National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2013

Fort Dupont
National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

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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) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)). Each Federal agency shall establish…a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places…of historic properties…

Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3(a)…Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA…No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior… (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying… historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary…

The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A)

Management Policies 2006. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories…about cultural resources in units of the national park system…Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,… and historic sites…

Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, "*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*" charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency's mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America's Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

Connect People to Parks. Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.
Advance the Education Mission. Strengthen the National Park Service's role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.
Preserve America's Special Places. Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America's Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, "Park Pulse." Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to "*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*" The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

1) *Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation's heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;*
2) *Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS*

3) *Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America's diverse national identity;*
4) *Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and*
5) *Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.*

Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape'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 and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System

Inventory Unit Description:

Fort Dupont Park, Reservation 405, is located in northeast Washington, DC, approximately 3.9 miles southeast of the United States Capitol and 4.5 miles south of Bladensburg, Maryland. The park is approximately 346 acres. Located within the park is the Civil War-era Fort Dupont. The cultural landscape of Fort Dupont is a component landscape of the Civil War Defenses of Washington. The Fort Dupont cultural landscape project area measures approximately 35.5 acres and is located in the southeast corner of the larger park. It is topographically defined by a ravine on its west and north edges, and is bordered on the east by Burns Street SE and on the south by Alabama Avenue SE.

Fort Dupont 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 Dupont's period of significance as 1861-1865. The fort is listed on the National Register for its military significance. This CLI argues that Fort Dupont is eligible under National Register Criteria A, C, and D. This CLI recommends expanding the period of significance to include the years 1901 to 1927, and 1933 to 1941. Expanding the period of significance will recognize Fort Dupont's role in the development of parks and recreation in Washington, DC, as well as the Civilian Conservation Corps' involvement in landscape beautification and restoration projects at the site from 1933 to 1941.

Fort Dupont was one of the 68 forts built as a defensive ring around Washington at the start of the Civil War. It was sited and designed to support the larger Fort Meigs a half-mile away. Fort Dupont, together with the other secondary fortifications in the arc east of the Anacostia River, ensured that the larger fort could withstand an attack and hold out through several days of battle. The fort was initially

complete by December of 1861, although its hasty construction necessitated nearly constant repairs and modifications for the duration of the war. The fort (which was among the smallest of the Civil War Defenses) had a hexagonal perimeter of 200 yards, which encompassed a flagstaff, a bombproof magazine, and a well. Outside the fort was a barracks to house the garrisoned troops, as well as a mess hall, a guardhouse, and two officers' quarters (Cooling and Owen 2010: 216).

Fort Dupont was modified several times over the war, as engineers addressed vulnerabilities in the site's topography (including the exposed approaches via the ravine west of the fort). General John G. Barnard even recommended that the fort be abandoned in April 1864. His orders were never enforced, however, perhaps due in part to General Jubal Early's attack on Fort Stevens in July of 1864, which instilled new urgency in the efforts to protect the city.

Perhaps because of—the alterations, Fort Dupont and the other defenses east of the Anacostia River were never subject to a Confederate attack. Their usefulness as a deterrent was clear, however, as General Early attested after the war. In the latter decades of the nineteenth century, the site reverted to Michael Caton, Sr. and his family, who had owned the farm before the war. The earthworks remained on the site through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, even as the Catons and later owners constructed new buildings nearby.

In 1901, the publication of the McMillan Plan spurred efforts to preserve Fort Dupont as part of a circle of green spaces around the city. This ring of parks would be established on the former sites of the Civil War Defenses of Washington, as part of the City Beautiful movement's re-envisioning of the District of Columbia. Fort Dupont was, by this time, surrounded by emerging suburban development, and the site itself featured several buildings, including a large private residence, to the west of the earthworks.

The District's efforts to acquire the land began in 1913 with the authorization to purchase land for a park. Officials met with some resistance from neighborhood organizations, but the land purchases progressed into the 1920s. During these years, the District Surveyor assessed the buildings on the site and called for the demolition of most of them, with the exception of the main Caton/Brown house that stood west of the earthworks. There was little movement to raze the structures, however, as the nascent park site was not yet fully open to the public. Instead, the District's Department of Street Trees and Parking was authorized to use the land around the earthworks as a tree nursery for seedlings, which—once grown—were used to line the roadsides of the city (Robinson and Associates 2004: 77-8). As District park officials assembled the land parcels for the larger park, which opened to the public in the late 1920s, this remained the dominant use of the site around the earthworks as late as the 1940s.

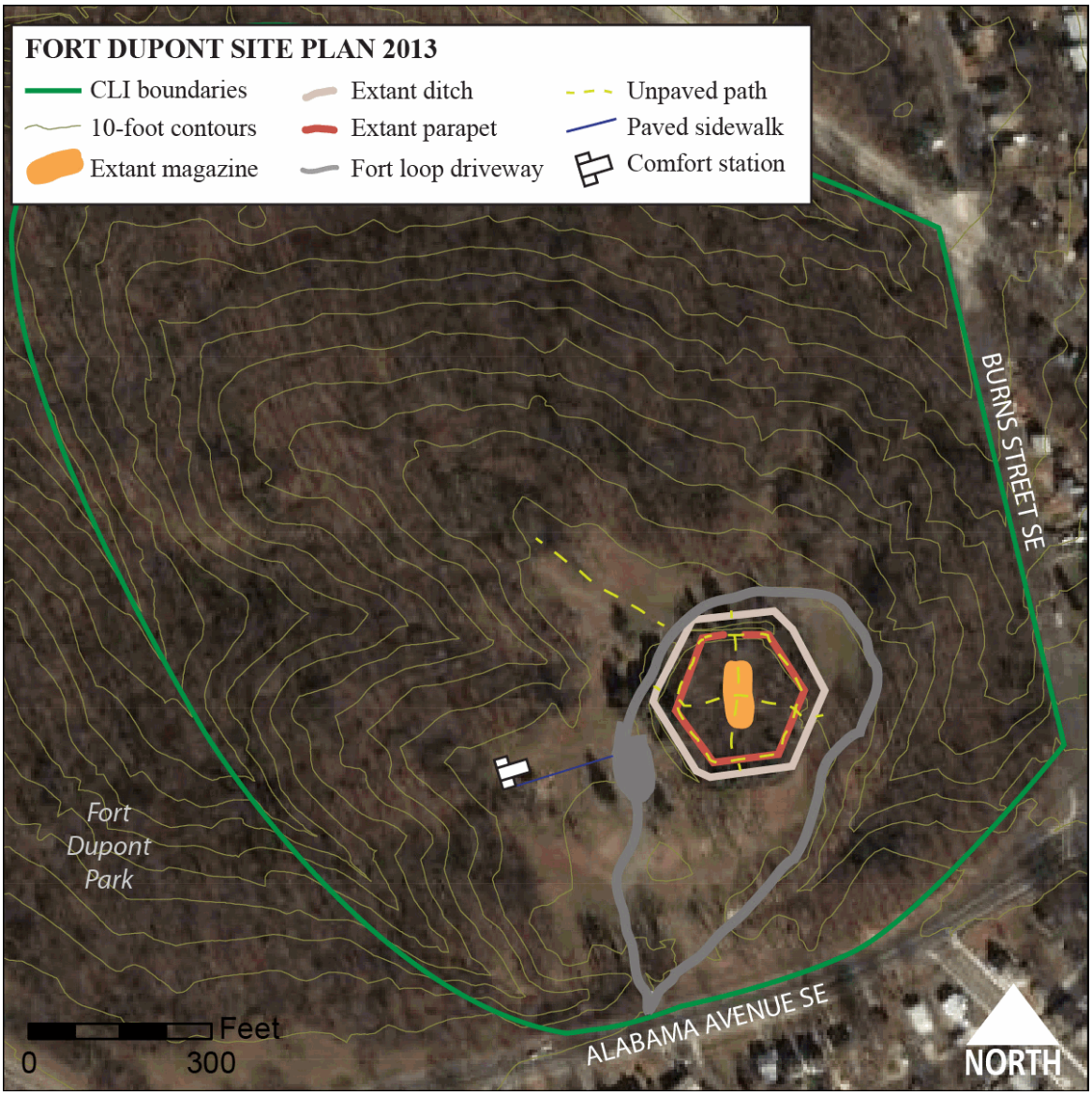
The creation of the park at Fort Dupont corresponded with the formation of the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression, and in 1933, the first CCC camp to launch in the District of Columbia was established at Fort Dupont Park. The camp itself was located in the northwest corner of the park, opposite the earthworks, but the camp's laborers worked all over the site—including the portion of the landscape that encompassed the earthworks and is the subject site of this cultural landscape inventory. The CCC projects at Fort Dupont conducted between 1933 and 1941 (within the CLI's boundaries) included the improvement of the ravine behind the fort; the repair of the earthworks;

forest protection in the area around the earthworks; and the construction of a children's playground nearby.

Today, Fort Dupont is situated in the midst of a largely residential neighborhood. Its earthworks are somewhat intact, although they have deteriorated. The landscape around the former fort site retains most of the vegetation pattern and the features from its twentieth century conversion to a park, with a cleared hilltop around the earthworks, overgrown hillsides and ravine, and earthworks that feature significant mature tree cover. It is in fair condition.

This CLI finds that Fort Dupont retains integrity from the twentieth century periods of significance (1901 to 1927, and 1933 to 1941), and the historic Civil War-era period (1861 to 1865). Fort Dupont 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



Site Plan

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Fort Dupont
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	600079
Parent Landscape:	600078

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East -NACE
Park Organization Code:	3561
Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:	National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East - NACE
Park Administrative Unit:	National Capital Parks-East

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This Cultural Landscape Inventory was researched and written by Margaret (Molly) Lester, Research Associate, University of Pennsylvania. Primary and secondary source material from within the National Park Service and local repositories was utilized to complete the inventory and is listed in the bibliography. Research and editorial assistance was provided by Martha Temkin, Cultural Resource Specialist, National Capital Region, National Park Service; Maureen Joseph, Regional Historical Landscape Architect, National Capital Region, National Park Service; Julie Kutruff, Eastern District Manager, National Capital Parks-East, National Park Service; Randall F. Mason, Associate Professor and Chair, Historic Preservation, University of Pennsylvania; and Aaron Wunsch, Assistant Professor, Historic Preservation, University of Pennsylvania.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 08/02/2013

National Register Concurrence: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Date of Concurrence Determination: 07/30/2013

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia concurred with the findings of the Fort Dupont Cultural Landscape Inventory on 7/30/2013, in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It should be noted that the "National Register Eligibility Concurrence Date" refers to this Section 110 Concurrence, and not the date of listing on the National Register

Concurrence Graphic Information:

United States Department of the Interior

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

June 27, 2013
Memorandum:

To: Regional Landscape Architect, National Capital Region

From: Acting Superintendent, National Capital Parks - East

Subject: Statement of Concurrence, Fort Dupont Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Gopaul Noojibail, Acting Superintendent of National Capital Parks - East, concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory for Fort Dupont, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

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

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

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

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory for Fort Dupont is hereby approved and accepted.

Superintendent, National Capital Parks – East — 8/2/13 Date

Concurrence signed by Park Supeintendent on 8/2/2013

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

July 25, 2013

Memorandum

To:	Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator, National Capital Region
From:	State Historic Preservation Officer, District of Columbia
Subject:	Statement of Concurrence, Fort Dupont Cultural Landscape CLI

I, David Maloney, District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer, concur with the findings of the Fort Dupont Cultural Landscape CLI as per Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, submitted on June 26, 2013.

David Maloney
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Officer

30 July 2013
Date

Concurrence Memo signed by DC SHPO on 7/30/2013

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Fort Dupont Park, Reservation 405, is located in northeast Washington, DC, approximately 3.9 miles southeast of the United States Capitol and 4.5 miles south of Bladensburg, Maryland. The park is approximately 346 acres. Located within the park is the Civil War-era Fort Dupont. The cultural landscape of Fort Dupont is a component landscape of the Civil War Defenses of Washington. The Fort Dupont cultural landscape project area measures approximately 35.5 acres and is located in the southeast corner of the larger park. It is topographically defined by a ravine on its west and north edges, and is bordered on the east by Burns Street SE and on the south by Alabama Avenue SE.

State and County:

State: DC

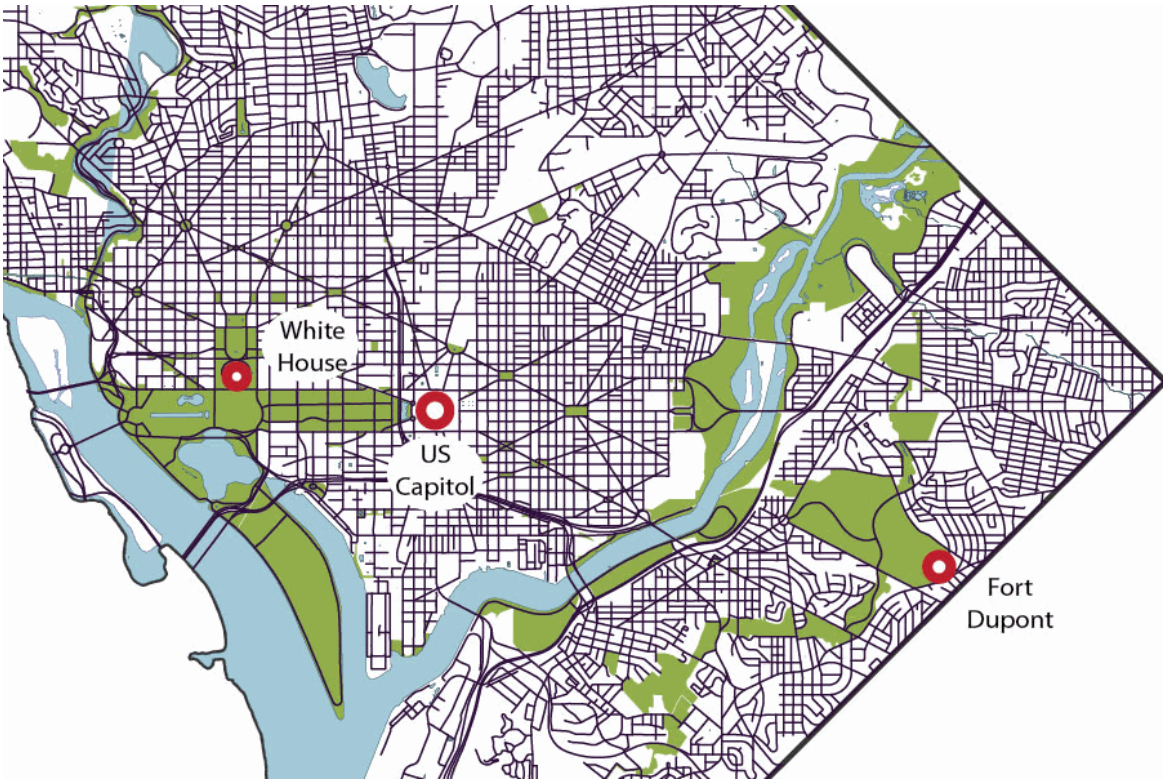
County: District of Columbia

Size (Acres): 35.50

Boundary Coordinates:

Source:	USGS Map 1:100,000
Type of Point:	Point
Latitude:	-76.9435040606
Longitude:	38.8707979010
Source:	USGS Map 1:100,000
Type of Point:	Point
Latitude:	-76.9387968793
Longitude:	38.8719033610
Source:	USGS Map 1:100,000
Type of Point:	Point
Latitude:	-76.9390051274
Longitude:	38.8749003810
Source:	USGS Map 1:100,000
Type of Point:	Point
Latitude:	-76.9431987110
Longitude:	38.8743981500

Location Map:



Fort Dupont is located approximately 3.9 miles southeast of the United States Capitol and 4.5 miles south of Bladensburg, Maryland.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/02/2013

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

Fort Dupont is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its military significance and its 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 Dupont 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.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

Park closes at dusk.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

The lands north and west of this CLI's project boundaries comprise the rest of Fort Dupont Park, and are therefore contributing lands. Fort Dupont and the additional lands that comprise Fort Dupont Park were acquired by the NPS in as a direct result of the 1901-1902 McMillan Plan. Land acquisition began in 1913 and was largely complete by the 1920s.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Fort Dupont was listed on the National Register as part of the 1974 Civil War Fort Sites nomination and the 1977 Defenses of Washington revision of the earlier nomination. Fort Dupont was listed for its military significance and the nomination provides 1861 to 1865 as its Period of Significance.

