

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JAN 7 1976  
DATE ENTERED MAY 3 1976

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

**\*\*** HISTORIC *Mr*  
Fort Flagler  
AND/OR COMMON

Fort Flagler Historic District

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*SE of Port Townsend on narrow island. Inland*

CITY, TOWN

Port Townsend

VICINITY OF

#3 - Honorable Don L. Bonker

STATE

Washington

CODE

53

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

031

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 1128

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

VICINITY OF

STATE

Washington 98504

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Jefferson and Cass Streets

CITY, TOWN

Port Townsend

STATE

Washington

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Olympia

STATE

Washington 98504

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Flagler was an element of the tripartite defensive scheme designed for the protection of Puget Sound following the publication in 1885 of Secretary of War Endicott's recommendation for a national fortification program. Flagler, in combination with Fort Worden (National Register) and Fort Casey (in the National Register as part of the Central Whidbey Island Historic District), comprised the strongest unit of the Harbor Defenses of Puget Sound, a grouping of seacoast fortifications whose purpose was to deny enemy ships entrance to the waterway. The ships never came and Fort Flagler and its companion installations became significant as expressions of military architecture and political thought in the late 19th Century.

Fort Flagler occupies the entire northern tip of Marrowstone Island, a long land form about four miles southeast of Port Townsend and positioned almost centrally in Admiralty Inlet, the single navigable entrance to Puget Sound. The tip is also identified as Marrowstone Point. The Point consists of a flat and low lying sand spit covered with coarse grass and shrubs; immediately behind the low area, prominent bluffs rise 100 feet above sea level. The bluffs are bare and display the hard cream colored earth which George Vancouver, exploring the area in 1792, called "marrow stone". The entire reservation of Fort Flagler occupied some 775 acres although this nomination is for approximately 380 acres, an area which encompasses the extent of structures at the post; the balance of the property is largely forest land and unused historically for any identified purpose. Except for those segments of the property occupied by structures, and in the low Marrowstone Point area, the entire reservation is covered with a dense growth of fir, cedar and hemlock. The Marrowstone Lighthouse and its associated reservation do not form a part of this nomination since the property has been nominated to the National Register through the Executive Order process.

The construction of Fort Flagler produced two forms of building: fortifications and their auxiliary parts and the second form, living facilities for the men stationed at the post. The fortifications remain largely intact although the barracks, Officers Quarters and many other structures have been removed. Sufficient structures remain, however, to demonstrate the appearance of the fort shortly after the accommodations were built in 1904-05.

Single rows of frame structures faced the trapezoidal parade ground on its north, south and west boundaries, the eastern margin of the parade ground being delineated by the bluff line. Officers Row was placed on the north side of the parade ground and consisted of seven buildings, two of which were duplexes. The two-story homes had a similar appearance and architectural treatment: palladian windows, decorated chimneys, cross-gabled roofs, boxed cornices with returns, spacious cut-stone basements, pillared verandas, clapboard siding and slate roofs. On the west were three sets of U-shaped barracks, again two stories high with cut stone basements and slate roofs. Decorative details were similar to the officers quarters. An Administration Building, a Post Exchange and several other buildings were also sited near the parade ground.

Following World War I, Fort Flagler was virtually abandoned and occupied by only a small caretaking detachment. The unused buildings gradually fell into decay and were removed in the mid-1930's. With the advent of World War II, new buildings were erected on the sites of the old. When the post again fell into disuse in the 1950's,

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many of these replacement structures were removed; a map of the district appended to the nomination indicates the surviving structures and the dates of their construction.

The surviving structures to the north and west of the parade ground are typical of military construction in the 1940's. The buildings are simple frame constructions with post and block foundations and gable roofs with asphalt shingles, uniformly painted a cream color. Buildings T-107, T-108 and T-109 are two stories in height with large rectangular windows placed one above the other around the facade. Rafters project about two feet beyond the wall plane but the roof terminates at each gable end. They were built as barracks and Building T-161, built as an Officers Quarters, is quite similar in appearance although dimensionally much longer. The balance of the buildings are all single story with rectangular window openings placed well under the eave line; windows are double hung with six lights over six. Their roof treatment, cladding and exterior finish are identical with the barracks building described above. The use of the surviving single story structures built during this period was varied: Buildings T-141 and T-142 were recreation units to serve the now demolished barracks which lay to the north and south, as was Building T-144; Buildings T-131 and T-132 were small supply warehouses; others were used as mess halls (T-132), warehouses (T-157), a dispensary (T-151) and firehall (8).

