NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1025

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fort Caswell Historic District, 31BW801**

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 100 Caswell Beach Road N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Caswell Beach ☒ vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Brunswick code 019 zip code 28465

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kevin Cherry, SHPO 11/12/13
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ 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:)

Signature of the Keeper: for Edson H. Beall
Date of Action: 12.31.13

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
- ☒ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
43	16	buildings
1	0	sites
23	9	structures
0	0	objects
67	25	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DEFENSE/fortification
DEFENSE/military facility
DEFENSE/arms storage
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC/institutional housing
HEALTHCARE/hospital
LANDSCAPE/other/parade ground

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/camp
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC/institutional housing
RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium
RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility
TRANSPORTATION/water-related
LANDSCAPE/plaza

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne
LATE 19th & EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/
Colonial Revival
NO STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls WOOD/Weatherboard
Brick
roof Asphalt
other Brick
Reinforced Concrete

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
ARCHAEOLOGY
ENGINEERING
MILITARY

Period of Significance

1838; 1898-ca. 1941 (architecture)
1827-ca. 1948 (archaeology)
1838; 1896-1899; 1901-1905 (engineering)
1838-1948 (military)

Significant Dates

1838

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps
Bernard, Simon (designer of Fort Caswell)

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 760 acres (including extension into river and ocean and discontiguous parcel)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	774840	3753900
2	17	776020	3753120
3	17	776770	3754890
4	17	777040	3754100

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jennifer Martin Mitchell
organization MdM Historical Consultants Inc. date August 26, 2013
street & number Post Office Box 1399 telephone 919/368-1602
city or town Durham state NC zip code 27702

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
street & number 205 Convention Drive telephone 800-395-5102
city or town Cary state NC zip code 27511

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

6. Function or Use (continued)

Historic Functions
TRANSPORTATION/water-related
RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

Current Functions
DOMESTIC/camp

Narrative Description

Located at the southeast tip of Oak Island in Brunswick County, North Carolina, Fort Caswell Historic District (31BW801**) occupies a peninsula jutting into the confluence of the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean. The district's structures, buildings and one site are located on a boot-shaped landform that has been shaped by the elements—salt air, swift tides, and strong winds—and generations of military personnel who occupied this place. The district's boundary extends about .50 nautical miles into the Atlantic Ocean, to the south, and into the Cape Fear River, to the east, about halfway across the river between Fort Caswell and Bald Head Island. The boundaries take in those portions of the sea and river known to be associated with Fort Caswell's function as a guardian of blockade runners during the Civil War and its role in the monitoring of German submarines during World War II. Furthermore, the ocean and river are closely associated with the fort's establishment and significance under military history. Fort Caswell Historic District is a discontiguous district due to the presence of a well-preserved World War I-era rifle range, originally associated with Fort Caswell, which occupies a linear area, about an acre in length, located a little over two miles to the west-northwest of the west boundary of the main district.

Fort Caswell Historic District lies at the eastern terminus of the Town of Caswell Beach, a small coastal community with a population of fewer than 400. Fort Caswell Historic District is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the south and the Cape Fear River to the east and north. Caswell Basin, a small, roughly oval-shaped body of water, opens onto the Cape Fear River and is located on the north side of the peninsula containing the district. Bald Head Island is east-southeast and on the opposite side of the Cape Fear River.

Typical of coastal southeastern North Carolina, the topography of the site is flat and generally at about ten feet above sea level. Grass covers most of the parcel, although Yaupon trees, live oaks, and landscape trees, mostly palms, are found throughout the district. The most dramatic tree canopy is

found on the northern and eastern edges of the central grounds where live oaks on both sides of a paved walkway create an allee.

A relatively wide sandy beach extends along the southern boundary and follows the curve of the peninsula to the southeast continuing along the eastern border, and ending at the pier on the east side of the property. Sand dunes, some covered with Yaupon, beach grass, Gaillardia (Indian Blanket), and sea oats, are landward of the beach and provide Fort Caswell with protection from the Atlantic Ocean. At the western end of the district, the dune area is approximately 200 feet wide from north to south. At its widest, at the southeast corner of the property, the dune area measures nearly 1,200 feet from the sea wall, where the dunes begin, to the beach. The Cape Fear River flows along the district's eastern shore and north of the landform where it is flanked by saltmarsh.

The ninety-one buildings and structures and one site in the Fort Caswell Historic District reflect its transformation from a military outpost, begun in the early nineteenth century, to a religious retreat center and camp started in the mid-twentieth century, a function it retains to the present. Construction of Fort Caswell, the earliest standing resource, began in 1827. The year prior, storehouses, workshops, and barracks for workers who were to construct the fort were erected but none survive. Over the course of the next 162 years, seven reinforced concrete batteries—used for the placement of armament—a military hospital, barracks, officers' dwellings, support buildings, and recreational buildings were constructed to accommodate soldiers, and later, after the district became a camp and retreat center in the mid-twentieth-century, generations of North Carolinians seeking recreation and fellowship.

Built resources are scattered throughout the district. The original fortification and batteries extend along the southern portion of the district and, not surprisingly, are the historic structures closest to the shoreline they were built to defend. Domestic buildings occupy three sites in the district. The ten quarters (ca. 1900-ca. 1911) built for officers are arranged in a row on the northwest, north, and northeast sides of the large grass-covered and tree-lined parade ground at the center of the complex. Four noncommissioned officers' quarters (1898 and 1905) are located at the northern tip of the peninsula and overlook the Cape Fear River. Three large barracks (1901 and 1909) arranged in a row face south toward Battery Swift. Two extensive groupings contain support buildings. One assemblage is located immediately north and east of the barracks, and includes the former bathroom/shower house (ca. 1910; 1980), post exchange (1905), gymnasium (1943), bowling alley (ca. 1917), and mess halls (ca.1942; 1905). The other collection is on the northeast tip of the peninsula and includes the fire house (ca. 1905), workshop (ca. 1905), torpedo shed (ca. 1900), Quartermaster Stable (ca. 1901; ca. 1945), ordnance storage (1901), commissary storehouse (ca. 1905), bakery (ca. 1917), hospital

(1998), administration building (1899), and guardhouse (1899). A ca. 1940 pier, located at the site of the earliest wharf, extends off the north-northeast tip of the peninsula and historically—before the construction of the paved road on Oak Island in 1939—was the main point for those arriving and departing Fort Caswell. The brick remnants of former cisterns that date to the late nineteenth century are scattered throughout Fort Caswell Historic District but typically stand close to the district's historic buildings and structures from which rain water was collected to fill the structures. Water was hand pumped from the cisterns for use by families and soldiers. The most intact are the nine brick and cement cisterns that stand in a row along the north side of Battery Bagley. They are round, above-ground, circular structures with conical tops that have been parged with cement. The 1918 rifle range is discontiguous with the rest of the district and lies just over two miles to the west-northwest of the main district.

Since its purchase of the property in 1949, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has constructed several buildings, all dating outside the period of significance.[1] The Convention has taken great care, when possible, to construct modern buildings in a style and form compatible with Fort Caswell's historic resources. Among the modern buildings and structures are the guardhouse (ca. 1980), dining hall (1978), swimming pools complex (1968), miniature golf course (ca. 1985), Hatch Auditorium (1968), a classroom building (1987), Redwine Cottage (1986), Smith Conference Center (1989), and the Oceana Hotel (ca. 1965). While these resources are noncontributing, their construction proved necessary in order for the Baptist State Convention to operate Fort Caswell as a retreat center and camp. Additionally, since its purchase in the mid-twentieth century, the Convention has acted as an effective steward of the property by maintaining, repairing, and restoring its historic resources when possible.

Of the district's 92 resources, 43 are contributing buildings and 16 are noncontributing buildings. Twenty-three structures are contributing and 9 are noncontributing. The ca. 1900 parade ground, a contributing resource, is noted as a site within the district. The Fort Caswell Historic District is also considered a single archaeological site and is a contributing resource. The North Carolina archaeological site number for Fort Caswell is 31BW801**.

Brick and concrete compose Fort Caswell and the batteries built around the turn of the twentieth century, while the overwhelming majority of district's other buildings constructed during the period of significance are weatherboard. Only four buildings are brick: the ca. 1900 torpedo shed, the ca. 1905 firehouse, and the two single officers' quarters from 1911. Remains of brick bordered cisterns

[1] Brunswick County deed book 97, page 633: United States of America acting by and through and the General Services Administration to the Trustees of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina Inc., September 27, 1949.

that supplied water remain throughout the district. Originally, all the historic buildings had brick chimneys, most of which have been removed above the roofline. Nearly all of buildings rest on brick foundations with the remaining sitting on concrete slabs. While nearly all buildings have replacement windows, the overwhelming majority retains original doors and porch elements, including balustrades, posts, columns, and pilasters.

Inventory

Resources in the following inventory are numbered sequentially and those numbers are keyed to the site map. Modern names, where they exist, are provided in parentheses after the historic name or function. Auxiliary buildings or structures are not assigned numbers but are listed after the principal resource they accompany.

The inventory for the historic district begins at the west end of the property, the location of the modern guardhouse, and proceeds in an eastwardly direction. After the resources in the eastern area of the district are described, the buildings and structures arranged around the parade grounds are presented in a roughly counter-clockwise order beginning at the southwest corner of the grounds. The one discontiguous resource, the rifle range, is listed last in the inventory. Each resource is designated as either contributing or noncontributing. Contributing resources date to within the period of significance and retain requisite integrity of materials, setting, feeling, association, location, workmanship, and design. A resource whose date of construction falls outside the period of significance is classified as noncontributing. All resources dating to the period of significance are contributing.

1. Modern Guardhouse
Ca. 1980
Noncontributing Building

The small, one-story, weatherboard, hip-roofed, rectangular building rests on a concrete block foundation topped with a smooth concrete slab. Square wood posts support an open recessed porch on the west (front elevation) that shelters a single-leaf door. A pent roof with curved eave brackets extends along the west end of the porch roof. The slab foundation extends westward to form a raised floor for the porch. Replacement slider windows pierce the north and south (side) elevations. Paved lanes—one for the entrance and the other for the exit— flank each side of the guardhouse. This is at least the third guard house located at the site. It is likely the first one was constructed with the completion of the road on Oak Island in 1939.

2. Entrance Gates
Ca. 1965
Noncontributing Structures (2)

A pair of curvilinear concrete block walls flanks the entrance and exit lanes on each side of the gatehouse. The walls are approximately five feet tall with square openings forming a checkerboard pattern. Square concrete block end posts with square caps occupy each end of the walls and are approximately six feet in height. Wooden swing gates with diagonal top rails are attached to the inner concrete posts closest to the guardhouse, and allow the entrance and exits lanes to be closed.

3. Battery Shipp
1898-1899, 1904-1905
Contributing Structure

Battery Shipp stands approximately eighty-three yards past the guardhouse on the south site of the main road into Fort Caswell Historic District. Built into the north side of a grass-covered parapet, Battery Shipp was built in two stages: the first gun emplacement is the easternmost and dates to 1898-1899; the second gun emplacement was added in 1904-1905. The reinforced concrete and masonry rubble structure is approximately 130 feet long from east to west and 35 feet from front to back (north to south). Red brick, rounded at the structure's corners, is used sparingly. Intact steel bolts anchored in the concrete held the two five-inch balanced-pillar guns in place. The guns remained until the battery was disarmed in 1919. Two magazines with steel around their doorframes are located on the lower level. The eastern magazine has one doorway, while the western has two; both openings lack a door and are on the north side of the structure.

Named for North Carolina First Lieutenant William E. Shipp, who was killed in the Battle of San Juan in Cuba during the Spanish-American War, this structure is an Endicott-era battery. In 1885 President Grover Cleveland formed a board made up of representatives from the Army and Navy, as well as two civilians, and headed by Secretary of War William C. Endicott. The Board of Fortifications, as it was known, published "Report of the Board on Fortifications or Other Defenses Appointed by the President of the United States." Among its findings was that United States coastal defenses were lacking and recommended a $127 million construction program for a series of new forts for the coast. Coastal fortifications built between 1885 and 1905 are often referred to as Endicott Period fortifications.

4. Battery Bagley
1898-1899
Contributing Structure

Battery Bagley stands approximately 165 yards east of Battery Shipp and is on the south side of the main road into Fort Caswell. Built into the north side of a tall parapet now covered in scrub oak and brush, this large concrete and masonry rubble structure features brick facing at the projecting entrances to its magazines, doorways, and some corners. Low-pitched, peaked parapets with decorative scoring on their faces mark the entrances to the magazines. The battery holds two large mortar pits (pit A to the west and pit B to the east), recesses that contained two sets of four 12-inch mortars. Intact steel bolts anchored in the concrete held the guns in place. The battery contains approximately thirteen rooms, including a commander's room with a red brick mantle, a latrine with metal pole framing and remnants of wood dividers intact, shell rooms, and power rooms. Some rooms are sheathed in wood and a few paneled wood interior doors remain. The concrete-sheathed brick chimney from the commander's room fireplace rises through the northwest end of the earthen parapet. A small, flat-roofed guardhouse with a doorway and window opening is attached to the south end of the northeast elevation on the ground level.

Concrete stairs with metal pole railings above the magazines lead to the top of the parapet, which is now covered in low trees and dense brush. A concrete walkway with flanking concrete walls is located on top of the center of the parapet but elsewhere the paths are dirt and meander through the heavy vegetation.

Named for Ensign Worth Bagley, a Raleigh native and the only U. S. naval officer killed during the Spanish-American War, the structure, like Battery Shipp, was built following the recommendations of the Board of Fortifications headed by William C. Endicott. Battery Bagley was built to house eight mortars but only four were mounted. Legend has it that they built the mounts too close to the wall and therefore could not get the angle needed to fire the mortar.

Mortar Pit A Data Booth
1898-1899
Contributing Building

The small, one-story, square, reinforced concrete building stands on a concrete slab foundation and is topped with a flat, concrete slab roof. It is located just north of mortar pit B. A steel door on steel tracks is located on the northwest elevation. The south corner is beveled

and contains a high, square opening flanked by angled openings on the southwest and southeast elevations.

Mortar Pit B Data Booth
1898-1899
Contributing Building

The small, one-story, square, reinforced concrete building stands on a concrete slab foundation and is topped with a flat, concrete slab roof. It is located just north of mortar pit B. A steel door on steel tracks is located on the northwest elevation. The south corner is beveled and contains a high, square opening flanked by angled openings on the southwest and southeast elevations.

Upper Data Booth
1898-1899
Contributing Building

A small, low, flat-roofed concrete, free-standing data booth sits atop the parapet and contains a doorway on its northeast elevation and a horizontal observation slot on its southwest elevation; this slot continues to the southeast and northwest elevations.

Concrete Columns
1898-1899
Contributing Structures (2)

Two tapered concrete columns in front of the northeast end of the battery are the remains of an enclosed observation and plotting room. The columns had a building around them to observe activity at Batteries Bagley and Swift. The towers themselves were unmanned. Similar columns once stood behind Batteries McKavett and McDonough.

