

|                              |                |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| STATE:<br>Michigan           |                |
| COUNTY:<br>Wayne             |                |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY             |                |
| ENTRY NUMBER<br>715,261,0033 | DATE<br>5/6/71 |

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Fort Wayne

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Fort Wayne

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
6053 West Jefferson Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Detroit

|                   |            |                  |             |
|-------------------|------------|------------------|-------------|
| STATE<br>Michigan | CODE<br>26 | COUNTY:<br>Wayne | CODE<br>163 |
|-------------------|------------|------------------|-------------|

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP  | STATUS   | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both  | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____<br>_____<br>_____  |
| Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No  |  |  |  |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Detroit

STREET AND NUMBER:  
City-County Building

|                          |                    |            |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Detroit | STATE:<br>Michigan | CODE<br>26 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Registry of Deeds Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
101 City-County Building

|                          |                    |            |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Detroit | STATE:<br>Michigan | CODE<br>26 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Michigan Historical Commission Registered State Site No. 182

DATE OF SURVEY: 2-19-58     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Michigan Historical Commission, Historic Site Survey

STREET AND NUMBER:  
3405 North Logan Street

|                          |                    |            |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Lansing | STATE:<br>Michigan | CODE<br>26 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------|

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| STATE:<br>Michigan           | FOR NPS USE ONLY |
| COUNTY:<br>Wayne             |                  |
| ENTRY NUMBER<br>715,261,0033 | DATE             |
| DATE                         |                  |

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Wayne, a ninety acre area, includes a barracks and three other structures around a central parade ground, surrounded by thick masonry walls and earthworks forming a square with bastions at the corners, vaulted casemate galleries, and a triangular masonry demilune south of the earthworks.

The fort is entered through a tunnel which extends from the dry moat surrounding it, through the wall and under the earthworks, to the parade ground inside. Heavy oak doors secure the entrance from the outside. The tunnel serves an exhibit area with panels displaying the history of the Detroit area's major forts from 1701, when the city was founded, to 1840. The brick work within the tunnel is worn where it was scraped by horse-drawn vehicles attempting to get through the narrow passageway.

The barracks, a massive three-and-a-half story Georgian style structure, was built in 1848 and dominated the entire fort. It was constructed of Lake Erie, rubble limestone, quoined at the corners with walls twenty-two inches thick. The roof is slate with brick dentils under the eaves, and there are six massive brick chimneys along the roof. Pedimented dormer windows at the attic level are supported by enlarged Ionic columns. There are ten gun slots at either end of the barracks. There are cast-iron wall vents in the east and west walls, and the guard house gates are of wrought iron.

The barracks is divided into five sections; each originally housed a company of one hundred soldiers. The sections are divided by firewalls of brick. The brick extensions and the bridge in the rear were added at a later date. The bridge, originally extending across the dry moat, is no longer in existence. Except for the attic floor, a porch extends along the back of every floor of the barracks. The interior walls are of plaster with beamed ceilings supported by fluted cast iron Corinthian columns. Originally, there had been a fireplace in every room, but they have since been walled up. One room which has been restored to the Civil War period and which displays life in the barracks as it was maintains an open fireplace. On the front of the barracks are five nine-paneled doors; above each is a fan light. Today the first two floors are open to the public, housing nine exhibits, but the third floor and the attic floor are closed.

Also built in 1848, the powder magazine equals the barracks in the quality of its design and workmanship. It was used to store powder and ammunition.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Wayne, one of Detroit's most historic landmarks, was authorized by an act of Congress on August 4, 1841, as the result of a national defense plan to insure protection for the northwest. The possibility of attack from British North America favored the strategic location at a major bend in the Detroit River. Lieutenant Montgomery C. Meigs, Union quartermaster-general during the Civil War, designed the fort. The date stone 1845 was placed upon construction of the sallyport; 1848 is the date of the cornerstone on the barracks building. The entire fort was completed in 1849 at a cost of \$150,000. It was named Fort Wayne on January 31, 1849, in honor of General Anthony Wayne who established American government in Detroit in 1796.

During the Civil War, Fort Wayne was an important troop training center. The 1st Michigan Infantry Regiment in April, 1861, were the first soldiers to use it. The first federal troops to occupy Fort Wayne arrived in December, 1861, a detachment of the 3rd U.S. Cavalry Regiment under Captain Alfred Gibbs.

The original installations at the fort served through 88 years of official occupation by various commands of the U.S. Army. On May 11, 1949, a portion of Fort Wayne was transferred to the City of Detroit for use as a museum. The city signed a twenty-year quitclaim deed with the federal government granting the government the right to reclaim the fort in the case of an emergency. The Korean War eliminated this possibility when the federal government and the City of Detroit was given the historic fort. In 1955-56 the city became the owner of Fort Wayne for a military museum. The buildings adjacent to the walled portion of the fort and of a later vintage are presently operated by the federal government as emergency housing for the victims of the Detroit riots during July, 1967.

Fort Wayne has been operated as a museum since 1950. Along with the fort's outstanding architectural features, unique in the Midwest today, interpretive exhibits are present which relate the military

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Millis, Wade, "Fort Wayne, Detroit". Michigan History, XX (1936), 21-49.  
 U.S., Congress, Journal of the Senate of the United States of America.  
 27th Cong., 1st Sess., 1841.  
 U.S., Congress, "Report of the Chief Engineer". Executive Documents,  
 No. 5, 31st Cong. 1st Sess. 1849-1850, p.211.  
 U.S., Congress, "Report of the Chief Engineer". Executive Documents,  
 No. 2, 28th Cong. 2nd Sess. 1844, p.153.

(cont'd)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | OR | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |    | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |    | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | 42° 18' 04"             | 83° 6' 00"              |    | 0   | 0                       |  |
| NE   | 42° 18' 04"             | 83° 5' 29"              |    |   |                         |  |
| SE   | 42° 17' 34"             | 83° 5' 29"              |    |   |                         |  |
| SW   | 42° 17' 34"             | 83° 6' 00"              |    |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 90 acres

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
|        |      |         |      |
|        |      |         |      |
|        |      |         |      |
|        |      |         |      |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 (Mrs.) Diane W. Westlake

ORGANIZATION: Michigan Historical Commission

DATE: July 8, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 3405 North Logan Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lansing

STATE: Michigan

CODE: 26

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National  State  Local

Name: R. A. Mac Millan  
 Title: Director  
 Dept. of Natural Resources  
 Date: 2/25/71

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Donnelly  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

MAY 6 1971

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
William H. Huntley  
 Keeper of The National Register

APR 19 1971  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

NO UTM CO SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| STATE            |        |
| Michigan         |        |
| COUNTY           |        |
| Wayne            |        |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |        |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE   |
| 715,261,0033     | 5/6/91 |

(Number all entries)

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (cont'd)

TITLE: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE: 1934 Federal

DEPOSITORY: Library of Congress

Washington, D. C. 11

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| STATE            |        |
| Michigan         |        |
| COUNTY           |        |
| Wayne            |        |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |        |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE   |
| 71.5.36.0033     | 5/6/71 |

(Number all entries)

7. Physical Description (cont'd)

The ceiling in the powder magazine is made of a single-span brick 15 feet wide and heavily overlaid with concrete. Its walls are 4 1/2 feet thick and 2,200 feet in circumference. It is backed with earthworks which extend almost five feet above the existing wall.

The counterscarp is an external ridge of earth which was constructed to protect the brick walls of the fort from bombardment and gunfire. The demilune is a triangular masonry and earthwork structure that holds the mountings for the cannons which defended the river from marauding vessels.

The casemates were the underground defenses consisting of cannon embrasures and rifle ports. In addition, a magazine for the storage of powder and ammunition for troops in the casemates was located here.

Encircling the brick wall is a dry moat which served as a defensible passageway.

The other frame buildings on the parade grounds are World War II intrusions used today for offices, laboratories, storage, and shops.

The nominated property consists of all the land owned by the federal government and the City of Detroit lying between West Jefferson Avenue and the Detroit River and bounded on each side by property owned by Detroit Edison and Revere Copper and Brass Co.

8. Statement of Significance (cont'd)

history of Detroit and Michigan from 1701 to the present. Within the barracks are exhibits of Indian as well as military material. The two Indian exhibits include artifacts, some archeological, of Indians of the Michigan area and the rest of the United States. The present structures include the barracks building, the main powder magazine, and the fort's brick wall, but other segments of the fort such as the demilune, casemates, and the counterscarp are additional points of interest.

The fort, a branch of the Detroit Historical Museum, is operated under the direction of the Detroit Historical Commission. It is located in an industrial area of the city and off the main thoroughfares, requiring visitors to leave the beaten track in order to visit Fort Wayne.

(cont'd)

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

*(Continuation Sheet)*

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| STATE            |        |
| Michigan         |        |
| COUNTY           |        |
| Wayne            |        |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |        |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE   |
| 71.5.26.0033     | 5/6/71 |

*(Number all entries)*

8. Statement of Significance (cont'd)

At present the City of Detroit owns only the core area of Fort Wayne consisting primarily of the area inside the earthworks. The rest of the fort, however, has been declared surplus property by the federal government and the Detroit Historical Museum has made application to receive the totality of Fort Wayne. If the application is successful it is planned to destroy most of the modern buildings which encircle the earthworks, thus opening them up to view and recreating the landscape as it was when the fort was built. A late nineteenth century officers' row and some other historic buildings will be preserved.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| STATE            |        |
| Michigan         |        |
| COUNTY           |        |
| Wayne            |        |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |        |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE   |
| 71.5.26.0033     | 5/6/71 |

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References (cont'd)

U.S. Congress, "Report of the Colonel of Engineers".  
Executive Documents, No. 2, 32nd Cong., 1st Sess.  
1851-1852, p. 345.

Congressional Globe, 27th Cong., 1st Sess., 1841, Vol. X,  
No. 19, pp. 295-296.

Historic American Buildings Survey. Fort Wayne, Detroit.  
Studied 1934.

Post Return, A Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, Fort  
Wayne, Michigan, December 31, 1861. Microfilm of  
National Archives Returns from U.S. Military Posts,  
1800-1916, Roll No. 246, Copy in Michigan State  
Archives.

Stille, Glenn G., Fort Wayne Military Museum, Paper presented  
at Mackinac Island Conference, Mackinac Island, Michigan,  
1959 (in Site Survey file at Michigan Historical  
Commission).





Old Barracks  
Fort Wayne, Detroit, Michigan

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

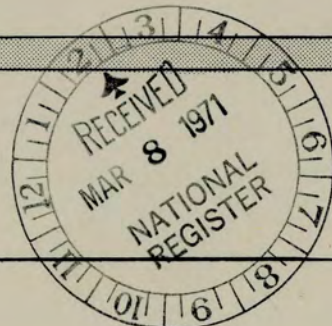
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| STATE            |      |
| Michigan         |      |
| COUNTY           |      |
| Wayne            |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE |

71.5.26.0033 5/6/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|                                |      |                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|--------------------------------|------|
| <b>1. NAME</b>                 |      |                                |      |
| COMMON:                        |      | Fort Wayne                     |      |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:               |      | Fort Wayne                     |      |
| <b>2. LOCATION</b>             |      |                                |      |
| STREET AND NUMBER:             |      |                                |      |
| 6053 West Jefferson Avenue     |      |                                |      |
| CITY OR TOWN:                  |      |                                |      |
| Detroit                        |      |                                |      |
| STATE:                         | CODE | COUNTY:                        | CODE |
| Michigan                       | 26   | Wayne                          | 163  |
| <b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>      |      |                                |      |
| PHOTO CREDIT:                  |      | Michigan Historical Commission |      |
| DATE OF PHOTO:                 |      | 1934                           |      |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT:             |      | Michigan Historical Commission |      |
| <b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>       |      |                                |      |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. |      |                                |      |
| Barracks Building at fort.     |      |                                |      |

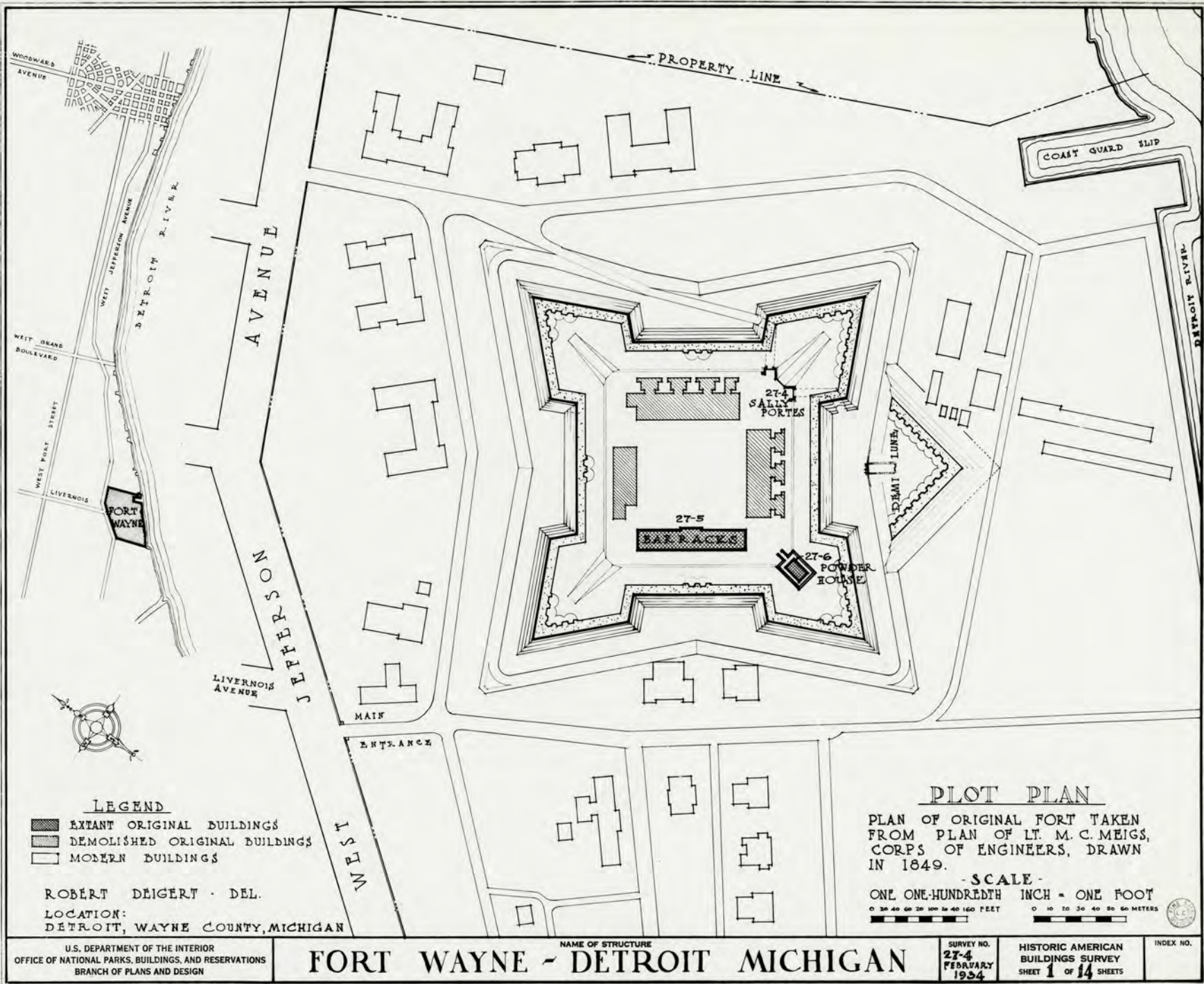


PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER




Photo

Copies 18

1

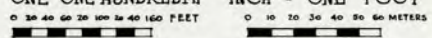


**LEGEND**

-  EXTANT ORIGINAL BUILDINGS
-  DEMOLISHED ORIGINAL BUILDINGS
-  MODERN BUILDINGS

ROBERT DEIGERT · DEL.  
 LOCATION:  
 DETROIT, WAYNE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

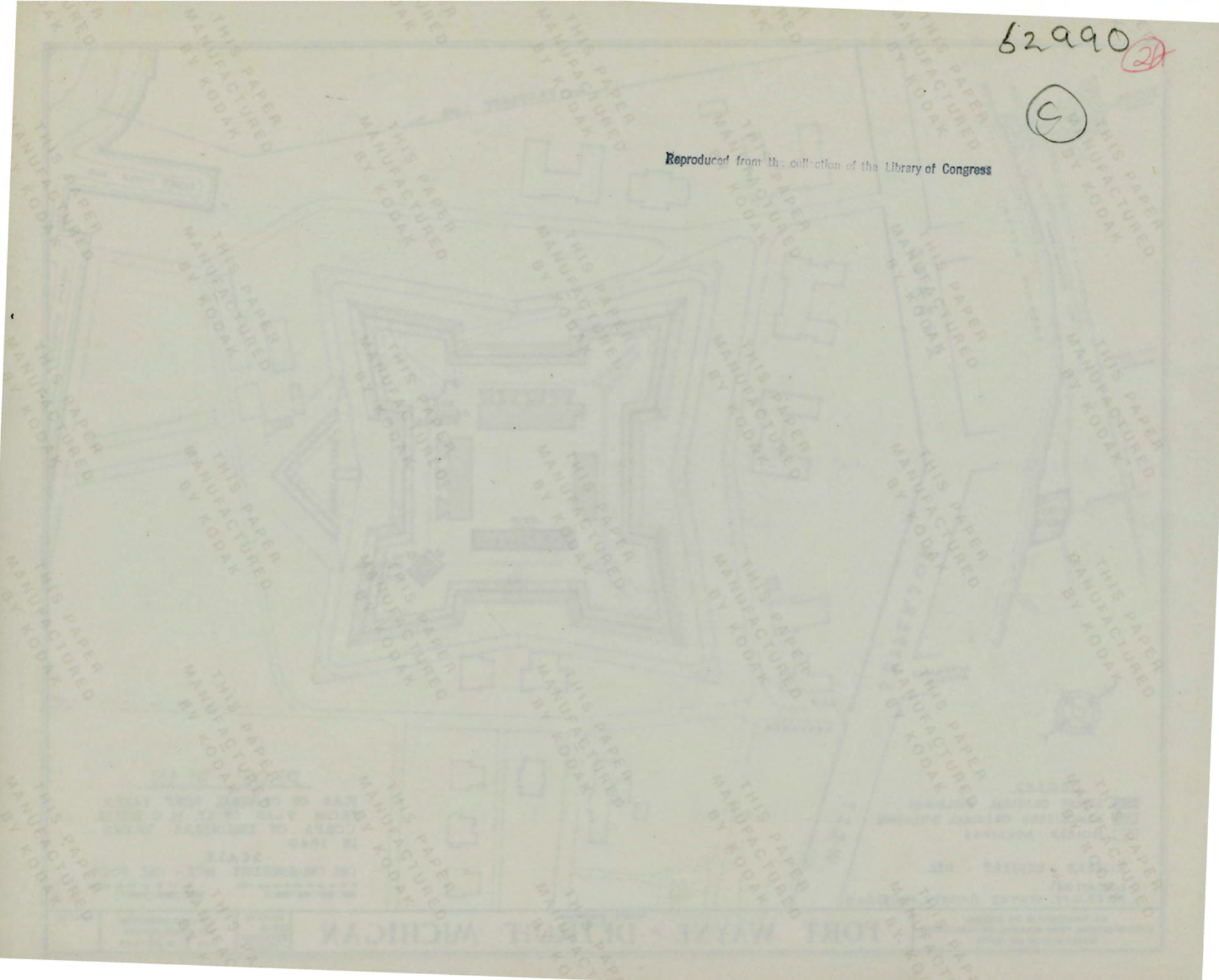
**PLOT PLAN**  
 PLAN OF ORIGINAL FORT TAKEN  
 FROM PLAN OF LT. M. C. MEIGS,  
 CORPS OF ENGINEERS, DRAWN  
 IN 1849.  
 - SCALE -  
 ONE ONE-HUNDRETH INCH = ONE FOOT



62990 (2)

9

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McKinstry Sch  
Webster Sch  
Hubbard Sch  
Western High Sch  
Clark Park  
Neinas Sch  
Maybury Sch  
Post Office  
Amos Sch  
Gillies Sch  
Riverside Park  
BM 595  
BM 594  
BM 588  
BM 588  
BM 585  
BM 579  
BM 591  
BM 590  
BM 588  
BM 585  
BM 588  
BM 588

PRESTON SCH  
RIVER  
RR TUNNEL  
168  
169

UNITED STATES  
CANADA



ASSUMPTION COLLEGE  
Park  
Park  
COLLEGE  
NEW ST  
YORK ST



RECEIVED  
MAR 8 1971  
NATIONAL REGISTER

ZUG ISLAND  
45  
Tailings Pond  
RIVER

TERMINAL

SOURCE: U.S.G.S., Detroit  
SCALE: 1:24000  
DATE: 1952

|    | LATITUDE:   | LONGITUDE:  |
|----|-------------|-------------|
| NW | 42° 18' 04" | 83° 06' 00" |
| NE | 42° 18' 04" | 83° 05' 29" |
| SE | 42° 17' 34" | 83° 05' 29" |
| SW | 42° 17' 34" | 83° 06' 00" |

Form 10-301  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| STATE            |  |
| Michigan         |  |
| COUNTY           |  |
| Wayne            |  |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |  |

|              |      |
|--------------|------|
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
|--------------|------|

71.5.26.0033 5/6/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Fort Wayne  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Wayne

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
6053 West Jefferson Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Detroit

|          |      |         |      |
|----------|------|---------|------|
| STATE:   | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| Michigan | 26   | Wayne   | 163  |

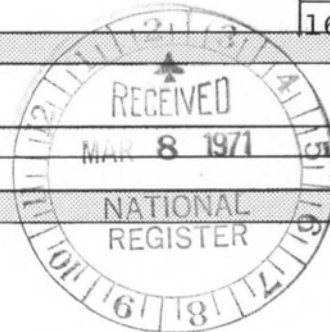
**3. MAP REFERENCE**

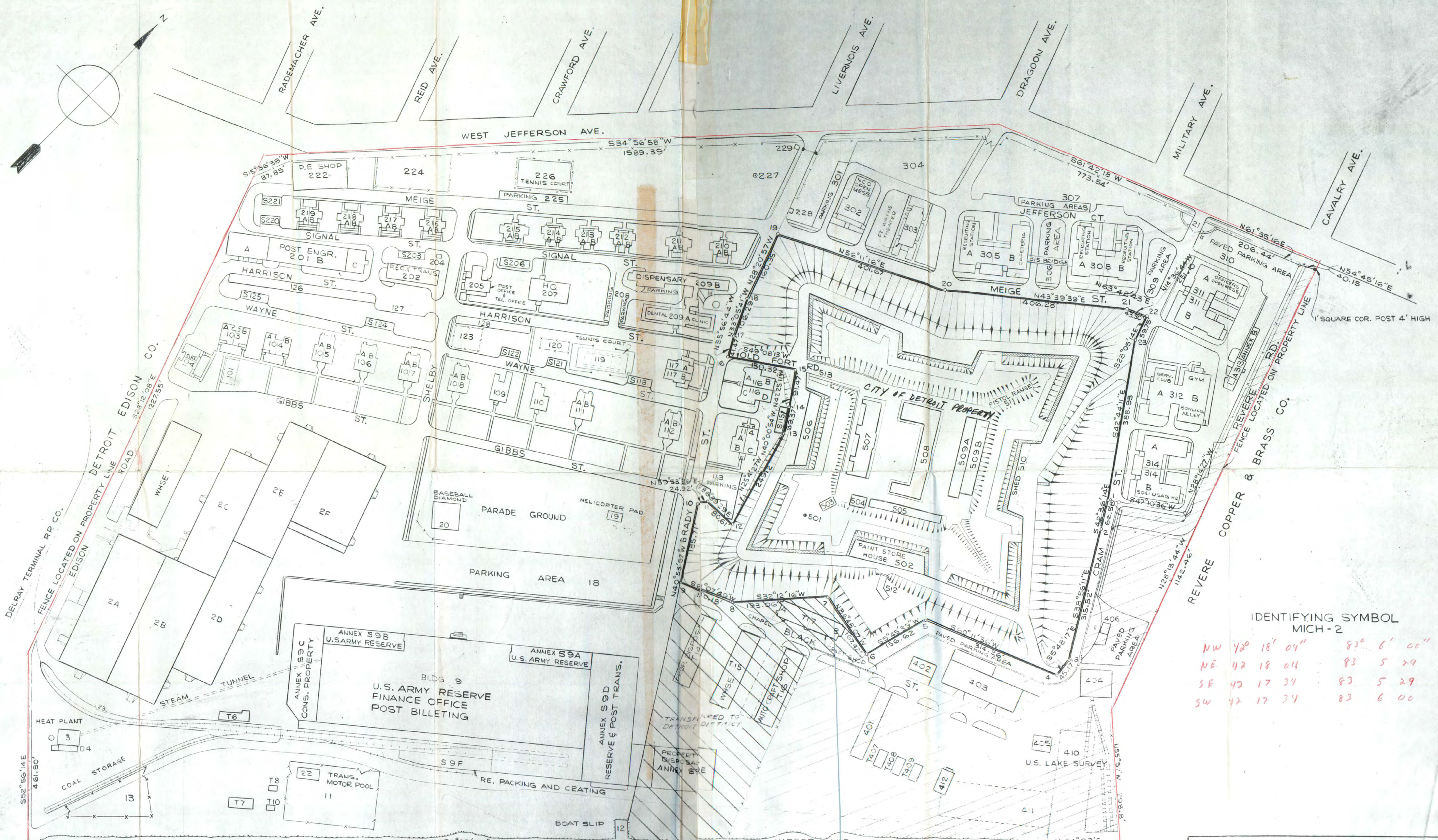
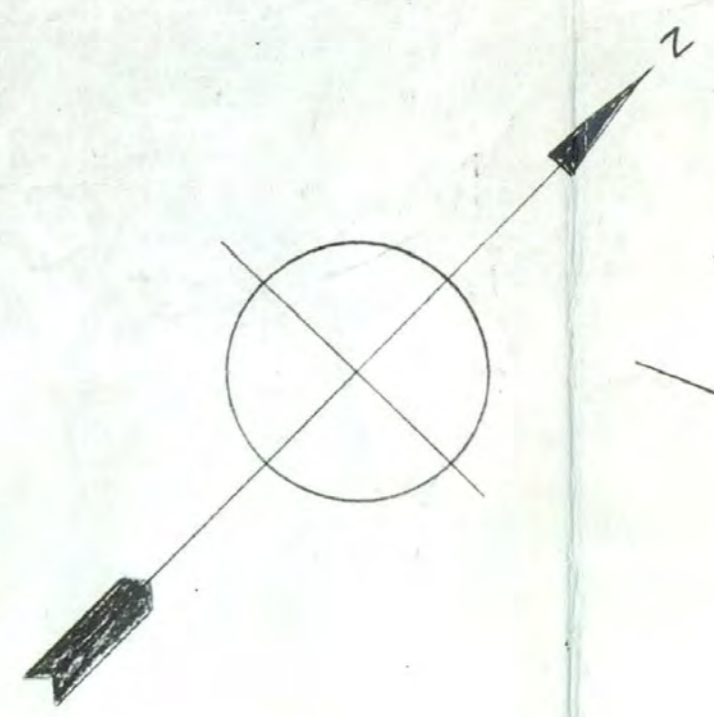
SOURCE:  
U.S.G.S., Detroit, Michigan  
SCALE: 1:24000  
DATE: 1952

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.





IDENTIFYING SYMBOL  
MICH-2

|               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| NW 42 18' 04" | 83° 6' 00" |
| NE 42 18' 04" | 83 5 29    |
| SE 42 17' 34" | 83 5 29    |
| SW 42 17' 34" | 83 6 00    |

NOTE  
 1 U.S. GOVERNMENT OWNED REAL ESTATE CONTINUES OUT TO 1/2 OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY LINE IN CENTER OF THE DETROIT RIVER.

DETROIT RIVER

|   |                           |                                      |                               |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| OFFICE OF THE POST ENGINEER<br>FORT WAYNE, DETROIT, MICHIGAN<br>GENERAL MAP<br>OF<br><b>FORT WAYNE</b><br>DETROIT, MICHIGAN |                           |                                      |                               |
| DRAWN BY<br>J.H.C.  | CHECKED BY<br>RK          | APPROVED BY<br><i>[Signature]</i>    | DATE<br>23 JAN 63             |
| APPROVED<br><i>[Signature]</i>  | MAJOR CE<br>POST ENGINEER | DEPT. APPROVED<br><i>[Signature]</i> | SCALE<br>1" = 100'            |
| APPROVED  | COL INF<br>POST COMMANDER | SHEET<br>1 OF 1                      | DRAWING NUMBER<br>PE348-63-FW |

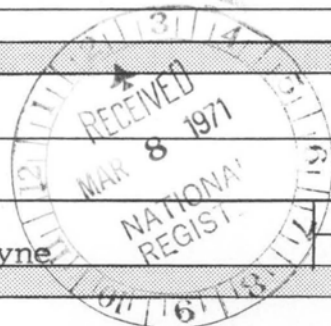
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| STATE            |        |
| Michigan         |        |
| COUNTY           |        |
| Wayne            |        |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |        |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE   |
| 7/5/26.0033      | 5/6/71 |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|  |      |         |      |
|--|------|---------|------|
| <b>1. NAME</b>   |      |         |      |
| COMMON: Fort Wayne                                     |      |         |      |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Wayne                            |      |         |      |
| <b>2. LOCATION</b>                                     |      |         |      |
| STREET AND NUMBER:                                     |      |         |      |
| 6053 West Jefferson Avenue                             |      |         |      |
| CITY OR TOWN:  |      |         |      |
| Detroit  |      |         |      |
| STATE:   | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| Michigan   | 26   | Wayne   | 163  |
| <b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>                                |      |         |      |
| SOURCE:  |      |         |      |
| Office of the Post Engineer, General Map of Fort Wayne |      |         |      |
| SCALE: 1" : 100'                                       |      |         |      |
| DATE: 1-23-1963  |      |         |      |
| <b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>                                 |      |         |      |
| TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS                             |      |         |      |
| 1. Property boundaries where required.                 |      |         |      |
| 2. North arrow.  |      |         |      |
| 3. Latitude and longitude reference.                   |      |         |      |





# National Register of Historic Places

## Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2019

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

County and State \_\_\_\_\_

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

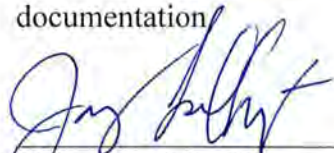
NRIS Reference Number: 71000425      Date Listed: 10/31/2019

Property Name: Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)

County: Wayne

State: MI

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation

  
Signature of the Keeper

10.31.2019  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Period of Significance

The Period of Significance is hereby changed to 1845-1965

This reflects the use and significance of the property by the US military until it was de-activated. This encompasses the locally significant use of the facility.

Explanatory Notes

The heading on Page 76 leads one to believe that the mound has religious significance. While that may be true for the local tribes, the nomination is not claiming Religion as an area of significance. The mound contributes due to its historic association with the development of the fort.

The acreage given is larger than the 1971 nomination, but the boundaries remain the same. This is due to the more accurate assessment of the area afforded by GIS technology.