Technically the newer military constructions are to be classified as intrusions although their color, materials and placement in regard to the extent of open space available, minimize their impact on the original buildings.

With the exception of one warehouse (Building 7) and the quarters for the constructing engineers (Buildings 66 and T-67), all the remaining frame structures from the original period lay south of the parade ground. These buildings comprise the structures of note from the many built for the use of the troops when the post was originally conceived. Three sets of Non-commissioned Officers Quarters (Buildings 20, 37 and 19), a smaller Hospital Steward's Quarters (Building 23), the Hospital itself (Building 39), a variety of Quartermaster Warehouses (Buildings 41, 36 and 16) and miscellaneous other structures (Artificers Shop, Building 27; Stable, Building 29; Root House, Building 47) still suffice to indicate the appearance of the post prior to the extensive demolition of the 1930's.

- ✓ The Hospital is the grandest structure on the post. It is scaled a full two-and-a-half stories tall with a gable slate roof penetrated by large dormers placed on either side of the gable. A large chimney stack rises predominantly from the west side and the ridge is capped with a drum-shaped ventilator. Extending from the west side of the building mass is a long narrow ward, a single story in height with a hipped roof and two dormers on either side of the roof slope which function as cross gables. On the ridge line, which intersects the main building

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just below its cornice, are two more drum-shaped ventilators. A veranda completely surrounds the ward and brings the extension flush with the wall plane of the large building. The building was not long used as a hospital and as a consequence its interior has been adapted over the years to a variety of other purposes, although original trim and fireplaces seem to have survived in most rooms. Tile-floored spaces designed as operating rooms still can be seen in the basement.

The Non-commissioned Officers Quarters are virtually identical, standing two stories high with cross gabled roofs, two decorated chimneys straddling the main roof ridge and slate shingles. Double windows are set in the front and rear gables, column supported one-story porches extend across the front facades and single story enclosed porches extend across the rear of the houses. All the window openings are rectangular and because the houses are duplexes, there are two doorways in the front and rear facades. Building 37, built somewhat later than Buildings 19 and 20, differs only slightly in that it has as additional architectural detail plain boxed cornices with returns where the others have scroll-sawn rafter ends. The Hospital Stewards Quarters is similar in appearance except that it is smaller since it was to be a single family residence and has a gable roof; it too has scroll sawn rafter ends. All these structures are currently used as dwellings by park personnel and have changed little over the years; Building 19 has been converted to a single family residence by penetrating interior partitions in the kitchen area although the alteration is not apparent on the exterior.

The warehouse and storage structures (Buildings 7, 41, 36 and 16) are similar in appearance with long rectangular plans, slate gable roofs with chimneys and ventilators placed on the ridge and loading docks. Single or double doors open on to the loading docks and the rectangular windows are covered with bars. The buildings rest on brick piers, although Building 36 rests on a brick foundation which forms a basement. This building also is somewhat taller than the others and has a central dormer; in place of a loading dock it has two large covered porches. These buildings are in good condition and are used for the storage of park supplies; a small room in one end of Building 36 is used for an interpretive display about the fort.

The oldest buildings on the post were built in 1897 for the engineer party designing the fortifications and supervising their construction. Buildings 66 and T-67 are small square frame structures with pyramidal cedar shingle roofs and clad with drop siding of two different widths, probably a function of the availability of materials rather than any considered design. They are still in use as occasional residences and are in good condition.

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The remaining structures are of random design and appearance. The Artificer's Shop (Building 27) is a small gable roofed structure with slate shingles and a single stack chimney with decorative cap set on the west side. It is covered with narrow clapboards and has a loading dock running across the south gable end; double doors surmounted by a transom window open on to the dock. Primary access to the building is through a single door in the east facade. The building is now used as the park office. The Stable (Building 29) is a simple shed roofed building of drop siding punctuated on the west side with three sliding rectangular doors located equally across the facade; air circulation is provided by a vent covering the length of the west face just below the eave line. The Root Cellar (Building 47) is a concrete structure set into the ground with about two feet extending above the ground line. It has a low gable roof and small air vents on the longer sides of the building.

