

## PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

## HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # 80-16 Date 1809-1824  
Building Name Fort Washington  
Location Fort Washington Road, Oxon Hill  
Open to Public  yes  no

Fort Washington is an enclosed masonry fortification entered by a drawbridge across a dry moat. The walls, with stone base and brick superstructure, rise 60 feet above a V-shaped water battery. It is located on a site originally selected by George Washington in 1794 for a fort to protect the new capital. It was not actually constructed, however, until 1809; as relations with England deteriorated, land was acquired from the Digges family of Warburton Manor, and the first fort, known as Fort Warburton, was constructed. When the British did advance on Washington in August 1814, the fort was destroyed by its commander rather than let it fall into British hands. Almost immediately after its destruction, James Madison (acting Secretary of War) assigned Pierre L'Enfant, designer of the Capital City, to reconstruct the fort. He worked on the reconstruction until July 1815, when disagreements over expenses and reuse of original fortifications led to his dismissal. The work was completed by W. K. Armistead in 1824.

The fort has been altered very little since 1824. Some improvements were added in the 1840's and troops were stationed here during the Civil War. In 1864, however, Fort Foote was constructed to the north and Fort Washington lost its military importance. It was abandoned in 1872 although it was used as headquarters for the Defenses of the Potomac during the Spanish American War and World War I. Finally in 1946, the fort was transferred to the Department of the Interior for park purposes.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

PG: 80-16

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

Historic Fort Washington also Fort Warburton

and or common Fort Washington

2. Location

street & number Fort Washington Park

n/a not for publication

city, town Fort Washington

n/a vicinity of

state Maryland

code 24

county Prince George's

code 149

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name National Park Service - National Capital Region

street & number 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

city, town Washington, D.C. 20242

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Upper Marlboro, Maryland

state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title National Archives RG 117.8

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1808 - 1921 (several surveys as land base increased)

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records National Archives

city, town Washington

state D.C.

# 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Note: This nomination includes the entire military reservation of Fort Washington, encompassing 341 acres, bounded on the north by Swan Creek, on the west by the Potomac River and on the south by Piscataway Creek. See attached map for boundaries. The district includes 24 structures plus the fort structure itself. See attached drawings for layout of entire military complex and detail of fort proper. These boundaries have been chosen because residential and other structures supportive of the military site were scattered throughout all 341 acres. Archeological remains which contain important evidence on these structures, their nature, use and architectural design still exist on the site and should be preserved. The photographs attached give evidence of the extent of these outbuildings.

### STRUCTURES OUTSIDE THE MAIN FORT

#### Entrance Gate

Completed by the Garrison, 3rd Battalion, 12th U.S. Infantry, in August, 1922, the gate area consists of four cannon tubes mounted vertically, muzzle up, in concrete, two on either side of the roadway, with iron chains between each pair of mounts.

The two mounts closest to the road on either side each display a single 4.5" Siege and Garrison Rifle, M1861. Originally each of these had an opaque glass globe on the muzzle wired for electric light. These globes no longer remain.

The other two mounts, set slightly back from the 4.5" ones, each display a single 3" Field Rifle, M1861.

It is probable that these guns are some of the ordnance of this type shipped to Fort Washington in 1866. Two other 4.5" rifles were present on post until the early 1970's when they were transferred to Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Parks.

Although this entrance was constructed after the period of significance, it contains objects (namely, cannon) which were important during that fortification period.

#### PX Building

This is the largest of the remaining buildings outside the fort walls and is located in the center of the park close to the eastern boundary. It was constructed at a cost of \$24,444 and completed in June 1906. This structure, brick on a stone foundation with slate roof, measures 103' x 51' and contains 6344 square ft. The front winged portion, 51' x 37', has two floors with twelve rooms. The rear portion is one large room, 34' x 75', which housed the gym. In 1933 the structure was remodeled and a portion was used as a school. During World War II the structure became the post headquarters building.

To date, the structure is essentially intact; some exterior brick and stone have fallen out and the wooden classical portico over the main entrance is in disrepair. The interior shows a great deal of deterioration.

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The NCO's Quarters

This duplex structure has a brick on stone foundation with slate roof. It has two stories with two full basements and is located 200 feet north of the PX Building. These quarters were completed between 1903-06 at a cost of \$7,950.

The structure has a gabled roof with a lunette window at each end and two center chimneys. The windows have segmented relieving arches and stone sills. A wood frame ell has been added to the west side. It is deteriorating to the extent that it is falling away from the main structure.

The interior of the building has two identical apartments, one in each half. Both share a common porch on the east side. Each quarters contains two rooms on the first floor and two bedrooms and a bath on the second floor.

The exterior of the building is intact with the exception of the kitchen addition. The interior is in fair condition.

Commandant's House

Built around 1821, this is one of the most historic of the buildings at Fort Washington. This is a two-story brick house on a basement that is revealed from a little bit to almost fully, since the ground slopes away sharply around the house.

The house features two small dormers in the south side of the roof, and one small dormer on the north side.

A good bit of the interior architectural detailing has been lost to vandalism and/or neglect, i.e. chimney fronts, cornices, tiles, panelling, ballustrades, etc.

As the quarters for the principal official at the Fort, the commandant's house was the largest, as well as the most finely-detailed. It has been adaptively restored as a Visitors' Center for the fort. The restoration included replacement of both porches and the three historic dormers.

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The Sergeant's House

A long rectangular, one-and-a-half story building with the long side facing the Potomac. Structure is of brick, covered with a gable roof featuring two interior chimneys. Covered verandah is formed by an extension of the gable beyond the eaves, and post supports.

The structure is located at the foot of the hill below the Commandant's House

One of the most historic buildings in the fort complex, the building has been partially restored. A nonhistoric slate roof, restored porch, fireplace and chimney were completed for the building in the 1970's; dates to the earliest era, built c. 1821.

THE MAIN FORT

The principal work consists of the two demi-bastions flanking the curtain on the river side and on the rear or ravine side, the two bastions flanking the rear or east curtain. The "west" curtain is straight, whereas the "east" (rear) curtain is formed with two slightly angled faces with a caponiere at the center. The main entrance to the fort, the Main Gate, is at the "north" end. The front curtain has a sallyport at its center, providing communication to the parade of the ravelin from the parade of the fort. At the "south" end of the fort is a postern providing access to the ditch, reverse fire casemate (or rifle gallery) and mortar battery. A gallery leads from the parade to the casemate of the caponiere, a ramp to the terreplein of the caponiere.

The two demi-bastions (i.e., half bastions) may also be denoted as hollow, the ground level within being well below parade level, a long flight of stone steps connecting the two levels. The ground level within the northeast bastion is the same as the parade except the depressed walkway at the rear of the casemates. In the southeast bastion, the walkway past the magazine and casemate to the postern is also depressed below parade level.

The Scarp

The scarp of the fort is constructed of stone and brick except for the rear curtain and the left face of the southeast bastion, which are of earth. The exterior face of the wall, battered (sloped inward) to the cordon, is coursed rubble masonry, although changes in the coursing occur throughout the overall wall surfaces. The stone, a gneiss from a local quarry, is generally rectangularly cut, the faces roughly cut to the angle of the batter of the wall, which is approximately 8 degrees from the vertical, or a slope of 7.5 to 1.

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At the salients and shoulders, quoining was done in dressed sandstone of light hue, emphasizing this detail. Similarly, this stone was used at the functional embrasure openings, except at the salient of the southwest demi-bastion.

Atop the stonework of the scarp walls are the brick parapets, the faces vertical, the transition between the stone and brickwork being the stone cordon. The breastheight walls are also vertical but the superior slope of the parapet is pitched. The parapet heights vary, but the thickness is generally 7 feet 6 inches. The superior slope has stone copings at both the exterior and interior edges, the space between being brick. The brickwork is Flemish bond except for that of the superior slope.

The sandstone of the coping, cordon, embrasures and quoins is referred to in the historic records as Free Stone (having little or no grain). The cordon is dressed to a semi-circular outer edge.

Presumably, the mortars were the same for stonework and brickwork, lime for bedding, hydraulic cement for pointing. Brick sizes and mortar joint thicknesses vary depending on the period when the work, repairs or repointing was accomplished.

#### Existing Conditions

Intrusion of moisture has been characteristic of the Fort's masonry virtually from the time of its construction. Consequently, leaching of the lime mortar and stresses from freeze -- thaw action, heat and vegetation continue the deterioration. The stonework of the scarp of the enciente (main body of the fort) is stable, but mortar has deteriorated from moisture, surface erosion of the joints, and vegetation. In some areas, a few stones are loose or missing. The moisture in the mortar is conducive to vegetative growth ranging from algae to trees. Dressed stone elements exhibit surface erosion and spalling.

Similarly, the brickwork of the faces, superior slopes and breastheight walls of the parapets, and the terrepleins, is subjected to similar effects. In many areas, the condition of brickwork is worse than that of stonework (except where repairs have been done in recent years), the brickwork being of less stability than the stonework.

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Entrance Gateway

The main entrance to the fort proper consists of three parts; a monumental masonry entrance passage, an imposing archway with oversize decorative keystone and a heavy overhanging cornice, supported on each face by a pair of columns. The entire face, up to the level of the flanking wings, is rusticated, including the four columns. The ashlar decoration of the walls continues about 20 feet to either side of the opening on the outside where the stone projects into a pier-like terminus decorated with a Wall-of-Troy moulding. The interior of the gateway features handsome and striking brick vaults, one groin vault, one barrel vault. It also contains the remains of a set of old gears used at one time to hoist the drawbridge which spanned the dry moat. The bridge has now been replaced by a stationary one.

Flanking the masonry-faced centerpiece are a pair of brick wings, each of two storeys. They are open to the public and contain such interesting rooms as a guard-room and a solitary confinement cell. The two brick wings were restored 1957 to 1958, and are in excellent condition.

Officer's Quarters

The officers' quarters building is located inside the main walls of the fort, and faces west, paralleling the Potomac which is about 300 yards to the west. It is a long and narrow two-storey brick building with two end chimneys and one center chimney. The two principal entrances are at the west side, the northern one being a graceful exercise in federal style detail, with an elliptical fanlight, and sidelights flanking panelled doors. The south entrance on the west side was almost certainly a match, but now has its glazing replaced with boards.

The gable roof extends beyond the eaves, to form a veranda on the second floor, supported on small posts carried down to stone columns at the ground level. This feature of the building, particularly the colonnade, makes this building among the most distinguished at the fort.

The porch structure was rebuilt in the 1950's.

The interior has been adaptively reused as both an interpretation center and administrative office by the Park Service. There are plans to adaptively restore and furnish the lower level rooms as period interpretive areas.

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Enlisted Men's Barracks

This two-storey brick building measures 45' x 82' and was constructed in 1821. It has a total floor space of 3429 sq. feet. The interior rooms have been subdivided many times over the years. The two doorways on the first floor have been changed from double to single doors. Two windows on the second floor have been bricked up. A porch on the second floor runs the length of the building on the side facing the parade ground. There are no exterior stairways to the second floor, nor were there ever any on the interior.

The structure is situated south of the officers quarters, in the southeastern corner of the fort.

Powder Magazines

The two powder magazines are nearly identical structures, one in the southeast bastion, the other in the northeast bastion. Construction of the former was begun about 1821 and completed in 1823, the latter apparently was built primarily during 1823. The rectangular, brick, gable roofed structures both have a brick blindage wall at the double doored entry, this also with a gable roof. The interior of the brick vaulted magazines had wood linings. The magazine in the northeast bastion is a free-standing structure, while the one in the southeast bastion, originally free-standing, has its "east" wall more or less coincident with the parade wall, which was the second built at the left face of the bastion when the modifications were made to correct the earth scarp deficiencies (ca. 1843).

The exterior brickwork of both magazines is in good condition, and the 1841 increase in height is clearly visible. The additional brickwork is approximately 2'-6" measured perpendicular to the roof slope. The brickwork is Flemish bond; the mortar is generally in good condition although some contemporary repointing resulted in joints being too wide. Stone impost blocks at the blindage wall arches have some surface erosion but are not in need of replacement at the present time.

Minor repairs are needed for the north magazine roof: replacement of broken slates on the main roof, complete new slating for the blindage roof, and installation of ridge caps, gutters and downspouts.

Magazines (Ravelin of Fort)

Located within the ravelin of the 1824 fort, the magazines are covered over with dirt and grass. The room consists of a vaulted brick and concrete space approximately 12 feet by 35 feet. The magazine vent shafts are the most visible part of the magazine today. It was built 1873-75.

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ENDICOTT BATTERIES OUTSIDE THE MAIN FORTBattery Decatur

This was the earliest Endicott battery constructed at Fort Washington and one of the earliest 10-inch batteries constructed in the country. Excavations were begun in 1891 and the completed battery was transferred to the U.S. Army in 1899 at a cost of \$128,492.

It is approximately 330' x 90' and designed for two 10" disappearing rifles. Battery Decatur is located immediately to the north of Fort Washington and is named for Commodore Stephen Decatur, U.S. Navy 1798-1816. The emplacements consist of each rifle mounted behind an 8' high protective concrete wall above a circular passageway system immediately beneath the gun pit. At this Battery the storage areas are double level below the guns and are protected by a 3' thick reinforced suspended slab. The general appearance of the Battery shows considerable cracking and leaching of the East spandrel beam supporting the upper platform and also considerable leaching of the upper protective roofs above the ammunition handling areas. The lower walls of the storage areas show considerable water infiltration and are wet and the upper walls surrounding the gun emplacements themselves show a great deal of spalling of the concrete surface, as if the surfaces were refinished at some time subsequent to the initial construction and this finishing layer is deteriorating now and spalling away from the walls.

At the south end of the battery there is a massive concrete sloped retaining wall 40' x 16'. Adjacent to the wall is a semicircular room with fortified slit windows to be used for defense of the battery. This form of architecture is seen in no other battery in the park. In the adjacent storage arch, one arch is composed of clay tile units surrounded by concrete and another arch is constructed of brick similar to those seen in the old fort, which might indicate that the battery had two different construction periods.

The physical condition of the battery varies from section to section. Some areas are in good condition while others show erosion of the concrete up to 1 1/2" in depth. Some I-beams are badly rusted due to water infiltration. The battery is fenced in and closed to the public.

Command Structures, near Battery Decatur

Built in 1902, these badly-deteriorated brick and concrete command structures are located to the north and west of Battery Decatur, at the edge of a steep hill. The buildings drop down in three levels along that hillside. Each of the buildings is a rectangular, one-story, flat-roofed box which has not been well-maintained. The wooden building has almost completely deteriorated and lacks sufficient historic fabric to possess integrity as a contributing structure. The buildings are abandoned and prey to vandals.

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Battery Commander Station, Battery Decatur

This is one of the two battery commander stations at Fort Washington, whose function was to provide an elevated but safe lookout for the men directing fire from the batteries. Consequently, the building's design is highly defensive. A brick and concrete two-story tower with a platform walkaround about 15'-20' above the sloping ground. On the water sides, the space through which to observe is barely a slit, while on the land side, the opening is much larger. Entrance doorway is at the east (land) side. Some deterioration, and probably some safety hazard. Stairway has been removed and is presently stored inside Battery Decatur for safety purposes. Constructed c. 1905.

Battery White

Another of the eight concrete batteries added during the Endicott period, this one is located west of the fort within a ravelin of the 1824 fort. Because of this location near the center of activity at the fort, Battery White is one of the most heavily used areas at the park. The battery is named after William J.H. White, Surgeon U.S. Army, who was killed at the battle of Antietam.

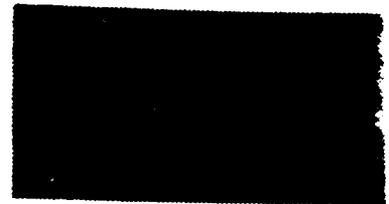
Like the other batteries, Battery White is a long and low concrete structure built into a shallow hill, with rooms and spaces for armaments on two levels. It was one of only two batteries in the entire Endicott system along the coast which had mounts for 4" guns. Built between May 1898 and June 1899 at a total cost of \$13,000, there is now some deterioration of the structure, and a resultant vegetation growth in many of the cracks.

Battery Many

Battery Many is named for Colonel James B. Many, 3rd U.S. Infantry, who served during the War of 1812. It was completed circa 1905 at a cost of \$25,904.

The Battery, constructed for two 3" rapid fire guns, is located immediately to the south of Fort Washington. It covers an area of approximately 75' x 110'. The Battery sits at the top of a high steep hill directly overlooking the Potomac River and is backed by an equally steep ravine behind it.