-----  
The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

AD 71000425

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)

Other names/site number: Fort Wayne Military Reservation; Fort Wayne Ordinance Depot; Historic Fort Wayne

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 6325 West Jefferson Avenue

City or town: Detroit State: Michigan County: Wayne

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

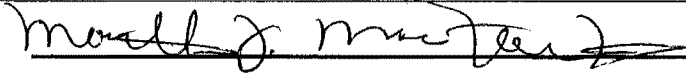
I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

X national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
|  | <u>10/3/19</u> |
| <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>                                      | <b>Date</b>    |
| <u>Michigan State Historic Preservation Office</u>                                  |                |
| <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>                          |                |

Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)  
Name of Property

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

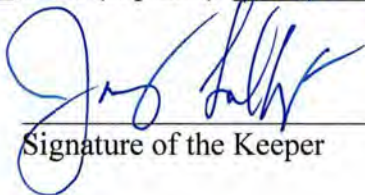
State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- \_\_\_ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

other (explain): Accept Additional Documentation

  
Signature of the Keeper

10-31-2019  
Date of Action

#### 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)

Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)  
Name of Property

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- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>45</u>    | <u>5</u>        | buildings  |
| <u>4</u>     | <u>4</u>        | sites      |
| <u>2</u>     | <u>2</u>        | structures |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | objects    |
| <u>51</u>    | <u>11</u>       | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2<sup>1</sup>

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DEFENSE: fortification

DEFENSE: military facility

DEFENSE: institutional housing

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

FUNERARY: graves/burials

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Though the May 6, 1971, National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form lists Fort Wayne as a “district,” it does not provide a count of contributing and non-contributing resources. However, as it limits its description to resources within the star fort, and references a plan “to destroy most of the modern buildings which encircle the earthworks ... recreating the landscape as it was when the fort was built,” this suggests that only the star fort and original barracks were recognized as significant resources at the time.

Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)  
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### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DEFENSE: military facility

LANDSCAPE: park

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

VACANT/NOT IN USE

FUNERARY: graves/burials

\_\_\_\_\_

---

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

OTHER: star fort

OTHER: burial mound

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete; Limestone; Brick; Earth; Sandstone;  
Asphalt; Wood; Iron

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

---

### Summary Paragraph

Located in the city of Detroit, Michigan, Fort Wayne is a ninety-six-acre former military facility sited at a strategic point on the western shore of the Detroit River across from Canada. Centered around the original star fort, completed in 1851, the Fort Wayne complex today includes dozens

Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)

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of buildings and other structures, having reached its present-day appearance as the result of a succession of building campaigns, demolitions, and other alterations reflecting a variety of events and themes during its broad period of significance.

At present, eighty-three acres of the site are managed by the City of Detroit Recreation Department, and includes spaces used for museum and recreation functions, along with numerous vacant buildings, many of which are in a state of disrepair. The remaining portion of the site remains under federal control, operated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and is not accessible to the public. The buildings and structures of Fort Wayne represent a diversity of time periods, and many of them stand alone as outstanding examples of their architectural styles; the landscape itself is also significant. Furthermore, an intact, though disturbed, Late Woodland burial mound is located within the district and is a contributing resource.

Despite the disrepair of some buildings and structures, and demolition and alteration of others, and the intrusion of some modern buildings, Fort Wayne retains integrity and continues to convey its significance as a military facility through a number of wars and time periods, and illustrates the threats, real and perceived, that faced the United States.

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## Narrative Description

### Introductory Note

Fort Wayne was listed in the National Register in 1971 (NRHP# 71000425). The original nomination materials provided only minimal documentation and for only the 1845 star fort and 1848 barracks and powder magazine within it. This nomination provides a complete inventory of all buildings, structures, and other features within the fort's boundaries and identifies these resources as contributing or non-contributing to the significance of the fort. This nomination will also include, in addition to the nomination form, new photographic documentation and maps.

### Overview

Fort Wayne is located in southwest Detroit, about three miles downriver from the city's central business district, on a gentle slope overlooking the Detroit River and just above the Rouge River confluence. The fort sits at the narrowest point on the river; approximately two thousand feet across lies the neighborhood of Sandwich, one of the oldest towns in Ontario, Canada, incorporated as part of the city of Windsor in the 1930s.

Fort Wayne sits immediately to the south of Jefferson Avenue, at the foot of Livernois Avenue, known until 1934 as Artillery Avenue (though the development of Fort Wayne predates the city street grid and the improvement of the surrounding area). Much of the riverfront in the vicinity has, since the early twentieth century, been devoted to industrial uses; to the north lies the

Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)

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neighborhood of Delray. The surrounding area contains many vacant buildings and industrial sites in addition to active residential and manufacturing uses. Although Livernois and Jefferson elsewhere serve as major thoroughfares, here they see relatively little vehicle or pedestrian traffic.

The boundaries of the district, coterminous with the boundaries of Fort Wayne for much of its period of significance, encompass ninety-six acres. Eighty-three of these are now managed by the Detroit Recreation Department; the remainder of the area serves as a boatyard and office complex for the Detroit District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The fort is divided roughly in half on an approximate north-south axis by Brady Street, an extension of Livernois Avenue; to the north and east of this axis sits the original star fort and several large, twentieth-century administrative, recreation, and barracks buildings, located to the north of, and oriented to face, the star fort. Also east of Brady Street are the Army Corps of Engineers facilities, clustered around a boat slip on the river at the easternmost end of the district. The western portion of the site is visually dominated by the detached residential buildings of NCO Row and Officers Row, each of which extends to the southwest from Brady Street, roughly parallel to the river, as well as a large open parade ground which sits between Officers Row and the river. The western portion of the site also includes several other outbuildings, warehouses, and a Native American burial mound—the latter feature, though somewhat disturbed by nineteenth- and twentieth-century excavations, dates from roughly 750, predating Euro-American occupation of the area by around one thousand years.

Although development of Fort Wayne and the surrounding area has altered the topography somewhat since the earliest written accounts, here the riverbank once served as a distinct landmark, defined by a series of bluffs and a number of natural springs. These springs earned the location the name of Springwells, as it would come to be called by English-speaking arrivals to the region (the surrounding area was incorporated as Springwells Township after it came under control of the United States; it would only later be annexed by the city of Detroit in two phases in 1885 and 1906); in French, it was *Belle Fontaine*.

The earliest depiction of the site is found on a map from 1749, which shows “*Ecores de Sable*”—sandy bluffs—at a point downstream from the town of Detroit.<sup>2</sup> Although the bluffs seem to have since been diminished in stature by the construction of the fort and surrounding development, they were once a prominent feature: “an immense hill of yellow sand, that always looked, from the city, like a yellow patch on the landscape.”<sup>3</sup> General Land Office surveyors visiting the site in the 1820s described an oak-hickory forest which differentiated the area from the beech-sugar maple forests, interspersed with swamp and marsh lands, that once defined most of the surrounding region.<sup>4</sup> This high, forested ground provided an excellent construction site in an

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<sup>2</sup> As reproduced in Brian Leigh Dunnigan, *Frontier Metropolis: Picturing Early Detroit, 1701–1838* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2001), 43. This map, however, depicts the *Village de Pouteoutamis* as located somewhat further east.

<sup>3</sup> Friend Palmer, *Detroit in 1827*, cited in Dunnigan, 146.

<sup>4</sup> Comer, P. J. and D. A. Albert. “Vegetation Circa 1800 of Wayne County, Michigan: An Interpretation of the General Land Office Surveys [map].” Lansing, Mich.: Michigan Natural Features Inventory, 1997.



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otherwise marshy area—a site that was just as attractive to prehistoric people as it would later be to nineteenth century military engineers.

At the time of the earliest Euro-American settlers, at least four burial mounds would have been clearly visible from the Detroit River at this location, the most prominent components of a broader grouping of earthen structures now known to archaeologists as the Springwells Mound Group.<sup>5</sup> Three mounds perhaps six to ten feet in height sat in a row from west to east atop the Springwells bluffs: the Fort Wayne Mound (the westernmost of the three) and Central Mound, as they would come to be known, within the present-day Fort Wayne property along with the Copper Works Mound just east of Fort Wayne.<sup>6</sup> A fourth, the appropriately named Great Mound, stood further to the west and adjacent to the Rouge River, set back from the Detroit River but clearly visible due its height of about forty feet. A nearby fifth mound (alternatively Carsten Mound or Circular Mound) was located to the north of these, further from the river, “a few hundred feet to the westward of Fort Wayne.”<sup>7</sup> These works were erected during what archaeologists now describe as the Late Woodland period, roughly 500–1000 or, by some estimations 1250.

Some components of the Springwells Mound Group are less well documented than the four mounds that were visible from the river. These included the aforementioned Carsten Mound or Circular Mound as well as other earthworks: Samuel R. Brown in 1817 observes “about one-fourth of a mile below [the Fort Wayne, Central, and Copper Works mounds] are still to be seen the remains of an ancient fortification ... in some places three or four feet high.”<sup>8</sup> Elsewhere, Silas Farmer in 1884 recalls “two parallel embankments, about four feet high, that led to [the burial mounds] from the east.”<sup>9</sup> The existence of the Springwells Mound Group, along with the discovery of domestic artifacts in the vicinity, indicates heavy use of the Springwells area during this period. Despite a possible gap in human occupation from the close of the Late Woodland Period into historic times, in the eighteenth century the site also saw the establishment of at least one Native American (likely Potawatomi) village.<sup>10</sup>

By the mid-nineteenth century the mounds and earthworks of the Springwells group were rapidly disappearing from the landscape as the surrounding area was developed. The present-day character of the built environment at Fort Wayne evolved gradually, reflecting a diversity of

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<sup>5</sup> John R. Halsey, “The Springwells Mound Group” (in John R. Fitting et al., *Contributions to Michigan Archaeology*, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1968).

<sup>6</sup> These were first described in writing by Samuel R. Brown, who, in *The Western Gazette; or Emigrants Directory*, writes of “three small mounds, or tumuli, standing in a direct line” at Springwells. Halsey, 81.

<sup>7</sup> Halsey, 92. For more on the location of these mounds and earthworks, including a map referenced to the present-day street grid, see Paul Szewczyk, “The Mound Builders,” *Detroit Urbanism* (blog), December 21, 2015, <http://detroiturbanism.blogspot.com>.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 81. Such enclosures are more commonly thought to have served a religious or ceremonial function, rather than serving as fortifications as suggested by Brown.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 91.

<sup>10</sup> More information on historic Native American occupation is found in the Narrative Statement of Significance section of this document.

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events and influences during a broad period of significance. The star fort itself, along with the original barracks and several no-longer-extant stone or wood support buildings, was constructed in the years 1842–1851 and substantially modified in the years 1863–1868.

Construction of the star fort eliminated the larger of the two burial mounds (Central Mound) on the Fort Wayne property, incorporating its soil as earthworks and scarp walls were created. In addition to the barracks building (presently the oldest extant building at the site), an officer's quarters was also built. That structure burned in 1850, only shortly after its completion, and was subsequently demolished. A supply dock, of which no evidence remains today, also existed at the site, as well as a separate structure for latrines.<sup>11</sup>

During the 1860s, a short-lived row of duplex residential buildings—the first outbuildings located outside the star fort—were constructed as the first iteration of Officers Row.

Although this line of buildings, extending to the southwest along what is now known as Gibbs Street, would be demolished two decades later, it left a lasting influence on the landscape by establishing the linear, river-facing orientation of other structures that would follow (as there was no western entrance to the star fort at this time, these buildings were accessed by a footbridge, one brick footing of which remains visible today just north of the star fort vehicle entrance).

Subsequent alterations to the site and setting can roughly be grouped into three distinct eras. The first of these began in 1879, when construction began on the second generation of Officers Row buildings (Building 110, the Commanding Officers House, is presently restored to represent this era and is the oldest remaining building outside the star fort) and numerous other service buildings were constructed; this period also marked the onset of reclamation efforts which filled in swampy land along the Detroit River, increasing the buildable acreage at the site.

Service buildings, also constructed to the west of the star fort in in the 1880s, included the 1889 Guard House (Building 205); this building is noteworthy for introducing the red brick and that would eventually become nearly ubiquitous at Fort Wayne. The Post Quartermaster (Building 202) followed in 1890, along with a new hospital (replacing an earlier hospital, neither of which remain standing). Of these early brick buildings, the hospital is significant, not only for being largest in size but for its Neoclassical architectural details which would establish the style of later construction at Fort Wayne. It was a two story, cube-like building with a near-pyramdal hip roof, wide frieze, and four dormers. The hospital would later be expanded in 1893 with wide, single-story, hip-roof wings; their wide verandas and upper attic windows provided ventilation. Around 1890 a brick hay barn (also no longer standing) was added as well.<sup>12</sup>

This first era of alteration at Fort Wayne concluded in the first decade of the twentieth century with the completion of the Building 116 in 1910. By this time, buildings extended from the star

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<sup>11</sup> James Conway and David F. Jamroz, *Images of America: Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne* (Mount Pleasant: Arcadia Publishing, 2007), 37.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, 37.

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fort to the western edge of the Fort Wayne property (though some gaps, to be filled with later construction, remained) and small cemetery, located at the west end of the site, had been removed in 1897 to make way for buildings presently located there. In the two decades that followed, Fort Wayne would sit in a state of deferred maintenance seeing little, if any, construction activity.

The second, and perhaps most significant, campaign of construction and remodeling at Fort Wayne spanned the later years of the Great Depression and early years of World War II. The late 1930s and early 1940s brought about major investment in the expansion and upgrading of the facilities at Fort Wayne, as Works Progress Administration (WPA) funding combined with other sources to add additional buildings ranging from small, shed-roof temporary support structures to large, reinforced concrete warehouses. These decades also saw the significant remodeling of many existing structures, as well as the continued improvement of the site with additional land reclamation as well as landscaping.

Completed in 1938 (having begun with Building 214 in 1897) was another row of residential buildings roughly parallel to Officers Row: NCO Row, a row of duplexes for non-commissioned officers (NCOs). NCO Row presently forms a line to the east along what is now Signal Street, creating a prominent visual boundary at the northwestern edge of the side beside Jefferson Avenue.

WPA funding during the late 1930s and early 1940s provided for the construction of a new gymnasium, theater, hospital, and barracks. It further provided for extensive tree planting, resurfacing of roads, and additional rehabilitation work of the officers quarters.<sup>13</sup>

During this time, existing buildings also were remodeled, with exterior appearances altered to match the new construction as well as to harmonize with earlier brick buildings. This effort re-clad wood-sided buildings (white in color with darker trim, as seen in numerous photographs from the period) in the red-orange brick that is now nearly ubiquitous at Fort Wayne; architectural trim and details were also updated to the painted wood, Neoclassical and Colonial details seen today.<sup>14</sup> All thirteen Officers Row buildings (built between 1890 and 1898) received this treatment.<sup>15</sup> These facade alterations, funded by the WPA work, established a uniform visual character at Fort Wayne.

Rehabilitation work from the era also included repairs (repointing and replacement of damaged brick) to star fort walls as well as upgrades to building systems, such as the updating of plumbing

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<sup>13</sup> "Fort Wayne Gets Cool Million," *Detroit News*, August 3, 1938, 1.

<sup>14</sup> During this effort, the wood clapboard siding common to most buildings at the facility was removed, leaving bare sheathing boards and some fascia trim, which was covered over with brick and new architectural details. Ghost lines and paint colors later uncovered on the original structure became the basis for the subsequent restoration of Building 110. James Conway, City of Detroit Department of Parks and Recreation, email to authors, June 14, 2017.

<sup>15</sup> Many windows were replaced under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act in the 1970s; these are wood sash windows which appear to be faithful to the originals in appearance.

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and electricity.<sup>16</sup> A key alteration performed during this era changed access to the star fort. Previously the fort had been accessed by two sally ports in the east wall; however, a vehicle entrance added in 1938 and enlarged during World War II presently serves as the main entrance to the star fort.

The war brought additional and dramatic changes (most of the alterations from this time period, however, no longer exist, having been eliminated under Recreation Department management in the 1970s). The Motor Supply Warehouse (Building 9), a massive reinforced concrete building along the riverfront on the present-day parade ground, was completed in 1941 and served as the center of logistics-related activity at the site. It was the largest of seven warehouse buildings that operated at Fort Wayne during the war.<sup>17</sup> Numerous outbuildings, generally of wood and of a temporary nature, existed around the site (including many within the star fort) during these years. Three smaller, interconnected single-story concrete warehouse buildings (2A, 2B, and 2C), at the southern corner of the facility along the river, are the only structures built during the war that remain.<sup>18</sup>

The third and final era of alteration to the complex was defined more by demolition and restoration than by new construction. During the late 1960s and up to the most recent of several transfers of federal land to municipal ownership in 1971, the City of Detroit embarked upon an ambitious plan to adapt the site to a new use as a city recreation and museum site. A master plan by the Detroit Recreation Department, which was only partially carried out, converted many of the buildings to museum uses while demolishing others, especially those dating from the World War II era.

Significantly, this plan also sought to restore the fort's landscape to a loose approximation of its pre-twentieth-century appearance through the demolition of several structures, most notably the Motor Supply Warehouse (Building 90), and the regrading of the parade ground to approximate the appearance of the riverbank prior to land reclamation efforts of the 1880s. A large earthen berm created during this time was an exception; it had no historical precedent but was created to separate the remaining 1940s warehouse buildings from the parade ground area and shield them from view. The present-day visitors parking lot was also created during this period, prompting the demolition of two barracks buildings (305, built in 1906, and 308, built in 1894) which once sat at the site.

Demolitions continued through the 1990s and into the twenty-first century, as buildings, suffering from deferred maintenance due funding shortfalls, fell into disrepair, often lapsing into an unsafe condition. Theft and vandalism also contributed, especially during the when the facility was closed to the public.

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<sup>16</sup> Conway and Jamroz, 110.

<sup>17</sup> Conway and Jamroz, vii.

<sup>18</sup> Undated (approximately 1946) Fort Wayne Ordinance Depot maintenance log, Detroit Historical Museum Collections Resource Center. A prefix "T-" appears to denote temporary buildings.

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Additional description and detail regarding the evolution of Fort Wayne is provided on a resource-by-resource basis below. Portions of this information were previously published in the *Program of Preservation and Utilization*, produced for the City of Detroit in 2008 with James Conway as a primary author, incorporated below with permission and updated to reflect present-day conditions.

The built environment at Fort Wayne is best described with reference to street names and building numbers. The street network, itself described below as a significant resource, evolved gradually during the period of significance in a manner which is not well documented but can, to an extent, be inferred from historic maps and photographs. Buildings at Fort Wayne, lacking street addresses, and only some of which are named, have been historically been identified by two different numbering schemes. An earlier, roughly consecutive, scheme was replaced sometime in the late 1940s with the present numbering system utilizing a non-consecutive three-digit number, the first digit of which identifies the location of the building (1 for Officers Row, 2 for NCO Row and its vicinity, 3 for service buildings east of Brady Street, 4 for the United States Army Corps of Engineers facility, and 5 for the star fort); these numbers are shown in porcelain-enamel plaques affixed to the side of each building. Only Warehouse 2 does not seem to have been assigned a new number.

## INVENTORY

Individual resources are listed below numerically by building number, with a few exceptions: Contributing resources lacking a building number (such as the star fort, burial mound, and other significant landscape features) are discussed first, arranged by alphabetical order. Building 503 (the original barracks) is discussed immediately after the star fort due to the close association between the two resources. Finally, non-contributing resources lacking a number (i.e., buildings constructed after the period of significance) are described at the end of the inventory section, also in alphabetical order. Each resource header lists the historic name, current name (if any), location, date(s) of construction and alteration (if known), architectural style, and its status as a Contributing or Non-Contributing resource.

Contributing resources are those constructed during the period of significance, are architecturally or historically significant to Fort Wayne, and that retain historical or architectural integrity. Those resources that are less than fifty years of age, have lost integrity, or that do not possess historical or architectural significance are considered non-contributing.

### **Boat Slip; Black Street (United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit Area Office); 1902; no style; Contributing**

The boat slip, created in 1902, is 85 by 260 feet in area, and approximately 15 feet deep.<sup>19</sup> It has concrete sides and is lined with sheet metal.

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<sup>19</sup> Arthur M. Woodford, *Charting the Inland Seas: A History of the U.S. Lake Survey* (United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District, 1991), 213.

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**Fort Wayne Mound; Gibbs Street; c. 750, excavated 1876, 1944–1945, reconstructed 1945; no style; Contributing**

Early historical accounts describe a series of at least four mounds along the Detroit River in the vicinity of Springwells. Of the two these are clearly depicted on a topographic survey map created during the engineering and construction of Fort Wayne, one was destroyed when the fort was built, leaving the Fort Wayne Mound as the only prehistoric structure remaining at the site, and indeed, the only such work remaining of the Springwells Mound Group. An archaeological excavation conducted in 1944, with subsequent analysis performed in the 1960s, dated the contents of this remaining mound to within the Late Woodland period—approximately 750—placing it temporally in context with the balance of the Springwells group.<sup>20</sup>

An early description of the Springwells Mound Group is provided by Thomas L. McKenney, the United States Superintendent of Indian Trade, who traversed the site in 1826: “the road passing through what is called Spring Wells, and over mounds, once the burial places of Indians of this quarter ... there appears to have been three of them, but only one retained much of its original conical figure, and this, like the other two, is soon finding its level.” McKenney attributed this erosion to the action of cattle climbing upon the mounds. Although McKenney does not identify this “conical” mound, it is apparently the one now known as the Central Mound, the appearance of which was described at the time of an 1837 excavation as “conical ... the height about eight feet.”<sup>21</sup>

Benjamin Witherell in 1857 provides an earlier recollection from his “boyhood” (although he does not provide a date, Witherell was born in 1797, suggesting that his observation predates that of McKenney): the Fort Wayne Mound “was covered with oak trees, and apparently had been undisturbed for many generations.” Witherell contrasts the appearance of the Fort Wayne Mound with that of the Central Mound, “covered with oak trees of smaller size,” and the Copper Works Mound, having “neither tree nor shrub.”<sup>22</sup>

A description of the Fort Wayne Mound in particular is given by Bela Hubbard in 1887, who recalls some decades earlier having observed three extant mounds in the vicinity. Referencing the location of the larger of the two mounds (apparently Central Mound, the one that would later be leveled by the construction of Fort Wayne), he notes “several rods below [the larger mound] was a smaller tumulus in a field, then covered with forest. It did not exceed six feet in height, and is still in good preservation.” Although Hubbard does not provide a date for his observation, it certainly occurred after his arrival in Detroit in 1835, yet prior to the c. 1842 destruction of the Central Mound. Describing the greater context of the site, Hubbard writes “for an extent of an acre [around the Central Mound] were strewn bones and broken pottery, mingled with shell beads, stone knives and arrow points.” He describes the mounds as having been “injured by

<sup>20</sup> Halsey, 143. Radiocarbon dates from the mound have a margin of error of 120 years.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 82.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, 84.

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pilferers of Indian relics” and the Copper Works Mound, in particular, as having been used as a source of sand for nearby brickworks.<sup>23</sup>

The Fort Wayne Mound escaped disturbance until 1876, when two trenches were cut through it by the Detroit Scientific Association, in an archaeological excavation managed by Henry Gillman with the blessing of the War Department. Gillman measured the “almost circular” structure at seventy feet in length and five feet tall, “much reduced” from an earlier appearance due to erosion. Gillman also describes an “outlying rim or border ten to twelve feet in width and one foot above the general level” which he surmises was deposited from the mound by erosion. According to Gillman, this erosion had been arrested in 1870 with the addition of sod and “a small oak tree being planted near the centre.” At the time, several oak trees of “not over fifty years” of age also grew next to the mound, possibly those previously identified by Witherell.<sup>24</sup>

The Detroit Scientific Association work noted human burials near the surface “promiscuously mingled, being suggestive of a previous disturbance” and discovered more intact burials further within. Hubbard, present during the excavation, identifies the burials as “both original and intrusive,” corroborating Witherell’s report of historic use of the mound for burial purposes.

Curiously, Gillman’s work, in addition to removing the then-newly planted oak tree, left the mound open and susceptible to further erosion, as “Gillman’s back dirt pile was still open and visible” as late as 1919.<sup>25</sup> Excavations of the Fort Wayne Mound were furthered in 1944 and 1945 when the commandant, Colonel Harry Adamson, unaware of the previous work of Gillman, became curious about the composition of the mound. He requested permission from the War Department to examine the mound; only after work by the amateur Aboriginal Research Club began was the Gillman report discovered. The club, led by Carl Holmquist, altered its work plan in light of Gillman’s study and conducted a nearly complete excavation of the mound. By this time the appearance differed from that in Gillman’s era in that several small holes had been dug in its surface, likely by children who frequently played on the mound, and that the creation of an Officers Row sidewalk had cut slightly into its northern edge.<sup>26</sup> Although the 1876 work had created only two intersecting trenches, the Holmquist excavation almost completely leveled the mound, sparing only the small section that was, at the time, covered by the concrete sidewalk. A “few” burials located by Holmquist’s team beneath the sidewalk are, the only human remains which continue to exist within the mound, the remainder having been removed during the excavations.<sup>27</sup>

The Detroit Scientific Association and the Aboriginal Research Club discovered and removed, in total, 42 sets of human remains from the mound, most accompanied by burial objects including pottery, as well as one dog. The location of human remains removed by Gillman is not known,

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<sup>23</sup> Ibid., 85.

<sup>24</sup> Halsey, 89.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., 135.

<sup>26</sup> Carl E. Holmquist, “The Fort Wayne Mound,” *Aboriginal Research Club Bulletin* (Detroit, 1945), 1.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid., 12.

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although he may have sold them to the Peabody Museum at Harvard University, as he did previously when excavating the Carsten Mound.<sup>28</sup> The human burials exhumed in 1944 and 1945 are were removed to the University of Michigan,<sup>29</sup> where they are presently scheduled for repatriation.

Once the excavation was completed, the Aboriginal Research Club took care to restore the mound to an approximation of its prior appearance. "A graph layout was made for the restoration of [the] mound. This was turned over to Col. Lucas, the Post Engineer, who had the material moved back with a steam shovel and bulldozers, after which we spent a couple of Sundays in a final re-shaping with hand tools." The restoration was not entirely faithful, however, as the highest point of the mound was "moved approximately eight feet" in order to create a somewhat gentler slope facilitating the future use of lawn mowing equipment.<sup>30</sup>

Writing in 1945, Holmquist describes an intent was to cover the mound with topsoil and sod the following spring, along with "the installation of a suitable marker, with a bronze tablet giving a brief explanation of the mound."

At present, the Fort Wayne Mound stands about six feet tall. It is covered with grass mowed regularly by volunteers of the All Nations Veterans Council. The mound is enclosed by a rectangular vinyl-coated chain link fence, eight feet high, preventing unauthorized access. Within the enclosure are several trees of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) surrounding the mound, and one cherry tree (*Prunus cerasus*) growing directly on the mound towards its eastern edge. The sidewalk mentioned by Holmquist seems to have been recently removed, as the grass has not yet fully recovered within its former footprint. Numerous prayer ties are left upon the surrounding fence, highlighting the continued cultural significance of the site to Native American visitors.

### **Gardens; Meigs Street; c. 1860; no style; Non-contributing**

Gardens, formerly located between Meigs Street and Jefferson Avenue, no longer exist; the area is presently occupied by an open lawn. The Fort Wayne *Master Plan and Program for Preservation and Utilization* call for further research to determine the historic appearance of these gardens in order to guide potential restoration efforts. Since the gardens have been eliminated, their site is listed as a non-contributing resource due to the vital relationship between open space and adjacent structures that it continues to provide.

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Organization Gage House; NVA Black Street (United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District Office), north east of the United States Army Corps of Engineers boat slip); 1968; no style; Contributing**

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<sup>28</sup> Killion, Urban, and Conway, 5.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Holmquist 9-10.



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This small common bond brick structure sits on a concrete foundation and is topped with a flat concrete roof. Off-center on its north facade is a single metal door.

Completed in 1968 for the United States Army, Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, the Gage House was built to house instruments that performed functions for water level measurements, hydrographic surveys and charting of the Great Lakes region. It was transferred from the Defense Department to the Secretary of Commerce in 1970 under presidential "REORGANIZATION PLAN NO. 4" with the creation of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).<sup>31</sup> Under that plan, the station at the Fort Wayne Boat Yard, Station ID: 9044036, was established in 1970 under NOAA. The present installation of equipment dates from August 9, 1996.<sup>32</sup>

**Parade Ground; Gibbs Street; reclamation efforts c. 1880–1896, 1930s, grading c. 1976; no style; Contributing**

A large grassy open space, the parade ground, extends along the Detroit River between the star fort and the 1942 warehouse buildings, bounded by Gibbs Street and Brady Street and a tall earthen berm at its southern end. Around the time of the fort's construction, the shoreline was occupied by shrub-scrub wetlands including willow trees.<sup>33</sup> This area was expanded between 1880 and 1896 by grading over swampy land and reclaiming a portion of the riverbank.<sup>34</sup> Reclamation efforts have been ongoing, undertaken by the Works Progress Administration, and later the Detroit Department of Public Works and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coastal Zone Management Program.<sup>35</sup>

The parade ground was used initially as a drill space. A number of large warehouse buildings were constructed on the site during World War II, although some space remained undeveloped and used for parking and vehicle storage during the war, or for recreational purposes, with a baseball diamond established during that time.<sup>36</sup> The World War II buildings were demolished in the 1970s, with the final wooden structures from the wartime era razed in 1976. The city's Recreation Department graded the site in 1971, creating a visible slope in the approximate historical location of the riverbank. Today the parade ground provides a dramatic view of the Detroit River and contributes significantly to the aesthetic value of the site. Soccer fields, located where the baseball diamond once sat, continue parade ground's the recreational function.

Remains of a possible Potawatomi village location, as depicted in early historic maps and established as a response to Euro-American settlement, may exist beneath the parade ground.

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<sup>31</sup> <http://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title5a-node84-leaf179&num=0&edition=prelim> and Email between Steven Rose, Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit, and Deborah Goldstein, Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board, March 13, 2019.

<sup>32</sup> <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/stationhome.html?id=9044036>

<sup>33</sup> City of Detroit Recreation Department, *Historic Fort Wayne Program of Preservation and Utilization*, 201.

<sup>34</sup> Conway and Jamroz, 29.

<sup>35</sup> William P. Phenix, "Never a Shot in Anger," *Michigan History Magazine*, May/June 1982, 22.

<sup>36</sup> Conway and Jamroz, 68.

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Archaeological excavations in 1944 revealed a concentration of domestic artifacts surrounding the adjacent burial mound, suggesting a village site is likely to exist in close proximity—a possibility which may be explored by non-invasive techniques, including magnetometry and ground-penetrating radar, in the near future. As the northern portion of the parade ground has seen little historic development or other disturbance, such a village may be well-preserved and include important information.<sup>37</sup>

**Shoreline Improvements; Detroit River; c. 1880, additional materials added c.1970; no style; Contributing**

The riverbank is stabilized with riprap, the most visible portions of which were consist of broken concrete and rebar deposited in the 1970s from World War II-era buildings that were demolished at that time.<sup>38</sup> However, some portions are composed of large, rectangular blocks of sedimentary rock, apparently placed to shore up the bank during land reclamation efforts of the late nineteenth century.<sup>39</sup> The riprap extends the entire length of Fort Wayne.

**Star Fort, Demilune, and Powder Magazine (Building 503<sup>40</sup>); Cram and Brady Streets; 1842-1851, alterations 1863, 1938; Classical Revival (1863 and 1938 alterations); Contributing**

After the burial mound, the oldest structure on the site is the original star fort. Although the fort was completed in 1851, its present configuration is the result of a succession of alterations over the next hundred years, especially during the Civil War and during the Works Progress Administration era.

The square-shaped, four-bastioned star fort was originally constructed with oak revetments featuring a brick and limestone postern and sally port—a small arched entrance through a bastion in the inner brick wall, closed with heavy oak doors and accessed via a ramp through the surrounding earthworks. A date stone, reading “1845,” remains in place beside the sally port. In 1863, during the Civil War, work supervised by Thomas Jefferson Cram reinforced the walls by replacing the oak revetments with a concrete-backed brick scarp, retaining and incorporating the original postern and sally port. Joseph Totten, chief engineer of the United States Army, designed additional elements to be added to the fort, including casemates with rifle galleries and powder magazines for each of the four bastions. Totten also designed gun ports with wrought-iron shutters. The “Totten embrasure,” as it came to known, was an innovation of Totten’s employed at Fort Wayne would allow canons to pivot forward, allowing wider field of fire.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Thomas Killion (Associate Professor, Wayne State University Department of Anthropology), in discussion with authors, April 2015.

