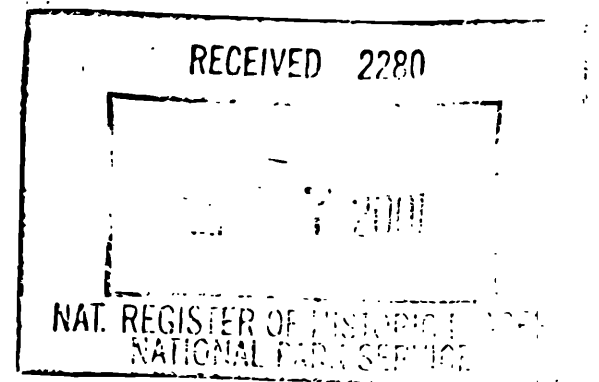


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. Name of Property

historic name: Fort Hamilton Historic District

other name/site number: Rose Island

2. Location

street & number: Rose Island

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Newport, RI vicinity: N/A

state: RI county: Newport code: 005 zip code: 02840

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private; Public-local

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>	buildings
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	sites
<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>	structures
		objects
<u>11</u>	<u>21</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

Name of related multiple property listing: Lighthouses of Rhode Island (for Rose Island Lighthouse)

Property name Fort Hamilton H.D., Rose Island, Newport County, R.I.

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

___ See continuation sheet.

Frederic C. Williamson
Signature of certifying official

24 April 1995
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

**Entered in the
National Register**

entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.

___ determined eligible for the
National Register

___ See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the
National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain):

10/27/01

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Defense Sub: fortification
Transportation Water-related

Current: Education Sub: research facility

Property name Fort Hamilton H.D., Rose Island, Newport County, R.I.

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

NO STYLE

Other Description: _____

Materials:	foundation	<u>Stone</u>	roof	<u>brick vaults</u>
	walls	<u>Brick/Stone</u>	other	_____
		<u>Earth</u>		

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: statewide

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C & D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): _____

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Engineering

Military

Transportation

Period(s) of Significance: 1778-1820 1869

Significant Dates: 1780 1820 1869

Significant Person(s): de Tousard, Anne Louis

Cultural Affiliation: _____

Architect/Builder: de Tousard, Anne Louis

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

Property name Fort Hamilton H.D., Rose Island, Newport County, R.I.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State historic preservation office

Other state agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other -- Specify Repository: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 17 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
A	<u>19</u>	<u>304550</u>	<u>4596560</u>	B	<u>19</u>	<u>304740</u>	<u>4596160</u>
C	<u>19</u>	<u>304380</u>	<u>4596160</u>	D	<u>19</u>	<u>304400</u>	<u>4596380</u>

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Richard C. Youngken and Charlotte E. Johnson

Organization: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Inc. Date: 12/31/94

Street & Number: P.O.Box 1419 Thames Street Telephone: 401-847-4242

City or Town: Newport State: RI ZIP: 02840

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Description

Fort Hamilton is a quadrilateral, irregular, bastioned fort located on Rose Island in Narragansett Bay facing the entrance to the Bay's East Passage at the entrance to Newport Harbor. The Fort is composed of several distinct characteristic elements of 18th and early 19th century fortification design which survive with considerable integrity, although the island was reused in the late 19th and early 20th centuries for explosives storage, ordnance testing and torpedo manufacturing.

Fort Hamilton occupies the area of Rose Island which is not subject to periodic storm flooding and thereby contributes to the historical setting of the island as a fortified place. As such the design of the fort takes advantage of the entire island and includes natural components of the island as aids in defensive architecture.

The architectural components of the fort include an irregular quadrilateral trace with angular brick and earthen bastions at the northeast and southeast corners facing Newport, and circular, stone bastions or tower bastions at the northwest and southwest corners facing the East Passage of Narragansett Bay. The south curtain wall and rampart are constructed of stone and earthworks. The west curtain wall between the tower bastions was an earthen rampart with embrasures. The north curtain wall consists of an earthen wall built by French forces in 1780. Within the trace of the fort a brick bombproof barracks, and the ghost of a rectangular "citadel" (presumably built by French forces ca. 1780) remain. In addition, archaeological investigations have documented the possible existence of an officers' quarters building in the eastern portion of the fort. The areas of Rose Island lying outside the fort's trace were utilized as natural glacis to absorb the impact of bombardment including the ricochet of incoming fire off the water. These low-lying areas were within the fire zones of the fort.

The 1 X 9 bay, single-story, stone and brick masonry bombproof barracks building is located in close proximity to the fort's south curtain wall and lies parallel to it along most of its length with the fort's trace. This building contains nine (9) rooms characterized by high groin vaults of brickwork and was constructed as a bombproof accommodation for the fort's garrison intended to be covered with sod. To the north of the barracks building is a high, free-standing, concrete wall built as a fire wall during the mid-20th century when the barracks was used as a magazine during the First and Second World Wars. This wall is located along the southern edge of the fort's parade.

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The northwest tower bastion is constructed of stone masonry with a perimeter earthen wall. The interior is partially covered by a non-contributing roof framework of heavy steel girders. Both the roof and the perimeter earthworks were added to the circular walls during the use of the structure as a munitions storage facility in the early 20th century.