The Battery consists of the two-gun platforms standing high with a small 2' high concrete perimeter wall to protect the mountings only. The ammunition magazine is a central series of three rooms between the gun platforms and constructed of thick concrete walls lined on the interior with clay tile units and a concrete roof underlain by clay tile units. The entire structure is overlaid with several feet of earth protection. Small storage rooms are let into the wing wall at the north and south ends of the battery; these walls are backed by high earth and serve as protection from the sides.

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The battery is in good condition with some cracking along the joints. The condition of the tiles is generally good with some voids, probably due to vandalism. Some original doors are on the battery and with restoration would slide on their tracks. The battery and surrounding area are overgrown with vegetation.

Torpedo Storehouse

This brick walled, concrete floored structure is located along the Potomac River shoreline and upstream from the fort. The 34' x 46' shingled gabled roof building was constructed circa 1899 to store materials for the mining defenses of the Potomac River.

The interior of the structure is one large open room with exposed metal rafters holding up the roof. There are steel barred windows along the east and west walls. The interior walls are constructed of pre-cast hollow concrete blocks. Entrances on the south and west walls have small wooden shed type roofs.

The structure is unattended and open, allowing anyone to enter. The floor and sides are in fair condition with some graffiti on the walls.

Battery Meigs

Battery Meigs is an open battery for eight 12" mortars. It consists of two mortar emplacements, each approximately 80' square surrounding a central storage area 80' x 100' and two side storage areas approximately 80' x 60'. Top protection over the magazine consists of a concrete slab varying in thickness from 5' to 10' covered by up to 19' of earth. A waterproof layer of asphalt concrete was used at this top of the concrete. All concrete was made of Rosendale cement concrete; the topping and upper facing slabs were made with Portland Cement concrete. The structure was completed in May 1902 at a cost of \$117,000. It is named after Captain Montgomery C. Meigs.

The exterior walls of the three storage areas are in good sound condition except for a fine shrinkage cracking network on the surface of the concrete. The top of the structure is overgrown with brush and trees. The two mortar emplacements are currently used for storage of maintenance materials.

The interior walls in the three storage areas are in fair condition. The roofs show substantial deterioration because of water infiltration, which has rusted the steel I beams and separated the concrete cover.

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Battery Emory

Battery Emory was built between August 1896 and December 1898 at a cost of \$91,000. This is one of eight Endicott period coastal defense batteries constructed at Fort Washington. The battery facing the Potomac River is located at the western edge of the park's reserved picnic area "C" and approximately 900 feet southeast of the fort. The structure was named in honor of Major General William Emory, U.S. Volunteers, a native of Maryland and a distinguished soldier of the war with Mexico and the Civil War.

Battery Emory is a reinforced concrete and steel support structure 300 feet long by 60 feet wide. It consists of foundations for two 10-inch BLR's with disappearing carriages protected on the upper level by an 8-inch high concrete wall with earth fill behind the wall and a concrete topping slab over the fill. The structure contains two ammunition supply structures (shafts) for the guns and protected interior storage rooms on the lower level.

An electrical generating unit was located within the battery. No equipment is extant in the chamber. To the side of the chamber is a cistern.

The area is overgrown with vegetation. This includes the north and south gun platforms and protective concrete slab. Soil and moisture has accumulated to support trees which have grown to great heights. The presence of seepage has caused significant leaking of the horizontal construction joints and has caused vertical shrinkage cracks along all walls. This problem is more apparent along the south side of each mount, which is a result of not receiving any drying effects of the sun. All the walls in the south gun platform are in a much poorer condition than those of the north. One wall shows severe cracking and a joint has moved laterally approximately one-half inch; some walls show surface deterioration.

The North and South Supply areas of Battery Emory

The columns and supporting reinforced concrete canopies are in good condition. The walls of the north shaft are in poor condition showing severe cracking across the lintel opening. Breaking through the cracks has accelerated the deterioration of the concrete and has caused some movement of the concrete slabs. The south area is in good condition with only minor breaking at the top of the lintel. Water is migrating through construction joints and some concrete at the surface has been displaced in both areas. These conditions exist in all the walls of both shafts, although some walls show greater deterioration than others.

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The Lower Level of Battery Emory

In general there is a great deal of moisture, which is migrating through the cracks in the walls, causing leaking and continual deterioration of the surrounding concrete. One section has a potentially dangerous support condition for an external slab which could cause collapse of the area at any time. This fact plus severe rusting of some of the steel supporting beams leads to the conclusion that the area must be considered unsafe. The entire battery is enclosed inside a chain link fence to prevent visitor access.

Battery Commander Station, Battery Emory

One of the two battery commander stations built c. 1905 at Fort Washington to provide an elevated but safe overlook for the men directing fire from the battery. This is much the more deteriorated of the two towers. It now lacks a roof, and its walkaround at the upper level is deteriorated to the point of being a safety hazard. Large chunks of concrete are missing from the tower, and some vertical cracks run from the ground to the top of the remains. The 20' x 20' tower is now in an area considerably overgrown with vegetation, and only occasionally frequented by the public.

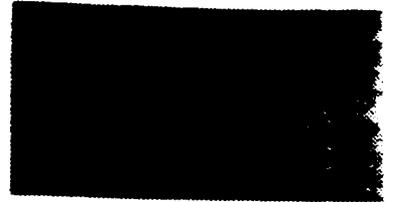
Battery Humphreys

Yet another of the concrete batteries added to Fort Washington during the Endicott period, Battery Humphreys was built between March 1898 and June 1899 at a total cost of \$93,000. The battery was named after Major General Andrew A. Humphreys, Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, 1866-1879. It had two gun mounts.

As with all the others, the battery has two levels and spaces for armaments. The river front is composed of a concrete apron covered with earth, with the rear of the battery exposed to the lower level. This rear side has been well cleared away to provide open park space and lawn around the battery. Vandalism to the structure is minimal, except for graffiti and debris. Since the elements are so massive, they are not easily damaged by picnickers. Some large cracks are visible in the battery, and on the interior, lime deposits have been seeping through where carried by running water.

Battery Smith

Battery Smith is the smallest one at Fort Washington, and belongs to that group of concrete batteries constructed during the Spanish-American War period. Battery Smith was built between March 1899 and August 1903 and cost a total of \$9,500. It has mounts for two guns. It is just south of Battery Humphreys and on the edge of a steep ravine. Like all the others, it provided rooms and spaces for armament, on two levels. Unlike the others, it is not the characteristically long and low shape, but rather is more square in shape. Some deterioration of the concrete is visible; as with all the other batteries, Battery Smith is heavily overgrown, with greenery growing out of some cracks. Battery Smith was named after Lt. Joseph P. Smith, who was killed at Chapultepec, Mexico.

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Battery Wilkin

This battery is located on the south corner of the park area overlooking Piscataway Creek. It was constructed between 1899 and 1902. It consists of two levels of rooms and gun emplacements, for two 6" guns. For each gun emplacement five doors open into the storage areas. Each gun emplacement is protected by 1' high concrete mass with an ammunition feed area to the left of each area, to the left of each gun, and an observation post to the right.

The battery is in good condition in terms of concrete deterioration due to a general lack of infiltration of water. However, there are many superficial surface cracks in the walls.

The battery was named after Captain Alexander Wilkin, 17th U.S. Infantry, who was killed in 1864 at Tupelo, Mississippi.

Pump House

A small, one-story, one-room building built c. 1905, which houses pumping machinery. Approximately 20' x 15', the clapboarded building has a gable roof covered with tarpaper and a slightly overhanging roof line. The tarpaper is deteriorated, and at least one section of clapboarding has been broken out, leaving the interior exposed. At certain points, the clapboarding is interrupted by long louvers, which help to ventilate the interior.

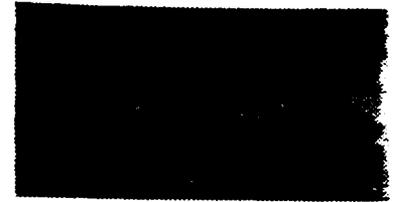
Two small support structures are located near the pump house.

Warburton Manor

The archeological remains of Warburton Manor are located on this site and are clearly marked. Built in 1729 and destroyed by fire in 1819, the Manor house represents the historic home of Charles Digges, son of the prominent Marylander, Colonel William Digges. George and Martha Washington, as well as many other prominent colonial families, were frequently entertained at Warburton Manor by William Digges, Charles' son. During the early reconstruction of Fort Washington in 1814, Major Charles Pierre L'Enfant, in charge of the reconstruction, lived at Warburton Manor. Major L'Enfant spent the greater part of his last years in this mansion. The extent of the archeological remains of Warburton Manor is unknown, but their potential significance in providing unique architectural data on this important early 18th century manor home and its outbuildings requires preservation of this site.

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NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

The following structures, located within the nominated property, do not contribute to the significance of the resource.

Modern Structures

- Site manager's residence and storage building
- Seven comfort stations
  - Area A (1)
  - Area B (2)
  - Area C (1)
  - Behind the PX Building (1)
  - Near the tennis courts (1)
  - Near the riverside parking lot (1)

- Park police trailer
- Maintenance office trailer
- Lift stations and exposed support equipment (2)
- Cinder block building near the old well

Other Structures

Gulley cabin date unknown; insufficient historic fabric to possess integrity.

Stables—Constructed in 1934; although a military structure, built after the period of the fort's use as a seacoast fortification.

Lighthouse—Not within the jurisdiction of the National Park Service (maintained by the Coast Guard); does not contribute to theme of site as significant military structure.

Command Structure near Battery Decatur—middle wooden structure of three, it lacks sufficient historic fabric to possess integrity as a contributing structure.

A 25,000 gallon water storage tank stands on the top of Battery Meigs. The tank is not part of the historic structure, but was placed there in approximately 1970-71.

# c. Significance

PG: 80-16

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1808 - 1921

Builder/Architect

T. Maurice/W.K. Arnstead

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

## SIGNIFICANCE

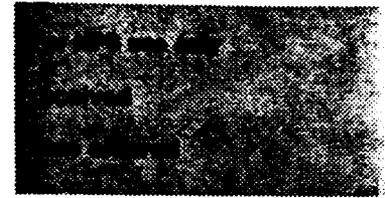
Fort Washington, Maryland, located on the Potomac River about ten miles below the nation's capital, displays three generations of harbor defense works within the space of a hundred few yards. Although its masonry structure is generally of Third System style, it was planned and begun between the Second and Third phases of coastal fortification design. The second phase refers to forts constructed during the years 1807-1814. The third phase refers to forts constructed or restored between 1817-1867. An earlier fort was located on the site, constructed in 1808 and destroyed by its commander in 1814, during the War of 1812. The fort was named after George Washington, who selected the site as one favorable to the erection of a fortification to protect the new capital city. It is this relationship to the first president and to the emerging capital city which provides the fort's significance in American politics and government. The military engineering and architectural significance of Fort Washington lies in its structures, which represent important stages in the coastal defense system of the United States over a hundred-year period (1815-1921); its archaeological resources include remnants of the first fort, constructed in 1808, and the foundations of buildings used to house soldiers outside the fort walls. These archaeological resources will contribute significant information on the structure of the original fort and on the extent and architectural style of buildings used at various periods to house the troops garrisoned at Fort Washington, particularly during the Endicott Battery period. This significance is enhanced by the geographic location of the fort, which has served as the permanent coastal defense for the capital city during a period when defense of that single site by land and by sea was perceived as critical to national security.

The dates of significance chosen encompass the earliest and latest dates of the use of this site as a seacoast fortification, the basis for its historic significance.

Fort Washington is significant under Criterion C, D and A of the National Register criteria. It is significant under Criterion C because it focuses on distinctive characteristics of the second and third period of coastal fortifications in the United States. As Lewis points out in his work, Seacoast Fortifications, "Fort Washington cannot, strictly speaking, be categorized as belonging to either the second or the third system, but falls somewhere in between." It shares some of the more regular features of the third system but is not the more common hexagonal shape of that period. In addition, it also reflects the characteristics of the Endicott period in its battery structures and support facilities.

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It is significant under Criterion D because the archeological remains of Warburton Manor, the first fort and numerous outbuildings on the complex could yield important data on life prior to the building of the fort and of life during the military occupation of the site.

It is significant under Criterion A because the fort is essentially related to the establishment of the new federal capital at Washington, D.C. The fort reflects the desire of the new government to protect its capital from attack by foreign powers. That conviction was intensified during and after the War of 1812, at which time the capital city was captured and a number of public buildings burned. Fort Washington itself was destroyed in the same year, due to a belief that it was not defensible against the British. The strong resolve of the federal government at that time to protect the capital city is reflected in the immediate efforts to rebuild Fort Washington in 1814. That resolve appeared again nearly fifty years later, when forty Marines from the Navy Yard were ordered to Fort Washington in January 1861. The Union was well aware of the need to protect the capital from hostile and unsympathetic forces in nearby Maryland and Virginia. The erection of Endicott batteries in the fort area in the late nineteenth century reflects the last stage of coastal defense of Washington, D.C. But the construction of the batteries carries out the theme of defense of the capital city, which constitutes the *raison d'etre* of this military site.

(see additional background sheets, taken from Robert L. Carper,  
Historic Structure Report, Main Fort and Ravelin)

SIGNIFICANCE cont.

The construction of the first Fort Washington was begun about May of 1808. The site was apparently at the location of the later (and present) ravelin. The second fort's designer, Lt. Theodore Maurice, reported the site to be occupied with the foundations of the ravelin in 1815, and described the first fort to have been a "small starwork with a circular battery in front revetted with masonry, [an] earth parapet, [and a] general relief of 14 feet above bottom of the ditch." This first fort was completed by 1810 but was short lived, as Capt. Samuel T. Dyson ordered it destroyed, retreating with his garrison when under threat of bombardment from British ships on August 27, 1814.

Almost immediately (September 8, 1814), Secretary of State James Monroe, who was acting as Secretary of War, ordered Maj. Pierre L'Enfant to repair or rebuild the fortification. Rebuilding commenced on March 1, 1815, but L'Enfant had failed to bring about satisfactory progress and he did not submit a plan for the new work to the War Department. On July 8, 1815 he was relieved of his duties and work was suspended. In that same action War Department Chief Clerk George Graham ordered Lt. Col. Walker K. Armistead of the Corps of Engineers to analyze the state of the work. Under Graham's orders, Armistead reported to interim Secretary of War Alexander Dallas on July 27, 1815 that the orders had been complied to, also making note of an unfinished ravelin. Consequently, Armistead was assigned (August 17, 1815) to take charge at the fort, to prepare a plan for fortifications, to erect permanent barracks for 150 men, and to complete an unspecified building and a wharf.

On October 10, 1815 Armistead reported to Chief of Engineers Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Swift, submitting a plan and cost estimate for final approval noting that the War Department had concurred with it. Armistead's plan appears to be the drawing NCP 117.8-3, which shows the unfinished ravelin as mentioned by Armistead in his correspondence to Swift. In this proposal and subsequent modifications the fort as first conceived would have had two demi-bastions on the rear or ravine side as well as the two demi-bastions facing the river. Both plans also show a caponiere at the center of the work on the ravine side.

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1. Luzader, Fort Washington, pp. 2, 3, 23.
  2. Ibid., pp. 5, 6, Maurice to Armistead, Report for March 1, 1815 to Sept. 30, 1820.
  3. Ibid., p. 9.
  4. Ibid., p. 10, 11.
  5. Ibid., p. 12.
  6. National Archives, Cartographic Branch, R.G. 79, hereinafter cited as N.A., C.B., R.G. 79.
  7. Luzader, Fort Washington, p. 12, and drawing NCP 117.8-4, N.A., C.B., R.G. 79.

During October, 1815, site preparation was begun under the direction of Lt. Theodore Maurice, an engineer officer under Armistead. Gen. Swift recommended approval of the fort plan on February 12, 1816 to Secretary of War William Crawford and on February 27 construction of the fort commenced with the wall at the location of the Main Gate.

The masonry work on the fort and ravelin continued into December when work was suspended until April, 1817. The curtain was in progress in May and June, 1817, and by August, brickwork related to casemates was in progress. Work slowed in the Fall of 1817 and was suspended for the year on December 20.

Resuming on March 10, the 1818 construction season saw masonry work throughout the river side of the fort, including casemate arches in the southwest demi-bastion. Work was again suspended during the winter months, to be resumed in March 1819. Maurice reported to Armistead on October 6, 1819 that the Officer's Quarters had been completed that summer and "The work has so far progressed this season that the Masonry (coping excepted) of the whole of the Front of Fortification commencing at the Principal Gateway to the west flank of the S.E. Bastion is completed, save a small portion of the interior revetment [revetment?] of the North Bastion. The S.E. Bastion has been commenced and so far progressed that the Cordon is laid and centers for Arching are about to be laid."

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8. Maurice was apparently the officer in charge at the site, overseeing the construction and performing detailed design work based on Armistead's conceptual plan and instructions.