<sup>38</sup> James Conway, City of Detroit Department of Parks and Recreation, in discussion with authors.

<sup>39</sup> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Detroit Area Office Complex Historic District. Draft National Register of Historic Places Registration Form prepared by Commonwealth Cultural Resources Group, Inc., for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, 2011.

<sup>40</sup> Building 503 refers to the powder magazine only. The star fort and its demilune have no building number.

<sup>41</sup> Conway and Jamroz, 20.

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In 1938 access for larger vehicles was added with a triple-arched entryway located on the west end of the star fort opening onto Brady Street; its creation required removing a section of the fort wall. Prior to the creation of this entrance, access from the star fort to the officers' quarters and other service buildings located to the west was by way of an elevated walkway of wood construction with metal handrails, the construction date of which is not known.<sup>42</sup> This new western entrance consisted of two larger round arches, supported with stone quoins, to accommodate vehicles by way of a paved entrance road; a smaller arched opening served pedestrians. The entire arched wall section was topped with stone coping. During World War II, however, the larger two arches were removed entirely to further enlarge the opening; what remains of the 1938 masonry can be seen in the still-extant pedestrian entrance.

As the *Program for Preservation and Utilization* describes the current appearance:

The star fort is a four point star-shaped structure approximately 560 feet long on each side, with clay brick masonry scarps backed by concrete approximately twenty-two feet high, and six feet thick. The center third of each side wall is set back to form a recess flanked by cannon embrasures. Perimeter walls are topped with cast-in-place concrete caps. At roughly the one-third points of each side of the fort are casemates, totaling eight for the whole fort. Two of these are accessible by posterns from the inside floor of the fort, and along with the two sally ports, originally provided the only grade-level access to the fort. The other six casemates are accessible via stairways from the tops of the earthen embankments that abut the interior of scarp, and originally had wood and canvas curved roofs.

Cannon emplacements are located at the top of the fort at each star point. Although cannons were never installed, the bases and pivots on which they were to rest still exist. Limestone slabs in iron frames form the breast-height walls over which cannon were to fire. The casemates and access tunnels are clay brick masonry vaulted structures within the embankments and fort walls, and are covered by earth. The embankments are higher than the masonry scarp, and there are trenches in the embankment behind the scarp extending around the perimeter, except where interrupted at eight locations where there is casemate construction below. The two sally ports and posterns are terminated on each end with massive wood doors with hand-wrought iron hardware believed to be original. The current grade-level west entrance to the star fort is not original, having been built [in 1938] by cutting through the wall and interior embankment after the fort ceased to be a defensive installation.

Surrounding the fort is a dry moat formed by the outer masonry scarp and a secondary embankment, the height of which roughly matches the height of the

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<sup>42</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Fort Wayne, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, National Register #71000425.

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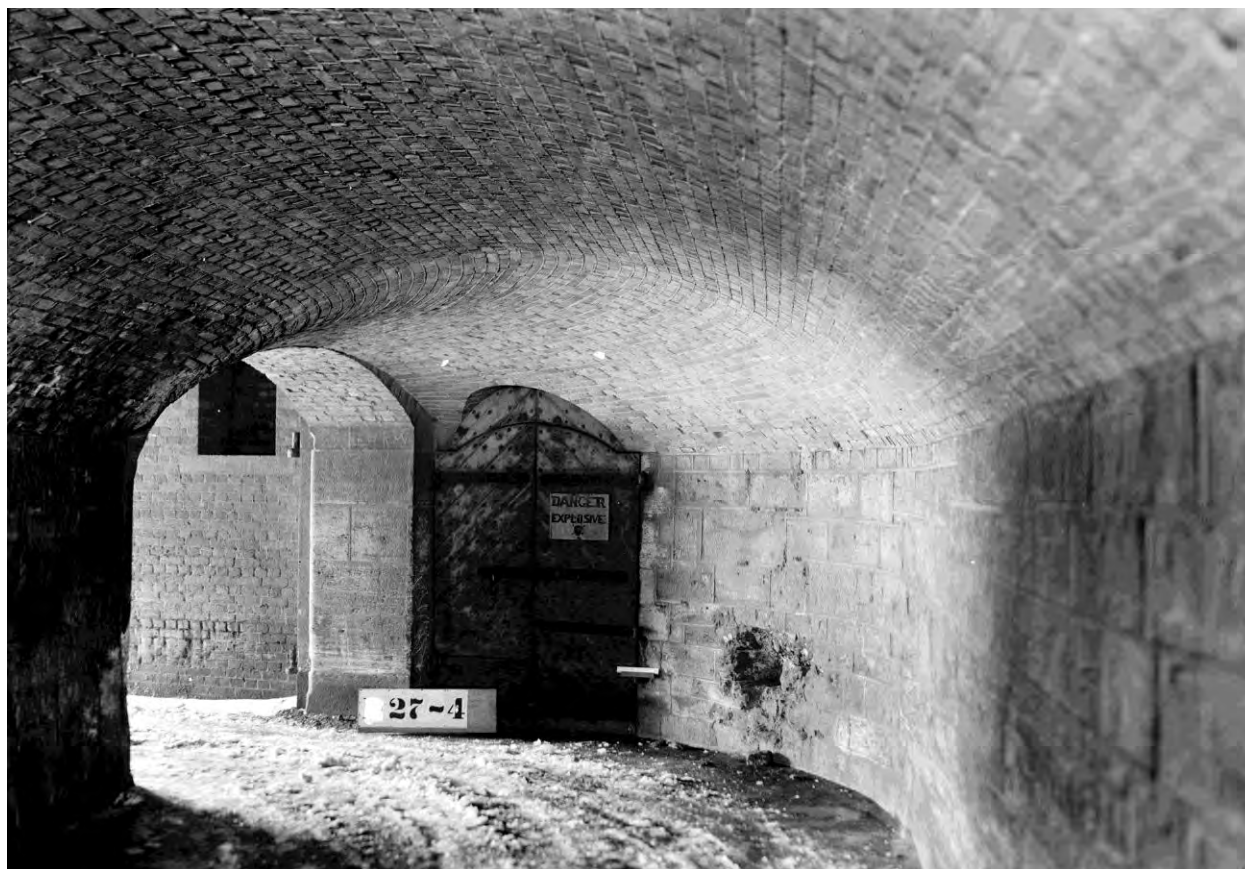
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scarp. The embankment was a part of the fort's original passive defenses. The current interruption in the west outer embankment [corresponding with the west entrance to the fort] is not original, having been made at the time [that] entrance was made. The ramped access road on the east of the fort is believed to be original.

The interior spaces of the star fort consist of the casemates beneath the inner embankments, two posterns, two sally ports, and the interiors of the two powder magazines. All of these interiors consist of brick masonry walls supporting vaulted brick ceilings. Floors of these spaces are also brick.<sup>43</sup>



Fort Wayne, Sally Ports, West Jefferson Avenue, Detroit, MI. *Historic American Buildings Survey. HABS MI-27-4-C. S. Lucas, Photographer, 1934. Library of Congress.*

Interior passages and other spaces show no apparent sign of alterations since their construction, despite having been used for exhibit space during the 1970s. Some wear to the interior brick walls attests to the fort's long history of military use: "the brick work within the tunnel [from the sally port to the interior] is worn where it was scraped by horse-drawn vehicles attempting to get

<sup>43</sup> *Historic Fort Wayne Program of Preservation and Utilization, 191–192.*

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through the narrow passageway;”<sup>44</sup> also, graffiti left behind by military personnel stationed at Fort Wayne is carved into the brickwork in places, primarily names and dates.

On the outer perimeter of the star fort, facing the river, is a V-shaped demilune, designed to house heavy guns to defend the fort against a naval attack. According to the *Program for Preservation and Utilization*:

[the demilune] was designed to be a coastal defensive emplacement with its breast-high limestone walls in iron frames, and cannon pivots and tracks still intact. Within the "V" is another powder magazine intended to serve the demilune. This structure has a brick and stone masonry façade with a wood door facing north. The remainder of the structure extends south and then angles to the southeast into the embankment. The interior ceiling is brick masonry, and the exterior roof consists of rocks set into mortar. It is unclear if this structure ever had a secondary wood framed roof.<sup>45</sup>

Another significant structure, set into the walls of the fort, is the powder magazine:

Built with exterior walls constructed of massive limestone blocks, the powder magazine is set into the earthen embankment in the southwest corner of the fort. It is surrounded on all sides by a secondary set of massive stone walls extending to the building's eave height, and spaced approximately four feet from the building's walls. The secondary wall is interrupted only by an access passage into the magazine. It retains the earthen embankment, and braces the building walls with large limestone blocks located at various points around the perimeter. The structure has a wood entrance door, and a thin brick barrel-vaulted ceiling, with a wood-framed and wood shingled roof.<sup>46</sup>

Other than the star fort, demilune, and power magazine (counting as a single structure according to National Register guidelines), a number of other structures have been located within the fort's interior grounds at different periods throughout its history.

The 1971 Fort Wayne National Register of Historic Places nomination form briefly mentions additional buildings, formerly located within the walls of the star fort, which no longer exist. They are identified in the form only as “World War II intrusions used today for offices, laboratories, storage, and shops.”<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Fort Wayne, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, National Register #71000425.

<sup>45</sup> *Historic Fort Wayne Program of Preservation and Utilization*, 191.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid*, 192.

<sup>47</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Fort Wayne, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, National Register #71000425.

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**Barracks (Building 507); Old Fort Street; 1848, rear addition with verandas added 1861;  
Federal/Adam; Contributing**



*Fort Wayne, Old Barracks, West Jefferson Avenue, Detroit, MI. Historic American Buildings Survey. HABS MI-27-4-A. Library of Congress.*

The most prominent structure within the star fort, and the oldest and the largest building at Fort Wayne, is the original barracks building. Located within the western perimeter of the star fort, the building (sometimes known as the Old Barracks or Old Stone Barracks to distinguish it from later residential buildings on the property) is a long, rectangular, three-and-one-half-story building of coursed and roughly squared limestone masonry, built in the Federal style. Its front (west) façade is organized into five bays beneath a side-gabled, wood-frame roof, its center bay projecting slightly and bearing a pedimented gable with an oblong, subdivided window. Eight gabled dormers, two per bay flanking the central bay, are located on the front roof slope and supported by Ionic columns, and ten are located on the rear elevation. At the end of each bay, straddling the ridge of the roof, is a brick masonry chimney with a concrete cap (a total of six chimneys). The tops of the stone walls of the front and side façades terminate in brick dentils and cut stone cornices which once carried built-in gutters. Roofing is currently contemporary three-dimensional asphalt shingles, in random sizes and a gray color, roughly approximating the

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appearance of slate (the original roof having been removed sometime after 1971).<sup>48</sup> Recent aluminum gutters have been installed atop remainders of modified stone cornices. Regularly arranged window openings on the front and rear are formed by limestone lintels (some have been replaced by concrete), and limestone sills. Windows are wood double-hung, typically twelve-over-twelve, sash windows. The five front entrances are composed of nine panel rail and stile doors, with Adam-style fan light transom windows above.

The rear (east) elevation features the 1862 addition of five vertical red-brick towers, containing kitchen and washroom facilities, with three-story porches extending between the towers.<sup>49</sup> The porch floors at the second and third floor are formed by brick masonry vaults supported on cast iron beams and columns. The walls of the gable-ended side elevations are blank.

In plan, the barracks was constructed in five identical sections with brick firewalls between. Each section contains a stair hall with steel plate stairs serving the upper three floors. The first floor was built with a mess hall and a kitchen in each section. Upper floors served as dormitory living quarters. The first floor features a brick surface, while upper floors are wood. The building incorporates an uncommon structural system with the upper two floors suspended from the roof using metal rods. Cast iron columns supported the lower floors.

By 1934 the building was in poor condition due to failure of the roof system; many of the rods had previously been cut to provide better access on the upper floors. Repairs in 1956 corrected this issue and the building now appears to be in good structural condition. In the 1970s the lowest two floors were developed as museum space with military exhibits and period rooms. These items were removed, however, during a 2004–2006 restoration of the interior to its prior character. Above the second floor, the upper floors demonstrate poor condition.

Ceramic drain pipes along the foundation of Building 507 filled an underground cistern, intended for use as an emergency water source in the event of a siege.

### **Street Network and Street Signs; c. 1860; Contributing**

The street grid was established in the 1860s when the area to the west of the star fort began to be developed. Most historic street curbs have been replaced with concrete ones, although sandstone curbs remain in some areas of Officers Row and NCO Row, albeit in various states of disrepair. Many curbs are painted yellow, somewhat obscuring the historic features.

### **Pre-1971 Landscape Improvements; c. 1938-1971; no style; Contributing**

A campaign of improvements, including landscaping and tree planting, were undertaken by the Works Progress Administration beginning in 1938. A number of presently mature elm trees

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<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Historic American Buildings Survey documentation from April 24, 1934 refers to kitchen and porch addition built 1862. <http://www.historicmapworks.com/Buildings/Images/MI/MI0068-sup002.tif>

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(*Ulmus Americana*) appear in World War II-era photographs as recently planted. These trees are suffering from Dutch Elm disease and many have been cut down in recent years, leaving behind visible stumps.

**Warehouse 1/Motor Pool Garage (Building 1); Edison Street; 1941; no style; Non-Contributing**

This was demolished around 2002.<sup>50</sup> The concrete slab foundation remains as visual evidence of this building location. The site is presently used for the storage of debris and is often referred to by staff and volunteers as the “brush pile.”

**Warehouses 2A, 2B, and 2C/Collections Resource Center (Building 2); Edison Street; 1942; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

At the southern corner of the site, separated from the parade ground by a tall earthen berm (described below as a non-contributing resource), are Warehouses 2A, 2B, and 2C, three connected structures adjacent to the concrete slab foundation of a separate, fourth warehouse which has since been demolished (also listed elsewhere on this form as a non-contributing site).

The three World-War II-era, single-story utilitarian warehouse structures are constructed of concrete block perimeter bearing walls on a concrete foundation. The building exteriors are partially painted. The original rectangular window are formed by precast concrete lintels and precast sills. Steel lintels provided openings for large overhead doors. All original window openings on 2A and 2B, however, are now blocked up. Their roof structures are constructed of wood, supported on interior wood columns. The roofs are low sloped, with 2A and 2B having built-up ballasted roofing, and drain to the west. Building 2C is assumed to have membrane roofing of unknown composition.

The interiors of all three buildings exhibit similar characteristics, although Building 2C has several differences. Buildings 2A and 2B are twenty bays in length and seven bays in width, each bay measuring approximately seventeen by fifteen and a half feet. Their roofs support two seven-bay-long monitor roofs that have operating windows to admit light and air. Buildings 2A and 2B share a long interior wall; interior walls are bare concrete block. The few interior partitions that exist in 2A are concrete block or wood studs covered with drywall or horizontal V-groove wood paneling. The ceilings of 2A and 2B are drywall applied directly to the underside of wood roof rafters. Structural columns are eight-inch-square wood, supporting exposed, heavy, built-up wood girders with wood diagonal bracing. The floor is concrete generally sloping to the south. Building 2B, although its construction is identical, is in better condition than Building 2A, which has a damaged envelope.

Building 2C has been extensively remodeled to provide controlled archives and artifact storage for the Detroit Historical Museum. Openings have been much modified, with original window

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<sup>50</sup> James Conway, email to authors, 9 February 2017.



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openings being blocked up and new openings added along the west side to accommodate office use.

Building 2C shares its south wall with the north wall of Building 2B and formerly shared its long, western wall with Building 2D, which has been demolished. Building 2C is eighteen bays long and seven bays wide, each bay measuring approximately twenty feet by fifteen feet. It does not have a monitor roof. The west portion of the building is dedicated to office staff, workrooms and archival storage. These areas are finished with painted drywall walls, glass and drywall partitions, vinyl tile floors, and open, painted roof framing serving as a ceiling. The rest rooms are finished with ceramic tile floors and base and painted plaster walls and ceiling. The east portion contains extensive artifact storage. It is finished with painted concrete floors and painted open structure and roof framing. This building was constructed at the same time as Buildings 2A and 2B, but has additional interior finishes and is in very good condition.

### **Duplex (Building 102); Gibbs Street (Officers Row); 1898, alterations 1930s; Colonial Revival/Free Classic; Contributing**

This relatively substantial, simplified Colonial Revival, Commissioned Officers duplex building, (identical in appearance and condition to buildings 103 and 104, below) located north of the berm located at the corner of Gibbs Street and Edison Street at the west end of Officers Row, is generally unaltered from its original appearance. It is a two and one-half story, U-shaped, gable roofed structure with brick load-bearing walls on a full, coursed ashlar basement. Symmetrical in massing, it features two side-by-side units sharing a common wall.

The building has a wood frame, side-facing gable roof and subordinate cross gables, one projecting forward to form the pedimental gable over the central section of the front façade and the other two over the rear side wings. Two chimneys in line with the common wall extend upward through the parlor and dining room of each unit. Eaves on all elevations feature simple crown molding trim, and wood dentil cornices. Two wood-framed pedimental gabled dormers containing paired, rectangular six-over-two double-hung sash windows, crown the outer bays of the front façades.

The central projecting gable wall occupies the bulk of the front façade, its regularly arranged fenestration providing a wider gap in the center of the wall between the second and third windows to accommodate the common wall that rises through to the attic, separating the two units. Rectangular windows composed of two lights are set in the coursed ashlar foundation wall, above which first- and second-story window openings, four across, have brick jack arches and masonry sills, and two-over-two wood double-hung sash windows. Above them, in the gable, are four six-over-two windows in rounded arched openings with brick window hoods. A pair of small arched, louvered vents are situated near the apex of the gable. For each unit, the two receding outer bays contain the primary first floor entrances, which are composed of a precast concrete porch on a brick masonry base and stairs (added in the 1930s), with a shallow, partial hip roof supported by slender square wood columns sheltering the porch. On the inner side of the

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single wooden entry doors is a window identical to those on the central section; above, centered over the porch on the second story, is a similar but wider window.

Window arrangements on the side and rear elevations are not symmetrical but are similar to the wood, double hung sash varieties seen on the front façade. The side elevations feature a stair window with a transom, adding to its height. The side gables bear two round-arched windows identical to those on the front gable, symmetrically arranged with a single louvered window near the apex. At the rear elevation of each building are two gabled wings with returns extending from the side cornices. A wood basement door at grade leads to each unit; a bricked-in entrance opening at first floor level, near the outside corners of each building, indicates rear entrances with steps and a modest porch. There is a metal fire escape from each outer attic story window opening. Centered in the recessed wall between the two wings are two wide, six-over-two, double-hung windows, and at ground floor are the additions of brick masonry trash enclosures.

On the interior, the first floor of each unit consists of an entrance vestibule, lavatory, front hall, living room, dining room, pantry, kitchen, and rear stairway and entrance. The front stair to the second floor is open to the front hall. The second floor contains a stair hall with extension, four bedrooms, closets, a two-piece lavatory, and a full three-piece bathroom. The rear stair leads from the second floor to an attic that is separated into several finished rooms. The two main floor levels have fully plastered walls and ceilings. All original plaster and woodwork were removed and replaced during the years 1935 through 1939. Primary floors are wood, some of which are covered with asphalt tile. The entrance vestibule has a quarry tile and ceramic tile wainscot, and the bathrooms have ceramic tile floor and wainscot (both circa 1935–1939). The attic is finished plastered walls with wood floors. The basement is subdivided into five rooms and a central hall. Major walls are masonry and there are plastered ceilings throughout.

Building 102 is generally in poor condition. Brick and mortar, asphalt roof shingles, and wooden elements, such as windows, dormers and cornices, display deterioration. The ashlar foundations remain in good condition. The building is otherwise unchanged from its original exterior configuration, except for the addition of a brick masonry trash enclosure, of unknown date, at the rear.

**Duplex (Building 103); Gibbs Street (Officers Row); 1898, alterations 1930s; Colonial Revival/Free Classic; Contributing**

Buildings 102 (described above), 103, and 104 are identical in appearance and condition.

**Duplex (Building 104); Gibbs Street (Officers Row); 1898, alterations 1930s; Colonial Revival/Free Classic; Contributing**

Buildings 102 (described above), 103, and 104 are identical in appearance and condition.

**Duplex (Building 105); Gibbs Street (Officers Row); 1890, significantly altered c. 1937 to resemble buildings 216 and 219; Colonial Revival**

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This building is a two-story duplex with full basement and storage attic, located as part of a row of similar buildings (106–108, 111, and 112, built at the same time) that extends to the east and west of Shelby Street, facing south towards the parade ground. Originally a wood frame building on brick foundations, it was re-clad with red brick veneer between 1937 and 1939, resulting in its current Colonial Revival exterior appearance. All visible exterior surfaces and detail except the windows date from the late-1930s re-cladding, although the general massing and T-shape footprint stem from the original 1890 configuration. Building 105 and its five companions are currently identical in exterior and interior configurations and details.

The building is symmetrical, composed of a front horizontal section beneath a side gable roof, and a centered perpendicular rear section under a cross-gable roof. The side gable roof has a brick masonry chimney on each end of the front slope and a fan window in the attic. Roof construction is wood frame, covered with asphalt shingles dating from the 1970s. Eaves feature crown molding trim.

The circa 1937 brick veneer exterior is supported on a concrete foundation that extends a few feet below grade and is connected to the original brick foundation. The concrete foundation extends upwards to first floor level, approximately thirty-six inches above grade. The south-facing front façades consist of two identical halves separated internally by a common wall. The central, double Colonial porch has three wood columns supporting a partial hip roof; each half of the porch contains entry into one of the two units through a paneled door with slender sidelights. The porches have brick masonry bases that may date from the original construction period, which are parged with a cementitious coating. Located to each side of the double porch is a group of three windows within a single opening sharing a stone sill; the center one with six-over-six lights and the outer ones narrower, four-over-four. At the second story level are four windows, two per unit, with typical six-over-six lights.

Side elevations, composed of the gable wall and the recessed outer wall of the rear gable section, have symmetrical window arrangements as well. Exterior basement access stairs are located on the east and west walls. At their rear corners, attached to the rear elevations, are single-story, hip-roofed vestibules that serve as utility entries, with concrete stairs and tubed metal railing leading to a single wood-paneled door with a subdivided window. These entries appear to have been added during 1937 to 1939 renovations.

On the interior, each unit's first floor consists of a front entrance vestibule, front hall, living room, dining room, pantry, half bath, kitchen, and rear entrance. The front stair to the second floor is open to the front hall. The rear stair to the second floor is accessed from the kitchen. The second floor contains a stair hall, three bedrooms, closets, and two full three-piece bathrooms. The two main floor levels have fully plastered walls and ceilings. All original plaster and woodwork was removed and replaced during remodeling from 1935 through 1939. Primary floors are wood, some of which are covered with carpet. The entrance vestibules have a quarry tile and ceramic tile wainscot, and bathrooms have ceramic tile floors and wainscots (all circa

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1935 through 1939). The basements are generally subdivided into several separate rooms and a central hall. Major walls are masonry and there are plastered ceilings throughout.

The foundation is in good condition, but the asphalt roof shows extreme wear with structural damage to the framing within. The 1930s brick facade shows rusted lintels, which have shifted the brick veneer. The front porches have masonry deterioration as well. Wooden elements, such as fascias, porch columns and windows, have been painted in recent years. Interior features and details, such as fireplaces and trim, are still intact; their condition varies. The building is generally unaltered from its late 1930s appearance, when it was remodeled with WPA funds to resemble the then newly constructed buildings 216 through 219, built in 1936.

**Duplex (Building 106); Gibbs Street (Officers Row); 1890, significantly altered c. 1937 to resemble buildings 216 and 219; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

Buildings 105 (described above) through 108, along with 111 and 112, are similar in appearance and condition.

**Duplex (Building 107); Gibbs Street (Officers Row); 1890, significantly altered c. 1937 to resemble buildings 216 and 219; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

Buildings 105 (described above) through 108, along with 111 and 112, are similar in appearance and condition.

**Duplex (Building 108); Gibbs Street (Officers Row); 1890, significantly altered c. 1937 to resemble buildings 216 and 219; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

Buildings 105 (described above) through 108, along with 111 and 112, are similar in appearance and condition.

**Officers Club (Building 109); Gibbs Street (Officers Row); 1890, alterations c. 1937-1939; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

Building 109 is the second building east of Shelby Street on Officers Row, facing south towards the parade ground. It was built in 1890 as a single-family, two story, wood frame, gable-roofed building on a brick foundation, and was re-clad with brick veneer between 1937 and 1939, resulting in its Colonial-style exterior. Its general building massing and L-shaped footprint are from the original 1890 configuration; a one-story wing was added to the northeast around 1937 to provide additional interior space when the building became the Officers Club. The adjacent building to the east, Building 110, has been restored to its original Italianate style, depicting the general appearance that Building 109 originally presented.

Extending along the front of Building 109 is a side-gable roof, with a subordinate perpendicular gable roof extending back (north) from its west side and a one-story addition extending from its east side. The building has two brick chimneys, one projecting from the east wall and the other

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from the rear-facing (north) gable. Roof construction is wood framing, and the roof is clad in asphalt shingles applied in the 1970s. Eaves feature crown molding trim.

The brick veneer that replaced the original wood clapboard on Building 109 around 1937 is supported on a concrete foundation that extends a few feet below grade and is connected to the original brick foundation. The veneer foundation extends upward to the first-floor level, approximately thirty-six inches above grade. On the front (south) façade is a single Colonial Revival front porch with four wood, square columns (two attached) and a front pedimental gable roof. The paneled door is flanked by narrow sidelights. The brick masonry base of the porch dates from the 1930s remodeling and is parged with a cementitious coating. The original window openings are rectangular and are formed by steel lintels. Windows are wood double-hung, typically with six-over-six lights on the front façade.

The interior of the Officers Club, originally built as a single-family dwelling, contains two stories of living space with full basement and a storage attic. Gutted and totally remodeled in the late 1930s by the WPA, it was converted to serve Fort Wayne as a social club for officers. The first floor consists of an entrance vestibule and front stair hall leading to a long room on the east (originally a double parlor with the separating wall removed); on the west are two rooms that served the club for dining and entertainment. To the rear of the first floor are a pantry and kitchen with a rear stair to the basement and the second floor. The one-story addition constructed at the northeast corner contained several medium-sized rooms, two half baths (one with a shower), several closets and a rear entry hall. The second floor contains a major stair hall, five bedrooms, three full baths, and closets. All original plaster and woodwork was removed and replaced during the 1930s with the exception of remnants of a coved plaster cornice in several first floor rooms. Floors are wood. The entrance vestibule has a quarry tile and ceramic tile wainscot; bathrooms have ceramic tile floor and wainscot. The basement is subdivided into several rooms and an access hall. Major basement walls are masonry and ceilings are plastered throughout. In 2006 heat and a functional half bath on the first floor were restored to the building when it was used as a preservation skills training location by the Detroit Public Schools Philip Randolph Vocational Technical School. Some windows and plasterwork were also repaired.

Building 109, like others with brick veneer façades applied in the late 1930s, exhibits signs of rusted lintel, which has led to jacking and cracking of the brick veneer. The front porch has masonry deterioration as well. Its roof shows some deterioration at the valleys.

**Commanding Officer's House (Building 110); Gibbs Street; 1890, altered c. 1937, restored 1980s; Italianate; Contributing**

The Commanding Officer's House faces south towards the tree-lined perimeter of the parade ground and is located in the middle of its block between Brady Street and Shelby Street. It is the only house on Officers Row with a fenced back yard, which is enclosed with a wood board fence. A concrete walkway extends northward across the broad grass turf lawn through to Harrison Street from the rear of the dwelling.

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Built as a single-family residence, the building is a restored, wood frame, clapboard-sided, Italianate building on a brick foundation, crowned with a side-facing gable roof with a subordinate off-center perpendicular gable at the east side, forming a rear (north) wing. It had previously been clad with brick veneer dating from WPA alterations begun around 1937, which resulted in a side-gabled Colonial-style exterior similar to other buildings on Officers Row. All presently-visible exterior surfaces and detail, however, date from a 1980s restoration by the Detroit Historical Museum, except for the windows, which were replaced.

The general massing and L-shaped footprint of Building 110 remain from the original configuration. The 1930s concrete foundation has been cut off a few feet below grade but is connected to the original brick foundation. The restored original brick foundation extends upwards to the first-floor level, approximately 36 inches above grade. The building has five reconstructed brick corbeled chimneys, two centered near the outer walls of each of the front and back slopes of the main gable, and the fifth projecting from the rear (north) end of ridge of the subordinate gable. Roof construction is wood framing, and roofing is currently cedar shingles. Eaves feature ornate restored brackets and molding trim. Window openings are rectangular and are supported by steel lintels, generally ornamented with molded cornices above and simple bracketed sills below. Windows are regularly arranged, wood double-hung sash, typically with six-over-six lights.

The front (south) façade is symmetrically arranged, with a full-width porch with slender, square, bracketed columns supporting the gently sloping copper roof spanning its first floor. The central, solid wood paneled double-door entrance has a rectangular four-light transom above and is flanked by two windows on either side. Three second-story windows above and two on the north elevation extend upward into the attic, rising above the roofline of the main gable roof, resulting in pedimented dormers trimmed in wood. A rear kitchen porch spans the east elevation of the rear (north) wing. Both front and back porches have brick masonry pier bases that date from the 1980s remodeling, and wood lattice panels enclose the spaces under them. The east side gable wall is symmetrical, with two windows on each story and a diamond-shaped vent window near its apex. The west side and rear elevations are asymmetrical due to the position of the wing, but display regular fenestration nonetheless.

On the interior, the first floor consists of an entrance vestibule and front staircase. On the east side is a double parlor. On the west are two rooms interpreted as a downstairs bedroom and dining room. To the rear of the first floor are a pantry (converted to a half-bath) and kitchen with a rear stair to the basement and the second floor between. The second floor contains a major stair hall, five bedrooms, one restored full bath and a number of closets. The two main floor levels have fully plastered walls and ceilings. All original plaster and woodwork was removed and replaced in the 1930s, but plaster cornices shown in original construction drawings were reconstructed as part of the restoration. Primary floors are wood. The basement is a large open space with an unused masonry coal bin and houses two newer HVAC units. Major basement walls are masonry with a ceiling of exposed wood joists overhead.

As this building was restored in the 1890s and maintained as a house museum from 1986 into the

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2000s, it has been kept in good condition. An exception is some moderate weather-related deterioration of wood elements such as porches, window surrounds and trim.



*Officers' Row, Fort Wayne, Detroit, Mich., c. 1900. Detroit Photographing Co. Library of Congress, Call No. LC-D4-13078.*

**Duplex (Building 111); Gibbs Street (Officers Row); 1890, significantly altered c. 1937 to resemble buildings 216 and 219; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

Buildings 105 (described above) through 108, along with 111 and 112, are very similar in appearance and condition.

**Duplex (Building 112); Gibbs Street (Officers Row); 1890, significantly altered c. 1937 to resemble buildings 216 and 219; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

Buildings 105 (described above) through 108, along with 111 and 112, are very similar in appearance and condition. This building, however, has been partially renovated to accommodate

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its function as the offices of the Recreation Department's Historic Fort Wayne project manager and the Fort Wayne Coalition. A new roof was put on the building and the restroom and kitchen were remodeled around 2012.