The southwest tower bastion was filled in and a wood-framed lighthouse, known as the Rose Island Lighthouse, was built on top of the bastion in 1869.

Other alterations to the fort and site include the construction of multiple small storage facilities within the fort's parade and to the north and east of the fort's perimeter. Many of these buildings and structures have been removed. Others remain as non-contributing elements. These facilities were used in the operation of the island as a torpedo warhead-arming facility during the First and Second World Wars.

Housing for facility staff, a water tower and a large warhead-loading building and pier were located to the east, outside of the fort's walls. Of these later alterations to the fort's setting, the loading building, remnants of the pier, and rubble foundations of two staff dwellings remain. The water tower has fallen to a horizontal position.

The following is an annotated list of the extant contributing and non-contributing resources of the property:

Bombproof Barracks (Contributing Building): 1798-1800, a 1x9 bay, single-story, stone and brick masonry building, characterized by 9 interior groin-vaulted rooms, some of which have fireplaces and chimneys. The roof, originally intended to be sod-covered, is now sheltered by a late 19th century asbestos-clad hipped-roof.

Northwest Bastion (Contributing Structure): 1798-1800, a circular, stone masonry, tower bastion, rising approximately 36 feet above sea level. This bastion is characterized by a stone parapet wall surrounded by an earthwork. The parapet is approximately 11 feet high and contains an area approximately 112 feet in diameter. A non-contributing conical steel girder-framed roof support system, built in the early 20th century, remains. The northwest bastion may have been built on a semi-circular battery (used prior to 1778) built by the British. It was used in the 20th century as a magazine.

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Northeast Bastion (Contributing Site): 1789-1800, the location of a low stone and earthen, angular bastion, partially completed.

Southeast Bastion (Contributing Structure): 1798-1800, a stone masonry and earthen angular bastion approximately 17 feet high (above sea level) and 50 feet across. The bastion contains a non-contributing concrete anti-aircraft gunmount and magazine built in the mid-20th century (known as the Southeast Gunmount).

South Curtain (Contributing Structure): 1798-1800, a stone masonry and earthen wall approximately 360 feet long, 17 feet high (above sea level), and 7-10 feet high above grade which connects the southeast and southwest bastions. The western end of the curtain contains a non-contributing 20th century concrete anti-aircraft gunmount and magazine.

Southwest Bastion (Contributing Structure): 1798-1800, a circular, stone masonry, tower bastion rising approximately 20 feet above sea level. The bastion is approximately 96 feet in diameter. The Rose Island Lighthouse, a wood-framed, mansard-roofed building, was built on the bastion in 1869.

West Rampart (Contributing Site): 1798-1800, a remnant of the earthen rampart built with eight embrasures for eight (8) gun emplacements. This area has been substantially altered by WWII-era excavations and the location of a non-contributing concrete generator house within an earthen mound, possibly a portion of the original embrasure wall (known as Building 41).

North Curtain (Contributing Site): ca. 1780, an earthen curtain wall originally constructed ca. 1780 by the French, partially altered in the 20th century with the construction of Building 35, of which only the concrete slab foundation base remains.

French Citadel (Contributing Site): ca. 1780, the location of a earthen square, approximately 120 feet square, identified by French sources as pre-existing occupation of the island by American forces under the command of General Andrew Sullivan following the evacuation of Jamestown and Rose Island by British forces in 1779.

Officers' Quarters (Contributing Site): ca. 1800, the location of a wood-framed building used as officers' quarters for Fort Hamilton; identified, located, and evaluated as part of a Phase I archaeological survey of Rose Island conducted in 1984-85.

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Rose Island Lighthouse (Contributing Building): 1869, a 1-1/2-story, mansard-roofed, wood-framed building with an integral beacon tower. The Rose Island Lighthouse is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (April 4, 1987).

Underground Magazine (Non-contributing Structure): mid-20th century (WW II), a Quonset hut located under an earthen mound, a below ground magazine.

Building 11 (Non-contributing): mid-20th century (WWII), a small, single-story, gable-roofed, brick-masonry building used as a magazine.

Building 12 (Non-contributing): early 20th century (WWI), a small, single story, gable-roofed, brick building used as a magazine.

Building 13 (Non-contributing): mid-20th century (WWII), a small, single-story, gable-roofed, brick masonry building used as a magazine.

Building 15 (Non-contributing): early 20th century (WWI), a single-story, gable-roofed brick masonry building used as a magazine.

Building 17 (Non-contributing): early 20th century (WWI), a small, single-story, shed-roofed, wood-frame and concrete building used as a magazine.

Building 18 (Non-contributing): early 20th century (WWI), a small, 2-room, single-story, gable-roofed, brick masonry building used as a magazine.

Building 20 (Non-contributing): early 20th century (WWI), a small wood-framed, deteriorated structure used to house a fire plug station and chemical cart.

Building 24 (Non-contributing): mid-20th century (WWII), a small, single-story, gable-roofed, brick masonry building used as a magazine.

Building 30 (Non-contributing): early 20th century (WWI), a deteriorated, single story, gable-roofed, brick masonry building used as a torpedo storehouse.

Building 31 (Non-contributing): early to mid-20th century (WWI, WWII), a two story, flat-roofed, brick and concrete masonry building used as a TNT filling house with the remains of an adjacent concrete loading pier.

