

PH0011461

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
<b>JUL 15 1974</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Civil War Fort Sites *(Remnants of Washington)*

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
(individual Fort names listed in No. 7 Description)

**2. LOCATION**

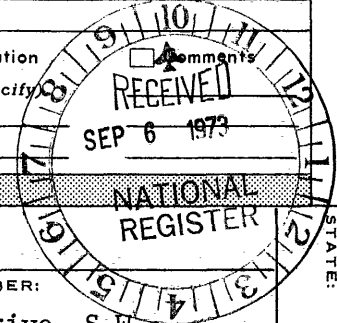
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Civil War Forts from Battery Kemble, N.W., to Fort Greble, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: District of Columbia

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11 COUNTY: District of Columbia CODE: 001

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site (17) <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____



**4. AGENCY**

Department of the Interior, National Park Service

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) National Capital Parks

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: National Capital Parks

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Fort Park System

DATE OF SURVEY: 1965  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: National Capital Parks

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
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DATE: **JUL 15 1974**

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" 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	

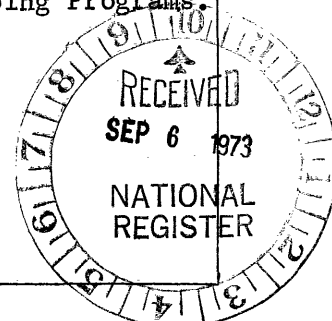
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A representative group of forts erected around the Nation's Capital have been acquired over several decades for park purposes. A list of those in the District of Columbia and their present condition are included below. The study "The Defenses of Washington 1861-1865," prepared by Historian Stanley W. McClure, contains photographs showing conditions of some of these forts during the Civil War Period.

- Battery Kemble - Chain Bridge Road, N.W.; emplacements for two parrott rifles are well preserved.
- Fort Bayard - Western Avenue, N.W.; slight traces of works remain.
- Fort Reno - Nebraska Avenue, N.W.; no visible historic remains.
- Fort DeRussy - Rock Creek Park off Military Road, N.W.; well preserved works in a natural state.
- Fort Stevens - Piney Branch Road, N.W.; partially reconstructed in 1937-38 from original plans. Six replica cannons are mounted on appropriated field carriages on platforms, and one original Napoleon 12-pounder is in place.
- Fort Slocum - Kansas Avenue, N.W.; no trace of main fort but evidences of rifle trenches and battery positions extend westward for several hundred feet.
- Fort Totten - Fort Totten Drive, N.E.; fort earth works and rifle trenches well preserved.
- Fort Bunker Hill - 14th Street, N.E.; little visible evidence of remains at fort site.
- Fort Lincoln - Bladensburg Road, N.E.; little evidence of earthwork remains associated with Fort Lincoln and nearby trenches and covered way.
- Fort Mahan - Benning Road, N.E.; some evidence of earthworks visible.
- Fort Chaplin - East Capitol Street; well preserved earthworks.
- Fort Dupont - Fort Dupont Park, Alabama Avenue, S.E.; well preserved earthworks.
- Fort Davis - Alabama Avenue, S.E.; well preserved earthwork remains.
- Battery Ricketts - Erie Street, S.E.; well preserved remains.
- Fort Stanton - Erie Street, S.E.; substantial traces of fort works visible.
- Fort Carroll - Martin Luther King Avenue, S.E.; Some of the fort's works preserved.
- Fort Greble - Martin Luther King Avenue, S.W.; little visible evidence of remains.

The former fort sites are on federal park land totaling some 1,300 acres. Most of the park areas are recreation sites used heavily by the neighborhood or by National Park Service "Summer in the Parks" Day Camping Programs.

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**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1861-1865

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

During the American Civil War, Union Forces protected the Capital city by building a ring of forts around the city. The land involved in this circumferential defense system in the District of Columbia is now marked by an almost continuous twenty-three mile green belt of public land administered by the National Park Service. The foundations and revetments of many of these fortifications have returned to dust, but others were preserved because of their historic interest.