*Officers' quarters, Fort Wayne, Detroit, Mich., c. 1900. Detroit Photographing Co. Library of Congress, Call No. LC-D4-13079.*

**Officers Quarters (Building 114); Brady Street (Officers Row); 1906, interior alterations c. 1937; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

This building is located near the western entrance to the star fort and faces southward. It was erected in 1896 or 1906 as a two-and-one-half-story, three-unit residential building in the Colonial Revival style. Built on a random ashlar limestone foundation, its load-bearing brick walls are pointed with red colored mortar. Although it is located east of Brady Street, Building 114 continues the facade plane of Officers Row and is accessed by an extension of the sidewalk that also passes in front of the other Officers Row buildings. Its plan is symmetrically arranged, with a "T"-shaped footprint.



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The roof is wood framed and composed of a side gable roof across the front (south) and a hipped roof with two corbeled chimneys over the rear. Two wood-framed, pedimented dormers with paired double-hung sash windows project from the front slope of the gable roof; a hip roof dormer projects from each of the east- and west-facing slopes of the rear hip roof. Roofs are now clad in asphalt shingles. Capping the front façade is a wood cornice with a wide frieze with dentils, which wraps around to the side elevations to define the lower edge of the side gables; the rear mass of the building displays a narrower version of this frieze.

Random ashlar foundations are punctured on each end of the front façade with rectangular window openings containing three lights. Concrete steps lead to the centrally located front porch, which features a pedimental gable supported by narrow, square columns. The multi-paned door is flanked by narrow, multi-paned sidelights, set within a classical enframing. Two similar windows are positioned on each side of the prominent, centrally located, front entry. Regularly spaced, double-hung, sash windows with six-over-two muntin configurations, topped by jack arches and resting on limestone sills are positioned on each side of the porch. Stretching across the second story of the front façade are six similar windows. The side and rear elevations are also symmetrical in their arrangement of windows and doors. Rectangular, triple-light windows regularly puncture the foundation of the west elevation; these have been altered on the east elevation to accommodate basement modifications. Two windows per floor, similar to those on the front façade, are located on the outer ends of the east and west elevations with a pair of smaller double-hung sash windows in the center. The gabled ends of the front roof have two windows similar to those on the front façade. There are two rear doors that rise slightly from the grade of the rear (north) elevation, their concrete porch slabs accessed by a single concrete step.

In 2005 and 2006 the exterior of Building 114 was restored, except for the original slate roof, which was replaced with asphalt shingles. Also, a ramp and stairs descending to the basement level were added to the east side of the building to provide public access to new barrier-free basement restrooms and locker rooms, as well as mechanical rooms and storage rooms. In the interior, alterations that likely place between 1937 and 1939 included wall additions and removals, ceiling changes, the alteration of openings and spatial configurations, as well as the destruction of much original interior detail. Building 114 remains in good condition as a result of 2005–2006 interventions.

**Officers Quarters (Building 117); Wayne Street and Harrison Street (Officers Row); 1906, alterations c. 1937; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

Building 117 is a relatively large, duplex residence in the Colonial Revival style with load-bearing brick masonry and red-tinted mortar joints on a coursed ashlar limestone base. It is situated between the north side of Wayne Street and the south side of Harrison Street, west of Brady Street. The building does not have a clearly defined front, as the main entrances to the duplex units are on two identical but opposite sides (north and south). The street façade faces eastward towards Brady Street, where walkways running perpendicular to the street and sidewalk link to side-facing concrete steps leading to the entry porches on the north and south elevations.

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An additional concrete walkway off of Harrison Street extends to a service vestibule at the rear and continues along the west side of the building through to Wayne Street. No landscaping except the flat grass turf is associated with the building.

The footprint of Building 117 is cruciform in shape. It has a wood-framed roof structure and intersecting roofs consisting of a front gable with its gabled end facing east, a subordinate cross gable running north-south, and a rear (west) hip roof. Its eaves feature crown molding trim and wood molded cornices. At the ridge of the east-facing gable roof is the only chimney, which is corbeled.

Multiple paned window openings in the foundation are generally square and correspond in placement to the windows in the floors above. Window openings are generally topped by jack arches and have limestone sills, and windows are generally wood double-hung, with six-over-two lights. Different muntin configurations exist in the attic story windows. The visually prominent façade facing east towards Brady Street is capped with a cross gable in the form of a triangular pediment with a molded cornice, containing two double-hung sash attic windows above a denticulated frieze. The symmetrical façade is composed of four windows per floor, the two middle ones spaced further apart to accommodate the party wall between the two units. The projecting cross-gabled ends of the asymmetrical but identically arranged south and north elevations feature a front porch with a shallow hip roof, beneath which are wood double doors with a subdivided transom above. Their concrete, side-facing steps and bases likely date from the c. 1937 WPA modifications. Roofing is currently asphalt shingles. Non-original brick veneer entry vestibules and trash enclosures on concrete bases have been added at the rear (west), and may also date from the late 1930s.

This structure, originally built as duplex officers' housing, was among several buildings at the post that were gutted and completely remodeled in the late 1930s. In the 1970s the interior was altered again to add museum exhibit space on the first and second floors.

Closed to the public, the building has suffered water damage to the brick, rusting lintels, and deterioration of the roof, concrete, and wooden features due to lack of maintenance and protection from the elements.

**Post Engineer's Storehouse (Building 201); Harrison Street; 1897, alterations of unknown dates; no style; Contributing**

The Post Engineer's Storehouse is located on the northwest corner of Harrison Street at Edison Street, the western edge of the Fort Wayne site. It is a simple, one-story, rectangular, brick masonry bearing-wall structure on a low, rough-coursed limestone masonry foundation which transitions to concrete on the north side. Its front façade faces south.

The shallow gable roof of Building 201 is wood framed with a modern membrane covering, penetrated by several non-original ventilators. There is a tall brick chimney, more than twice as tall as the remainder of the building, at the northeast corner, with a coal chute at its base. At the

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east gable end is a brick masonry firewall with a stepped parapet extending above the roof. The wall is partially painted and shows evidence that it was at one time an interior wall of a since-demolished part of the building.

Original openings in wall surfaces are formed by segmental arches. Original windows are small, square, inward-swinging wood hoppers, with six-light muntin configurations. The front (south) façade is symmetrically arranged with three wood double doors of rail-and-stile construction, with diagonal wide panels, situated between four small windows. Two of the three concrete stoops on the south side of the building appear to be non-original, their concrete resembling that used in the late 1930s on other porches at Fort Wayne. While the front façade maintains its original appearance, changes have been made to window and door openings on the north and west exterior walls, such as the addition of steel sash industrial windows.

The open interior is five bays wide by nine bays wide, each bay approximately ten feet by twelve feet in dimension. A room on the northeast corner, one bay in size, has brick interior walls. The floor is concrete and the ceiling is the underside of the roof structure with exposed truss components. The interior, which is used for storage, has been altered with the addition and removal of many partitions, along with other changes over its lifetime.

The roof consists of relatively new materials and is in good condition. However, the character-defining wood double doors show signs of water damage. The masonry has many open joints and steel windows show rust, but the building remains in use and is otherwise well maintained.

### **Post Quartermaster (Building 202); Harrison Street; 1890; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

The single-story Post Quartermaster building has detailing in the Colonial Revival style. Located at the northwest corner of Harrison Street and Shelby Street, its front façade is oriented towards the south. It has a long rectangular footprint and brick masonry bearing walls on a coursed ashlar limestone base.

Building 202 features a side-gable, wood-framed, asphalt-shingled roof with an off-center gable dormer and a brick chimney at its western end. Eaves feature a wide fascia with crown molding trim, and wood cornices with modillions at the eaves and rake. Window and door openings on the front (south) and side elevations have been modified, with some original openings bricked in and new openings added. Original window and door openings have limestone lintels and sills, and are primarily wood double-hung, with six-over-six muntin configurations, although some have been replaced with paired, subdivided casements with transoms. Rectangular windows in openings with rowlock arches puncture the stone foundations of the front and rear façades. Double doors to the main level on the front façade are non-original hollow metal. They are accessed from side-facing concrete steps to a concrete loading dock missing its roof that once extended door to door. Side elevations feature a segmentally arched window opening near the top of the gable end. Fenestration on the rear elevation, consisting of eight evenly spaced windows and rowlock arched basement windows, is intact. The grade slopes down slightly towards the rear (north) elevation to accommodate the wooden double walkout door on the west

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elevation. A small wood-sided structure is attached at the northeast corner of the rear of the building.

On the inside, this one-story structure with a storage attic and a full basement has twelve ten-foot bays in its length and a row of columns at the center of the building. It has been modernized to house a maintenance shop, storage areas, offices, and training facilities. The building is generally in good condition, although wood trim, windows, brick, and mortar show signs of deterioration. Little historic fabric remains in the interior.

**Electrical Transformer Station (Building 204); Harrison Street; c. 1930s; no style; Contributing**

This small, square, flat-roofed utilitarian building of common bond brick sits on a concrete foundation and is capped with a flat concrete roof. Centered in its north facade is a single metal door with metal strap hinges and door lock. A small six-pane metal window is centered on the south side.

**Guard House/"Old" Guard House (Building 205); Harrison Street; 1889 (replacing an 1860s guard house that was similar in appearance but clad in wood siding); Greek Revival; Contributing**

Centrally located at Fort Wayne, Building 205 is on the northeast corner of Harrison and Shelby streets, its front façade oriented south towards Harrison, its rear yard defined by a white stockade fence that formerly provided an exercise area for prisoners (although the present fence appears to be of more recent construction). The guard house is frequently referred to as the "Old Guard House" as its function was eventually replaced by a newer guard house, Building 302 in 1905.

This one story, side gable roofed, brick building on rough coursed limestone foundations exhibits stylistic hallmarks of the Greek Revival style, with its centrally positioned secondary gable forming a frontal pediment inset with an ocular window beneath its peak, and the Italianate style, with its wide, simply molded cornice and brackets under the eaves. The cornice along the front and rear elevations form returns on the side elevations. The eaves of the full-length wood porch are supported by smaller brackets. Two brick stepped and corbeled chimneys and a central, low, louvered belfry project from the ridgeline of the wood-shingled roof.

The front porch, sitting at grade on brick piers, is wood-framed with a low slope supported on eight slender, square wood columns with simple trim forming the capitals. It extends the full length of the front (south) façade. The central and west bays of the three-bay façade feature a paneled double-door entrance with limestone lintels finished with margined pointed work that support masonry over the openings. These entrances are flanked by rectangular wood frame openings with six-over-six double-hung windows with limestone lintels and sills. The east bay contains square three-over-three windows, also with limestone lintels and sills. Similar type windows, with the addition of four narrow one-over-one casements flanking the single paneled door, are at the rear (north). The rear doorway features a molded, segmentally arched transom.

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There are wood steps at the rear door with anachronistic two-by-four rails. It is flanked by two small, slender one-over one windows, and has two three-over-three windows on the easternmost end and a six-over-six window on its westernmost end. The east and west side elevations have two symmetrically arranged square, three-over-three windows identical to those of the front and rear façades.

On the interior, the building's main entrance is on the south façade and leads directly into a large guardroom at the center of the building. This served four small cells to house prisoners on the north side of the room and two larger rooms to the east and west. Although the building had declined in condition, it was restored in the late 1980s to the Spanish-American War period to be used as a museum. Some interior spaces were repurposed but some of the significant spaces, such as the cells, remain. The east rooms were probably both intended to house prisoners, but one is used today as a mechanical equipment room. The west rooms are today identified as a commander's room and a wash room.

Although the exterior of Building 205 appears to be in good condition, it shows signs of wood deterioration, particularly at the eaves, fascia and front step.

### **Post Headquarters (Building 207); Harrison Street; 1905, alterations 1970s and 1990s; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

Erected in 1905, the Post Headquarters building is a substantial two-and-one-half story, horizontally rectangular, slightly T-shaped Colonial Revival building of red brick resting on a limestone base. Facing south to Harrison Street, its grass turf front lawn is planted with some bushes around the building's perimeter. Concrete walkways lead to the two front entrances from the sidewalk along Harrison Street.

The main wood frame hip roof of Building 207 is intersected on its western entrance bay by a cross gable that forms a slightly projecting front-facing pediment containing a simple Palladian window and a denticulated cornice with returns, the cornice also extending beneath the eaves of the additional three bays. Hip roof dormers are centered over side elevations and a corbeled chimney projects from the ridge of the cross-gable roof.

The east side of the westernmost bay features a modest hip roofed porch with square brick columns providing the main entry, which is now composed of a double metal replacement door with transom above. All of the bays are similarly fenestrated with two, one-over-one windows and foundation windows, the exception being that an original window on the first floor of the easternmost bay was converted into a secondary egress with wooden stairs.

The west side elevation is fenestrated with two pairs of similar windows per floor. The fire exit stairway on the north side off of the second floor has been covered with an enclosure. The rest of the exterior has remained unchanged.

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The interior of the Post Headquarters was restored to its original layout by the Detroit Historical Museum in the 1970s. This included the second floor ballroom, utilized for meetings and other group functions. During the 1990s, however, fire doors and additional partitions were added when the building was leased to the Detroit Public Schools and the interior was remodeled to support school code operation.

### **Duplex (Building 210); Signal Street (NCO Row); 1931; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

This building, like similar buildings 211 and 215 built at the same time, is a Colonial Revival residential duplex, each two-story residential unit containing its own basement and attic space. These buildings are symmetrical and identical in plan with one another, displaying slightly more refined detailing and trim than earlier units on NCO Row. It is unmodified from its original configuration.

The foundation is poured concrete, extending above grade to the first-floor line, above which is variegated red brick masonry load bearing walls. Gable roof construction is wood framed, and roofing is currently asphalt shingles. Eaves feature crown-molding trim. A brick masonry chimney with a concrete cap is located at each end of the gable roof. Basement windows are steel; all others are wood double-hung sash, typically six-over-six, with rectangular tops supported by concealed steel lintels.

Front (north) entrances to each unit of Building 210 is through a central, combined brick vestibule with two single doors in Colonial Revival enframements with arched fanlights. Open concrete porches do not appear to be original. To each side of the entry vestibule is a large window opening composed of the typical six-over-six double-hung window, flanked by narrow side lights of four panes. Four typical six-over-six windows are regularly arranged on the second story. The one-story sun porches on the side (east and west) elevations of Building 210 have been reconstructed. One window opening is positioned to the south of the side porch locations, with a window to each side of the chimney on the second-story level. Louvered openings are set near the top of the side gables. The two center bays of the four fenestrated bays of the rear (south) façade feature an open front porch supported by square wood columns at its outer corners and center. Two sets of double-doors provide a secondary access into the building. A ramp with a metal railing leads up to the porch from the west side of the building. A single window flanks the porch on the outer bays; four regularly spaced identical windows occupy the second story.

Each unit's first floor had originally consisted of a living room, dining room, and kitchen plus an enclosed front entrance vestibule, with the staircase to the second floor open to the living room. Second floors contained a stair hall, three bedrooms, and a three-piece bathroom.

Building 210 was adapted by the Detroit Historical Museum to house the National Museum of the Tuskegee Airmen, which opened in 1989. During the 1988–89 rehabilitation, the building was extensively modified in its interior to accommodate the museum. The two residential units were joined by the removal of the interior firewall. The second floor and ceiling were removed in the rear of the building to create a two-and-a-half-story atrium and exhibit space with skylights.

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The sun porches were rebuilt to house a model of Tuskegee Army Airfield and a memorial to the airmen. Remaining in use, the building is in good condition.

**Duplex (Building 211); Signal Street (NCO Row); 1931; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

This building is similar to Building 210, except that its sun porches have been removed. The concrete slab floor of each side porch is all that remains. This building also retains its original configurations, and features original fully plastered walls and ceilings, and wood floors. The bathroom has plastered walls and ceramic tile wainscot and floor that are different in color and size than the typical green/black remodeling tile of other buildings remodeled in the late 1930s and therefore may be original to the 1931 construction date.

Building 211 is open to the elements and appears to be in very poor condition. Roof structures are visible and show signs of deterioration. Steel lintels are rusted, and some windows and doors are absent or boarded.

**Duplex (Building 212); Signal Street (NCO Row); 1904; Georgian Revival; Contributing**

This is chronologically the second of three duplex NCO residential units built over a nine-year period, being the oldest duplex units on NCO Row. Each duplex unit is two stories with a basement and storage attic. It has enclosed entry vestibules, two-story sunrooms, rear porches on concrete bases, all of which are not original; otherwise, it is generally unmodified from its original configuration. The straightforward style of these duplex units generally reflects Georgian Colonial influences.

Two brick corbeled chimneys with concrete caps rise from the firewall dividing the units. Foundations are coursed ashlar limestone, now mostly parged, supporting orange brick masonry bearing walls with segmental arch window openings with masonry sills and wood double-hung sash windows, typically six-over-six.

The front (north) façade has six fenestrated bays, the outermost bays containing the entry vestibules to each unit containing a single door beneath a gable roof. Both stories of the four bays in between are composed of the typical windows, with spacing wider between bays three and four to accommodate the common wall. Two-story sun porches with paired, typical six-over-six windows sharing a common sill extend the width of the façade to the east and west. On their side and south elevations, the flat-roofed porches have two sets of paired windows. The rear, or south, elevations, like the north, have single doors into each unit on the outer bays, with small windows on the second story level and typical arrangements on the four inner bays. The full-length porches that once existed are absent.

Each unit's first floor consists of a living room, dining room, and kitchen plus an enclosed front entrance porch and side sunrooms. The stair to the second floor is open to the living room. Second floors contain a stair hall, two bedrooms, and a full three-piece bathroom. A stair leads from the second floor to a finished attic. The two main floor levels have fully plastered walls and

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ceilings. All original plaster and woodwork was removed and replaced in the late 1930s. Floors are wood with the kitchen floor covered with linoleum. The bathroom has plastered walls and a ceramic tile wainscot and floor, also dating from the late 1930s. The attic is finished with plaster and the basement is partially finished.

The general condition of this building, like its two companions, is very poor, exposed to the weather through deteriorating and collapsing roof structures. Missing doors and windows, rusted lintels and deteriorated mortar and brickwork are also major problems. The foundations appear to be intact.

**Duplex (Building 213); Signal Street (NCO Row); 1905; Georgian Revival; Contributing**

Building 213 resembles Building 212 in appearance and condition.

**Duplex (Building 214); Signal Street (NCO Row); 1897; Georgian Revival; Contributing**

The earliest among the otherwise-identical buildings 212, 213, and 214, this differs from the others in that it features jack-arch masonry openings over windows, as opposed to segmental arches on the others. Also, visible eaves feature a modillion cornice. Its poor condition is similar to buildings 212 and 213.

**Duplex (Building 215); Signal Street (NCO Row); 1931; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

Like Building 211, this building also is similar in design to Building 210, except its sun porches have been removed leaving only a concrete slab foundation. Building 215 has a different arrangement to its front (north) entry from otherwise similar buildings 210 and 211; it has a rectangular fanlight above the door. Also like Building 211, this building also retains its apparently original interior finishes, likely unaltered since 1931. This building is in a similar state of disrepair to building 211.

**Duplex (Building 216); Signal Street (NCO Row); 1939; Colonial Revival with Federal influence; Contributing**

Part of the westernmost group of NCO duplexes and the last built on Officers Row, this building is one of a group of four duplex buildings (216 through 219) erected in 1939 according to the same plan and with the same general exterior configuration, generally unmodified since construction. They are two-story units with concrete basements and storage attics.

Above the formed concrete foundations that rise only a few inches above grade are red-brick masonry bearing walls. The four fenestrated bays of the front (north) and back (south) façades have jack arch window openings supported by concealed steel lintels and contain wood frame double hung sashes, typically six-over-six. The building has a hip roof, with a brick masonry chimney located at each end of the building; eaves feature crown molding trim.



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The façade facing north towards Meigs Street features Federal-style enclosed wood porches in the center, with two sets of concrete stairs leading up to each side-facing entrance. To the sides of each entry vestibule is a large window opening composed of the typical six-over-six double-hung window, flanked by narrow side lights of four panes. Four typical windows are regularly arranged on the second story. One-story, flat roofed, brick sunrooms are located at each end, continuing window arrangements similar to the rest of the building. Open brick masonry porches supported by square wood columns at its outer corners and center lead to two sets of double-doors that provide a secondary access into the building. A single window flanks the porch on the outer bays; four regularly spaced identical windows occupy the second story.

On the interior, each unit's first floor consists of a living room, dining room, kitchen, enclosed side porch, and a separate enclosed front entrance vestibule for each unit. The stair to the second floor is open to the living room. Second floors contain a stair hall, three bedrooms, and a three-piece bathroom. The two main floor levels have original fully plastered walls and ceilings and floors are wood, except where covered. The bathroom has plastered walls and original ceramic tile wainscot and floor that is typical of what was added to other buildings in the late 1930s.

The general condition of this building, like its three companion buildings and like much of NCO Row, is very poor. It is exposed to the weather through deteriorating and collapsing roof structures. Missing doors and windows, rusted lintels and deteriorated mortar, brickwork and concrete are also major problems. The foundations appear to be intact.

**Duplex (Building 217); Signal Street (NCO Row); 1939; Georgian Revival; Contributing**

This building is similar to Building 216, but with a gable roof and Georgian-style porches.

**Duplex (Building 218); Signal Street (NCO Row); 1939; Colonial Revival with Federal influence; Contributing**

This building matches Building 216 in appearance and condition.

**Duplex (Building 219); Signal Street (NCO Row); 1939; Georgian Revival; Contributing**

This building is similar to Building 216, but with a gable roof and Georgian-style porches.

**Stable (Building 222); Meigs Street; 1890 (most sources) 1908 (maintenance log); no style; Contributing**

Located at the northwest perimeter of the site near West Jefferson Avenue and South Rademacher Street, the stable is oriented towards the east, where it has two arched entryways now opening onto a large grass lawn and loft access. The Stable building is a unique late nineteenth-century utilitarian structure that retains its specialized architectural character and integrity. Its most prominent character-defining feature is its full-length monitor roof, a feature typical of late nineteenth-century military stables, barns, and small industrial buildings.

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The Stable building is a brick masonry bearing wall structure, with its first floor at grade. It is thirteen bays long by six bays wide. Openings in masonry are formed by segmental arches. Windows at the lower level are wood, in-swinging hoppers with six lights; windows in the clerestories of the monitor alternate between small pairs of wood double-hung windows with six-over-six muntin patterns and same-sized openings with louvered vents. Wide double doors, two on each of the end walls, are wood rail and stile; one similar door originally on each of the long sides is now filled in and reduced to a window. One-over-one sash windows flank the entrance of the east elevation; centered above in the gable is an arched opening into the loft containing a wood double door with six lights in its upper portion. A metal extension over the opening indicates that a pulley existed over the loft doors. The roof is asphalt shingles, and eaves feature exposed rafters with tails cut into curves. The building contains much of its original exterior fabric.

On the inside, each of the thirteen bays measures approximately ten feet square. The plan is laid out with two single-bay-wide aisles, one bay from the north and south exterior walls running the length of the building and a double bay down the center. The southern exterior bay contains a rest room, a boiler room, offices and miscellaneous storage compartments. The exterior bay on the north has two enclosed rooms in the corners, but is open the remaining length of the building. There is a thirty-foot-wide crossover in the center bays about thirty feet from the west wall. A stair toward the east end of the center section leads to a second-floor loft. The insides of the exterior walls are exposed unpainted brick. Interior walls and partitions are wood framed with wire mesh, or covered on one side with plywood or horizontal wood boarding. The ceiling of the main level is exposed loft floor construction composed of beams, joists, and the underside of the loft flooring. The floor is brick in the main and crossover aisles and concrete in remaining areas. In some concrete floor locations the floor is raised with floor joists and wood flooring with asphalt tile, plywood or Masonite surface. The loft is open with an exposed roof structure with a wood floor and wire mesh partitions for storage.

This building is very utilitarian and serviceable but in poor condition from lack of maintenance. The brick masonry exhibits signs of rising damp conditions. Wood trim, paint, and the roof show signs of weathering as well.

**Entrance Gates, Sentry Box (Building 229), and Perimeter Fence; 1905 (east gate), 1938 (main gate), 1939 (sentry box); Colonial Revival; Contributing**

An eastern gate, facing north onto Jefferson Avenue, located between Building 311 and the visitor's parking lot, was built in 1905 and formerly served as the main entrance to the facility prior to the 1938 creation of the vehicle entrance to the star fort. An undated photograph shows the original appearance of this entrance: a pair of iron gates swung inward between chamfered ashlar piers, into which were set arched pedestrian entryways. Atop each pier was a stone sculpture—a mortar on the western pier and a cannon on the eastern one. The photograph shows the stone piers flanked by coursed ashlar, curved wingwalls. Today, the piers and gate no longer

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exist, having been replaced with an aluminum chain-link, barbed wire gate (the mortar and canon sculptures were moved to sit atop the 1938 entrance to the star fort); only the wingwalls remain.

The present main entrance to Fort Wayne was created in 1938, as the original entrance was unable to accommodate large vehicles. It is located at the foot of Livernois Avenue, allowing convenient access to the larger, western entrance to the star fort, also created in 1938. This newer entrance bears a double-wide chain link gate, a replacement for an original decorative iron gate as pictured in the Maintenance Log), hung from random ashlar piers that have pyramidal stone caps and concrete foundations. Each pier formerly featured a metal plaque; these have since been replaced by signs identifying the site as Historic Fort Wayne, on one side, and the Army Corps of Engineers, on the other.

Immediately west of the present main entrance gate, beyond a pedestrian entrance, is the Sentry Box. It is also constructed of random ashlar, with molded masonry corbel brackets beneath the asphalt shingled, pyramidal roof. It has corner pier buttresses and windows centered in each face.

No longer in use as a sentry box (a later brick and glass structure that now serves this function is listed below as a non-contributing resource), the building and gate piers appear to be in good condition.

Both gates and the sentry box are linked by an aluminum chain link fence which extends around the perimeter of Fort Wayne. Nearby flagpoles and a sign identifying Fort Wayne were added to the landscape near the main entrance in the 1980s and are, thus, noncontributing features.

### **Guard House/"New" Guard House (Building 302); Meigs Street; 1905; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

Located just inside the main gate to Fort Wayne, east of its main entrance at the foot of Livernois Avenue and Jefferson, the Guard House faces Meigs Street (south) near the corner of Brady Street. It is located north of the star fort's northern berm. Most of the front (south) yard of the Guard House is now paved in concrete squares and a replica of the Liberty Bell and a cannon are set upon them. A paved driveway follows the perimeter of the rest of the building beyond a narrow strip of grass lawn.

The Guard House is a single-story, brick, load-bearing building on a high, coursed ashlar limestone base. Joints in the running bond brickwork are pointed with red tinted mortar. Its footprint is an elongated T-shape, with hip roofs over the front (south) and rear (north) masses. The building reflects simplified Colonial Revival characteristics, however its single hip roof dormer with rounded corners is a Shingle-style element. The building has one brick masonry chimney located between the two masses and two large, round sheet metal ventilators with star ornaments on top, the front (south) one centered on the ridge of its hip roof and the rear (north) one towards the rear of its main ridge, all in a line. The roofs are wood framed with asphalt shingles. Eaves are enclosed and have a plain fascia; however the dormer eave features crown molding trim, suggesting that the lower fascia may have been modified.

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Rectangular, three-light hopper windows are regularly spaced in the base of the front mass but there are none in the rear. Window openings are formed by shallow rowlock arches at the front building mass, and Roman arches at the rear mass, all with limestone sills. Windows are wood double-hung, with a variety of muntin configurations. The front façade windows are two-over-two. Some windows have been blocked over, and some have been replaced over time. The full-width concrete porch on the front façade is covered with a copper hip roof supported on brick masonry columns. The concrete porch does not appear to be original, and the square brick columns with two bricks standing vertically between a projecting brick band and concrete cushions are identical to those found on Building 312, built in 1939, suggesting that this porch and columns may have also been built at that time. Tubular steel railings are attached to the columns. Steps centrally placed lead to the double-door entrance, and side-facing steps on the west side of the porch lead to a single paneled door.

On the interior, the front (south) section of the Guard House has a full basement and the rear (north) section, approximately five feet lower in grade, has no basement. The single-door entrance on the west of the front façade now leads to facilities used by security guards which include an office, rest room and stairs to the basement. The centrally located double door entrance opens into the large room that fills out the remainder of the south section of the building. At the rear of this room is a door leading downstairs to another large room that fills the entire north wing.

Structural deficiencies in the roof were corrected and a new asphalt roof was installed in 1984. Visible on the exterior is brick and mortar deterioration, weathering of wooden elements such as windows and eaves, missing rear steps and the installation of anachronistic steel rear doors. Currently in use, the Guard House appears to be adequately maintained.

### **Post Theatre (Building 303); Meigs Street; 1939; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

The Post Theatre is a small-scale, dedicated theater building located on the north side of Meigs Street, east of the Guard House (Building 302). Its front façade is oriented towards Meigs Street to the south, across from the northern berm of the star fort. The parcel of land it occupies is defined by a front sidewalk, a concrete paved drive running along the west side and rear (north) of its site (connecting with the Guard House site), and the visitors' parking lot to its east. Two additional concrete walkways that extend perpendicular to the front sidewalk along Meigs Street to the back of the site run parallel to the building on each side; a wide concrete walkway leads to the front steps of the building. Mature trees are situated on the flat, ample lawn at the building's sides.

Colonial Revival in style, the Post Theatre is a tall, single-story, symmetrical, front-gabled, brick-veneer structure with quoins outlining all four corners of the main mass of the building. Crown moldings trim the rakes and eaves, forming returns. The building sits on a formed concrete base with exposed course aggregate extending to just above the first-floor line. Red brick in a common bond pattern, with header courses every sixth course, extends to the roofline.

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The front façade of the Post Theatre is articulated as two stories. Centered on the first story are concrete steps leading up to the porch, comprised of slender squared columns and crown molding on the fascia. A pair of wood rail-and-stile entry doors with twelve glass lights provides access into the building. To each side of the porch is a double-hung sash window with six-over-six lights. Above the porch are three windows, the central one with six-over-six lights and the outer two with four-over-four lights. The original wood balustrade atop the porch roof, shown in the photograph of the maintenance log, is missing.<sup>51</sup> A single, recessed, rectangular brick panel is located to each side of the three windows. Towards the peak of the gable is an ocular window with louvers.

Masonry above window and door openings on the front façade are topped with jack arches, which are largely ornamental, as they are supplemented with steel lintels. All other elevations have openings with standard common bond over the top, with steel lintels. Windows on side elevations are six-over-six wood double hung. Secondary doors, of which there are two on each side - the forward one up three stairs and the rear at ground level, are wood rail-and-stile with wood panels. A coal shoot cover is located near the northwest corner of the west elevation. A small shed-roofed section that appears to be original extends from the back (north) of its otherwise rectangular footprint. Two windows, originally containing six lights, are off-center on the rear elevation. The west elevation has double-doors leading to the basement.

Damage to the roof structure was repaired in the 1980s and a flat shingle asphalt roof was applied. According to the maintenance log, its original roof was clad in “shingles.”<sup>52</sup> An off-center corbel chimney projects from the rear of the gable roof where it joins with the shed roof.

The entrance to the building, under the protective exterior porch, is through the double doors into a small lobby. Directly ahead is space for a concession stand and, to the left, three steps leading through another set of double doors to the rear of the auditorium. From here approximately 165 theater seats<sup>53</sup> are attached to a floor sloping gently to the stage. The proscenium wall has a rectangular proscenium opening at its center flanked by two doors that lead up to the stage and theater exits. The stage is raised without fly space and has minimal wings. Behind the stage is a property/storage room with exterior access from the west. At the rear of the auditorium are two more exit doors and small restrooms.

The building appears to be in good condition, though wood elements, such as windows and cornices, show signs of weathering.

**Enlisted Men’s Barracks (Building 311); Cram Street; 1890, porches added c. 1939; Eclectic, with Colonial Revival and Shingle-style influences; Contributing**

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<sup>51</sup> Fort Wayne Ordinance Depot maintenance log, Detroit Historical Society Collections Resource Center.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., lists 308 seats c. 1940.