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Building 37 (Non-contributing Structure): 1938, a large steel water tower with cylindrical tank (capacity: 50,000 gals) now resting on its side in proximity to its original location.

Building 40 (Non-contributing Structure): mid-20th century (WWII), a small concrete structure used to house electrical transformers.

Building 41 (Non-contributing Structure): mid-20th century (WWII), a small, concrete, underground structure used to house a generator.

Northwest Gunmount (Non-contributing): mid-20th century (WWII), a concrete anti-aircraft gun emplacement with magazine and nearby below ground generator house.

Southwest Gunmount (Non-contributing): mid-20th century (WWII), a concrete anti-aircraft gun emplacement with magazine and nearby below ground generator house, which are located in the south curtain wall of Fort Hamilton.

Southeast Gunmount (Non-contributing): mid-20th century (WWII), a concrete anti-aircraft gun emplacement with magazine and nearby below ground generator house, which are located in the southeast bastion of Fort Hamilton.

Firewall (Non-contributing): mid-20th century (WWII), a concrete wall, approximately 5 feet high parallel to Building 1-9 (Barracks) built as a fire wall.

Seawall (Non-contributing): early to mid-20th century, a deteriorated concrete and rubble stone retaining wall of varying height.

Site of Building 22 (Non-contributing): early 20th century, brick and stone foundations for a wood-framed staff house, deteriorated. The staff house was demolished in the 1970s.

Site of Building 23 (Non-contributing): early 20th century, brick and stone foundations for a wood-framed staff house, deteriorated. The staff house was demolished in the 1970s.

PHOTOGRAPHS

- 3) Photographer unknown; Navy file photo
- 4) Date: ca. 1938

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-
-
- 5) Negative: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Newport, RI
6) View: Aerial view looking southeast
7) Photo #1 of 18:
- 3) Photographer unknown; Navy file photo
4) Date: ca. 1950
5) Negative: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Newport, RI
6) View: Aerial view looking southwest
7) Photo #2 of 18:
- 3) Photographer: John Hopf
4) Date: ca. 1955
5) Negative: John Hopf studio, Newport, RI
6) View: Aerial view looking northeast
7) Photo #3 of 18:
- 3) Photographer: John Hopf
4) Date: November, 1991
5) Negative: John Hopf studio, Newport, RI
6) View: Aerial view looking north
7) Photo #4 of 18
- 3) Photographer: John Hopf
4) Date: 1994
5) Negative: John Hopf studio, Newport, RI
6) View: Aerial view looking directly down
7) Photo #5 of 18
- 3) Photographer: Charlotte E. Johnson
4) Date: 1994
5) Negative: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Newport, RI
6) View: South Curtain Wall and Southwest Bastion, looking west
7) Photo #6 of 18
- 3) Photographer: Charlotte E. Johnson
4) Date: 1994
5) Negative: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Newport, RI
6) View: Southwest Bastion, looking south
7) Photo #7 of 18
- 3) Photographer: Unknown; property of United States Lighthouse Society
4) Date: ca. 1880

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- 5) Negative: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Newport, RI
- 6) View: Southwest Bastion and West Rampart, looking east
- 7) Photo #8 of 18

- 3) Photographer: Edward Smith
- 4) Date: ca. 1895
- 5) Negative: Newport Historical Society, Newport, RI
- 6) View: Rose Island, looking north
- 7) Photo #9 of 18

- 3) Photographer: Charlotte E. Johnson
- 4) Date: 1994
- 5) Negative: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Newport, RI
- 6) View: Northwest Bastion, looking north
- 7) Photo #10 of 18

- 3) Photographer: Richard C. Youngken
- 4) Date: 1994
- 5) Negative: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Newport, RI
- 6) View: Northwest Bastion, looking southwest
- 7) Photo #11 of 18

- 3) Photographer: Richard C. Youngken
- 4) Date: 1994
- 5) Negative: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Newport, RI
- 6) View: Interior view of Northwest Bastion, looking southwest
- 7) Photo #12 of 18

- 3) Charlotte E. Johnson, photographer
- 4) 1994
- 5) Negative: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Newport, RI
- 6) View looking southwest at the Parade from the North Curtain
- 7) Photo #13 of 18

- 3) Photographer: William Wharton Smith
- 4) Date: prior to 1885
- 5) Negative: Newport Historical Society, Newport, RI
- 6) View: Barracks Building, looking west
- 7) Photo #14 of 18

- 3) Photographer: William Wharton Smith
- 4) Date: ca. 1915
- 5) Negative: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Newport, RI

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- 6) View: Barracks Building, looking east
- 7) Photo #15 of 18

- 3) Photographer: Richard C. Youngken
- 4) Date: 1994
- 5) Negative: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Newport, RI
- 6) View: Barracks Building, looking southwest
- 7) Photo #16 of 18

- 3) Photographer: Charlotte E. Johnson
- 4) Date: 1994
- 5) Negative: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Newport, RI
- 6) View: Barracks Building, looking southeast
- 7) Photo #17 of 18

- 3) Photographer: Richard C. Youngken
- 4) Date: 1994
- 5) Negative: Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Newport, RI
- 6) View: Interior view of Barracks Building, looking northwest
- 7) Photo #18 of 18

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Significance

Fort Hamilton and fortified Rose Island together are significant as a rare and nearly intact representative example of the architecture and engineering of Newport Harbor's innovative First System defensive fortifications from the 1798-1800 period. Located in a principal position at the entrance to Narragansett Bay, the fort and Rose Island, were integral components of a planned defense of the East Passage of the Narragansett "Roads," and the important colonial port of Newport, Rhode Island. The district is also the location of a nineteenth-century lighthouse, listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (1987) for its contribution to the history of navigation and lighthouse architecture.