9. Luzader, Fort Washington, p. 13.

10. Ibid., p. 19. No definition is made in the construction records between the Main Gate of the fort proper and that of the ravelin. Both are shown on the 1821 and 1823 plans (NCP 117.8-13 and 15) and in an 1830 watercolor rendering of the fort by Alexander Jackson Davis entitled "Fort Washington, Potomac Riv. opposite Mt. Vernon," Harvard College Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass. Presumably the reference to the Main Gate in the construction records is that of the fort proper; while references to drains in those entries seem to be related to the ravelin (under the gate and in the ditch). There is no evidence as yet of drains under the Main Gate nor in the ditch along the north scarp of the fort proper.

11. Ibid., pp. 26, 27, 29, 30, 33.

13. Ibid., p. 45, but see page 54, re Maurice to Macomb, Nov. 1, 1821 "...work continued on the Officers' Quarters...."

14. Ibid., p. 45.

The next year, Maurice's report to Armistead of November 1, 1820 provides a description of the work:

This work is in front composed of a Horn Work of 180 yards front, with branches of 60 yds. ea.: and a ravelin of 94 yds. ea.: face. Its rear or gorge is closed with two Fronts of Fortifications of 140 yds. ea.: - The Ravelin is revetted with Masonry, as well as its counter scarp, has a Parapet of earth 18 ft. thick (also revetted with masonry) and a ditch . . . flanked with the faces of the demi-bastions of the hornwork and casemates in its bottom.

The Horn Work is entirely built of masonry, has a parapet of the same 7 ft. thick and its Bastions casemated for 22 pieces of Ordnance, and its mean relief about 45 feet from the terreplein covert way. The two fronts closing the gorge is demi-revetted with Masonry; supporting a Rampart (24 ft.: broad) and a Parapet (18 ft. thick) of earth revetted with sod. Its use is as a rear defence and a par-a-dos to the front of the works. The perimeter of this work, at the crest, of the Parapet (including the Ravlin) is 833 yards, along which (should it be deemed necessary) 140 pieces of Ordnance may be mounted exclusive of those in the casemates, ditch and covert-way.

Two months later, January 9, 1821, Maurice again reported to Armistead, in part: ". . . it now only remains to enclose the principle work, the construction of the center Bastion and the two rear curtains. During the operations of the Past Season the principal entrance into the work has been completed with appropriate guard rooms and places of confinement; a well completed, . . ., and the terreplein of the north Bastion completed."

Salvaged materials from razed temporary quarters were used for erecting the commanding officers quarters on the hill overlooking the fort. As noted above, within the fort, ". . . work continued on the Officer's Quarters . . . a brick stable, and a powder magazine in the south bastion." By December 1 the barracks were completed. Maurice's report of December 1, 1821 was accompanied by the plan of the work dated November 1, 1821 (NCP 117.8-13) which showed that the demi-caponieres (or demi-bastions) originally planned to flank the gorge on the ravine side of the fort were replaced by the northeast and southeast bastions, a caponiere was planned for the center of the gorge, and the martello towers were replaced by the Officers' Quarters, barracks and two magazines. Maurice reported too that "The parapet from the salient angle of the

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15. Ibid., p. 50.

16. Ibid., p. 51.

17. Ibid., p. 51.

18. Ibid., p. 54, Maurice to Macomb, November 1, 1821.

left rear Bastion to the salient angle of the right demi Bastion has been coped with an exterior and interior coping of Free Stone and the outer [?] with bricks laid in cement, which will be finally finished with a coat of the most approved water cement." Also, the ravelin masonry was complete except . . . "one casemate, one magazine, and a small part of the revetments, . . . "

Some of the construction work done in 1822 is summarized in Maurice's November 1, 1822 report to Chief of Engineers Major General Alexander Macomb: ". . . erection of the counter scarp of the south front including the completion of a casemate with reversed fire and a Mortar battery. A powder magazine has been erected in the south bastion and a circular ramp in the gorge of the center bastion as also the closing, of the same; . . . three flights of stone steps erected, one in the southwest bastion, and the other leading up to the terreplain of the principal Gate-way; the interior revetment of the northeast bastion -- finished and the two centere parapets raised to their height, with the exception of sodding which will be done early next spring. The esplanades have been finished and a cistern nearly completed."

"Of the Ravelin. . . completion of the parapet (with the exception of a small part of the north branch) by a coping of free stone, and the crest of it sodded, besides which the masonry leading to the casemate of the south branch has been completed and the pointing of the work nearly completed."

The report for the year 1823 was a more detailed description of work done. Among the items for the main fort, he reported that the masonry of the scarps had been pointed with hydraulic cement, the interior revetments were raised to their height and finished, seven counterforts erected in the northwest (demi) bastion, an additional magazine erected and completed (the north magazine), the exterior revetment of the gorge of the center bastion closed, three cisterns completed and a fourth nearly so, and piers of the main bridge erected. He noted that the interior revetment of the parapet of the southeast bastion was not done because the earth forming the rampart had not yet settled. "The ramparts have been brought to their intended heights and levels, except a part of the eastern face of the S.E. bastion, which has progressed this year (with its intended height) 18 feet from its interior revetment, as also a portion of the rampart of the N.E. bastion which, should the season admit, it is contemplated to be carried to its intended height. The glacising in front of that part of the Fort fronting the channel below it has considerably advanced, and the earth appropriated to the formation of the rampart fo the south east. The esplanade in the S.W. bastion remaining unfinished the last year is nearly completed: and will be so in a few days. . . ." Regarding carpentry, Maurice said "The carpentry done, has been the completion of all the casemate doors, those of the Main Gate way, south and west Postern. . . the bridge of the south postern has been completed and that of the main Gate way ready to be laid--."

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19. Ibid., pp. 52, 53.

20. Ibid., pp. 54-55

21. Ibid., pp. 57-62, Maurice to Macomb, November 17, 1823.

22. Ibid., p. 60.

Of the Ravelin - Masonry -- the scarp of this part of the work has been painted in the same manner as the main fort and the result appears to be the same -- a magazine has been constructed and finished, and the unfinished Masonry since the last report of the parapet has been completed, including a casemate with revised finishing and revetments of ramps leading to it; besides which the masonry of the Parapet has been coped."

The November, 1823 plan of the fort (NCP 117.8-15) accompanying the report shows details of progress and some modifications from the 1821 plan. The glacis in front of the work was becoming defined, the ravelin magazine, the ramps to the casemates in the ravelin ditches and the bridge at the ravelin gateway were completed or nearly so. Similarly, the counterscarp, reverse fire casemate and mortar battery at the south end of the main fort, the postern and Main Gate bridges and the two magazines are shown in their final positions and form. The north magazine is in a slightly revised position in the 1823 plan and the latrine is shown in the interior salient corner of the northeast bastion, it not having been shown in the 1821 plan.

The final report from Captain of Engineers Maurice to Chief of Engineers, Major General Macomb of May 6, 1824 stated that the interior of the main fort was complete including the two magazines and three cisterns; however, part of the rampart of the southeast bastion, leveling the rampart of the northwest (demi) bastion and the counterscarp with reverse fire casemate at the north front were not finished. He also reported the ravelin complete except for some final grading and sodding.

Thus the period of primary construction of the fort was 1815 to 1824 but the eastern side facing the ravine and other aspects continued to be problems for many years. The instability of the earthwork of the southeast bastion caused repairs to be made in 1827, and in 1829 earth was removed from its rampart.

Other significant maintenance problems are recorded during the years through 1830. In 1827 or 1828 [?] it was reported that the masonry parapets were already in need of repair, some drains had broken, and erosion of the glacis had occurred. Captain J.S. Smith wrote to Col. Charles Gratiot on October 31, 1828 that "Masonry parapets of fort have coping stones on exterior and interior raised 1/2" above walls -- space between filled with plastering for a width of 5' -- greater part of plasterin scaled off ---". It was proposed to replace the coating with one of 3/8" lime and 1/8" water lime. Work continued in 1830 on the parapet walls in efforts to keep moisture out of the masonry. Also in 1830, the well in the northwest demi-bastion (80 or 90 feet deep and 9 feet in diameter) caved in and it was filled in for fear of affecting the adjacent foundations of the fort. Only routine maintenance was done during the years 1831 to 1835.

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23. Ibid., p. 60.
  24. Ibid., pp. 62-63.
  25. Ibid., pp. 64, 67.
  26. Ibid., pp. 64-66, 68.

In 1836 Lt. Robert E. Lee inspected the fort reporting to Chief Engineer Gratiot that ". . . The casemates of the Main Work, 21 in number are dry and in good order, though without floors or Gun-traverses. There are besides two bomb proof apartments . . . and two excellent, large and dry magazines . . . . The ramparts and parapets of the Water front of the Main Work are in like good order; and those of the Land-front though well prepared against the Batteries of an Enemy, are not so secure against escalade." He reported the ravelin to be in good condition but the fort lacking hot shot furnaces and he recommended improvements on the land front and at the ravelin to better secure the fort against escalade. He also included a table of the fort's "intended" armament.

And in 1840 a detailed inspection report described some elements of the fort and contained recommendations for improvements. Among Captain Smith's recommendations was construction of "a small bastion" at the center of the curtain of the land front and other modifications on that side. He described the ravelin as ". . . having faces of 285 feet each and a pan-coup of 13 feet, . . . It has a scarp wall 16' high, a counterscarp wall of 8 feet, and a ditch 16' wide, and an earthen parapet 18' thick: -- The ditch is flanked by two vaulted caponiers, placed at the extremity of each face, and the interval between the main work [?] & ravelin closed by a palisading. . . ." He also described the casemates, parapets and magazines and their condition.

During the years 1841 through 1848, many modifications and repairs were done. In 1841 gun platforms were built but in 1842 guns apparently mounted the previous year were taken down for modifications and remounted. Stone copings of the parapets were repaired during both years and "The parapet of the right face of the N.W. front is arranged in steps for purposes of defiladiment: and it was found necessary to reduce the height about 10 inches along the greater part of it to accommodate it to the guns: this was done partly last year and is not completed. . . ."

Repairs on the magazines began in 1841, the roofs raised ". . . by a brick wall on the exterior filled with concrete so that the least vertical thickness should be six feet." In 1842, "Cellars were excavated in the three magazines [the third in the ravelin] for purposes of ventilation -- supporting brick walls built, new floor laid, a wooden lining made and interior latticed composition doors built and hung, all the wood being kyanized and the ventilators covered with wire gauze. . . the roofs slated, and gutters hung. . . ."

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27. Ibid., pp. 69-70, Lee to Gratiot, Jan. 4, 1836.
  28. Ibid., p. 70.
  29. Ibid., pp. 71-78, Capt. Fred A. Smith to Chief of Engineers Col. John G. Totten, March 3, 1840.
  30. Ibid., pp. 78, 84, 86. 31. Ibid., p. 84, Smith to Totten, Sept. 30, 1842.
  31. Ibid., p. 84, Smith to Totten, Sept. 30, 1842.
  32. Ibid., p. 83, Smith to Totten, Oct. 30, 1841.
  33. Ibid., pp. 85-86, Smith Totten, Sept. 30, 1842.

Shot furnaces were built in 1842 in the main fort and ravelin. Old bricks used in the shot furnaces and parapet of the main work were from the reverse rifle fire casemates ("caponieres") in the ravelin ditches, when it was reported that "the removal of caponieres in ditch of demilune completed and the holes left in scarp and counterscarp built up; . . ." Some bricks for paving the terrepleins were procured and the casemates were reported leaking but work was stopped that year. In 1843, the parade, terreplein, ramps and ditch of the demilune were graded; drains were repaired and new ones built; embanking at the southwest salient of the main work (but the slope dropped 2 to 3 feet after the embanking was accomplished); embanking at the southeast front; and brick and stonework including ". . . construction of the new Casemate in advance of the Curtain S.E. front, about the third of the stone masonry of which has been laid." Work continued on the curtain and caponiere of the rear of the fort in 1844 and "the terrepleins of the left bastion and most of the right bastion of the northwest front were graded and paved with hard brick laid flat in cement." At the southwest front, long branch, an earthen firing step was shaped and sodded; and at the northeast front, the terreplein graded "and an earthen firing step formed preparatory to being paved with brick."

In 1845, Captain Smith reported regarding the southeast front: "The masonry of the Caponniere has been completed, the gallery leading to it from the parade constructed and covered with asphalt & the embankment over it and the Capponniere nearly completed. --." The finishing of the privy in the caponiere was in progress in March, 1845. Work on the ramparts also continued into 1846 including modifications to the masonry of the parapets.

The floors of the caponiere and gallery were paved in 1846 and the terreplein laid but leaks were discovered immediately. The leaking continued a year later even after attempts at sealing and draining.

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34. Ibid., pp. 85, 86, Smith to Totten, Sept. 30, 1842.
  35. Ibid., pp. 86, 87.
  36. Ibid., pp. 87-89, Smith to Totten, Sept. 30, 1843.
  37. Ibid., pp. 91, 96, Smith to Totten, Sept. 30, 1844.
  38. Ibid., p. 92, Smith to Totten, Sept. 30, 1845.
  39. Ibid., pp. 92, 93, 128.
  40. Ibid., p. 93 Beham [?] to Totten, Oct. 14, 1846.
  41. Ibid., p. 94, Cooper to Totten, Sept. 30, 1847.

Work in 1845 and 1846 included replacement of the parapet stone, short branch, northeast front with brick; walls, steps and platform of the battery over the Main Gate completed; the front terreplein covered with 6 inches of concrete preparatory to being sealed with asphalt; and spouts (hollow brick pillars) bound to original walls of the demi-bastions to carry off rain water from the terrepleins.

Erosion of earth embankments occurred again in 1847 and in 1848 maintenance work included paving the main entrance with brick, "regulating" the parade in some parts, gun mount repairs, building a bridge over the ditch of the southwest front leading from the postern, slope repairs, painting doors and adding iron grates over those of the posterns and main gate, repairing asphalt on the parapets, and the installation of a 95 foot flagstaff on the parade opposite the center of the curtain of the northwest front.

Little work was done on the fort from that of 1848 through the years to 1861 and it was unoccupied from October, 1853 to January, 1861. No guns were mounted at the beginning of 1861 but some were mounted by May, war preparations being made. Some improvements to the fort's condition were effected during the Civil War period but no substantial structural changes. The garrison was withdrawn in September, 1872.

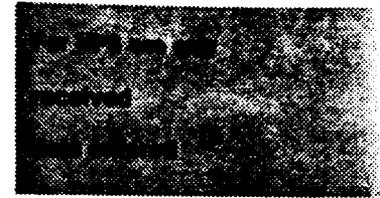
In 1885 the obsolete muzzle-loading guns were removed. From 1896 to 1921 the reservation was headquarters for the Defenses of the Potomac. During this period, eight concrete batteries were constructed near the old fort. Some of these batteries mounted 10-inch disappearing guns. (Similar fortifications were built directly across the Potomac at Fort Hunt, Virginia, so that fire might be delivered against approaching enemy vessels from both sides of the river.) These concrete batteries can still be seen, although the guns have been removed. Nearest the old fort are Battery Decatur to the north; Battery Many, reached by the south exit of the fort; and Battery White, located at the apex of the old water battery.

Many buildings were erected on the reservation after 1896 as quarters for officers and enlisted men, but these have now been removed. In 1921, after the fort was no longer needed as a coast defense, it became the headquarters of the 12th U.S. Infantry.

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42. Ibid., pp. 96-97, Beham to Totten, Oct. 14, 1846.
  43. Ibid., p. 97, Sam Cooper, Agent, to Totten, Oct. 8, 1847.
  44. Ibid., pp. 97-98, Gilmer to Totten, Oct. 6, 1848.
  45. Ibid., pp. 99-103.

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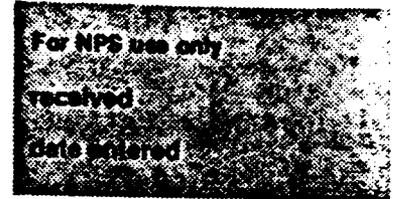
\_\_\_\_\_, "Fort Washington, Vol. 2: Material Culture," National Park Service, 1981.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 2

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY cont.

