of the fort were still there. When asked who owned the land on which the fort is located, Representative Cook said, “I assumed and thought the Government did own the land, because the fort is so well preserved.” He went on to say, “The fort is now just used as a dumping ground...all kinds of trash is thrown in the ditch, and the base of the monument is being worn down and it looks like something should be done.” Cook made an impassioned case that Fort Stevens should be preserved and turned into a park.

"In my opinion if a small park is dedicated around this place and if the fort is restored so as to

make it as nearly as possible as it was at that time, in the years to come countless thousands of people from all over the country and other countries will go there in order to see a place where the President of the United States stood in time of battle...Something ought to be done before this sacred spot is despoiled" (National Military Park to Commemorate Battle of Fort Stevens, HRG-1925-MAH-0006, 3).

Representative Cook's bill was forwarded onto the War Department for review. Secretary of War John W. Weeks issued a report stating he did not support the creation of a military park at Fort Stevens. Instead he believed that declaring the site a national monument was more fitting. He elaborated on his reasoning in a letter to Cook. He wrote,

"I feel that a national military park should be a piece of ground of considerable extent, the site of an important military engagement in which a comparatively large number of troops were involved, the outcome of which had a definite military and political effect...The fact that President Lincoln was there present during the battle...is historically important and interesting, but I do not feel that it is sufficiently so to make this battle field suitable for the development you recommended" ("Establishing a National Military Park at Fort Stevens," Feb 20, 1925, Report to Accompany H.R. 11365).

The bill went nowhere. Two other bills were introduced in 1925 that also failed to pass. Three years later, Illinois Representative Henry Rathbone introduced legislation again to create a park as well as restore the Peterson House, where President Lincoln died. Rathbone's parents were seated in the box with President Lincoln at Ford's Theatre the night he was assassinated. The bill called for \$25,000 to acquire the land. It also did not pass ("Rathbone Bills Urge Memorial to Lincoln," WP, February 8, 1928).

Even though Rathbone's effort, along with all other efforts to create a park failed, the National Capital Park and Planning Commission made its first purchase of land at Fort Stevens on October 15, 1925 (NCR LRCE). That same year, the War Department transferred the remaining fort properties it owned to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks. Land acquired by the NCPPC was also transferred to that office and the Army Corps of Engineers managed the properties. In 1927, they acquired eleven undeveloped lots along Rittenhouse Street (Floyd Part II ch. 3: 5). With the passage of the Capper-Crampton Act in 1930, which authorized the expansion of Washington's parks and provided sixteen million dollars for the purchase of land, much of the Fort Stevens and fort drive properties were purchased.

The parcels purchased for Fort Stevens included land that, according to 1925 real estate maps belonged to W.V. Cox. Between 1932 and 1933, the NCPPC purchased four tracts along Quackenbos and 13th Streets that included houses. A 1926 photograph titled "Fort Stevens...A General View of Old Houses" shows three frame houses, but it is unclear exactly where they are located (NCR LRCE). A 1916 Sanborn Fire Insurance map reveals seven frame houses on the site of Fort Stevens. These structures are still present in 1925 according to a Baist real estate map. The Sanborn maps from 1927-1928 reveal that only the four frame structures facing Quackenbos remain. The 1925 real estate map and Sanborn maps from 1927-1928 also depict a large structure located on parcel 97/397 near the corner of Quackenbos and 13th Street. This land, according to a 1931 real estate map, was owned by

Elizabeth Thomas' family. It was acquired by the NCPPC in 1933. By 1936, all the property that would become the park was purchased, or jurisdiction of land owned by the District government, was transferred to NPS (Cooling 1989: 245; Floyd: part II, ch. III: 4; NCR LRCE; Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, Volume Three, Sheet 339, 1916; Sanborn Map and Publishing Company, Volume Six, Sheet 662, 1927-1928, 1927-1960).

In 1933, Fort Stevens land, as well as military parks and battlefields owned by the War Department were transferred to the National Park Service. President Roosevelt, having been swayed by National Park Service director Horace Albright that NPS would make a more appropriate and effective manager of these sites, signed Executive Order 6166 on June 10 and Executive Order 6228 on July 28th, which turned management of the properties, as well as many monuments and national cemeteries, over to the park service. The president did so as part of a reorganization of the Executive Branch begun shortly after he took office that year. Through these orders the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks was abolished and their duties were transferred to the newly created Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations within the Department of the Interior. Later the office came under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service which oversaw Washington's park system. (Floyd Part II ch.III: 4)

In August, Acting Superintendent of the National Capital Parks Frank Gartside wrote to Arno Cammerer, who that month became director of NPS, that houses located on the fort were still occupied and the residents held thirty day leases. Once a suitable contractor was found, Gartside wrote, "These tenants will be notified to move and the houses will be demolished." Morris F. Coles, who lived at 1218 Quackenbos, was allowed to remain in his home for one year following purchase by the NCPPC in 1932 (General Order No. 489, U.S. Grant, III, July 23, 1932, NCR LRCE).

In August 1933, John M. Kline, a veteran of the Battle of Fort Stevens wrote to Gartside on the condition of the fort. In his reply, Gartside informed Kline that all the dead trees would be removed from the fort and the cement walk and base of the Lincoln Boulder/VI Corps Monument would be repaired. He also stated that a flag would be given to the superintendent of Battleground National Cemetery to be raised and lowered at the fort on holidays. Kline wrote to thank Gartside on behalf of himself, Charles V. Petteys and Major Edward R. Campbell, surviving veterans of the battle. Petteys had been involved in the Fort Stevens-Lincoln Military Park Association and Campbell would three years later be the last person and veteran buried in Battleground National Cemetery.

Kline served as Chairman of the Committee on Battleground National Cemetery for the G.A.R. in 1932. He wrote to Gartside to express his appreciation for the National Park Service's planned maintenance. "The arrangement is entirely satisfactory and now that the site is under government supervision, we know that it will receive proper care and attention" (RG 79, Central Classified Files, 1933-1949, Box 2832). Exactly when the trees were removed is unclear. Photographs from 1934 show a large number of trees stretching from the border with the Emory Methodist Church, along the remains of the parapet and on the northern section of the property. These photos also document how well, seventy years after the battle, the parapet retained its shape.

Between August 1933 and 1935, the houses located on the site of the fort were demolished. Photographs from 1934 reveal barren ground and large sections of earth free of vegetation and suggesting the footprint of the structures. A March 1935 topographic map created by the National Park Service documented the trees present at the fort, which included mulberry, pear, locust, and wild cherry ranging in size from six to eight feet tall. The map also documents the shape of the base and area surrounding the Lincoln Boulder. A concrete walk extends to the west and stairs on the slope of the eastern side of the memorial. Box shapes represent the base and pedestal. The flagpole is located almost on axis with the boulder (DSC TIC 889/80034).

In the spring of 1935, the National Park Service drew up plans for Fort Stevens which included the planting of trees and shrubs. According to a newspaper profile of the project this was suggested by the Brightwood Citizens Association. The plan was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts and the superintendent of the National Capital Parks, whose historical division was reviewing the design (Proctor Papers, Historical Society of Washington).

One of the landscape plans that accompanied the later reconstruction of the fort, and most likely the one referred to in the 1935 article, included dense planting of trees circling the borders of the reservation. Along the eastern side, the trees are pressed against the restored parapet and are thickly planted to the southeast corner of the reservation. The southwest corner includes a thick grouping of trees, some immediately adjacent to the reconstructed parapet. Across present day 13th Street, along Reservation 499, eight, evenly spaced trees are proposed. Another proposed planting plan is almost identical, but the tree border along the west and north of the reservation is made up of a single line of trees. A few trees are located within the open space at the center of the fort. Both plans included a “paved assembly area” below the northeast side of the parapet (DSC TIC 889/80018). The open space is bordered by a paved walk way on the outer edge of the fort that connects to the assembly area on the north east and the southwestern section of the reconstruction. An entrance to the fort is located on Quackenbos Street .



Houses located on the southern portion of the site in 1926 (NCR LRPC).