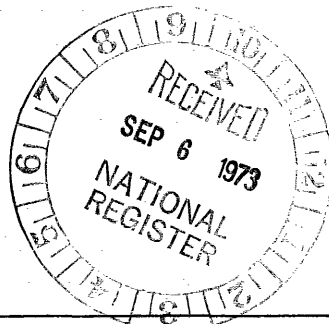
By the end of the Civil War in 1865, there were 68 enclosed forts and batteries, 93 unarmed batteries, three blockhouses, and 20 miles of trenches connecting the main defense works. This was at that time perhaps the strongest system of protection existing for any city in the world. Along the circumference of the entire 37 mile ring of defenses were emplacements for 1,501 guns, over 900 of which were in place.

Because of their deterrent value, these fortifications freed Union Forces for offensive purposes. Without them, it is difficult to believe that a leader as bold and as brilliant as Lee would not have sought to seize the symbol of the Union. These interesting applications of the 19th Century theory of field fortifications and modifications through four years of practical experience also provide valuable research material.

Fort Stevens was the target of the only serious Confederate move against the Capital. General Early's attack occurred on July 11-12, 1864, and was repulsed. It was during this attack that President Lincoln was subjected to rifle fire while visiting the scene of the battle.

The site occupied by the Fort Lincoln complex of fortifications during the Civil War was the scene of Commodore Barney's engagement with the British on August 24, 1814. This temporary holding action permitted evacuation of important persons and documents prior to the capture and burning of the Capital by the British.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

A Report on the Defenses of Washington to the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, John G. Barnard, 1871.

The Defenses of Washington, 1861-1865, by Stanley W. McClure (Rev. 1961).

Records of the Office of the Chief Engineer and Office of the Quartermaster. General, National Archives.

The War of the Rebellion: Series I, II, III, IV; 129 Vol. Washington 1880-1901.

**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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approx. 17 acres (an acre each)

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Helen Dillon, Historian</u>		DATE: <u>November 1972</u>
BUSINESS ADDRESS: <u>National Capital Parks</u>		
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.</u>		PHONE: <u>426-6957</u>
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Washington</u>	STATE <u>District of Columbia</u>	CODE <u>11</u>

**12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

<p>State Liaison Officer recommendation:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes  <input type="checkbox"/> No  <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u>          State Liaison Officer Signature</p> <p>In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local</p> <p><u>Russ Dickenson</u> <u>6-21-73</u>          Federal Representative Signature Date  <u>Director, Nat'l. Cap. Parks</u>          Title</p>	<p><b>NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION</b></p> <p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u>          Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>7/15/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:  <u>[Signature]</u>          Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>7/12/74</u></p>
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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 15 1974

(Number all entries)

	UTM Ref.	Latitude			Longitude		
		Deg.	Min.	Sec.	Deg.	Min.	Sec.
15	Battery Kemble 18/318290/4310880	38	55	49.4	77	05	46.8
17	Fort Bayard 18/318760/4313670	38	57	18.7	77	05	29.4
16	Fort Reno 18/319930/4313400	38	57	10.2	77	04	41.9
12	Fort DeRussy 18/322220/4314530	38	57	48.7	77	03	04.1
11	Fort Stevens 18/324170/4314560	38	57	50.2	77	01	46
13	Fort Slocum 18/325750/4314140	38	57	36.7	77	00	38.9
14	Fort Totten 18/326240/4312720	38	56	51.8	77	00	18.5
1	Fort Bunker Hill 18/327660/431270	38	56	06.7	76	7	48
2	Fort Lincoln 18/330190/4310130	38	55	31.0	76	57	4
3	Fort Mahan 18/331370/4306740	38	53	42.6	76	56	41.6
4	Fort Chaplin 18/331460/4305940	38	53	19.0	76	56	34.0
5	Fort Dupont 18/331640/4304200	38	52	22.1	76	56	26.3
6	Fort Davis 18/330680/4303550	38	51	59.6	76	57	06.7
7	Battery Ricketts 18/328530/430230	38	51	24.5	76	58	32.8
8	Fort Stanton 18/328090/4302720	38	51	29.5	76	58	54.9
9	Fort Carroll 18/325760/4300460	38	50	16.4	77	00	24.7
10	Fort Greble 18/325050/4299180	38	49	32.8	77	00	55.8