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- Snell, Charles W., Historic Structure Report, Historic Data Section, "The Defenses of Washington, D. C., 1890--1906, . . . Fort Washington, Maryland, and Fort Hunt, Virginia", National Park Service, Denver Service Center, Denver, Colorado, January, 1976, draft.
- \_\_\_\_\_, Cutts, James Madison, Consulting Structural Engineers, Structural Condition Survey, Gun and Mortar Batteries, 1897 to 1905, Ft. Washington, Maryland, Volume I, Analysis and Recommendations; Volume II, Historical Data, prepared for National Armed Services Museum Advisory Board, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., June, 1975.
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- \_\_\_\_\_, Specifications, "Restoration of Officer's Quarters, (no date).
- \_\_\_\_\_, (various authors), construction inspection and progress reports and correspondence pertaining to restoration work at Fort Washington, 1958 and 1959, National Park Service, files, National Capital Parks -- East, Fort Washington Park, Maryland.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

PG:80-16



National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

UTM References

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A.	18	324-280	4287-240
B.	18	324-080	4286-725
C.	18	324-120	4286-700
D.	18	324-080	4286-600
E.	18	324-040	4286-595
F.	18	324-000	4286-500
G.	18	323-640	4285-505
H.	18	323-405	4285-600
I.	18	323-405	4285-760
J.	18	323-040	4286-010
K.	18	323-050	4286-100
L.	18	322-990	4286-040
M.	18	322-840	4286-240
N.	18	322-900	4286-420
O.	18	322-910	4286-540
P.	18	322-840	4286-600
Q.	18	322-990	4286-695
R.	18	323-280	4287-000
S.	18	323-720	4287-280



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

ON NATIONAL REGISTER

1703341313

NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON:				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Washington				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: Fort Washington Road				
CITY OR TOWN: Oxon Hill				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Prince George's		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b> (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<b>OWNERSHIP</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<b>STATUS</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
<b>PRESENT USE</b> (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: U.S. Department of the Interior: National Park Service				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC			STATE:	
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Prince George's County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress				
STREET AND NUMBER: 10 First Street SE				
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC			STATE:	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fort consists of fortification walls and numerous brick buildings. The walls, with a bantered stone base and brick superstructure, rise sixty feet above a V-shaped water battery. The entrance is marked by a stone, classical revival portico, with columns in the Hawksmoorian manner of heavy rustication and over-sized proportions. Within the parade are two multi-bayed brick buildings--one, a barracks and the other, an Officers' Quarters. These both have two-story, galleried porches across their facades. Several gun mounts within the fortification have been restored.

Outside the walls are two brick buildings--one, the three-bay wide Commanding Officer's house and the other, the multi-bayed, Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters. Further removed are two other buildings--one in the temple style and the other, a domestic building.

The site of Warburton Manor is marked off within the limits of the park.

Surrounding the Fort are concrete batteries erected between 1896 and 1921 as part of the defenses of the Potomac.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1815-24

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fort sits on a site selected by George Washington in 1794 for a fort to protect Washington, DC. In 1809, Fort Warburton was constructed on the site; it was semi-elliptical with circular flanks, built of masonry with a 14' rampart wall. In 1814, it was destroyed by the American commander, who was fearful of its falling into the hands of the British Fleet approaching Washington along the Potomac River.

In the same year, L'Enfant was asked to design a new fortification, but in 1815, he was removed from the work and Walker Armistead was assigned superintendent of construction. By 1824, the fort was substantially completed to the original specifications.

The gun platforms were added in the 1840's, when the drawbridge was rebuilt and an outerwork constructed on the south (landward) side. At the beginning of the Civil War, Fort Washington was the only defense of the Capital, but in 1864, Fort Foote was constructed to replace it. The concrete batteries surrounding the fort date from 1896-1921 period, when Fort Washington served as headquarters for the Defenses of the Potomac. In 1946, it was turned over to the National Park Service.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blank area for major bibliographical references.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC

DATE: 19 Nov 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
8787 Georgia Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring

STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

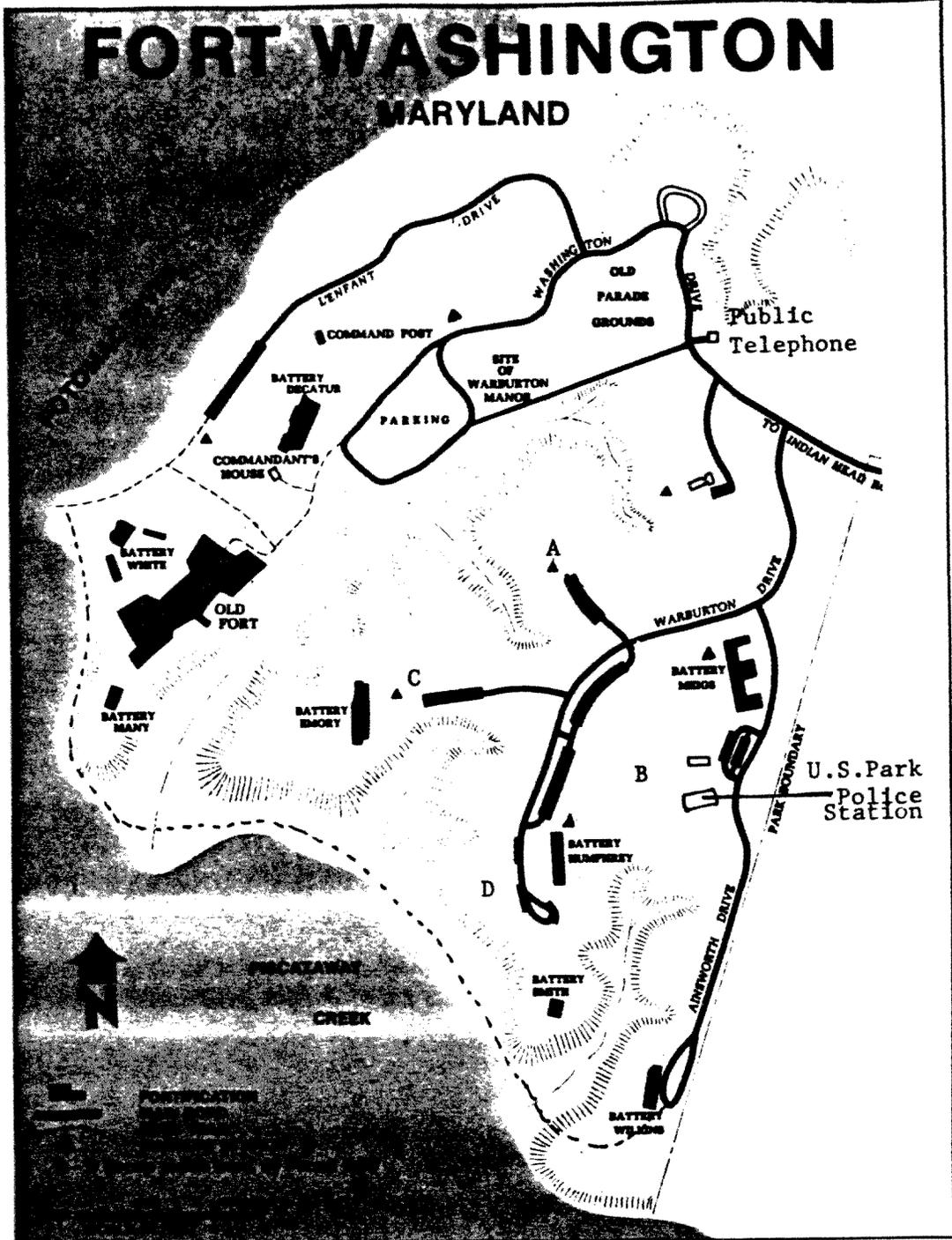
Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





**VISIT THE OLD FORT - An early 19th century coastal defense**

Open: 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. May - August  
8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. September - April

Tours: Saturday and Sunday - 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.

**For your safety and enjoyment:**

1. Do not climb or play on historical structures.
2. Go to your vehicle during an electrical storm (park has had lightning strikes).
3. Do not handle snakes--poisonous snakes have been observed in the park.

**Directions:**

From Capital Beltway (I-95) East of D.C.—Take Indian Head Highway (MD 210) south, 4mi., turn right onto Fort Washington Road, 3.3. mi. to Fort

From Accokeek, Maryland (Jct. MD 373), north 5.3. mi., turn left onto Fort Washington Rd., 3.3 mi. to Fort

MOUNT VERNON QUADRANGLE  
 MARYLAND-VIRGINIA  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
 NE/4 INDIAN HEAD 15 QUADRANGLE

661 1/4 SW  
 (ANACOSTIA)

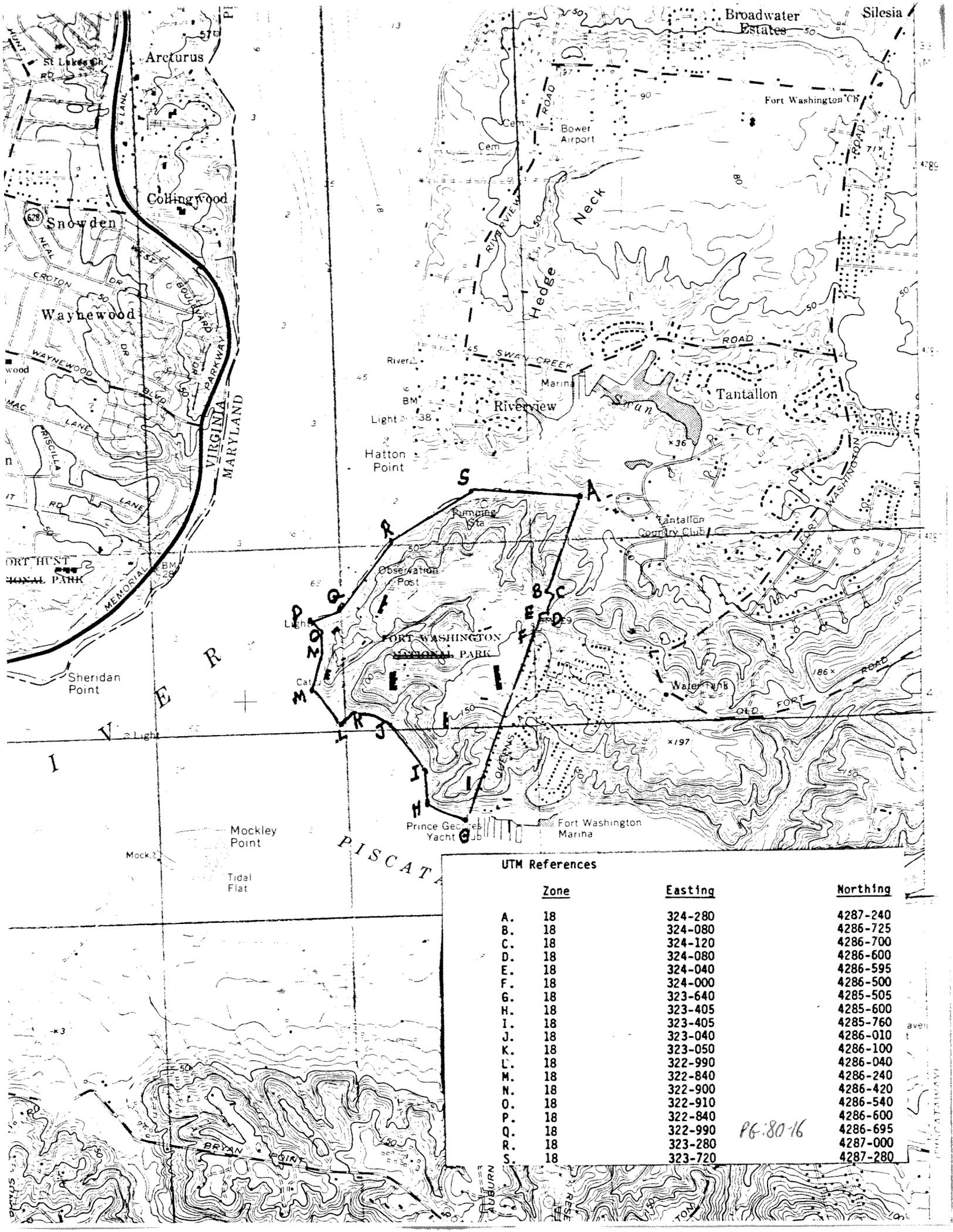


UTM References

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B.	18	324-080	4286-725
C.	18	324-120	4286-700
O.	18	324-080	4286-600
E.	18	324-040	4286-595
F.	18	324-000	4286-500
G.	18	323-640	4285-505
H.	18	323-405	4285-600
I.	18	323-405	4285-760
J.	18	323-040	4286-010
K.	18	323-050	4286-100
L.	18	322-990	4286-040
M.	18	322-840	4286-240
N.	18	322-900	4286-420
D.	18	322-910	4286-540
P.	18	322-840	4286-600
Q.	18	323-990	4286-695
R.	18	323-280	4287-000
S.	18	323-720	4287-280