1936-1938

Commemoration and Reconstruction

In 1936, the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War dedicated a memorial at Fort Stevens to the Grand Army of the Republic. The Daughters of Union Veterans was founded in 1885 and was one of many groups established by the relatives of Union veterans to aid former soldiers and their families, as well as preserve the memory of the Union cause. The memorial was a four-by-two feet bronze plaque with a bas-relief model of Fort Stevens mounted on a mosaic concrete base. John J. Earley, who developed architectural concrete for Meridian Hill Park, designed the monument. His firm, the Earley Studio, completed several high profile Washington projects, including remodeling the interior of the White House during President Theodore Roosevelt's first term(<http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/specialcoll/services/rjd/findingaids/DUVf.html>; <http://www.nps.gov/mehi/historyculture/jearley.htm>; National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, John J. Earley Office and Studio).

The memorial cost \$695 and was dedicated on September 20, 1936. The dedication took place during the seventieth annual encampment of Grand Army of the Republic in Washington. Nine hundred veterans were to travel to the city, along with hundreds of others who belonged to patriotic organizations, including the Daughters of Union Veterans and other women's groups. The encampment included ceremonies at the National Cathedral, Arlington and around the city. C. Marshall Finnan, superintendent of the National Capital Parks, accepted the memorial on behalf of NPS("5 GAR Units, Forced Indoors," WP, September 20, 1936;

"GAR to Open Session," WP, September 21, 1936).

Also in 1936, the Civilian Conservation Corps began to recreate Fort Stevens. During the 1930s, the CCC worked on several projects at Washington's Civil War forts. The CCC set up nine camps in the Washington area. In 1933, they established a camp at Fort Dupont where their work included repairing roads and trails and building a carpenter shop, garage and toilet. At Forts Mahan and Stanton they cleared dead trees and brush and at Forts Foote and Totten they cleaned-up the sites (Floyd, Vol II, ch. 3: 7).

The CCC's most extensive work was at Fort Stevens where they undertook a \$25,000 partial reconstruction of the fort. The project included rebuilding a section of the northern parapet including revetments, embrasures and gun platforms, as well as recreating the ditch around the reconstructed section of the fort. Drawings for a complete reconstruction of the magazine were made, but only an earthen mound with a false door was built (DSC TIC 889/80017).

NPS Landscape Architect Robert McKean managed the project. McKean became very interested in the site and spent time researching the battle and Fort Stevens. The Sunday Star reported in July 1937 on the reconstruction and landscaping plans. The article described McKean's involvement in the project and reported that he interviewed veterans, examined thousands of photos and found drawings at the War Department. The paper described McKean's enthusiasm for the project, "...the story of the restoration is the story of Robert McKean's untiring efforts." McKean led visitors around the fort and explained its history, including Elizabeth Thomas' role, and the planned reconstruction (Bernard Kohn, The Sunday Star, July 4, 1937).

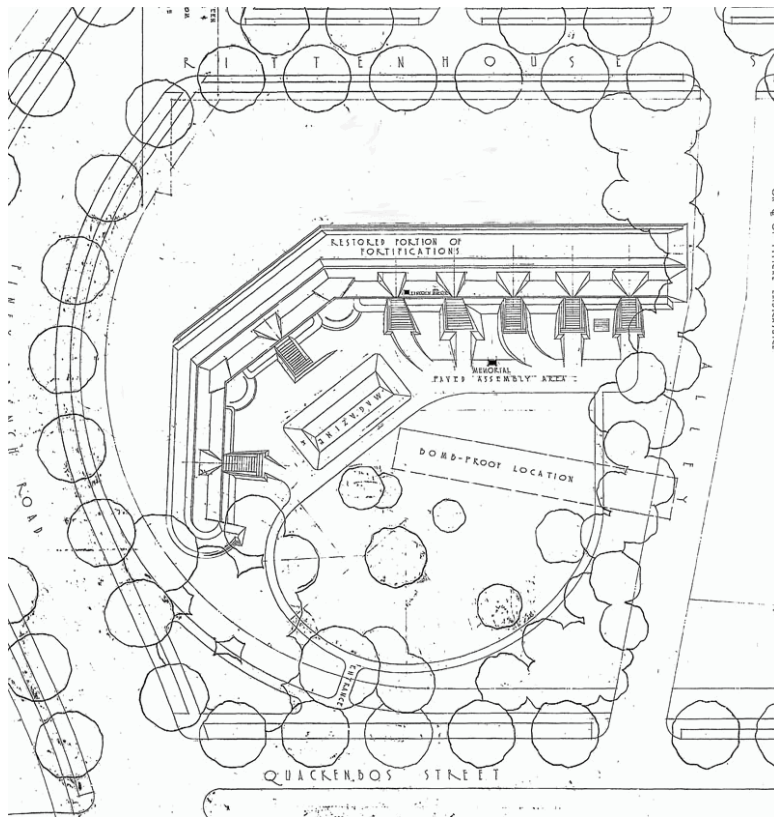
The 1937 Star article reported that the reconstruction was going to include, "large shade trees, shrubs and fresh green expanses will offer a pleasant retreat from jammed thoroughfares of the bustling city. Numerous rustic benches will invite strollers to relax in this serene spot where once ensued a bloody struggle. For the convenience of patriotic organizations which come here for celebrations, a paved outdoor assembly plaza will be installed" (Bernard Kohn, The Sunday Star, July 4, 1937).

In rebuilding the revetments, embrasures and the nine gun platforms the CCC substituted concrete for wood in the interest of longevity (Floyd vol. II, ch. 3: 7). The concrete was molded to resemble wood. Photographs demonstrate CCC workers digging deep ditches in the interior of the fort while rebuilding the parapet and gun platforms. During the reconstruction wood from the original revetments was uncovered.

When finished the reconstruction included seven embrasures and gun platforms, the magazine and ditch surrounding the parapet. The planting plan drawn up in 1935 was not implemented. The VI Corps Monument remained on the parapet, but the stairs and walkway were removed. During the CCC reconstruction, the parapet was built up to the base of the boulder and covered the pedestal. During the centennial of the battle in 1964, it was reported that during the CCC reconstruction workers found a copper box in the memorial's foundation. Reportedly it contained medals, "rare photographs, old newspapers and other patriotic mementoes. The souvenir chest, first buried in 1920 when the VI Army Corps Association erected the tablet, has been replaced in the memorial's foundation" (Centennial program, NCR).

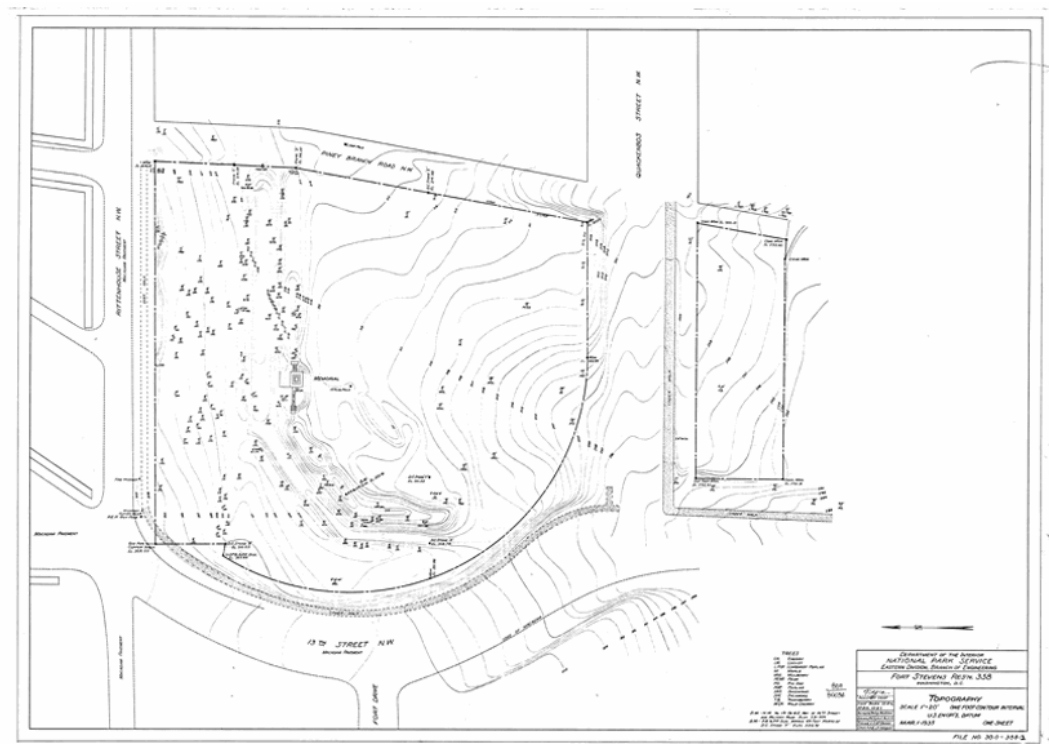
Fort Stevens

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Drawing of planned reconstruction of Fort Stevens ("General Plan." TIC 889/80018. January 1, 1935).

Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North



Topographic map of Fort Stevens, 1935, showing variety of trees on the site (TIC 889 80034).

Fort Stevens

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Civilian Conservation Corps reconstruction underway, 1936 (both photos, "Fort Stevens, September 16, 1936." MRCE).

1938-2010

After the CCC

At the time of the Daughters of Union Veterans memorial dedication and the CCC work, the city had replaced the country in Brightwood. Over the next several years small apartment buildings were constructed on 13th Street opposite from the fort and adjacent to Reservation 499. An article in the Sunday Star described the view from Fort Stevens:

"Modern visitors, standing on the spot hallowed by Lincoln, look upon a scene vastly different from that viewed by the anxious eyes of the wartime President. Then, except for an occasional

Fort Stevens

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farm house, the long, rolling reaches of green pasture lands were unbroken...now, the fort site is hemmed in by brick dwellings, apartment houses, churches and schools. Sleek, purring automobiles whiz along smooth highways which surround the historic place" (Bernard Kohn, The Sunday Star, July 4, 1937).

Even though the immediate surroundings of the fort were urban, some traces of the 1864 view were evident. "Despite the encroachments of civilization, the fort's high position affords visitors a commanding view of the distant countryside" (Bernard Kohn, The Sunday Star, July 4, 1937).

Other traces of the area's past were present in the 1930s. In 1936, John Clagett Proctor reported on an old cemetery located near Fort Stevens. Annie Osborn, the Beall relative who grew up next to the fort, reported that the cemetery was established before the Civil War and was located on land belonging to Betsy Butler. According to Osborn, the cemetery served the black community and more than 150 people were buried there. Based on the description and the location of the land purchased for Fort Drive, the cemetery may have been near the Military Road School and part of Reservation 499. Further research is necessary to determine the location of the cemetery and ownership of land. It may have been the property of Elizabeth Butler or one of her daughters following her death. The article also described the presence of a cemetery adjacent to the Emory Methodist Church (Proctor, "Ancient Cemetery," The Sunday Star, February 2, 1936; Sluby: 66, 68).

The Fort Drive had yet to be realized. During the 1930s the NCPC continued to acquire land for its construction. By 1937, through purchase and condemnation, all but one of the twenty-three and a half miles planned was acquired. At that time it was hoped that the drive would be completed within five years ("One more mile..." WP, October 10, 1937). The enormous amount of money it would cost to build, the changing transportation needs of the Washington area and the growth of neighborhoods surrounding the proposed route ultimately prevented its construction. During World War II, a Victory Garden was established on Reservation 499 and gardens continue to occupy the site today (RG 328, Planning Files, Parks and Reservations, 1924-1967).

Fort Stevens remained largely unchanged following the CCC reconstruction. In 1959, the parapet and magazine were restored after erosion had damaged the structures. In 1964, the fort was a part of centennial celebrations of the Civil War held around Washington. In July, a reenactment of Lincoln's visit to the fort was performed to mark the anniversary of the battle. Two year later, six cannons were installed at the fort. According to a press release announcing the new addition to the park, Regional Director T. Sutton Jett's remarked that the cannons would provide a "more complete interpretation of the original scene at this restored Civil War fort." The replicas of five 30-pounder Parrott rifled guns and one 24-pounder smooth bore cannon were cast by Prison Industries, D.C. Department of Corrections, Lorton, Virginia. The Parrott rifles measured 136 inches and weighed 4,200 pounds and the 24-pounder was 124 inches long and 6,240 pounds. The cannons were mounted on wood carriages reproduced based on the original plans for the guns. In 1989, two of the 30-pounder Parrott cannons were remounted on sand cast aluminum carriages ("Cannon Installed at Fort Stevens," press release, December 21, 1966, MRCE; "Draft Press Release for Cannons," October 16, 1989, MRCE).

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In 1958, the Civil War Centennial Commission urged the completion of Fort Drive in time for the centennial of the Civil War ("Fort Drive Sought for Centennial," WP, March 1, 1958). The Fort Circle Drive concept was examined again in 1968. A plan developed that year emphasized recreation and a system of linked parks known as the Fort Circle Parks. Biking and walking trails and interpretation of the defenses of Washington were included in the plan. A complete reconstruction of Fort Stevens with onsite NPS staff, a formal entrance, walkways and visitor parking were also proposed. A three-mile long trail for hiking and biking was constructed between Forts Mahan, Chaplin, Dupont, Davis and Stanton. The plan was approved in 1974, but the trail, completed in 1971, was the only part of the plan implemented. In 1974, the defenses of Washington were listed in the National Register (2004 Master Plan, iii-8, 27-43).

Over the years, Fort Stevens has remained the site of Memorial Day celebrations and living history events. In July 1989, a "Fort Stevens Weekend" included military and civilian re-enactors and lectures by Walton H. Owen and Benjamin Franklin Cooling, historians who have written extensively on the battle and the defenses of Washington, was held. Grace Episcopal Church in Silver Spring, where Confederate dead from the battle are buried, conducted a memorial service in which Emory Methodist Church's choir participated in the service ("Skirmish on Georgia Avenue," WP, July 14, 1989).

In 2001, the National Park Trust acquired an acre of land on Missouri Avenue adjacent to the Military Road School, Reservation 499 and the home of the Lightfoot-Walker family, who have lived in Brightwood for generations. Members of the Military Road School Alumni Association approached the National Park Trust when a twenty-six townhouse development was planned for the site. Because the land bordered NPS land, they hoped the park service could buy the land. In 2003, NPS bought the land from the trust.

Another Fort Circle Parks master plan developed in 2004 calls for a program similar to the 1968 proposal. The most recent plan also emphasizes recreation and interpretation along the twenty-three mile chain circling the city. Walking and biking trails linking the Civil War sites and tennis and basketball courts are included. The interpretive component includes car tours, waysides, visitor center exhibits, brochures and connections with other Civil War sites in Maryland and Virginia operated by the National Park Service and other agencies. Fort Stevens would receive special emphasis (2004 Master Plan, 27-43). In 2009, a Fort Circle Parks coordinator position was established.

Major restoration work completed during 2010 included repairs to or replacement of several park features, including the revetments, embrasures and gun platforms. The magazine door was replaced and the flagpole was repainted and a solar powered light installed. Additional work is scheduled, including polishing the Lincoln Under Fire plaque on the Lincoln Boulder/VI Army Corps monument. New waysides and identifying signs will be installed by the end of FY2011.

The Civil War Preservation Trust added Fort Stevens to its list of most endangered Civil War sites in May 2010 due to a building project proposed by the Emory United Methodist Church.

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The church plans to build a five story community center in the parking lot adjacent to the church and a wall along Piney Branch Road. As the CWPT feels this will “significantly degrade the experience of visitors” ("Fort Stevens Endangered," www.civilwar.org)

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity of the Fort Stevens cultural landscape by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance (1861-1866 and 1900-1938) with current conditions. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of a landscape that allow visitors to understand its cultural value. Collectively, they express the historic character and integrity of a landscape. Landscape characteristics give a property cultural importance and comprise the property's uniqueness. Each characteristic or feature is classified as contributing or non-contributing to the site's overall historic significance.