With the successive development of British, French and American defensive fortifications for Newport Harbor and the Bay, Rose Island itself became a fortified place, the fortifications occupying nearly all of the island's developable land and incorporating the natural features of the island to strategic advantage. All areas of the island not within the quadrilateral trace of the American Fort Hamilton were within the fort's fire zones and utilized as natural glacis for defensive purposes. Fort Hamilton was constructed on the site of French fortifications built on the island in 1780. The design of Fort Hamilton is an innovative product of the evolution of fortification engineering influenced by French military engineers between 1780 and 1820.

Narragansett Bay was considered by military strategists to be one of the two most important harbors for military purposes on the Atlantic coast. Fort Hamilton was designed by a noted French engineer and United States Army officer, Major Anne Louis de Tousard. Although the fort was never fully completed during the period of significance, nor made operational, the primary design components were built and survive with considerable integrity and demonstrate the work of a noted professional defense strategist of the 18th century. These design elements display a large and highly sophisticated quadrilateral fortification with two angular bastions and two circular or tower bastions. The latter were innovative for the period and represent the most advanced French engineering at the time; predating by a decade the use of circular fortification design in Second System construction elsewhere. The circular bastions are unique survivals of French military engineering from the period.

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During its first period of significance, 1778-1820, Rose Island was developed as a fortified place by two successive forces with designs by French engineers. Prior to this period, the first known defensive use of the island occurred following the British occupation of Newport and the East Passage. A small semi-circular British battery, possibly with earthen rampart walls, was built prior to August 8, 1778, on the western shore of the island north of Fort Hamilton's northwestern circular bastion on a rock outcropping. No evidence of this battery remains.

Upon the arrival of the French fleet off Newport in 1778, British forces abandoned defensive positions within Narragansett Bay and on Rose Island. British forces later peacefully abandoned Newport in 1779.

Following French arrival in Newport in 1780, a program to integrate defensive positions for Newport and the East Passage of the Bay was initiated. A large irregular quadrilateral fort of earthworks was built at Rose Island during this period by the French. Other defensive positions included fortifications on Brenton Point, the Dumplings, North Point, and Goat Island. Within this system, ships entering the Bay through the East Passage would be subjected to crossfire. Design of these defenses under General Rochambeau was largely, with the exception of Rose Island, a strengthening of fortifications already developed by Colonial and British forces. Rose Island, however, took on greater importance as a defensive position. Prior to the arrival of the French fleet, the British battery on Rose Island did not effectively guard against invasion from the north. Significantly under Rochambeau, the irregular Rose Island fortification maintained a defensive position to the north as well as to the west and south. These earlier French fortifications served as a foundation for the primary development of Fort Hamilton between 1798 and 1800.

With the embarkation of French forces from Newport to Yorktown in 1781, all of the Narragansett Bay and Newport Harbor defenses developed in the previous year were transferred to American revolutionary forces. These fortifications and defensive positions were maintained at a minimal level until the area was threatened by French and later British aggression in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

In 1794, French engineer Stephen Rochefontaine was hired by the American government to design and build the first comprehensive coastal defense network of fortifications and batteries on the Atlantic coast, the so-called First System Atlantic Coastal Defenses Phase I. Narragansett Bay fortifications developed during this period included Goat Island (Fort Washington), a blockhouse on Tonomy Hill and a battery at Howlands Ferry.

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Within five years these fortifications, however, were viewed as inadequate.

In the 1798-1800 period, the United States government initiated development of the second phase of the comprehensive coastal defense network of fortifications and batteries on the Atlantic coast. Major Anne Louis de Tousard was hired to design and implement this second phase of First System fortifications for Narragansett Bay, including the first Fort Adams, fortifications at North Point and Goat Island, a novel elliptical casemated tower fort at the Dumplings, and Fort Hamilton on Rose Island, with its two innovative circular tower bastions.

Prior to initiating the second phase First System work, Tousard had received extensive experience in designing fortifications with the French army (possibly under the Chevalier de Chastellux at Newport) and later under American sponsorship in the development of fortifications at Fort McHenry, Fort Mifflin and West Point. Tousard (1749-1817) graduated from the Artillery School at Strasbourg (Austria) and was commissioned in the French army as a second lieutenant in the Royal Artillery Corps in 1769. Tousard was recruited for the American army during the Revolution by Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane. Failing to win a Congressionally-appointed rank as promised, he joined Lafayette as an aide following his arrival in New Hampshire in 1777. Tousard's American military career included action at Brandywine, Germantown, and the Battle of Rhode Island. Whether or not he assisted Rochambeau and Chastellux with designing fortifications in Narragansett Bay is conjecture. In 1784 Tousard was made a member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