PG:80-16

(PISCATAWAY)  
 5667 1/4 NW



**UTM References**

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
A.	18	324-280	4287-240
B.	18	324-080	4286-725
C.	18	324-120	4286-700
D.	18	324-080	4286-600
E.	18	324-040	4286-595
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K.	18	323-050	4286-100
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M.	18	322-840	4286-240
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O.	18	322-910	4286-540
P.	18	322-840	4286-600
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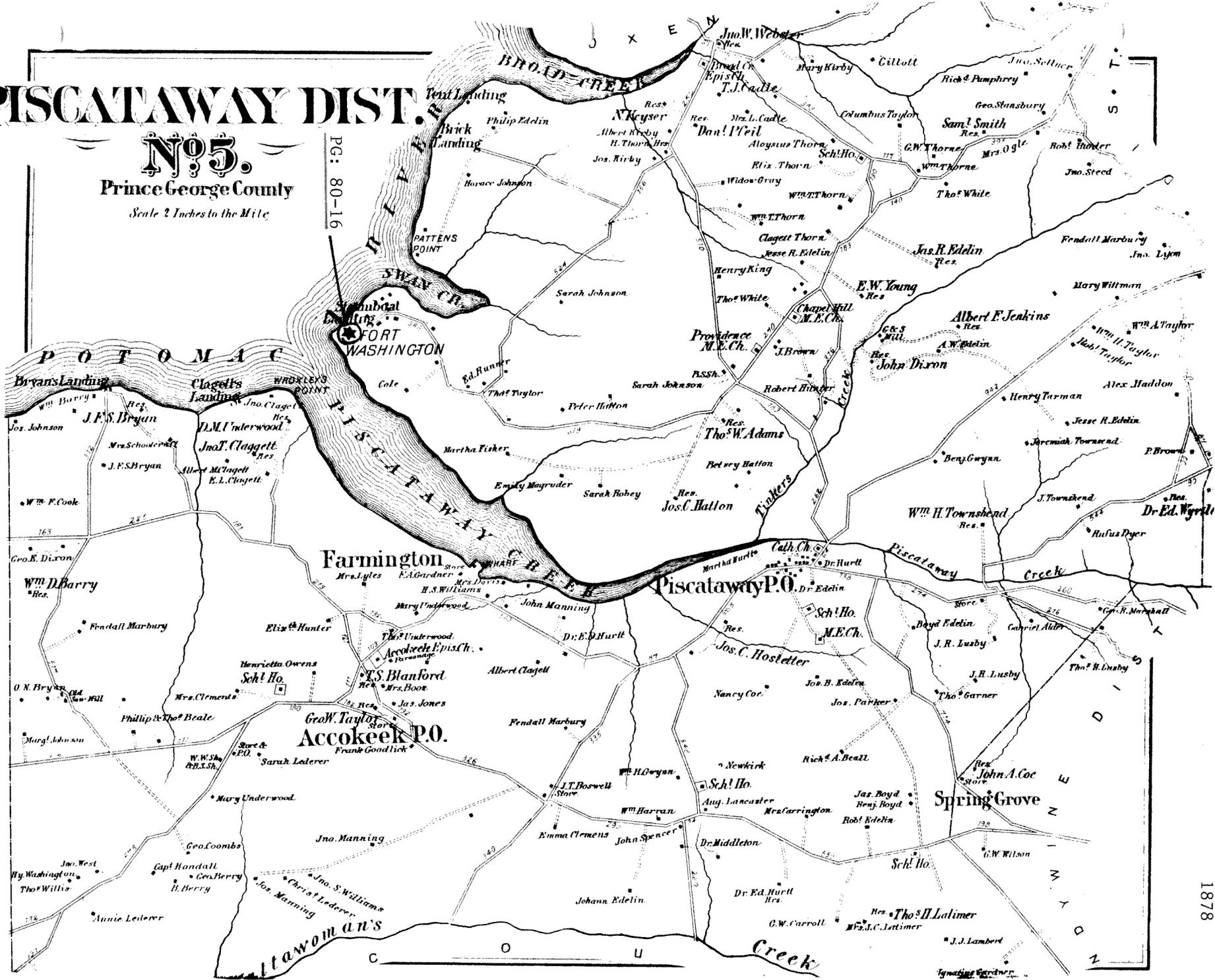
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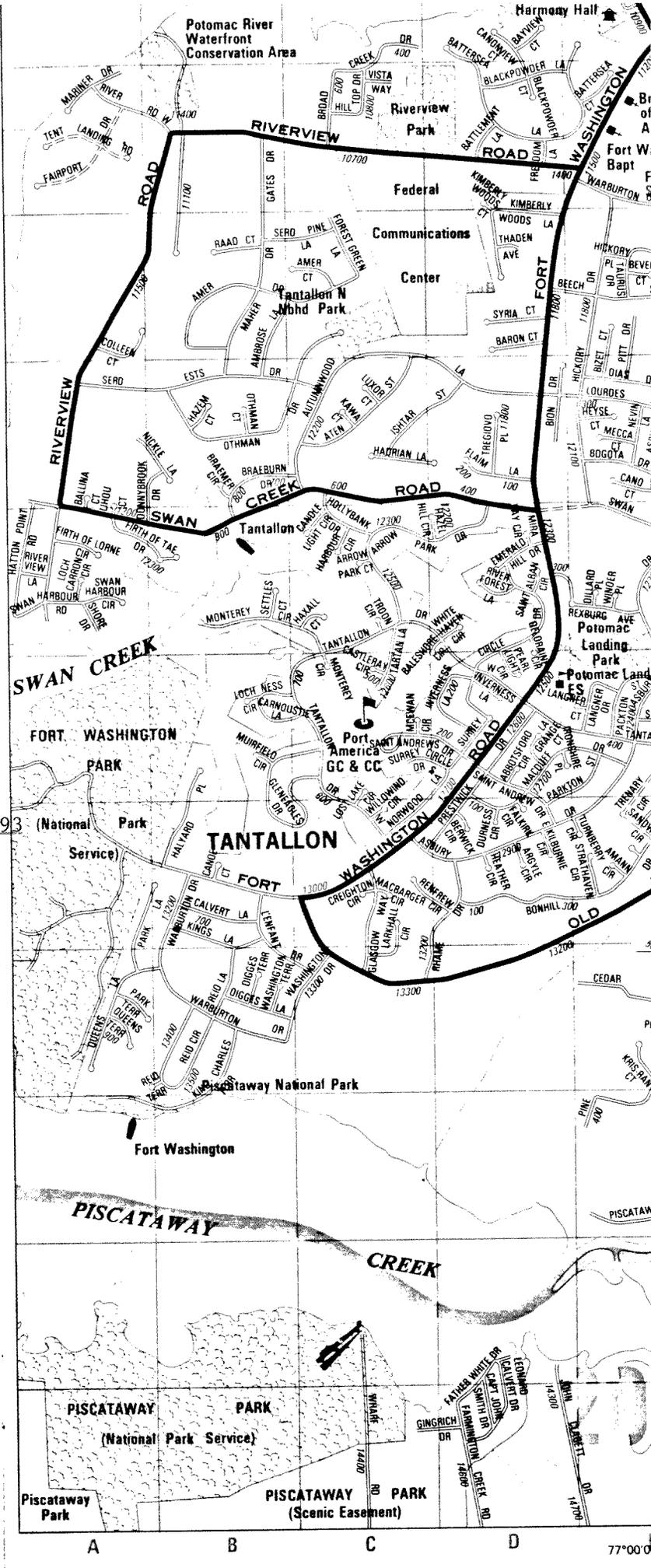
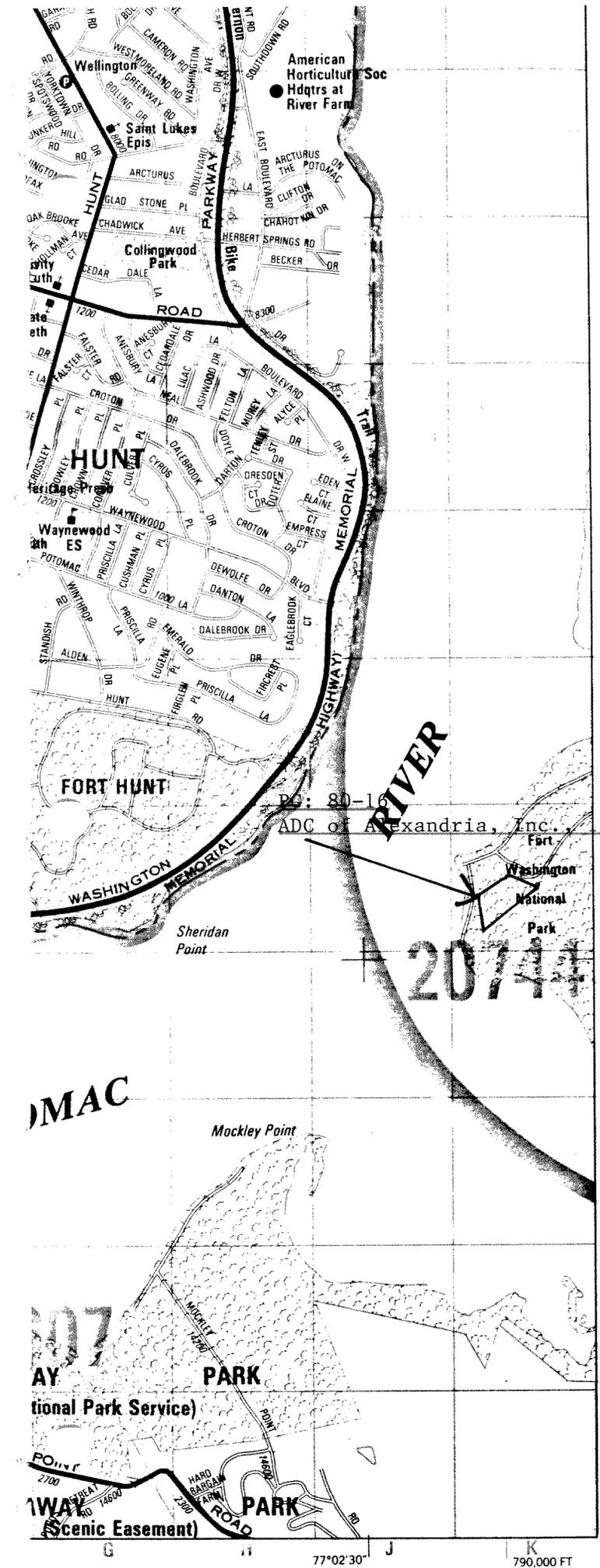
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### Prince George County

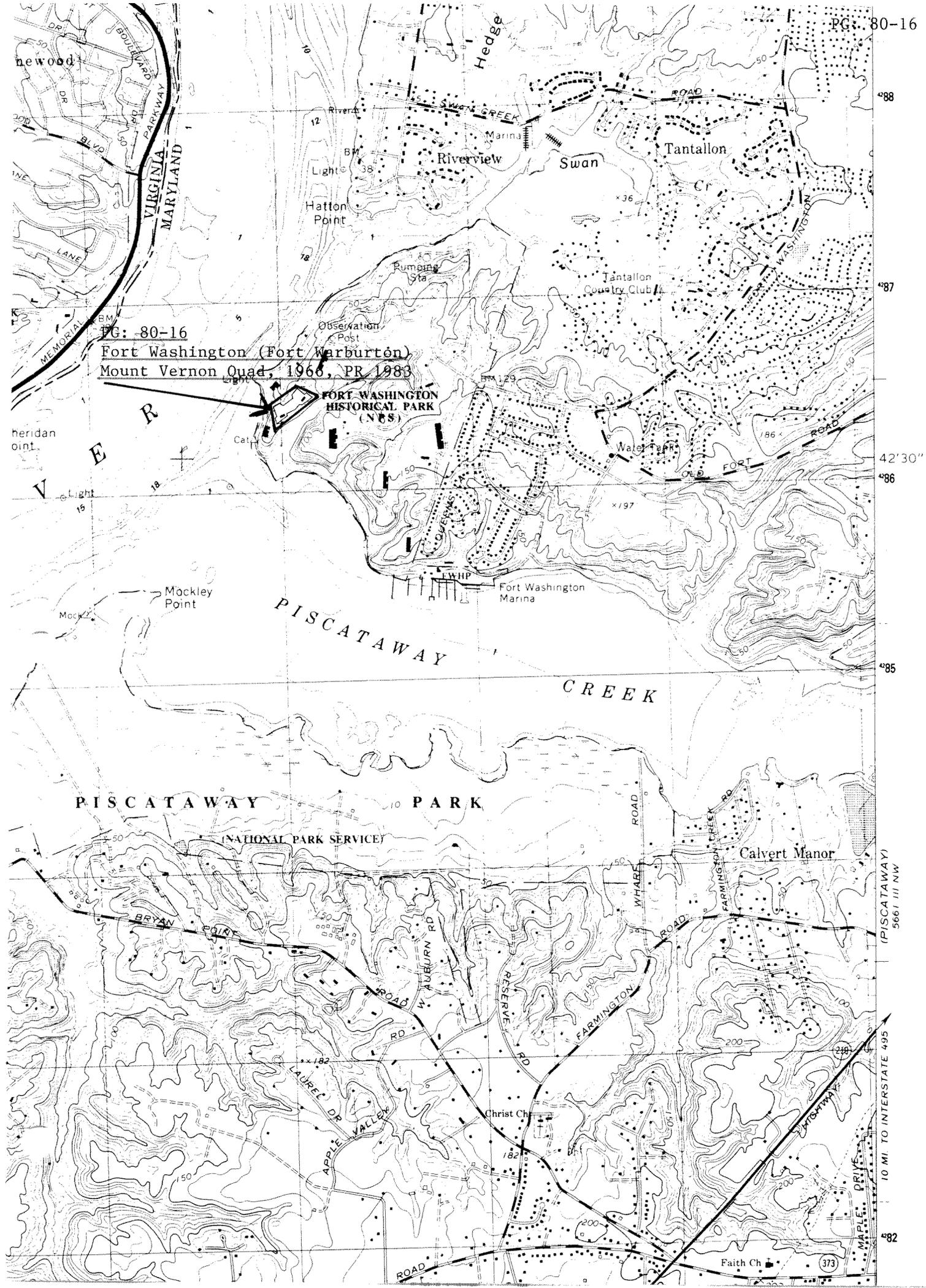
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ADC of Alexandria, Inc. 993 (National Park Service)



PG: 80-16

Fort Washington (Fort Warburton)  
Mount Vernon Quad, 1966, PR 1983

FORT WASHINGTON  
HISTORICAL PARK  
(NPS)

488

487

42'30"

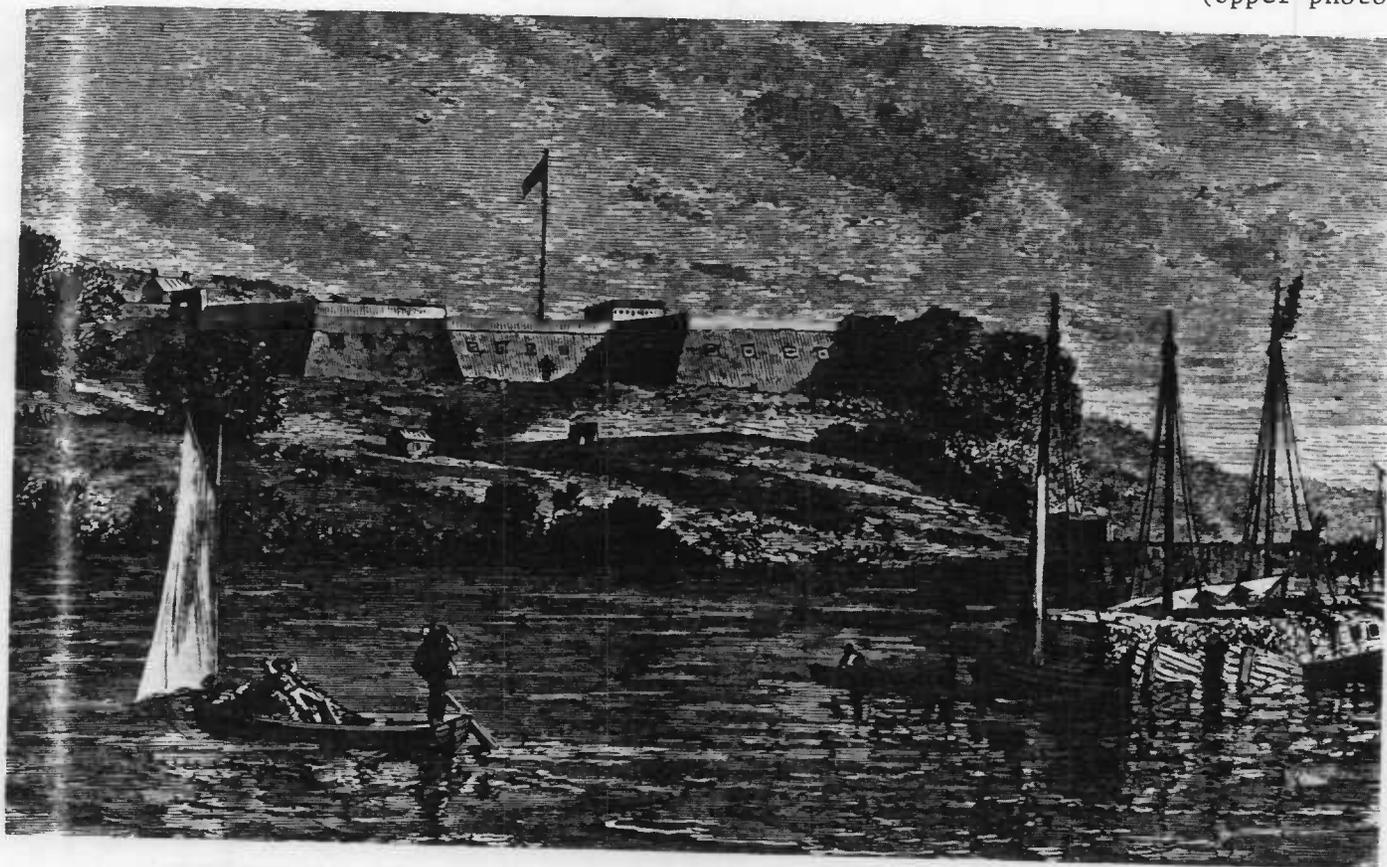
486

485

(PISCATAWAY)  
5661 III NW

482

10 MI. TO INTERSTATE 495



Overlooking the Potomac River in southern Prince George's County is Fort Washington, ten miles downriver from Washington, D.C. Completed in 1824, it replaced an earlier fort (Fort Warburton) built in 1809 and destroyed during the War of 1812 to prevent it from falling into British hands. The point on which Fort Washington and its predecessor were built was once part of the Digges family plantation, Warburton Manor. Mount Vernon is right across the river, and George Washington dined often with the Digges family at Warburton house. This was Fort Washington about 1880, as seen in an old print. Courtesy of the D.C. Public Library



This watercolor of the mill at Upper Marlboro, by John H. B. Latrobe, was published in 1827 in the *Progressive Drawing Book*. The mill stood by Old Mill Road along Federal Spring Branch. This watercolor is one of the earliest depictions of a scene in Prince George's County. Courtesy of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore

Virta, Alan  
1984 Prince George's County, a Pictorial  
History. Norfolk: Donning Company.



PG: 80-16

Fort Washington Military Reservation

Fort Washington, Maryland

Air Force

1937

No negative

Southwest

(090-840N-20X7-1-37-2:00pm.) (12"-1500  
ft.)