Landscape characteristics are comprised of landscape features. Landscape features are classified as contributing if they were present during the property's period of significance. Non-contributing features (those that were not present during the historical period) may be considered "compatible" when they fit within the physical context of the historic period and attempt to match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods, or design strategies of the historic period. Incompatible features are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape and, through their existence, can lessen the historic character of a property. For those features that are listed as undetermined, further primary research, which is outside the scope of this CLI, is necessary to determine the feature's origination date. Landscape characteristics and features, individually, and as a whole, express the integrity and historic character of the landscape and contribute to the property's historic significance.

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for the property are spatial organization, land use, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, views and vistas, and small-scale features. The buildings and structures, already documented through the List of Classified Structures (LCS), are described here in the context of the landscape setting. This section also includes an evaluation of the property's integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. Historic integrity, as defined by the National Register, is the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. To be listed in the National Register, a property not only must be shown to have significance under one of the four criteria, but must also retain integrity.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES.

Contributing landscape characteristics identified for Fort Stevens are spatial organization, topography, land use, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, views and vistas, and small scale features.

The spatial organization of Fort Stevens dates to the later part of the historic period when the CCC reconstructed a portion of the fort. The parapet, magazine, flagpole and the two monuments remain in their historic configuration. Though there have been minor additions to the landscape in the form of signs and wayside since the period of significance, the site retains its historic spatial organization and has a high degree of integrity.

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The land use at Fort Stevens has not changed since the later part of the period of significance. The site remains one of memorialization and commemoration, but is also used for education and interpretation. Services and living history events marking the anniversary of the Battle of Fort Stevens are held at the fort, and interpretive programs and waysides educate visitors on the meaning of the site. Land use at Fort Stevens retains a high degree of integrity.

The existing buildings and structures at Fort Stevens date to the later period of significance. These include the parapet, gun platforms and magazine. Though weather and other factors have had an impact on the earthen structures, all maintain integrity and contribute to the historic character of the site.

Fort Stevens' Civil War circulation pattern is non-extant. When partially reconstructed during the CCC era, no system of pathways or walks was included and none have been added since that time. The circulation has no integrity or contributing features.

During the Civil War, there was limited vegetation at Fort Stevens. When the CCC partially reconstructed Fort Stevens, they recreated the largely tree-less landscape. Only grass and a small number of trees were planted. Since the period of significance the vegetation at the fort has largely remained unchanged. Current trees may date to the CCC-era, but further research is necessary to determine this. The vegetation has high integrity to the period of significance.

The site for Fort Stevens was selected for its topography. Because of its elevation of 321 feet above sea level it was a high point that provided views into the surrounding landscape. The topography remains the same as it did throughout the historic period and has a high degree of integrity.

Civil War era views and vistas stretched a considerable distance into the countryside to the north, west and east of the fort. These views remained for several years following the war, but with twentieth century development they were largely destroyed. Present day views retain no integrity to the period of significance.

Aspects of Integrity

1. The location aspect of integrity involves the place where the landscape was constructed. During the Civil War, Fort Stevens occupied a larger area than the present day park. The easternmost portion of the original fort returned to its pre-war owner. The CCC reconstructed a portion of the fort on what had been the western section of the fortification. The features they built remain in their historic locations and the park retains the same boundaries as it did during the later part of the period of significance.

2. Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. Fort Stevens retains the layout established by the CCC during the 1930s reconstruction. Weather and erosion have had an impact on the earthen structures, but the overall design is still evident. These losses do not affect the integrity of the site and Fort Stevens retains integrity of design for most of the period of significance.

3. Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. During the Civil War, the area around Fort Stevens was largely rural with a small population and a few nearby businesses. When reconstructed in the 1930s, the rural landscape had been replaced by a densely populated urban neighborhood. Churches, houses and apartment buildings were the fort's immediate neighbors. As it was following the CCC reconstruction, Fort Stevens is still a park and historic site within an urban community. The park's cultural landscape retains the essential integrity of setting for the period of significance.

4. Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants, and other landscape features. The gun platforms, revetments, VI Corps Monument and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Monument all retain integrity of materials. The architectural concrete base of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War monument, developed by John J. Earley, remains part of the feature. The materials used to construct the gun platforms and revetments during the CCC-era remain or have been replaced by complementary and compatible materials. The grass covering the parapet and magazine, both earthen structures, is compatible with the vegetation planted during the period of significance and maintains the historic appearance of the site. There has been some loss of vegetative material and soil, but this does not discount the overall presence of integrity of materials on the property.

5. Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. The contributing features at Fort Stevens invoke the periods in which they were created. The Lincoln Boulder and VI Corps Monument represent workmanship and memorial styles from the early twentieth century, as does the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War monument. The earthen structures and concrete molded to resemble wood used to recreate the features of the fort by the CCC retain evidence of their 1930s construction. The evidence of workmanship exists on the site today and retains integrity.

6. Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. Fort Stevens' park setting in the midst of an urban neighborhood, the structures from the CCC-era, and the battle monuments all contribute to the historic feeling and maintain the integrity of feeling of the site.

7. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Fort Stevens is associated with the Civil War, President Lincoln, battlefield preservation and memorialization, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. Links to these historic events and President Lincoln are evident at the park. Waysides and interpretive programs provide visitors with information on the historic significance of the site and Fort Stevens connection with President Lincoln and the multiple historical associations of the park. Several park features, including, the monuments and the structures recreated by the CCC further enhance the park's connection to the Civil War, President Lincoln, and to the New Deal projects of the 1930s and 40s. The cultural landscape reflects the links to the historic period and retains a high integrity of association for the period of significance.

Conclusion

After evaluating the landscape features and characteristics within the context of the seven aspects of integrity established by the National Register, this CLI finds that the Civil War era cultural landscape is no longer extant, but Fort Stevens retains integrity from the later period of significance.

Aspects of Integrity:	Location
	Design
	Setting
	Materials
	Workmanship
	Feeling
	Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Topography

TOPOGRAPHY

Elevation was the key component in selecting the location of for Fort Stevens in 1861. At 321 feet above sea level, the site was a highpoint along the Seventh Street Turnpike and provided views towards Maryland two miles to the north and Forts Slocum and DeRussy to the east and west.

EXISTING

Fort Stevens' elevation has not changed since the period of significance.

EVALUATION

Fort Stevens' elevation contributes to the historic character of the site and has a high degree of integrity.

Spatial Organization

HISTORIC

The need to protect Washington and guard the Seventh Street Turnpike determined the selection of the fort site in 1861. At 321 feet above sea level, the site's elevation provided broad views into the surrounding area. With Maryland to the north and expanses of countryside to the west and east, views were the fort's organizing feature as they determined the placement of weapons. Cannons lined the fort walls and were located primarily to the northwest and northeast. Seven guns faced open fields and the Seventh Street Turnpike, but single guns were located on the western side and in the southern corners of the fort facing Washington and the surrounding countryside. The entrance was on the eastern, or turnpike side of the fort, and a magazine was located in the center. Drawings reveal open pathways between the magazine and the gun platforms, allowing for easy movement of weapons. Ditches and abatis surrounded the perimeter of the fort.

Fort Stevens expanded to the northwest in 1862. Ten gun platforms were added with six along the northern parapet. Two guns were located on the northwest and two on the western parapet. The entrance was moved to the southern side and the eastern entrance was sealed. A second magazine was constructed in the northwest section of the fort and a 150-foot long bombproof

was built in the center. Open pathways circled the bombproof. Ditches and abatis surrounded the perimeter of the fort. Barracks, officers' quarters, and mess halls were located to the south of the enclosed fort. Some Civil War era drawings show a flagpole located in the southeastern section of the fort on the site of the Emory Methodist Church. War era photographs reveal the flagpole located in the center of the western expansion of the fort.

Following the war and the abandonment of the fort, Piney Branch Road, located on the eastern border of the site, reopened. The Emory Methodist Church rebuilt their church on the Seventh Street Turnpike, where the original fort was located. Sections of the north and northwestern parapet remained well into the twentieth century. In 1911, veterans and community members dedicated a memorial to the Battle of Fort Stevens and President Lincoln in the center of the northern parapet. Photographs from this time period reveal a flagpole south of the memorial in roughly the same location one had been during the war. In 1936, the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War dedicated a monument which was placed north of, and almost in line with, the flagpole.