Tousard's involvement with fortification design included the publication of the American Artillerist's Companion which he began in 1795 at George Washington's suggestion. The two volume work was printed in 1809 with a third volume of plates. Several chapters are devoted to fortification design including coastal fortifications and batteries. Others promote the latest theory in defense and siege warfare, including a chapter on the teachings of widely respected experts in the field, e.g., Vauban, Montalembert, among others. Significantly Tousard was conversant in the theoretical and practical aspects of the use of artillery, the latest technological advances in design of weapons and their installation on-board ship, in field locations and in permanent fortifications and batteries. He promoted knowledge of the ricocheting and shot-skipping effect of water in the design of coastal forts. He advocated the use of easily deployed gun boats to supplement the fire power of defensive coastal positions, and was an early proponent of circular casemated fortifications

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and the installation of defensive guns en barbette. Tousard was also an advocate for fortification design which compartmentalized areas of defense and allowed for bastions to be controlled from elevated positions within the fortification in case of capture by the enemy. All of these advancements in fortification and defensive design appear to have been incorporated in Tousard's design for the second phase First System work at Newport, including Fort Hamilton on Rose Island. These innovations proceeded Second System development in circular casemated coastal defensive fortifications (known as castles) designed by army engineer Jonathan Williams nearly a decade later. Examples of castle forts include Castle Williams, Castle Gansevoort, Castle Clinton, and Castle Pinckney. These fortifications were developed in the 1807-1810 period as part of the Second System.

Tousard's design of the elliptical Dumplings battery and the circular bastion towers at Fort Hamilton were innovative for the period. The Dumplings tower was designed to mount eight heavy cannons in crossfire with Tousard's Fort Adams on Brenton Point. Half of the tower's guns were mounted in casemates, half were mounted above en barbette. Any enemy vessel entering the East Passage en route to Newport or up the Bay would have to pass under these fortifications encountering the crossfire. If an enemy vessel managed to continue north it would encounter deadly crossfire from Fort Adams and Fort Hamilton. This interlinked and orchestrated defensive sweep of the navigable waters was supplemented by additional crossfire from Tousard-designed fortifications at Goat Island (Fort Wolcott), Brenton's Point (Fort Adams) and North Point (Fort Greene). In addition, gunboats could be located between Fort Wolcott, Fort Adams and Fort Hamilton to augment the fire power for additional strategic protection of Newport Harbor. The use of gunboats follows earlier French strategies and contemporary French defensive engineering promoted by Tousard.

Construction of Fort Hamilton appears to have ended by 1801 following resolution of the French conflict. Subsequent inventories reported through the next decade indicate that Fort Hamilton was nearly completed but not armed. It was designed for the installation of at least seventy (70) cannon. The stone and brick masonry, bombproof barracks building (of sufficient size for 300 men) was completed, except for the sod-work roof. An 1811 report indicates that two wooden, 29'x 25' buildings for officer's quarters existed, but no store house or magazine had been constructed. The fort was surveyed in 1819 by Guillaume Tell Poussin. This survey gives a fairly accurate indication of the full development of the fort. From this period onward, further development of the Tousard-designed Narragansett Bay fortifications had been abandoned in favor of extensive enlargements of

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Fort Adams designed by Simon Bernard, another French engineer employed by the United States government to design and implement the Third System of coastal fortifications. With the exception of use as a quarantine hospital in the 1820s, Fort Hamilton remained largely untouched through the early to mid-19th century.

In 1869, the Rose Island Lighthouse was built on the southwest tower bastion, the bastion being utilized as a foundation base. The lighthouse is entered on the National Register within the context of lights on Narragansett Bay (see thematic nomination, 2/25/88).

In the 1880s and 90s, Rose Island was used for the storage of munitions. From 1880 through World War II, the island was utilized as a storage dump for explosives and as a torpedo warhead arming facility for the Naval Torpedo Station at Goat Island.

Of Newport Harbor's First System fortifications, only Rose Island's Fort Hamilton is extant. Fort Adams on Brenton Point was completely demolished in the early to mid-19th century and the Third System fortification, also named Fort Adams, was constructed on the site. The Dumplings tower was used for Fort Adams' target practice in the mid-19th century and was dynamited by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1898. Goat Island's Fort Wolcott became the site of the Navy's early to mid-20th century Torpedo Station and building materials from the Fort were used in the construction of new buildings for the Station. In 1976, the City of Newport's Redevelopment Agency cleared the site for the construction of housing. Fort Greene, on the North Point battery site, was filled-in the late 19th century and converted for public use as Battery Park.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes all of the geographical limits of Rose Island to mean low water. Rose Island is located in the East Passage of lower Narragansett Bay approximately one mile northwest of Newport Harbor.

Justification

The property boundaries described as the entire area of Rose Island include the area of significance for the function of Fort Hamilton as a defensive fortification. In this regard, Rose Island is considered a fortified place.