This CLI proposes expanding the Period of Significance to include the years 1901 to 1927, and 1933 to 1941, during which the site was acquired by the District of Columbia and converted to public parkland under the direction of the McMillan Plan. This CLI also proposes that Fort Dupont is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A and D. The Statement of Significance provides a detailed discussion of how the site meets the National Register criteria.

Though the National Register discusses the fort's role in the defense of Washington, it does not adequately document or describe Fort Dupont's landscape characteristics and features.

Existing NRIS Information:

Other Names:	78004339 Circle Forts
Primary Certification Date:	07/15/1974
Other Names:	78003439 CW Fort Sites
Primary Certification Date:	09/13/1978

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	Site
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
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:	CE 1861 - 1865
Historic Context Theme:	Shaping the Political Landscape
Subtheme:	The Civil War
Facet:	Battles In The North And South
Time Period:	CE 1901 - 1927
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The City Beautiful Movement
Time Period:	CE 1933 - 1941
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	Regional Planning

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Military
Area of Significance Category:	Social History
Area of Significance Category:	Landscape Architecture

Statement of Significance:

Periods of Significance:
1861-1865, 1901-1927, 1933-1941
Fort Dupont is listed on the National Register of Historic Places 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 1901 to 1927, and 1933 to 1941. The first expanded period includes the site's acquisition and conversion to public parkland under the direction of the McMillan Plan (1902-1927). The second expanded period of significance encompasses the years that the Civilian Conservation Corps was involved in landscape beautification and restoration projects on the site (1933-1941).

This CLI proposes that the fort cultural landscape is eligible under three 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 Dupont is associated with several significant events in American history, including the Civil War, the National Capital Planning Commission, the creation of Fort Drive, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. The fort cultural landscape is significant under Criteria C: Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, as an example of the Civil War-era earthworks, as well as its significance in typifying the work completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the National Capital Region. Under Criterion D: Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history, the Fort Dupont cultural landscape has the potential to yield archaeological information related to the site's pre-colonial settlement and its construction and occupation during the Civil War.

The Fort Dupont cultural landscape is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the Civil War. Fort Dupont was part of the ring of fortifications built around Washington at the start of the Civil War. The fort was designed to support and flank the larger Fort Meigs a half-mile away. It served, therefore, as a link in the defenses' 68-mile ring of forts and trenches, and was under construction by October of 1861. Without Fort Dupont and a few other secondary fortifications, engineers for the defenses of Washington concluded that Fort Meigs could neither resist a robust assault, nor sustain itself for several days of battle. Fort Dupont, together with the other forts in the Fort Meigs arc east of the Anacostia, was therefore critical as a buttress in the city's southeastern defenses. While Fort Dupont itself did not see direct military action during the war, it—as well as the other defenses of Washington—had a deterrent effect on the Confederate Army's plans.

Under Criterion A, this cultural landscape is also eligible as part of the development of parks in Washington and for its significance in association with Fort Drive, the parkway designed to connect the Civil War forts around the city. With the publication of the McMillan Plan in 1901, the Senate Park Commission called for the acquisition of the former fort sites around DC and the creation of a public greenway that would link all of them together. The idea languished for a decade, but in 1912, Congress authorized the creation of Fort Dupont Park. In 1916, the DC Commissioners purchased the original 16.55 acres of what would become the park, which was built around the original Civil War earthworks. With Fort Dupont Park as a linchpin of the Fort Drive plans for east of the Anacostia River, the defenses of Washington drew renewed interest and efforts on the part of the newly-created National Capital Parks Commission (NCPC).

The Fort Dupont cultural landscape is also eligible under Criterion A based on its association with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from 1933 to 1942. The CCC's efforts at Fort Dupont Park included forest protection, landscape restoration, and the construction of picnic areas and public amenities throughout the large site. In the area of the earthworks themselves, the CCC cleared undergrowth and created bridle paths that traverse the entire park. Although some of their constructions have been replaced, these CCC initiatives had a physical impact on the site, including many interventions that can still be read in the landscape today.

Under Criterion D: Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or

history. In the centuries before being settled by English colonists, the site of Fort Dupont and its surrounding area was settled by the Nacotchtank people of the Algonquin Indian tribe. Archaeological investigation within the project area may yield information on the site's pre-colonial history, as well as the fort's construction and occupation during the Civil War, and the site's inhabitants and development since the war.

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: Outdoor Recreation

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Fort Dupont	Both Current And Historic
Fort Du Pont	Historic
Fort Caton	Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
CE 1608	Explored	Captain John Smith is first English settler to explore and map the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch.
CE 1612	Platted	Captain John Smith publishes General Historie of Virginia, which maps his explorations along the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch (later named the Anacostia River).
CE 1632	Colonized	King Charles I conveys the land east of the Anacostia River, including the future site of Fort Dupont, to George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore.

CE 1671 - 1687	Land Transfer	The future site of Fort Dupont is granted to three different landowners as part of three larger tracts: Greens Purchase, issued to Joseph Harrison in 1671; Batchelors Hope, transferred to Nicholas Proddy in 1673; and the Arran parcel, which was granted to John Addison in 1687.
CE 1695	Established	Prince George`s County, Maryland, is established, and encompasses the later site of Fort Dupont on the ridge overlooking the Oxon Run valley.
CE 1790	Planned	Pierre L`Enfant lays out the new federal city of the District of Columbia, sited between the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, and includes the land east of the Anacostia as a buffer for military defense purposes.
CE 1791	Land Transfer	President George Washington signs an agreement on March 30, 1791, that establishes the District of Columbia on land from fifteen property owners and two different states (Virginia and Maryland). This territory includes land east of the Anacostia River, including the future site of Fort Dupont.
CE 1861	Engineered	Three units of infantry and military engineers make a reconnaissance mission around the District of Columbia on May 23, 1861, to scout locations for fortifications around the capital city.
	Land Transfer	Union Army seizes the land of Michael Caton to build Fort Dupont
	Built	Construction of Fort Dupont
CE 1862	Inhabited	Beginning in April 1862, Fort Dupont is garrisoned by troops from the 88th Pennsylvania Infantry, the 99th Pennsylvania Infantry, and other units from Rhode Island, Maine, New York, and Massachusetts.
	Expanded	Improvements to fort.
CE 1864	Built	In the wake of General Jubal Early`s attack on Fort Stevens in July 1864, the Union Army decides to maintain Fort Dupont, and soldiers garrisoned at the fort construct new platforms and embrasures, as well as repairs to the parapets and revetments

CE 1865	Abandoned	Fort Dupont abandoned when the Headquarters of the Department of Washington issues an order of immediate dismantlement on June 23, 1865.
	Land Transfer	Fort Dupont reverts to the ownership of Michael Caton.
CE 1865 - 1912	Maintained	Surveyors` maps continue to indicate that Fort Dupont`s earthworks remained intact in the decades after the war, faring better than most of the other defenses of Washington.
CE 1865 - 1878	Built	At some point in the decade after the war, the Catons built a house on the site, just west of the earthworks, with an access road from Bowen Road.
CE 1901	Designed	The McMillan Plan calls for the design of a new Fort Drive connecting all the former fort sites in a green parkway around the city.
CE 1912	Established	Congress authorizes the creation of Fort Dupont Park.
	Platted	DC District Surveyor`s office conducts a survey of Forts Dupont and Davis, establishing the boundaries of the defenses and the boulevard to connect them.
CE 1913	Established	District Appropriation Act for the fiscal year permits the DC Commissioners to purchase land along Alabama Avenue to preserve Fort Dupont and Fort Davis as parkland.
CE 1916	Purchased/Sold	DC Commissioners acquire the original 16.55 acres of what would become Fort Dupont Park and transfers it to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds.
CE 1918	Planted	Upon request of the DC Commissioners, during an influenza outbreak, the Chief of Engineers give the DC Street Trees and Parking Department permission to use portions of the Fort Dupont reservation as a nursery for the propagation of trees for street planting. The nursery is sited north, west, and south of the earthworks, as well as within the fort loop, on land containing a house and stables.

CE 1925	Land Transfer	Fort Dupont, among other forts and parks managed by the War Department, is transferred to the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks.
CE 1926	Planted	The Chief of Engineers grant the DC Commissioners temporary use of an additional 82.94 acres for the nursery.
	Planned	The National Capital Park and Planning Commission complete a study for a proposed connection between the future Fort Dupont Park and Anacostia Park. This parkway is discussed and studied for many years, but never implemented.
CE 1927	Land Transfer	Charles Carroll Glover and his wife donate 39.29 acres towards the future Fort Dupont Park.
CE 1927 - 1932	Built	The split-rail fence along Alabama Avenue SE is replaced by a stone wall, entry and bridge to fort loop drive around earthworks
CE 1929	Designed	Conrad L. Wirth, the National Capital Park and Planning Commission`s landscape architect, authors a comprehensive plan for the design of Fort Dupont Park. Wirth, later became the director of the National Park Service (1951-1964).
CE 1933	Established	All government-owned forts in the National Capital Region are placed under the National Park Service administration.
	Inhabited	A Civilian Conservation Corps camp opens in Fort Dupont Park (with camp buildings in the northwest corner of the park, opposite the earthworks).
CE 1933 - 1941	Built	Civilian Conservation Corps laborers undertake several projects in Fort Dupont Park in the vicinity of the earthworks, including: improvement of the ravine behind the fort and the tree nursery; construction of a children`s playground near the earthworks; and improvement of the cleared area on the hilltop around the earthworks.
CE 1934	Planned	A development plan for the park is approved.
CE 1937	Established	Fort Dupont Park opens to the public in the spring.

CE 1941	Abandoned	The CCC camp closed.
CE 1944	Planned	A new development plan for the park is released by the National Park Service. The plan reiterates earlier recommendations that all buildings around the fort (including the Caton/Brown house, then occupied by Ira Lanham) be demolished; it also calls for the closure of the tree nursery so that the land around the earthworks can be fully used by the public.
CE 1947	Abandoned	The Fort Drive plan to link Fort Dupont with the other Defenses of Washington is officially halted, with only a portion (Fort Davis Drive SE, west of the earthworks) completed.
	Demolished	All buildings around the earthworks, including the Caton/Brown house and all auxiliary buildings, are demolished. The driveway around the housee and earthworks is also removed.
CE 1947 - 1950	Built	A new paved driveway is established in a loop around the earthworks (a slight change in path from the earlier driveway, which included a second loop around the house formerly on the site).
CE 1950	Land Transfer	By March 1950, the National Park Service retook control of the tree nursery land around the earthworks.
	Built	A new granite and sandstone bridge is built c. 1950 to replace an older bridge over the swale near the Alabama Avenue entrance.
	Built	A picnic area, known as Lanham Estates, is established in the area west of the earthworks. This includes the installation of five picnic tables west of the new fort loop driveway.
CE 1954	Built	A comfort station is built in the Lanham Estates picnic area.
CE 1955	Memorialized	National Society of the Colonial Dames of America dedicates a plaque commemorating the construction of Fort Dupont

CE 1968 - 1971	Established	In response to the 1968 publication of the Fort Circle Parks Master Plan, a hiker-biker trail is established through the eastern section of fort parks, including Forts Mahan, Chaplin, Dupont, Davis, and Stanton. It is designated a national recreation trail in 1971.

Physical History:

1612-1790

SETTLEMENT (1612-1790)

Native Americans lived, hunted, and fished on the banks of the Anacostia River and the future site of Fort Dupont for 3,000 years before Captain John Smith included the region on his 1612 map and in his "General Historie of Virginia" (Burr 1920: 167). Smith's accounts of his exploratory voyages detail his encounters with the Nacotchtank people, who were part of the Algonquin Indian tribe, and his travels up the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch (later named the Anacostia River) on June 16, 1608 (Hutchinson 1977: 3). Both the tribe's name and that of the "Anacostia" River are derivations of the Indian word Anaquashatanik, which means "a town of traders"—a reference to the Nacotchtanks' settled, agricultural lifestyle on the riverbanks. The riverbanks were marshy, allowing for crops of wild rice and edible plants, while the nearby slopes and ridges—culminating in the ring of hills where Fort Dupont and the other Defenses of Washington were placed—were forested habitats for abundant game (Lapp 2006: 1). As they had for several centuries before John Smith's travels through the region, the Nacotchtanks farmed this fertile land east of the Anacostia and lived in houses constructed of branches and animal skins. They quickly became a favored trading village for the English Settlers of Virginia, appearing on Smith's oldest map, which was published in 1612 and became the basis for many later navigational charts of the Chesapeake Bay (Burr 1920: 167).

The name of the tribe, and of their river and land along the Eastern Branch of the Potomac, slowly morphed in the early decades of the seventeenth century, from Nacotchtank to "Nacostines" and then "Anacostines," as a priest called them in his reports to Rome in 1634. By the middle of the seventeenth century, English settlers used the word "Anacostia" to refer to both the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River, and to the region east of the river. The Nacotchtank people, meanwhile, were gone from the area by the later decades of the century, having died out (due to disease and warfare) or migrated to the west and north, leaving their villages on the riverbanks to the colonists who soon supplanted their settlements east of the Anacostia (Hutchinson 1977: 4).

The land around Fort Dupont is part of a ridge that separates the Anacostia River Valley from the valley of Oxon Run, a tributary of the Potomac River. The hill on which the fort was later built was eventually conveyed to English settlers as part of a 1632 land grant from King Charles I to George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore, and then to Calvert's oldest son, Cecil, after George Calvert's death. The English continued to expand their settlements at the junction of the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch (the Anacostia River), and by the beginning of the eighteenth century, the area east of the Anacostia had been parceled out to various wealthy gentlemen planters through land grants. The site of the future Fort Dupont (both the earthworks and the larger twentieth-century park) was part of three different tracts: the Greens Purchase, which was issued to Joseph Harrison in 1671; Batchelors Hope, which was apportioned to Nicholas Proddy in 1673; and the Arran parcel, granted to John Addison in 1687. These men likely rented their land to tenant farmers, however—a 1706 census noted that there were 406 households in the area, but only 37 men owned over 1,000 acres of land (Robinson and

Associates 2004: 21). Given this disparity in land ownership, it is likely that for much of the eighteenth century, the area around Fort Dupont was largely forested and uncultivated, supporting mostly small-scale agriculture that was farmed by tenants, indentured servants, and a small number of slaves (Robinson and Associates 2004: 21).

1790-1812

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL CITY (1790-1812)

When Pierre L'Enfant laid out a design for the new capital city in 1790, the area east of the river, including the site of Fort Dupont, was ceded by the state of Maryland and included within the boundaries of the District of Columbia (Beauchamp, rev. Williams 2006). Foreshadowing the construction of the forts 70 years later, the decision to include the land around Fort Dupont as well as within the Anacostia River watershed in the boundaries was one of military deterrence. Then-Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson recommended the areas across each river be annexed to serve as a buffer for the city in the event of an attack on the new capital (Cantwell 1973-4: 334).