The CCC began a reconstruction of the fort in 1936 using what remained of the original structure. The ruins of the fort and the boundaries of the land acquired for the park, determined the spatial organization during the CCC period. Piney Branch Road provided the eastern boundary of the reconstruction. The recreated fort included seven gun platforms: five facing north and two facing northwest. The 1911 monument was incorporated into the design—the parapet was built around it—and the flagpole remained in place. The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War monument retained its original location and sits below the third and fourth gun platforms. Adjacent to the rebuilt northwestern section of the parapet is a recreation of the magazine. A ditch surrounds the north side of the reconstructed fort.

EXISTING

Fort Stevens' spatial organization has not changed since the CCC era reconstruction.

EVALUATION

Fort Stevens' spatial organization retains a high degree of integrity from the 1900-1938 period of significance and contributes to the historic character of the site.

Views and Vistas

HISTORIC

At the time of Fort Stevens' construction in 1861, farms, a small number of country estates, and a few businesses were located in the surrounding area. The site was a little more than five miles north of the U.S. Capitol and 321 feet above sea level (Brown: 35). To increase visibility, soldiers were ordered to cut down trees within two miles of each of the forts guarding Washington. Civil War era photographs of Fort Stevens reveal clear views stretching a considerable distance into the countryside to the north of the fort. Maps and reports on the construction of the defenses of Washington note the areas to the south and east, towards Fort DeRussy, and west, towards Fort Slocum, were nearly cleared of trees (Barnard: 2; Michler, Topographical sketch of the Environs of Washington, D.C., 1866).

During the 1864 battle, rebel skirmishers were visible from the fort's north-facing parapets. On July 11th, Confederate General Jubal Early rode within sight of the fort from Maryland,

nearly two miles to the north. Further research is necessary to determine the exact location from which he observed the fort, but he was able to see how well manned Fort Stevens was.

For many years after the battle, the soldier's description of the "rich green meadows" remained unchanged. A small number of buildings and streets were constructed on the fort land, adjacent properties and on the battleground following the war, but significant development and visual obstructions encroaching on the surrounding area did not begin until the early twentieth century.

Though the immediate area was under development during the CCC era, views of the "distant countryside" were still possible according to newspaper accounts (Kohn, Sunday Star, July 4, 1937).

EXISTING

The views of the Civil War period are virtually non-existent today, cut off by 20th century development. By the 1940s, most of the neighboring properties included one or more primarily residential structures made of brick ranging from two-story single family homes to four-story apartment buildings. These buildings effectively blocked the historic views to the north, west and east.

EVALUATION

Although internally Fort Stevens' landscape is open, as it was historically, beyond the boundaries of the park, urban development has blocked the Civil War era views. Fort Stevens' view and vistas retain no historic integrity.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Fort Stevens

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This Civil War era view of Fort Stevens reveals its expansive views into the surrounding countryside (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division).

Fort Stevens

Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North



Present day view to the north from the parapet at Fort Stevens (CLP October 2009).



View of Quackenbos Street and the Hughes Radio Tower to the southeast (CLP April 2010).



Above, view to the east of Piney Branch Road and the rear of the Emory Methodist Church (CLP October 2009); below, view west of Reservation 499 community garden (CLP April 2010).

Land Use

HISTORIC

Fort Stevens has been used for several purposes throughout its history, including as a military installation, a site of commemoration and memorialization, and as a place for recreation and interpretation.

Built in 1861 as one of the defenses of Washington, Fort Stevens remained in military use until 1866 when the army dismantled most of the forts surrounding the capital. The site then fell into disrepair. Between 1898 and 1900, several houses were built on sections of the fort.

In 1900, veterans and community members formed the Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park Association with the goal of preserving the fort and creating a military park on the site.

Around this same time, the Brightwood Avenue Citizens' Association, a neighborhood group, also became involved in efforts to turn Fort Stevens into a park. The groups organized ceremonies at the fort marking the anniversary of the battle, Flag Day, and Memorial Day. The two organizations' efforts marked the beginning of a period of commemoration and memorialization at the fort. In 1911, members of both organizations raised money for the erection of a monument to the soldiers who fought in the 1864 Battle of Fort Stevens and President Lincoln, who was present during the fighting. In 1920, the Associated Survivor's of the VI Army Corps added a bas relief bronze plaque to the 1911 monument. The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War erected an additional monument, honoring the Grand Army of the Republic, in 1936.

Efforts to create a park at Fort Stevens began in 1900, but land acquisition did not start until 1925. All land was acquired by 1936. Beginning in the mid-1920s through 1935, the houses located on the fort were demolished. The CCC reconstructed sections of the fort, including a portion of the parapet, one of the arms magazines and seven gun platforms between 1936 and 1938.

EXISTING

Battle anniversary and Memorial Day commemorations continue to take place, but the site is now largely used for recreation and interpretation. Tour and school groups visit the park to gain a better understanding of the history of Fort Stevens. Other uses included dog walking, picnicking, and social gatherings. The NPS provides interpretive programs and waysides to educate visitors on Fort Stevens' role in the Civil War. Private groups periodically perform living history events and battle reenactments.

EVALUATION

The Civil War era military aspect of land use at Fort Stevens ended with the dismantling of the fort in 1866. However, the fort's land use has not changed since 1900 to 1938, when it became a site for memorialization and was set aside for preservation. The ongoing use of the site as the setting for educational interpretive programs, commemorative and memorial services contribute to the historic character of the site.

Buildings and Structures

The Civil War-era buildings and structures at Fort Stevens included two magazines, a bombproof, and gun platforms all located within the enclosed section of the fort. A structure referred to as a blockhouse or a tool house was also located in the enclosed section, but further research is necessary to determine the function and other information on this structure. Barracks, officer's quarters and mess houses were located to the south of the enclosed section. There is a mention of an entrance gate in one soldier's description of the fort and a Civil War era drawing exists of a formal wooden entrance gate, but it does not appear in the known historic photographs of the site (Rhodes: 170-171; RG 77 drawing 170-93).

When Fort Stevens closed in 1866 the Army auctioned off its materials (Daily Constitutional Union, October 16, 1865; Cooling and Owen 2010: 16; Floyd: 6). Several of the wooden structures, including the officers' quarters, mess houses, and barracks were left standing following the closure of the fort (Floyd Part II: Appendix N). It is unclear when these structures, or any remaining wood-frame structures not sold at auction, were ultimately

removed, but they are no longer extant.

Remnants of the earthworks, including a portion of the northern parapet and the gun openings, remained until the fort's reconstruction in the 1930s. A depression within the fort indicating the location of the magazine in the northwest section also remained until the early twentieth century.

Between 1936 and 1938, the Civilian Conservation Corps reconstructed part of the northwest section of the fort. The CCC rebuilt the parapet, seven gun platforms and one of the magazines. They also reconstructed a ditch below the exterior slope of the parapet.

HISTORIC

Barracks, Officers' Quarters and Mess Houses

The four wood-frame barracks measured nearly twenty-one feet wide and one-hundred-and-one feet long. The buildings had wood shingle gable roofs with four long and narrow raised openings for ventilation that included gable roofs, mimicking the features of the barracks. Photographic evidence reveals the barracks had six, six-over-six windows on the long side of the building picture. A doorway divided the windows into groups of three.

The four wood-frame mess houses measured sixteen-and-a-half feet wide and fifty-two-and-a-half feet long. They were also gable-roof buildings with two raised ventilation openings similar in appearance to the barracks' vents. A doorway was located far to one end of the building with a single window to its eastern side and three windows located to the west of the door.

The four officers' quarters, also wood frame structures, measured twenty-and-a-half feet long by sixteen-and-a-half feet wide. A photograph of one of the buildings shows a gable roof with a doorway at its center and two windows on its western side.

Parapet, Revetments and Ditch

The Civil War era parapets were constructed of rammed earth and measured twelve to eighteen feet wide. Four to five feet high timber posts, or revetments, supported the parapets. The parapet had a uniform exterior slope of 45 degrees from the height of the slope to the six foot wide ditch surrounding the fort. The CCC reconstructed the northern parapet creating a rounded, grass covered berm measuring nearly seven feet high. In reconstructing the revetments, the CCC used concrete molded to resemble the original wooden logs. They measure between two and seven feet in height. The reconstructed ditch follows the perimeter of the parapet.