5. Swimming Pools Complex
1968
Noncontributing Structures (2)

The concrete lined swimming pool with a concrete deck stands about twenty yards east of Battery Bagley. An oval baby pool is northeast of the larger pool. Both pools are enclosed with a high chain-link fence.

Pool Utility Building
1968
Noncontributing Building

A small, one-story, shed-roofed, weatherboard building on a high concrete block foundation stands just off the southeast corner of the pool. One-over-one windows pierce the southwest and southeast elevations. A double-leaf door is located on the northeast elevation.

Pool Storage Building
1968
Noncontributing Building

A small, one-story, shed-roofed, weatherboard building on a slab foundation stands just east of the baby pool. One-over-one windows pierce its southeast, northeast, and southwest elevations. Single-leaf paneled wood doors are on the northwest and southwest elevations.

Pool House
1968
Noncontributing Building

The one-story, vertical-wood pool house rests on a concrete slab foundation and is topped with a low-pitched side-gable roof that extends to the northeast to crown an open-air shelter supported by round wooden posts. The pool house has rectangular windows set high on its northwest and southeast elevations and exposed rafter tails on those elevations. Doors are located on the northeast and southeast elevations.

6. Latrine (Reception)
Ca. 1910, 1980
Contributing Building

The one-story, stucco building is topped by a truncated and flared hipped roof with carved rafter tails. The single-light windows are replacements. Entry is on the south elevation through a centered molded recess. A double-leaf door is centered in the recess. During a 1980 renovation slate from the roof was removed and reused as the interior floor. Brick from the original fort was used to sheath the interior walls and the exterior wall within the entry recess on the south elevation. A concrete surfaced handicap ramp with a wooden balustrade extends along a portion of the south elevation. The brick outline of a cistern is just to the east of the building.

7. 19th Company Barracks (Long Bay)
1909
Contributing Building

The elongated, two-story, fifteen-bay, hip-roofed, weatherboard, Queen Anne-influenced building, sitting on a concrete block foundation faces south and displays a two-tiered, hip-roofed porch standing on brick foundation piers that extends nearly the width of the façade and is supported by square posts and pilasters and a balustrade with square balusters. A stair extends from the porch's upper level to its lower level on each side of the facade. A wooden handicap ramp extends from the southeast corner of the porch. The façade's three-bay center section projects forward and is topped by a front-gable roof pierced by a three-part, round-arched, multi-light window. The principal entry, located on the first level of this centered projection, consists of double-leaf doors with sidelights and a transom. The upper level, single-leaf door is flanked by narrow windows and topped by a transom. All other doors are single-leaf with transoms. The building's shorter side elevations are two bays wide, while the rear elevation is fourteen bays wide. A centered gable with a three-part arched window, identical to the one on the façade, is centered on the rear elevation. A one-story, hip-roofed porch with square posts shelters the single-leaf door with transom and flanking windows. Documentary photographs indicate that originally, a two-tier porch like the one on the facade occupied the rear elevation. Windows are wooden one-over-one replacement sash; originally, the windows were six-over-six. Carved rafter tails grace the wide overhanging eaves.

8. 31st Company Barracks (Boys Barracks)
1901
Contributing Building

The elongated, two-story, eleven-bay, side-gable-roofed, weatherboard Queen Anne-influenced building sitting on a brick foundation faces south and displays a two-tiered, shed-roofed porch topped by a small center projecting front gable. The porch on brick foundation piers extends nearly the width of the façade and is supported by square posts and a balustrade with square balusters. A stair extends from the porch's upper level to its lower level on each end of the facade. A wooden handicap ramp extends from the southeast corner of the porch. The façade's three-bay center section projects forward and is topped by a front-gable roof pierced by a three-part window with a blind fanlight with a keystone. The principal entry, located on the first level of this centered projection, consists of double-leaf doors with a transom. All other doors are single-leaf with transoms. The building's shorter side elevations are two bays wide and include an upper gable window identical to the one on the front gable. A pair of two-story, gable-roofed ells extends from each end of the rear elevation. An exterior wooden stair occupies the rear (north) elevation of each ell; a shed-roofed hood tops the door at the upper portion of each stair. The rear elevation of the main block features small, rectangular windows set high on the exterior wall. A one-story, shed-roofed porch with square posts and brick foundation piers extends along the width of the rear elevation. Windows throughout the building are one-over-one, vinyl-clad, replacement sash but were originally six-over-six. Carved rafter tails grace the building.

9. 102nd Company Barracks
1901
Contributing Building

The elongated, two-story, eleven-bay, side-gable-roofed, weatherboard Queen Anne-influenced building sitting on a brick foundation faces south and displays a two-tiered, shed-roofed porch topped by a small center projecting front gable. The porch on brick foundation piers extends nearly the width of the façade and is supported by square posts and pilasters with caps and a balustrade with square balusters. A stair extends from the porch's upper level to its lower level on each end of the facade. A wooden handicap ramp extends from the southwest corner of the porch. The façade's three-bay center section projects forward and is topped by a front-gable roof pierced by a three-part window with a fanlight with a keystone. The principal entry, located on the first level of this centered projection, consists of double-leaf doors with a transom. All other doors are single-leaf with transoms. The building's shorter side elevations are two bays wide and include an upper gable

window. A pair of two-story, gable-roofed ells extends from each end of the rear elevation. An exterior wooden stair occupies the rear (north) elevation of each ell then wraps around to the inner elevation of each ell; a shed-roofed hood tops the door at the upper terminus of each stair. The rear elevation of the main block features small, rectangular windows set high on the exterior wall. A one-story, shed-roofed porch with square posts and brick foundation piers extends along the width of the rear elevation. Windows throughout the building are one-over-one, wood replacement sash but were originally six-over-six. Carved rafter tails grace the building.

10. Post Exchange (Live Oak)
1905
Contributing Building

The one-story, flared hip-roofed, four-bay weatherboard building on a parged concrete block foundation displays a hip-roofed porch standing on concrete block piers and graced with carved rafter tails and supported by bold Tuscan columns and pilasters and a modern balustrade with square balusters. On the façade, a pair of single-leaf paneled doors with transoms flanks a pair of one-over-one windows. Three windows pierce each side (east and west) elevation. A wooden door with a transom and a wooden stoop occupies each end (east and west) of the rear (north) elevation. Windows throughout are one-over-one wood replacements and carved rafter tails grace the eaves. A brick chimney that originally extended through the front roof slope has been removed. A wooden handicap ram extends along the west elevation. The brick circular remnants of a cistern are at the rear of the building. Construction of the post exchange was possible through on appropriation of $10,000 during the fiscal year 1905, according to the Annual Report of the Quartermaster General from that year.

11. Gymnasium
1943
Contributing Building

The gable-front, weatherboard building rests on a brick foundation. A shed roof tops the front section that contains the one-story lobby; the main gable-front roof is high in order to accommodate the basketball court. Entry to the building is through half-glazed, double-leaf doors topped by a transom and sheltered by a front-gabled portico with square posts. A pair of one-over-one windows with replacement, vinyl-clad sash flank the entry. Windows on the long side (east and west) elevations are set high as not to interfere with activity that occurs inside; these windows replaced the original six-over-six sash. On the rear (north) elevation, wooden stairs lead to a front-gabled portico that

shelters a single-leaf door at the center of this side of the building. A door below the portico leads to a basement/crawl space whose windows are covered in plywood. A small shed roofed addition on the west elevation shelters vending machines. An auditorium was built on this site in 1905 but burned in 1943. The gym was built on the foundation of the auditorium.

12. Dining Hall
1978
Noncontributing Building

A hipped roof tops the one-story, weatherboard building with a gable-roofed monitor at its center. A full-width recessed porch with two doors at each end extends along the façade (east elevation) and has a front-gabled portico at the center to mark the building's entry; the entry is composed of tripled, half-glazed doors. Rectangular windows set on the horizontal pierce each elevation. The porch stands on a brick pier foundation, while the remainder of the building sits on a stuccoed foundation. Single leaf entrances with wooden stoops are located on each side elevation. A loading dock and deck are located on the rear (west) elevation.

13. Carpenter Shop
1905; ca. 1985
Contributing Building

The one-story, gable-roofed, weatherboard building rests on concrete block piers. A shed-roofed porch supported by square wood posts extends along a portion of the east elevation and shelters two double-leaf wooden doors and a single-leaf door. Three one-over-one replacement sash pierce the west elevation. The shop originally stood near the site of Battery McDonough and Battery McKivett but was moved in the mid-1980s after suffering damage from Hurricane Diana. Before the move, it served as a residence for the Baptist summer camp.

14. Sick Bay and Dispensary (Staff Housing)
Ca.1941
Contributing Building

This one-story, L-shaped, gable-roofed, weatherboard building rests on a brick pier foundation that was later enclosed with brick and stuccoed. A shed-roofed porch with triangular knee brackets on the west elevation of the north-south oriented wing shelters two single-leaf doors, one topped by a transom. A shed-roofed hood with triangular knee brackets shelters a paneled wood door with a

stoop on the south end of this wing. An uncovered deck extends along the east elevation of the north-south oriented wing; two doors lead from the deck to the interior. A shed-roofed hood with triangular knee brackets shelters a paneled wood door with a wood stoop on the east end of the east-west oriented wing. Windows are one-over-one wood replacements.

15. Bowling Alley (Warehouse)
Ca. 1917
Contributing Building

The one-story, side-gabled, synthetic-wood-sided building rests on a stucco foundation. A shed-roofed porch with a concrete floor extends across a portion of the façade and shelters two single-leaf doors. A double-leaf door pierces the west gable end, while a single-leaf door is located on the east gable end. A shed-roofed greenhouse is located on the rear (south) elevation. Two small, hip-roofed, impermanent utility buildings stand behind the former bowling alley.

Storage building
Ca. 2000
Noncontributing Building

A small, hip-roofed, rectangular, vertical-wood-sided storage building with a double-leaf door on its north elevation stands behind the bowling alley.

Storage building
Ca. 2000
Noncontributing Building

A small, hip-roofed, rectangular, vertical-wood-sided storage building with a two single-leaf doors on its north elevation stands behind the bowling alley.

16. Heating Plant and Brig Boiler Room (Garage)
Ca. 1941
Contributing Building

The one-story, side-gabled, synthetic-sided building rests on a slab foundation. On the façade (north elevation), triangular knee brackets support a pent roof sheltering a pair of modern garage doors that flank a single-leaf door. Two fixed-light windows pierce the west elevation. A small shed-roofed

utility room is attached to the west end of the rear (south) elevation, while a garage door and a single-leaf door pierces the east end of the elevation. A small, gable-roofed wing with high windows on its façade is attached to the east elevation of the heating plant and boiler room.

Outbuilding
Ca. 2000
Noncontributing building

A small side-gabled weatherboard storage building stands behind the heating plant. The roof overhangs the façade and shelters a plywood door with a diagonal brace. Windows are small four-over-four sash.

17. Mess Hall 1 (Office Warehouse and R & R)
Ca. 1942; ca. 1950
Contributing Building

Composed of two front-gabled blocks joined by a side-gabled block, the H-shaped, one-story, weatherboard building with exposed rafter tails stands on a brick foundation. The northernmost block, which served as the kitchen, has a recessed center entry on the west elevation sheltered by a shed-roofed porch with square wood supports. One-over-one windows with replacement sash flank the entry. Three windows pierce the north elevation at the west end of the elevation and a garage door with a loading dock sheltered by a shed-roofed porch with square wood posts occupies the rear (east) elevation. The center, side-gabled block joining the two front-gabled blocks lacks windows on its west elevation but has two doors on its east elevation; it held the service line for mess hall. A shed-roofed porch with square supports extends along a portion of this elevation and continues onto the north elevation of the southern front-gabled block. This southern block, which contained the dining room, features a front-gabled portico with chamfered wood posts on its south elevation; the portico shelters a pair of doors and a pair of windows. One-over-one windows with replacement sash pierce this block's exterior. A wooden handicap ramp extends along the west side of the southern elevation. The western end of this block was added circa 1950 and features a recessed garage door on its north elevation.

18. Mess Hall 2 (Office)
1905, ca. 1980
Contributing Building

The one-story, T-shaped, weatherboard Queen Anne-influenced building is composed of a front-gable block and an intersecting side-gabled block at the rear. The building rests on a brick foundation and features one-over-one windows with replacement sash and carved rafter tails. A one-bay-deep front-gabled projection to the north of the three-bay-deep main block occupies the façade and is fronted by a shed-roofed porch with carved rafter tails that shelters a half-glazed door with sidelights and a transom. A tracery round-arched window pierces the front gable above the porch. A shed-roofed portico with square wood supports is centered on the south elevation of the intersecting rear block. It shelters a half-glazed door with sidelights. A Palladian window pierces the rear block's west gable end; an identical window on the east gable end has been covered with plywood. This building served as a mess hall for one of the post's barracks. The remnants of the brick-lined cistern are to the west.

19. Battery Swift
1896-1898
Contributing Structure

The large poured concrete structure is two to three levels tall with square concrete posts. Brick outlines the sides of some bays. Metal railings line the upper deck, and the loading platform, which is supported by the vertical concrete posts. Arched openings lead to the magazines, while rectangular openings with metal lintels lead to other rooms, including an office, a shell room, and an oil and tool room; all rooms are on the lower level. The emplacements that held the disappearing guns on the upper level retain their anchor bolts. The structure was fitted with four 8-inch disappearing guns and one 5-inch gun. All guns were removed by 1920. The battery is built into the north side of a grassy parapet. Nine above ground brick cisterns with concrete caps remain on the north side of the structure.

The battery is named for Captain Alexander J. Swift, who worked for the Army Corps of Engineers and was the engineer in charge of the construction of the original fort. He died in New Orleans in 1847. This structure is an Endicott-era battery.

Cisterns
1896-1898
Contributing Structures (9)

Nine brick-lined cisterns with rounded concrete-parged brick domes stand on the north side of the battery.

20. Miniature Golf Course
Ca. 1985
Noncontributing Structure

A miniature golf course with concrete curbing is located south of the gymnasium. Each hole is carpeted with artificial turf. A small-scale replica of the Oak Island lighthouse is located on the easternmost hole.

21. Baldhead Residence
Ca. 1970; moved 1989
Noncontributing Building

The one-story, rectangular, T-111-sided house is topped by a hipped roof and rests on a stuccoed concrete block foundation. Square wood posts and a wood balustrade with square balusters support the recessed porch that shelters the four-bay façade consisting of two half-glazed front doors and a pair of flanking windows. Each side elevation (north and south) has eight windows. On the rear, a shed-roofed porch supported by square posts shelters a central door flanked by a pair of windows. Windows are one-over-one double-hung sash and fixed-pane horizontal windows.

22. Atlantic Residence
Ca. 1970; moved 1989
Noncontributing Building

The one-story, rectangular, T-111-sided house is topped by a hipped roof and rests on a stuccoed concrete block foundation. Square wood posts and a wood balustrade with square balusters support the recessed porch that shelters the four-bay façade consisting of two half-glazed front doors and a pair of flanking windows. Each side elevation (north and south) has eight windows. On the rear, a shed-roofed porch supported by square posts shelters a central door flanked by a pair of windows. Windows are one-over-one double-hung sash and fixed-pane horizontal windows.