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Buildings 311 and 314 are located on flat lawns on the east side of Cram Street in the northeastern portion of the site. The pair of buildings are separated by Building 312 at the eastern boundary of the Fort Wayne property. They are oriented towards the west; Building 311 now sits opposite a parking lot (listed below as a non-contributing resource) where two additional, similar barracks buildings, demolished in the 1970s, once stood. These four structures were built to standardized plans developed by the Army Quartermaster Division, and were the first at Fort Wayne to provide indoor plumbing and central heat for enlisted soldiers.

Building 311 reflects simplified Colonial Revival characteristics in its symmetrical massing and regularly arranged fenestration. With Building 314, is among the largest buildings at Fort Wayne, its two and a half stories encompassing almost 20,000 square feet of floor space. It is a brick, load-bearing walled, multiple-unit, dormitory-type building on coursed ashlar limestone base. The footprint forms a U-shaped plan, the legs of which form an open court in the rear (east).

The building exhibits late nineteenth-century eclecticism in its hip-roof dormers with rounded corners, a Shingle-style influence. Minimal detail includes visible eave brackets and a narrow course of brick projecting above the second story. Joints in brickwork are pointed with red tinted mortar. Wood-framed hip roofs with visible eave brackets cover the front of the building and its side wings, and are now clad in asphalt shingles. A firewall is centered perpendicular to the front of the building and large metal ventilators rise from the roof, as do several brick corbeled chimneys.

The front (west) façade is divided into four sections, the outer two projecting slightly with hip roofs overhead. The double entrance is in the center of the front façades. Window openings are formed by brick segmental arches at the first and second floors; basement window openings are formed by limestone lintels; all have limestone sills. Windows are wood double-hung, with two-over-two muntin configurations. The concrete front porch with a hipped roof supported on brick masonry columns does not appear to be original; its columns are identical to those found on Building 312, built in 1939, suggesting that they may have been built at that time. There are remnants of open porches at the east (rear) side within the "U" and at the ends of each leg of the "U". Their concrete construction also appears not to be original.

The interior is two-and-one-half stories with a full basement and is divided in half with both sides a precise match. Each side's first floor contained an entrance toward the center of the building leading to a vestibule and main stair hall. This led to a secondary hall flanked on one side with rooms for the company office, a sergeant's room with storage, and on the other with a noncommissioned officers room and a passage leading to the rear stair. This same hall led directly to a large dormitory behind which were a mess hall and a large kitchen. The latter two functions were accessed from the rear stair with no connection between the dormitory and the mess hall. On the second floor the front and rear stairs connected in a hall that served a day room, two large dormitories and a cooks room, a barber shop and a tailor shop. In the basement the main lavatory was located that provided the only wash sink, toilet, urinal, and shower facilities for all the occupants in one half of the building. Also in the basement were

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the boiler room and large spaces for storage. It can be seen that each half of the building provided complete living facilities for the large group of men assigned.

The entire building is in severely deteriorated condition and open to the elements. The roof has collapsed and many openings are boarded. Where they are not, window glass and door panels are absent. Brick and mortar show extreme signs of weathering. However, the building's foundations appear intact.

**Service Club and Recreation Center/Visitors Center (Building 312); Cram Street; 1903, addition in 1939; Georgian Revival; Contributing**

Situated between the Enlisted Men's Barracks (Buildings 311 and 314) Building 312 consists of a front building erected in 1903, oriented west towards Cram Street and the star fort, and a later massive rear addition, erected in 1939 as the Post Gymnasium. The original section of the building has Colonial Revival details and Georgian quoins, while the later one is utilitarian in design with its red color and some stylist allusions to the earlier building. Both portions are of brick masonry bearing wall construction.

The original building footprint is cruciform in shape, with a front gable and hipped roofs on the wings. Its roofing is asphalt shingles, and eaves feature crown molding trim. Courses of brick are laid near the tops of the walls with brick dentils at the eaves, painted white to resemble a frieze. The building rests on a coursed ashlar limestone base, above which joints in its brickwork are pointed with red-tinted mortar. Window openings in the symmetrical façade are formed by jack arches and have limestone sills. Windows are wood, double-hung, with sixteen-over-sixteen muntin pattern in the central mass and nine-over-nine on the wings. A rectangular louvered roof vent opening is set in the frontal gable. An entry porch is located on both the north and south sides of the projecting central mass, accessed up concrete steps that join a concrete walkway leading from the sidewalk along Meigs Street. Porches are concrete, with brick masonry columns (identical to those at building 302) supporting the roof. One wood, two-paneled door with a three-light transom faces sideways into the front mass; the other identical door faces frontally at the corner of the wing. A concrete ramp with narrow metal railings runs along the front of the north wing of the building. A secondary entrance on the asymmetrically arranged east end of the side wing elevations, accessed by a newer wooden porch, is flanked by a nine-over-nine sash window on the east and two smaller subdivided windows to its west.

The rear addition, built in 1939, is rectangular in plan and rests on a concrete base. It was built as a gymnasium and is articulated as two tall stories on a basement. Accessed through the older building to the west of it, it can also be entered on the north elevation through a double entrance door with transom and flat porch cover above, served by concrete steps with metal tubular railing. A wood-framed, clapboarded shed flanks the stairs. Window openings are formed by steel lintels, and all windows have limestone sills. Windows are steel, with a nine-light configuration on the sides, and aluminum on the rear elevation. A large brick chimney projects from the roof, which is believed to be shallow-sloped, with an unknown roofing material. The

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building has parapets on two opposite sides and gutters on the remaining opposite sides. Under the gutter area are corbeled and denticulated brick masonry courses.

Originally constructed as an enlisted men's recreation center, it was adapted as the fort's visitor center when Fort Wayne was regularly open to the public in the 1970s. Today the building is still fully operational and in use for meetings and recreational activity, although the interior of the earlier building was radically changed and no longer retains its original features. This building has been kept in active use and is in relatively good condition.

### **Post Bakery/Post Paint Shop (Building 313); Cram Street; 1904; Colonial Revival; Contributing**

Located near the northeast corner of Fort Wayne, the Post Bakery is accessed from a drive off of Cram Street behind buildings 311 and 312. It sits on grass turf along an obsolete paved roadway extending from West Jefferson Avenue, Revere Street, to its east, beyond which is a tall metal fence that defines the east boundary of the entire Fort Wayne property.

The relatively small, one story, orange load-bearing brick, gable roofed building sits on masonry foundations and has a rectangular footprint, with a wood frame extension at its southern end adding to its length. On top of the high gable roof at its south end is a corbeled brick chimney; a metal ventilator is located centrally at the ridge of the roof, and a simple brick chimney extends from the east façade.

The off-center doorway on the main, west façade has been altered, as it was originally wider as indicated by the width of the masonry steps and change in brickwork. The door opening, and the segmental arched windows, two to the side of the doorway and one to the north, are secured with metal bars; a segmentally arched door opening at the north end of this façade is bricked in. The openings on the east elevation, a window to either side of the doorway, the single door, and a smaller window at the north end are also bricked in or boarded.

The north gable end elevation, now visible due to the removal of a ghosted addition, originally had two evenly spaced segmental arched windows with masonry sills, one now replaced by a door, at its lower level. Above these openings are two quarter-round windows. The south elevation features a clapboard clad, frame shed with quarter-round windows above in the gable. Adjoined to the west side of the larger addition is a small, vertical board-clad shed. A molded cornice, now partially missing, trims the overhanging end gables, and an unadorned wooden frieze marks the top of the east and west façades.

### **Enlisted Men's Barracks (Building 314); Cram Street; 1906; porches added c.1939; Eclectic, with Colonial Revival and Shingle-style influences; Contributing**

While very similar to the earlier Building 311, differences on the front façade include mainly the roof construction and entrance placement. Building 314 has front gabled roofs on two legs, joined by a sloped roof between them. The masses formed by the legs project slightly from the front façade, forming front-facing gable ends featuring a box cornice with returns. Roof



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construction is wood framing and roofing is currently asphalt shingles. The central part of the front (west) façade is divided in half by a brick firewall that rises into two corbeled chimneys, front and back. Two other brick, corbeled chimneys rise from the front slope of the roof, and four large, metal ventilators rise from the cross-gables.

Unlike the central porches of Building 311, the two entry porches of Building 314 are tucked on the sides of the central section of the front façade, with hipped roofs supported on brick masonry columns. Their concrete porches do not appear to be original; their square brick columns are identical to those found on Building 312, built in 1903 and 1939, suggesting that this porch and columns may have also been built at that time. Window openings are formed by jack arches at the first and second floors. Basement window openings are formed by limestone lintels, and all windows have limestone sills. Windows are wood double-hung, and two-over-two muntin configurations predominate, although many have been replaced. There are remnants of open porches at the east (rear) side within the "U" and at the ends of each leg of the "U". Because of the concrete construction of these porches resembling those put on other buildings in the 1930s, it is believed that they are not original.

Like Building 311, the interior is two-and-one-half stories with a full basement and is divided in half. Both sides were originally a precise match, but due to alterations, are not today. Each side's first floor contained an entrance at the base of the "U" leading to a vestibule and stair hall. This led to rooms toward the center of the building that probably housed the company office, sergeant's room, and noncommissioned officers room. This stair hall also led directly to the large north and south wings which almost certainly contained a dormitory, mess hall and kitchen. On the second floor the main stairs connected to several rooms above the offices below and the upper level of the north and south wings that undoubtedly contained dormitories and facilities for cooks, the barber, and tailor. The basement houses the restroom and shower facilities for all the occupants in one-half of the building. Also in the basement were the boiler room and large spaces for storage. It can be seen that each half of the building provided complete living facilities for the large group of men assigned.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the south half of the building had been renovated as collections storage facilities for the Detroit Historical Museum, including lighting and HVAC improvements. Both halves of this large building are presently unoccupied and share deteriorated roofing, eaves, brick, and fenestration.

**Stable/Warehouse/Electronic and Survey Building (Building 401); Black Street (United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit Area Office); 1931; no style; Contributing**

The Stable building is a one and one-half story, variegated brick, gable roofed, masonry bearing wall structure with a long and narrow rectangular footprint oriented north-south. It has an entrance at grade on each of its four elevations; the east and west entrances are accessed by a concrete walkway and open onto a grass turf lawn running along the entire length of the building. The garage-type entrances on the short (north and south) ends of the building face the concrete paved yard.

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The long gable roof of this building retains its original slate and displays modest rafter ends, raking barge boards, and two hip roof ventilators straddling its copper ridge. The long east and west façades are composed of a centered metal double-door entrance with a metal awning above, flanked on each side by eight deeply set, arched, subdivided windows with masonry sills. Just below the roof, above the first and third arched windows at the northern end of the east side elevation, are two deeply set subdivided rectangular windows; there is only one such window on the west elevation. All window openings are closed with black block which does not appear to be original. On each of the north and south end walls is a wide square garage door-like entrance with a metal lintel. Flanking the garage door on the north façade are two small, deeply inset, segmentally arched openings now filled with glass block. Above, centered in the gable of this end wall, is a segmental arched opening into the loft, the opening containing a wood double door with six lights in its upper portion, now blocked. A metal extension over the opening indicates that a pulley existed over the loft doors.

In general, the Stable building is a unique utilitarian structure that retains its specialized architectural character and integrity, such as its fenestration, hay loft and hoist, and two rooftop vents. Originally serving as a stable for fifty horses, its interior had clay stall floors and brick and concrete aisles. It was converted to warehouse use, likely by the early 1940s.

**Post Garage/Warehouse/Mechanical and Machine Repair Building (Building 403); Black Street (United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit Area Office); 1939; no style; Contributing**

Built in 1939, the Post Garage is a substantial brick-faced, one-story building with a long rectangular footprint oriented east-west on the northeastern end of the Army Corps' property, just south of the star fort. It is surrounded on all sides by concrete pavement. Its roof is a metal structure with a semi-arched cross-section, not unlike a quonset hut, but its walls are of concrete block construction with a brick veneer. Its east and west brick façades have stepped parapets with masonry capping, and wall buttresses defining the outer edge and center entrance bay. Centered below the middle of the parapet is an industrial type window with twelve lights. The window was originally centered above a tall garage-type entrance section, which has been modified to contain one down-sized drive-through opening and a brick wall. To the south of the central entrance bay is an original industrial type window with sixteen lights; the wall to its north has been modified with a single metal office door and small window.

The north and south elevations are nine bays wide with wall buttresses with stone caps dividing each bay. A single industrial type window with sixteen lights occupies each bay, although some have been blocked in or replaced by doors.

The architecture of the Post Garage represents a unique type of roof structure resembling that of a Quonset hut that was developed by the military as lightweight and easy to construct, utilized extensively in the "Arsenal of Democracy" period.

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**Boat Shed and Boat Hoist (Building 404); Black Street (United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit Area Office); 1960; no style; Contributing**

The Boat Shed is a gable-front structure with metal siding, metal roof, and two large entrance bays designed to accommodate marine vessel storage. A hoist and metal railway lead from the Boat Shed to the nearby boat slip.

**United States Lake Survey Building/Weld Shop and Storage Building (Building 405); Black Street (United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit Area Office); 1942; no style; Contributing**

The United States Lake Survey Building is a relatively small, gable roofed, one and one-half story brown brick building with a molded iron cornice. Its square footprint rests on a site that slopes down towards the boat slip on the east. It has concrete paving on three sides, with grass turf on its west side that extends south and east to a large grassy lawn set back from the docks of the boat slip.

The building has two tall garage roller doors with two steel industrial pivot vent windows above on its south elevation, and, on its north end, features four evenly spaced, large industrial pivot type windows on the ground floor. Below the gables, both façades have a single industrial-type window and a door opening accessed up metal stairs. Industrial pivot vent windows also occupy its dockside (east) and west elevations. Now clad in asphalt shingles, the roof was originally slate. A small, one-story flat roofed vestibule addition was added to its west elevation.

**Storage Building (Building 407); Black Street (United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit Area Office); 1987; no style; Non-Contributing**

This wide, single-story, gable-roof building features windowless walls and five, roll-up steel doors.

**Stable/Warehouse/Emergency Operations Office (Building 412); Black Street (United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit Area Office); 1931, partly demolished 1940s, connected by a breezeway to Building 414 at an unknown date; no style; Contributing**

Located east of and parallel to the south portion of Building 401, Building 412 was originally similar to building 401. It was shortened in length from sixteen windows to only six when most of its north length was razed, and a brown brick stepped parapet wall was then constructed to seal its north end. Although the date of this alteration is not known, it was already completed by the time of a 1949 aerial photograph.<sup>54</sup> The roof vent on the south end of the original building still exists. The extant portion of the building was connected to the south side of Building 414 by an enclosed walkway sometime later. Like Building 401, it has a grass turf lawn along its east and west sides.

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<sup>54</sup> 57 DTE Energy, [http://claslinux.clas.wayne.edu/photos/ap\\_index.htm](http://claslinux.clas.wayne.edu/photos/ap_index.htm).

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**United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District Office (Building 414); Black Street (United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit Area Office); 1964; Modern Movement; Contributing**

This long, rectangular, brick-faced, flat roofed, Modern style building of curtain wall construction is attached to a large, slightly taller, similarly brick-faced addition on its east side, and connected by an enclosed walkway to a perpendicular, older brick building with a stepped parapet on its south side (Building 412). The long, rectangular footprint of the main administrative building with its tall east addition is oriented east-west and sits directly on the concrete-paved yard on all sides. Modern in style, its north, west and south façades feature red brick-faced wall slabs alternating with slightly recessed, floor-to ceiling insertions composed of narrow three-part windows centered vertically between white panels. The height of these panels is slightly shorter than the brick-faced wall panels, resulting in a rhythmic, stylized roofline highlighted by red capping. Entrances with metal doors are located within white wall panels on its three façades; the wide, off-center entrance section on north façade is under a red awning and is flanked by brick-faced panels of a wider width than those on the rest of the façades, indicating that this was the major entrance. An enclosure for mechanical equipment has been added next to the entrance.

The substantial, one full story, red-brick addition to the east of the office component is also rectangular in plan but not as long, and somewhat taller. It is composed of small, rectangular windows situated at the upper height of its north façade's garage door, on all three sides. It has a covered entrance porch on its east end, and a ramped entrance on its south side.

**Oil Storage Building (Building T-19); Black Street (United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit Area Office); 1983; no style; Non-Contributing**

This is a modern, relatively small, gable-roof structure, clad entirely in aluminum. It features one vehicle door.

**Berm); Shelby Street; 1970s; no style; Non-Contributing**

A tall earthen berm separates the remaining warehouses from the parade ground. This feature was created as part of a series of improvements that occurred during Detroit Historical Museum management of the facility. The berm shielded the warehouse buildings from view, and was also used as a backstop for target shooting. This feature was inspired by, and intended as an homage to, the Great Mound which once existed on the Rouge River (described in the Narrative Statement of Significance, below).

**Differential Global Positioning System Antenna (no building number); Black Street (United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit Area Office); date unknown; no style; Non-Contributing**

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This pylon antenna is supported by metal cables and includes an adjacent utility shed.

### **Post-1971 Landscape Improvements; 1971-c. 1990; no style; Non-Contributing**

The most visible landscape alterations made after the Period of Significance are numerous trees planted throughout the site. These include a row of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) planted along Gibbs Street, and a row of black pine (*Pinus nigra*) planted along Brady Street near the on the boundary of the United States Army Corps of Engineers Facility during the mid-1970s. Several pear trees (*Pyrus communis*) located at various places around the site are descendants of early French plantings at what is now Water Works Park and date from a fundraiser held by the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition and the Monroe County Historical Society; unsold trees from this event were planted at Fort Wayne. Also noteworthy is one large maple tree planted near Building 207 in 1984 in memory of Solan Weeks, former director of the Detroit Historical Society.

### **Guard Booth; Brady Street; c. 2005; no style; Non-Contributing**

This small hip-roof booth with brick base, vinyl siding, and metal roof features vinyl windows and a sliding door. A dual pylon sign above reads "HISTORIC FORT WAYNE."

### **Sheds; Signal Street; c. 2000; no style; Non-Contributing**

Two small, prefabricated, gable-roof, engineered wood sheds share a common, concrete slab foundation.

### **Visitors Parking Lot; Meigs Street; c. 1971; no style; Non-Contributing**

An asphalt parking lot is lit with pole mounted lamps, reproductions of gas Bartlett's Patent Globes, seen in some historic photos of Fort Wayne from the 1890s.<sup>55</sup>

### **Wayne Street Garage; Wayne Street; c. 1980; no style; Non-Contributing**

This four-car brick garage with a gable roof was built on Wayne Street in the late 1970s or early 1980s. It was used by Detroit Historical Museum employees who resided on site, and is presently used for storage by the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition.

## **Integrity**

The setting, spatial relationships, circulation systems, building forms, and broad architectural character of Fort Wayne remain intact. The essential and character-defining features of the property remain present. Despite the disrepair of some buildings and structures, and demolition and alteration of others, and the intrusion of some modern buildings, Fort Wayne retains integrity

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<sup>55</sup> James Conway, email to authors, 9 February 2017.

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and continues to convey its significance as a military facility that, through a number of wars and time periods, illustrates the real and perceived threats that faced the United States during the mid-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth.

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## 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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Military History

Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1845-1971

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1845, 1848, 1863, 1938

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Meigs, Montgomery C.

Totten, Joseph G.

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Fort Wayne is significant at the local and national levels under Criteria A and C for its association with the Military History of the United States. The Star Fort and related resources are significant illustrations of the development and evolution of the interior defensive systems of the United States, from the middle of the nineteenth century through the middle of the twentieth century. The Star Fort is a significant remaining example of the northern chain of defenses constructed in response to the Patriot War in Canada. Fort Wayne is also significant at the local level for its diverse collection of residential military buildings and other outbuildings that illustrate the modernization of the United States military as well as the buildup to and role in the “Arsenal of Democracy” military production efforts relative to World War II. The fort is also significant in the area of Architecture for its landmark Federal-style barracks building and other structures designed by engineer Montgomery C. Meigs, (area of Architecture), and also due to the architectural significance of its star fort; and as a cohesive example of Works Progress Administration construction and alterations to existing buildings at United States military facilities during the Great Depression bearing a high degree of integrity. Fort Wayne is also significant at the national level in the area of Architecture as a superb example of an intact mid-nineteenth-century Third System star fort – one of only two remaining of the Northern Frontier star forts.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **Introductory Note**

Fort Wayne was listed in the National Register in 1971 (NRHP Ref. No. 71000425). The original nomination materials provided only minimal documentation and addressed only the 1845 star fort and 1848 barracks and powder magazine within it. This nomination identifies specific and additional areas of significance, identifies the resources within the fort as either contributing or non-contributing, expands the period of significance to fully capture the historical military use of the property, and provides additional historical information about the use of the site, development of the fort, and the various eras for which the fort is significant.

### **Prehistoric Mortuary and Domestic Use**

Although Fort Wayne is perhaps best known today for its eponymous star fort (completed in 1849) and associated military installation, the significance of the site predates Euro-American occupation of the area by over a thousand years. Not surprisingly, the topography of the site—in

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which British and American military engineers would take such great interest in the early nineteenth century—also played a role in the importance of the site to Native American communities dating back at least to the Late Woodland period (approximately 600-1650 CE), if not earlier, as well as to Potawatomi and other groups during the historic era.

Native American people may have occupied the Fort Wayne site, possibly on a seasonal or intermittent basis, as early as the Middle Woodland period (500–750). As a recent archaeological report observe, “well-drained land for living on the bluff, nearby alluvium for planting, upland forest close by for hunting and gathering, natural springs for drinking water, and the Detroit River for fishing, transportation, and communication provided rich resources and a highly desirable location for indigenous settlement” at the site later known to Euro-Americans as Springwells. Despite the favorable nature of the location, however, it is not known whether villages or other permanent occupation were a feature of the site prior to the historic era, as evidence is inconclusive in this regard (see below).

Well documented, however, are a series of burial mounds—known by archaeologists today as the Springwells Mound Group and including the one which exists today at Fort Wayne—that once defined this section of the Detroit River and date from the Late Woodland period.<sup>56</sup> This was an era of transition from denser communities into smaller, but more numerous and widely dispersed, settlements, subsisting on production of maize, beans, and squash, as well as the widespread adoption of the bow and arrow for hunting. This gradual transformation also brought human settlement to new areas. As their most visible contribution to the environment, these Native American peoples left behind burial mounds and other earthworks throughout the region—with examples persisting into historic times (but now destroyed) at the mouth of the Clinton River on Lake St. Clair, in what is now Port Huron, and further down the Detroit River in what is now Gibraltar, Michigan, in addition to erecting the Springwells Mound Group.<sup>57</sup> These earthworks differ in character from the earlier Adena and Hopewell structures produced in the Early Woodland and Middle Woodland period.

Of the Springwells Mound Group (detailed in the Description section, above), the Central Mound, depicted in an early topographic survey, sat within the present-day footprint of the star fort and was demolished during the fort’s construction;<sup>58</sup> looting, erosion, agriculture, and construction activity throughout the nineteenth century also obliterated the other Springwells mounds along with all other known Native American earthworks throughout southeast Michigan,

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<sup>56</sup> John R. Halsey, “The Springwells Mound Group” (in John R. Fitting et al., *Contributions to Michigan Archaeology*, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1968), 79.

<sup>57</sup> Thomas W. Killion, Thomas Urban, and James Conway, “Preservation and Prospection: Public Archaeology, Geophysics, and the Sacred Landscape at Historic Fort Wayne, Detroit, Michigan,” *Journal of Field Archaeology*, publication forthcoming.

<sup>58</sup> A scattering of artifacts discovered in a 1965 survey confirms that the mound had been destroyed and its earth incorporated into the glacia at Fort Wayne. Halsey, 140.

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including those noted above.<sup>59</sup> The Fort Wayne Mound, thus, is significant as the only such structure that remains extant in the region.

Although the end date for mound construction at the Springwells Mound Group is not decisively known, mound construction in the area in general likely ceased around 1000-1250 as cultural changes surrounding the intensification of maize agriculture resulted in a migration of people to settlement and burial sites located elsewhere.<sup>60</sup> Archaeological data do not show continued use of the Fort Wayne site after that time, suggesting a potential chronological gap in human occupation until the seventeenth century.

While burial mounds do not necessarily indicate residential use of the surrounding area, several findings do suggest the possibility of prehistoric domestic occupation at Springwells. An 1837 excavation of the Central Mound performed by John Blois revealed fragments of everyday (i.e. non-mortuary) objects within the fill dirt composing the mound, suggesting that the soil of the mound has been taken from an area in which people were living.<sup>61</sup> Carl Holmquist, who excavated the mound in 1944, describes a hardpan beneath the mound into which was cut intrusive pits, possibly used for cooking or storage. Furthermore, the hardpan itself may be the result of compaction of the soil by heavy foot traffic, as might be expected in a residential area. Finally, Holmquist describes domestic debris found in the area. The observations of Blois and Holmquist, therefore, suggest that residential use of the site may have predated mortuary use by some time.

The possibility of prehistoric residential use of the site is the subject of ongoing research by Thomas Killion (Wayne State University), Thomas Urban (Cornell University), and James Conway (City of Detroit Recreation Department).

### **Historic Native American and Euro-American Settlement at Spingwells**

By the time Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac founded the first Euro-American settlement at Detroit in 1701, Potawatomi and Ojibwe villages were dispersed throughout the area now known as southeast Michigan<sup>62</sup>, and additional villages were soon established along the river, likely to take advantage of opportunities for commerce with French and, later, British traders.<sup>63</sup> A 1718 map by Guillaume de L'Isle depicts Potawatomi settlement in Detroit as well as along the St. Joseph River in what is now western Michigan.

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<sup>59</sup> Wilbert B. Hinsdale, *Archaeological Atlas of the State of Michigan* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1931).

<sup>60</sup> Killion, Urban, and Conway, 6.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> Helen Hornbeck Tanner, et al., *Atlas of Great Lakes Indian History* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1987), 102.

<sup>63</sup> Dunnigan, 12.

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The present-day site of Fort Wayne—by this time known to English-speaking settlers as Springwells (in some accounts, Spring Wells or Spring Well), and by the French as *Belle Fontaine*, due to the elevated, sandy soil which produced numerous natural springs—would have provided an excellent village site.<sup>64</sup> Although the precise location of neither the springs, nor the villages, are known, a 1763 map depicts a Native American village as located atop a prominent hill at Springwells, apparently the Fort Wayne site. The Springwells hill also served as a gathering place for Native American people from other areas. “This sand hill was a favorite camping-ground with all the Western tribes, in their annual migration from their far off homes on the banks of the Mississippi, the shores of Lake Superior, and the rivers and lakes of the western forests ... Sacs, Sioux, Foxes, Winnebagoes, Menominees, Iowas, Wyandots, Pottawatomies, Chippewas, Tawas and other tribes congregated at this favorite spot,” according to Bela Hubbard, to receive annuity payments from British forces stationed at Fort Malden on the Detroit River. Even after United States control of Detroit, Hubbard recalls the continuation of this practice, witnessing “the river alive with canoes of these various tribes,”<sup>65</sup> who would have been free to cross the international border uninhibited in accordance with the 1796 Jay Treaty.

Whether by Potawatomi people, or by other groups such as the Huron, Ottawa, or Ojibwe, historic mortuary use of the Springwells mounds is documented by several sources: Benjamin Witherell reports, in reference to the Copper Works Mound, having seen Native American visitors “deposit the remains of their departed friends on its bosom” during his “childhood” (i.e., the 1800s or 1810s). According to Witherell, “they scooped out a shallow grave in the center of the top of the mound, and covered the body with some sand, brought from the neighboring sand bank.”<sup>66</sup> This observation is significant, as it suggests that funerary use of the site resumed after a hiatus of about 400 years, and also in that it highlights the cultural significance of the site with respect to present-day Native American communities in Michigan.

The persistence of the mound to the present day is, in itself, a remarkable event—possibly reflecting a policy of deliberate stewardship, on the part of United States forces at Fort Wayne. Such a policy is alluded to in a March 19, 1921, article by the *Detroit Free Press*, which states that “Indian relics of almost priceless value that lie buried at Fort Wayne must remain there undisturbed by prying hands” according to a “treaty between the United States and the Indian tribes formerly located in Michigan” forbidding the disturbance of burial sites. Discussion of this “treaty” arose in conjunction during an arson trial for Lieutenant Franklin Lamb who, during his tenure as Post Quartermaster, excavated several items from the mound. According to the *Detroit Free Press*, the Secretary of War promptly ordered Lamb to replace the artifacts taken and restore the mound to its previous condition (the treaty is not cited by name).<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> Thomas Killion (Associate Professor, Wayne State University Department of Anthropology), in discussion with the author, April 2015.

<sup>65</sup> Bela Hubbard, *Memorials of a Half-Century*, (New York: G. P. Putnam and Sons, 1887), 225.

<sup>66</sup> Halsey, 84.

<sup>67</sup> Lieutenant Franklin Lamb, quartermaster Fort Wayne, was censured by the War Department in 1921 for removing several items of pottery from the mound. “Pact Forbids Delving into Indian Mound,” *Detroit Free Press*, March 19, 1921, 1.

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Furthermore, the physical evolution of Officers Row itself (a line of buildings along Gibbs Street, constructed in phases, as described in the Narrative Description section above) displays an apparent degree of deference to the burial mound site: The setback between Gibbs Street and its sidewalk closely accommodates the diameter of the mound. Perhaps most significantly, the single-unit residential building located immediately behind the mound—Building 13 under the prior numbering system—is seen in a historic photograph as similar in appearance to the other Officer’s Row buildings with one noteworthy exception: its foundation is raised several feet, apparently to afford its occupants a view over the mound (this building was demolished, leaving a gap in the otherwise intact line of structures facing Gibbs Street). As early as 1870<sup>68</sup>, and again around 1940<sup>69</sup>, the mound was also covered in sod to prevent its erosion. Further, Holmquist mentions a “former commandant” at Fort Wayne who was “dissuaded” from leveling the mound at some point in the past (unfortunately, Holmquist does not give a date for this occurrence or state by whom the commandant was dissuaded).<sup>70</sup> Together, these observations suggest that the burial mound was already recognized as a permanent and valued feature of the Fort Wayne landscape.

In addition to serving as a place of prominence for Native American people for many centuries, the Fort Wayne site also attracted the attention of Euro-American people upon their arrival in the region. Although the bluffs upon which Fort Wayne would be built are certainly diminished in size as a result of the construction of the fort and surrounding development, they were noted by many new arrivals as a prominent landmark: “an immense hill of yellow sand, that always looked, from the city, like a yellow patch on the landscape.”<sup>71</sup> The earliest known depiction is on a map from 1749, which shows “*Ecores de Sable*”—sandy bluffs—at a point downstream from the town of Detroit.<sup>72</sup>

For some years prior to the development of the fort, the site was owned by John Askin, a prominent Irish Canadian fur trader who served as justice of the peace in Detroit until the city was ceded to the United States in accordance with the 1796 Jay Treaty.<sup>73</sup> Askin operated a windmill and racetrack at the location, although the land was not ideal for farming.<sup>74</sup> Not yet a part of the city of Detroit, the area was first incorporated as Springwells Township in 1818.

Askin was a slave holder as well (slavery was not abolished in most of the British Empire until 1833), raising the possibility that African American forced labor contributed to the development of the site.

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<sup>68</sup> Halsey, 89.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid., 104.

<sup>70</sup> Holmquist, 1.

<sup>71</sup> Friend Palmer, *Detroit in 1827*, cited in Brian Leigh Dunnigan, *Frontier Metropolis: Picturing Early Detroit, 1701–1838* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2001), 146.

<sup>72</sup> Dunnigan, 43. This map, however, depicts the *Village de Pouteoutamis* as located somewhat further east.