By this time, the Anacostia River (still often referred to as the "Eastern Branch") was a navigable commercial waterway for the District of Columbia and the mid-Atlantic states, although sediment settling and erosion of the riverbanks had calmed the river's flow from earlier centuries (Webb and Vooldridge 1892: 91). The land adjacent and east of the river's banks was left largely untouched in the years after the founding of the capital, as land-planning efforts for the federal city concentrated on the plateau between the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers (Lapp 2006: 3). The area around Fort Dupont therefore continued as agricultural land, remaining largely farmed and forested into the nineteenth century.

1812-1861

FORTIFICATION OF THE FEDERAL CITY (1859-1861)

When war loomed again nearly fifty years after the War of 1812, the federal government was all too conscious of Washington's defenseless borders. As civil war approached, the atmosphere in Washington was one of apprehension and uncertainty. John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry in 1859 had heightened tensions in the border states, as Southern states feared a slave insurrection, and Northern states—as well as the federal capital—rushed to strengthen their militias. Before 1860, most of the regular army was posted further west, where conflicts with the Native Americans demanded the greatest military concentration (Billings 1960/1962, 123-4). The looming threat was so great that President Lincoln's inauguration on March 4, 1861, was conducted under military guard. Seven states had already seceded from the Union by this time, and Confederates were already positioned across the Potomac River in Alexandria, Virginia (one of the secessionist states), preparing for an attack on the capital (Miller 1976: 3).

Unlike the War of 1812, the threat to the capital this time was internal, rather than external, and the Union leaders wanted to reinforce Washington, DC, as both a symbolic and strategic center

for the nation. Military officers had learned from the combat losses of 1812, and city officials wished to avoid the demoralizing psychological damage of that war as well. Washington, DC could no longer go unprotected, and Union leaders sought to capitalize on its open space for a tactical, and not simply a ceremonial, purpose (Cooling 1971/1972: 316).

The District's geographic location in the middle of the Eastern Seaboard was an asset in the early years of the Republic. The city was carved out of the territory of its neighboring states, establishing the federal capital as the geographic and governmental center of the new nation. In the wake of the Battle of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, however, Washington, DC's position became a liability. The federal city was surrounded by the southern state of Virginia (which seceded on April 17 of that year) and the southern sympathizer state of Maryland, with just Fort Washington (twelve miles south of the city) as protection. Fort Washington had been built between 1814 and 1824 to replace Fort Warburton. This earlier fort, constructed in 1808, had not prevented the British Navy from sailing up the Potomac and taking control of the city of Alexandria.. While initially and effective replacement for Warburton, by the mid- 19th century Fort Washington was outdated. It was a distant and ineffective buttress for the federal city, with few armaments and even fewer troops stationed there. Designed to protect more against naval attacks than land armies, it was even more isolated and precariously located than the rest of the District of Columbia. In its position along the Potomac River, the fort was on the border with Maryland and was separated by less than a mile of water from Virginia (McClure 1957: 1). It could do little to protect the city from attacks over land (Cooling 1971/1972: 315).

As of January 1861, the only regular troops stationed near Washington were a few hundred Marines and enlisted men stationed at the Washington Arsenal at the branch of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. When President Lincoln called for volunteer soldiers on April 15, 1861, for military offensives, his Union commanders quickly began to put in place a system of military defenses to protect the Union capital from surrounding threats (Cooling and Owen 2010: 4). On May 23, 1861, three infantry units accompanied military engineers on a reconnaissance mission around the capital city as they scouted locations for a ring of fortifications around the capital city (Miller 1976: 3-4).

1861: Boschke map of the District of Columbia, with future hilltop site of Fort Dupont highlighted. (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division)

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1861-1865

CIVIL WAR (1861-1865)

Working swiftly in the early months of 1861, the Army bought, seized, and confiscated the agricultural land for 68 military posts and battlements around the edge of the city. Given its location at 300 feet above sea level, the topography and views of the Caton farm held clear strategic advantages as war approached, and the Union Army's military officials quickly identified the site and the Oxon Run Ridge as an ideal fortification site to support the larger Fort Meigs. In general, the defenses east of the Anacostia River were troublesome ones for the Union Army's engineers, since the peripheral ridge east of the city was very narrow and often took a convoluted course. This precluded the construction of any larger forts; instead, several smaller forts were built along the ridge (Robinson and Associates 2004: 31). Nevertheless, these defenses of the Eastern Branch were critical, since they had clear views and aim toward

military strongholds including the Benning Bridge, the Federal Arsenal, and the Navy Yard. The Anacostia River was an inadequate buffer for the city's eastern edge, therefore, since an unguarded ridge would offer a prime post for the Confederate troops to fire on, and eventually attack, the capital (McCormick 1967: 24-5).

The engineers' plan for the ring of defenses around Washington, including Fort Dupont, reversed the city's siting from one of low-lying vulnerability to one of buffered impregnability. Where Washington had been defenseless and exposed in the War of 1812, its army officers now looked to capitalize on the ring of hills around the city, which formed a strategically-elevated shield several hundred feet above the rest of the city. (Indeed, some historians refer to the Defenses of Washington as the city's shield during the war, and the Army of the Potomac as its sword.) (Cooling and Owen 2010: 1) Once cleared of trees and undergrowth according to the engineers' plans, these ridges would host a ring of fortifications—linked by rifle trenches—that could command views not only to the neighboring defenses and the city, but to any military threats that might approach from Maryland, Virginia, or the sea.

By the end of 1861, a 37-mile ring of battlements, trenches, rifle pits, and military roads encircled the capital on land that was, until recently, private farmland (McClure 1957: 1). When the Union Army seized Michael Caton's land in 1861 to build Fort Dupont, he received no payment or compensation (Robinson and Associates 2004: 29). Indeed, the Army's acquisition of land for the full ring of fort sites was an exercise in federal authority and military necessity, as Brigadier General Barnard noted in his 1871 report:

"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.'" (Barnard 1871: 85)

The move was an emphatic signal to both the area landowners and the South's commanders that federal power would supersede individuals' property rights in the fight to protect and preserve the Union. Working swiftly in the early months of 1861, the Union Army bought, seized, and confiscated enough agricultural land for 68 military posts, which were connected by a 37-mile ring of battlements, trenches, rifle pits, and military roads that encircled the capital on land that was, until recently, private farmland (McClure 1957: 1). (The transformations in the landscape were executed so quickly that the army's map of the line of defenses, published late in 1861, simply superimposed the designs for the fortifications on the Boschke map, printed just a few months earlier, with no effort to map the new topographical patterns of the now fully-cleared ridges.)

Constructed between October and December of 1861, with modifications beginning in 1862, Fort Dupont was built to support and flank the larger Fort Meigs a half-mile away. With a perimeter of 500 yards, Meigs was over twice the size of Fort Dupont, which was constructed using heavy timber from the property of a Mr. G. W. Young, who lived near Fort Davis (southwest of Fort Dupont). Outside the perimeter of Fort Dupont's defensive abatis, a

mile-wide buffer was cleared of all trees and shrubs to defend against any advancing armies (Robinson and Associates 2004: 35).

Placed to the southwest of Fort Meigs, Fort Dupont was designed to support Meigs and fill a gap in this "Eastern line" of forts on the ridge east of the Anacostia River. It was named for Rear Admiral Samuel Francis Du Pont, who claimed victory in a naval battle in Port Royal, South Carolina, as the DC fort was under construction. (The fort's name was initially spelled "Fort Du Pont," in accordance with the spelling of the Rear Admiral's name. By the mid- to late-1860s, however, it was more often written as "Fort Dupont." Barnard's 1871 report on the Defenses of Washington consistently refers to the fort as "Dupont.") (Robinson and Associates 2004: 29) An 1862 map of the Defenses of Washington by E. G. Arnold labeled the site "Fort Caton" and called the present-day Fort Meigs "Fort Dupont." This was possibly a cartographic error, or it suggests that the forts were renamed soon after their construction and after Rear Admiral Du Pont's naval victory. (Du Pont's military success was significant enough that another—older—fort in Delaware was also renamed in honor of the Rear Admiral.) (MacKie, Morrill, and Lee 2011: 7-8)

Together with Forts Davis and Baker, Fort Dupont formed an arc of nearly contiguous defenses designed to reinforce the embattlements at Fort Meigs. Brigadier General John Gross Barnard, Chief Engineer of the defenses of Washington, noted the necessity of Fort Dupont and Fort Meigs' other fieldworks in his Report on the Defenses of Washington:

"Fort Meigs should be a work capable of resisting vigorous assault. It is not so; no isolated small field work can be so, and no single large work on this difficult ground can be made so without numerous outworks. The object can only be attained by a congeries of works, which shall sustain and flank each other, and, from numerous points of view, see and guard all the ravines and otherwise hidden surfaces. To accomplish this, several auxiliary works are necessary...These works will, with Fort Dupont, form a congeries which may be considered a single fortification, or fortified camp, of which the garrison must sustain itself for a few days." (Barnard 1871: 28)

Located southwest of Fort Meigs, Fort Dupont was a critical link between the forts on the Eastern Ridge, sited to cover the gap between Forts Mahan and Meigs. The rapid construction of all of the defenses of Washington left them somewhat weaker than they would otherwise be. Thus, Fort Meigs and the other defenses in advance positions, depended all the more on the presence and reinforcements of neighboring forts such as Fort Dupont (McCormick 1967: 30).

As with the other 67 forts in the Defenses of Washington, Fort Dupont was designed based on the specifications of Dennis Hart Mahan, a professor at West Point Military Academy whose writings were foundational texts for the Union army's tactics and strategy (http://www.nps.gov/cwdw/historyculture/dennis-hart-mahan.htm; Dennis Hart Mahan, National Park Service). Mahan's 1836 Complete Treatise on Field Fortification served as the basis for the design of Fort Dupont and the rest of the Union Army's encampments around Washington. The design for Fort Dupont called for a hexagonally-shaped perimeter with a circumference of 200 yards, to be built using packed earth, wooden planks, and timber poles.

Such natural materials were subject to constant erosion and required continual maintenance, repairs, and modifications over the course of the war.

Fort Dupont's initial construction was complete in December 1861, but by the end of 1862, Barnard's commission evaluating the defenses of Washington determined that a ravine to the west of the fort should be protected by the construction of a blockhouse (Robinson 2004:36). Engineers also later called for traverses to cover the sally port and magazine, as well as rifle-pits to defend the approaches to the fort, which were built soon after (McCormick 1967: 30-1).

Fort Dupont was among the last of the defenses to be built and occupied by troops, but beginning in April of 1862, it was garrisoned by soldiers from the 88th Pennsylvania Infantry, the 99th Pennsylvania Infantry, and other units from Rhode Island, Maine, New York, and Massachusetts. At its peak, the fort supported a garrison of 300 infantry and 117 artillerymen within its walls, which also included a flagstaff, a magazine, and a well. Outside the fort's perimeter, the fort's laborers also constructed a barracks to house the troops, as well as a mess hall, guardhouse, and two officers' quarters (Cooling and Owen 2010: 216).

Still, military officials continued to express concern that the fort was too poorly built to be trusted, and in April 1864, Barnard advised that Fort Dupont and other vulnerable posts be abandoned:

"Experience has shown that the objects aimed at in this locality are better attained by a few strong works than by many weaker ones, as the idea of maintaining a line has long since been abandoned. Experience has shown, too, that the great demand for troops, in emergencies, invariably leaves these works feebly garrisoned—hence the greater necessity of concentrating in a few strong works. Small unflanked works such as these I mention, when unsupported by reserves of moveable troops are particularly liable to be carried by a coup-de-main: exactly the kind of attack to which the works over the Eastern Branch are subject." (John G. Barnard to Maj. Gen. C. C. Augur, April 7, 1864, quoted in McCormick 1967: 31)

Concerned about the structural integrity of the fort, Barnard and other military engineers emphasized that the Army's troops and maintenance efforts should focus instead on the fewer larger forts in the system.

In spite of Barnard's recommendations in April 1864, Fort Dupont was not abandoned until after the war—perhaps due in part to General Jubal Early's attack at Fort Stevens just three months later, on July 11, 1864. In that battle, Gen. Early led a raid into Maryland and fired shots on Fort Stevens—and on President Abraham, who was at the fort during the battle—before being rebuffed by the Union Army and their defenses (Kaufmann and Kaufmann 2004: 285). In the wake of the battle, engineers decided to maintain Fort Dupont in the arc of defenses east of the Anacostia, and by October, soldiers and laborers at the camp had completed the construction of new platforms and embrasures, as well as repairs to the parapets and revetments (Robinson and Associates 2004: 37).

Although it precipitated fear of another attack on Washington, General Early's raid on Fort Stevens was the last real threat to the capital city before the end of the war in 1865. Few of the fortifications had seen real combat, but the Defenses of Washington were credited with having a clear deterrent effect throughout the war. As a newspaper article noted in 1884:

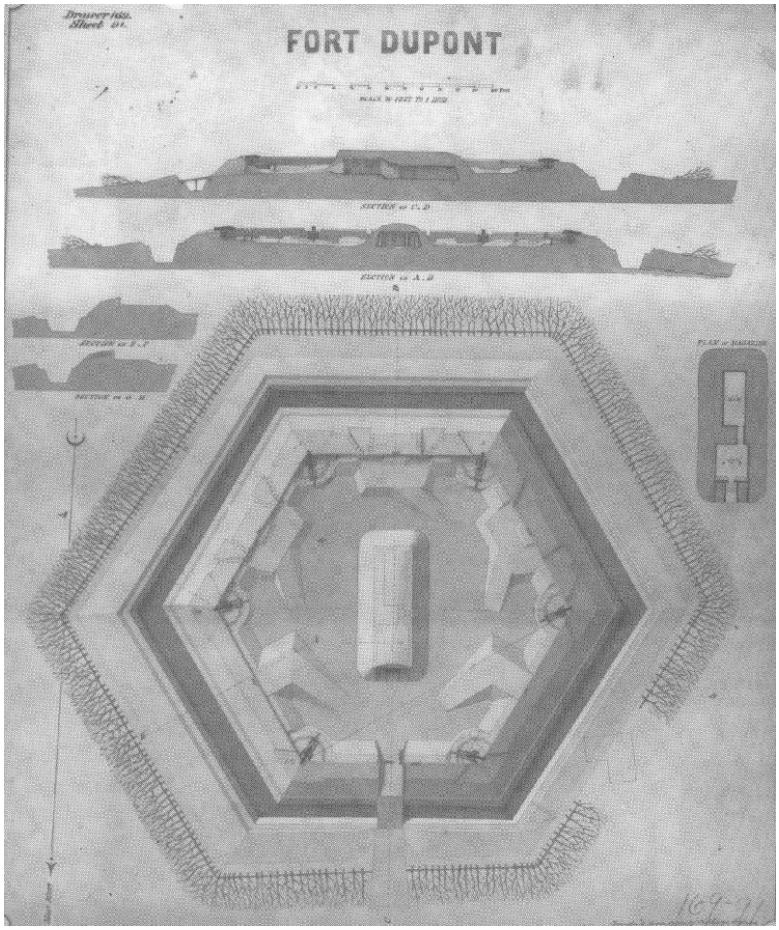
"That the garrison of Washington was never called upon to withstand a siege is no argument against the precautions taken to insure the possession of the National Capital against any possible contingency, and that, through the darkest hours of the struggle for existence, the National Government could remain in security within sight of the debatable ground trodden by hostile soldiers is no slight testimonial to the wisdom that planned and the engineering skill that executed this important work." (The National Tribune [TNT], August 14, 1884)

For four years, the ring of hills around the District of Columbia—including Fort Dupont's ridge—served as a highly effective topographical, psychological, strategic, and militaristic buffer for the city of Washington. Only one full-fledged attack was made (at Fort Stevens) and it was unsuccessful.