Magazines, Blockhouse and Bombproof

The magazines, blockhouse and bombproof contained walls and roofs built of round timber posts and covered with rammed earth. Layers of wood boards were included in construction of the magazines and bombproof. Civil War drawings reveal the exterior measurements of the northwest magazine were fifty-six feet long by thirty-four feet wide. The interior measurements of magazine were forty-and-a-half feet long by ten-and-a-half feet wide. The

exterior of the eastern magazine measured seventy-five-and-a-half feet long by twenty-six-feet wide. The interior of the eastern magazine measured roughly fifty-nine feet long by ten feet wide. A Civil War era photograph shows that the exterior of one of the fort structures, possibly the blockhouse, covered with gabion, the basketlike support made of brush woven together to shore-up the structure. The bombproof was a hundred and fifty feet long and twelve feet wide. The interior was eight feet high.

Following the Civil War, the Emory United Methodist Church rebuilt their chapel on the eastern section of Fort Stevens. The first reconstruction occurred in 1870 and in the 1920s they built the current structure (Cox 1900: 4; Brown: 36; Bodor, et al: 27; Battleground to Community, Cultural Tourism DC; http://www.emoryfellowship.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=46253). During the CCC-era the northwestern magazine was reconstructed. Drawings were made for a complete reconstruction, including steps down to an interior chamber, but only an earthen structure with a false door suggesting an interior was built. A concrete retaining wall supports the door. Five evenly spaced ventilation pipes lined the roof of the structure, also suggesting an interior. The reconstructed magazine was approximately twenty-four feet long, thirty-five feet wide and the south side seven feet high (drawing 889/80017, 1937). When completed, the magazine ramped up the slope of the fort and resembled a flat-top, four sided pyramid. A photograph from 1938 reveals a possible pathway along the south and west sides.

Gun Platforms

After it was enlarged, Fort Stevens had twenty gun platforms constructed of heavy timber measuring nine feet in diameter and eighteen feet long laid on ramps constructed of rammed earth. (Cooling and Owen, 2010: 27-28, 30). The CCC reconstructed seven gun platforms made of concrete resembling wood atop earthen ramps. Three iron cannon mounting plates ranging in size are located near the base and the top of the platforms. Three iron anchors are located at the edges of the gun platforms where they meet the gun openings. The platforms vary in length from nineteen feet to twenty-four feet long and twelve to fifteen feet wide.

EXISTING

Magazine

Since the period of significance the magazine has lost its definition. When completed in the 1930s, the structure's corners, walls and roof were distinct. Today, the corners are rounded and it resembles an earthen mound. Erosion threatens the structure and a deep fissure bisects the north side. The vertical plank magazine door is made of twelve narrow wood planks and is painted white. The door measures approximately five-feet-six-inches wide and six-feet-one-and-a-half inches high. Four half-width black iron hinges secure the door to its frame. Since the period of significance the door has been replaced at least once. The magazine door is included in 2010 rehabilitation work and will be replaced. Only one of the five ventilation pipes remains.

Gun Platforms

The gun platforms retain their historic character, but have sustained damage over time. Vegetation is growing on the some of the platforms. They are currently undergoing

rehabilitation to repair cracks, spalling and other damaged features.

Parapet, Revetments and Ditch

Since the period of significance erosion and weathering have affected the parapet and ditch and they have undergone periodic rehabilitation work to correct damage. Both structures retain their CCC-era form, but erosion, particularly on the parapet, continues to be a threat. The revetments are undergoing rehabilitation to repair cracking, chipping and other impairments.

EVALUATION

Erosion, weather and other factors have taken their toll, but the reconstructed features from the CCC era retain a high degree of integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Parapet

Feature Identification Number: 143777

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 13018

LCS Structure Name: Fort Stevens; Earthworks

LCS Structure Number: 358-01

Feature: Magazine

Feature Identification Number: 143781

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 13018

LCS Structure Name: Fort Stevens; Earthworks

LCS Structure Number: 358-01

Feature: Ditch

Feature Identification Number: 143783

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 13018

LCS Structure Name: Fort Stevens; Earthworks

LCS Structure Number: 358-01

Feature: Gun Platforms

Feature Identification Number: 143785

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

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IDLCS Number:	13018
LCS Structure Name:	Fort Stevens; Earthworks
LCS Structure Number:	358-01
Feature:	Revetments
Feature Identification Number:	143787
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	13018
LCS Structure Name:	Fort Stevens; Earthworks
LCS Structure Number:	358-01

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Magazine door replacement work underway, 2010 (CLP June 2010).

Fort Stevens

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Erosion on the north side of the parapet (left: CLP June 2010; right: CLP April 2010).



Top: revetments prior to 2010 rehabilitaion work (ROCR). Bottom: following repair. The concrete patching will blend with the color of the historic material once it has had a chance to weather (CLP June 2010).



The magazine as it appeared in 1938. The five vents are noticable on the roof of the structure and the magazine's shape has more definition ("Fort Stevens, August, 1938." MRCE).

Circulation

HISTORIC

At the time of its construction in 1861, Fort Stevens was accessed by the Seventh Street Turnpike, the major north-south road into downtown Washington from Maryland. Milkhouse Ford Road, which ran east to west, was located to the south of the fort. Soldiers initially entered Fort Stevens from the turnpike on the eastern side of the structure. Following the extension, drawings note a feature referred to as "traverse" in the northeast section of the addition that may have been used to exit the fort. An extension of Piney Branch Road, which paralleled the turnpike, may have been built as early as 1860 and would have been located to the west of the fort. In 1862, Fort Stevens was expanded to the west and the entrance was relocated to its southern side. If Piney Branch Road was constructed by 1860, and had not already been incorporated into the structure, the fort was expanded atop it. It is unclear what role Piney Branch Road played in accessing the fort, but a Civil War era map suggests it was integrated into the southern entrance (RG 77, 170-90).

Also in 1862, Military Road was constructed to link the northwestern forts defending Washington. A forked road at Fort Steven's southern entrance intersected with Milkhouse Ford Road for travel east towards Fort Slocum, and Military Road for travel west towards Fort DeRussy (Barnard: 77). Historic photographs and drawings of Fort Stevens reveal clear pathways within the fort for ease of equipment and troop movement.

Fort Stevens

Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North

By the time the CCC reconstructed the northern section of the fort in the mid-1930s, city streets bordered the fort site on all sides and provided access to the site. All remnants of the Civil War circulation had largely disappeared with the exception of Piney Branch Road and present day Georgia Avenue. The bypass was rebuilt following the closure of Fort Stevens and remained open, if not in use, until the creation of the park in the 1930s. Though reconstruction drawings show pathways and an entrance on Quackenbos Street, no formal entranceway or paths were constructed by the CCC.

EXISTING

Fort Stevens has no formal circulation plan, meaning, no pathways, fencing or marked entrances. Visitors can enter the fort from any of the surrounding streets or sidewalks. The sidewalks provide a walk along the park's perimeter. The remnant of the Piney Branch Road is a public right of way and serves as a driveway for the Emory Methodist Church and a place for NPS employees to park. It is located on the eastern border of the park.

EVALUATION

The Civil War circulation patterns at Fort Stevens are no longer extant and circulation was not a feature of the CCC reconstruction. There is no integrity to Fort Stevens' circulation.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Northern end of Piney Branch Road on the east side of Fort Stevens. Twelfth Street, located north of the park and visible in the above photo, was formerly part of the Piney Branch Road (CLP April 2010).

Small Scale Features

HISTORIC

Civil War era photographs of Fort Stevens reveal small scale features, including the flagpole and protective fencing around trees located within the enclosed section of the fort. Some Civil War era drawings show the flagpole located in the southeastern section of the fort on the site of the Emory Methodist Church. War era photographs, as well as photos from the early twentieth century, reveal the flagpole located roughly where it is found today. Drawings and other documents note another small scale feature, the abattis. The abattis, felled trees sharpened to a point and facing outwards, surrounded the perimeter of the fort and provided another layer of protection. Two small scale features were added during the second period of significance: the Associated Survivor's of the VI Army Corps memorial and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War memorial.