Fort Washington, Maryland-B-29415AC

1. Main Gate ) Fort

2. Location - Fort Washington Park

3. Photographer - Al Korzan

4. 10/24/85

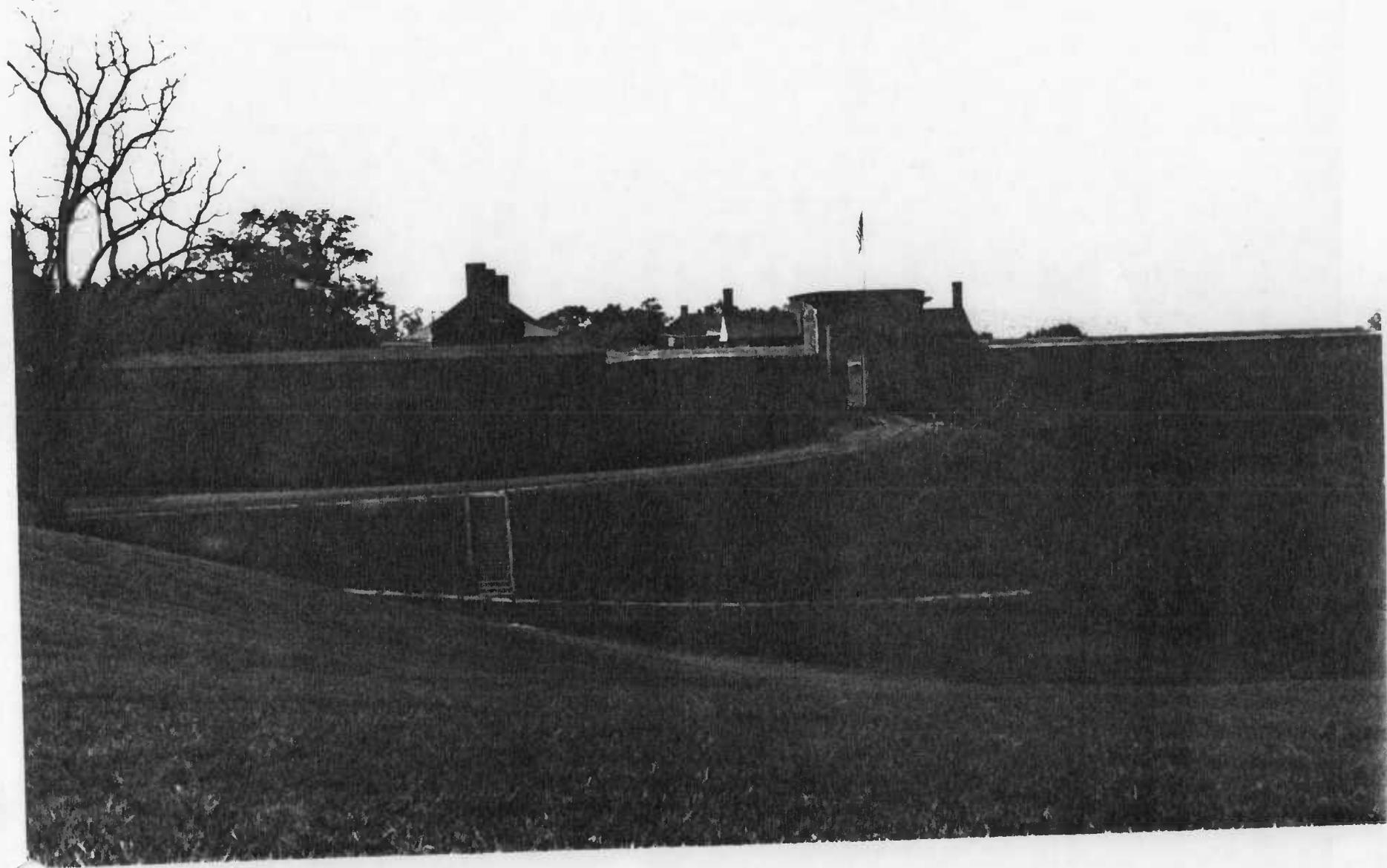
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6. Southwest

7. Neg. number 26



PG: 80-16



1. Gate House and North Wall of Fort

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

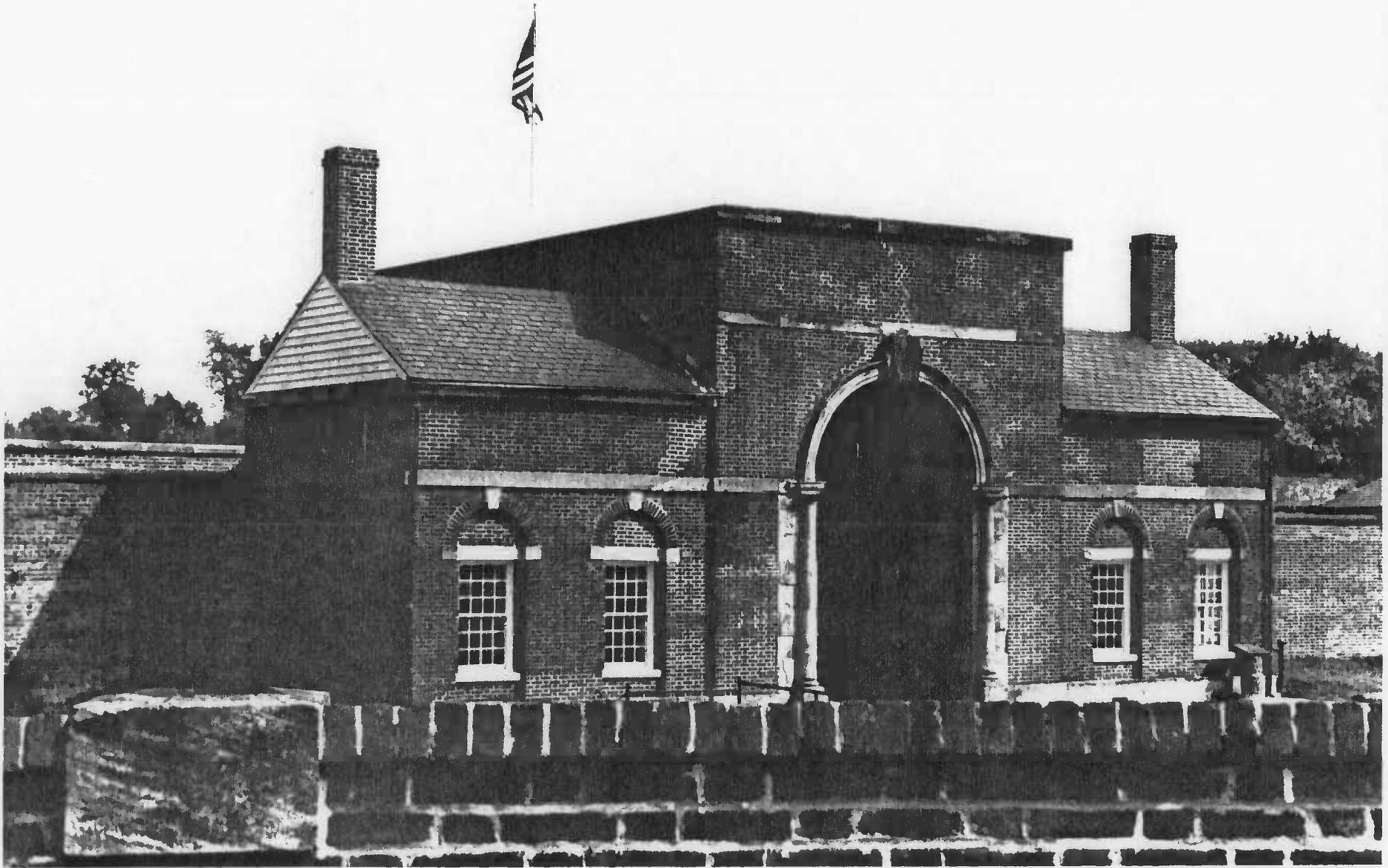
4. 10/24/85

5. NCP-East

6. Southwest

7. Neg. number 24

PG: 80-16



1. [REDACTED] te House - Fort

PG: 80-16

2. Fort Washington Park

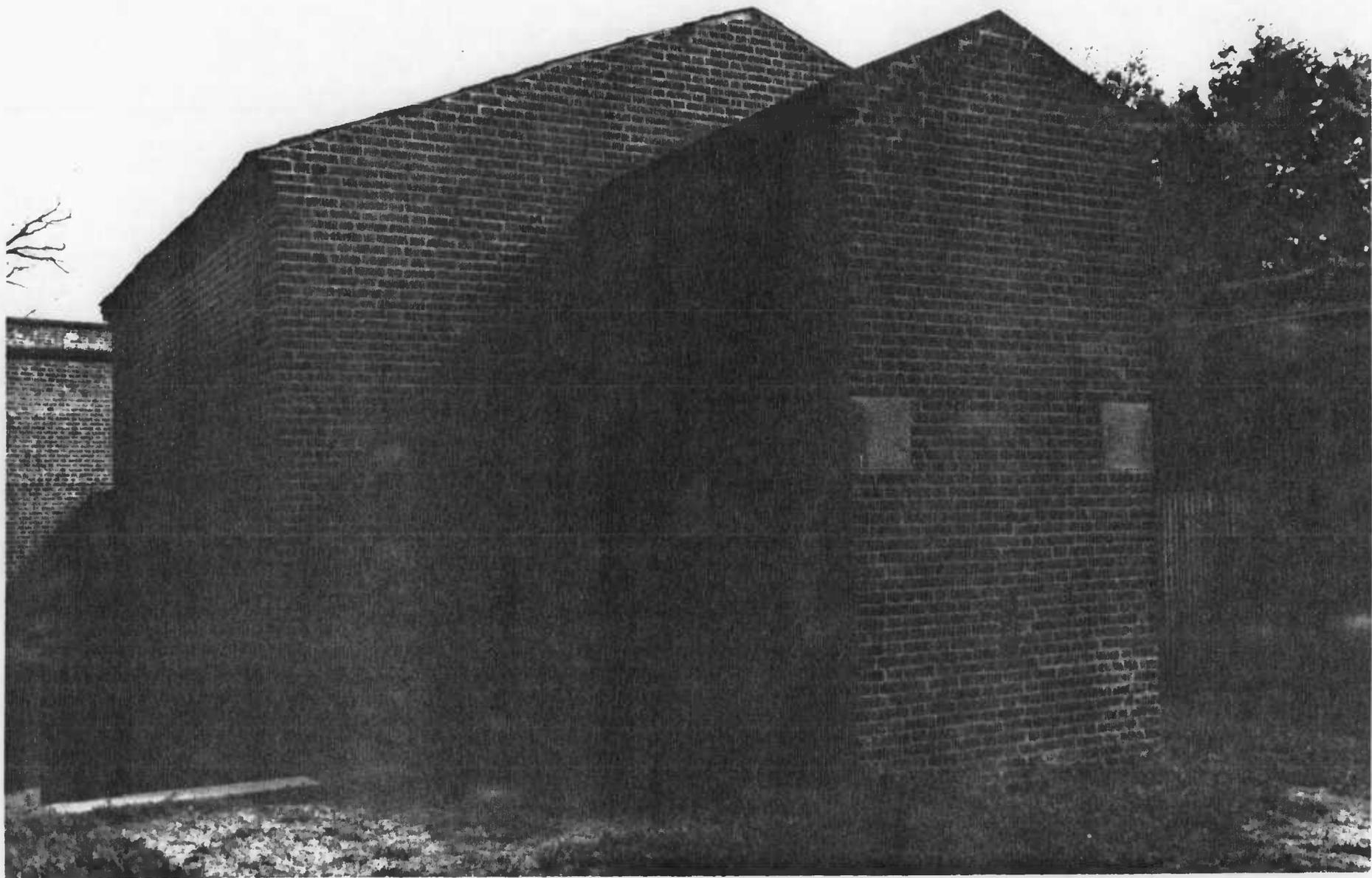
3. Al Korzan

4. 10/24/85

5. NCP-East

6. Southeast

7. Neg. number 33



1. North Powder Magazine in Fort

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

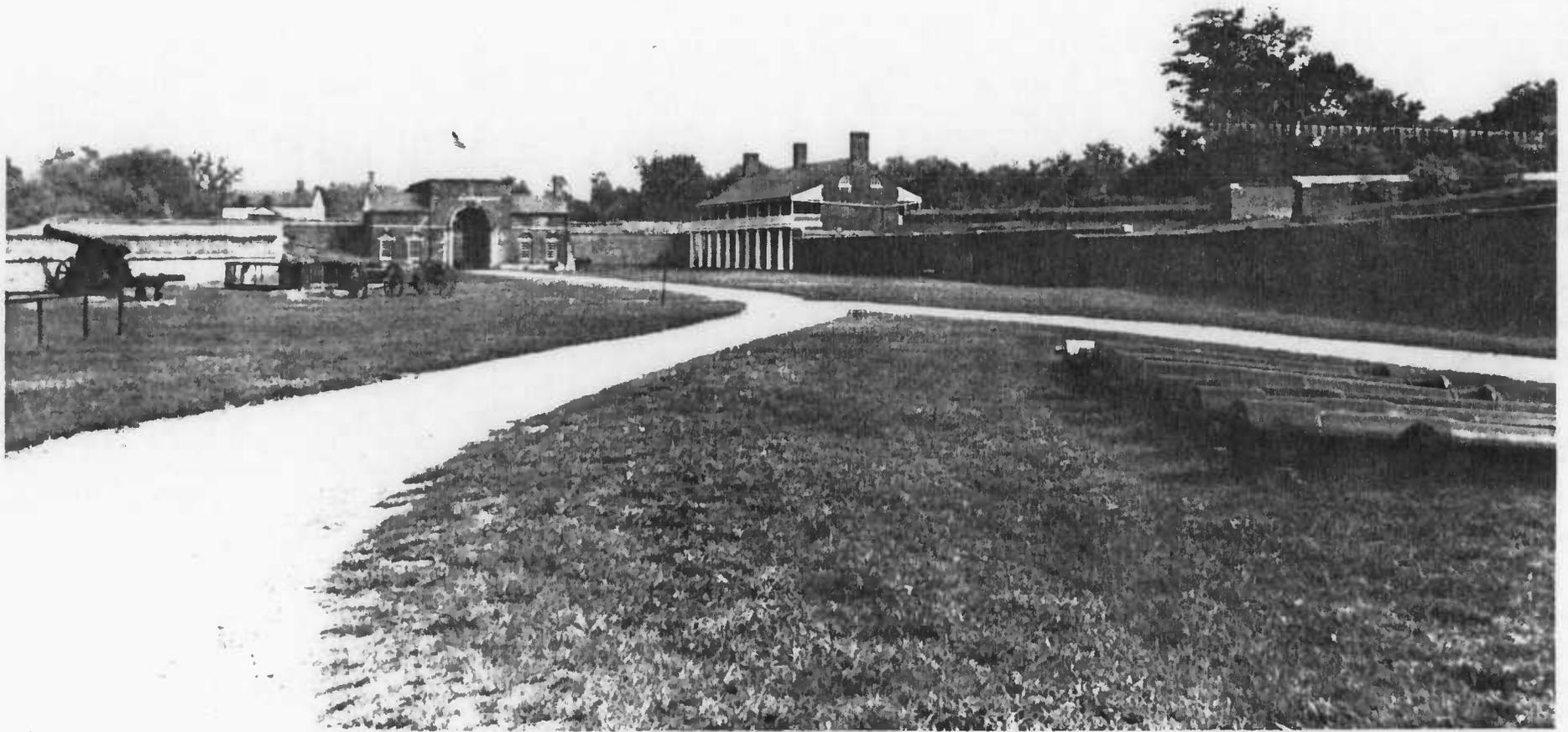
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5. NCP-East

6. Southeast

7. Neg. number 34

PG: 80-16



1. Fort Washington Parade

PG:80-16

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

4. 10/24/85

5. NCP-East

6. East

7. Neg. number 30

PG: 80-16



1. Officers' Quarters in Fort

PG: 80-16

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

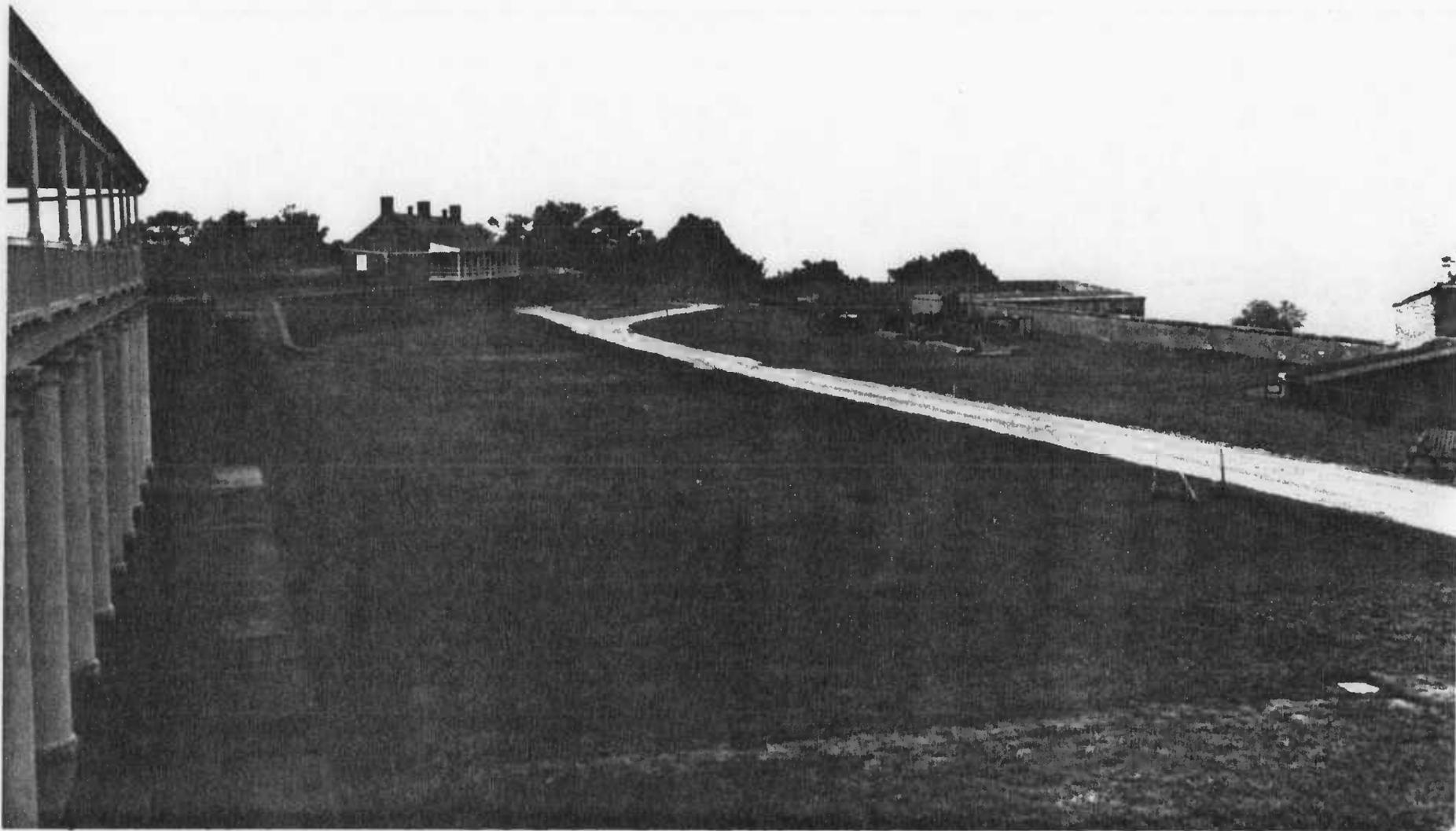
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PG: 80-16