23. Sea Oats Residence
Ca. 1970; moved 1989
Noncontributing Building

The one-story, rectangular, T-111-sided house is topped by a hipped roof and rests on a stuccoed concrete block foundation. Square wood posts and a wood balustrade with square balusters support the recessed porch that shelters the four-bay façade consisting of two half-glazed front doors and a pair of flanking windows. Each side elevation (north and south) has eight windows. On the rear, a shed-roofed porch supported by square posts shelters a central door flanked by a pair of windows. Windows are one-over-one double-hung sash and fixed-pane horizontal windows.

24. Battery Madison
1904-1905
Contributing Structure

Built into the north slope of a grassy parapet, this concrete and masonry rubble structure measures fifty-nine yards wide and twenty-four yards deep. The façade of the one-story center magazine displays a symmetrical arrangement of wood doors and boarded-up windows—eight bays total. Double-leaf doors of diagonal wood held in place with iron strap hinges pierce the east and west elevations of the magazine. A chamfered concrete parapet crowns the structure. A pair of elevated circular concrete emplacements flanks the center magazine; stairs on the outside of each emplacement lead to the upper level. A metal cross has been placed in concrete on top of the structure.

Named for William T. Madison, a member of the 3rd Infantry killed in battle near Fort Howard, Wisconsin in 1821, the battery was built to hold two six-inch disappearing guns. Electrical power came from Battery Caswell. This structure is an Endicott-era battery.

25. Hatch Auditorium
1968
Noncontributing Building

The two-story, front-gabled modernist building with flared eaves, wood soffits, and steel purlins is built with steel beams and has an exterior of rough-faced concrete block. A one-story, flat-roofed porch constructed of steel horizontal beams and vertical steel supports shelters three double-leaf metal entrance doors set in a wall of metal-framed windows. This glass curtain wall extends the full

height of the façade. Four sets of seven square, metal-framed windows are set high on the side (east and west) elevations. A set of double-leaf metal doors pierces the southern end of the east and west elevations and are sheltered by a flat roof that is the extension of the flat roof of a one-story, rear (south) elevation appendage. A wall of metal-framed windows spans the east and west sides of the north wall of the rear section facing the open porch. The building is named for Rachel Hatch, who left an endowment for its construction following her death in 1966.

26. Classroom Building
1987
Noncontributing Building

The one-story, H-shaped, synthetic-wood-sided building on a high stucco foundation is composed of two elongated blocks, both topped by gable-on-hip roofs that are connected by a shorter gable-roofed hyphen. A pair of gable-on-hipped-roof porches with square wood supports shelter entrances on the east elevation of the east block and the west elevation of the west block. A single-leaf door with a wooden stoop is located on the north and south gable ends of both blocks. Windows throughout are one-over-one. A wooden handicap ramp extends from the north end of the east elevation.

27. Fort Caswell
1827-1838
Contributing Structure

The four sections of brick wall now visible are what remain of the originally pentagonal fort's inner walls and represents more than half of that portion of the structure built beginning in 1827. The northwest brick wall that runs diagonally along a modern paved road that extends through the complex is approximately 65 yards long. The north end of the wall meets another brick wall, approximately 50 yards long, that turns to the southeast. An arched opening on the south end of this wall leads to a brick lined tunnel. A brick wall about 135 yards long extends in a southeastern direction from the south end of the northwest wall, while a segment of brick wall—about 60 yards long is the southernmost wall and faces southeast. A flat brick parapet tops the structure and each elevation displays embrasures from which soldiers could fire guns from the interior without fear of being seen from the outside; some embrasures have been enclosed with brick. An intact entrance, or sally port, consisting of three arched entries remains at the north corner; all three entries are set below ground level and fronted with a low concrete wall. The center entrance is set in a cutaway corner and topped by a flat arch inscribed with "Fort Caswell, Built 1826-1828, Cost $571,000,

Named for Richard Caswell, First Governor of North Carolina." The date of this inscription is unknown. The entries contain remnants of wood framing that likely held wood doors and their surrounds. An entry also remains at the west corner but has been partially obscured by fallen brick. It contains two entries topped by segmental brick arches.

A grass-covered berm is located behind the walls. Three bays with crowning segmental brick arches are located on the interior, or southern, side of the main corner entrance. Two of the bays have been filled with tabby. A single arched opening on the southeast interior corner leads to a brick-sheathed, barrel-vaulted magazine with a wood floor. A series of three bays with segmental brick arches is located below ground on the southeast of the interior. The outline of the citadel built in the center of the fort remains visible.

The fort was built as protection for the Cape Fear River, the major transportation corridor for southeastern North Carolina in the early nineteenth-century, and the port of Wilmington further upriver. Upon its completion in 1838, the fort contained an inner citadel containing barracks and storage spaces.

28. Battery Caswell
1898-1899
Contributing Structure

Battery Caswell was built on the site of the south wall of Fort Caswell. When Battery Caswell was constructed, it required the destruction of a portion of the inner pentagonal brick fort and the outer earthen walls. The concrete structure is two levels tall with rectangular doorways trimmed in red-brick edging. Ten bays pierce the rear (north) elevation. Gun emplacements are on the upper level and magazines and support rooms are below. Squared concrete posts support the upper, middle portion of the battery. In the late 1930s or early 1940s buttressed concrete walls were added to the upper level of the battery to create swimming pools from two gun emplacements. The structure is built into a hill that slopes downward on the south side. Remnants of the early nineteenth-century fort's brick walls remain visible on the grassy hill. A cross has been mounted into the top of the structure. Battery Caswell accommodated two 12-inch guns on barbette carriages. This structure is an Endicott-era battery.

29. Fire House (storage building)
Ca. 1905
Contributing Building

The one-story, front-gabled, brick building rests on a slab foundation and displays an open garage bay on its southwest gable end. Carved rafter tails grace the eaves. Windows with arched heads, three-course segmental arches, and projecting masonry sills grace the side (east and west) elevations; window openings have been boarded up. The north gable end lacks doors or windows.

30. Firefighters' Quarters (staff house)
Ca. 1905
Contributing Building

The small, one-story, side-gabled, weatherboard building rests on a brick foundation. A shed-roofed porch with square posts, a wood balustrade with square balusters, and stairs that flank its sides, shelters a single-leaf wood door on the façade (north elevation). On the rear (south) elevation, a simple set of wooden stairs with a wooden stoop leads to a paneled wood door. Windows throughout have one-over-one replacement sash. Carved rafter tails grace the eaves.

31. Battery McDonough
1903-1904
Contributing Structure

The two-story, reinforced concrete battery built into a hill features two gun emplacements behind a tall parapet on the upper level and two separate magazines, one for each gun, and a latrine on the lower level. The two gun positions of this battery were built onto the right flank of the existing Battery McKavett. The structure features red-brick edging and tiered concrete steps leading to the upper emplacements.

The structure was named for First Lieutenant Patrick McDonough who was killed in combat at For Erie, Canada in 1814. This structure is an Endicott-era battery.

Data Booth
1903-1904
Contributing Building

The small, one-story, square, reinforced concrete building is topped with a low-pitched gable, concrete slab roof. Concrete steps lead to the data booth, which is located just to the west of Battery McDonough. A doorway is located on the north elevation, while a continuous horizontal opening extends along the other elevations and is supported on the east and west corners by a metal post.

32. Battery McKavett
1901-1902
Contributing Structure

The two-story, reinforced concrete battery featured two gun emplacements on the upper level and two separate magazines, one for each gun, on the lower level. As this battery was being completed, two additional connected gun positions were started on the right flank of the battery. These two gun positions were completed in 1904 and became Battery McDonough. A room, function unknown, connects the two magazines. The north elevation features sloped concrete runs flanking a stair. Metal railings top the first level. Brick edging is found on the corners and outlining doorways. Granite lintels top some of the entrances. The battery is built into a hill whose south facing is covered in grass.

The structure was named for Captain Henry McKavett, who was killed at the Battle of Monterey, Mexico in 1846. This structure is an Endicott-era battery.

33. Redwine Cottage
1986
Noncontributing Building

The one-story, weatherboard building with a gable-on-hip roof is elevated above its concrete slab by substantial concrete square posts that extend from the ground to the building's wide overhanging eaves. A hipped roof crowns a two-tier porch supported large concrete piers. Entries are recessed on the façade. The porch shelters a center stair that extends in opposite directions above the landing; balconies with wooden balustrades flank the stairs. Windows throughout are modern casements.

34. Smith Conference Center
1989
Noncontributing Building

The three-story, elongated, gable-roofed weatherboard, hotel-like building displays eight projecting gables on both long (north and south) elevations. In addition, a wider gable with a fanlight window and two smaller and shorter gables are centered on the east (seaside) elevation, while a hip-roofed projection with a wall dormer and two front-gabled projections are found at the center of the west elevation. One-story, hip-roofed porches with square wooden posts and wooden balustrades extend the width of each long elevation. Windows throughout are paired with one-over-one sash. A one-story, hip-roofed wing is located on the north end.

35. Torpedo Shed (brick)
Ca. 1900
Contributing Building

The one-story, six-bay-deep, red-brick building with a gable-front roof with returns displays highly-detailed brick work. Two courses of horizontal, projecting brick extend along each elevation, just above the brick foundation, while a brick cornice with brick dentils graces all sides of the shed. A wide bay, which likely originally contained a double-leaf door, topped with a semi-circular fanlight, pierces the east gable end. A slightly projecting semi-circular brick arch crowns the former entrance. Two arched-head windows with projecting brick sills and segmental brick arches flank the doorway. Remnants of metal straps for holding shutters remain on each side of the window opening. Windows throughout are identical to those on the façade. A single-leaf door flanked by windows and topped by a segmental arch pierces the center of the west gable end. Three short flues pierce the ridge of the corrugated metal roof, while a tall, brick chimney with a corbelled cap extends from the north roof slope near the west end of the building. On the south elevation, two windows have been converted to doors but retain their brick arches. All bays have been boarded up with plywood. The building appears on a 1905 map.

36. Quartermaster Stable
1901; ca. 1945
Contributing Building

This two-story, gable-front, weatherboard building on a brick foundation features carved rafter tails and small, deep-set square windows. The west gable end displays a double-leaf, paneled wood door

at the center of its upper wall, just below the remnants of a hoist used to lift hay into the loft. A double-leaf door of diagonal wood pierces both the north and south (side) elevation; a modern wooden ramp provides access to each of these doors. The building has been converted to a gift shop. The two-bay-deep rear (east) section was added prior to the Baptist Convention's purchase in 1949.

37. Coast Artillery Militia State Room
1918
Contributing Building

The diminutive, one-story, pyramidal-roofed stucco building features carved rafter tails and a wood door with panels of diagonal wood at the center of its façade (east elevation). A pair of nearly full-height recessed panels flanks the door; the northernmost recess contains a boarded-up window fronted with metal bars. The side elevations feature the same recessed panels. A small, shed-roofed weatherboard addition with a high brick knee wall and carved rafter tails attaches to the rear (west) elevation. It has double-leaf doors on its west elevation and a single-leaf door on its north elevation. An interior stuccoed chimney rises from the north side. During World War II, the building served as a service station with a gravity gasoline pump standing outside. A metal tire storage rack remains inside.

38. Ordnance Storage (Chapel)
1901
Contributing Building

The one-story, front-gable-roofed, weatherboard Colonial Revival-influenced building on a brick foundation displays carved rafter tails on its side (east and west) elevations. On its south elevation, a front-gabled porch on brick piers supported by square posts and a balustrade with square balusters shelters a double-leaf wood door with sidelights and a three-part transom. A front-gabled porch with square posts and a balustrade with wood balusters is located on the north end of the west elevation shelters a single-leaf door; a wood handicap ramp extends south from the porch. A slightly lower, gable-roofed block extends from the rear elevation. Windows are one-over-one replacement sash. The brick remnants of a cistern are in front of the building.

39. Commissary Storehouse (Chapel Annex)
Ca. 1905
Contributing Building

The one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled, weatherboard building on a high brick foundation with deep set windows to illuminate the basement displays carved rafter tails on its side (north and south) elevations. A shed-roofed porch with wooden braces and carved rafter tails shelters three bays, including a double-leaf door, and a porch with a wooden balustrade on the east elevation. A handicap ramp extends westward from the porch. A front-gabled dormer with two one-over-one windows rests on the roof slope above the porch. Concrete steps bordered by brick walls descend to a single-leaf wooden basement door on the north and south ends of the building. High windows pierce each side elevation. A porch similar to the one on the east elevation occupies the north elevation. It shelters three single-leaf doors and five windows. Like the east elevation, a front-gable dormer sits on the roof slope at the center of this side of the building. A porch with a balustrade with wood balusters extends along most of the elevation and terminates in stairs at each end of the porch. Windows throughout have one-over-one replacement sash.

40. Quartermaster Commissary (Children's Building)
1901
Contributing Building

The one-and-a-half story, side-gabled, weatherboard building on a high brick foundation with deep set windows to illuminate the basement displays carved rafter tails on its facade and rear (east) elevation. A shed-roofed porch with wooden posts and a wooden balustrade shelters seven bays, including four half-glazed, single-leaf doors, and four windows. Stairs occupy the north and south ends of the porch and a handicap ramp fronts the porch. Concrete steps bordered by brick walls descend to a single-leaf wooden basement door on the north and south ends of the building. Windows throughout have one-over-one replacement sash. A vinyl fence encloses the lawn in front of the façade (west elevation). The circular brick remnants of a cistern are southwest of the building.

Playground
Ca. 2000
Noncontributing Structure

An assemblage of modern playground equipment occupies about one-quarter of the fenced yard on the west side of the commissary.

41. Bakery (Cape Fear)
Ca. 1917
Contributing Building

The one-story, five-bay, painted-brick building on a brick foundation and with carved rafter tails is topped with a cross-hipped roof. One-over-one windows with replacement sash flank the double-leaf façade door with a multi-light transom; the three center bays occupy a slightly projecting block topped by a hipped roof. A wooden stoop with flanking handicap ramps with wooden balustrades fronts the entrance. All bays are crowned by segmental brick arches with brick abutments that are connected by a continuous soldier course that wraps the main block. A three-light transom tops an original five-panel door on the south elevation. A hip-roofed ell extends from the rear elevation. A window on its north elevation has been bricked in. A shed-roofed screened porch is attached to the rear of the ell. A transom tops a single-leaf door on the north end of the east elevation of the main block. All windows contain replacement one-over-one sash. An earlier bakery stood here prior to construction of this building. The brick remnants of a cistern are to the south.

42. Guard House (Paradise)
1899
Contributing Building

The one-story, five-bay, hip-roofed, weatherboard Queen Anne-style building on a brick foundation displays a front-facing gable pierced by a Palladian window. A shed-roofed porch supported by heavy square posts and a wood balustrade extends along most of the façade and shelters two single-leaf, half-glazed doors and three windows, all containing replacement one-over-one sash. A full-width, shed-roofed porch with heavy wood square posts and a wooden balustrade extends along the rear elevation. It shelters two paneled wood doors and two windows. Windows throughout have replacement one-over-one sash.