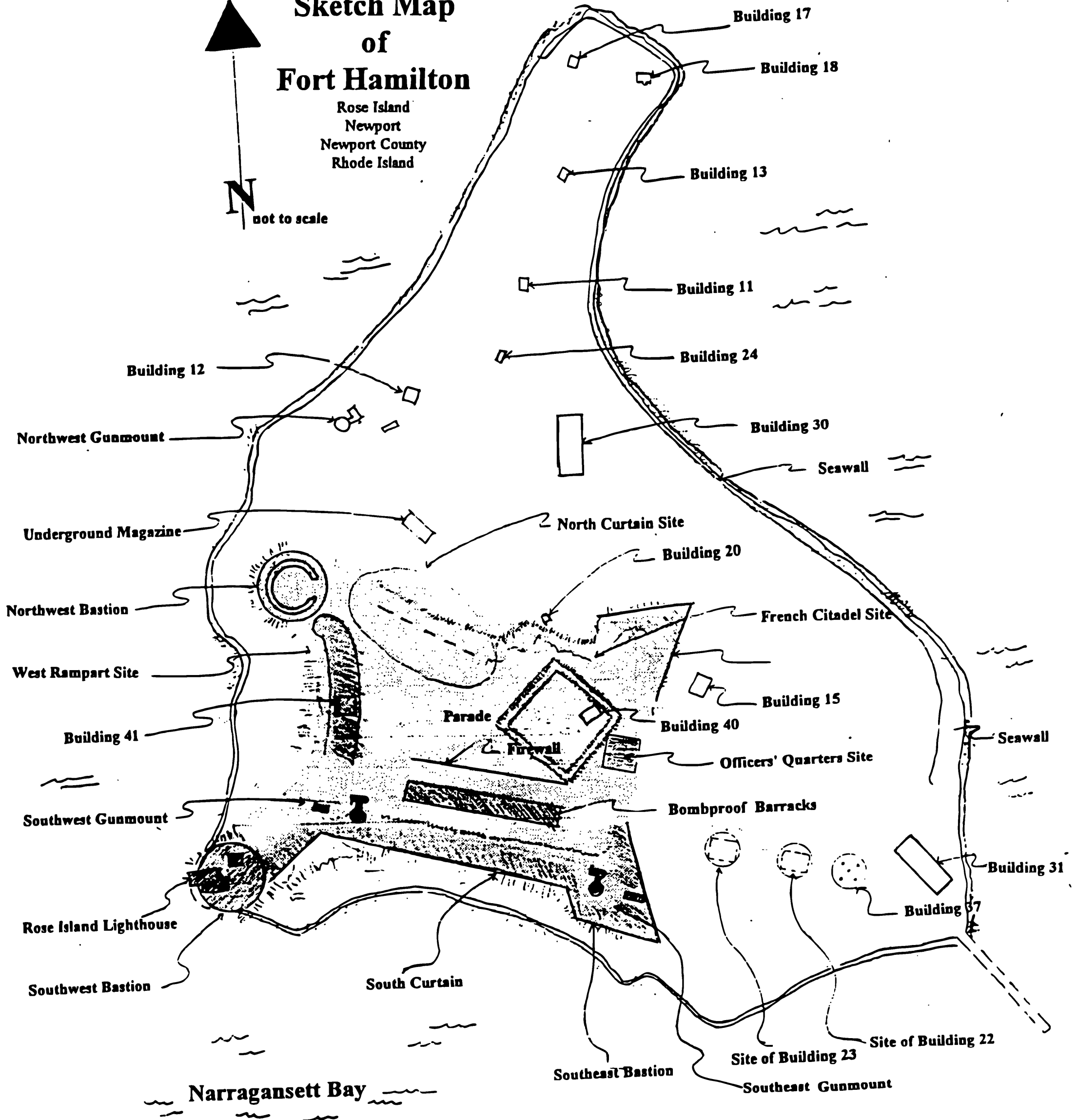
Sketch Map of Fort Hamilton

Rose Island
Newport
Newport County
Rhode Island



N

not to scale