1. Enlis J men's barracks

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

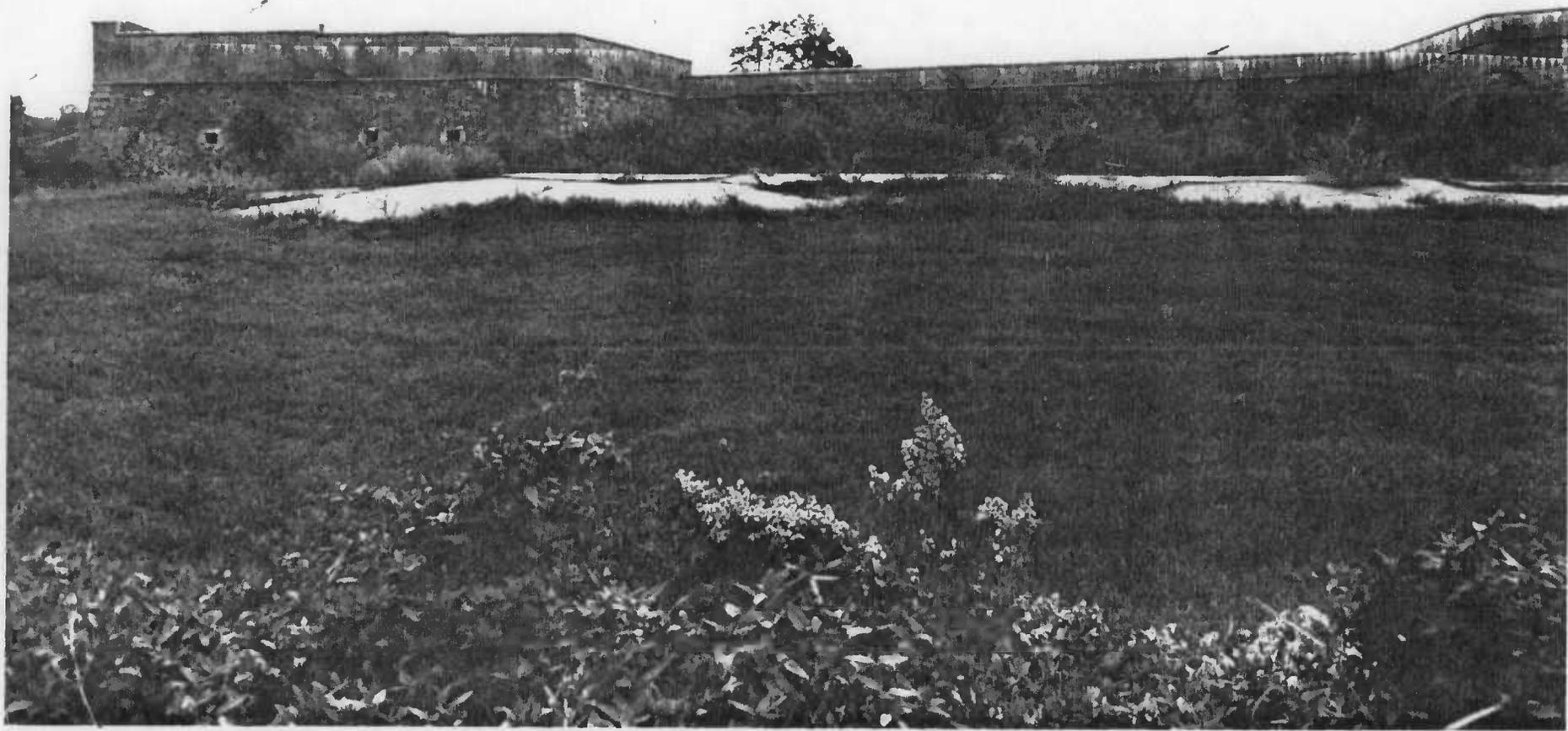
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5. NCP-East

6. Southeast

7. Neg. number 28

PG: 80-16



1. S. lctures - Fort Washington

2. Location - Fort Washington Park

3. Photographer - Al Korzan

4. 10/24/85

5. NCP-East

6. South

7. Neg. number 27

PG: 80-16



1. [REDACTED]  
1. Commandant's House

PG: 80-16

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

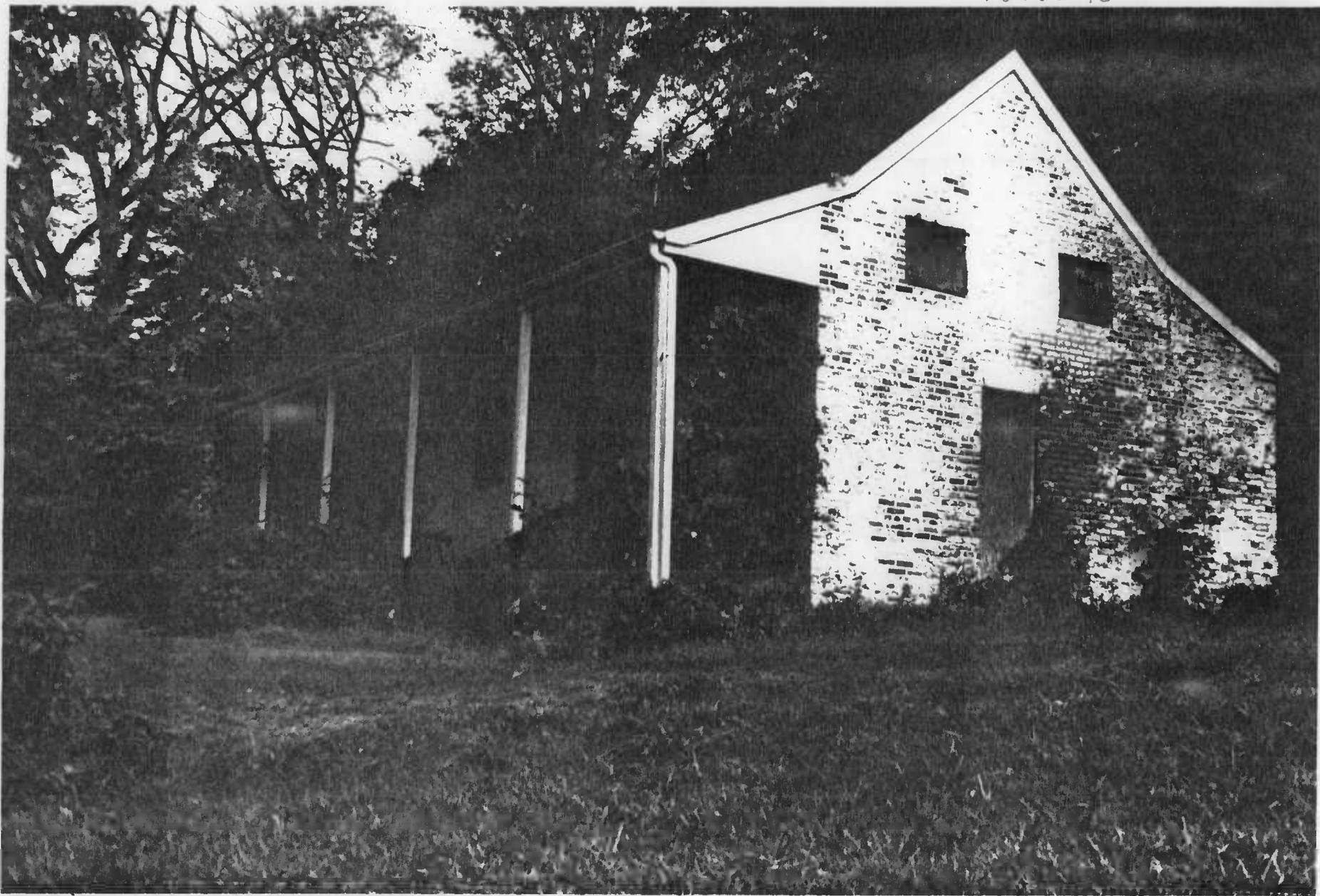
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5. NCP-East

6. North

7. Neg. number 25

PG:80-16



1. NC Quarters

PG:80-16

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

4. 10/24/85

5. NCP-East

6. North

7. Neg. number 36



1. Du<sub>r</sub> x

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

4. 10/24/85

5. NCP-East

6. Northwest

7. Neg. number 3



1. PA Building

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

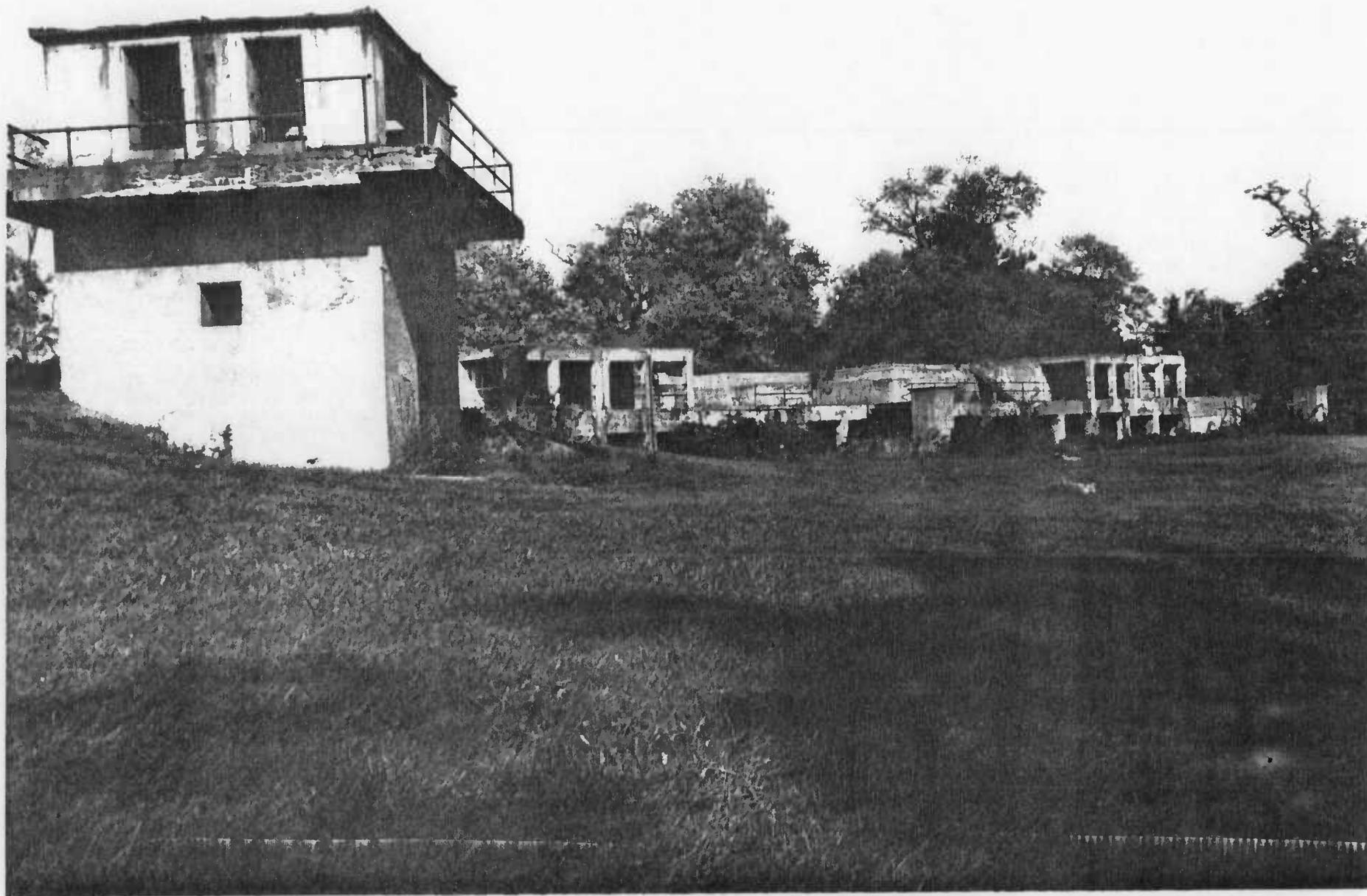
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1. Control Tower and Battery Decatur

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

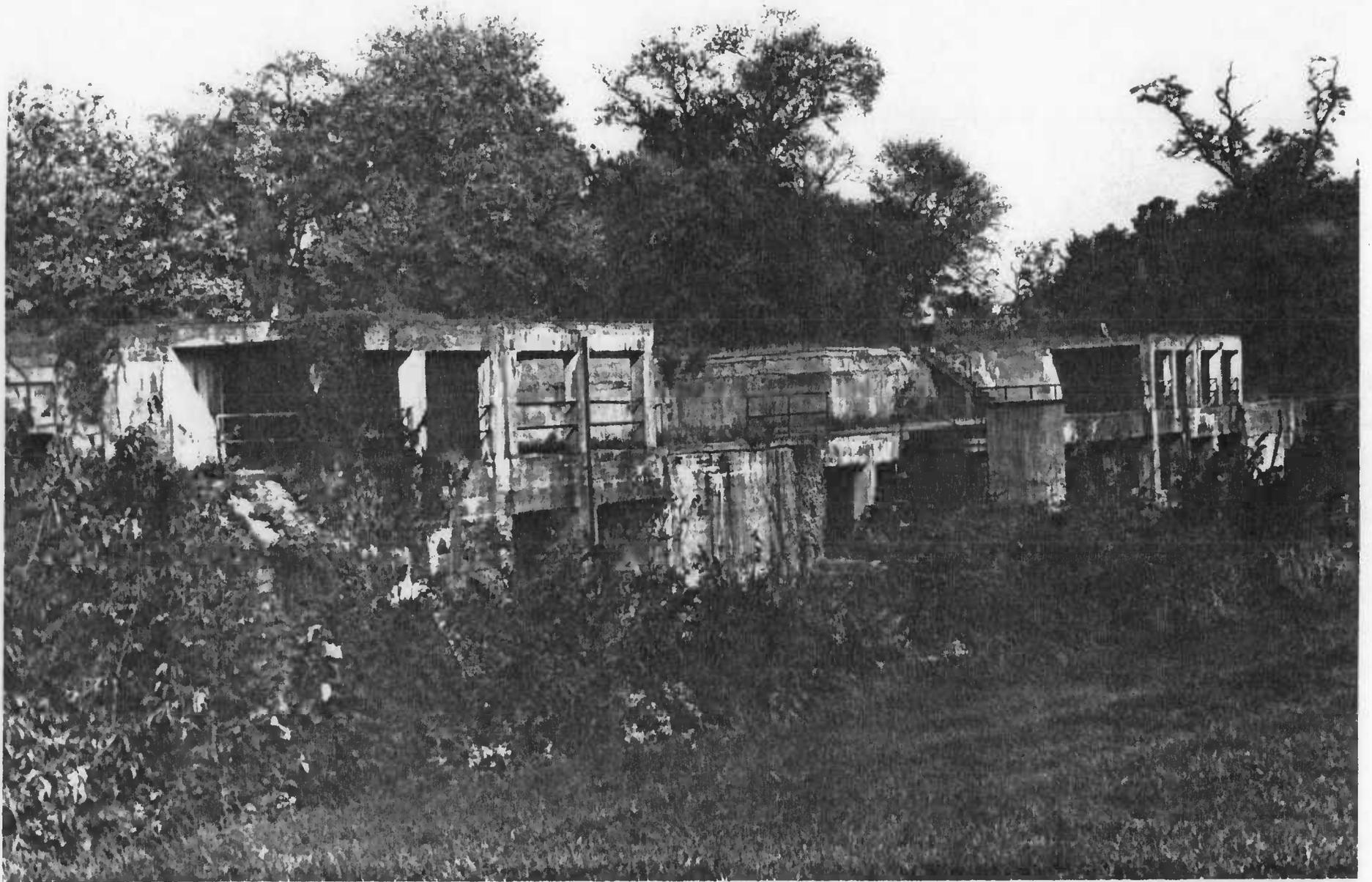
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1. Battery Decatur