Of the remaining original buildings, the Hospital, Steward's Quarters, Non-commissioned Officers Quarters and Quartermaster Warehouse (Building 36) are primary structures. The balance are to be considered secondary but the overall impression conveyed by the structures south of the parade ground is one of unity and harmony of design and materials.

About one-quarter mile north of the post living area and arching to the west is a series of fortifications mounting the various calibers of cannon that were once the reason for the fort's existence. All of the batteries at Fort Flagler are of concrete poured in monolithic blocks of up to 15 feet in thickness. The concrete was prepared at the post in a batching plant and delivered to the individual sites by small rail car.

Most batteries built during the Endicott program are invisible from the sea although very noticeable from the rear because of the prominent vertical face. Most of the batteries at Fort Flagler are of this type, but with one notable exception. The main gun battery, composed of six interconnected emplacements for 10-inch and 12-inch guns mounted on barbette carriages, about 1,000 feet long, was sunk deep into the earth and was hardly visible from the rear as well as the seaward face. Access to the interior rooms was only by stairways or ladders leading about 20 feet below the ground surface. The gun positions themselves are marked by level areas for the maneuvering of the ammunition trucks and raised platforms for the gun carriages themselves. Individual emplacements are connected by long walkways through the traverse.

Other batteries at Fort Flagler are more conventional. Batteries Calwell and Grattan, mounting four and two six-inch guns on disappearing carriages respectively, are typical examples of the standard 1903 design for such batteries. Battery Calwell is about 400 feet long and Battery Grattan half that size; each is about 12 feet

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high from the battery parade to the interior crest. An earthen traverse separates each gun. A magazine is located between each two gun positions and the truck platform is separated from the loading platform by a small banquette. Battery Bankhead was constructed for eight 12-inch mortars, four placed in each of two U-shaped pits, about 50 feet wide and 100 feet deep. The pits are sunk into the side of a hill and are separated by a high earthen traverse about 200 feet wide. The sides of each pit are about 12 feet high and serve as a retaining wall for the traverse. Within the traverse and following the interior perimeter of the pit are ammunition storage spaces. Entrance to these spaces is by two large iron doors located on each side of the pit. Battery Lee was designed for two five-inch guns on balanced pillar mounts. It is about 100 feet long and about seven feet high. An iron collar from the gun carriage remains set in concrete at each gun position. The working platform is level with battery parade and extends to the rear of the traverse and connects both gun positions. In the rear of the traverse, stairways lead down to ammunition storage rooms. Batteries Wansboro and Downse are the smallest batteries at the post and were designed to mount two three-inch guns each. They are identical in design and are representative of the 1903 type battery for guns of three-inch caliber. They are about 75 feet long and 12 feet high. The gun positions are marked by a series of short stairways leading down to the battery parade. The traverse is covered with earth and the rear wall of the battery has three sets of double doors leading to interior storage rooms.

The artillery service of the weapons mounted in the emplacements required a position finding service to accurately locate targets as well as a method of illuminating the potential battlefield at night. Buildings 222, 224 and 225 represent forms of fire control structures and searchlight installations. The fire control installations are small buildings with a slit window for an observation instrument; built of concrete, they are set into the earth almost to the roof line. The searchlight shelter is a small concrete structure with a pair of large iron doors which lead out to a set of narrow gauge railroad tracks. The searchlight, five feet in diameter and mounted on a cart, would roll out on these tracks to its operating position. Two additional searchlight positions were located in tunnels beneath Battery Lee and a third was added during a modernization program in the early 1940's.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Flagler is a representative of the United States' first truly national defense program and an excellent example of the nature of military architecture in the 1890's.