VI Army Corps Monument

The VI Army Corps Monument is a two-and-a-half ton boulder which came from the grounds of Walter Reed Army Medical Center. When dedicated in 1911, the boulder rested atop a two-tiered square pedestal. The first tier was smooth stone and the second, immediately under the boulder, was rough-faced in keeping with the surface of the monument. Anchored on each of the corners of the pedestal were 32-pound cannon balls. Stairs provided access to the monument on both its west and east sides. In 1920, the Associated Survivor's of the VI Army Corps added a bronze plaque to the boulder depicting President Lincoln under fire on the parapet during the Battle of Fort Stevens. Photographs reveal a railing at the rear of the monument that appears to be metal. This railing is missing in photographs from 1925. Also missing is the 32-pound canon ball on the southeast corner of the pedestal. Following the CCC reconstruction of a portion of the fort, the stairs and walkway to the boulder were removed and the parapet was built up to the base of the boulder.

The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Memorial

The memorial, dedicated in 1936, is a four-by-two feet bronze plaque with a bas-relief model of Fort Stevens mounted on a mosaic concrete base. It is located to the south of the gun platforms and between the third and fourth gun from the east side.

EXISTING

Both the VI Army Corps Monument and Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War memorial have remained largely unchanged since the CCC era. Erosion around the VI Army Corps Monument on its north side has exposed some of the original pedestal. There is discoloration on the VI Army Corps Monument plaque from recent polish testing. Completion of the polishing will take place by the end of 2010.

The other existing small scale features, including the cannons, trash cans, waysides, instructional and identifying signs were added after both periods of significance and are therefore non-contributing.

EVALUATION

The bas-relief on the VI Army Corps is in need of its scheduled polishing. The polish test spots mar the appearance of the plaque. The stone itself is in need of periodic cleaning, but is

Fort Stevens

Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North

otherwise is good condition. A segment of the original pedestal is visible on the northern side of the memorial. The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War bas-relief was recently polished and the monument is in good condition.

Wayside

A wayside with an overview of the site's history is located to the south of the gun platforms and to the east of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War memorial. It was installed in 2009.

Trash Receptacles

Three large brown plastic trash receptacles are located just inside the eastern border of the park at the northern end of Piney Branch Road. They sit atop small three squares of concrete. Two additional trash cans of the same style as the three mentioned above are located on the strip of grass on Quackenbos Street at the entrance to the driveway.

Signage

Regulatory signs are located along Piney Branch Road and on the southwestern corner of the park.

Flagpole

Some Civil War era drawings of Fort Stevens show the flagpole located in the southeastern section of the fort on the site of the Emory Methodist Church. In photographs from the war era, as well as the early twentieth century, the flagpole is located roughly where it is found today. Multiple photographs at the time of the dedication of the Lincoln Boulder in 1911 document a flagpole in this location. In June 2010 the flagpole was painted and a solar powered light was added.

Cannons

Added in 1966, the two cannons are recreations of the type used at Fort Stevens during the Civil War.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: VI Army Corps Monument

Feature Identification Number: 143763

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 5378

LCS Structure Name: Fort Stevens; Sixth Army Corps Monument

LCS Structure Number: 358-02

Feature: DUVCW Monument

Feature Identification Number: 143765

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Fort Stevens

Rock Creek Park - Fort Circle Park - North

IDLCS Number:	10831
LCS Structure Name:	Fort Stevens; Scale Model
LCS Structure Number:	358-03
Feature:	Signage
Feature Identification Number:	143767
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Flagpole
Feature Identification Number:	143769
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Cannons
Feature Identification Number:	143771
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Trash receptacles
Feature Identification Number:	143773
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing
Feature:	Wayside
Feature Identification Number:	143775
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Streaking on the stone and portions of the monument's original pedestal are visible; VI Army Corps plaque showing effects of polish tests (CLP June 2010).

Vegetation

HISTORIC

Photographs from the Civil War reveal limited vegetation at Fort Stevens. Grass grew between the gun platforms and in portions of the parade ground. Photographs also document trees located inside the fort. One tree, enclosed in protective wooden fencing, is located between two guns on the north side of the fort. Another is located adjacent to the flagpole.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, photographs and other documentation reveal trees covered the ruins of the parapet. A 1935 topographic map documented multiple trees growing on the northern section of the fort, along the earthworks and on the western border of the site. Following the 1936-1938 CCC reconstruction, most of the trees were removed in order to recreate the Civil War era landscape. Post-reconstruction photographs reveal a grassy landscape with a small number of trees. Two are visible on the south side of the fort adjacent to the reconstructed magazine.

EXISTING

Fort Stevens remains a grassy landscape with a limited number of trees. Currently, a red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and two American holly (*Illex opaca*) trees are located in the northwest corner of the park and two red oaks (*Quercus rubra*) are located in the southeastern section of the site.

EVALUATION

Though their age has not been determined, one or more of the trees may date to the CCC era. The trees are non-contributing, but compatible with the CCC-era landscape. The fort retains much of its CCC reconstruction character and retains high degree of integrity.

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good
Assessment Date: 09/10/2010

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Fort Stevens recently underwent substantial repair and rehabilitation work that improved the condition of several of the park's contributing features. The work included patching cracks and damaged sections of the revetments and gun platforms. The flagpole was repainted and a solar light installed to illuminate the flag at night. The magazine door was replaced. The bas-relief model on the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Monument has undergone cleaning and the two reproduction cannons were repainted. In addition, polishing the bronze Lincoln Under Fire plaque on the Lincoln Boulder/VI Corps monument will be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

The Condition Assessment Date is the date the concurrence memo was signed by the park superintendent.

In order to maintain the good condition of Fort Stevens, the park should monitor the erosion taking place on the earthen structures and schedule routine cleaning or polishing of the monuments.

Impacts

Type of Impact:	Erosion
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Evidence of damage caused by erosion is noticeable on the parapet and magazine.
Type of Impact:	Adjacent Lands
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	Proposed construction of a multi-story building and a wall along Piney Branch Road on the eastern border of the park, could impact views and visitors' experience at the park.
Type of Impact:	Vandalism/Theft/Arson
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Damage to resources due to vandalism is a regular concern at the park. In the fall of 2009, soon after the installation of a wayside, graffiti was found on the face.

Type of Impact:	Visitation
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Visitors impact the site by misusing or roughly handling the park's features, for example climbing on the cannons and contributing to the damage caused by erosion by walking on eroded sections of the parapet. Visitors also frequently leave litter.
Type of Impact:	Exposure To Elements
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	The Lincoln Boulder/VI Corps monument shows some discoloration and streaking possibly caused by weather damage.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

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Year of Publication: 1866
Citation Publisher: S.R. Gray
- Citation Author:** Sullivan, Barry
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Year of Publication: 1938
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- Citation Author:** Taggart, Hugh T,
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Citation Title: Recollections of the Civil War: with Many Original Diary Entries and Letters Written from the Seat of War, and with Annotated References
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Citation Author: University of Maryland
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Year of Publication: 1869
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Citation Author: B.H. Warner & Company
Citation Title: B.H. Warner & Company Map Showing a Bird's-Eye View of the City Of Washington and Suburbs: Locating the Public Buildings and Places of Interest
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Citation Author:	John P. Wymer Photograph Collection
Citation Title:	Houses on (unpaved) Rock Creek Ford Road. View from Fort Stevens Drive NW
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Citation Location:	Historical Society of Washington
Citation Title:	Washington, Past and Present: A History
Year of Publication:	1932
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Citation Author:	National Archives and Records Administration
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Year of Publication:	1874
Citation Publisher:	http://memory.loc.gov/
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Citation Title:	J.R.D. Morrison, et al., Copy of the Findings of the Court of Claims in the Case of J.R.D. Morrison et al. Against the United States
Year of Publication:	1895
Citation Number:	Serial Set: 3327, H.misdoc.61
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Year of Publication:	1896
Citation Number:	3459 H.rp.697
Citation Location:	Lexis-Nexis Congressional
Citation Title:	Fort Stevens-Lincoln National Military Park
Year of Publication:	1902
Citation Type:	
Citation Location:	LexisNexis Congressional
Citation Author:	U.S. Senate, Committee on Claims
Citation Title:	Letter from the Assistant Clerk of the Court of Claims Transmitting a Copy of the Findings of the Court in the Case of Elizabeth Thomas Against the United States.
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Year of Publication: 1925