43. Concrete Pad
1960
Noncontributing Structure

The flat concrete pad measures about fifty feet by fifty feet and was most recently used to hold a large septic tank for the district sewer system until service from the county sewer system became available.

44. Cape Fear River Pier
Ca. 1940
Contributing Structure

The linear wooden structure is approximately 42 yard long and 6 yards wide. The pier was in place when the Baptist Assembly purchased the property in 1949.

45. Non-commissioned Officers' Quarters 1 (Riverside Apartments)
1898
Contributing Building

The two-story, four-bay, cross-gabled, weatherboard dwelling on a brick foundation features a prominent and centered front gable with two windows above a shed-roofed porch with square wood posts and pilasters with simple caps and a wood balustrade. The porch shelters a pair of doors and windows with replacement one-over-one sash. Carved rafter tails grace the main block and porch eaves. A front gable identical to the one on the façade dominates the rear elevation and tops a shed-roofed porch that connects a pair of gable-roofed ells with carved rafter tails. The façade (east elevation) of each ell has a recessed porch with square wooden posts with simple caps and a wood balustrade. Doors to the ells have half-glazed doors. A wooden walkway with stairs at its terminus extends from the center of the rear elevation and bridges the former cistern, which is concrete. All windows contain replacement one-over-one sash.

46. Non-commissioned Officers' Quarters 2
1898
Contributing Building

The two-story, two-bay, front-gabled weatherboard dwelling on a brick foundation and with carved rafter tails displays a hip-roofed porch with square wooden posts and pilasters with simple caps and bases; the porch extends across the façade and wraps around to front the north elevation and another entrance. A shed roof terminates the porch at its northwest (rear) corner. A one-story, shed-roofed extension with carved rafter tails attaches to the rear (west) elevation. All windows contain replacement one-over-one sash. Brick remnants of a cistern are to the south.

47. Non-commissioned Officers' Quarters 3
1905
Contributing Building

The two-story, two-bay, front-gabled weatherboard dwelling on a brick foundation and with carved rafter tails displays a hip-roofed porch with square wooden posts and pilasters with simple caps and bases; the porch extends across the façade and wraps around to front the north elevation. A shed roof terminates the porch at its northwest (rear) corner. A one-story, shed-roofed extension with carved rafter tails attaches to the rear (west) elevation. All windows contain replacement one-over-one sash. Brick remnants of a cistern are to the east.

48. Non-commissioned Officers' Quarters 4
1905
Contributing Building

The two-story, two-bay, front-gabled weatherboard dwelling on a brick foundation and with carved rafter tails displays a hip-roofed porch with square wooden posts and pilasters with simple caps and bases; the porch extends across the façade and wraps around to front the west elevation. A shed roof terminates the porch at its northwest (rear) corner and shelters a single-leaf door. A one-story, shed-roofed extension with carved rafter tails attaches to the rear (west) elevation. All windows contain replacement one-over-one sash. Brick remnants of a cistern are to the east.

49. Hospital (Lantana)
1898
Contributing Building

This two-and-a-half-story, front-gabled with returns, weatherboard building faces southeast. It sits on a high brick foundation with deep-set windows to illuminate the basement and features a one-story, hip-roofed wing on a brick foundation that extends from the southwest elevation. On the façade (southeast elevation), a one-story, hip-roofed porch supported by chamfered posts and pilasters with molded caps and a balustrade with wood balusters shelters a double-leaf wooden door with a four-light transom; a pair of two-over-two, double-hung sash flanks the door. A front-gabled, pedimented dormer rests on the roof slope of the east and west elevations. A one-story, hip-roofed porch occupies the rear elevation and shelters a single-leaf paneled wood door and a pair of windows. A small storage room has been created by the enclosure of the west end of this rear porch. A metal handicap ramp extends from the east end of the rear porch. The hip-roofed wing displays a

hip-roofed porch that wraps around its three elevations and is supported by chamfered posts with molded caps and a balustrade with wood balusters. Front gable dormers with closed pediments rest on the front and rear elevation roof slopes. A wood paneled double-leaf door with a four-light transom occupies the center of the wing's west end; a pair of two-over-two double-hung sash flanks the door. Like the main block, the windows on the wing are two-over-two. The hospital is the oldest building at Fort Caswell.

Tennis Court
Ca. 1990
Noncontributing Structure

A modern paved tennis court is just east of the hospital. A tall chain link fences encloses the court.

50. Oceana Hotel
Ca. 1965
Noncontributing Building

The one-story, long, low-slung, hip-roofed, stucco building displays a brick knee wall and a full-façade recessed southeast elevation porch supported by square wood posts. Five front gables with shingles top the porch at the center of the building. On the rear elevation, a full-with screened porch is recessed beneath the hipped roof. Five front gables with shingles crown the rear elevation. Windows appear to be sliders. Oceana Hotel was built in two stages in the 1960s.

Storage Building
Ca. 1965
Noncontributing Building

A small, shed-roofed, stucco building stands just off the northwest (rear) corner of the hotel. A door occupies its west elevation, while windows are on the other three sides.

51. Caswell Basin Pier
Ca. 1990
Noncontributing Structure

A short wood pier is located to the northwest of the Oceana Hotel. It includes a gable-roofed shelter with wood shingles in its gables. An L-shaped floating dock attaches to the pier and extends into Caswell Basin.

52. Little Pier
Ca. 1941
Contributing Building

The two-story, front-gabled, two-bay, weatherboard dwelling rests on a brick foundation. The hip-roofed screened porch with a brick knee wall extends along the façade and east elevation. A single-leaf, half-glazed door and a one-over-one window pierce the façade. Two doors and three windows are located on the east elevation. All windows contain replacement one-over-one replacement sash. This was the dockmaster's house.

53. Captain's House 1 (Palmetto)
1902
Contributing Building

The two-story, hip-roofed, weatherboard Queen Anne-Colonial Revival-style dwelling with carved rafter tails rests on a brick foundation and displays asymmetrical massing. A hipped-roof, two-tiered, wraparound porch graced with carved rafter tails and supported by square posts and a wooden balustrade fronts the facade and north and south elevations. The entry is composed of a paneled wood door with a transom and a single half-glazed sidelight; the upper façade door is identical to the lower entrance. Also on the façade, a two-bay, two-story projection is southwest of the entry; both levels of the porch extend outward forward of this projection at the entry. On the north elevation, a stair with a wood balustrade provides access between the lower and upper porches; a handicap ramp is located on this side of the porch. A two-story, hip-roofed ell extends from the rear elevation; a one-story, one-bay-deep, hip-roofed ell is attached to the rear of the two-story ell. Porches extend along both levels of the north side of the rear ells. Windows throughout contain replacement one-over-one sash. Remnants of the brick lined cistern are to the rear of the house.

54. Captain's House 2 (Oleander)
1902
Contributing Building

The two-story, hip-roofed, weatherboard Queen Anne-Colonial Revival-style dwelling with carved rafter tails rests on a brick foundation and displays asymmetrical massing. A hipped-roof, two-tiered, wraparound porch graced with carved rafter tails and supported by square posts and a wooden balustrade fronts the facade and north and south elevations. The entry is composed of a paneled wood door with a transom and a single half-glazed sidelight; the upper façade door is identical to the lower entrance. Also on the façade, a two-bay, two-story projection is southwest of the entry; both levels of the porch extend outward forward of this projection at the entry. On the north elevation, a stair with a wooden balustrade provides access between the lower and upper porches; a handicap ramp is located on this side of the porch. A two-story, hip-roofed ell extends from the rear elevation; a one-story, one-bay-deep, hip-roofed ell is attached the rear of the two-story ell. Porches extend along both levels of the north side of the rear ells. Windows throughout contain replacement one-over-one sash.

55. Captain's House 3 (Sand Dune)
Ca. 1905
Contributing Building

The two-story, four-bay, side-gabled with returns, asymmetrically- massed, weatherboard, Queen Anne-style dwelling faces southwest and rests on a brick foundation that is pierced by small windows that illuminate the basement. A projecting, off-center, two-story, front gable with returns is pierced by an original round arched-head window with a keystone. The one-story, hip-roofed, wraparound front porch supported by square posts shelters a single-leaf, half-glazed door framed by sidelights and a transom. A projecting front gable with returns and graced with wooden consoles marks the center of the porch, which wraps around to the west elevation. A Palladian window pierces the west elevation gable end. A pair of arched-head windows with keystones occupies the east gable end. All windows on these gable ends contain original two-over-two sash. A two-story, gable-roofed ell with returns extends from the rear elevation; a one-story, hipped-roof porch with chamfered wood posts with simple caps and bases shelters a half-glazed, single-leaf door on the rear (north) elevation of the ell. A half-glazed, paneled wood door with divided lights on its top half leads to the basement. Attic windows on the rear elevation of the ell have been boarded over. Windows throughout contain replacement one-over-one sash. The brick remnant of a cistern is to the southeast.

56. Lieutenant's House 1 (Seashell)
Ca. 1900
Contributing Building

The two-story, side-gabled, weatherboard Queen Anne-influenced dwelling on a brick foundation features a two-bay projection topped with a front gable pierced by a louvered vent and graced with exposed purlins. Half-glazed sidelights flank a half-glazed door at the entry. A two-tier porch with carved rafter tails and square posts and pilasters spans the façade and wraps around to the west elevation. A wooden stair with a wooden balustrade connects the lower and upper levels of the porch on the west elevation. Palladian-influenced windows pierce the gable ends. A one-story, gabled rear ell, with exposed purlins and molded cornerboards, includes a shed-roofed porch with a bracketed cornice, square supports, and a slender classical pilaster. A three-light window pierces the gable end of the ell. Windows throughout contain replacement one-over-one sash. The brick remnant of a cistern is to the east.

57. Administration (Yucca)
1899; ca. 1941
Contributing Building

The two-story, side-gabled with returns, three-bay, weatherboard dwelling with a wide fascia board faces southeast and features a full-width, hip-roofed, one-story porch with square supports and carved rafter tails. Entry to the main block is through a double-leaf wood paneled door with a transom. A Palladian-influenced window that has been boarded up pierces the north gable end; a single arched window, which has also been boarded up, pierces the west gable end. A single-leaf, paneled wood door is centered on the rear elevation. The two-story, three-bay wing stepped back from the façade of the main block is attached to the west gable end and sits slightly lower than the main block. It is believed that this addition dates to World War II and was built by the United States Navy to house their communication offices. It includes an enclosed hip-roofed porch on its façade. A Palladian-influenced window that has been boarded up pierces the west gable end of the two-story addition. On the rear elevation of the addition, a hip-roofed porch with square posts shelters a single-leaf door with a transom and two windows. All windows contain replacement one-over-one sash.

58. Lieutenant's House 2 (Yaupon)
Ca. 1900
Contributing Building

The two-story, side-gabled with carved purlins, weatherboard Queen Anne-influenced dwelling on a brick foundation features a two-bay projection topped with a front gable pierced by a multi-light, arched-head window and graced with exposed purlins. A two-tier porch graced by carved rafter tails and square posts and pilasters spans the façade and wraps around to the west elevation. A wooden stair with a wooden balustrade connects the lower and upper levels of the west porch. Palladian-influenced windows pierce the gable ends, although the one on the east has been boarded up. A one-story, rear gabled ell with exposed purlins includes a shed-roofed porch with square supports and pilasters. Windows throughout contain replacement one-over-one sash. The brick remnants of the cistern are to the east.

59. Field Officer's House (Fort Caswell)
1902
Contributing Building

The two-story, side-gabled, weatherboard Queen Anne-Colonial Revival-influenced dwelling displays a prominent hip-roofed, front-facing wing with cutaway corners. The commodious building faces southeast and features a dentil cornice, a detail that carries over to the two-tier porch with square posts and wooden balustrade. A double-leaf wood-paneled door with sidelights and a transom provides entry on the first level of the porch; a single-leaf door with a transom is directly above the main entrance. The projecting wing dominates the façade and features an oval window at the second story. On the west elevation, a stair with a wooden balustrade provides access between the lower and upper porches. A Palladian-influenced window pierces both side gable ends; the east gable end displays consoles and overhangs a two-story, cutaway bay. A two-story, gable-roofed ell extends from the rear elevation; a one-story, hip-roofed ell attaches to the rear of the two-story ell. A one-story, hip-roofed porch with chamfered wooden posts extends along the west elevation of the first level of the ells. A wooden handicap ramp with a wooden balustrade extends along the west elevation of the ells. Most windows throughout contain replacement one-over-one sash. The front wing contains plate glass windows and some divided-light sash. The brick remnants of a cistern are to the east. The house was built according to the Quartermaster Corps' plan number 148, dated July 1901.

60. Captain's House 4 (Driftwood)
1902
Contributing Building

Facing southeast, the two-story, hip-roofed, weatherboard Queen Anne-Colonial Revival-style dwelling with carved rafter tails rests on a brick foundation and displays asymmetrical massing. A hipped-roof, two-tiered, wraparound porch graced with carved rafter tails and supported by square and chamfered posts, with caps and bases and a wooden balustrade, fronts the facade and east and west elevations. The entry is composed of a single-leaf, paneled wood door with a single half-glazed sidelight and a transom; an identical entry is located directly above on the upper level. Also on the façade, a two-bay, two-story projection is east of the upper and lower level entries. On the west elevation, a stair with a wooden balustrade provides access between the lower and upper porches. A wooden handicap ramp extends from the lower level of the porch on the west elevation. A two-story, hip-roofed ell extends from the rear elevation; a one-story, one-bay-deep, hip-roofed ell is attached the rear of the two-story ell. Porches extend along both levels of the west side of the rear ells. Windows throughout contain replacement one-over-one sash. The brick remnants of the cistern are to the rear.

61. Captain's House 5 (Gingko)
1902
Contributing Building

Facing southeast, the two-story, hip-roofed, weatherboard Queen Anne-Colonial Revival-style dwelling with carved rafter tails rests on a brick foundation and displays asymmetrical massing. A hipped-roof, two-tiered, wraparound porch graced with carved rafter tails and supported by chamfered posts with caps and bases and a wooden balustrade fronts the facade and east and west elevations. A portion of the porches on both levels project on the east side of the façade. The entry is composed of double-leaf, half-glazed, paneled wood door with a multi-light transom. Directly above on the upper level, a transom tops a single-leaf wood door. Also on the façade, a two-bay, two-story projection is east of the entry. Fixed French doors pierce the lower level of this projection and the lower level of the east elevation. On the west elevation, a stair with a wooden balustrade provides access between the lower and upper porches. A two-story, hip-roofed ell extends from the rear elevation; a one-story, one-bay-deep, hip-roofed ell is attached the rear of the two-story ell. Porches extend along both levels of the west side of the rear ells. Windows throughout contain replacement one-over-one sash.