The United States had been protected by coastal fortifications since colonial times but no fortification program had ever been so vast, so expensive and so technically complex as the one initiated in the last part of the 19th Century. Little had been done in the way of fixed defense since the Civil War. Even the largest port cities were still protected by muzzle loading cannon in earth and stone works. Designed to combat wooden sailing vessels, these weapons could not hope to penetrate the iron hulls of the new armored warships which were propelled by steam and mounted steel breech loading cannon. In response to the glaring inadequacy of America's defense, a board was formed to plan a new system of fortification. Its report, published in 1885, called for steel weapons to be installed in heavy concrete emplacements. The program was new in concept and design, so new that some of the weapons were yet to be perfected. It took 20 years of continuous construction for the program to be completed; but by 1915 the United States and its key possessions were defended by one of the most novel and thorough fortification systems ever developed.

Construction began at Fort Flagler in 1897 with work on the main battery (later named Batteries Revere, Wilhelm and Rawlins) and Battery Lee. The emplacements of the main battery were designed for barbette carriages rather than disappearing carriages as was more usual for the mounting of heavy guns, the height of the site being a major determinant. As a result, Fort Flagler and adjacent Fort Worden became the only fortification in the system where 10-inch guns were mounted on such carriages. Also unusual was that the carriages for the 12-inch guns of Battery Wilhelm were of French manufacture and imported to this country in the early 1890's when the ordnance for the fortification was being designed. Called the altered gun lift, it was designed to raise the cannon vertically from behind a protective parapet, although it was modified to more conventional service when the original scheme proved unworkable. The main battery is also unusual in that it is very well hidden, rather than exposed at the rear as was typical. Probably the reason for this was a desire to obtain a "horizontal crest," or an unbroken line, across the row of emplacements which would reduce the visibility from the seaward side. Apparently, because the battery occupied the highest piece of ground at the site which would normally be reserved for position finding instruments, it was set into the earth to permit the position finding stations, raised on towers to the rear, an adequate view of the water area to be defended.

Each battery was conceived to combat a particular class of warships and was positioned on the reservation to best achieve the purpose. Smaller weapons would fire on

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lewis, E. R. Seacoast Fortifications Of The United States, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington: 1970.

Fortification Activation Files, RG 77, National Archives and Records Service.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 380

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,0</u>	<u>5,2,3,4,0,0</u>	<u>5,3,2,7,6,5,0</u>	B	<u>1,0</u>	<u>5,2,3,4,0,0</u>	<u>5,3,2,6,2,8,0</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u>1,0</u>	<u>5,2,1,7,5,0</u>	<u>5,3,2,6,2,8,0</u>	D	<u>1,0</u>	<u>5,2,1,7,5,0</u>	<u>5,3,2,7,6,5,0</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David M. Hansen, Chief, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

November 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 1128

(206) 753-4117

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Olympia

Washington 98504

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE     

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Arthur M. Sholik*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

December 19, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

*[Signature]*

DATE

5/3/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

DATE

5.3.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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lighter vessels and so on until the heavy mortar batteries and 12" cannon would engage capital ships. Construction was completed by 1910 with the installation of the fort's searchlight system.

As the defense of Puget Sound was originally conceived, Fort Flagler was to serve as headquarters and as a central point from which troops would be dispatched to outlying fortifications. However, all posts were initially garrisoned and Fort Flagler proved to be too isolated to administer the other installations effectively. At an early date, Fort Worden was designated as the harbor defense headquarters.

The fort served as a garrison post until World War I when major emphasis changed to training heavy artillery troops for duty in Europe. In a companion move, the total armament was reduced: the six-inch guns of Batteries Calwell and Grattan were dismounted for use as seige artillery, four mortars of Battery Bankhead were removed for installation on railway carriages and the guns and mounts of Battery Lee were relocated to Westport, a small town at the entrance to Grays Harbor on the Pacific Coast. With its armament depleted, the fort was little used until the advent of World War II when it was reactivated. The remaining weapons were removed in the early 1940's and following World War II the entire installation used as a training facility for an amphibious engineer unit until 1952. In 1955, it was declared surplus and acquired by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission.

The efforts to establish Fort Flagler and the construction of extensive facilities there are indicative of the efforts of Congress in the last part of the 1890's to provide the nation's most important harbors with defenses strong enough to resist a foreign navy. Although never used in the role for which they were designed, the fortifications served as insurance in the steam era prior to the development of air power.