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Year of Publication: 1925

Citation Number: 8391 H.rp.1537

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Citation Author: Seventh Census of the United States, 1850; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M432, 1009 rolls); Records of the Bureau of the Census, Record Group 29, National Archives, Washington, DC

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Citation Type:	
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Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	Project Plan and Plat Of Computation, Drawing 889/80003
Year of Publication:	1927
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	Defenses of Washington, Plan and Sections, Drawing 889/8005
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Citation Title:	Cross Sections-Rittenhouse Street, Drawing 889/80008
Source Name:	DSC/TIC

Citation Title:	Land Addition: Shapiro-Katz Land, Drawing 889/80009
Year of Publication:	1926
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	Plan of Computation, Drawing 889/80012
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	Water and Drainage, Drawing 889/80015
Year of Publication:	1936
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	Proposed Monument Daughters of Union Veterans, Drawing 889/80016
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Citation Title:	Powder Magazine Plan and Sections, Drawing 889/80017
Year of Publication:	1937
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	General Plan, Drawing 889/80018
Year of Publication:	1935
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Citation Title:	Entrenchments-Washington Defense, Drawing 889/80021
Year of Publication:	1866
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	Topo with Tree Locations, Quackenbos St., So., Drawing 889/80022
Year of Publication:	1934
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Year of Publication:	1935
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	Transfer Jurisdiction, Drawing 889/80024
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Year of Publication:	1934
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Citation Title:	Property Transfer Map, Drawing 889/80026
Year of Publication:	1935
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	Signs, Drawing 889/80027
Year of Publication:	1946
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Citation Title:	Twenty and Thirty Pound Parrott Replica Replacement, Drawing 889/80028
Year of Publication:	1966
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	Topography, Drawing 889/80029
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Citation Title:	Sketch: Proposed Monument, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Drawing 889/80030
Year of Publication:	1936
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	Prop. Rev-Lincoln Assn.Monument, Drawing 889/80031
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Citation Title:	Prop.Electric Service, Piney Branch Road and Rittenhouse, Drawing 889/80032
Year of Publication:	1937
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	Fort Stevens, Reservation 358, Drawing 889/80034
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Citation Author:	National Park Service
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Citation Publisher:	National Park Service

Citation Title:	Rehabilitate Fort Stevens Battleground and Interpretive Features, Drawing 889/80035
Year of Publication:	2008
Source Name:	DSC/TIC
Citation Title:	Patented Certificate 238, 1773/09/15, Addition To Woodwards Lot, Daniel Carroll, 43 Acres
Year of Publication:	1773
Citation Title:	Liber AV46 Folio 47, Plat and Certificate of the Part of Washington and Rockville Turnpike Road Lying within the District of Columbia
Year of Publication:	1819
Citation Type:	
Citation Location:	District of Columbia Archives
Citation Title:	Liber WB24 Folio 228, Daniel Renner Trustee to Abner Pierce
Year of Publication:	1829
Citation Type:	
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Citation Title:	Liber JAS70 F246, Elizabeth Butler to George Butler
Year of Publication:	1853
Citation Type:	
Citation Location:	District of Columbia Archives
Citation Author:	District of Columbia Archives
Citation Title:	Liber JAS70 folio F48, Elizabeth Butler to George Proctor
Citation Title:	Liber JAS109 Folio 125, Elizabeth Butler to Enos Ray
Year of Publication:	1856
Citation Type:	
Citation Location:	District of Columbia Archives
Citation Title:	Liber 2302 Folio 347, Elizabeth Thomas to William E. DeWitt
Year of Publication:	1898
Citation Type:	
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Citation Title: Liber 2425 Folio 347, Elizabeth Thomas to Charles H. Perry

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Citation Title: Liber 2438 Folio 21, Elizabeth Thomas to W.V. Cox

Year of Publication: 1899

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Citation Title: Liber 2447 Folio 63 Charles H. Perry to Elizabeth Thomas

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Citation Title: Liber 3586 Folio 114, Elizabeth Thomas to Taplin and Deavitt

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Year of Publication: 1912

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Citation Title: Liber 3626 F179, Taplin and Deavitt to Elizabeth Thomas

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Citation Title: Liber 3748 Folio 485, Thomas A. Cox to Elizabeth Thomas

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Citation Author: District of Columbia Office of the Surveyor

Citation Title: Record of County Surveys, Levy Court No. 1 and 2

Year of Publication: 1868

Citation Publisher: Washington, DC

Citation Author: U.S. Geological Survey

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Year of Publication: 1917

Citation Type:

Citation Location: Library of Congress

Citation Author: National Photo Company Collection

Citation Title: Lincoln Monument at Fort Stevens

Citation Publisher: 1925

Citation Type:

Citation Location: Library of Congress

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Citation Type:

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Citation Author:	United States War Department
Citation Title:	The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. ; Series 1 - Volume 25 (Part II)
Year of Publication:	1889
Citation Publisher:	Government Printing Office
Citation Type:	
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Citation Author:	United States War Department
Citation Title:	The War of the Rebellion: a Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. ; Series 1 - Volume 29 (Part II)
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Citation Publisher: Government Printing Office
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Citation Location: <http://digital.library.cornell.edu>
- Citation Title:** Tenth Regiment
Year of Publication: 1862
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Citation Location: America's Historical Newspapers
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Year of Publication: 1864
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Citation Title:	The Late Invasion Particulars of the Stomaching near Washington Residences Destroyed
Year of Publication:	1864
Citation Publisher:	The Baltimore Sun
Citation Title:	From Washington
Year of Publication:	1866
Citation Publisher:	The New York Times
Citation Author:	The Washington Post
Citation Title:	A Drive to the Forts
Year of Publication:	1896
Citation Publisher:	The Washington Post
Citation Title:	Brightwood Citizens' Meeting
Year of Publication:	1900
Citation Publisher:	The Washington Post
Citation Author:	The Falls City Tribune
Citation Title:	Camp Fire Tales
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Citation Author:	The Washington Bee
Citation Title:	Brightwood Citizens Act
Year of Publication:	1909
Citation Publisher:	The Washington Bee
Citation Author:	The Washington Post
Citation Title:	Sales in the Suburbs
Year of Publication:	1910
Citation Publisher:	The Washington Post

Citation Author:	The Washington Times
Citation Title:	Old Fort Stevens Scene of a Narrow Escape for Lincoln
Year of Publication:	1911
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Citation Title:	Old Fort Stevens Sold
Year of Publication:	1911
Citation Publisher:	The Evening Star
Citation Title:	Fort Stevens
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Citation Title:	Urges Fort Stevens Park
Year of Publication:	1911
Citation Publisher:	The Washington Post
Citation Title:	Surveyor for New Parks
Year of Publication:	1912
Citation Publisher:	The Washington Post
Citation Title:	Seek Site for Statue
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Year of Publication:	1922
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Citation Author:	The Washington Post
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Citation Publisher:	The Washington Post
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Year of Publication:	1925
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Year of Publication:	1925
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Year of Publication:	1926
Citation Publisher:	The Washington Post

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Year of Publication:	1927
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Year of Publication:	1927
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Year of Publication:	1927
Citation Publisher:	The Washington Post
Citation Author:	The Washington Post
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Year of Publication:	1949
Citation Publisher:	The Washington Post
Citation Title:	Otto Schweizer, Sculptor, Was 92
Year of Publication:	1955
Citation Publisher:	The New York Times

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Citation Title: Otto Schweizer, Sculptor, was 92

Year of Publication: 1955

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Citation Author: The Washington Post

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Citation Publisher: The Washington Post

Citation Author: The Washington Post

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Year of Publication: 1958

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Citation Title: Civil War Plaque Marks Lincoln Daring at Battle

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