62. Single Officers' Quarters 1 (Silver Maple)
1911
Contributing Building

The two-story, six-bay, side-gabled with returns, brick Queen Anne-style dwelling rests on a brick basement faces southeast toward the parade grounds; the foundation has been parged with concrete. Square wood posts and pilasters with caps and a wood balustrade support the hip-roofed, nearly full-width porch. A pair of wood stairs descends from the porch forward of the pair of half-glazed, single-leaf doors topped by segmental brick arches. Four pedimented wall dormers grace the façade. Windows rest on concrete sills and all windows—except those on the three-sided, hip-roofed bay windows on the east and west elevations and in the dormers—are topped by segmental arches. An oculus window pierces each side-gable end. Twin abutting front gables with returns and oculus windows dominate the north elevation. A brick chimney rises from the roof slope between the two front gables. Just below the gables, wood posts and a wood balustrade support a porch that spans most of the elevation and extends to the east and west to incorporate flanking concrete and vinyl carports built with panels of decorative concrete block. The porch shelters doors identical to those on the façade; a concrete wall fronts the access to the basement located below the porch. All windows contain replacement one-over-one sash.

63. Single Officers' Quarters 2 (Ocean View)
1911
Contributing Building

The two-story, six-bay, side-gabled with returns, Queen Anne-style brick dwelling rests on a brick basement faces southeast toward the parade grounds; the foundation has been parged with concrete. Square wood posts and pilasters with caps and a wood balustrade support the hip-roofed, nearly-full-width porch. A pair of wood stairs descends from the porch forward of the pair of half-glazed, single-leaf doors topped by segmental brick arches. Four pedimented wall dormers grace the façade. Windows rest on concrete sills and all windows—except those on the three-sided, hip-roofed bay windows on the east and west elevations and in the dormers—are topped by segmental arches. An oculus window pierces each side-gable end. Twin abutting front gables with returns and oculus windows dominate the north elevation. A brick chimney rises from the roof slope between the two front gables. Just below the gables, wood posts and a wood balustrade support a porch that spans most of the elevation. It shelters doors identical to those on the façade; a door below the porch leads to a basement. All windows contain one-over-one replacement sash. The brick remnants of two cisterns are to the rear.

64. Azimuth Instrument Tower
Ca. 1917
Contributing Structure

The rare surviving tower stands on the north side of the central parade grounds. The structure is composed of a cylindrical steel shaft resting on a slightly flared steel base. Steel framing extends along the height of the shaft and a circular steel stair winds around the shaft; its lower section has been removed. The tower appears much as it did in a ca. 1900 photograph, except that the upper instrument has been removed. The tower had a World War I era communication instrument mounted on top of the shaft. Later, a water tower was set atop the column but it has been removed.

65. Sea Wall
1901
Contributing Structure

The concrete seawall extends from the beachfront on the south, around to the riverfront on the east. The portion facing the Caswell Basin on the north is a wooden bulwark that was replaced in 1990. The sea wall was built to hold back the ocean but also to retain the fill dirt that was pumped onto the site to elevate and even out the ground. According to the Annual Reports of the War Department for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1905, Volume VII, Report of the Chief of Engineers, the sea wall averages about six feet in height but it is mostly flush with the ground at present.

66. Parade Ground
Ca. 1900
Contributing Site

The approximately 6-acre grass-covered oval field occupies the center of the historic district. As at most military forts, the parade grounds at Fort Caswell functioned as the organizational and physical center of the post. Military parades and drills took place on the parade grounds. Large trees now screen the officers' quarters from the parade ground, although the quarters are oriented toward the parade ground.

Discontiguous Resource

67. Rifle Range
N. side of Foxfire Trace, between Pinehurst Drive and Bunker Court, Caswell Dunes Development
1918
Contributing Structure

A World War I rifle range, also called a rifle pit or rifle butt, which was part of Fort Caswell is located a little over two miles to the west-northwest of the west boundary of the main historic district. The structure is located in a vegetated dune area in a residential section of the Caswell Dunes resort. This land was formerly part of the Fort Caswell military installation. The long concrete structure is mostly below grade and is composed of three sections that together measure a total of 184 feet in length. It is open on top and the north wall is taller than the south wall so that the side walls slope from north to south. From the interior the north wall is 9 ½ feet tall and the south wall is 6 ½ feet tall. The outer walls range from about 8 inches to 1 foot thick. The structure's width varies among the three sections.

The easternmost portion, which served as a storage room for target supplies and tools, is 10 feet wide and about 14 feet long. This portion originally had a roof but it is gone. A square opening pierces the east end, while a doorway on the west end leads to the center section. The center section is 4 ½ feet wide and 76 feet long and served as the walkway between the storage room and the target area at the western end. The westernmost portion is nearly 14 feet wide and 94 feet long. A door opening connects the center and western sections. "May 20th, 1918" is inscribed in the south wall of the middle section.

During World War I, the military used the rifle range for target practice. A soldier-operated mechanism that held the targets was located in the westernmost section. Armed soldiers, who were several hundred yards north of the structure, would attempt to shoot the targets, which were moved up and down by range operators in the pit.

Archaeological Resource
68. Site 31BW801**
Ca. 1827 - 1948
Contributing Site

The Fort Caswell Historic District is considered a single archaeological site (31BW801**). The site boundary is the same as that noted for the district. The site includes the contributing above ground buildings, structures, parade ground, and subsurface remains that exist within an archaeological context.

Integrity Statement

Fort Caswell Historic District is significant as possessing the southeast coast's largest and most complete collection of buildings, structures, and sites associated with the United States military's coastal fortification program. At Fort Caswell, the construction began in 1827 and continued off and on until the end of World War II. Not only does a substantial portion of the 1827-1838 fortification survive but seven batteries constructed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries remain intact, except for their weaponry. While the survival of the collection of fortifications alone is important, the presence of support features built in conjunction with the defense structures, such as officers' dwellings, barracks, mess halls, equipment buildings, and other auxiliary buildings, creates a rare built domestic and military landscape in North Carolina. In addition, recent archaeological excavations conducted in 2013 have revealed the presence of intact subsurface cultural remains associated with the fort.

Throughout its history, Fort Caswell Historic District has seen varying levels of use and occupation. Since 1949, the North Carolina Baptist State Convention has owned the property and been its caretaker. Soon after its purchase of the site, the Convention converted the complex to a retreat center and camp called the Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell, thereby necessitating some alterations to the support buildings in order to comply with life safety standards and later, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. Most changes to the buildings have been minor. Examples of alterations that have taken place include the replacement of original windows, removal of brick chimneys above rooflines, the deactivation and partial dismantling of brick and concrete cisterns that served all the buildings, and the installation of handicap ramps. Because of the harsh oceanfront environment in which the district is located, maintenance of these buildings has been and remains an almost constant exercise. While buildings have been altered, the fortifications have not. For the most

part, they have not been modified, improved, or destroyed. The only change to these structures by the Baptist State Convention has been the installation of crosses on Batteries Caswell and Madison.

New construction by the North Carolina Baptist State Convention has been minimal. The organization has constructed only twelve primary buildings on the site and those that have been constructed are of a scale, mass, material, and design that respect the historic resources while being clearly of modern construction.

Considering the continued use of Fort Caswell Historic District, the property retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, association, feeling, materials, and workmanship and more than adequately demonstrates its significance in the areas of architecture, engineering, and military history.

Summary

The Fort Caswell Historic District (31BW801**) occupies a 760-acre area at the tip of a peninsula on the southeastern end of Oak Island in Brunswick County, North Carolina, including a .50 nautical miles extension east into the Cape Fear River and south into the Atlantic Ocean . The district also includes a discontiguous resource: a 1918 concrete rifle range originally part of the military installation that is located two miles west-northwest of the main district boundary on a parcel of less than one acre. The district meets National Register of Historic Places criterion C on the statewide level in the areas of architecture and engineering, and Criterion A on the local level in the area of military history. Fort Caswell Historic District (31BW801**) also possesses statewide significance for criterion D in the area of archaeology. In summer 2013, an archaeological investigation of the original 1827-1838 fortification yielded and will likely yield more information pertaining to the construction of this early nineteenth-century structure and its immediate surroundings.

The oldest structure at Fort Caswell Historic District is the original fortification, built from 1827 to 1838 and named Fort Caswell, for Richard Caswell (1729-1789), the first governor of the state of North Carolina. Its construction resulted from an $800,000 appropriation from Congress in 1816 intended to erect seacoast defenses during a government program known as the Third System of fort construction. Also remaining at Fort Caswell Historic District is a collection of seven Endicott Period fortifications, reinforced concrete structures built during the period from 1885 to 1905 under the direction of the Board of Fortifications, which was formed by President Grover Cleveland and led by Secretary of War William C. Endicott. With funding of $127 million, hundreds of these batteries were built on the United States coast but those at Fort Caswell were the only Endicott batteries built in North Carolina, owing to the site's location at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, south of the port of Wilmington. In addition to recommending the construction of batteries, the Endicott Board also endorsed the installation of breech-loading cannons, mortars, floating batteries, and submarine mines at twenty-nine locations on the United States coastline, including at Fort Caswell. The fortifications at Fort Caswell Historic District—built during two distinct campaigns of military construction—is significant in the area of engineering.

The greatest period of building, other than of fortifications, at Fort Caswell Historic District occurred in the years around the turn of the twentieth-century when, among other buildings, a collection of two-story, Queen Anne-Colonial Revival-style, primarily weatherboard dwellings was built around a central parade ground, while four non-commissioned officers' houses were built facing the Cape Fear River. Other buildings from this period include a hospital, three large barracks, and various support

buildings. In all, 43 contributing buildings, 16 noncontributing buildings, 23 contributing structures, 9 noncontributing structures, and 1 contributing site constitute the Fort Caswell Historic District. The district has several periods of significance coinciding with its specific areas of significance. In the area of engineering, the periods of significance are 1838, the year Fort Caswell was completed, and 1896 to 1899 and 1901 to 1905, the periods during which the Endicott batteries and sea wall were completed. In the area of architecture, the periods of significance for Fort Caswell Historic District are 1838 when the original fortification was completed and 1898 to ca. 1941, the era during which the support buildings were built, beginning with the hospital and ending when the last of the military-related resources were constructed. The military history period of significance spans the period from 1838, with the completion of Fort Caswell, to 1948, when the United States government declared Fort Caswell surplus property. Archaeological significance spans the period of the beginning of construction through the occupation by the U. S. government, 1827-1948.

Placed into service during the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and the two World Wars, Fort Caswell Historic District remains one of the best-preserved and extensive coastal fortifications in the United States. Although the fort's function changed over time with each military campaign in which the United States became involved, the complex continued to play an important role in this country's history of defense and tactical offensive undertakings and meets National Register of Historic Places criteria in the area of military history. Its architectural significance lies in the survival of the extensive collection of buildings and structures, many built according to standardized plans issued by the United States government, that remain intact and well-preserved thanks to the efforts of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention, which purchased the property in 1949 and has served as the site's caretaker since that time.

The Fort Caswell Historic District (31BW801**) meets criteria consideration A as it derives its primary significance under National Register Criteria A, C, and D for military history, engineering, architecture, and archaeology.

History of Fort Caswell and Military History Context

In the late eighteenth century, the east coast of the United States remained under threat of attack from Great Britain, France, and Spain. The British, in particular, posed a continued threat because of their navy, which was the strongest in the world.[2]

[2] "Sentinels of Our Shores Teacher Guide," brochure, National Park Service, Gateway National Recreation Area, 2011, 7.

From 1794 to 1804—after a survey sponsored by Congress determined the most vulnerable and strategic locations along the Atlantic coast—a construction campaign of coastal forts occurred along the eastern seaboard. During what became known as the First System of coastal fortification, very few forts were built and in general they were of poor quality, often constructed using rough-cut wood, stone, and earthen banks. Individual states were responsible for the design and construction, so that little uniformity among these structures existed. After 1800, construction of fortifications declined as the United States faced fewer threats from foreign invaders.[3]

After a British warship fired on the USS Chesapeake in 1807, President Thomas Jefferson called for the resumption of coastal fort building and Congress responded with an authorization of $3,000,000. This Second System of construction occurred from 1807 to around 1815 and resulted in a string of well-built, mostly brick forts designed by American engineers, as opposed to the foreigners who designed the forts during the First System.[4] However, like the First System forts, these structures represented little coordination in design and planning, so they varied greatly in form and style. Three types of forts were built during the Second System: open batteries, masonry-faced earth forts, and all-masonry forts. All-masonry forts, along with the development of casemented gun emplacements, which allowed for the firing of guns through embrasures in the fort's scarp, or exterior wall, represented a significant turning point in military architecture in the United States. Casemented emplacements allowed for the fort's weapons to be stacked in multiple tiers creating increased firepower from the structure.[5]

The original fortification at Fort Caswell Historic District was built during the Third System of coastal fortification construction, which started in 1817, a time of relative peace in the United States, and concluded in 1850. Unlike the first two systems, the Third System, also referred to as the permanent system, fortifications followed standards set by a board of professional engineers chaired by French military engineer Brigadier-General Simon Bernard. The board, formed by President James Madison in 1816, was made up of four military engineers, including Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Joseph G. Totten, who would become one of the nation's most important military engineers. The board selected the sites, formulated a plan for all fortifications on the United States coast, and reviewed the designs drawn up by engineers. In its first report, dated 1821, the board selected eighteen sites as the highest priority with another thirty-two recommended for future construction; the latter category was

[3] Angus Konstam, *American Civil War Fortifications 1: Coastal Brick and Stone Forts* (Oxford, United Kingdom: Osprey Publishing, 2003), 8; Emmanuel Raymond Lewis, *Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History* (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1970), 22.
[4] Konstam, 9.
[5] Lewis, 25.

separated into two groups based on necessity. As part of the board's work, many inferior First and Second System forts were improved.[6]

Typically, Third System fortifications were substantial masonry structures built to endure the coastal elements of salt air and water and increased firepower. Masonry allowed for the construction of arches that could hold guns and embrasures and for the creation of tiered casements. The design accommodated a high number of artillery pieces, which provided a deterrent for early nineteenth-century wooden ships that might threaten targets of the fort's protection or the fort itself. These fortifications housed a great number of artillery pieces protected by well-fortified casements. The guns were usually emplaced in tiered casements, surmounted by a terreplein, the horizontal surface at the top of the fort. They proved expensive to build, maintain, and keep ready for combat, and until the outbreak of the Civil War when more funding became available, they were limited in their usefulness.[7]

Two members of the Bernard Board, in particular, greatly influenced the design and form of the Third System forts. Engineer Joseph G. Totten served as the board's authority on casement design and was responsible for scaling down the embrasures to an area of less than ten square feet and with developing apertures of less than four feet across. This design permitted the guns inside to swivel laterally from a center position so that they could engage targets at angles of 30 degrees. Bernard studied the geometric fort designs of seventeenth-century French military engineer Sebastien Le Prestre de Vauban and attempted to apply those principles on the east coast. The board also employed elements of the Montalembert concept with numerous guns set in tiered gun casements. Marc René, Marquis de Montalembert (1714-1800), was a French military engineer and writer, known for his work on fortifications. The forts built after 1825 shared certain characteristics, all owing to the influence of Totten and Bernard. They were symmetrical polygons and had multiple tiers of casements and, compared to earlier structures, had smaller or no bastions. Fewer larger guns replaced flanking batteries of small guns. Ultimately, the particular geography of the proposed fort's location played a great part in dictating its eventual form. For example, soft or swampy ground could not accommodate a large, heavy structure. [8]

On March 2, 1825, Congress authorized construction of a fort on Oak Island to protect the mouth of the Cape Fear River and the port of Wilmington to the north. Oak Island was an ideal location not only because it jutted into the mouth of the Cape Fear River but because its location on the island

[6] Konstam, 13; 15-16; Lewis, 37-38.
[7] Konstam, 17-18.
[8] Konstam, 18-19; Chapel of the Centurion, Fort Monroe, Virginia, National Register nomination.

meant that it was not vulnerable to land attack. A report dated September 30, 1825, by the Alexander Macomb, Major General, Chief Engineer of Army Corps of Engineers, stated that an officer working on a fortification in the Gulf of Mexico transferred to "North Carolina in July [1825], and, having purchased the site at Oak [island], commenced the preliminary examinations prescribed by the regulations for testing the accuracy of the surveys and leveling of the site, the adaptation of the plan to them, the accuracy of the estimate, the resources of the country." The report indicates that the results of this examination were to be completed the next month.[9] When established, Fort Caswell covered 2,750 acres from the east end of Oak Island westward to the present-day limits of the town of Long Beach.[10]

On November 18, 1826, the Chief Engineer reported the following progress on the fortification at Oak Island:

> An appropriation was made last year for the commencement of this work also, but no officer could be assigned to its superintendence until late in the season. The site has been purchased, materials have been collected, and wharves and other conveniences to facilitate their reception, removal, and preservation, have been prepared. Buildings for storehouses, for workshops, and for lodging workmen, have also been erected. Competent workmen could not be obtained in the neighborhood, and arrangements have been made for procuring them from the north. On their arrival the main work will commence.[11]

None of the buildings or structures referred to in the report remain at Fort Caswell Historic District.