PG: 80-16

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

4. 10/24/85

5. NCP-East

6. Northwest

7. Neg. number 22

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1. ttery Humphrey

PG:80-16

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

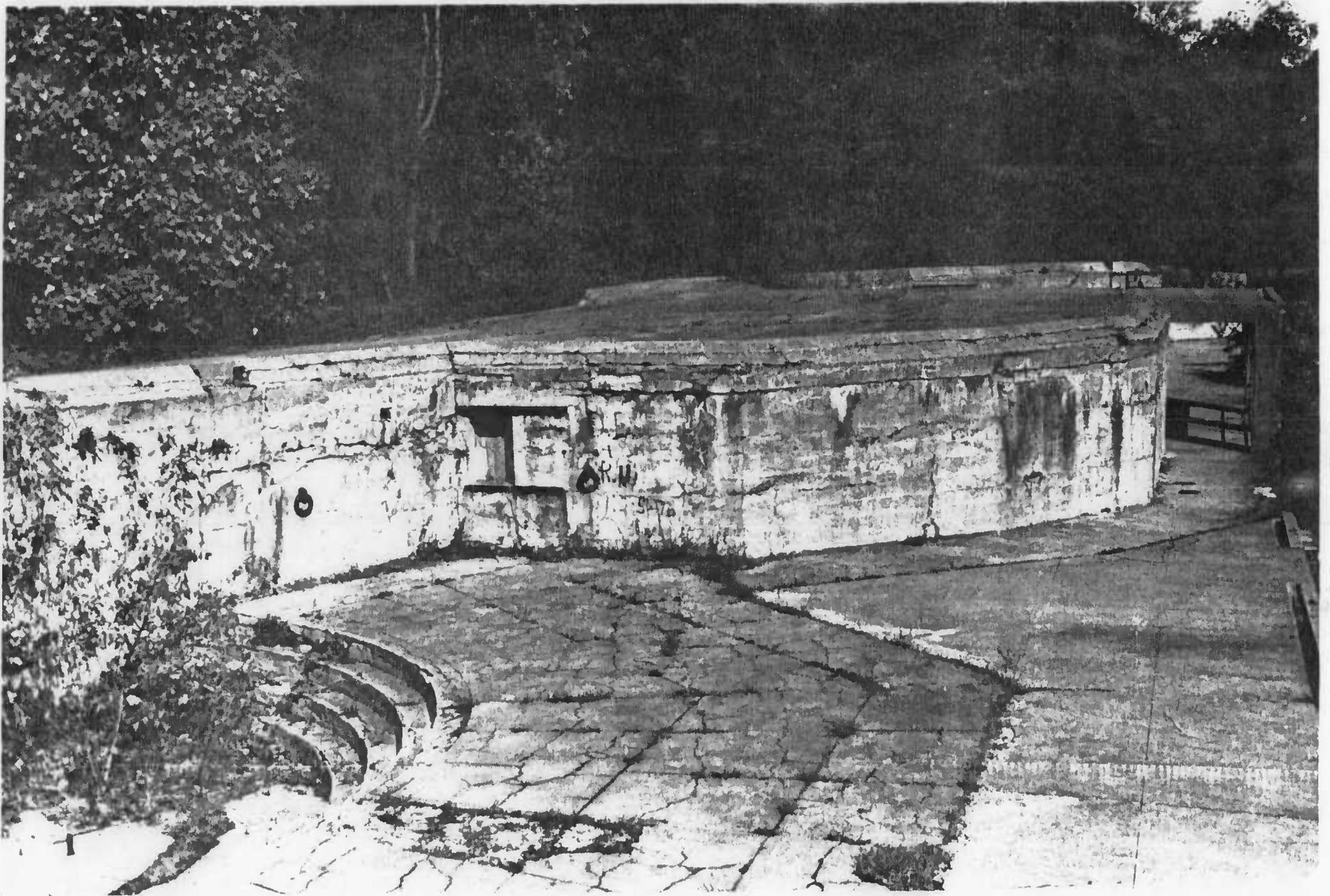
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6. Southwest

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1. p of Battery Humphrey

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

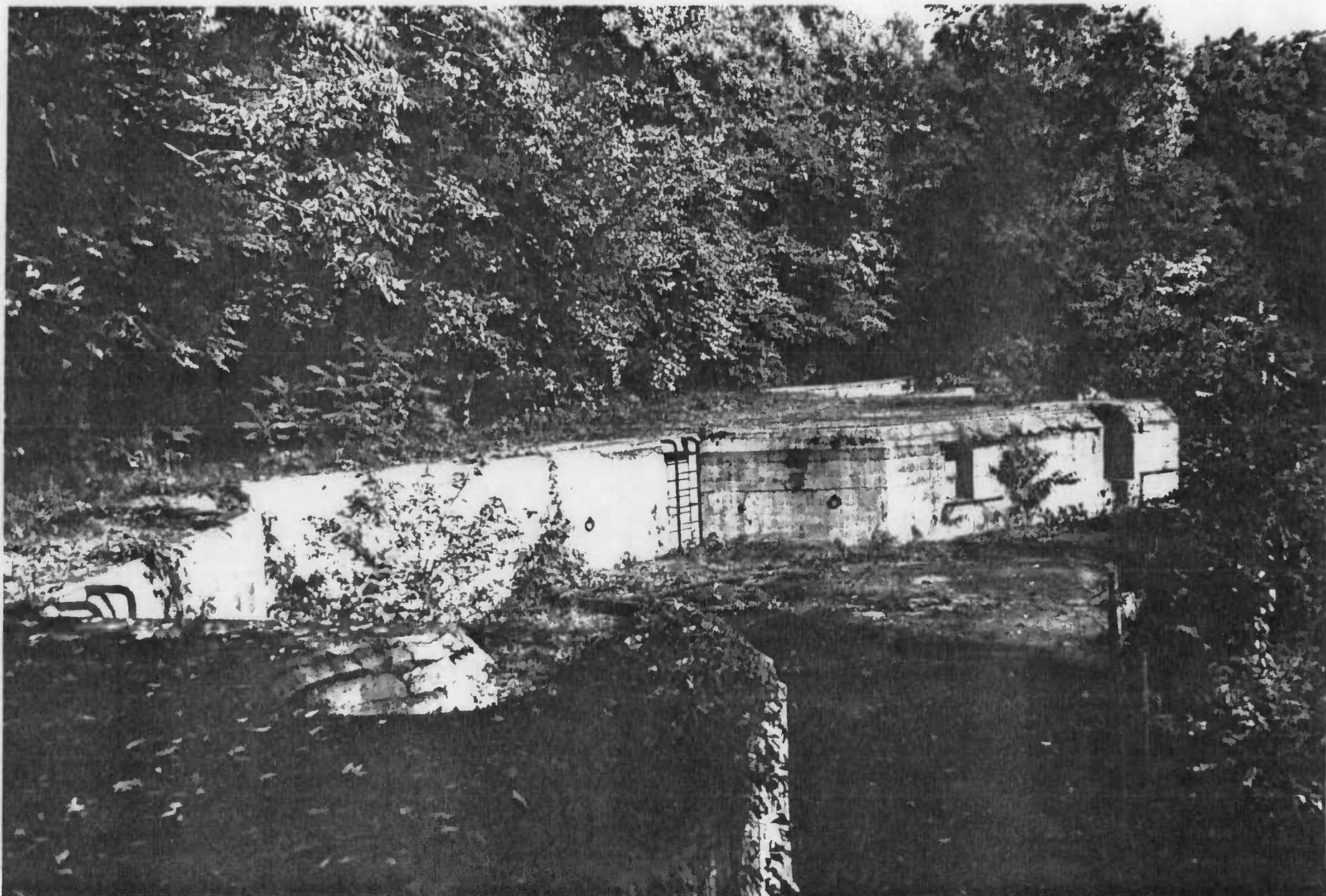
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5. NCP-East

6. North

7. Neg. number 16

PG: 80-16



1. Top of Battery Wilkins

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

4. 10/24/85

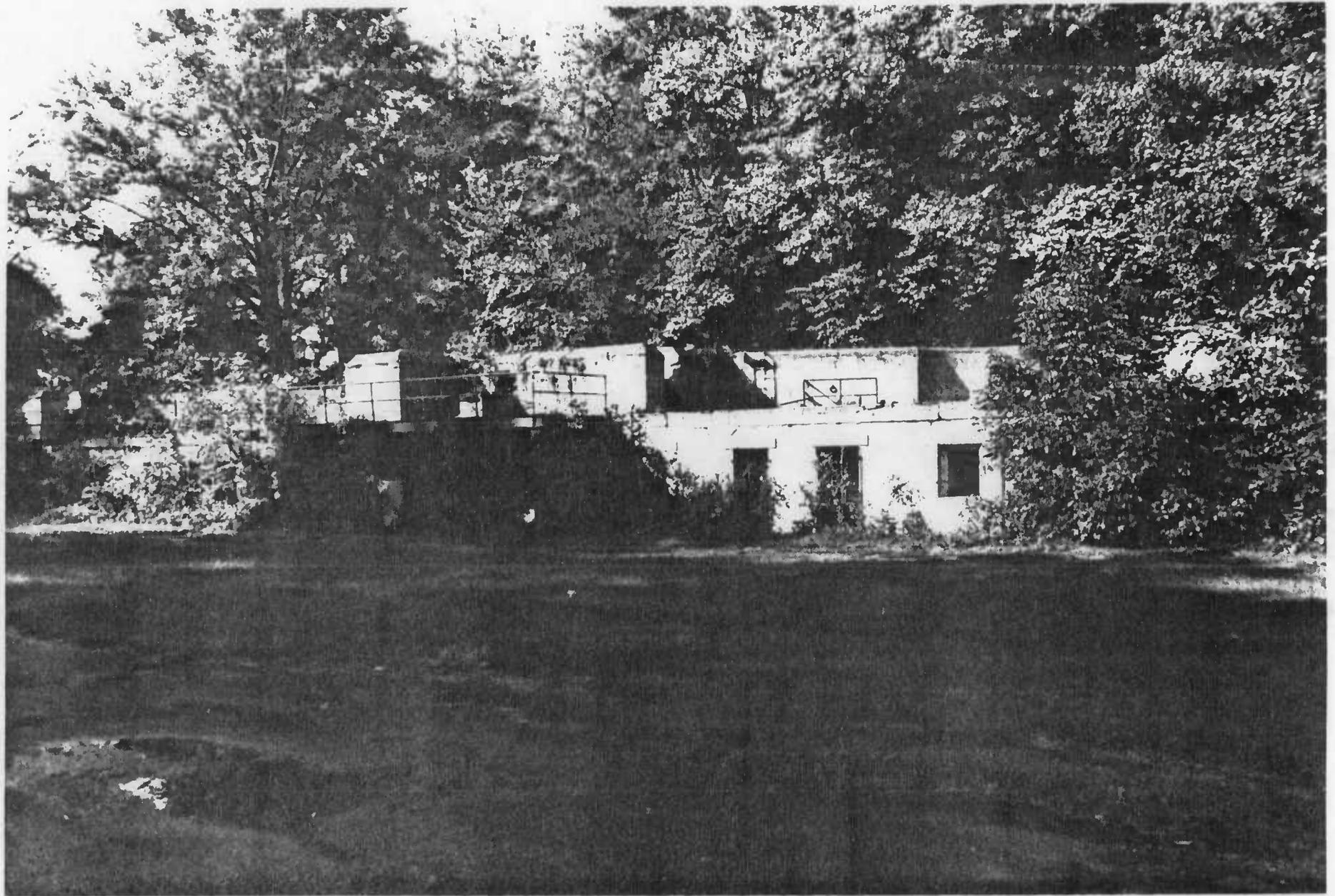
5. NCP-East

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PG: 80-16

PG: 80-16



PG: 80-16

1. Terry Wilkins

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

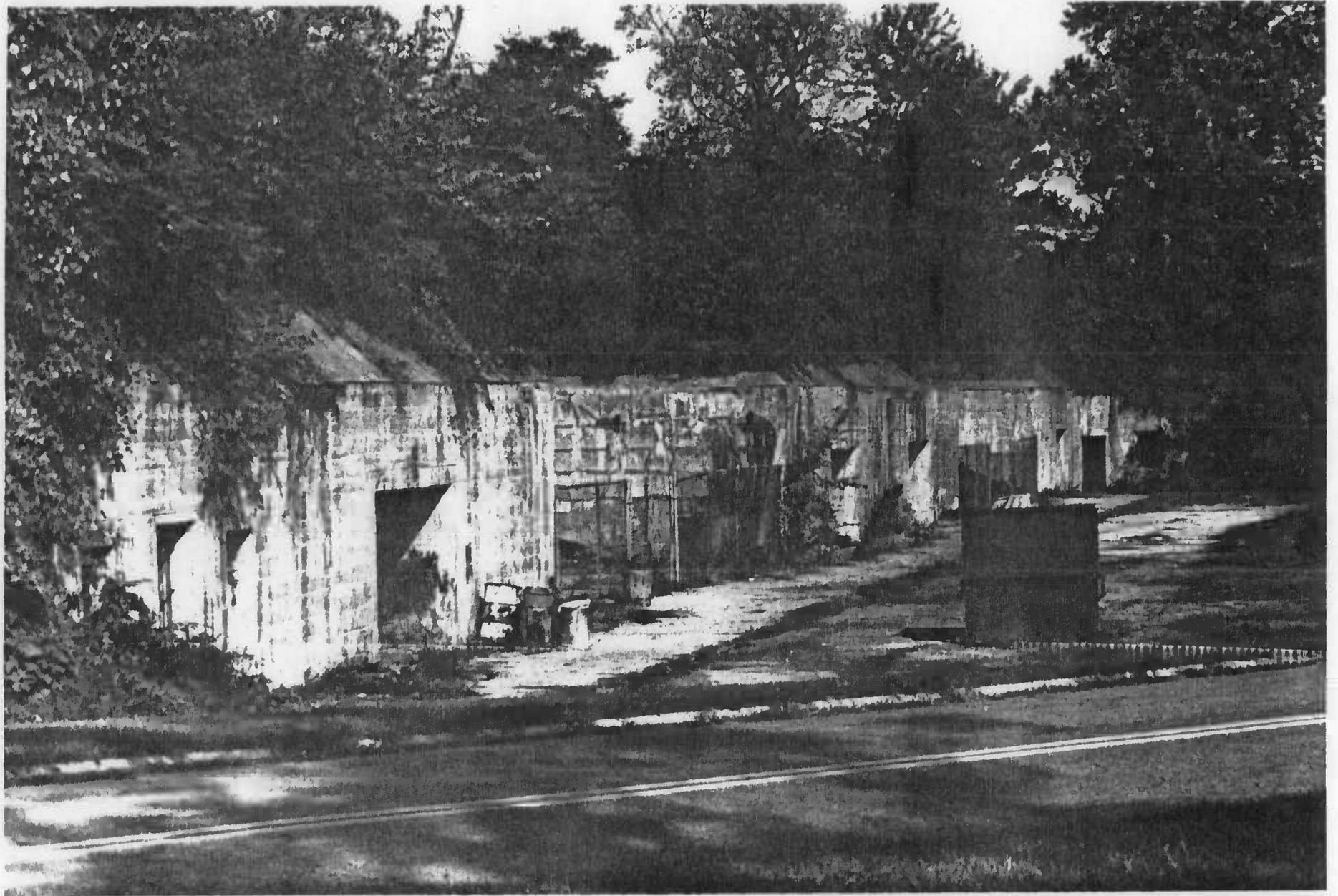
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5. NCP-East

6. Southwest

7. Neg. number 7

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1. Ba ury Meiggs

PG:80-16

2. Fort Washington Park

3. Al Korzan

4. 10/24/85

5. NCP-East

6. Northwest

7. Neg. number 10



NAME # 80-16 FT. WASHINGTON

LOCATION POTOMAC RIVER, OXON HILL, MD

FACADE LOOKING S

PHOTO TAKEN 11/19/73 MDWYER