By the time of Robert E. Lee's surrender in April 1865, the defenses' circumferential system comprised 68 enclosed forts (with perimeters totaling 13 miles); 93 unarmed batteries; 1,421 gun emplacements; 20 miles of rifle trenches; and 30 miles of military roads—all constructed in just four years (Cooling 1971/1972: 330-2). They were dismantled nearly as quickly as they had been erected, however, and their sites were sold or ceded back to their original owners. The U.S. Army did retain eleven sites as a precautionary measure, but Fort Dupont was classified in the lowest tier of fortifications, which included "the works of least importance [which] should be first abandoned" (McCormick 1967: 31). On June 23, 1865, the Headquarters of the Department of Washington issued an order of immediate dismantlement (The Daily National Republican, June 24, 1865). Soon after, the Army abandoned Fort Dupont, and the site reverted back to Michael Caton, who by the end of the war was listed in the Washington, D.C. City Directory as a "printer" at new address of 361 5th Street. While some landowners protested the Union Army's conditions for compensation, Caton accepted the offer and received one dollar, five quartermaster structures, wood remnants from the fort, and any remaining salvageable materials as recompense for the wartime use of the land (Robinson and Associates 2004: 29).

Modified 1865 map of the Defenses of Washington, distinguished by their current ownership and management status. (National Park Service)

Comparison of the 1861 Boschke map (left) with the 1861 Lines of Defense map (right), developed by Major General John G. Barnar. (Boschke LoC; Lines of Defense, Historic Map Works Rare Historic Maps Collection)



Engineer drawing of Fort Dupont (National Archives, as printed in Mr. Lincoln's Forts)

1865-1900

LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY (1865-1900)

While the population and development of the capital boomed on the land between the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, the land east of the Anacostia saw slower growth. It remained agricultural land for much of the latter half of the nineteenth century, and surveyors' maps denoted little development between the farms of Michael Caton and other landowners near the Eastern Ridge (Boschke 1880). By 1880, Caton was listed as a "widower" in the city directory and a "retired capitalist" in the federal census, and his son Michael, born in 1834, was perhaps the "Michael Caton" now listed as a printer and a cashier (Robinson and Associates 2004: 29). In 1884, the Corps of Engineers' topographical map of the District and Virginia ascribed the land along Ridge Road on the Eastern Ridge to a Michael Cotton, but this is likely a typographical error (Lydecker and Greene 1884), as Michael Caton, Sr. died that year and the land evidently passed to his son.

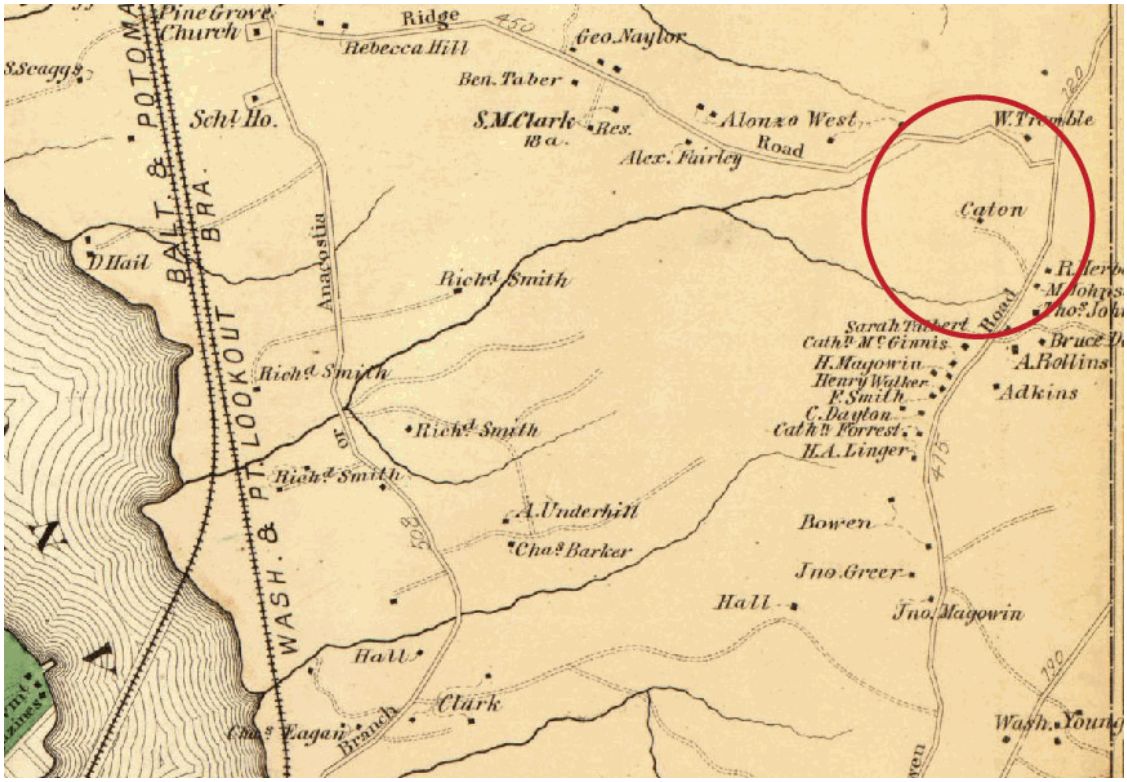
At some point in the decade after the war, the Catons built a house just off Bowen Road, near the intersection with Ridge Road. The house was likely constructed before 1878, when G. M. Hopkins' map of the area indicates the presence of a building on the property. The 2004 Historic Resource Study of Fort Dupont Park dated a structure on the site, near the earthworks, to between 1870 and 1885, so this narrows the probable window of construction to between 1870 and 1878 (G. M. Hopkins 1878; Robinson and Associates 2004: 134). The house, although evidently built during by the Catons, is alternately named in various later documents as the Brown house and the Lanham house. Both names refer to later owners and tenants of the Caton house.

In the latter decades of the nineteenth century, as Fort Dupont and the other defenses reverted to private ownership and began to disappear, they assumed a degree of curiosity and even mystique for the country. Several newspapers published stories about the defenses and their role in the war, with headlines such as "Roadside Sketches" and "Scenes that Thrill" paired with suggested itineraries for visiting the surviving forts (The Eastern Star [TES], November 7, 1891). Unlike other forts such as Mahan, Fort Dupont was rarely singled out in the profiles of the defenses, but it was always included in discussions of the eastern line of forts that culminated in Fort Meigs.

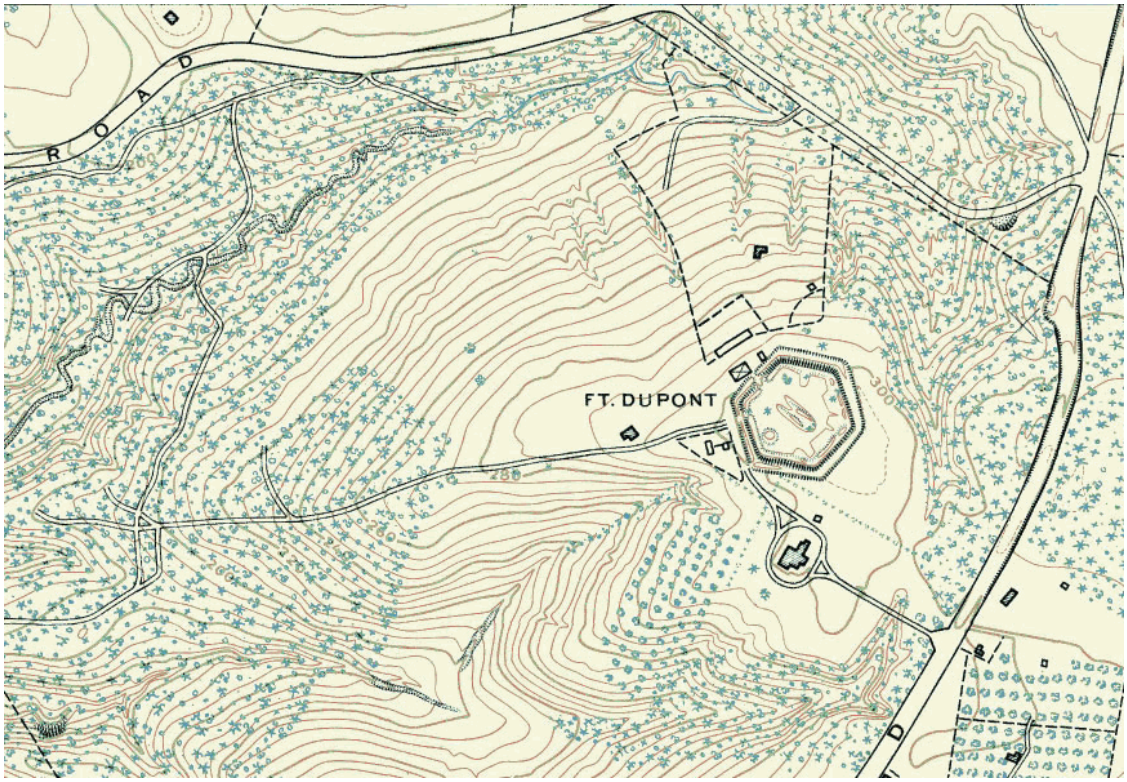
In spite of the public interest and the romanticization of the defenses, many of the sites in the system continued to languish and deteriorate. In their descriptions of the forts in the late nineteenth century, military reports and the newspapers chart the gradual loss of several of the forts' original form and fabric due to natural growth or outright demolition. While the newspapers' descriptions implicitly tracked the gradual loss and demolition of many of the defenses, however, the maps and accounts of Fort Dupont indicate that it fared better than most in the decades after the war.

On the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey's topographic map from 1888, and its subsequent map from 1892—4, Fort Dupont's earthworks are clearly intact at the summit of the ridge, as are many of the structures and military roads immediately outside the fort (United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1888; United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1892-94, as printed in Robinson and Associates 2004: 47). The crest of Fort Dupont's site, including the area within and around the earthworks, remained clear-cut, with the earthworks themselves still fully articulated on the map. A few of the fort's auxiliary structures survived to this point, including several on the northeast side of the earthworks. The fort's access road also remained intact, beginning at Bowen Road (the former Ridge Road, running north-south on the eastern edge of the property) and cutting northwest towards the crest of the hill and the earthworks. Its path is diverted around a large structure south of the earthworks, which was likely the Caton house. A second road began on the west side of the earthworks and descended the hillside (through what is the larger Fort Dupont Park today). The eastern hillside, meanwhile, was reforested by this point, as was a portion of the hillside and valley to the south of the earthworks (and south of the access road from Bowen Road). A plot of agricultural land began at the crest of the hill, to the south of the earthworks and the west of the main house, and covered a portion of the western hillside (United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1888). Given this integrity of the fort's original fabric by the late nineteenth century, it is little surprise

that an 1899 article in the Omaha Daily Bee described both Fort Meigs and Fort Dupont as in "splendid condition." The article further highlighted the "full view of Washington and the valleys of the Potomac" that were available from Dupont's ridge (The Omaha Daily Bee [ODB], July 19, 1899).



1879 G. M. Hopkins map of the Caton property, showing structure on hilltop (accessible by private drive from Bowen Road). (Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division)



1888 map of the site, indicating presence of Caton/Brown house (at center of driveway) and intact earthworks (north of the house). (NOAA Historical Map and Chart Collection)

1890-1901

PRESERVATION OF THE FORTS (1890-1900)

The Defenses of Washington were not just of interest to visitors to the capital city. Indeed, the Defenses of Washington had been the subject of a steady stream of local interest and newspaper articles since practically the day they were dismantled, even as they (picturesquely) deteriorated. The travelogues and other press coverage that began soon after the war had continued to the start of the twentieth century. By then, several of the former defenses shared a trajectory of deterioration and demolition, but the ring of sites around the city still generated interest from public officials and local residents with a growing concern for the forts' preservation.

As the only fort in the defenses of Washington to see major military action during the war, Fort Stevens was the most prominent target for the early preservation movement. Beginning in the 1890s, patriotic organizations concentrated their efforts on preserving Fort Stevens—together with Forts Reno and DeRussy—and recreating a battlefield park in what was by then a suburban community. In the ensuing decade, public interest in the preservation of the forts expanded to include the full ring of defenses around the city, including Fort Dupont and the

other garrisons east of the Anacostia. Together, the fortifications became a prime focus of the city beautification efforts introduced a few years later under the McMillan Plan.

THE MCMILLAN PLAN AND FORT CIRCLE DRIVE (1901)

In 1901, as part of the McMillan Plan that redesigned much of downtown Washington, city officials began to consider the restoration and preservation of the forts—with a new use as parks. Named after Senator James McMillan of Michigan, the McMillan plan was spearheaded by the United States Senate Park Commission, which was founded in 1900 to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the relocation of the national capital from Philadelphia to Washington (Robinson and Associates 2004: 48). With roots in the City Beautiful Movement, the McMillan Plan sought to realize sections of the city's original L'Enfant plan that had never been implemented and to reorient the city with an infrastructure of green spaces (http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/wash/lenfant.htm; The L'Enfant and McMillan Plans, National Park Service).

As part of that effort to renew the city's overlooked and undervalued areas, the plan included in its objectives a proposal to create a 28-mile parkway connecting the Civil War forts of DC as a string of public parkland. It promoted the forts not only for their history, but as a network of civic green space that would benefit the growing city:

"It is necessary to mention the chain of forts which occupied the higher summits...The views from these points are impressive in proportion to their commanding military positions, and they are well worth acquirement as future local parks, in addition to any claim their historical and military interest may afford." (Moore 1901: 111)

As part of the plan, the fort sites would once again transition from private use to public ownership—with due process of sale and purchase this time. The Fort Drive plan also signaled a remarkable shift in the sites' significance from one of wartime necessity—and protection of the federal capital from its own citizens—to one of peacetime public benefit. This narrative was not lost on proponents of the plan, as the Washington Post made evident in a 1931 article about "when Washington was fort-girdled": "Thus the defenses which stood in protection of Washington will be preserved to us and a far lovelier purpose than that for which they were originally constructed" (Salamanca, The Washington Post [TWP], January 25, 1931).