<sup>73</sup> Detroit was founded by French settlers in 1701, and control was ceded to Great Britain at the conclusion of the Seven Years’ War in 1763.

<sup>74</sup> James Conway, City of Detroit Department of Parks and Recreation Department, in discussion with the authors, March 2015.

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In July of 1812 the strategic location of the site played a role in one of the earliest battles of the War of 1812, when Michigan militia used artillery stationed atop the sandy bluffs to bombard the town of Sandwich, located across the river in Canada. Two months later, British and First Nations forces commanded by General Isaac Brock crossed the river, landing at Springwells to begin a thirteen-month occupation of Detroit. The war would formally conclude with the Treaty of Spring Wells, a peace agreement signed on September 8, 1815, at the site that would become Fort Wayne by William Henry Harrison (representing the United States) and the leaders of Chippewa (Ojibwe), Delaware, Miami, Ottawa (Odawa), Potawatomi, Seneca, Shawnee, and Wyandot<sup>75</sup> bands who had fought against the United States in the war (the United States and Great Britain had previously ended hostilities with the Treaty of Ghent, ratified earlier that year).

Although the rationale for selecting Springwells as a location for the treaty signing is not known, it certainly reflects the continued significance of the site for Native American populations of the time.<sup>76</sup> Indeed, communities throughout Michigan continue to express an interest in the site today.

Military use of the site continued during the 1832 Black Hawk War, when it served as a meeting place for territorial militia.<sup>77</sup>

### **The Fort at Spring Wells**

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<sup>75</sup> *A Treaty Between the United States of America and the Wyandot, Delaware, Seneca, Shawanoe, Miami, Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatimie Tribes of Indians, Residing Within the Limits of the State of Ohio and the Territories of Indiana and Michigan.* In Charles J. Kappler, *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904, 117–119.

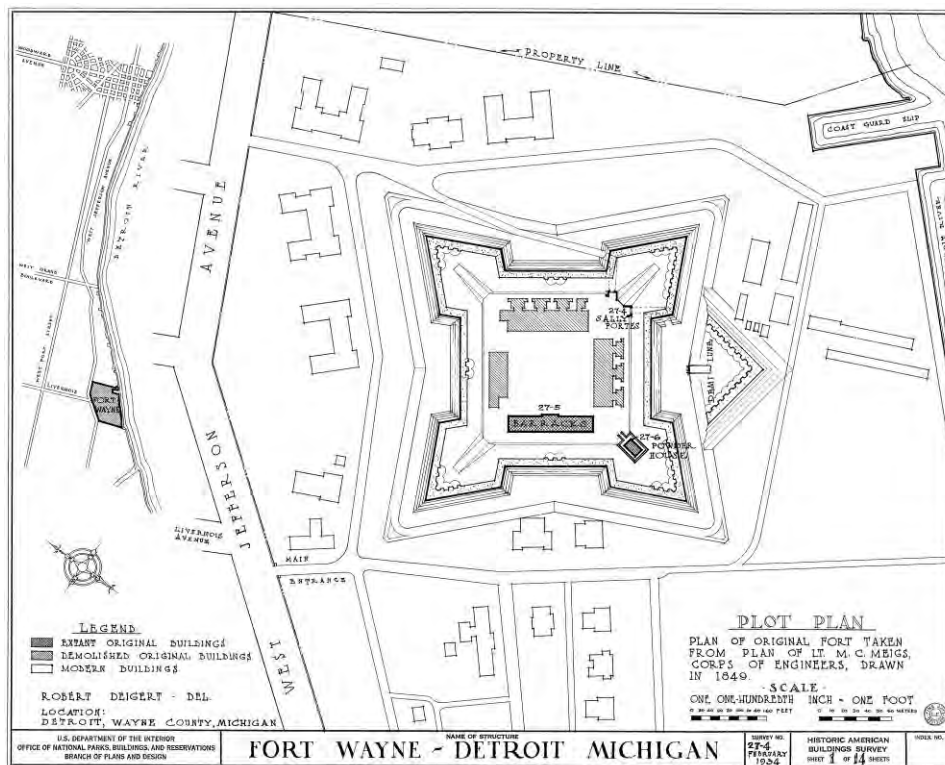
<sup>76</sup> Killion, Urban, and Conway, 8.

<sup>77</sup> James Conway and David F. Jamroz, *Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne* (Mount Pleasant: Arcadia Publishing, 2007), 8.

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**Plan of Original Fort Taken from Plan of Lt. M. C. Meigs, Corps of Engineers, Drawn in 1849. Library of Congress Historic American Buildings Survey MI-27-4, February 1954.**

For the first few decades of American occupation of Detroit, the area was defended by Fort Shelby (also known as Fort Detroit, built as British Fort Lernoult), located where downtown Detroit stands today. Fort Shelby, however, was dismantled in 1827, after having fallen into disrepair. It had long been recognized by military experts as having been poorly situated: engineers from both nations, beginning with the British lieutenant John Montross in 1763, had thought the bluffs at Springwells to be a preferred location for a fort. As early as 1815, Duncan MacArthur, a United States Army brigadier general, observed in a letter “at Spring Well, there is a natural position which completely commands the surrounding country and river for several miles,” and suggested that a fort be built at the location to replace the one in Detroit. His correspondent, James Monroe, then Secretary of War of the United States, ordered further study of the location. In response, Major Charles Gratiot found the site to be ideal, emphasizing that it was “within shot range of Sandwich.”<sup>78</sup>

A decade after the decommissioning of Fort Shelby, tensions between the United States and Great Britain increased, warranting further consideration of the construction of a new American fort on the Detroit River. The Rebellions of 1837 and the related Patriot War (1837–1838), a series of republican uprisings in Canada, were being aided by “Hunters’ Lodges,” underground militia organizations based in American border cities, including the Michigan cities of Detroit,

<sup>78</sup> Dunnigan, *Frontier Metropolis*, 56, 105, 146.

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Mount Clemens, Port Huron, and Gibraltar. Residents became wary of a possible British invasion from nearby Fort Malden. Further, United States-based Hunters' Lodges, in league with Canadian rebels, (together calling themselves "Patriots") began to raid federal arsenals for weapons and supplies, including, on January 5, 1838, a stockpile that had recently been removed to Detroit from Fort Gratiot for safekeeping.

These Patriot forces then began to stage increasingly damaging attacks on British positions in Upper Canada, culminating in the December 4, 1838, Battle of Windsor. On this date, a group of Patriots crossed the river in a stolen steamboat and attacked a British barracks in Windsor before being defeated by British regulars, Canadian militia, First Nations allies, and, once they fled back across the river, Detroit-based United States militia units.

During these events, and despite a general atmosphere of cooperation between the governments of both nations, United States forces remained determined to defend against any British counterattack upon Patriot forces based on American soil. To this end, General Hugh Brady ordered that a line of red flags be placed, marking the border upon the river ice, and forbade British forces from crossing it in pursuit. Although the Patriot War concluded with the defeat of the Patriot forces at the Battle of Windsor, it nonetheless served as the impetus for a renewed federal investment in border defense.

On August 4, 1841, Congress authorized fifty thousand dollars for a fort in Detroit as part of a series of defenses along the border with Canada. Construction of the Springwells fort began in September 1843, when a stone-filled wharf was built on the river and the initial layout was determined. Montgomery C. Meigs, an accomplished United States Army civil engineer and architect, supervised the work and designed many aspects of the facility himself. Meigs's design was influenced by the doctrines of French engineer Sébastien de Vauban and American military scholar Dennis Hart Mahan.

By the end of 1844 over fifty-five thousand cubic yards of earth had been excavated to create the ramparts and glacis. Thirteen thousand linear feet of oak logs served as revetments to hold the embankment in place. In 1846 and into 1847 the original cedar scarp (the outer slope of the rampart) was completed, and slopes and ditches were graded and sodded. Gun platforms and associated ironwork were also installed during this time.<sup>79</sup> Limestone, to be used for the sally port, postern, and powder magazine, as well as the barracks and officers' quarters buildings to be located on the interior parade ground, arrived, likely from quarries at Kelley's Island, on the Ohio side of Lake Erie. Construction of the star fort itself concluded in 1847.

Work on the original barracks building (presently also known as Building 507), on the interior parade ground, began in 1845. The monumental, three-and-a-half-story Federal-style structure, likely also designed by Meigs, was finished in 1848.<sup>80</sup> Also constructed around this time, and also possibly designed by Meigs, were short-lived officers rowhouses which burned severely in

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<sup>79</sup> Historic Fort Wayne Coalition Tour Manual.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.



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1850. The ruins of the structures were used as a refuse dump before being demolished shortly after the Civil War era. Also located within the fort was a shot furnace, completed in 1847, which no longer exists.<sup>81</sup>

Initially, the fort was known only as “the Fort at Spring Wells.” It was given its present name, Fort Wayne, on January 31, 1849, in honor of General Anthony Wayne.

The fort sat without weaponry or a military presence for some time after its construction. Largely unstaffed for a decade, the facility was guarded by a civilian night watchman. It became an active military installation only in 1861, at the dawn of the Civil War. The facility served primarily as a camp of instruction and mustering area for organizing and training recruits, beginning with the 1st Michigan Infantry in April of that year. The first regular unit to arrive was the 3rd United States Cavalry on December 15, 1861, commanded by Captain Alfred Gibbs (after which is named the post’s Gibbs Street). That unit was followed by the 19th United States Infantry, which remained through the end of the war.<sup>82</sup> Fort Wayne at this time was described by the War Department as a “Camp of Instruction,” and both infantry and artillery regiments trained at the site.

During the war, the fort quickly went from a dormant facility to a focus of activity of the city. According to William Phenix, “The arrival of volunteer regiments, musters, martial exercises and picnic excursions from Detroit gave the fort a new prominence in the social affairs of the city.”<sup>83</sup> Exceeding the capacity of the fort, men were housed in tents and in steamboats on the river.

The present masonry scarp surrounding the star fort, replacing the earlier oak revetments, was authorized in 1862<sup>84</sup> and constructed in 1863<sup>85</sup>, partially in acknowledgement of the possibility of a Confederate attack through Canada.<sup>86</sup> Backed by concrete, the wall is twenty-two feet tall and seven feet thick. Other improvements date from this era as well: ramps were paved with flagstone and the outer gates of the postern were installed. Existing gun emplacements were repaired and flanking casemates, each with rifle galleries and a powder magazine, were added to the four bastions.

The new gun ports for each flanking casemate were designed for modern weaponry; when completed they were “the finest examples of nineteenth century brickwork in the Midwest.”<sup>87</sup> They allowed canons to be turned a full sixty degrees, and featured wrought iron shutters to be sealed when guns were not in use. Lessons learned from battles at other forts during the Civil

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<sup>81</sup> A shot furnace heated cannonballs, which could be used to set an attaching ship on fire.

<sup>82</sup> Historic Fort Wayne Coalition Tour Manual.

<sup>83</sup> Phenix, 20.

<sup>84</sup> Historic Fort Wayne Coalition Tour Manual.

<sup>85</sup> City of Detroit Recreation Department, *Historic Fort Wayne Program of Preservation and Utilization*, 4.

<sup>86</sup> Conway and Jamroz, 7.

<sup>87</sup> “Fort Wayne: On Guard For Over a Century.” *Detroit Historical Society Bulletin* 12(10).

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War informed these improvements, including a modification of the demilune which was planned in 1863<sup>88</sup> and began construction in 1866.<sup>89</sup> Completed in 1868, this brought the demilune to its present configuration, a triangular earthen outer work with a concrete-covered magazine, designed to hold twelve heavy seacoast guns (although none of the defensive weaponry for which the fort was designed, however, would ever be installed). In 1869 the exterior and interior slopes of the fort were graded and sodded. The interior parade ground was also leveled at this time and the cellars of the former officers barracks were finally filled in.

All of these improvements helped the fort to become “one of the finest examples of vertical-walled masonry fortifications in America.”<sup>90</sup> It was not long, however, before its design was rendered obsolete by advances in military technology, including rifled artillery. As the threat of war in the Great Lakes region rapidly subsided, no further updates to the fort’s defenses were warranted. Although Secretary of War William Crowninshield Endicott in 1866 proposed a modernization of the fort’s defensive systems, this request was never authorized.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>88</sup> Conway and Jamroz, 24.

<sup>89</sup> “Fort Wayne: On Guard For Over a Century.” *Detroit Historical Society Bulletin* 12(10).

<sup>90</sup> Phenix, 21.

<sup>91</sup> Historic Fort Wayne Coalition Tour Manual.

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## Fort Wayne and Military Expansion



**Officers' Row at Fort Wayne, Detroit, Michigan taken circa 1900. Image courtesy Detroit Publishing Company photograph collection (Library of Congress), Call Number: LC-D4-13078 [P&P].**

Although the significance of Fort Wayne as a defensive position had waned, its strategic significance as a military post was far from over. The post remained an infantry garrison, continuing to guard the border with seven infantry regiments from 1870 through 1899. From 1879 through 1881 the fort added eight wooden homes (no longer extant) for officers and their families, creating the present "Officers Row" along what is now Gibbs Street (although these wood clapboard-sided buildings would later be re-clad in brick, a restored 1880 Commanding Officer's House, Building 110, now depicts the original appearance of these Officers Row buildings). The Officers Row buildings were the first at the post to feature indoor plumbing.

During the Spanish American War (1889), troops from the facility were deployed to Cuba and the Philippines. The conclusion of that war prompted a strengthening and modernization of the military that would continue over an approximately fifteen-year period. After the defeat of Spain, marked by the 1898 Treaty of Paris, the United States controlled the former Spanish colonies of

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Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines. American foreign policy then embarked upon a more aggressive interpretation of the Monroe Doctrine and the creation of a sphere of influence in Latin America, including military interventions in Panama, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, and, by the 1910s, occupations of Haiti and part of Mexico. As the United States made additional investments in the expansion of its military, Fort Wayne expanded as well. By the end of the nineteenth century, Fort Wayne housed nine infantry regiments<sup>92</sup> and the addition of many new residential and administration buildings were underway.

This period saw the completion of Fort Wayne's first brick building, the 1889 Guard House (Building 205), soon followed by the Post Quartermaster building in 1890, and a new hospital (replacing an earlier hospital, neither of which remain standing), also in 1890. Fresh air wings were added to the hospital in 1893.

Officers Row was completed with three duplex buildings (102, 103, and 104) for married officers in 1898. A Service Club (Building 312) was completed in 1903. The two-story Post Headquarters (Building 207) followed in 1904. A new guardhouse was built near the main gate in 1905. Four enlisted men's barracks buildings, 305, 308, 311, and 314, (only the latter two of which remain today) were built in the years 1890 through 1906. All buildings constructed during this era were clad in a matching red brick.

Indicating a transition period to the use of motor vehicles by the Army, 1905 brought the first of several changes to the main entrance gate in terms of location and design<sup>93</sup> as the gate was moved to accommodate motor vehicle access several years before the 1908 addition of the stable (Building 222).

This era also brought about the first of a succession of land reclamation efforts which, over time, added additional usable space to the site. Previously, approximately twenty acres of the southern portion of Fort Wayne (what now comprises part of the parade ground as well as the site of the remaining warehouses) consisted of swampy land not suitable for development. The first instance of reclamation began around 1880.<sup>94</sup> Also, in an effort to make room for additional buildings, graves of soldiers and family members in a small cemetery at the westernmost end of the property were moved and reinterred at Detroit's Woodmere Cemetery.

### Early Twentieth Century Disinvestment

The 1910s and 1920s marked a time with relatively little construction activity at the fort. A lack of federal investment eventually allowed the post to fall into a condition described by the *Detroit Free Press* as "long neglected," subject to deferred maintenance as "the War Department was undecided for years as to whether to keep or dismantle the old fort."<sup>95</sup> During this time, the

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<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Historic Fort Wayne Coalition Tour Manual

<sup>94</sup> Conway and Jamroz, 29.

<sup>95</sup> "Fort Wayne Gets Cool Million."

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outdoor space at Fort Wayne seems to have seen use, if informally, by city residents for outdoor recreation. Observed Mayor William B. Thompson in 1912: “the people of the city of Detroit have commenced to realize what a splendid recreation place they have in this Fort Wayne.” Thompson addressed the common council regarding a “rumor” that the post was to be abandoned by the War Department. Envisioning Fort Wayne as the “nucleus” of a system of riverfront parks along the city’s west side, he encouraged the council to attempt to purchase or otherwise acquire the site.<sup>96</sup>

The coming of World War I, however, bought Fort Wayne additional time as a military installation. The post provided construction troops after the United States entry into the 1914–1918 war, including about 1,300 African American soldiers (the United States Army remained segregated until after World War II). Fort Wayne also began its role as a motor vehicle supply center during this time.

After the war, the fort briefly served as a detention center during the Red Scare of 1920–1921.<sup>97</sup> Guards were civilian employees recruited from amongst veterans and law enforcement personnel.<sup>98</sup> Even after this era, continued use of the site to house prisoners is suggested by Mildred E. Adkinson, who resided at the fort as the child of a noncommissioned officer, and who recalls “a high fence running around that side [near the western end of NCO Row] of the fort,” describing prison labor used to cut the grass in that area. Adkinson vividly recalls one prisoner having been shot while attempting to escape.

Discussions regarding the transfer of Fort Wayne to city ownership were revived during the post-World War I period, as the War Department began to decommission some of its smaller military posts.<sup>99</sup> A resolution proposed by member Fred C. Castator and adopted by the common council in July 1919 directed the mayor, the city’s park commissioner, and representatives from the City Plan Commission and the Recreation Commission to travel to Washington to lobby the federal government to give the property to the city.<sup>100</sup> An editorial by the *Free Press* added a sense of urgency to these efforts, describing an “intimation ... that the War Department is about to dispose of numerous small military posts no longer of value for defense, barracks, training, or other army purposes” and expressing concern that the site would be lost to public use. Observing that “the commercial and industrial value of the Fort Wayne site is not such to be overlooked by corporations seeking the prized river frontage ... ready with cash in hand” the *Free Press* encouraged city officials to “be vigilant” regarding any opportunity to purchase the land. The editorial board drew a comparison to Mackinac Island, where former military facilities had previously been given to State of Michigan control and opened to the public as a historical park.<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>96</sup> Journal of the [Detroit] Common Council, 30 Jan.1912, 102–103.

<sup>97</sup> Phenix, 26.

<sup>98</sup> Historic Fort Wayne Coalition Tour Manual.

<sup>99</sup> “City May Secure Fort Wayne Tract,” *Detroit Free Press*, 30 May 1919, 5.

<sup>100</sup> “Asks Fort Wayne Become City Park,” *Detroit Free Press*, 16 July 1919, 6.

<sup>101</sup> “Fort Wayne’s Possibilities for City Park,” *Detroit Free Press*, 22 July 1919, 4.

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Nothing seems to have come of this initial round of discussions, but local interest did not subside. By May 1926 the War Department announced an intent to sell the property, prompting the *Detroit News* to publish a full-page Sunday feature honoring the history of the site and including a number of historic photographs. The *News* reported that the federal government had estimated the value of the property at six million dollars (noting that a purchase offer of \$four million dollars had “several years ago” been rejected) and warned that the fort would likely be demolished by private interests if it were not turned into a city or state park. The feature also suggests that the soldiers and their families were not fond of living at the “obsolete” site, due to the age of the buildings as well as the rapidly developing industrial character of the surrounding area: “with smoke stacks to the right of them, more stacks to the left of them and clouds of soot rolling in from the north of them.”<sup>102</sup>

By 1928 the War Department had confirmed the fort was due to be decommissioned and offered the property to state, county, or local government for \$2.6 million. The War Department, however, promptly changed course and rescinded the offer later that year—after the Wayne County Board of Supervisors had submitted a proposal to purchase the site for use as a county park, Secretary of War Dwight F. Davis announced that the land was no longer for sale and would again serve an active military facility, with Company E of the Second Infantry assigned to garrison the post later that year.<sup>103</sup> This determination from the War Department ended speculation regarding local ownership of Fort Wayne and began a new era of renewed federal investment and military activity at the facility.

### **Work Relief: The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration Era**

By the 1930s most military installations around the country, like Fort Wayne, suffered from a lack of maintenance. Buildings on posts and bases were in disrepair or had become obsolete, and years of cuts to defense spending had left the War Department without the funding to conduct needed upgrades.<sup>104</sup> In the climate of the Great Depression, two federal New Deal work relief programs—the Works Progress Administration (initially named the Work Projects Administration, or WPA) and, to a lesser extent, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)—increasingly contributed to military preparedness at posts and bases around the country by upgrading buildings and infrastructure, constructing new buildings, and sometimes even building entire new installations.

The CCC was established in 1933 after an act of Congress as part of the first round of economic programs implemented following the 1932 election of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and focused

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<sup>102</sup> May 26, 1926.

<sup>103</sup> “County Loses Fort Wayne Bid,” *Detroit Free Press*, 1 June 1928, 7.

<sup>104</sup> Susan Goodfellow et al., “Nationwide Context, Inventory, and Heritage Assessment of Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps Resources on Department of Defense Installations,” Engineering-Environmental Management, Inc., report to the United States Department of Defense Legacy Resource Program, 2009. 32.

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primarily on recruiting young men (though older men as well as women were also employed in some roles) to work on projects to improve and conserve agricultural land or other natural resources.

CCC crews were organized into “camps,” a term referring to both to the organizational unit (generally around two hundred men) as well as to the physical location where the unit was based.<sup>105</sup> These camps were typically (but not always) segregated, with African American units usually assigned to military installations, especially in remote areas in the West, and Native American people devoted exclusively to projects on Indian reservations. White camps generally performed work in urban areas and in the eastern United States.<sup>106</sup> Camps focused on an initial period of job training, after which they were deployed into the field to work on unskilled or low-skill tasks such as road grading, land clearing, ditch digging, and the installation of telephone and utility lines. Relief workers were supervised by skilled craftspeople recruited from the areas served.

The WPA, established by presidential executive order on May 6, 1935, held a more general mission to carry out a wide range of public works projects. The WPA began by funding locally staffed projects, eventually evolving to provide a dedicated workforce that constituted, at its peak, the largest employer in the United States. Unlike the CCC, which was centrally organized with its own staff and equipment managed under a quasi-military structure, the WPA funded, and later staffed, projects sponsored and managed by local units of government or other federal government entities, often supplemented with other funding sources. WPA projects, in that they were sponsored and planned locally and hired a local workforce, also provided a much more direct economic benefit to local communities in terms of employment and job training opportunities.

By the late 1930s, as the threat of war involving the United States loomed, the CCC and WPA increasingly prioritized projects that would provide a direct national defense benefit. After the United States declared war on Japan on December 8, 1941, the CCC in particular shifted its infrastructure work exclusively to military installations, with camps themselves located at military facilities (though the organization remained involved in wildland firefighting nationwide). Both the CCC and the WPA continued into the World War II era, but disbanded in 1943 as a wartime economy had mobilized to provide full employment, rendering federal work relief programs unnecessary.

Although there are indications that CCC workers contributed to the development of Fort Wayne during the 1930s, the nature of this work is not known.<sup>107</sup>

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<sup>105</sup> Goodfellow et al., 18.

<sup>106</sup> Chad Blackwell, Dan Hart, and Melissa Wiedenfeld, “Built by WPA CCC 1935–1943: New Deal Historic Resources on Department of Defense Installations,” Engineering-Environmental Management, Inc., report to the United States Department of Defense Legacy Resource Program, 2009, 5.

<sup>107</sup> Research at the National Archives commissioned by the Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program and conducted in 2007 generated a list of CCC projects on military installations around the country; although, the study located no information regarding CCC projects at Fort Wayne. This does not mean, however,

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The WPA, by contrast, left behind a highly visible legacy of construction projects at Fort Wayne. WPA work on military installations typically focused (as they did at Fort Wayne) on residential and administrative buildings, vehicle shops and garages, and roads. Facilities, such as theaters and gymnasiums, were also frequently built with WPA resources, reflecting an overall Depression-era value of recreation.<sup>108</sup> In contrast with CCC projects, WPA projects are well-documented, as the latter organization archived its files on microfilm prior to disbanding in 1943.<sup>109</sup>

WPA work at Fort Wayne is broken into the following ten projects, as described on summary cards in approximate chronological order: “construct buildings, roads and utilities, and landscape” (O.P. number 713-2-69, \$50,000); “construct garages and drives” (O.P. number 65-3-51-415, \$42,052); “construct new and rehabilitate existing buildings, facilities, utilities, roads, and grounds” (O.P. number 265-3-51-54, \$330,072); “improve military reservation” (O.P. number 365-51-2-6, \$390,294); “make improvements to buildings, facilities, and grounds” (O.P. number 765-51-2-7, \$1,059,950); “rehabilitate buildings and grounds” (O.P. number 65-2-51-97, \$168,484); “rehabilitate buildings and utilities” (O.P. number 165-2-41-112, \$215,916); “rehabilitate buildings, facilities, and grounds” (O.P. number 165-2-51-112, \$286,839); “remodel and rehabilitate buildings and utilities, and landscape grounds” (O.P. number X65-51-X-X, \$210,000); and, finally, “remodel and rehabilitate buildings and utilities, regrade, and landscape grounds” (O.P. number 365-51-2-16, \$258,254). These projects employed a total workforce of 3,000 men by 1938.<sup>110</sup>

The summary cards describe a mix of new construction with alterations to existing buildings that, together, brought Fort Wayne to the cohesive aesthetic character—most visibly embodied in its classically inspired, red brick, residential architecture—that defines the district today

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that the CCC did not work at Fort Wayne—it may simply reflect a lack of information on the subject. Identification of CCC projects by historians has proven to be challenging, as archival information consists primarily of two sources, each of which is far from comprehensive: project summary cards housed at the National Archives typically provide only general descriptions (“sitework,” “infrastructure,” “landscaping,” etc.) and often are unclear as to location (mentioning, for example, the name of the city but not the specific work location), while camp inspection reports, describing work tasks assigned to particular camps, were made infrequently, sometimes only once for a given camp. Moreover, landscape features, such as those that were the focus of the CCC, were often not well-documented in real property records maintained by individual installations. See Susan Goodfellow et al., B8–B9, 5–6, 53, and Chad Blackwell, Dan Hart, and Melissa Wiedenfeld, *Built by WPA CCC 1935–1943: New Deal Historic Resources on Department of Defense Installations*, 2009, 11.

<sup>108</sup> Goodfellow et al., 53.

<sup>109</sup> These records are also housed at the National Archives, where they are organized by state and by a unique number assigned to each project (The “Official Project,” or “O. P.” number). A project summary card references a file for each project containing relevant correspondence and other information. A 2007 survey of these cards, checked against real property inventories maintained by individual installations, yielded a nationwide list of WPA projects. Although these records, unlike those for the CCC, are nearly complete, this list still omits some projects due to illegible or damaged microfilm. Since (unlike the CCC, which has been described in various published histories) few secondary sources regarding WPA projects exist, this archival material is highly valuable, despite these omissions. Goodfellow et al., 4, 53.

<sup>110</sup> Conway and Jamroz, 88.



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(described in greater detail in the description section of this document). The design of WPA buildings at Fort Wayne, though unique in its own right, reflects agency-wide design principles. While 1930s architecture in general is defined by somewhat less ornate detailing than that of previous decades, this trend was further expressed in WPA projects due to a general lack of skilled labor available to the organization. Ornate architectural features requiring skilled craftspeople, or elaborate massing requiring construction trades, were avoided. Simplified versions of Georgian Revival, Art Deco, and other styles popular during that time period, therefore, dominated WPA work, and designs also often reflected regional trends and themes. Locally sourced building materials as well as salvaged materials were used when possible. For some structures, especially outbuildings, the WPA used standard plans provided by the Army Constructing Quartermaster.<sup>111</sup>

The largest WPA allocation, slightly over one million dollars in 1938 (including War Department funding), constructed the most prominent of the post's WPA buildings: a theater (Building 303, designed to show both stage plays and films), hospital, and barracks buildings,<sup>112</sup> in addition to a row of duplexes for non-commissioned officers ("NCO Row"), and a Post Gymnasium constructed as an architecturally distinct addition to the earlier, 1903 Service Club building (312). Another highly visible component of the WPA work at Fort Wayne is the brick cladding of wood Officers Row buildings, including buildings 105–108, 111, and 112, and of the Officer's Club.

In addition to new construction and exterior changes, WPA funding upgraded building systems, including the updating of plumbing and electricity.<sup>113</sup> Central heating was also added, as many of the older buildings at the post were still being heated with wood stoves; the original barracks, for example, only received a central plant from a 1941 WPA grant.<sup>114</sup> The star fort itself was upgraded for contemporary needs, also in 1938, when the present vehicle entrance was cut into the west wall.

WPA-sponsored work affecting the older structures at Fort Wayne—especially the original barracks and star fort—in 1938 drew the attention of the Detroit Historical Society, who advocated that care be taken to preserve the historic character of these structures during any restoration or rehabilitation efforts. Two prominent local architects, Emil Lorch and George D. Mason, representing the society's architecture committee, visited the post, with the latter initiating a correspondence with federal authorities that impacted subsequent work at the fort. Both men were accomplished architects in their own right: Lorch was a modernist who served as dean of the College of Architecture at the University of Michigan and was an outspoken advocate for historic preservation<sup>115</sup>; Mason was a prolific architect, "the dean of Detroit

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<sup>111</sup> Goodfellow, et al., 53.

<sup>112</sup> "Fort Wayne Gets Cool Million," *Detroit News*, August 3, 1938, 1.

<sup>113</sup> Conway and Jamroz, 110.

<sup>114</sup> Emil Lorch to Oliver L. Spaulding, 25 April 1941, Detroit Historical Museum Collections Resource Center.

<sup>115</sup> Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, *Michigan Modern: Design that Shaped America*, <http://www.michiganmodern.org/designers/emil-lorch>, 2017.

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architects,” who designed, or contributed to, landmarks including the Grand Hotel at Mackinac Island and Detroit buildings such as the Ransom Gillis House, Masonic Temple, and Gem Theatre.<sup>116</sup>

Lorch in particular took an interest in the original barracks building. In a letter to Colonel Oliver L. Spaulding, a historian at the Army War College, Lorch argues that the building (along with the Commandant’s House of the Dearborn Arsenal, which also remains in existence today) was among “the two best-designed government structures of that period in Michigan.” When Lorch and Mason learned that a WPA grant had been applied for that would fund rehabilitation work on the building, Lorch stated his hope that “an architect in sympathy with the style of the building may be associated with the restoration.” Lorch also expressed a concern with ongoing work to make a new vehicle entrance in the eastern wall of the fort. “I trust this will be consistent with the character of the structure,” he suggests in his July 13 letter. He elaborated in a second letter later that month, suggesting the new entrance be “arched and vaulted and the openings framed with masonry consistent with the earlier sally port,” and also that spalled bricks in the outer wall be replaced in kind rather than patched with concrete. Lorch also sought to identify architect responsible for the original design, writing “he must have been a person with architectural experience, since the details of the main cornice, the doors, and other elements, have a very fine character.”<sup>117</sup>

Responding to Lorch’s inquiry, Spaulding found “the evidence is conclusive” that Meigs “not only supervised the construction but made the design” of the barracks and other original buildings at Fort Wayne, including some “temporary” structures which were built at the same time. Spaulding had been unable to locate original construction drawings for the barracks but made this inference from several historical documents making reference to Meigs’s role as designer.<sup>118</sup>

In 1941, with WPA funding in place and rehabilitation work about to begin, Lorch again resumed his correspondence with Spaulding. The advice of the Detroit Historical Society seems to have been taken (“the exterior is to be prepared and preserved as was urged in 1938,” he writes); this time, Lorch was concerned with interior work, as the facility is to be “adapted to current and future needs.” He insisted that a sufficiently experienced architect be appointed to oversee the work, citing the recent reconstruction of Fort Michilimackinac an example of “valuable evidence destroyed” due to poor planning. Lorch reiterated his thoughts regarding the significance of the building: “the most important and architecturally the most interesting federal building of the last century left in Michigan” he writes of the barracks: “with the fortress walls it is almost the only historical monument left of mid-nineteenth century southern Michigan.”<sup>119</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> Clarence Monroe Burton, William Stocking, Gordon K. Miller, eds., *The City of Detroit, Michigan, 1701-1922*, (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922).