Map drawn by Newport Collaborative Architects, Inc. December 1994

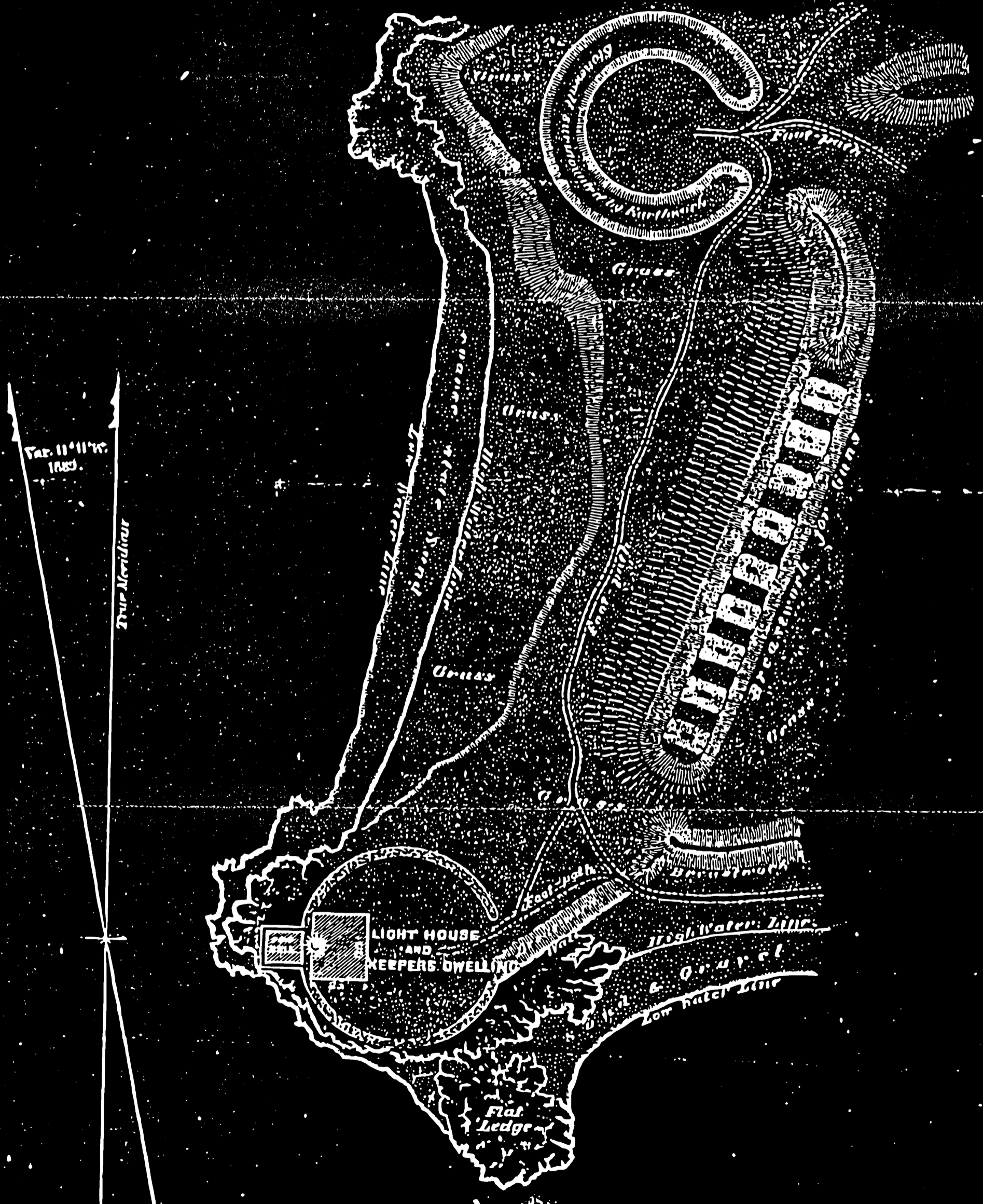
ROSE ISLAND

LIGHT STATION,

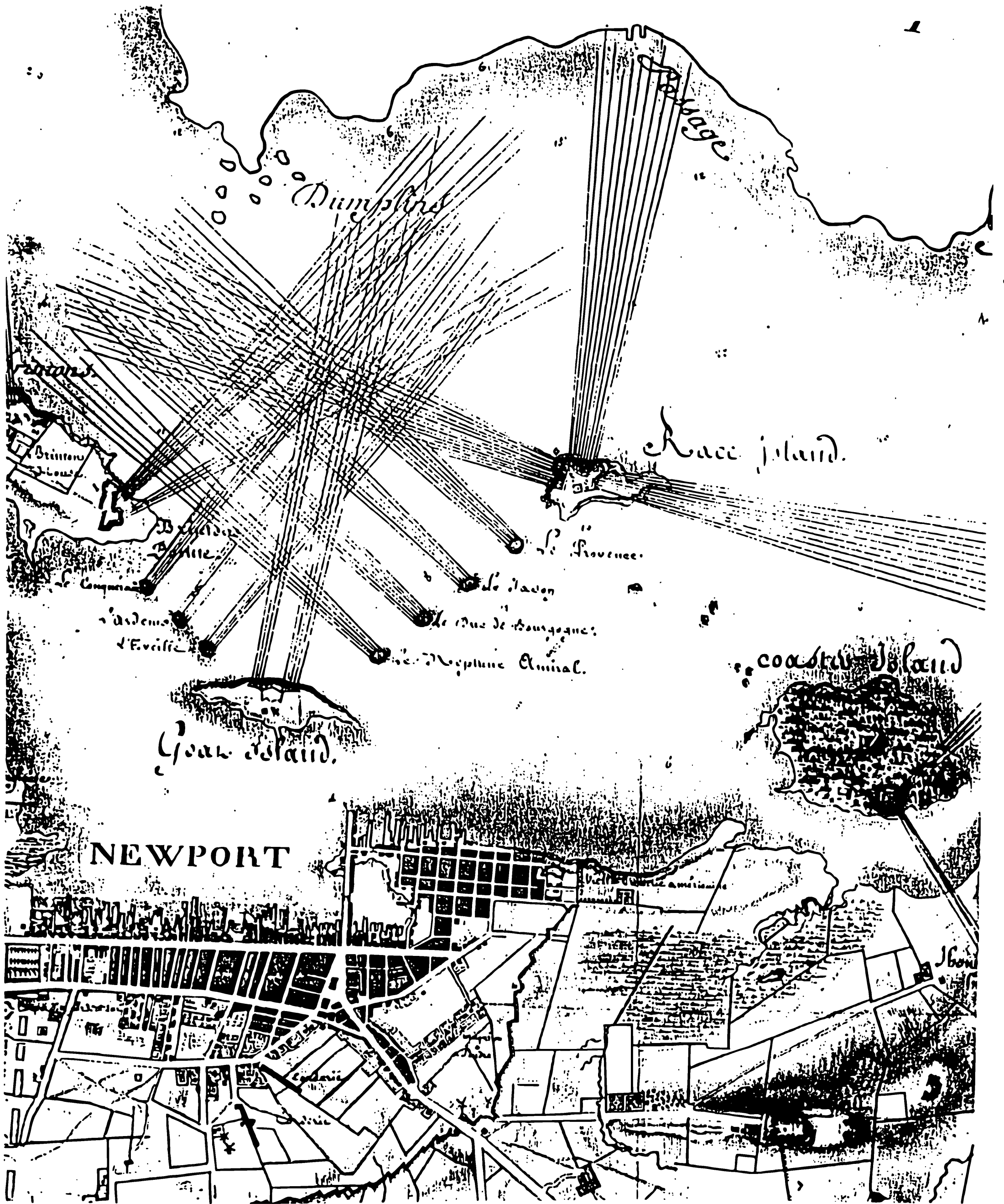
R.I.