The plan took special note of Fort Dupont and the other forts east of the Anacostia River, highlighting their views of the capital city:

"In the section east of the Anacostia a similar chain of hilltop forts marks the points of most commanding view. With the Anacostia and the hills of Virginia in the distance, these are the most beautiful of the broad views to be had in the District. Forts Mahan, Chaplin, Sedgwick, Du Pont, Davis, Baker, Stanton, Greble, and Battery Ricketts can be linked together readily by means of the permanent system of highways with a few modifications and some widening into a drive comparable in beauty with that along the Potomac Palisades, but utterly different in

character." (Moore 1901: 112)

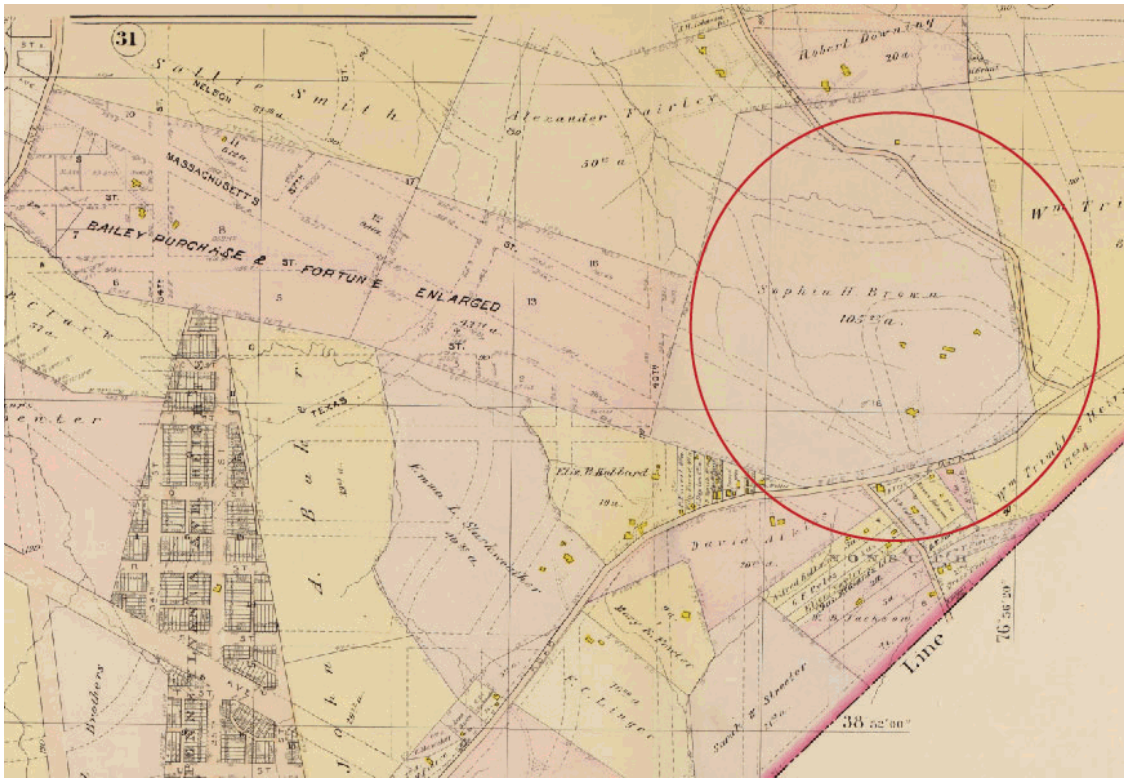
Although they had not seen direct military action during the war, these forts were singled out as intact representations of the defenses' topographical position and strategic role in the conflict. With their commanding views of the city, its peripheral ridges, and the neighboring states, Fort Dupont and the other forts east of the Anacostia were prime sites for the city's historical infrastructure and recreational investment.

1901-1912

FORT DUPONT IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY (1901-1912)

At the time that the McMillan Plan was introduced, the site of Fort Dupont belonged to a Sophia H. Brown. It was still edged by Ridge Road (on its north side) and Bowen Road (to the east). A driveway from Bowen Road still cut a path west through the site (as it had in the 1888 map, and possibly in the 1878/1879 G.M. Hopkins maps), diverting around a house located a few hundred feet to the south of the earthworks. The footprint of this house in the 1903 Baist map echoes the footprint traced on the 1888 United States Coast and Geodetic Survey's Topographic Map of Washington and the Vicinity, which was surveyed when the Catons still owned the property. This suggests that the house that survived into the twentieth century, and was occupied as of 1903 by Sophia Brown, was in fact the Caton house built during the 1870s.

The 1903 and 1907 Baist maps do not make note of the earthworks, since they were surveyed for insurance purposes without any intent to indicate topography or natural features. They do, however, note the continued presence of smaller structures to the north of the house, around or near the earthworks. Although these wood-frame structures are located in the proximity of the earthworks, their locations and footprints do not correspond to those of the structures in the 1888 topographic map, however. They are perhaps, then, new auxiliary structures on the site that were built to replace the temporary Civil War-era buildings (Baist 1903).



1903 Baist map of the site (then owned by Sophia H. Brown, note the presence of the Caton house & several smaller structures north & east of the house (in the vicinity of the earthworks, which—as natural features—were not mapped by the surveyors). (LoC)

1912-1933

FORT DRIVE AND THE ACQUISITION OF PARKLAND (1912-1927)

Although the McMillan Plan revived public interest in Fort Dupont and the fort sites, and ignited further interest in their preservation as a grand system, the Fort Drive idea saw little progress in the first decade after the report's release. Fort Dupont, however, was among the first of the fortifications to be reacquired by the District, when in January 1912, the East Washington Heights Citizens' Association submitted a resolution to Congress "for purchase of Forts Davis and Dupont for Park Purposes." On June 26 of that year, the District Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1913 included condemnation of 41 acres of land at Forts Dupont and Davis, as well as authorization for the DC Commissioners to purchase the sites as parkland (Robinson and Associates 2004: 75). By December, the District Surveyor's office had completed its survey of the properties and had placed stone markers to delineate the limits of the defenses and the boulevard that would connect them. The surveyor's report for Dupont called for the condemnation of a structure, referred to as the Brown house, along with three other houses along the path of the proposed boulevard (The Washington Times [TWT], December 23, 1912).

The Brown house was no doubt the structure at the center of the drive from Bowen Road, which was built by Michael Caton, Sr. or his son. It is less clear which other houses the report intended to demolish; they may be the smaller frame structures located northeast of the Caton/Brown house. If so, however, then the recommendations were not fully implemented until later in the twentieth century (and after several subsequent reports and interventions in the landscape), after Sophia Brown had already sold a tract of her land to the District of Columbia. Most of the structures survive at least as late as the 1927 Baist map, including an altered Caton/Brown house at the center of the driveway and at least one of the structures near the earthworks. Indeed, while one or two of the buildings were possibly demolished by this time, other structures were built to replace them. A total of eight wood frame structures, including the Brown house, stood near the earthworks on the site of "Fort Dupont Park" as late as 1927 (Baist 1919).

Although most local residents were enthusiastic about the overall plan for Fort Drive and the preservation of the defenses, some newspapers noted mixed reactions in response to the 1912 plan's methods of implementation. The surveyor's recommendations for the condemnation of the parkland met with some resistance from the East Washington Citizens' Association, whose executive committee formally condemned the proposals for the Anacostia flats' forts—despite their January resolution in favor of the purchase of the parks. (The executive committee evidently did not speak for the entire association, however, as at that same meeting; some individual members protested the "alleged usurpation by the executive board of the functions of the whole association.") (TWT, March 19, 1912)

Meanwhile, the Rhode Island Avenue Citizens' Association objected to the project's financing, arguing that while the purchase of fort sites in other areas of the city was being funded by the District, the improvements at Fort Dupont, Fort Davis, and Mount Hamilton were instead scheduled to be assessed against property owners in those immediate localities. The Washington Herald, which published the Rhode Island Avenue Citizens' Association's complaints in 1912, acknowledged that "the people in the eastern portion of the District do not possess the influence that enables them to secure benefits which other sections can obtain." Calling for the impartial treatment of the city's neighborhoods and the equitable acquisition of the forts for parkland, the newspaper recognized that the neighbors of Fort Dupont and other sites east of the Anacostia were "apt to be subjected to the unfair discrimination of which, in this particular instance, they justly complain" (The Washington Herald [TWH], March 25, 1912).

FORT DUPONT PARK (1916-1933)

In spite of these initial objections, the condemnation and acquisition of Fort Dupont proceeded (with the support of other neighborhood organizations, including the Randle Highlands Citizens' Association and the Congress Heights' Public Improvement Association) (TWH, January 10, 1912). In 1916, the DC Commissioners acquired the first 16.55 acres of what would become Fort Dupont Park, later transferring it in November 1916 to the authority of the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds under the U.S. Army Chief of Engineers. By this time, surveys of the

site noted that there was a grove of deciduous trees east of the fort and that the land behind the fort had been cleared up to the "brow of the hill" (Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army 1918: 3076, quoted in Robinson and Associates 2004: 76). Several structures, including the Caton/Brown house immediately south of the earthworks, remained on the larger fort site, owned by the DC government and rented to tenant occupants. Since the park was not yet open to public use—other than those with access to an automobile who could drive past on Ridge Road or Alabama Avenue—the Office of the Chief of Engineers recommended that the houses on the land around the earthworks be retained for the time being (Robinson and Associates 2004: 75).

World War I and the influenza epidemic that immediately followed interrupted the plans to create a park at Fort Dupont. Instead, under the stewardship of the DC government, the site served other temporary needs in the intervening years. When the government took over the District Nursery nearby to serve as a temporary hospital during the influenza outbreak in 1918, the Chief of Engineers authorized the DC Street Trees and Parking Department to use part of the land surrounding Fort Dupont's earthworks—including land within the fort loop around the earthworks—for seedlings. Once grown at Dupont—on land immediately north, west, and south of the earthworks—these trees were then transplanted to roadsides (Robinson and Associates 2004: 77-8).

Although the Caton/Brown house adjacent to the Fort Dupont earthworks was vacated by January 25, 1919, the property continued to lay dormant for another decade, maintained by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds and still used in part as a nursery. In 1924, amid renewed interest in a circumferential park system and fort drive around the city, Congress passed legislation creating the National Capital Park Commission (NCPC) to oversee the establishment of parks and greenways in the District. Within a year, the NCPC revisited the McMillan Plan and began to purchase additional land around the existing forts (Robinson and Associates 2004: 56). At Fort Dupont, this included the authorized purchase of 81 acres of land in October 1925, along with additional acquisitions beginning in 1927 that connected Fort Dupont to Anacostia Park as part of the Fort Drive parkway (Robinson and Associates 2004: 80-1).

By this time, the park—including the fort site on its eastern edge— was fully open to the public, although the District Tree Nursery still occupied a portion of the site near the earthworks. The fortification was now part of a much larger swath of parkland at the intersection of Ridge and Bowen Roads (with Burns Street cutting across the northeastern corner of the site near the earthworks). The land on the other side of these perimeter roads was, by this point, fully subdivided into residential parcels. This shift in development and context repositioned Fort Dupont from a small reserve of earthworks, set aside from large tracts of privately owned land, to a large (and growing) green space in an otherwise suburban context. The site of the earthworks themselves retained the Caton/Brown house and the wood frame structures to the north and west of the fort, which dated to before 1913, and possibly earlier. Although the park was open to the public, it was not yet fully accessible. Instead, it maintained an access road from Bowen Road, which served as a driveway to the Brown house before seguing into the fort loop around the earthworks and circling back to the entry point at Bowen Road. (It is not clear how the driveway crossed the creek adjacent to Bowen Road, given that the Civilian

Conservation Corps built—or perhaps rebuilt—a bridge in that location in the early 1930s.) (Baist 1927)

In 1929, the NCPC's landscape architect (and later the National Park Service's Director), Conrad L. Wirth, released a comprehensive plan for Fort Dupont Park's current site and expansion. His designs called for the existing Caton/Brown farmhouse adjacent to the earthworks to serve as a clubhouse for the course (Conrad Wirth Report, Reservation 405 Records: 13). The rest of the park's landscape was to be naturalistic, in keeping with what was still largely wooded land with an undergrowth of mountain laurel. Several recreational areas were mapped out for the larger park, featuring a nine-hole golf course, picnic groves, timber structures, a playground, facilities, and a proposed seven-acre athletic field—all of which were to be placed north and west of the earthworks.

The fort was still fairly well-preserved at this point, and—per Wirth's designs—would be cleared of all surrounding structures, with the exception of the Caton/Brown house south of the earthworks. (The house, located within the fort loop driveway, was accessed from Alabama Avenue, formerly Bowen Road.) According to Wirth's plan, this main house would be converted to use "for refreshments and light luncheons" (Wirth 1929: 3, as quoted in Robinson and Associates 2004: 86).

Wirth's report also included a "general description of the area and type of land," noting that the fort is "at the head of a small stream and valley that extends west to the Anacostia River," with steep and high hills bordering that stream. Despite this topography, Wirth observed the limited viewsheds of the fort, given the heavy growth of trees (which evidently arched over a "fine undergrowth of mountain laurel"). According to Wirth, the only point in the larger park that did have a clear view was the northeast corner of the site (north of the earthworks), which had been cleared of trees and "was used as a farm at one time" (under Michael Caton's ownership, as well as during others' tenure perhaps). The area immediately surrounding the fort was, at this time, in good condition—thanks to the use and maintenance by the Street Trees and Parking Department—and needed very little planting and reforesting. (In contrast, the rest of the park was "to be gone over and the dead trees and underbrush removed," suggesting that the earthworks fared better than the larger park site, thanks to—rather than in spite of—the arrangement to use the adjacent and nearby land as a nursery.) (Conrad Wirth Report, Reservation 405 Records 1929: 10-13)

The eastern perimeter of the park, including the portion that encompassed the earthworks' site, was separated from Alabama Avenue SE by a split rail fence and sporadic shrub growth (Reservation 405 Records; Aerial Photography, National Capital Parks and Planning Commission 1927). At some point between 1927 and 1932, when the NCPC made a newsreel to promote their vision of the fort parks and fort drive, a stone wall and entrance was constructed to replace the split rail fence. A stone bridge was also built just inside the entry as part of the fort loop drive, crossing over the stream before continuing on towards the Caton/Brown house and the earthworks (National Capital Parks and Planning Commission 1932: 14"28'). (The taller, entry wall seen in the newsreel is no longer present on the site.)

Conrad Wirth's master plan for Fort Dupont and its park served as the NCPC's guiding document for the next decade, as the NCPC and the Civilian Conservation Corps undertook projects at the site. Many of his proposals were implemented in the larger park in the ensuing years, including the construction of several footpaths and portions of Fort Drive. In the immediate vicinity of the fort, the structures around the earthworks (with the exception of the Caton/Brown house) were demolished over the next two decades. The main house, however, was never converted to a clubhouse for the golf course, as Wirth envisioned. Rather, it was occupied by the director of the District's Street Trees and Parking Department, Ira C. Lanham, from the late 1920s or early 1930s to its demolition in 1947 (Robinson and Associates 2004: 86, 92).

Although the country faced the catastrophic collapse of the stock market and the onslaught of the Great Depression just a few months after Wirth's plan was released, the emphasis on infrastructure and public works programs under President Franklin D. Roosevelt greatly benefited the capital region's parks. Beginning in 1933, with the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), President Roosevelt directed an infusion of investment and labor in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Of the twelve CCC camps that operated in the larger capital area between 1933 and 1942, the first site to launch in the city was the camp at Fort Dupont Park, which opened on October 23, 1933 (Davidson 2004: 2).

Fort entrance in 1932 (top) & today (bottom). The taller walls from 1932 are no longer extant. The shorter bridge walls (center top; bottom right) were rebuilt in the early 1950s. (Top: Office of Motion Pictures, USDA; Bottom: CLP, 2012)

1933-1941

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (1933-1941)

Though never fully realized, the Fort Drive initiative paved the way for other preservation initiatives and public investment in the forts, most notably with the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at the height of the Great Depression in 1933. Across the country, millions of young men found employment at the CCC camps, where they lived and worked in exchange for uniforms, shelter, food, and a stipend. In general, CCC enrollees worked with the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture, with projects that included the construction and maintenance of roads or picnic areas, the creation of athletic fields or cabin camps, and—in the case of the Civil War Defenses of Washington—the repair or reconstruction of the Civil War-era forts (Davidson 2004: 2). Of the many fort sites in the DC metropolitan area where the CCC worked, their role was most evident at Fort Stevens, where they reconstructed many of the original features of the fort that General Jubal Early attacked in 1864. They were also involved in projects at several other forts, though, including Mahan, Bunker Hill, and Dupont, which hosted one of the longest-running CCC camps in the DC area.