<sup>117</sup> 13 July 1938, Detroit Historical Museum Collections Resource Center.

<sup>118</sup> Oliver L. Spaulding to Emil Lorch, undated letter at the Detroit Historical Museum Collections Resource Center.

<sup>119</sup> Emil Lorch to Oliver L. Spaulding, 25 April 1941, Detroit Historical Museum Collections Resource Center.

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Working through a colleague, Spaulding responded by sending Carl H. Wilcox, a WPA engineer who previously supervised reconstruction work at Spanish fortifications in Puerto Rico, to Detroit to advise on the work at Fort Wayne. After investigating the matter, Wilcox determined that no work would be performed on the barracks or fort without the approval of the Detroit Historical Society.<sup>120</sup>

WPA work also provided for extensive tree planting (with five hundred planned for planting in 1938, in addition to landscaping that had been done previously), as well as the resurfacing of roads.<sup>121</sup> The WPA also funded additional land reclamation efforts.<sup>122</sup>

Public art, especially murals, was a frequent component of WPA projects as well. These projects were usually done by local artists and reflected themes from the history and culture of the area. Few of these art installations, however, have survived to the present day.<sup>123</sup> The WPA's Federal Art Project hired muralists including Joe Sparks<sup>124</sup> and Frank Cassara.<sup>125</sup> The location of these murals is not known, and paint exposures conducted in several buildings by City of Detroit staff suggest that they have likely not survived.

The WPA's Library Project established a library on subjects pertaining to national defense at Fort Wayne.<sup>126</sup>

### **Arsenal of Democracy**

The upgrades to Fort Wayne and other military facilities throughout the United States during the 1930s, despite making great strides in increasing the nation's military preparedness, took place in a general atmosphere of isolationism, as public opinion generally favored neutrality while other world powers moved towards war. This would change, however, in the late 1930s as the conflict that would become World War II spread throughout Asia and, by 1939, Europe.

On September 9, 1940, a War Department order designated Fort Wayne as a Motor Supply Depot under jurisdiction of the Quartermaster Corps,<sup>127</sup> marking the dawn of what was "arguably the fort's most important military period,"<sup>128</sup> when it served as a supply center for war matériel, especially vehicles, produced in the Detroit area. Fort Wayne ceased serving as an infantry

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<sup>120</sup> Perry A. Fellows to John W. Wright, 16 July 1941, Detroit Historical Museum Collections Resource Center.

<sup>121</sup> "Fort Wayne Gets Cool Million," *Detroit News*, August 3, 1938, 1.

<sup>122</sup> "Quartermaster Engineers and WPA Create Land Worth Half Million," War Department press release, 20 September 1941.

<sup>123</sup> Goodfellow et al., 69.

<sup>124</sup> Elizabeth Clemens, *The Works Progress Administration in Detroit* (Charleston: Arcadia Press, 2008), 106.

<sup>125</sup> Conway and Jamroz, 111.

<sup>126</sup> Clemens, 122.

<sup>127</sup> Historic Fort Wayne Coalition Tour Manual.

<sup>128</sup> City of Detroit Recreation Department, *Historic Fort Wayne Program of Preservation and Utilization*, 6.

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garrison at that time:<sup>129</sup> the Second United States Infantry moved from Fort Wayne in August, and the facility was now taken over by two Quartermaster Corps companies, a Medical Department detachment, and nine men from the Signal Corps.<sup>130</sup>

Within the year, the number of civilian employees there expanded from one to 850 as the facility transitioned to its new role.<sup>131</sup> The Fort Wayne Ordnance Depot prepared vehicles and vehicle parts for shipment from the Port of Detroit to support the war effort, helping the city to earn the nickname “Arsenal of Democracy.”

The new role of this army post was to expedite the purchase and distribution of motor parts from suppliers to other Army facilities.<sup>132</sup> Clerical staff were housed in the barracks, which were converted to office use during this time. By 1941 Fort Wayne was “responsible for motor vehicle contracts and acquisitions for the entire army,” as well as Lend-Lease acquisitions.<sup>133</sup> In addition to administrative work, Fort Wayne served as a logistics center, with much of its outdoor area used to store and process trucks, including ambulances, as well as vehicle parts. Management of the site was transferred to the Ordnance Department in 1942 and Fort Wayne was designated a “principal motor supply depot.” Vehicles and parts were processed at Fort Wayne before being shipped overseas, in a massive operation headquartered at the fort which also incorporated sites at the State Fairgrounds and the Port of Detroit.<sup>134</sup>

Many more buildings were constructed to support the needs of this operation (few of which, however, remain). These included, most notably, the Motor Supply Warehouse, a massive reinforced concrete building located on river fill on the parade ground, as well as numerous wooden outbuildings, most of which were temporary structures that have since been demolished. Three smaller, single-story concrete warehouse buildings (2A, 2B, and 2C), at the southern corner of the facility along the river, remain.

Existing structures were also modified during this time, most notably the entrance to the fort, enlarged for a second time by removal of the arch above the opening created in 1938.

Fort Wayne by 1943 transferred in jurisdiction from the Quartermaster Corps to the Ordnance Department<sup>135</sup> The post also served as a training facility for the Red Ball Express, a predominately African American mobile force that supplied the advancing allied front in Europe in 1944. The fort also housed Italian prisoners of war captured in North Africa, many of whom immigrated directly to the United States after the war and settled in Detroit.<sup>136</sup>

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<sup>129</sup> Phenix, 26.

<sup>130</sup> Historic Fort Wayne Coalition Tour Manual.

<sup>131</sup> Conway and Jamroz, 93.

<sup>132</sup> Historic Fort Wayne Coalition Tour Manual.

<sup>133</sup> Ibid.

<sup>134</sup> Ibid., 8.

<sup>135</sup> Historic Fort Wayne Coalition Tour Manual.

<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

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The World War II era also saw the introduction of athletic activities to the parade ground, with the creation of a baseball diamond. Football was also played at Fort Wayne.<sup>137</sup>

### Postwar Events

In a series of ownership transfers from 1949 through 1976, most of the acreage of Fort Wayne was given over to municipal ownership, with only a portion at the easternmost corner remaining presently under control of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. During this transition period Fort Wayne continued to serve a wide variety of military functions as well as some nonmilitary federal government uses.<sup>138</sup>

The site served as a military induction center during the Korean and Vietnam wars, and as a military police post.<sup>139</sup> Cold War-era antiaircraft guns were upgraded in 1957 to Nike-Ajax, and again in 1959 to Nike-Hercules, missiles, provided by the Army Air Defense Command.<sup>140</sup> Fort Wayne also continued its logistics function during the 1950s, although in a different capacity, serving as a supply base for antiaircraft batteries in the Detroit area. By the late 1950s the site served as a guided missile repair facility in addition to housing a military police battalion.<sup>141</sup> The last uniformed military personnel left in 1965 and the United States Department of Labor established a Job Corps training center at the site.<sup>142</sup>

### City of Detroit Ownership

The first transfer to city ownership occurred in 1949 under the federal Historic Surplus Property Program. This transfer included the star fort itself and surrounding earthworks, extending to Brady Street to include Building 114. The Detroit Historical Museum soon began to operate much of the fort as a museum.

Another transfer, in 1971 and also under the Historic Surplus Property Program, gave to the city all buildings west of Brady Street and north of Gibbs Street, including Officers Row and NCO Row, as well as Warehouses 2A, 2B, and 2C. Finally, in 1976 under the Federal Lands to Parks Program, the Parade Ground and the buildings north and east of the star fort were given to city of Detroit ownership. This transfer left only the present-day Army Corps of Engineers facility under federal control. Still, some of the buildings continued to serve other uses, even providing temporary housing for people displaced by the city's 1967 civil disturbance, some of whom

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<sup>137</sup> Conway and Jamroz.

<sup>138</sup> City of Detroit Recreation Department, *Historic Fort Wayne Program of Preservation and Utilization*, 6.

<sup>139</sup> Phenix, 28.

<sup>140</sup> Conway and Jamroz, 103.

<sup>141</sup> Historic Fort Wayne Coalition Tour Manual.

<sup>142</sup> James Conway, City of Detroit Recreation Department, personal communication with authors.

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continued to reside there until 1971.<sup>143</sup> By the early 1970s the Detroit Historical Museum had plans to demolish most of the twentieth-century buildings surrounding the original star fort, with the intent of “opening [the earthworks] up to view and recreating the landscape as it was when the fort was built.”<sup>144</sup> This plan was never fully carried out, although some significant changes to the site were made at this time—most notably, the demolition of the largest World War II warehouse buildings and the creation of a large earthen berm separating the three remaining warehouse buildings from the parade ground. Also, barracks buildings were demolished, creating space for the present-day visitors parking lot. The Detroit Historical Museum operated the facility for some time, and kept a number of buildings open to the public with staffed, interpretive exhibits.

The Detroit Historical Museum ceased interpretive activities at Fort Wayne in the early 1990s, closing all buildings except for Warehouse 2C, which continues to be used for collections storage and is not open to the public. After a period of infrequent use, the fort was reopened by the Detroit Recreation Department in 2001; it now hosts a wide variety of events, including athletic events and historic reenactments. Fort Wayne is also the site of the National Museum of the Tuskegee Airmen, housed in Building 208, and the Woodlands Indian Museum (presently closed) in Building 117. The site is operated and maintained by the Recreation Department, with volunteer support from Friends of Fort Wayne, the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition, and the All Nations Veterans Council.

## EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

### **The Fort Wayne Mound (Criterion A, Religion)**

The Multiple Property Documentation Form *Precontact American Earthworks: 500 BC to 1650 AD* suggests that a burial mound may be eligible under National Register *Criterion A* if it is a “type site” or if it can be identified with a particular complex.

The Fort Wayne Mound, being the only burial mound to be “formally excavated,” is the type site for the Wayne Mortuary Complex as described by John Halsey in 2011.<sup>145</sup> The complex includes burial mounds found throughout Macomb, Wayne, and Monroe counties in Michigan and is defined by the presence of Wayne Ware, “thin pottery vessels with cord-marked exteriors and incised rim decorations.”<sup>146</sup>

As the mound was significantly disturbed in 1944 and 1945, it must be evaluated under *Criteria Consideration E* as a reconstructed property. On this issue, the National Register Bulletin

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<sup>143</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Fort Wayne, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, National Register #71000425; Historic Fort Wayne Coalition Tour Manual.

<sup>144</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Fort Wayne, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan, National Register #71000425.

<sup>145</sup> “Late Woodland Mounds and Cemeteries in the Detroit Area: A.D. 500 to 1000.” Paper Presented at *Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference, March 25, 2011*. Cited in Killion, Urban, and Conway, 2017, 4.

<sup>146</sup> Killion, Urban, and Conway, 2017, 4. See Halsey 1968 for further description of Wayne Ware items.

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*Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places* specifically suggests that reconstructed burial mounds may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, even if they are made up of non-original material, if they are in a suitable location and if they are presented according to a restoration master plan. As the Fort Wayne mound is made up of original material, retains a small number of original burials, and stands in its original location, it exceeds the requirements of *Criteria Consideration E* and therefore is eligible for the National Register.

### **Star Fort at Spring Wells (Criterion A, Military History)**

Star forts were built for warfare in an age of gunpowder and cannons. First built in mid-fifteenth century Italy, they were usually pentagonal or hexagonal in shape and had triangular bastions at each angled corner to provide for a clear view of the battlefield without exposure. They also typically featured ditches (dry moats) and earthen banking. In America, they were built in strategic locations on waterways by colonizing countries, first the Spanish (Castillo de San Marcos in what is now Saint Augustine, Florida, in 1672), then the French and British in the late-seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The Americans either built or assumed control over star forts in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to defend their armies in the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the threat of war from British Canada at the northern border, and the Civil War. By the latter, however, they were becoming obsolete because of more explosive power and artillery, and, at the dawn of the twentieth century, airpower.

Fort Wayne was a Third System fort, its specifications prescribed by the federal government as a response to weaknesses in coastal defenses apparent during the War of 1812. A uniform system was developed through recommendations from a board of engineers chaired by the French military engineer Brigadier-General Simon Bernard, a former brigadier of engineers in the French Napoleonic army. “The Third System program involved the construction of large masonry-built fortifications. They were solid, substantial structures, capable of housing an impressive number of artillery pieces protected in well-fortified casemates. These guns were usually emplaced in tiered casemates, surmounted by a terreplein, with a large central parade.”<sup>147</sup> Bernard’s successor as chairman of the board of engineers, New England-born engineer Joseph Totten, chief engineer of the United States Army from 1838 until 1864, “became an early convert to this style of formal fortification, with its protective bastions and moats, ravelins and terrepleins, counterscarps and covered ways.”<sup>148</sup> Totten was responsible for additional elements to Fort Wayne’s star fort in its Civil War years.

Among the many extant Third System coastal star forts built or modified by the United States are several notable examples: Fort Trumbull in New London, Connecticut (built by the United States, 1839–52), Fort Adams, Newport Rhode Island (updated by the United States, 1824–57), Fort Jefferson in Dry Tortugas, Florida (United States, 1846–75); and Fort Warren in Boston

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<sup>147</sup> Edward Smith, “The Third System of Coastal Fortification,” *minecreek.info* (blog), April 11, 2016, <https://www.minecreek.info/coastal-fortifications/the-third-system-of-coastal-fortification.html>.

<sup>148</sup> *Ibid.*

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Harbor (United States, 1834 –60). Several other star forts were erected or rebuilt and surfaced with masonry walls at about the same time. Fort Negley in Nashville, Tennessee, was an inland star fort specifically built to ward off Confederate forces in 1862. While uniformity of defensive features may have been specified, none of the forts built under the Third System were the same; they were individually designed according to the requirements of their locations, sites and necessities.

While the vast majority of forts built under this system were seacoast fortifications, three Great Lakes forts were also built or retrofitted to the prescribed standards. The Northern Frontier forts, funded by Congress in 1841 to protect against incursions from British Canada, were to form a chain that ran from the east coast of the United States to the Minnesota Territory. Fort Wayne in Detroit and Fort Ontario in Oswego, New York (originally British-built, but rebuilt by the United States between 1839 and 1844, and again between 1863 and 1872), appear to be the only star forts extant within this grouping. A third star fort, Fort Montgomery (1844 –1870) in Clinton County, New York, on the Canadian border, is only partially standing. Fort Ontario was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970, and the ruins of Fort Montgomery in were added to the National Register in 1977.<sup>149</sup> Like Fort Wayne, Fort Montgomery was also designed by Meigs and Totten.

Like Fort Wayne, other star forts built or rebuilt in the mid-nineteenth century, such as Fort Jefferson, and Fort Ontario, served as garrisons, prisons, hospitals and supply depots but never saw combat.<sup>150</sup> Today, most are interpreted as historic sites in park-like settings, considered, like Fort Wayne, to be community assets.

The star fort at Fort Wayne, Detroit, is a superb example of an intact mid-nineteenth century Third System star fort, and one of only two remaining of the Northern Frontier star forts. It is significant under Criterion C as it embodies the “distinctive characteristics” and “physical features or traits that commonly recur” in mid-nineteenth century star fort structures on military installations. It is also significant under Criterion A as a part of a program by the federal government funded in 1841 to secure its northern border with then-British Canada to build or rebuild forts at strategic locations along the Great Lakes waterways, and is one of only two still in its nearly original configuration.

### **Star Fort at Spring Wells (Criterion C, Architecture)**

The star fort at Fort Wayne, is a superb example of an intact mid-19th century Third System star fort, and one of only two remaining of the Northern Frontier star forts. It fits Criterion C as it embodies the “distinctive characteristics” and “physical features or traits that commonly recur” in mid-19th century star fort structures on military installations. It also fits Criterion A due to its

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<sup>149</sup> A second Fort Montgomery is located in Fort Montgomery, Highlands, New York, along the Hudson River. This fort was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1972.

<sup>150</sup> National Park Service, “Dry Tortugas, Fort Jefferson” (accessed July 24, 2017), <https://www.nps.gov/drto/learn/historyculture/fort-jefferson.htm> and Friends of Fort Ontario, “Historic Fort Ontario” (accessed July 24, 2017), <http://historicfortontario.com/see-history-alive/>.



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being a part of a program by the federal government funded in 1841 to secure its northern border with then-British Canada to build or rebuild forts at strategic locations along the Great Lakes waterways, and is one of only two still in its nearly original configuration.

Meigs and Totten, both individually and jointly, supervised the design and construction of several forts throughout the United States.

Meigs' first work was the repair of Fort Mifflin, along the Delaware River, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1841 Meigs was named superintending engineer for Forts Wayne, Porter, Niagara, and Ontario.<sup>151</sup> The latter three all located in New York. Fort Wayne appears to have been the westernmost of the fortifications designed by Meigs.

In the 1850s and 1860s Meigs' work included superintending the construction of Fort Madison in Annapolis, Maryland, and Fort Jefferson in what is now Dry Tortugas National Park, off the southern coast of Florida, and later Fort Pickens at Pensacola, Florida.<sup>152</sup>

### **Works Progress Administration (Criterion C, Architecture)**

In order for the WPA resources at Fort Wayne to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, they must meet at least one of the National Register evaluation criteria, and, also, they must retain "integrity" as defined by the National Park Service. *Nationwide Context, Inventory, and Heritage Assessment of Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps Resources on Department of Defense Installations*,<sup>153</sup> a study commissioned by the Department of Defense Legacy Resources Management Program and completed in 2009, provides guidelines for National Register of Historic Places evaluation of such resources located within current or former United States military installations.

First, *Nationwide Context* suggests, summarizing applicable National Register bulletins, "the property usually is compared with other examples of the property type that illustrate the selected historic context." This step is helpful, though not required when "the property distinctly has the characteristics necessary to represent the context." In the case of Fort Wayne, it is certainly not the only example of WPA military investment in the region, as Fort Custer (formerly Camp Custer) in Battle Creek, Michigan, Selfridge Air National Guard Base (formerly Selfridge Air Force Base) near Mount Clemens, Michigan, and Camp Perry on Lake Erie, near Port Clinton, Ohio, also contain stylistically similar buildings added by the WPA. Both of these installations, however, have seen their share of building demolitions as well as more recent construction, leaving Fort Wayne as arguably the most intact example in the area of military work by the WPA. At any rate, Fort Wayne clearly represents the style and character typical to military architecture funded by the WPA. Furthermore, the 1941 rehabilitation of the original barracks provides an outstanding example of WPA interventions applied to a building that was, in its

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<sup>151</sup> "General Montgomery Cunningham Meigs." *Scientific American*. January 30, 1892, p. 71.

<sup>152</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>153</sup> Goodfellow, et al.

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time, noted for its historic significance. A resource such as Fort Wayne would then be eligible, as *Nationwide Context* suggests, under Criterion A due to its “direct association with the emergency relief programs of the New Deal” and, “more broadly, improvements to military installations as part of preparation for entering World War II.” Also, it would fit Criterion C as it embodies the “distinctive characteristics” and “physical features or traits that commonly recur” in WPA properties.

Second, the resource in question must have “integrity.” In the case of the WPA resources at Fort Wayne, they clearly possess integrity of *location, materials, workmanship, and association*. *Setting* is expressed by the prominent location of Fort Wayne on a gentle slope overlooking the Detroit River and surrounded by uses of an industrial character, as the site was to be found during the period of significance. *Design* and *feeling* may be somewhat diminished—certainly, some building demolitions and the state of general disrepair in which some of the structures presently lie, the loss of Federal Art Project murals, and the loss of some of the trees planted by the WPA landscaping program have impacted the integrity of the site in this regard. Nonetheless, the important spatial relationships, building forms, and broad aesthetic character of the site remain intact due to a lack of incompatible new construction or alterations and due to the continued and compatible use and maintenance of the site as a museum and recreational facility.

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**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 # MI-27-4

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acres of Property** 96

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |              |                 |                   |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17T | Easting: 327282 | Northing: 4685450 |
| 2. Zone: 17T | Easting: 327447 | Northing: 4685132 |
| 3. Zone: 17T | Easting: 327519 | Northing: 4685079 |
| 4. Zone: 17T | Easting: 327060 | Northing: 4684508 |
| 5. Zone: 17T | Easting: 326952 | Northing: 4684591 |
| 6. Zone: 17T | Easting: 326781 | Northing: 4689422 |
| 7. Zone: 17T | Easting: 326784 | Northing: 4684963 |
| 8. Zone: 17T | Easting: 327076 | Northing: 4685346 |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

All that part of PCS 32 and 268 lying south of Jefferson Avenue and occupied by Fort Wayne.

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**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include the entire historic extent of the Fort Wayne Military Reservation, which includes the city-owned portion managed by the Detroit Department of Parks and Recreation as Historic Fort Wayne as well as the federal U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District Office facility. The historic district is bounded by the former Revere Copper and Brass plant, now part of the Port of Detroit, on the east, Detroit Edison property on the west, the Jefferson Avenue public right-of-way on the north, and the Detroit River to the south.

The prior National Register of Historic Places form 10-300 is unclear as to the precise boundaries of the district, identifying “a ninety-acre area,” and providing four geographic coordinates delineating a rectangle encompassing the area described above. The intent of this National Register registration form is to clarify, but not to expand or reduce, the boundaries of the previous National Register listing.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Timothy Boscarino, Deborah M. Goldstein, and James Conway  
organization: City of Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board (Boscarino and Goldstein), City of Detroit Department of Parks and Recreation (Conway)  
street & number: 2 Woodward Ave., Suite 218  
city or town: Detroit state: Michigan zip code: 48226  
e-mail: historic@detroitmi.gov  
telephone: 313-224-3487  
date: September 27, 2017

---

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)  
Name of Property

Wayne County, Michigan  
County and State

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log

Name of Property: Fort Wayne

City or Vicinity: Detroit

County: Wayne

State: Michigan

Photographer: Timothy Boscarino except where otherwise noted

Date photographed: February 2017 through September 2017 except where otherwise noted

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0001.tif  
Aerial photograph of entire site. Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, 2005.

2 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0002.tif  
View of Officers Row from Gibbs Street; Fort Wayne Mound in foreground.

3 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0003.tif  
Vehicle (west) entrance to star fort.

4 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0004.tif  
Demilune.

5 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0005.tif  
Star fort and Building 507 viewed from southwest outer embankment.

6 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0006.tif  
Star fort shaft.

7 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0007.tif  
View of top of star fort walls depicting gun emplacements.

8 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0008.tif  
Tunnel to sally port viewed from within star fort.



Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)  
Name of Property

Wayne County, Michigan  
County and State

9 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0009.tif  
Powder Magazine.

10 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0010.tif  
Casemate interior.

11 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0011.tif  
Interior of tunnel to sally port.

12 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0012.tif  
Building 507.

13 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0013.tif  
Building 507.

14 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0014.tif  
Parade Ground.

15 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0015.tif  
Boat Slip with Boat Hoist.

16 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0016.tif  
Warehouses 2A, 2B, and 2C.

17 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0017.tif  
Building 104.

18 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0018.tif  
Building 105.

19 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0019.tif  
Building 110.

20 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0020.tif  
Building 207.

21 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0021.tif  
Building 205.

22 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0022.tif  
Building 210.

23 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0023.tif  
Building 222.

Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)  
Name of Property

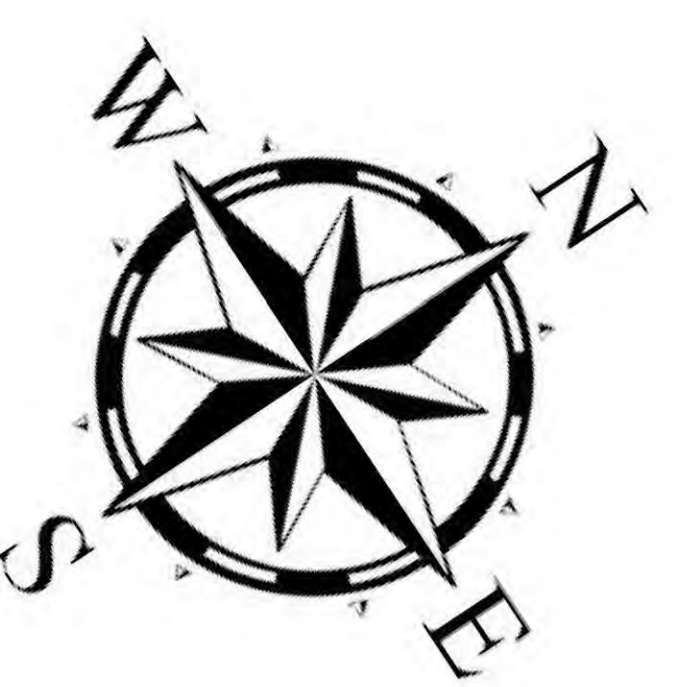
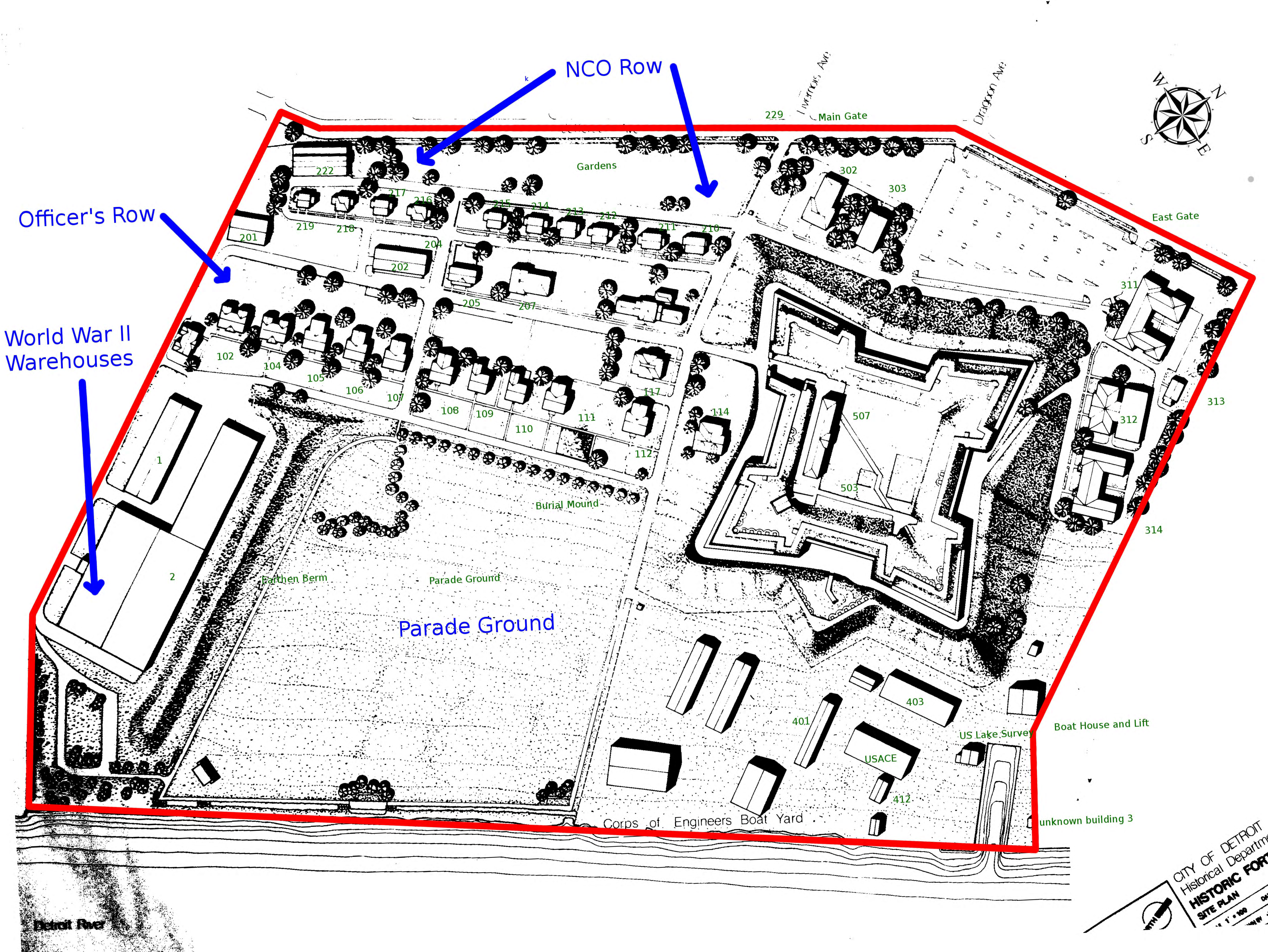
Wayne County, Michigan  
County and State

24 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0024.tif  
Building 312.

25 of 25 . MI\_Wayne County\_Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation)\_0025.tif  
Berm (non-contributing), viewed from Gibbs Street.