Work began in 1827 under the direction of Major George Blaney of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, a Boston native who began his service with the Corps in 1815. Wilmington native James Ancrum Berry served as his assistant and built a small house on the Oak Island riverfront to accommodate

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[9] "Report of the Operations of the Engineer Department during the year ending September 30, 1825," September 30, 1825, in American State Papers, 19th Congress, 1st Session, Military Affairs: Volume 3, page 136, on A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U. S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875, The Library of Congress, memory.loc.gov/cgi bin/ampage?collid=llsp&filename=018/llsp018.db&recNum=145, accessed November 14, 2012.

[10] Ethel Herring and Carolee Williams, *Fort Caswell in War and Peace*, 2nd Edition (Oak Island: North Carolina Baptist Assembly, 1999), 5.

[11] "Report of the Chief Engineer for the Year 1826, Relating to the Fortifications, Internal Improvements, and the Military Academy," November 18, 1826, in American State Papers, 19th Congress, 2nd Session, Military Affairs: Volume 3, page 359, on A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U. S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875, The Library of Congress, memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collid=llsp&filename=018/llsp018.db&recNum=145, accessed November 14, 2012.

him and his family while the fort was being built. According to a nineteenth-century history, the sea washed that house away.[12]

Apparently, funding delayed work on Oak Island because on November 19,1828, the Chief Engineer reported the following concerning the construction:

> In consequence of the late period of the year at which the appropriation was available, the superintending engineer was unable, before the month of July, to organize the requisite force of masons to resume the construction of its masonry. He has, however, subsequently been able, besides making extensive excavations, to lay 115 cubical yards of stone and 2,131 cubical yards of brick masonry; and he confidently believes that, by the end of the year, the citadel will have so progressed as to receive its terminating grillage. In addition to the foregoing, the damages sustained by the storm of August, 1827, have all been repaired.[13]

Coastal storms and a lack of material and workers threatened construction at Fort Caswell throughout the nineteenth century.

A year later, on November 18, 1829, the Chief Engineer for the Army Corps reported, "during the past year the construction of this work has been continued in a satisfactory manner, and a great portion of its masonry is now completed."[14]

A combination of enslaved African Americans and white builders constructed the fort but census records indicate slave labor dominated the project. In the 1830 federal census for Brunswick County, George Blaney is listed as having 220 slaves on Oak Island. These slaves did not belong to Blaney but were likely hired out to the Army Corps by their owners. The census also indicates 65 free whites, likely a mix of workers and soldiers, associated with Blaney.[15]

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[12] James Sprunt, *Tales and Traditions of the Lower Cape Fear, 1661-1896* (Wilmington: Le Gwin Brothers Printers, 1896), 128.
[13] Report of C. Gratiot, Colonel of Engineers, November 19,1828, in American State Papers, 20th Congress, 2nd Session, Military Affairs: Volume 4, page 13, on A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U. S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875, The Library of Congress, memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsp&filename=019/llsp019.db&recNum=21, accessed November 14, 2012.
[14] "Report of the Chief Engineer, " November 18, 1829, in American State Papers, 21st Congress, 1st Session, Military Affairs: Volume 4, page 164, on A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U. S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875, The Library of Congress, memory.loc.gove/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsp&filename=019/llsp019.db&recNum=173, accessed November 14, 2012.
[15] Federal Census of the Population, 1830, Brunswick County, North Carolina, ancestry.com, accessed November 8, 2012.

By 1832, the fort was nearly complete but some features—including "the gun traverses, furnaces for heating shot, and the works for the preservation of its site"—remained unfinished because of funding. In November of that year, the Chief Engineer for the Army Corps reported that it was ready to receive a garrison, "though it is not entirely completed in consequence of a want of funds for that object." According to the report, the shortage of money was due to an underestimate by the local engineer.[16]

In April 1833, by order of the Secretary of War, the fort was named in honor of Richard Caswell (1729-1789), a Revolutionary War veteran, Major-General in the North Carolina militia, and member of the Continental Congress. He served as North Carolina's first governor after the Declaration of Independence.[17]

The original fortification at Fort Caswell was one of about thirty Third System seacoast defenses built during the period 1817 to the beginning of the Civil War. Vertical masonry walls, polygonal forms, embrasures in the scarp, and barrel-vaulted arches designed to hold heavy armament characterize these structures. The only other Third System fortification in North Carolina is Fort Macon (NR, 1970), in Carteret County, which was built from 1826 to 1834. Like Fort Caswell, Confederate militiamen took over the structure during the Civil War but surrendered about a year later. The Army abandoned Fort Macon in 1903 and in 1936 it opened as North Carolina's first state park. During World War II, the Army leased the fort from the state but returned it in 1946.[18] Unlike Fort Caswell, Fort Macon's five walls remain intact and much the structure has been restored and is interpreted for the public.

On November 15, 1835, the Chief Engineer for the Army Corps reported that storms had damaged the fort and that "the walls...have also had some motion since they were erected, causing injuries to the arches of the caponnieres and crenelated galleries." The engineer went on to remark that inadequate funding meant that the parapets and furnaces could not be built.[19]

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[16] "Report of the Chief Engineer," November 13, 1832, in American State Papers, 22nd Congress, 2nd Session, Military Affairs: Volume 5, page 43, on A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U. S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875, The Library of Congress, memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=llsp&filename=020.db&recNum=51, accessed November 14, 2012.

[17] Kellie Slappey, Richard Caswell, http://www.northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/476/entry/, accessed November 20, 2012.

[18] " A Guide and Brief History of Fort Macon," brochure, North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 2010.

[19] "Report of the Chief Engineer," November 15, 1835, in American State Papers, 24th Congress, 1st Session, Military Affairs: Volume 5, page 656, on A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U. S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875, The Library of Congress, memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage, accessed November 20, 2012.

After Blaney's death in Smithville (now Southport) in 1836, Captain Alexander J. Swift (1810-1847), son of General Joseph Swift, Chief of the Engineer Corps, took over as supervisor of the fort's construction. He had been serving as assistant engineer on the project. [20] In November of that year, the chief engineer for the Army Corps reported that workers had repaired the dike around the fort's moat and were preparing to build the permanent lock to control the flow of water into the ditches that surrounded the fort. He added that, "arrangements are also in progress for beginning the necessary masonry at an early period of next year, and which could not be commenced sooner for want of brick."[21]

As the fortification neared completion in late 1837, problems with weather and tides continued to plague its construction. In November of that year, the Army Corps' chief engineer hinted at the need for a sea wall: "The effect of a storm in August last has been such as to prove conclusively the necessity of protecting the site of the fort from the sea abrasion, which has been progressing for several years." He also reported, "1,360 cubic yards of masonry have been constructed, and 13,038 cubic yards of earth removed."[22] Three months later, in January 1838, the Army Corps asked the United States House of Representatives for an estimated $8,500 to build jetties and embankments at Fort Caswell, which the chief engineer described as "now exposed to destruction from the stormwaves and tides that are abrading the beach."[23]

Completed in 1838, the finished fort was a five-sided masonry structure, which was small in comparison to other fortifications built during the Third System. It lacked bastions, a feature of many forts of this period but had three pairs of caponiers, which were flanking structures that projected out from the scarp, or the outer wall. Caponiers sometimes served as passageways. The Army Corps designed Fort Caswell for sixty-four channel-bearing, long-range guns, all intended to fire *en*

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[20] Alexander J. Swift, http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Gazetteer /Places/America/United_States/Army/USMA/Cullums_Register/587*.html, accessed November 2, 2012.

[21] "Report of the Chief Engineer," November 30, 1836, in American State Papers, 24th Congress, 2nd Session, Military Affairs: Volume 6, page 848, on A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U. S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875, The Library of Congress, memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin.ampage?collId=llsp&filename=021.db&recNum=861, accessed November 20, 2012.

[22] "Report of the Chief Engineer," November 30, 1837, in American State Papers, 25th Congress, 2nd Session, Military Affairs: Volume 7, pages 632-633, on A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U. S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875, The Library of Congress, memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin.ampage?collId=llsp&filename=022.db&recNum=645, accessed November 20, 2012.

[23] "Supplemental Estimates for Fort Caswell, North Carolina," January 12, 1838, in American State Papers, 25th Congress, 2nd Session, Military Affairs: Volume 7, page 899, on A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U. S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1875, The Library of Congress, memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin.ampage?collId=llsp&filename=022.db&recNum=914, accessed November 20, 2012.

barbette, or over a defensive wall instead of through an embrasure, or an opening in the wall. The inner parade ground contained a citadel that held barracks, officers' quarters, storage rooms, and an armory. The fort accommodated about 400 men.[24] Caswell Creek, which flowed from the north side of the complex (near where the house known as "Little Pier" stands) southward through what later became the parade ground, provided water to a moat that surrounded the inner area of the fort.[25]

In 1861, a Charleston newspaper described Fort Caswell as "a first class fortification, of a hexagonal form, built of massive Northern granite masonry, having two tiers of guns under bombproof casemates, and one tier of guns en barbette." The report describes the site as "surrounded by ditches and advanced works, as in every particular [way] a first class work."[26]

After its completion, little activity occurred at the fort until the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. George Corlette, a fort keeper, was stationed at the fort during the period between its completion and the start of the Civil War.[27] In early 1861, Southerners living in southeastern North Carolina grew increasingly alarmed at the prospect of Union troops occupying Fort Caswell, which provided the main protection for the port of Wilmington, a major supply center for the Confederacy. On January 10, 1861, three months before the outbreak of war, a volunteer group of soldiers known as the Cape Fear Minute Men took control of Fort Caswell. The next day, after an order by Governor John W. Ellis to give up the fort, Major John J. Hedrick, commander of the minutemen, and his group evacuated the site.[28]

While Fort Caswell and the other forty-one coastal fortifications built during the Third System represented advancements in military design, they proved ill-suited to the type of combat Union forces encountered in the Civil War. These structures were built to face seaward attacks from slow-moving wooden ships equipped with inaccurate and relatively light armament. In the South, by the time of the war, the real threat came from land-bound Southern militiamen who were fighting for the confederacy armed with rifles; the result was that most of these structures fell into the hands of Confederates.[29]

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[24] Konstam, 62; Charles H. Foard, "Fort Caswell," report in possession of the author, n.d., 2. James F. Marchman III, "A History of Fort Caswell, "Baptist Student Union, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, n.d., n.p.
[25] Herring and Williams, 11.
[26] *The Charleston Mercury*, January 14, 1861.
[27] Herring and Williams, 18-19.
[28] Herring and Williams, 21-22.
[29] Lewis, 66.

On April 14, 1861, the local Confederate militia under Colonel John Lucas Cantwell took over the fort; he remained in command until July. Just five days after capturing the fort, a column in a Wilmington newspaper appealed for workers to help ready the fort for battle: "Laborers in any numbers are wanted at Fort Caswell. Let every slave owner, who can spare even one hand, send him along. Of course those who can send more will send them. They will be taken care of. We take it for granted that now every man and every woman, too, will do what they can for the cause of the State. The issue is upon us. We must meet it."[30]

During the spring, workers and soldiers prepared the site by mounting guns, building wooden barracks, and constructing a rail line from the pier to the fort.[31]

Letters from soldiers posted at Fort Caswell shed light on conditions there during the war. On November 4, 1861, James Bracey wrote to his mother in Robeson County:

> ...I have to stand on guard as sentinel or as picket almost every other night and the air is naturally damp on the seaside here and the wind is almost always blowing. ...We heard yesterday that the news had got to Robeson that we were taken prisoners but you need not give yourself any uneasiness on that account as it would take a great many Yankees to take this place. There are sometimes 5 or 6 of Lincoln's vessels in sight but they take care to keep out of reach of our Cannons.[32]

Fort Caswell, garrisoned with anywhere from 400 to 800 soldiers throughout the war, avoided attack from Union forces during the conflict. Rather, it served mostly as a guardian to blockade runners on the Cape Fear River who were attempting to deliver supplies to Confederate troops and the port of Wilmington.[33] To further protect the river, Fort Holmes was built in 1863 on Smith Island, now known as Bald Head Island, which is on the east side of the Cape Fear River. Constructed of sand, marsh mud, and palm tree logs in an area southwest of the lighthouse, it held fifteen to eighteen large guns during the war.[34]

Fort Fisher, which guarded the northern mouth of the Cape Fear River, fell to Union forces on January 15, 1865, in a bloody battle that allowed for the siege of Wilmington, the last Confederate seaport in

[30] *The Daily Journal* (Wilmington), April 19, 1861.
[31] Herring and Williams, 24.
[32] Letter from James Bracey to his mother, dated November 4, 1861, in the Lyman Wilson Sheppard Collection, 1861-1941 Letters, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.
[33] Angus Konstam, *Confederate Blockade Runners, 1861-65* (Oxford, United Kingdom: Osprey Publishing, 2004), 44.
[34] Michael D. Hitt, "Fort Holmes, Smith Island," brochure for Old Baldy Foundation and Smith Island Museum of History, n.d.

the southeast. Commanders ordered troops at Fort Caswell to abandon the site and destroy its ammunition. On January 17, Captain E. S. Martin, Chief of Ordnance and Artillery, destroyed the barracks and exploded the magazines, including one containing a hundred pounds of gun powder. Martin and the remaining troops are said to have taken down the Confederate flag and walked away from the blazing fort.[35] A Smithville resident later remarked of the scene at Fort Caswell after its abandonment, "When I visited it sometime afterward it presented a scene of ruin and desolation I had never imaged could come to it."[36]

Fort Caswell Historic District and its accompanying buildings fell into disrepair after the Civil War and much of its contents were sold off or disposed of. A local newspaper reported on December 5, 1879, that "a Mr. Buck from Baltimore purchased from the government all the old cannon, shell, gun carriages, etc. at Fort Caswell."[37] Many reports from the decades after the end of the conflict cite shattered walls, barracks in ruins, and the entire site overtaken by weeds.