The CCC camp at Fort Dupont—sometimes referred to as the Benning camp (named after the neighborhood)—was in the northwest corner of the park (opposite the earthworks in the southeast corner), near the intersection of Minnesota Avenue and E Street, SE. The enrollees' labor assignments at the larger park followed the principles of Dupont's 1934 redevelopment plan, which was itself based on Conrad Wirth's 1929 master plan for the fort and the larger park area. Under the auspices of the CCC, many of the projects called for in Wirth's design—which had languished without funding—were activated as Congress directed emergency relief and infrastructure funds to the camps' park and recreation projects. Their work was overseen by the newly created Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations, which replaced DC's Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks in 1933 and became part of the National Park Service in 1934 (Robinson and Associates 2004: 94).

The Fort Dupont Park CCC camp included six barracks that could house a total of 200 enrollees, as well as a mess hall, bath house, headquarters, recreation hall, and oil house. These temporary wood frame structures were supplemented by several Park Service buildings that were constructed around the same time, including an office, two garages, a blacksmith shop, and "technical service quarters." In addition, the campers constructed several recreational facilities for themselves, including a baseball field (completed by 1934), a swimming pool, an outdoor beer garden, and a canteen (Davidson 2004: 26-7).

In the immediate vicinity of the earthworks, the CCC laborers improved the ravine behind the fort and tree nursery to enhance the transition between the cleared area on the hilltop and the dense forested land below. They also constructed a children's playground near the earthworks, although further research is needed to determine the exact location (Robinson and Associates 2004: 112-3).

1933-1950

ELSEWHERE IN THE PARK (1933-1950)

Although some of the CCC enrollees traveled to the National Arboretum nearby for their projects, many of their projects focused on the larger Fort Dupont Park itself. Between 1933 and the park's official opening to the public in 1937, they established several picnic areas, comfort stations, park roads, bridle paths, and a play area at the park (Davidson 2004: 30). By 1940, they also constructed the nine-hole golf course in the northwest corner of the park that was envisioned in Conrad Wirth's plan for the site (Davidson 2004: 32).

In 1941, with growing concern over national security and war with Germany and Japan, the CCC camp at Fort Dupont Park became a defense camp of the War Department, with the CCC use officially terminated on March 25, 1942. Later that year, the Antiaircraft Artillery Command of the Military District of Washington took over a fifty-one acre section of the park (including the corner of the park to the northwest of the earthworks that had formerly housed the CCC camp). They continued to occupy that land for three years—and installed an antiaircraft battery in the larger park to the northwest of the earthworks—before transferring the land back to the Interior Department on August 17, 1945, after Japan's surrender. In 1946, the park once again served both a civic and military use, as temporary housing was constructed for veterans. (The buildings were demolished in the early 1950s.) The Fort Drive plan to link Fort Dupont with the other Defenses of Washington was officially halted in 1947. The initial enthusiasm for the vision of the McMillan Plan had languished over the ensuing 45 years of land acquisition hurdles, rising construction costs, the Great Depression, and the war, and by the end of the 1940s, DC officials acknowledged that the Fort Drive would exist only in fragments, such as Fort Davis Drive through Fort Dupont, rather than as a continuous green belt around the city.

1945-1971

MIDCENTURY ALTERATIONS (1945-1971)

The years immediately after World War II saw significant changes to the area of Fort Dupont Park around the earthworks. A development plan for the park, released by the National Park Service on October 1, 1944, reiterated earlier recommendations for the removal of all buildings around the fort—including, this time, a proposal to demolish the Caton/Brown house. (After years of use as Ira Lanham's house, the building was by this time associated with, and often named for, the director of the Street Trees and Parking department.) The house was by this time surrounded by several outbuildings and facilities—both those that dated to earlier in the twentieth century and had been adapted to various uses by Lanham, as well as new additions to the site, including a swimming pool to the west of the fort, a fountain in front of the house, a rock garden south of the house, and several corral fences to hold Lanham's horses. A stable was located adjacent to the fort, although it is unclear whether this was one of the earlier wood frame structures or a building that Lanham constructed on the site (Robinson and Associates 2004: 134).

The nursery still existed on the site as of 1946, although increasingly, community members

called for the closure of the nursery so that the land could transition to full public use. (The National Park Service denied a citizen request on this matter in 1941, citing Lanham's use of the house and the nursery's utility for the Department of Street Trees and Parking.) Although some local residents supported the presence of the tree nursery, there was enough opposition by 1944 that when the Park Service released its development plan that year, they acknowledged for the first time that the tree nursery should be closed and the area around the fort should be developed for park use. Landscape architect H. E. Van Gelder did recommend, however, that a scattered few of the larger nursery trees be left in place in the meadow around the fort, offering shade to the earthworks' visitors (Robinson and Associates 2004: 135).

The management decisions in the late 1940s signaled an overall shift in the approach toward the cultural landscape of the fort's earthworks. For the first time since the land's acquisition by the District of Columbia, the historic fabric of the fort was a feature that dictated the treatment of the surrounding landscape, rather than an incidental element that stood alongside various other, more recent, insertions in the park. In 1947, the house and its secondary structures (including the stables, the garage, and the swimming pool) were demolished. Other small scale features associated with the house, such as the fountain and the walkway to the house, were also removed. The circular driveway around the house was scheduled to be removed as soon as a new circular drive around the earthworks could be installed. By March 1950, the National Park Service had also retaken control of the nursery land, and the new driveway (in the current location) was constructed (Robinson and Associates 2004: 134-5).

Around the same time that the new driveway was installed, a new granite and sandstone bridge was constructed over the swale near the Alabama Avenue entrance. Five picnic tables were also installed in the open area west of the earthwork, which was now referred to as Lanham Estates (after the director of DC's Street Trees and Parking Department, Ira C. Lanham, who live on the site from the late 1920s or early 1930s to 1947). By 1954, the comfort station near the fort was built (Robinson and Associates 2004: 135).

Elsewhere in the park, the golf course languished and its terrain worsened. (It did not help that the Caton/Brown house, once envisioned as a clubhouse for the course, was instead slated for demolition.) By 1971, the course was closed after several years of social pressure and financial strains. In the years after its closure, various plans to convert the course to other uses (including a zoo and a theater) fell through. A portion of the golf course was eventually repurposed as a community garden (Robinson and Associates 2004: 129-30).

1971-2013

CURRENT (1971-2013)

Little seems to have been altered in the immediate context of Fort Dupont's earthworks since the mid-twentieth century. Aerial photographs from the last twenty years indicate few changes to the surrounding landscape of Fort Dupont's earthworks. The area at the crest of the hill, around the earthworks themselves, remained largely cleared of growth, with scattered mature trees. The fort loop drive remains intact in its altered path. (The second, diverted drive around what was originally the main house, was removed when the house was demolished and the

driveway replaced.) The rest of the fort loop drive continues through the picnic and parking area east of the earthworks, and extends around the full perimeter of the earthworks before returning to the entry point along Alabama Avenue SE. With the exception of the comfort station in the picnic area west of the earthworks, there are no other auxiliary structures on the site today. Fifteen tables and benches are present in the picnic area.

The earthworks themselves have seen a return of nearly total tree cover in the last few decades. As of 1988, they were mostly clear, with only a few scattered trees along the parapets. Beginning in the 1990s, however, and continuing through today, the earthworks are almost completely covered with trees, with the exception of the western side of the hexagon. This section of the earthworks was cleared in recent years due to an infestation of kudzu. This clearing had a side effect of opening up views from the parking area to the earthworks.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

INTRODUCTION

Landscape Characteristics and Features

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

The site for Fort Dupont was selected for its topography. Its position 300 feet above sea level provided an elevated vantage of the surrounding landscape, including several strategic sites that Fort Dupont was designed to support and protect. The topography remains the same as it was throughout the historic period, and has a high degree of integrity.

Much of the current spatial organization of Fort Dupont dates to the years after the late period of significance. The landscape's original configuration, with the earthworks on the eastern side of the site and flanking buildings to the west, was disrupted when all of the auxiliary buildings were demolished in the late 1940s. The comfort station was constructed in 1954 (after the late period of significance), which is somewhat consistent with the earlier arrangement of the site. Fort Dupont retains partial integrity of spatial organization.

The Civil War era military land use aspect of the Fort Dupont cultural landscape ended when the U. S. government sold the property in 1865. However, the land use of the project area has not changed since the twentieth century period of significance. The site remains a public park, and is used for recreation, education and interpretation, as it has since the CCC era. Land use at Fort Dupont retains integrity.

The site has some integrity of buildings and structures. The earthworks retain their Civil War forms and, although deteriorated, are largely intact as ruins. The buildings from the late period of significance, however, do not survive on the site, and the extant comfort station west of the earthworks dates to the years after the CCC's projects on the site.

Fort Dupont's Civil War circulation pattern may partially survive on the site today in the form of limited (and deteriorated) footpaths through the earthworks. The current fort loop driveway around the earthworks was constructed during the twentieth century period of significance and appears to initially follow the route of the nineteenth century road that led from Bowen Road to the Caton/Brown house and the fort's earthworks. It was repaved, however, in 1950, when the Caton/Brown house was demolished and the house's circular driveway was removed. Some integrity of circulation remains, in spite of the loss of some features and changes in remaining historic features.

There was limited vegetation at Fort Dupont during the Civil War, in keeping with the site's strategic design and use. The current vegetation pattern is consistent with the later periods of significance, when the combination of the CCC's forestation projects and the replanting of former nursery land resulted in

the current tree cover on the ravine's hillsides. In addition, the tree stand near the entrance to the fort loop drive was likely planted by the District of Columbia's park officials within the twentieth century periods of significance. Vegetation therefore retains some integrity.

The views from Fort Dupont during the Civil War extended to the countryside surrounding the fort—in particular, towards the east and the south. These views remained intact for several years after the war, but were impacted by the redevelopment of the site and surrounding area in the twentieth century. In addition, during the late periods of significance, vegetation growth within the site has also affected the important historic views. Therefore, present day views retain no integrity to the period of significance.

None of Fort Dupont's small scale features date to the periods of significance. The existing small scale features have been installed since the historic period and include wayfinding, regulatory, and interpretive signage, as well as several picnic tables and benches on the site. These features are consistent with the site's land use during the twentieth century periods of significance, and so are compatible but non-contributing. The Fort Dupont cultural landscape retains some integrity to its 19th century period of significance.

The Seven Aspects of Integrity

1. The location aspect of integrity involves the place where the landscape was constructed. Fort Dupont's larger park occupies a larger area than its fort site did during the Civil War. The current boundaries of the site, as defined by this CLI, are based on the historic and topographic significance of the earthworks and their CCC-era landscape.

2. Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. Although the Civil War-era features of the site have deteriorated, = the earthworks retain their original forms from the Civil War period of significance. The area around the earthworks saw several changes after the late period of significance, including the removal of the tree nursery and the site's auxiliary structures. Fort Dupont retains partial integrity of design for the later period of significance.

3. Setting is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. During the Civil War, Fort Dupont's setting was rural, occupied by only a few local landowners. During the later period of significance, the site's setting was marked by urban, densely populated residential neighborhoods. Its immediate context was comprised of single-family homes and schools. Currently, Fort Dupont is still a park and historic site within an urban community, with single-family homes and schools as its immediate neighbors. The park's cultural landscape retains the essential integrity of setting for the late period of significance.

4. Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants, and other landscape features. While other elements and features on the site have been constructed or replaced in recent decades, Fort Dupont's earthworks are constructed of the same

natural materials as the earliest period of significance. The site retains partial integrity of materials.

5. Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. This characteristic is most present at the site of Fort Dupont in the form of the earthworks, which maintain the forms and craft of their original Civil War construction Fort Dupont retains integrity of workmanship to the 19th century period of significance.

6. Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. Fort Dupont remains a park in the midst of an urban neighborhood, with the vegetation, circulation pattern, and CCC-era features contributing to, and maintaining, the integrity of feeling of the site for the twentieth century periods of significance.

7. Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Fort Dupont is associated with the Civil War, the beautification of urban sites as parks, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. Links to these historic events and movements are still evident at the park. The extant earthworks offer the most explicit connection between the historic significance of the site and its present-day forms. Several park features, including the spatial organization and circulation pattern, date to the CCC's involvement at the site during the later periods of significance. The cultural landscape reflects the links to the historic period and retains a high integrity of association for the period of significance.

CONCLUSIONS
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 Dupont retains integrity from the later periods of significance (1912-1927 and 1933-1941). While there have been some changes to the landscape and the loss of several features, the overall historic integrity of the property is high.

Aspects of Integrity:

Location

Design

Setting

Materials

Workmanship

Feeling

Association

Landscape Characteristic:

Topography

HISTORIC
The site's elevation was the primary consideration when army officials scouted locations for

Fort Dupont in 1861. Its position at 300 feet above sea level, as well as its views toward Fort Meigs to the northeast and Fort Davis to the southwest was a critical characteristic for the fort throughout its early period of significance. Refer to Buildings and Structures section for description of how the earthwork features manipulated the ground plane.

EXISTING
Fort Dupont's elevation has not changed since the period of significance. The earthworks are largely intact.

EVALUATION
Fort Dupont's elevation and earthworks contribute to the historic character of the site and have a high degree of integrity.

Spatial Organization

HISTORIC
Fort Dupont's elevation, together with its views toward Fort Meigs and its position over the ravines in the Oxon Run ridge, was the organizing principle for the site's spatial arrangement in the Civil War period of significance. Given its position in the arc of defenses east of the Anacostia, and its function as a flanking support for Fort Meigs to the northeast, Fort Dupont was oriented to face attacks from the east and the south. Engineers designed the fort's earthworks to take advantage of the crest of the hill, and it was positioned to capitalize on the high point in the topography while defending the lower territory to the west and north. To that end, its entrance was located on the north side of the fort, while its weaponry and armaments were amassed on the other three sides of the fort. Outside the confines of the parapet walls and the ditch, the fort was placed on the eastern side of the site, with its auxiliary buildings scattered to the west and north nearby.

In the decades between the Civil War period of significance and the early twentieth century period of significance (1901 to 1927), the site maintained its wartime arrangement. The earthworks remained intact on the eastern edge of the site (bounded by public roads), while auxiliary buildings—and the new construction of the Caton/Brown house—were dispersed to the west and north of the fort.

When the site was purchased by the District of Columbia, beginning in 1916, the city's officials inherited a landscape with much the same spatial organization as its Civil War-era configuration. The buildings that had been constructed in the late nineteenth century were repurposed or replaced, while the overall arrangement of the site remained largely consistent. The only large-scale alteration to the site's configuration was the introduction of a tree nursery (to the west and north of the earthworks) in the early twentieth century. This established a contrast between the early and middle periods of significance for Fort Dupont.

Between the end of the second period of significance (in 1927) and the start of the third (in 1933), Fort Dupont's spatial organization remained consistent. Throughout the CCC's use and improvement of the landscape, it retained its arrangement with the earthworks on the east side of the site and several flanking buildings to the west. These features were all accessed via a

road to the south, which was also consistent with the Civil War organization of the site.

The spatial organization did not change dramatically until the years after the late period of significance. Beginning in 1947, the buildings west of the earthworks (including the large house) were demolished, and by 1950, the earthworks stood alone on the site. In 1954, this change in organization was mitigated somewhat by the construction of the comfort station and the picnic area to the west of the earthworks. This midcentury spatial organization of the landscape around the earthworks remains in place today.

