

Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Allegany TOWN Cumberland VICINITY STREET NO. ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY AL-30 2. NAME Site of Fort Cumberland DATE OR PERIOD STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
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4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC

(1B.) Site of Fort Cumberland

The site of Fort Cumberland is now occupied by the Emmanuel Episcopal Church on the southwest corner of Washington and Greene Streets in the City of Cumberland. The original structure was a combination storehouse-powder magazine laid out by the Ohio Company in 1750. In September and October of 1755 this was subsequently enlarged to a fort at the foot of the hill. It was called Fort Mount Pleasant. After a visit to the new fort in December of that same year, Governor Sharpe of Maryland ordered a larger fort to be constructed on the top of the bluff. Before this could be done, however, word was received from London to erect a fort of sufficient size and character to serve as a base of operations against the French and Indians in the Ohio Valley. The necessary fort was completed in the spring of 1755 and was named Fort Cumberland by General Edward Braddock. The original dimensions were four hundred feet by one hundred sixty feet, the longer dimension running in the direction of what is now Washington Street. Except for the bastions, it was made of eighteen-foot wooden palisades buried in the ground to a depth of six feet.

The fortification was to serve a dual purpose. Not only was it to be a base of operations for Braddock's Army, but it was also to offer protection to the nearby settlers. It marked the westernmost expansion of the British Empire for some years to come. After Braddock's defeat in 1755, Fort Cumberland continued to be garrisoned until 1765 when it was restored to the Colony of Maryland. The Fort was again called into use by President Washington in 1794 when he used it as a base in crushing the Whiskey Rebellion in Western Pennsylvania. When all the claims of early American towns concerning George Washington are considered, Cumberland must be recognized as unique in that it witnessed both the beginning and the end of Washington's career in military uniform.

Source: Historic Landmarks in Allegany County; a staff report by the Allegany County Planning & Zoning Commission, Cumberland, Maryland, Jan. 1965

 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER DATE OF RECORD

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

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	2. NAME Site of Fort Cumberland [continued] DATE OR PERIOD STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER
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All that remains of the original fortifications are the tunnels that were built beneath the fort to insure a reliable water supply and as a means of escape in time of siege. Another tunnel was constructed to connect the main fort with the officers' quarters which were located where the Allegany County Public Library now stands. Unfortunately, the church, which itself predates the Civil War by some ten years, has during the course of time utilized a portion of these tunnels for its steam heating system. A room that is said to have been used as a powder magazine was apparently used as a coal bin. The one tunnel that does remain is quite authentic, emerging from the side of the hill and overlooking downtown Cumberland. Of course the original log roof has long since deteriorated, and in an effort toward preservation, a brick vault was constructed. Entrance can be gained by contacting the church sexton, but the average sightseer would be disappointed with what he sees in the remains of these tunnels.

*The Parade Ground
of
Fort Cumberland. Historical marker*

occupied this site 1755. Here the Indian encampments were secured before Braddock left for his defeat. In 1756-58 the garrison under Colonel Washington was still reviewed here.

(SRC) -- on Courthouse lawn - Washington St., Cumberland, Md.

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HISTORICAL MARKERS

Site of Fort Cumberland

1755 - The store house of the Ohio Company were first located near this point. In 1754 the first Fort (called Fort Pleasant) was built. General Edward Braddock enlarged the fort in 1755 and renamed it for his friend the Duke of Cumberland.

(SRC) - Emmanuel Episcopal Church grounds
Greene at Washington St.

[Hazel G. Hansrote]



ENTRANCE to Old Fort Cumberland
under Episcopal Church, Allzgary

AL-IVA-082

Fort Cumberland, site of (old AL-30)

slide # 3940

OR - 7/68