In 1886, President Grover Cleveland established a board headed by Secretary of War William Endicott to evaluate coastal defenses. Composed of representatives of the army and navy with civilian members as well, the Board of Fortifications—commonly referred to as the Endicott Board—was charged with reviewing the coast defenses and recommending a new program of defense based on newly developed or improved weapons systems. With the growth and maturation of the domestic metals industry, the widespread use of steel guns increased, while iron weapons fell out of favor. Breech loading weaponry became more sophisticated in the late nineteenth-century and it became possible to mount guns on new types of carriages and within emplacements of a design that allowed the guns to be lowered by their own firing recall energy behind the fortification wall where soldiers could load them in relative safety. A third improvement during this period saw the use of more effective propellants.[38] This weaponry, which emerged around 1890, could fire projectiles that were four times as heavy to distances two or three times greater than previous and with remarkable accuracy and armor-penetrating ability.[39]

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[35] Sprunt, 131-132.
[36] James Erastus Price, "What a Boy Saw During the Civil War," quoted in Herring and Williams, page 44.
[37] Bill Reaves, *Smithville: A Chronology, Volume 1* (Wilmington: Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1985), 75.
[38] Lewis, 76.
[39] Emanuel Raymond Lewis, *Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History* (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1970), 75-76.

The board recommended the construction of fortifications at twenty-six coastal locations, including Fort Caswell, plus three in the Great Lakes.[40] The types of fortifications recommended by the Endicott Board differed greatly from those built during the Third System. By the late nineteenth century, the military was focused less on the fortification structures and more on the weapons they held. Instead of the vertical-walled forts of earlier in the century, the massive concrete fortifications of this period were simple in form. The shift was reflected in the character of the new gun emplacements, which though massive and costly, were relatively simple in form. Compared to the stark, vertical-walled forts of the Third System, the new works of reinforced concrete were designed to blend, so far as possible, into the surrounding landscape. [41]

In addition to the construction of fortifications, the Endicott Board recommended certain weapon types and locations for these weapons. Among its recommendations were submarine mines and floating mines to be placed in deep water and ground mines installed in shallow water. The board also concluded that torpedo boats could provide defense for these minefields.[42]

The construction of the seven batteries, beginning in 1895, was only part of a massive building campaign at Fort Caswell Historic District that took place in years surrounding the turn of the twentieth century. As the seven reinforced concrete batteries were erected from 1895 to 1905, numerous buildings were constructed at the site with most following standardized plans issued by the Army's Quartermaster Corps. The hospital, completed in 1898, was the first building completed during this period, followed by the administrative building in 1899. By the time the Spanish-American War began in 1898, when troops once again manned the fort, much building had occurred and a power plant and a water system had been installed. Construction continued after the war and into the early twentieth century with the completion of dwellings, barracks, storehouses, mess halls, school, stable, guard house, and blacksmith and carpenter shops.

The construction of the Endicott batteries coincided with the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, which took place in 1898. Although the Endicott Boards recommendations and plans pre-dated the war, the outbreak of conflict just as construction of the fortifications was beginning led Congress to dramatically increase appropriations to bolster the military. Part of this ramping up of forces involved the speeding up of completion of the seacoast fortifications planned by the Endicott Board.

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[40] Bethanie C. Grashof, "A Study of United States Army Family Housing Standardized Plans, Volume 1," (Atlanta: Center for Architectural Conservation, College of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology, May 1986), 29; Willard B. Robinson, *American Forts: Architectural Forms and Function* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1977), 132.
[41] Lewis, 78.
[42] J. E. Kaufmann and H. W. Kaufmann, *Fortress America: The Forts That Defended America, 1600 to Present* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: De Capo Press, 2004), 312.

Because of its location in relation to the seaport of Wilmington, Fort Caswell's concrete batteries were the only ones built in North Carolina during this period.[43]

The 1900 federal census indicates that of the approximately 100 people, mostly privates, residing at Fort Caswell, fewer than ten were civilians and included Erwin Shores, a physician, and his wife Nettie. Two cooks, two laborers, and two mechanics worked at the fort and, except for a single laborer, all of these workers were born in Europe.[44]

In 1910, Colonel Henry Ludlow was in command at Fort Caswell and at least 300 other individuals, mostly privates, and workers lived at the post. Captain Howard Sanders and his wife Mabel lived with their two young sons, a 24-year-old black cook named Chapel Pleasant, and Sadie Ford, a 44-year-old black nurse. A total of nine individuals at the post are listed as servants, mostly working as laundresses, cooks, and maids.[45]

During World War I, which the United States entered upon declaring war on Germany in 1917, National Guard troops from across North Carolina trained at Fort Caswell before shipping off to the conflict in Europe. In fact, Fort Caswell was one of only two National Guard training centers in the state. Frame barracks, no longer extant, were quickly erected, while many soldiers lived in a temporary tent city located near Battery Bagley. Twelve buildings for the six companies occupying the fort were put up quickly between Batteries Shipp and Bagley. Temporary quarters for married enlisted men were built from Battery Swift past Battery Madison facing the parade ground. Since there was no road or bridge to Oak Island, all building material had to be delivered by ship to the wharf. A narrow-gauge railroad was laid down to move supplies, including building materials used to construct housing for the burgeoning troops who came to occupy the fort. Army mules were used to move heavy trains containing ammunition and materials along the railroad track. The azimuth tower, which held the spotting scope for targeting enemy watercraft, was built during this period. Although Fort Caswell was fully armed during World War I, it mainly served as a training ground for artillery during the war.[46]

During the war, Fort Caswell occupied most of Oak Island. Outside the Fort Caswell Historic District boundaries, the military erected structures to support the war effort. A coastal monitoring system

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[43] Paul Branch, "Fort Macon and the Spanish-American War," Friends of Fort Macon, www.clis.com/friends/SpanAmer-1.htm, accessed September 4, 2013.
[44] Federal Census of the Population, 1900, Brunswick County, North Carolina.
[45] Federal Census of the Population, 1910, Brunswick County, North Carolina.
[46] Herring and Williams, 76.

included spotlights and small gun emplacements extending to Long Beach. A large searchlight stood near the present-day Oak Island Golf Course. A rifle range, which is included in the nomination as a discontiguous resource, was built a little over two miles from what is now the western boundary of the main district to allow for long-range target practice.[47]

At the war's end, a small number of National Guard troops remained at Fort Caswell in order to salvage parts of the complex that could be used at other military installations. The 1920 census, taken in February of that year and two years after the end of World War I, indicates that 267 people lived at Fort Caswell. During this period, the base was home to many officers and their families. Charles Morrow, a Lieutenant Colonel, lived at the fort with his wife, Mabel, their two young sons, Evelyn Howard, a nurse, and a black cook named Virginia Holmes. Colonel James Thomas lived at the fort with his wife, Mabel, and their two daughters. According to the census, 165 sergeants, corporals, and privates lived in the barracks. In addition to military personnel, mechanics and two musicians, one from Italy and the other from Kentucky, quartered in the barracks in 1920.[48]

The North Carolina Coast Artillery and National Guardsmen used the fort for summer maneuvers in the years after the war but in March 1924 the War Department closed the fort, removed its supplies and other property, and installed a caretaker, Joseph W. Jelks.[49]

In a deed dated 1926, the United States government sold Fort Caswell's 248 acres to developers S. O. Chase and and L. B. Skinner, owners of Caswell Carolina Corporation, who planned to convert it to a resort. Perhaps to encourage Chase and Skinner's development, in 1928 Brunswick County built a swing-drawbridge across the Elizabeth River and a five-mile-long sand and clay road across the marsh to provide access to the former fort. Before this project, the site had never been reliably accessible by road, only water.[50] In 1930, a caretaker, sixty-three-year-old Alexander D. McDonald, occupied Fort Caswell.[51]

The Great Depression delayed the developers' progress and work did not start until 1937 when Chase and Skinner brought seventy-five men from Florida to prepare the site for development.[52] In 1938, two artesian wells were activated and their water used to fill two large gun emplacements on top of Battery Caswell. The resort company converted the gun wells to hot mineral pools and the

[47] Herring and Williams, 80.
[48] Federal Census of the Population, 1920, Brunswick County, North Carolina.
[49] Herring and Williams, 86.
[50] Herring and Williams, 88.
[51] Federal Census of the Population, 1930, Brunswick County, North Carolina.
[52] Herring and Williams, 90.

rooms below became dressing rooms; the pools became extremely popular.[53] Despite the draw created by the pools and the grand plans of Chase and Skinner, a resort never materialized at Fort Caswell.

Likely sensing its impending involvement in what would become World War II, on November 17, 1941, the United States Navy purchased the 248-acre complex from the Caswell Carolina Corporation for $75,000; the transaction occurred one month before Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. After all the buildings were painted a camouflage green, blackout curtains installed in their windows, and new piers built, the United States placed Fort Caswell back into military service on January 1, 1942. During the war, the site served as a submarine tracking station, training and communications center, and base for supplies and small naval craft.[54]

During World War II, Fort Caswell served as one of four bases nationwide where the activities of German submarines were monitored. The other bases were in South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. Fort Caswell and these other bases trained patrol boats to monitor the Germans. At Fort Caswell, six boats, all private yachts doing Navy work because of the military's lack of vessels, patrolled around Frying Pan Shoals looking for the submarines. Fort Caswell also tended to the war wounded. Ships brought the injured soldiers to the fort where they were transported to area hospitals for treatment.[55]

After the war, retired U. S. Army Sergeant C. S. Mann became caretaker and a small number of men remained stationed at Fort Caswell. In 1948, the Navy turned over the property to the War Assets Administration, which sold it to the Trustees of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention on September 17, 1949, for $86,000.[56] Since that time, the Convention has used the site, now called the North Carolina Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell, as a retreat center and camp and worked to preserve the fortifications and buildings constructed during the military occupation.

Engineering and Architecture Context

The architectural and engineering significance of Fort Caswell Historic District lies in the survival of a full complement of defense structures and non-tactical resources that span the period from 1838 to World War II. No other military complex in North Carolina possesses the array of tactical, support,

[53] *News and Observer* (Raleigh) May 18, 1940.
[54] Herring and Williams, 93.
[55] Herring and Williams, 95.
[56] Brunswick County Register of Deeds, book 97, page 633, September 17, 1949.

and domestic resources associated with military installations that developed over this period. Fort Caswell Historic District demonstrates the influence of advances in building technology and the construction standards and style preferences of the United States military over time, as well as the styles that were in fashion during specific eras.

The brick fort, built from 1827 to 1838, and designed under the direction of French engineer Simon Bernard is only one of two Third System fortifications built by the United States military in North Carolina. It is also one of about thirty Third System seacoast defenses built in the United States during the period 1817 to the beginning of the Civil War. The construction of Fort Caswell represented significant advances in military architecture and engineering. Third system forts were characterized by massive masonry or stone structures designed to maximize firepower through concentrated firepower, tiered walls, and casemates. Moreover, Simon Bernard included casemates and brick arches, elements seen in the European fortifications that had been built for decades prior to the beginning of the Third System campaign. Fort Caswell's irregular plan, substantial form, and adherence to a uniformity in design was further characteristic of Third System coastal defenses. Like other forts of the Third System, Fort Caswell was influenced by the Montalembert concept in which weaponry was inserted in tall thick masonry walls and by the Vauban model that espoused the use of low brick walls for protection.

Fort Macon (NR, 1970), the only other Third System fortification built in North Carolina, stands on Bogue Island and guarded the Beaufort Inlet and Beaufort Harbor in Carteret County. Constructed from 1826 to 1834, when it was garrison, the five-sided brick and stone structure features outer walls that are fourteen and a half feet thick. The fort contains twenty-four casements and three magazines. Two of the scarp walls are ninety-degree angles, while the other three are rounded. Its form and features are typical of Third System fortifications. Unlike Fort Caswell, all of its walls remain intact. Two cemeteries remain at Fort Macon, but all of the support buildings that once stood are gone. They included a commander's house, hospital, officers' quarters, boathouse, and wharf, all from pre-Civil War era. By the 1870s, a new hospital, four officers' quarters, a bakery, storehouse, and ordnance quarters had been built. Because the Endicott Board did not view Beaufort as a vulnerable target, batteries were not recommended for Fort Macon in the late nineteenth century. The fort became property of the state in 1924, but reverted back to federal ownership during World War II. In 1946, it once again came under state control and now serves as a state park.[57]

[57] Fort Macon State Park History," North Carolina State Parks website, www.ncparks.gove/visit/parks/foma/history.php, accessed September 4, 2013; Tony P. Wrenn, Fort Macon (North Carolina) National Register Nomination, 1970, hpo.ncdcr.gov. Accessed September 4, 2013.

The next phase of military construction at Fort Caswell came in the late nineteenth century with the construction of the reinforced concrete batteries that line the southern edge of the central complex of resources in the district. In 1885, President Grover Cleveland appointed a board to come up with a plan for seacoast defenses. The Endicott Board, named for Secretary of War William C. Endicott, who directed it, sent its findings to Congress in 1886. The board recommended the ports that should be fortified and the types of weapons that should be used at those fortifications. The Endicott Board's recommendations would lead to a large-scale modernization program of harbor and coastal defenses. The Board supported the construction of well-dispersed, open top, reinforced concreted emplacements that were further protected by sloped earthworks. The group of seven poured concrete batteries at Fort Caswell, dating from 1895 to 1907, represents the only Endicott board fortifications built in North Carolina and signal the continued military importance of Fort Caswell in the defense of the Cape Fear River and the port of Wilmington. The structures were designed to hold large gun emplacements and contained magazines and quarters. By 1903, seventy batteries in twenty-eight locations in the United States had been built. The batteries at Fort Caswell remain mostly intact although little maintenance has been carried out.