EXISTING
Fort Dupont's spatial organization has changed somewhat since the late period of significance. The earthworks still stand on the eastern portion of the site, but their features have deteriorated such that the orientation within the fort (with the entrance to the north and the gun platforms and parapets on the southern edges) is no longer evident.

On the larger site, the earthworks are unencumbered on their north, east, and south sides, which is consistent with the periods of significance. They are no longer flanked by several auxiliary buildings to the west, however, as they were in each of the periods of significance. Instead, they face an open picnic area and a single building (the comfort station) that is located a few hundred feet to the west of the earthworks.

EVALUATION
Fort Dupont's spatial organization retains partial integrity from the periods of significance and contributes to the historic character of the site.

Land Use

HISTORIC
Fort Dupont's distinct periods of significance (1861-1865, 1901-1927, and 1933-1940) represent several different uses of the landscape throughout its history, including as a military installation, as cultivated land, and as a place for recreation and interpretation.

Built in 1861 as one of the peripheral Defenses of Washington, Fort Dupont maintained its military use until it was abandoned and sold after the war ended in 1865. For several decades, the fort earthworks remained a wartime relic in an otherwise agricultural landscape, while the surrounding area saw sporadic new construction and development. By the early twentieth century, the site remained a pocket of undeveloped land in the midst of an urbanizing landscape, as the larger area east of the Anacostia drew increased speculative development.

The movement to create a park at Fort Dupont (and the other Defenses of Washington) began with the publication of the McMillan Plan in 1901. It did not gain traction at Fort Dupont, however, until 1912, when the United States Congress authorized the creation of Fort Dupont Park. That same year, the DC District Surveyor's office conducted a survey of the site (along with Fort Davis), assessing the boundaries and the condition of the fort. With the first purchase

of land in 1916, the DC Commissioners established the park site at Fort Dupont and transferred it to the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds for management as a public recreation and interpretation. The land around the earthworks also served as a tree nursery through the middle and late periods of significance, as the Commissioners shared use of the parkland with the District Department of Trees and Parking.

The CCC was involved in various maintenance and beautification projects around the site (and the larger park), including the construction of a playfield for children near the earthworks and the improvement of the ravine immediately behind the fort (Robinson and Associates 2004: 108). The rest of the hilltop, which featured a large house and several auxiliary buildings that were all later demolished, was envisioned as a picnic grounds beginning in the 1920s. This plan was not fully executed, however, until after the CCC camp was disbanded, when the house and surrounding structures were demolished in 1950.

EXISTING
The entire landscape serves a public recreational use today, with limited wayfinding elements and signs designed to serve an interpretive function on the site. This is consistent with the landscape's use during the later years of the 1933-1941 period of significance.

A plaque noting the Civil War use of the site, which was installed to serve a commemorative use, was placed by the earthworks in 1955, fourteen years after the late period of significance.

EVALUATION
The Civil War military aspect of land use at Fort Dupont ended with the abandonment and sale of the fort in 1865. Its use has not changed, however, since the end of the last period of significance, when it was fully open to the public as urban parkland and as an interpretive site for the Civil War era Fort Dupont. While the integrity of land use is impacted by the lack of ongoing military land use, it retains integrity of this feature due to the continuation of recreational and interpretive use.

Circulation

HISTORIC
At the time of its construction in 1861, Fort Dupont was bounded and accessed by Ridge Road, running along the northeastern edge of the site, and Bowen Road, which defined the southeastern perimeter of the fort. (The two roads intersected just 250 yards directly east of the earthworks.) The fort was likely accessed via a small road from Bowen Road, which is also present on later nineteenth century maps of the site.

Ridge and Bowen Roads remained the northern and eastern boundaries of Fort Dupont's site in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, even as development encroached in the neighborhoods across the roads. The small road leading from Bowen Road into the site remained in place during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. When the Catons built a house southwest of the earthworks in the 1870s, this small road was routed in a full loop

around the house, with a spur that continued along the western edge of the earthworks before meeting a road that extended down the slope of the ravine northwest of the earthworks (United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1888). These circulation patterns of the site remained relatively static into the early twentieth century, when discussions about the proposed Fort Drive (which would connect all the Defenses of Washington in a green belt) began to shape the street pattern around Fort Dupont.

By 1913, Burns Street was inserted into the street grid, cutting off the easternmost portion of the fort's landscape as it created a north-south path between Bowen and Ridge Roads (serving as a hypotenuse between the two converging streets). The small access road that led into the property from Bowen Road (renamed Alabama Avenue west of Burns Street) to the structures within the site still included the loop that fully encircled the Caton/Brown house, but the second road that extended northwest of the earthworks appears to have gone out of use in the early 20th century and is no longer represented on maps. The loop now wrapped around the Caton/Brown house before returning to the driveway and the site's Bowen Road (Alabama Avenue) entrance. It did not at this time encompass or lead to the original earthworks (Baist 1913).

In 1919, as the District of Columbia took possession of the land, the site incorporated new circulation patterns into its new park landscape. G. W. Baist's map included the small loop around the Caton/Brown house, with the addition now of a larger loop road that began at the Caton/Brown house and encircled the earthworks before returning to Bowen Road. (Other projected streets were included on the map, such as 42nd Street that was planned to follow the line of the ridge around the fort site. According to aerial photographs, however, this street was never actually built.) The loop road that encircled the fort was replaced in 1950 (after the late period of significance), soon after the Caton/Brown house was demolished in 1947. The smaller loop around the former site of the house, however, remained in the landscape until the late 1990s, when the parking area west of the earthworks was widened and the secondary loop was removed.

During the CCC's tenure at the site (1933 to 1941), the Corps' laborers built (or replaced) a bridge over the swale, near the Alabama Avenue entrance to the site. Around the same time that the fort loop drive was reconstructed in 1950, the CCC-era bridge was replaced with a granite and sandstone bridge. This is the bridge that exists on the site today.

A few footpaths cut through the site by the end of the CCC era and the late period of significance. The late nineteenth century road northwest of the earthworks, by this time appeared to function as a path that connected the loop road with the tree nursery and the auxiliary structures that were on the site at this time. The path survived past the removal of the tree nursery, however, and remains evident as a trace in aerial photographs of the site as late as 2011(Bing Maps).

EXISTING

Contributing
The portion of Fort Dupont considered for this cultural landscape inventory is still bounded by Ridge Road (to the north), Burns Street (to the east) and Alabama Avenue (the former Bowen Road) along the southeastern edge. (A ravine defines the western edge of this inventory's Fort Dupont landscape.)

Visitors access the site using the fort loop road that begins on Alabama Avenue and initially follows the route of the fort's Civil War-era access road (this later led to the 1870s Caton house). The road continues, following the extended loop around the fort that first appeared in 1919. It continues the earthworks and eventually rejoins the site entrance/exit at Alabama Avenue. This full loop around the earthworks dates to the twentieth century periods of significance, although the secondary loop around the site of the Caton/Brown house that was still present on the site by the end of the 1933-41 period of significance is now gone. The fort loop road itself was reconstructed in 1950, after the late period of significance. Its path around the earthworks, however, is consistent with the landscape's use and access as a public park in the twentieth century.

The earthworks themselves were accessed via a drawbridge through the sallyport on the north side of the fort. All that remains is the break in the earthworks created by the sallyport.

Non-contributing
Portions of cement paths exist on the east and west sides of the fort loop driveway. These traces are consistent with aerial photographs from the end of the second period of significance (1901 to 1927) that show paths connecting the various auxiliary buildings and tree nursery portions of the site. The tree nursery was removed and the buildings were demolished after the late period of significance although these footpath fragments date to the twentieth century periods of significance, they lack enough integrity to be listed as contributing features.

The extant bridge on the site stands in the location of a bridge that dates to (or predates) the late period of significance. The current bridge, however, dates to the 1950s reconstruction of the driveway, and is therefore a non-contributing feature. (See Buildings and Structures)

There are social trails that bisect the earthworks east to west and north to south across and through the magazine and the parapets. These trails, which have been used as unauthorized mountain bike recreation paths in the past, are now largely overgrown except for the trail entering through the sallyport on the north. The vegetation has helped to prevent the use of these social trails, which in terms of earthwork management is an improvement.

A paved footpath begins at the parking area and connects to the comfort station on the west side of the site. It is non-historic.

EVALUATION

The trail that enters the earthworks through the sallyport entrance on the north and the section of the Fort Dupont entry and fort loop road that follows the approximately the same route as the site's Civil War-era access road both date to the first period of significance. The complete extant fort loop road that runs around the earthworks and back to Alabama Avenue dates to the twentieth century periods of significance. These extant features give integrity of circulation to the Fort Dupont cultural landscape.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Trail through the sallyport

Feature Identification Number: 164473

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Fort loop road

Feature Identification Number: 164477

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Parking area

Feature Identification Number: 164489

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Social trails

Feature Identification Number: 164491

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Paved footpath

Feature Identification Number: 164493

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Map and aerial photographs showing the changes in circulation features from 1919 (left) to 1988 (center) and 1999 (right). (LoC; USGS, via Google Earth; District of Columbia GIS, via Google Earth)

Current conditions of the fort loop driveway, including the entrance (left) and the exit (right). The two meet at the park's Alabama Avenue entrance. (CLP 2012)

Vegetation

HISTORIC

Although no known photographs exist of Fort Dupont during the Civil War, the army's general treatment of the defenses of Washington (as well as period maps) indicate that the hilltop was cleared of all trees beginning in 1861. At Fort Dupont, this included the removal of large tree stands on the eastern, northern, western slopes of the site, enabling views toward Fort Meigs. Army soldiers also removed the the Catons' hilltop vegetable garden (northeast of the earthworks' site) to build the fort.

According to late nineteenth century maps, the hilltop remained clear of trees and most growth for several decades after the war. Tree cover returned to the ravine north and east of the earthworks, but the crest itself was still grassy. By 1884, a portion of the western hillside was replanted with an orchard (Lydecker and Greene 1884).

In the early twentieth century, as the site was purchased by the District of Columbia and converted to parkland, its use as a tree nursery by the Department of Streets and Parking had a significant effect on its vegetation pattern. On the land immediately north, west, and south of the earthworks—as well as a portion of land within the fort drive loop—was planted with seedlings, which were then transplanted to roadsides once they were grown (Robinson and Associates 2004:77-8). In 1927, aerial photographs show the wide swaths of land north and

west of the earthworks that were used for the nursery plantings. The land east of the fort, from the edge of the fort loop drive to the edge of Burns Street, was covered with mature trees.

In the late 1940s the National Park Service decided to remove the nursery and its associated structures, finally turning the area into open public space. By 1950 the house and other structures were gone and the nursery went out of operation. The land on the hilltop was restored to grassy landscape, and the ravine saw increasing regrowth of its tree cover.

EXISTING

The earthworks' immediate context, including the picnic area to the west, is an open, grassy landscape with limited trees. The entrance to the fort loop drive, as well as the edge of the site that faces Alabama Avenue, features several white oak trees (Quercus alba) and there are also a few red cedar trees (Juniperus virginiana) and a catalpa tree (Catalpa speciosa) within the fort loop drive, south of the earthworks. The rest of the lawn to the south and west of the earthworks is largely clear except for a scatterinf of individual trees.

Fort Dupont's earthworks are covered today with several mature trees, common ivy (Hedera helix), and other groundcover. It is not clear whether these trees were volunteers or planted. Several American holly trees (Ilex opaca) in the dry moat (on the southern side of the earthworks) seem to be the same height and somewhat regularly spaced, but this does not confirm that they were intentionally planted.

To the northwest of the earthworks, there are still some plantings and trees that reflect the site's temporary use as a tree nursery during the twentieth century periods of significance. This includes two lines of red cedar trees (Juniperus virginiana)—with one Eastern hemlock tree (Tsuga canadensis) as well—west of the earthworks, and north of the comfort station, that evidently edged one of the auxiliary structures on the site.

The ravine that borders the site to the east, north, and south features a heterogeneous mix of mature deciduous, including red maple (Acer rubrum), white and willow oaks (Quercus alba and Quercus phellos), and American beech (Fagus grandifolia). There are also a limited number of evergreen trees, including American holly (Ilex opaca) and red cedar (Juniperus virginiana). There are more deciduous than evergreen trees. The ground cover is relatively sparse.

Contributing Vegetation

The open grassy area west and south of the earthwork is consistent with the vegetation patterns from the twentieth century periods of significance, and is therefore a contributing feature.

Non-Contributing Vegetation
The lines of red cedar trees (as well as the Eastern hemlock tree) west of the earthworks and the fort loop driveway date to the twentieth century periods of significance, but since they appear to relate to plantings adjacent to nursery structures and not to park development or the CCC, they are non-contributing.

The vegetation pattern in the ravine around the fort is different from the twentieth century periods of significance, when the area northwest of the earthworks was planted as a tree nursery. The mature trees on this portion of the site today—including the red maple, white and willow oaks, and American beech trees—are non-contributing vegetation features.

The pattern of tree growth on the earthworks has shifted many times since the late period of significance. Aerial photographs from 1927 to the present indicate that the density and location of tree cover changed in the second half of the twentieth century. These changes include the removal of the trees on the parking lot side of the hexagon, which allows for views to and from the earthworks. The tree growth on the earthworks contradicts the Civil War-era vegetation on the site, and has shifted since the twentieth century periods of significance. The trees and herbaceous growth on the earthworks (including American holly, common ivy, and other groundcover) is a non-contributing feature of Fort Dupont. (This growth is an effective management tool that helps to prevent erosion of the historic earthworks.)

Undetermined Vegetation
The trees near the Alabama Avenue entrance to the fort loop driveway (including the white oak, red cedar, and catalpa trees) may date to the twentieth century periods of significance, having been planted as the private land was converted to a public park. This includes the trees both east and west of the driveway, including those in the swale near the entrance bridge. These trees are the surviving features from what was originally much denser tree cover along the park's Alabama Avenue boundary. Further research is necessary to make this determination.