Surveyed March 6th 1869 by H. v. Bayer

Scale, $\frac{1}{800}$



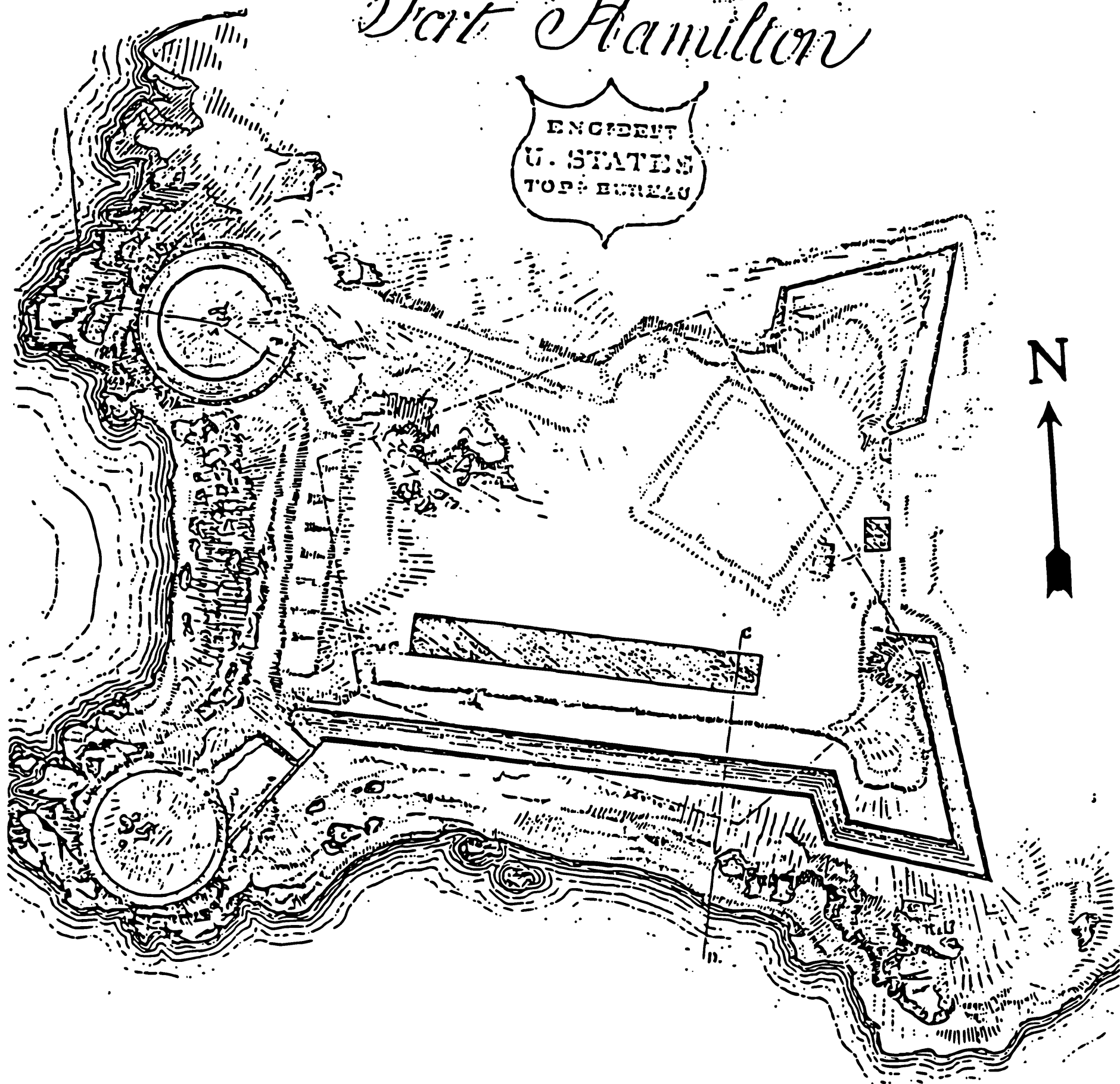
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Rose Island
Fort Hamilton

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WICKFORD
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Fort Hamilton H.D.
Newport County
Rhode Island

- A 19-304550-4596560
- B 19-304740-4596160
- C 19-304380-4596160
- D 19-304400-4596380