In the late nineteenth century, the Quartermaster Corps played a major role in shaping the built landscape of Fort Caswell. By 1884, the Quartermaster Corps had taken over the construction of quarters from the Corps of Engineers, which had been building military structures since at least the late eighteenth century but by this time was concentrating its efforts on public works. The 1885 "Annual Report of the Secretary of War" quotes an Act of Congress dated July 5, 1884 that spells out the duties of the Barracks and Quarters Branch of the Quartermaster Corps:

> ...receipt, recording, and analysis, and disposal of all applications, projects, and requisitions touch the construction, improving, and repair of Army shelter, such as barracks, officers' quarters, storehouses, stables, guardhouses, hospitals, etc., wharves, bridges, targets, etc., hire and purchase of grounds for military encampments, improving of water supply, drainage, and sewage at military posts, care and preservation of post cemeteries and other misc. duties, including the preparation of drawings, specifications, estimates and studies for the various work under heads above noted."[58]

At this time, the Office of the Quartermaster General struggled with budgets that were not sufficient for construction because architects were employed to design army buildings.[59] It is likely that

[58] Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1885, quoted in Grashof, 3.
[59] Grashof, 30

architects' fees factored into the Quartermaster General's program of building standardization; reusing plans helped to control building costs. The dwellings built to the specifications of the Army's standardized plans at the turn of the twentieth century reflected the styles and forms of domestic architecture popular throughout the country, including the Queen Anne, Shingle, and Craftsman styles. Instead of straight-run central passages, dwellings built by the Army contained grand entry halls and sometimes a small alcove. However, houses built according to these plans lacked the highly-ornate decorative elements found in styles of this period, a result of the Army's attempt to keep costs down.[60]

Fort Caswell's officers' and noncommissioned officers' quarters follow standardized plans issued by the Quartermaster General. For example, Captain's House 3 was built ca. 1905 following Plan No. 149, whose plan type is described as "Officers' Quarters, single set, 3 stories + basement, frame." The plan is dated May 1901. The 1902 Field Officer's House follows Plan No. 148, which is described as "officers' quarters, single set, 3 stories + basement, frame" and is dated July 1901. The two Single Officers' Quarters, both dating to 1911, follow Plan No. 260, whose type is described as "Quarters for Two Company Officers, 2 stories + basement, brick." The plan is dated 1909.[61]

The construction of the sea wall in 1901 was a monumental project and a significant addition to the military installation. Extending along the entire beachfront on the south and around to the riverfront on the east, the sea wall was built to hold back the ocean but also to retain the fill dirt that was pumped onto the site to elevate and even out the ground. According to the *Annual Reports of the War Department for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1905, Volume VII, Report of the Chief of Engineers*, the sea wall averages about six feet in height but it is now mostly flush with the ground.

Into the early twentieth century, the Quartermaster General's office continued to struggle to keep up with construction and repair demands on military posts. In his 1903 report, the Quartermaster General offered, "that a vastly greater amount of construction work was planned, than undertaken, in the history of the Army. The Construction and Repair Division of this office is burdened with work to such an extent that it is physically impossible to keep from falling arrears. The regular corps of architects and draftsmen, are pushed to the utmost to keep abreast of the demands upon it."[62]

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[60] Grashof, 37.
[61] Bethanie C. Grashof, "A Study of United States Army Family Housing Standardized Plans (PX-0001-5-0835), Volume 4," (Atlanta: Center for Architectural Conservation, College of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology, May 1986), n.p.
[62] *Annual Report of the Quartermaster General to the Secretary of War for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1903* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903), 22.

With the increase in construction, a need for more personnel in the Quartermaster General's office arose. In the 1903 report, the Quartermaster General indicated an urgent need for an architect, two architectural and structural draftsmen, specifications writers, and cost estimators for the Division of Construction and Repair. This division was composed of two branches: the Reservation Branch, which purchased land and repaired and constructed water, sewer, lighting, and heating systems, and the Barracks and Quarters Branch, which built and repaired buildings, roads, walks, bridges, and wharves, among other structures.[63]

In January 1905, the Quartermaster General hired F. B. Wheaton as advisory architect to supervise the department's architects and draftsmen and, if necessary, to revise standardized plans for buildings but especially for barracks and quarters. According to the Quartermaster General's report for 1905, "excellent progress has been made in this work, not only in the way of improving the general appearance of buildings but through the elimination of unduly elaborate details of design and construction."[64]

The quarters at Fort Caswell are typically two stories on brick basements with wraparound porches. Other surviving buildings from this period include a circa 1900 gable-front and brick torpedo shed, a frame stable constructed in 1901, and three two-story, frame barracks with double-tier porches. During this period the military also built four two-story, gable-front frame houses for noncommissioned officers on the northeast corner of the property facing the Cape Fear River and Smith Island.

Across the United States, there are several former military installations that retain Third System fortifications and Endicott-era batteries, but few also retain the extensive complex of non-tactical resources present at Fort Caswell Historic District.

Fort Warren (NHL, 1970) on Georges Island in Massachusetts, was built to protect the Boston Harbor during the Civil War. The Third System fort, which was built of Quincy granite blocks from 1833 to 1861, served as a prison for officers and officials of the Confederacy. It retains its dry moat, dirt ramparts, and 181 cannon mounts. Three Endicott-era batteries, a late nineteenth-century hospital, World War I-era mine storage building, cistern, sea wall, granite powder magazine, and a guardhouse also occupy the site. The fort was active in the Civil War, Spanish-American War and both world

[63] Grashof, Volume 1, 32
[64] *Annual Report of the Quartermaster General to the Secretary of War for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1905* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1905), 9.

wars.[65]

Fort Monroe (NHL, 1975) in Hampton Roads, Virginia, occupies the Peninsula overlooking the Chesapeake Bay and is the largest fort ever constructed in the United States. Construction of the Third System stone and brick fort began in 1819 and continued for the next twenty-five years. The moated, hexagonal structure was garrisoned in 1823 and became a prime training and assembly point for artillerymen before the Civil War. During the Endicott period approximately fifteen detached gun and mortar batteries were constructed along the shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Three gun batteries were integrated into the original fort. Fort Monroe retains several impressive brick and frame buildings, including Quarters 1 where President Lincoln planned the Union attack on Norfolk; Building Number 17; the ca. 1860 Building Number 27, which served as a former arsenal; Chapel of the Centurion from 1857-1858; the 1912 hospital; and the 1802 Point Comfort Lighthouse and a keeper's house.[66]

Fort Pickens (NR, 1971) on Santa Rosa Island, Florida, was constructed in 1834 to protect the harbor at Pensacola. It is a pentagonal structure with bastions at five corners. Its walls are forty feet high and twelve feet thick; it has a dry moat and portholes for one layer of guns in casements, with more gun mounts on top of the walls. The fort was designed to hold 252 guns. It was one of the few southern forts not taken over by Confederates during the Civil War.[67]

Fort Worden (NHL, 1973), which was built to guard the Puget Sound in Washington State, served as an active Army base from 1902 to 1953 and, like Fort Caswell, retains an assemblage of early twentieth-century support structures associated with the site's military history. Included in the complex is a row of two-and-a-half-story, mostly frame, officers' quarters, two-and-a-half-story enlisted men's barracks, and two-and-a-half-story noncommissioned officers' quarters, all built according to the Quartermaster Corps standardized plans. Also surviving are the hospital, hospital steward's quarters, and an administration building. Support buildings include quartermaster's warehouses, a commissary, gymnasium, and guard house. Unlike Fort Caswell, Fort Worden was built

[65] John D. McDermott, Fort Warren (Massachusetts) National Register of Historic Places Form, 1970, nps.gov, accessed September 4, 2013.
[66] Stephen Lissandrello, Fort Monroe (Virginia) National Register of Historic Places Form, 1975, nps.gov, accessed September 4, 2013; "Fort Monroe", the Library of Congress, American Memory collection, www.memory.loc.gov, accessed September 4, 2013.
[67] Randy F. Nimnicht, Fort Pickens (Florida) National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1971, nps.gov, accessed September 4, 2013.

on land not occupied by earlier defense fortifications.[68]

Archaeological Significance

Before summer 2013, no systematic archaeological investigation or research had taken place at Fort Caswell Historic District (31BW801**). Since the purchase of the property by the North Carolina Baptist Convention in 1949, various artifacts have been discovered and preserved but further study has not occurred. In May and June, 2013, William Peace University Archaeological Field School, under the direction of archaeologist Thomas E. Beaman, conducted a field school to document elements of Fort Caswell and adjacent Battery Caswell. The field school was developed with the following research goals in mind:

(1) To archaeologically relocate, define, and document the Citadel in the interior of the fort. The cross-shaped citadel, which has been described as a two-story structure measuring 100 feet by 40 feet, served as barracks for officers and enlisted men during the Civil War It was burned in January 1865 when Confederates abandoned the fort and likely disappeared around the turn of the twentieth century. The goal was to identify and define the exterior of the building in relation to the original fort and Battery Caswell and to determine how the building disappeared.
(2) To archaeologically relocate, define, and document the missing portion of the eastern fort wall and fifth corner of the fort. Excavations aimed to identify and define the original location of these features in relation to the original fort and Battery Caswell. Excavations also attempted to determine how the area of wall disappeared, either through collapse or removal.
(3) To archaeologically define and document the wet and dry moats that surround the fort.
(4) To archaeologically document the construction details of the rifle galleries along the inside eastern scarp wall of Fort Caswell. The investigation aimed to identify and document any unique features of its construction, such as whether its floor was brick or wood.
(5) To locate and archaeologically define a possible system of internal plumbing from the citadel to outside of the original fort.
(6) To explore the material life of soldiers who occupied Fort Caswell. Excavations at Fort Caswell will likely yield a number of artifacts from the Civil War era and beyond that represent the activities of soldiers stationed there.
(7) To document above-ground resources at the batteries constructed during the Endicott Period of coastal defense improvements.

[68] George R. Adams, Fort Worden (Washington) National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1973, nps.org, accessed September 4, 2013.

During the investigation that took place in May and June 2013, the archaeologists established a northeast baseline from within Fort Caswell that extended over the ruins of the citadel, the collapsed fort wall, and the moat areas. The baseline formed the basis of a grid that served to define and establish excavation units. Test units were excavated by hand using acceptable modern standards for archeological fieldwork in the southeast, including the use of ¼" screens. Because of the sensitive nature of the area, no mechanical equipment was used. Field documentation was thorough and included field notes, maps, drawings, and photographs.

Among the discoveries during the 2013 field school, were footings of the citadel discovered in two test units; the citadel's remaining foundation in seven other test units; the collapsed wall of the fort on the east; the foundation of the fort's fifth corner; and the brick lining of one of the moats. Artifacts included a rifle (date unknown), a pocket watch cover, a gun loophole, and a doorknob and locking plate that most likely came from the entrance to the citadel. The discovery of these resources indicates that further archaeological exploration has the potential to yield information about military history, architecture, and engineering. Artifacts have the potential to lead to an exploration of life within the fort during different eras. It could also provide interesting insight into issues of class, ethnicity, and gender activities of regional male military life during the Civil War period.

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Geographical Data (continued)

UTM REFERENCES (for the 760-acre area, including extensions into the river and ocean)
5: 17 776760 3753140
6: 17 227440 3752660
7: 17 775660 3752400
8: 17 774540 3752840

UTM REFERENCES (for Rifle Range)
9: 17 771520 375940

Verbal Boundary Description
On the accompanying map, the boundary for the Fort Caswell Historic District is indicated by a heavy line on an inset map, which is drawn at a scale of 1"=3,333'. The fort complex and rifle range are shown at a scale of 1"=200' on the same map. An accompanying compact disk contains the shape file for the full boundary.

Boundary Justification
The nominated property includes the approximately 246-acre parcel that the North Carolina Baptist State Convention purchased from the United States government in 1949, which contains the cohesive concentration of buildings, structures, sites, and landscapes associated with Fort Caswell's history as a military installation from the 1838 to 1948. The boundary extends approximately .50 nautical miles from that portion of the Oak Island shoreline associated with Fort Caswell Historic District into the Atlantic Ocean, on the south, and into the Cape Fear River, on the east, about halfway across the river between Fort Caswell and Bald Head Island. The boundary extends into the ocean and river to take in areas historically defended by Fort Caswell. The boundary also includes the linear less-than-one-acre parcel containing the long, concrete 1918 rifle range historically associated with Fort Caswell, which is discontiguous from the rest of the district. This resource occupies land that was once part of the military reservation.

Fort Caswell Historic District
Caswell Beach vic., Brunswick County, North Carolina
Contributing Resource
Noncontributing Resource
< 1 - Photo view
National Register boundary
1 inch = 200 feet
0 200 400 800 Feet
Note: Contributing status of outbuildings can be found in the nomination inventory
Rifle Range (noncontiguous resource) Inset map
Pinehurst Dr
Bunker Ct
Foxfire Trl
1 inch = 200 feet
0 100 200 400 Feet
Historic District overview Inset map
S L A N D
Rifle Range (noncontiguous resource)
Caswell Beach Rd
Fort Complex
1 inch = 3,333 feet
0 0.5 1 2 Miles

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

SOUTHPORT QUADRANGLE
NORTH CAROLINA–BRUNSWICK CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Fort Caswell Historic District
Rifle Range
Brunswick Co., NC
17 E 771520
N 3754940

Fort Caswell Historic District
Brunswick Co., NC
ZONE 17
1: E 774840
N 3753900
2: E 776020
N 3755120
3: E 776760
N 3754890
4: E 777040
N 3754100
5: E 776920
N 3753140
6: E 776440
N 3752660
7: E 775660
N 3752400
8: E 774540
N 3752840

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
in cooperation with North Carolina Department of
Natural Resources and Community Development
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1987. Field checked 1989. Map edited 1990
Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1946
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: North Carolina coordinate
system, (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 17
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 15 meters south and
25 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Gray tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Short dashed blue lines indicate elliptical bay outlines
visible on aerial photographs
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

MN GN
7½° 133 MILS
1° 38′ 29 MILS
UTM GRID AND 1990 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

20% TOTAL RECOVERED FIBER

SCALE 1:24 000

KILOMETERS 1 .5 0 1 2
METERS 1000 0 1000 2000
MILES 1 .5 0 1
FEET 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

N. C.
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface — Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface — Unimproved road
Interstate Route — U. S. Route — State Route

SOUTHPORT, N.C.
33078-H1-TF-024
1990
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CAFETERIA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fort Caswell Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH CAROLINA, Brunswick

DATE RECEIVED: 11/15/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/14/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/30/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/01/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13001025

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

✓ ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT 12-31-13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA_____

REVIEWER_____ DISCIPLINE_____

TELEPHONE_____ DATE_____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

RECEIVED 2280
NOV 15 2013
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Pat McCrory, Governor
Susan W. Kluttz, Secretary

Office of Archives and History
Deputy secretary Kevin Cherry

November 6, 2013

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1201 Eye Street NW (2208) Eighth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Fort Caswell Historic District – Brunswick County
Hillside Park High School – Durham County
Louise Cotton Mill – Mecklenburg County
Valentine-Wilder House – Nash County

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are the nominations for the above-referenced properties and district to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

We trust you will find the nominations to be in order. If you have any questions please call Ann Swallow, 919.807.6587.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cherry

Kevin Cherry, PhD.
State Historic Preservation Officer

KC/jct: enclosures

Location: 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh NC 27601 **Mailing Address**: 4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-4617 **Telephone/Fax**: (919) 807-6570/807-6599