EVALUATION
With the hillsides and parts of the crest of the hill covered with mature trees, the vegetation patterns of Fort Dupont have shifted radically from the Civil War-era period of significance and vegetation has no integrity to this period. The current vegetation is however, at least partly consistent with the later periods of significance and the CCC's forestation and planting projects. Though their age has not been determined, many of the extant trees are large enough date to or pre-date the CCC era and before any treatment that suggests removal or replanting of these trees further research is needed to determine which trees or groups of trees are contributing features. The grassy area within the fort loop road and near the picnic area is a contributing feature and this gives the vegetation of this landscape some integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Grassy area W& S of earthworks

Feature Identification Number: 164479

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Cedars & Hemlock assoc. with Nursery

Feature Identification Number: 164481

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Ravine vegetation

Feature Identification Number: 164483

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Earthwork vegetation

Feature Identification Number: 164485

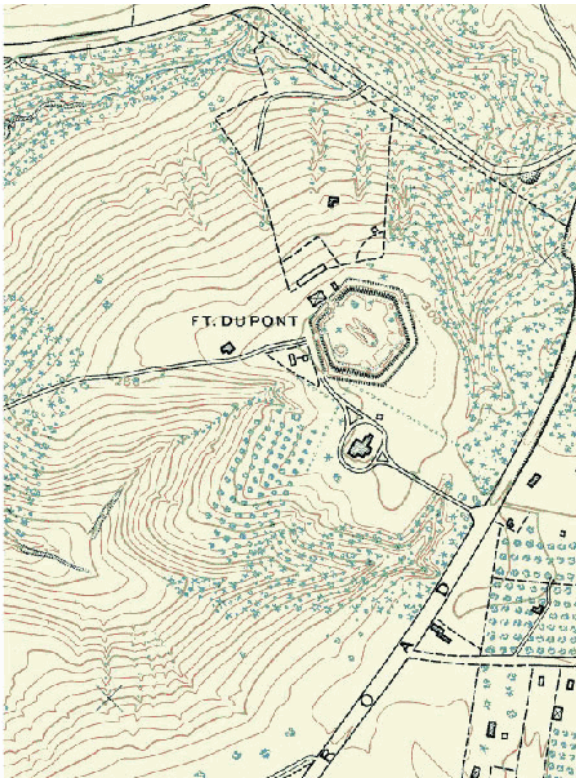
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Trees near entrance

Feature Identification Number: 164487

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



1884 (left) & 1888 (right) maps of Fort Dupont's hilltop show the clearcut vegetation pattern, particularly on the west. (NOAA Historical Map and Chart Collection)

Existing vegetation conditions on the site, including the open grassy area surrounding the earthworks (top) and the dense tree cover and growth covering the earthworks (bottom). (CLP 2012)

These rows of red cedar trees, located west of the earthworks, reflect the site's temporary twentieth-century use as a tree nursery. They likely edged one of the auxiliary structures on the site. (CLP 2012)

View from east of the earthworks, looking west at the tree plantings (which may date to the 20th century periods of significance, as the site was converted to public parkland), the fort loop driveway, and the earthworks in the background. (CLP 2013)

View of the earthworks from the parking area (top) & parapet wall (bottom). Erosion has more of an impact on this side of the fort due to tree removal. (CLP 2012)

Buildings and Structures

HISTORIC

CIVIL WAR
The Civil War-era buildings and structures at Fort Dupont were comprised primarily of the earthworks, which also contained a bombproof magazine and various auxiliary structures.

Parapet, Emplacements, Ditch and Sallyport
The earthworks themselves comprised a hexagonal perimeter of 200 yards, which was circumscribed by parapet walls and a ditch. The walls (usually thirteen feet thick) were

constructed of packed earth that was reinforced with wooden planks and poles. The walls culminated in parapets, measuring 1 to 1.5 feet thick, with fourteen gun emplacements that included eleven embrasures. These parapets had an exterior slope of 45 degrees that extended from the top of the parapet to the eight-foot wide ditch that encircled the earthworks. Soldiers entered the fort using a wooden drawbridge on the north side, which was then supported by a stockade sallyport with two log gates (Robinson and Associates 2004: 32-5).

Magazine
The bombproof magazine was located within the rammed-earth walls and sunken below the level of the gun platforms, with an entrance that faced the sallyport. It was placed at the center of the fort and was constructed of piled earth that was supported by log shoring. It housed an implement room in the front where ammunition was stored and, in the rear, the powder magazine.

Auxiliary Structures
Outside the fort's perimeter, Dupont's camp also included five wooden structures: a barracks (100' x 20') to house the garrisoned soldiers; a mess hall (50' x 20'); a guardhouse (24' x 18'); and two officers' quarters (24' x 16') (McCormick 1967: 32). Fort Dupont's small size precluded the construction of these buildings within the earthworks themselves, but they were placed nearby, in the open area to the north and west of the fort. This clearing also likely included a parade or drill field (Robinson and Associates 2004: 35). In 1862, a structure referred to as a blockhouse was also built over the ravine to the west of the fort, but further research is necessary to determine the function and design of this structure (McCormick 1967: 30-1).

Given its rapid construction, its earthen materials, and its exposure to the elements, the earthworks at Fort Dupont (like most of the defenses of Washington) quickly began to deteriorate as the war continued. By 1864, General J. G. Barnard had so little confidence in the structure of Fort Dupont and the other forts in the eastern sector that he called for their abandonment, so that the army could focus on the larger works in the area (e.g. Fort Meigs). This order was never executed, however, perhaps due in part to General Jubal Early's attack on Fort Stevens later that same year. In the wake of that battle, engineers decided to maintain Fort Dupont in the arc of defenses east of the Anacostia, and by October, the fort included new platforms and embrasures, as well as repairs to the parapets and revetments (Robinson and Associates 2004: 37).

POST-CIVIL WAR
When the fort finally closed in April 1865, the site reverted to Michael Caton, Sr. (Robinson and Associates 2004: 29) Caton also took possession of five quartermaster structures in the vicinity of the fort. It is unclear whether these buildings were repurposed after the war, or whether the structures seen on later maps were replacements that Caton built.

At some point in the decade after the war, the Catons built a house to the west of the

earthworks, near the intersection of Bowen and Ridge Roads. The earthworks survived intact into the twentieth century, while the area around the fort remained clear-cut. A few of the fort's auxiliary structures survived in the initial decades after the war, including several that were located northeast of the earthworks. By the early twentieth century, however, insurance maps of the area indicated wood-frame structures near the earthworks that occupied a different footprint than those built for the war. This suggests that new auxiliary buildings were constructed on the site to replace the Civil War-era buildings from the earlier period of significance (Baist 1903).

In 1912, as the District of Columbia authorized the acquisition of land for Fort Dupont Park, the District Surveyor's office called for the condemnation of a structure—likely the Caton/Brown house—along with three other houses located somewhere along the path of the proposed Fort Drive (The Washington Times [TWT], December 23, 1912). It is unclear which houses the report intended to demolish, but most of the post-war structures near the earthworks survived at least as late as the end of the second period of significance. The Baist map and aerial photographs from that year included an altered Caton/Brown house on the site along with eight wood frame structures that served various uses in support of the larger house (Baist 1927; Aerial Photography, National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, 1927). (One building, demolished in 1947, was listed as a barn/stable. It is unclear whether this was one of the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century structures on the site, or whether it was built later in the 1920s or 30s.)

By the start of the last period of significance in 1933, when the CCC established its camp in Fort Dupont Park (northwest of the earthworks), the Caton/Brown house was still standing. It was occupied by (Ira) Clifford Lanham, the superintendent of the District's Department of Trees and Parking, which used land near the earthworks for a tree nursery. Meeting minutes of the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission from 1946 also noted the presence of a second residence down the hill from the fort earthworks, although the exact location and date of this house is unknown (Robinson and Associates 2004: 134). The surrounding structures still stood near the earthworks throughout the late period of significance.

It was not until the late 1940s, after the CCC camp was disbanded, that the surrounding structures were demolished (based on their structural issues and their detrimental effect on the visitor experience to the fort's earthworks). In 1947, a contract for the demolition of the Caton/Brown house, as well as the surrounding structures of the garage and barn/stable and a nearby swimming pool, was executed. Around that same time, a granite and sandstone bridge was completed on the drive to the earthworks over a swale near Alabama Avenue. By March 1950, a picnic area was installed near the fort, and a comfort station was constructed by 1954 (Robinson and Associates 2004: 135).

EXISTING

Most of the site's current buildings and structures date to the 1950s, after the last period of

significance, and are therefore non-contributing.

Contributing
The only extant structures that date to the period of significance are the remnants of the Civil War earthworks. They remain topographically legible in the landscape, although they are almost completely overgrown with ground cover and mature trees. Only the side of the hexagon that faces the parking and picnic area is clear of vegetation. The magazine at the center of the fort has collapsed, but its footprint is still evident. Traces of the gun platforms, gun ramps, embrasures, and parapets can still be found on each of the fort's six sides. These features have deteriorated, but are still evident in the landscape. The ditch that surrounded the earthworks and acted as a dry moat is also still extant.

Non-contributing
The picnic area near the earthworks was constructed after the late period of significance, as was the comfort station that stands to the west of the parking area.

A short bridge is incorporated into the fort loop driveway, crossing the swale near the Alabama Avenue entrance to the site. Although it stands in the same location as a bridge that was built (or perhaps rebuilt) by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the current granite and sandstone bridge was built around 1950, after the late period of significance.

EVALUATION
The site has partial integrity of buildings and structures. Its earthworks, which date from the earliest period of significance on the site, retain their Civil War forms and are extant as ruins. However, no buildings or structures from the other periods of significance remain within the project area.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Artillery platforms (5)

Feature Identification Number: 164495

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Enbrasures (10)

Feature Identification Number: 164497

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Outerworks (parapet & ditch)

Feature Identification Number: 164499

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 1131

Feature: Comfort station

Feature Identification Number: 164501

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Bridge

Feature Identification Number: 164503

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

The earthworks remain extant. Features such as the parapet walls & ditches (top) & the collapsed magazine (bottom) are clearly visible, despite the presence of dense undergrowth and mature tree cover. (CLP 2012)

The picnic area (top) and comfort station (bottom). They are both non-contributing, having been built in the 1950s (CLP 2012)

Views and Vistas

HISTORIC

At the time of its construction in 1861, Fort Dupont was surrounded by farms and, more distantly, small villages. The site was only a half-mile from Fort Meigs, to the northeast, which it was designed to support, and at 300 feet above sea level, it also had a view to the Federal Arsenal and the Navy Yard, three miles to the southwest. The fort's vantages depended on the

absence of trees on the hilltop, which was accomplished with the Union Army order to cut down trees within one or two miles of each of the Defenses of Washington. The fort was placed on the crest of a hill, overlooking a ravine, with General J.G. Barnard considered a crucial aspect of its design and use: "A congeries of works [including Fort Dupont] shall sustain and flank each other, and, from numerous points of view, see and guard all the ravines and otherwise hidden surfaces" (Barnard 1871: 2, 28). From its location southwest of Fort Meigs, therefore, Fort Dupont was a critical link between the forts on the Eastern Ridge. It was established with views to cover the gap between Forts Mahan and Meigs.

Later maps of the site indicate no trees on the crest of Fort Dupont's site, although the lower hillsides to the north and west did feature some tree cover by the 1880s (Lydecker and Greene, 1884). A few years later, topographic maps of the site suggested that some tree cover and growth had returned on the northeast corner of the site, adjacent to the earthworks at the intersection of Ridge and Bowen Roads. This is consistent with aerial photographs of the site from 1927, which show tree cover both within the earthworks and to the north and east of the site—interrupting what would originally have been a view toward Fort Meigs (Aerial Photography, National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, 1927).

EXISTING

The views of the Civil war period are almost entirely gone today, cut off by twentieth century development in the surrounding area. The most significant aspect of the Civil War views from Fort Dupont—the vantage toward Fort Meigs—is interrupted by the trees and growth on the site itself, which obstruct any view from the crest of the hill toward the other Civil War defense sites.

The later period of significance, during the CCC's involvement with the site, saw increased development in the area, which is somewhat consistent with the site's context today. This development was concentrated to the south and east of the site, as it is today, but the views of the larger area were still significantly less developed than the views from Fort Dupont today. The hillsides were increasingly covered with tree regrowth—for the first time since before the Civil War—which also obstructed the views from the crest of the fort site.

EVALUATION

The views from Fort Dupont have been altered by changes in both the surrounding area and within the site's (and the larger park's) own landscape. Changes in Fort Dupont's own vegetation and growth have had a marked impact on the views available from the site, interrupting the view toward the most significant aspect of the site's Civil War history—the former site of Fort Meigs (which does not survive today). Fort Dupont's views do not retain historic integrity.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

The existing views and vistas from Fort Dupont are obstructed by growth on the earthworks. This disrupts any integrity of views from the fort, which originally looked towards the other forts. (CLP 2012)

Small Scale Features

HISTORIC

By the end of the Civil War, Fort Dupont featured a 124-foot well, a flagstaff, and a ring of abatis around the earthworks. This secondary buffer of abatis, constructed around the perimeter of the fort outside the eight-foot-deep dry moat, was built of angled sharp stakes (ranging from sixteen to twenty feet long), which were positioned to deter any direct attacks. It is not clear how long after the war these features remained in place, or whether it was the Union Army or Michael Caton, Sr. (after he retook possession of the land) that removed them (Robinson and Associates 2004: 35, 155-6).

During the site's later periods of significance, the CCC was involved in several landscape improvement projects in the larger Fort Dupont Park. As part of these efforts, they installed several small scale features in the park, including drinking fountains, fireplaces, signs, and tables and benches. The inventory of these features, however, did not specify where in the park they were installed, or whether any were constructed near the earthworks. CCC records also indicate that the camp's workers constructed a children's playground to the west of the earthworks, but research to date has not determined what features were constructed as part of that play area.

EXISTING
Within the perimeter walls of the earthworks, there is a depression to the west of the magazine that likely corresponds with the original location of the well. The well itself does not survive intact, however.

None of the Civil War-era small scale features survive at Fort Dupont, and all of the features currently on the park site date to the years after the late period of significance (1933-1941).

Non-Contributing Features
National Society of Colonial Dames Boulder and Plaque
A commemorative boulder and plaque, dedicated in 1955, is located on the north side of the earthworks (between the dry moat and the fort loop drive). The memorial is a 16”x24” bronze plaque, affixed to a 4-foot boulder, which memorializes the history of the fort and the Defenses of Washington. It was presented after the end of the late period of significance.

Wayside
A wayside with an overview of the site’s history is located on the northwest side of the earthworks, between the fort loop driveway and the dry moat.

NPS Signage
Regulatory signs are located at the entrance to the park (inside the fort loop drive) and along the driveway that encircles the earthworks. Limited regulatory signage is also placed around the parking and picnic area, to the west of the earthworks.

Gate
Two gates are placed at the entrance to the one-way fort loop drive, on the segment of the road leading into the site (the gate abuts the bridge over the ravine) and on the segment of the road that exits the site. Each gate is as wide as the gravel road, and is not connected to any fence.

Trash Receptacles
There is one trash receptacle southwest of the earthworks, west of the fort loop driveway. There are five additional trash receptacles in the picnic area near the comfort station, west of the earthworks and the parking area.

Picnic Tables
There are two tables with attached benches placed on the west side of the earthworks, between the dry moat and the parking area. In addition, there are thirteen tables and benches in the picnic area west of the parking lot, including five (moveable) picnic tables under the pavilion roof of the comfort station.

Although these features are consistent with the site's land use during the twentieth century periods of significance, the picnic tables themselves are more recent and non-contributing.

Grill
There is a grill near the comfort station, as part of the picnic grounds west of the parking lot.

EVALUATION
There are no extant small scale features that date to any of the periods of significance so this feature has no integrity.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: NSCD Boulder & Plaque

Feature Identification Number: 164505

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Wayside

Feature Identification Number: 164507

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: NPS Signage

Feature Identification Number: 164509

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Gates

Feature Identification Number: 164511

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Trash Receptacles

Feature Identification Number: 164513

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Picnic Tables

Feature Identification Number: 164515

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Feature: Grill

Feature Identification Number: 164517

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing – compatible

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

The commemorative boulder and plaque along the western edge of the earthworks were placed at the site in 1955 by the National Society of Colonial Dames. It is a non-contributing feature. (CLP 2012

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 08/02/2013

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Condition Assessment Date refers to the date the park superintendent concurred with the findings of this CLI. This determination takes into account both the landscape and the buildings situated therein. In order to improve the condition of the property to 'good' the park should complete the following:

The erosion issues cause by visitation and planting practices should be addressed to prevent further damage.

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: Visitation

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Visitors impact the site by exacerbating the damage caused by erosion as they climb on the parapets and in the ditch. They also misuse the trails through the earthworks by biking over the parapet walls.

Type of Impact: Planting Practices

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: The removal of the trees on the earthworks' southwestern side has hastened the erosion of the parapet walls. Without the presence of tree roots and significant underbrush, the soil continues to erode into the ditch around the earthworks.

Type of Impact: Exposure To Elements

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America plaque and boulder shows some discoloration and streaking that is possibly caused by weather damage.

Treatment

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