**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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

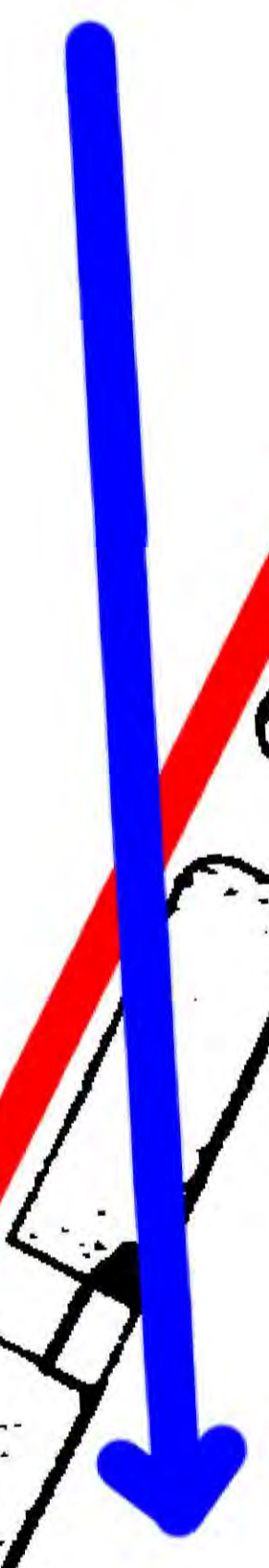
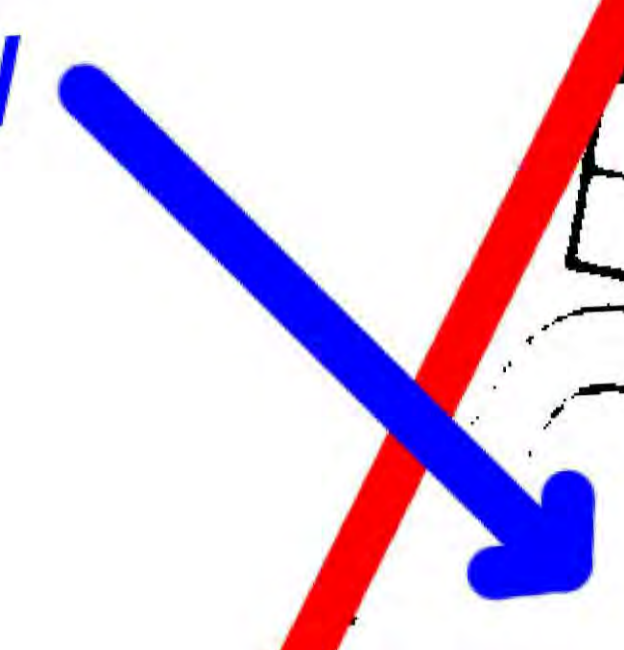


NCO Row

Officer's Row

World War II  
Warehouses

Parade Ground



229 Main Gate

Gardens

East Gate

201

219

218

222

202

204

205

207

102

104

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

112

Burial Mound

Parthen Berm

Parade Ground

114

507

503

311

312

313

314

1

2

401

403

USACE

412

US Lake Survey

Boat House and Lift

Corps of Engineers Boat Yard

unknown building 3

Detroit River


CITY OF DETROIT  
Historical Department  
**HISTORIC FOR**  
SITE PLAN  
1" = 100'




National Register of  
Historic Places


**Fort Wayne**

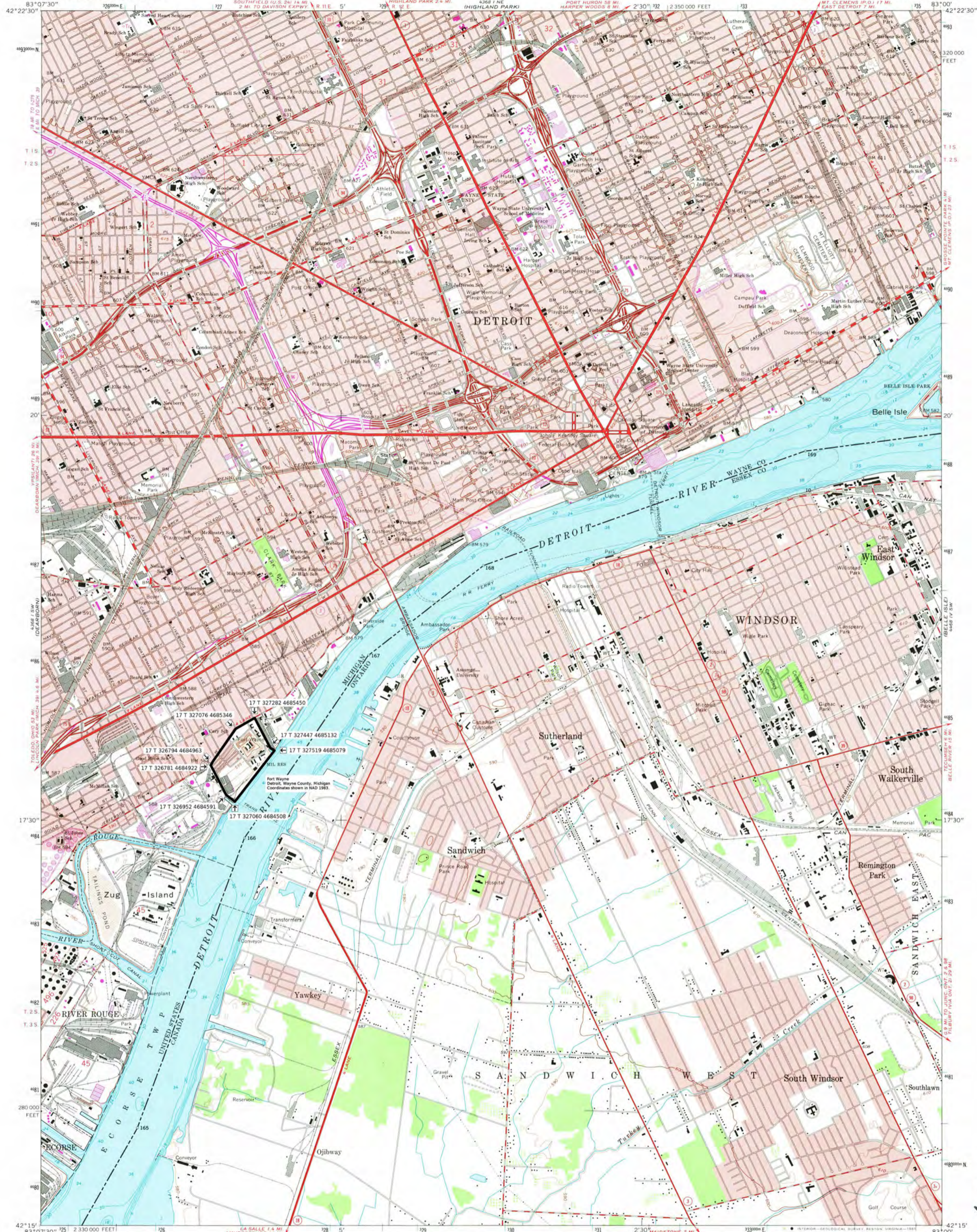
Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

 District Boundary

**Contributing resources are labeled in bold.**  
Noncontributing resources are labeled in italics.

100 feet 

 North



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with State of Michigan agencies  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, U. S. Lake Survey, and City of Detroit  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
Topography by planimetric surveys 1938. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1966-67. Field checked 1963  
Canadian portion copied in part from Windsor quadrangle (1:25 000) 1960, Army Survey Establishment, R. C. E.  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from U. S. Lake Survey Charts 41 and 412 (1966). This information is not intended for navigational purposes.  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Michigan coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

UTM GRID AND 1980 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 7 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

SCALE 1:24 000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET IN THE UNITED STATES AND 10 FEET IN CANADA  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS RIVER SURFACE AT FOLLOWING STAGES: LAKE ST. CLAIR-571.7 AND LAKE ERIE-568.6  
THE U.S. PORTION OF THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 AND BY THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DIVISION MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1973 and 1978. Map edited 1980. This information not field checked. Canadian portion not revised

DETROIT, MICH.—ONT.  
N4215—W8300/7.5  
1968  
PHOTOREVISED 1973 AND 1980  
DMA 4368 I SE—SERIES 7862

USGS  
Historical File  
National Mapping Div.  
MAR 25 1981  
2150











1845













MAIN  
ENTRANCE

POWDER  
MAGAZINE

**POWDER MAGAZINE**  
This structure was built in 1880 and was used to store powder for the mountain's cannons. It is one of the few remaining structures from the mountain's military history.































The Museum of the  
Tuskegee Airmen

MUSEUM  
OF THE  
TUSKEGEE  
ARMEN

Entrance

EXIT

610 B



222



Historic Fort  
Visitor's Center  
Entrance ->  
Visitor Parking

National War Relics  
March 1874



← Riverview Promenade  
← Picnic Area  
Guard House →  
NCO Row →

STOP

STOP

National Register of Historic Places  
Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

E. M. LAITALA  
Chairman

CARL T. JOHNSON

ROBERT C. McLAUGHLIN

AUGUST SCHOLLE

HARRY H. WHITELEY



WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48926

RALPH A. MAC MULLAN, Director

March 2, 1971

Dr. William J. Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
801 19th Street, N. W., Room 618  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Enclosed are sixteen (16) sets of nomination forms for the National Register of Historic Sites, as follows:

1. Fort Wayne, Wayne County.
2. A. P. Gardner Mansion, Calhoun County.
3. Pewabic Pottery, Wayne County.
4. Mathew Geary House, Mackinac County.
5. Grace Church, Hillsdale County.
6. Lasanen Site, Mackinac County.
7. Holtz Site, Antrim County.
8. Eaton County Courthouse, Eaton County.
9. SS. Peter and Paul Church, Wayne County.
10. Chippewa Hill, Gogebic County.
11. Hall-Fowler Memorial Memorial Library, Ionia County
12. Northville Historic District, Wayne County.
13. Summer Island Site, Delta County.
14. Bay Furnace, Alger County.

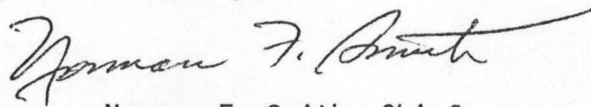


March 2, 1971

15. Clinton - Kalamazoo Canal, Macomb County.
16. Ann Arbor Railroad Station, Livingston County.

These sites have been approved by the Historic Preservation Advisory Council, and are herewith submitted for nomination to the National Register of Historic Sites by Dr. Ralph MacMullan, the State Liaison Officer.

Sincerely,



Norman F. Smith, Chief  
Office of Planning Services  
and  
Chairman, Historic Preservation  
Task Force

NFS:JAB:glc

Enc.

cc: D. Chaput  
C. Cleland



Ben,

4/9/71

This is a special request from Solon Weeks, (a personal friend). They want to buy the bldg. from GSA as surplus property, but feel their application will be strengthened if the property is already on the  
over

Register.

I told him  
I'd expedite  
things. The  
application is  
slated to go to  
GSA within  
two weeks.

Betsy

FOLLOW-UP SLIP

To: Staff

Date April 13, 1971

Discussed questions raised on attached control sheet with Jim Bryant in Michigan.

First, on the matter of photos. These are 1934 but he assures me they are representative of present appearance.

Second, matter of acreage: the land inside the earthworks is 15 to 20 acres. But all indications are that the Detroit Historical Museum will succeed in obtaining the rest of the land for a landscape restoration. ~~Ben asks~~ Ben asks about historical qualities of the outlying area: according to Bryant, it contains a number of buildings, officers qtrs, stable, jail, guardhouse, of some significance, (plus some scattered World War II tempos that they'll eliminate as they restore.)

Suggest this is good enough substantiation ~~is~~ for listing the whole 90 acres. Betsy, Sally, Ben : please sign off if O.K. now. Al already feels O.K.

↓  
*Some hurry on this, so please nudge person ahead of you!*

NOT TO BE FILED

Signature

Pete

DI-17

**SPECIAL**

*see blue note attached*

STATE OF MICHIGAN

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

E. M. LAITALA  
Chairman

CARL T. JOHNSON

ROBERT C. McLAUGHLIN

AUGUST SCHOLLE

HARRY H. WHITELEY



WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN, Governor

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48926

RALPH A. MAC MULLAN, Director

April 19, 1971

Mr. Peter Herrick  
National Park Service  
801 19th Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Herrick:

Enclosed is a three-dimensional drawing of Fort Wayne in Detroit which may give you some additional information concerning this nomination to the National Register, as per our telephone conversation of last week.

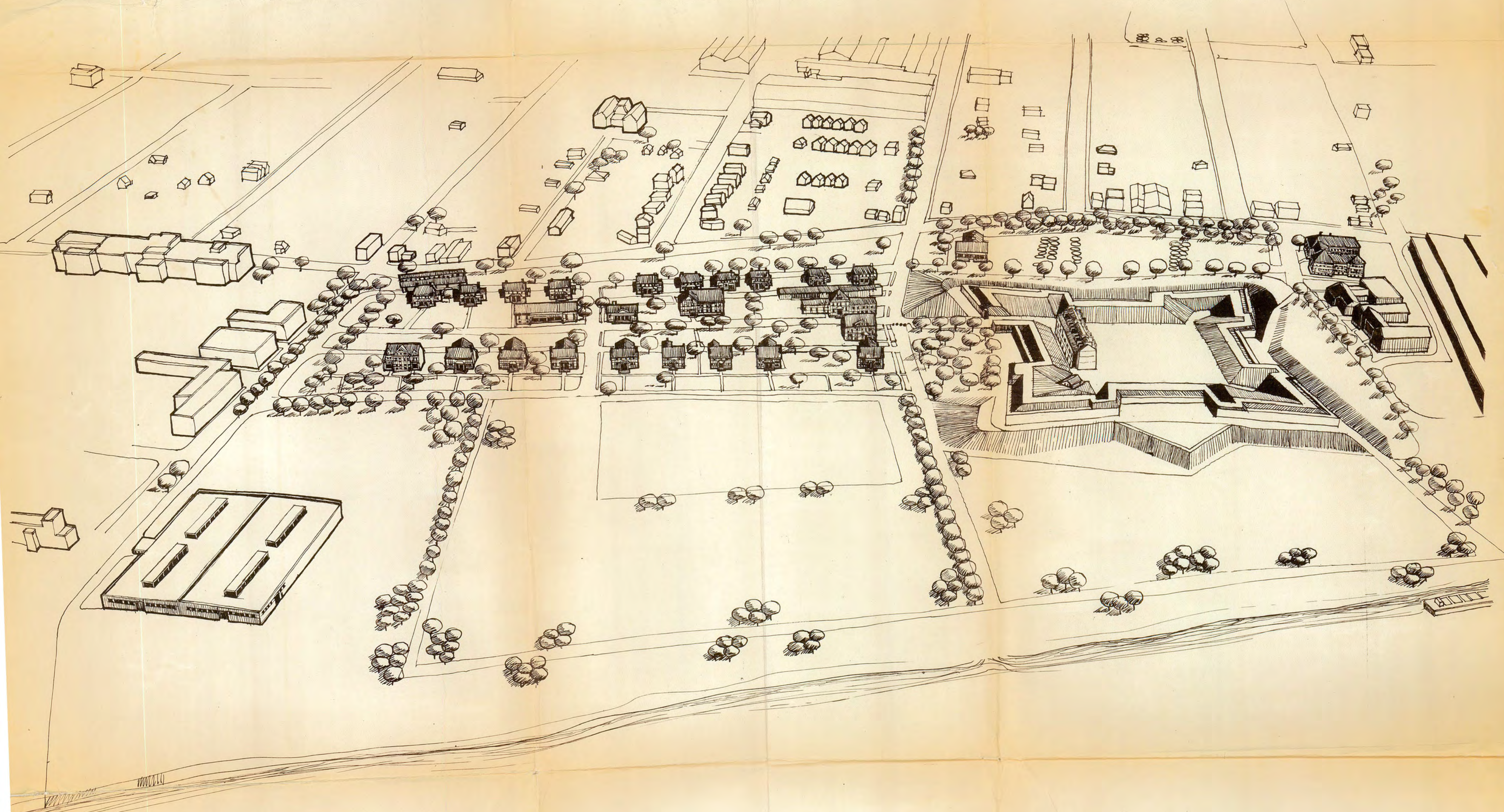
Sincerely,

*James A. Bryant*  
(glc)

James A. Bryant  
Historic Preservation  
Coordinator  
Office of Planning Services

JAB:glc  
Enc.





Fort Wayne  
Detroit

*Alvick  
5/5/71*

MAY 10 1971

130-HR

Mr. Ralph A. MacMullen  
Director  
Department of Natural Resources  
Stevens T. Mason Building  
Lansing, Michigan 48926

Dear Mr. MacMullen:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Philip A. Hart and Robert P. Griffin and the appropriate Representatives are being informed. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed for each of the property owners. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed)

Director

Enclosures

MAY 6 1971

Entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

cc:  
HR  
FDHerrick:sem 5/4/71 BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR



un/17/ten .09

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

MICHIGAN

Hall-Powder Memorial Library

Ionia County  
Ionia, Michigan

Grace Episcopal Church

Hilledale County  
Jonesville, Michigan

Ann Arbor Railway Station

Livingston County  
Howell, Michigan

Lasenen Site

Mackinac County  
St. Ignace, Michigan

Gardner House Museum

Calhoun County  
Albion, Michigan

Geary (Mathew) House

Mackinac County  
Mackinac Island, Michigan

Grand Trunk Railway Station

Shiawassee County  
Durand, Michigan

Fort Wayne

Wayne County  
Detroit, Michigan

Do not film

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

MICHIGAN

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Ionia County<br>Ionia, Michigan              | Hall-Porter Memorial Library |
| Hillsdale County<br>Jonesville, Michigan     | Grace Episcopal Church       |
| Ipswich County<br>Howell, Michigan           | Ann Arbor Railway Station    |
| Mechanic County<br>St. Ignace, Michigan      | Lassans Site                 |
| Calhoun County<br>Albion, Michigan           | Garber House Museum          |
| Mechanic County<br>Mechanic Island, Michigan | Geary (Webb) House           |
| Eaton County<br>Durand, Michigan             | Grand Trunk Railway Station  |
| Wayne County<br>Detroit, Michigan            | Ford Wayne                   |

Fort Wayne  
Wayne Mi.

Herrick  
5/5/71

MAY 10 1971

130-111

Hon. Charles E. Chamberlain  
Hon. John D. Dingell  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Hon. Gerald R. Ford  
Hon. Edward Hutchinson  
Hon. Marvin L. Esch  
Hon. Philip E. Ruppe  
Hon. Garry Brown

Hon. Robert P. Griffin  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

BASIC FILE REMAINED  
IN FILE

5/4/71

HR FDHerrick:sam

Also notified:  
Director, Northeast  
Region

Hon. Philip A. Hart  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Hart:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Michigan and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator Robert F. Griffin and the appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. Ralph A. MacMullan, Director, Department of Natural Resources, Stevens T. Mason Building, Lansing, Michigan 48926, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Director

Enclosures

Entered in the National Register

MAY 6 1971

cc: Mr. Ralph A. MacMullan, Director, Department of Natural Resources,  
Stevens T. Mason Building, Lansing, Michigan 48926

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

*Property Management and Disposal Service*

Washington, D.C. 20405



JUN 15 1971

Mr. G. Douglas Hofe, Jr.  
Director, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Hofe:

Enclosed is an application from the city of Detroit to acquire 31 acres of land improved with 40 buildings at the Fort Wayne Military Reservation, Detroit, Michigan, for historic monument purposes without monetary consideration in accordance with section 13(h) of the Surplus Property Act of 1944 as continued in effect by the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949.

It is requested that you have the necessary investigation made and advise us of your determination as to the suitability and desirability of the property for use as proposed by the city of Detroit. A copy of the application has been forwarded to the Regional Office of the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation at Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Richard W. Austin

RICHARD W. AUSTIN  
Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Real Property

Enclosure



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L2225

JUN 30 1971

## Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service

From: Assistant Director for Recreation Planning  
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation

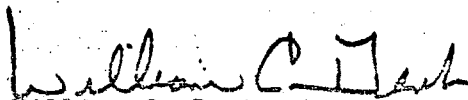
Subject: Surplus Property--Historic Monument Application, Fort  
Wayne Military Reservation, Detroit, Michigan (D-Mich-559)

Enclosed herewith are a request and application from the General Services Administration for a report on the suitability and desirability of 30.994 acres of the subject property for historic monument purposes. The city of Detroit desires to acquire the property for public use as a historic monument without monetary consideration pursuant to the Surplus Property Act of 1944, as amended. This property adjoins the Old Fort area conveyed in 1949 to the city for historic monument purposes.

It is requested that you review the application and advise us of the findings of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Buildings, and Monuments as to the suitability and desirability of the property for the use proposed by the city. This property is part of a 60.41-acre tract inspected and determined suitable and desirable for historic monument purposes in 1967 by the National Park Service in conformity with the recommendation of the Advisory Board. Because of interim use requirements, the transfer was not consummated by the General Services Administration. Therefore, we suggest that your determination might be documented by a memorandum report without a formal field investigation.

Please provide estimates of completion date and costs incurred in the preparation of the report. Upon its completion, the Bureau's Division of Accounting Operations should be billed for any necessary expenses incurred. Work Order No. 35.4 WO 279.4 has been assigned to this request for cost accounting purposes.

We will be happy to provide any additional information you may need.

  
William C. Dent

Enclosures 2

LI427-KH

JUL 13 1971

Memorandum

To: Director, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation  
Through: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife  
and Parks

From: Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Subject: Surplus Property--Historic Monument Application, Fort  
Wayne Military Reservation, Detroit, Michigan (D-Mich-559)

We wish to acknowledge the memorandum of June 30 from Mr. William C. Dent, Assistant Director for Recreation Planning, relating to the application of the city of Detroit for 30.994 acres of the subject property for historic monument purposes.

Pursuant to Sec. 13(h) of the Surplus Property Act of 1944, as amended, we hope to complete action on this case at an early date. Since this property is part of a larger tract previously inspected in 1957, and is now on the National Register of Historic Places, the usual field investigation is not considered necessary. Therefore, there will be no expenses incurred for reimbursement by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

However, we are bringing this matter to the attention of the Committee on the Disposition of Surplus Historical Properties of the Secretary of the Interior's Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments. We will advise you as to their recommendation concerning the suitability of conveyance of this portion of the property for historic monument use.

/S/ Ernest Allen Connally

Ernest Allen Connally

cc:  
FW  
Director, Northeast Region w/c inc.

1  
HR-Dr. Murtagh w/c Incoming  
HH-Surplus Property Files  
HNP-Miss Junkin  
NHA-Mr. Myers

FNP:DLJunkin/dj 7/9/71

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HH  
SURPLUS PROPERTY  
HP-Michigan-Fort Wayne Military  
Reservation



**CITY OF DETROIT**

ROMAN S. GRIBBS, Mayor

DETROIT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM, DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM, FORT WAYNE MILITARY MUSEUM  
5401 WOODWARD AVENUE, DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202  
(313) 321-1701

May 12, 1972

Dr. Sidney Bradford  
National Park Service  
Plans and Grants  
1100 L Street, N.W.  
Room 3317-B  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Dr. Bradford:

This letter is in response to your recent telephone call to Jim Bryant. Enclosed is an aerial photograph of the Fort Wayne Military Reservation in Detroit, which I hope will be sufficient for your purposes.

We appreciate your interest in Fort Wayne and are hopeful that the National Park Service will grant our request for matching funds to assist in its restoration. We, of course, are anxious to accomplish this monumental task in time for the Bicentennial as we would like to make Historic Fort Wayne a principal historical focal point for the occasion. Any help, financial or otherwise, you can give us both now and in the future would be greatly appreciated.

For example, it would assist us greatly in our planning if you could send us literature on the Military fortifications now under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, so that we might benefit from their experience in interpreting such historic sites.

Also, we would be interested in knowing if the National Park Service has a consultant, who could meet with us and assist us in identifying long-range interpretive possibilities for the entire Fort complex.

I will look forward to hearing from you in this regard.

Sincerely,

Solan W. Weeks  
Museums Director

SWW:hw





MICHIGAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
HISTORIC SITE SURVEY

*Fort Wayne*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| STATE                                       |        |
| Michigan                                    |        |
| COUNTY                                      |        |
| Wayne                                       |        |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY                            |        |
| ENTRY NUMBER                                | DATE   |
| 7157-36-0033                                | 5/6/71 |
| RECEIVED<br>MAY 8 1971<br>NATIONAL REGISTER |        |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|  |      |            |      |
|--|------|------------|------|
| 1. NAME                                      |      |            |      |
| COMMON:                                      |      | Fort Wayne |      |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:                             |      | Fort Wayne |      |
| 2. LOCATION                                  |      |            |      |
| STREET AND NUMBER:                           |      |            |      |
| 6053 West Jefferson Avenue                   |      |            |      |
| CITY OR TOWN:                                |      |            |      |
| Detroit                                      |      |            |      |
| STATE:                                       | CODE | COUNTY:    | CODE |
| Michigan                                     | 26   | Wayne      | 163  |
| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE                           |      |            |      |
| PHOTO CREDIT: Michigan Historical Commission |      |            |      |
| DATE OF PHOTO: circa 1934                    |      |            |      |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT:                           |      |            |      |
| Michigan Historical Commission               |      |            |      |
| 4. IDENTIFICATION                            |      |            |      |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.               |      |            |      |
| Aerial view of the fort.                     |      |            |      |

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

J. Ingle 6/5/72

Wayne Co.  
Mich.

H34-HR

June 5, 1972

Mr. Solan W. Weeks  
Museums Director  
Detroit Historical Commission  
5401 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48202

Dear Mr. Weeks:

Thank you for your letter of May 12 to Dr. Bradford regarding proposed work on Fort Wayne Military Reservation.

In view of the emergency nature of your grant request, we are doing our best to expedite it.

We are also enclosing as you requested some samples of literature used for the interpretation of forts under National Park Service jurisdiction. Should you desire more information on techniques of interpretation we suggest that you write to: Director, Harpers Ferry Center, National Park Service, Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425.

As for consultation on long range interpretive opportunities, we suggest you call Mr. Frank Barnes (215/597-7055) at the Northeast Regional Office, National Park Service, 143 South Third Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106 to see what the possibilities are for obtaining such assistance. If they can possibly do so, I am sure they will be glad to help you.

Sincerely yours,

[[SIGNED]]

John Ingle  
Architect  
Grants Program

Enclosures

cc:  
Director, Northeast Region  
Director, HFC w/c inc.  
I-Mr. Winge  
HR w/c inc.

JBIngle:mb:6/5/72

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

ROUTING SLIP - NATIONAL REGISTER

| <u>F.Y.I.</u>           | <u>ACTION</u>      | <u>FILE</u> | <u>CIRCULATE</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|
| ① Dr. Murtagh           | <i>[Signature]</i> |             | Sally Marusin    |
| Dr. Bradford            |                    |             | Peter Herrick    |
| Mr. Cattnach            |                    |             | Marguerite Mott  |
| Mr. Mehring             |                    |             | Collette Miller  |
| Mr. Mullen              |                    |             | Naydine Fulton   |
| ② <del>Mr. Levy</del>   | <i>[Signature]</i> |             | Dollie White     |
| <del>Mr. Chambers</del> | <i>[Signature]</i> |             | Karna Laird      |
| Betsy Dippel            |                    |             | _____            |

REMARKS:

*Anybody else?*

*Naydine: If Fran Wayne is on the NR file under area. B.L.*

**FORT WAYNE (26-72-00065-00).** *Detroit, Wayne Co.* County ownership. A 19th century fort built to provide protection against a British attack from Canada. Purchase of restoration materials. \$7,005.00.

**FORT WAYNE (26-72-00066-00).** See above. Emergency purchase of restoration materials. \$5,000.00.

**NOTIFICATION OF GRANT-IN-AID ACTION**

Do Not  
Use  
This  
Space

1. STATE APPLICATION IDENTIFIER  
4132/1

2. (Reserved for use by State central information reception agency)

3. GRANTOR: a. Federal agency  
Department of the Interior

b. Organizational unit  
National Park Service

c. Administering office - (1) Name  
Division of Grants

(2) Address - Street or P.O. Box  
18th and C Streets NW. City Washington State DC Zip Code 20240

4. FEDERAL AGENCY GRANT IDENTIFIER: a. Code 26-74-00121-00 b. Title Fort Wayne Development (Bldg. 205-Guard House)

c. Purpose This 1889 building was the original Guard House for Fort Wayne. General restoration work will be undertaken, including the repair & painting of exterior woodwork, installation of exterior doors, brick repair work & restoration of porch & chimney.

5. GRANTEE: a. Name  
Michigan Dr. Martha Bigelow, Dir., Michigan History Division

b. Address - Street or P.O. Box  
Department of State City Lansing State Michigan Zip Code 48918

6. GRANTEE TYPE (Check only the single most applicable box)

|  |   |                                    |                                  |   |  |  |  |                                   |
|--|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| a. State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | b. Inter-state <input type="checkbox"/> | c. County <input type="checkbox"/> | d. City <input type="checkbox"/> | e. School district <input type="checkbox"/> | f. Special unit <input type="checkbox"/> | g. Community action <input type="checkbox"/> | h. Sponsored organization <input type="checkbox"/> | i. Other <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|

|                             |                            |                            |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7. APPLICATION RECEIPT DATE | 8. ACTION DATE             | 9. EFFECTIVE STARTING DATE | 10. ENDING DATE            |
| Year Month Day<br>75 02 24  | Year Month Day<br>75 03 31 | Year Month Day<br>75 03 31 | Year Month Day<br>78 03 30 |

11. TYPE OF ACTION (Check as many boxes as apply to this action)

|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| a. New grant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | b. Continuation grant <input type="checkbox"/> | c. Supplemental grant (identify agency in item 16) <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Change in existing grant   |
|  |  |   | (1) Increase in duration <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Decrease in duration <input type="checkbox"/> (3) Cancellation <input type="checkbox"/> (4) Increase(\$) <input type="checkbox"/> (5) Decrease(\$) <input type="checkbox"/> |

12. AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION

|                                 |                     |                     |             |             |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|
| a. Federal - (1) basic \$ 7,500 | (2) Supplemental \$ | b. State \$ 15,050* | c. Local \$ | d. Other \$ |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|

13. CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (if none, clarify in item 16)

|                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. Program Number 15.904 | b. Supplemental Program Number |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|

14. AUTHORIZATION

|   |                         |               |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|
| a. Federal Budget Accounts 10-58-1040-0-1-405 |                         |               |
| b. Public Laws                                | PL Title Sec.<br>89 665 | PL Title Sec. |
| c. U.S Code 16 U.S.C. 470                     |                         |               |

15. FACILITY LOCATION: (For facility grant actions only)

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| a. City Detroit | b. County Wayne |
|-----------------|-----------------|

16. REMARKS  
\*City of Detroit; general fund applied to Detroit Historical Museum

Wayne

71000425

Fort Wayne

Mich

PROPERTY

STATE

REGISTER NUMBER

DATE OF RECD. 3/8/71 YES

DATA SHEET ✓

PROG. NO. ✓

LOG. NO. ✓

MAP NO. ✓

FILE NO. ✓

SEARCHED ✓

INDEXED 3/11/71

NO. 2

NUMBER 2

71.5.26.0033 5/6/71

5/21/71

see orange slip attached  
OK Merrick 4/14/71  
Merrick 4/6/71

Nomination includes a lot of land lying outside area of primary significance. This is because they plan for an eventual landscape restoration. Once this restoration is accomplished, the nominated boundaries might cover

I am in favor of the landscaping proposal, but think we need to know the historical quality of the outlying area. Because of the urgency I would favor use of the telephone. Pete R. 4/2/71

RESTORATION

OK 4/14/71

OK now 4/14/71  
S. Mansour

Fort Wayne inside earthwork or. Best of it is all the questions. Again, can we go on an assumption that they will succeed in getting the property & developing it? 4/8/71

OK - possession of surroundings seems important to me to restore feel to original aspect. If time is of the essence, suggest we put it on. 4-13-71

OK Wm 4/19/71

I think the acreage business should be considered carefully. Also, recent photos or assurance that no changes have occurred should be required.

otherwise ok 4/19/71  
ok 4/14/71

6/1/71 7/6/71



\* All OK following receipt of info on orange memo attached 4/14/71

WORKING NUMBER

3.8.71.16

Do not film

Very well justified, but at this time I think we need a better substantiation of the significance of the outlying area before we list it. OR we could just list the area within the dry moat and await further developments on the outlying area. Comments. (We may want to have a conference on this.) Recent photos needed, too.

MICHIGAN ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Friday, October 4, 2019

Ms. Joy Beasley, Keeper  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed discs contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation), Detroit, Wayne, Michigan**. This property is being submitted for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This nomination is a  New Submission  Resubmission  Additional Documentation  Removal.

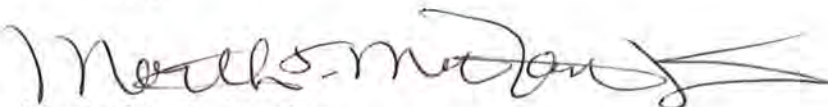
- 1 Signed National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (Disc 1)
- 2 Locational maps (Disc 1, incl. with nomination form)
- 2 Sketch map(s) / figures(s) / exhibits(s) (Disc 1, incl. with nomination form)
- 3 Pieces of correspondence (Disc 1)
- 25 Digital photographs (Disc 2)
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed.
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67.
- The enclosed owner objections constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: Note correspondence from USACE FPO.

Questions concerning this nomination should be addressed to Todd A. Walsh, National Register Coordinator, at (517) 373-1979 or [walsht@michigan.gov](mailto:walsht@michigan.gov).

Sincerely yours,



Martha MacFarlane-Faes  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE





STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
LANSING

GARY HEIDEL  
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

Gail C. Celmer, Deputy Federal Preservation Officer  
United States Army Corps of Engineers  
Northwestern Division  
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 400  
Portland, Oregon 97232

Dear Ms. Celmer,

According to National Register of Historic Places federal regulations (36 CFR Part 60.10), we are forwarding to you for your review and comment a copy of the Fort Wayne (Additional Documentation) National Register nomination.

The boundaries of this nomination include resources under the control of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, including:

- Differential Global Positioning System Antenna,
- Oil Storage Building (Building T-19),
- United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District Office (Building 414),
- Stable/Warehouse/Emergency Operations Office (Building 412); Black Street (United States Army Corps of Engineers Detroit Area Office)
- Storage Building (Building 407)
- United States Lake Survey Building/Weld Shop and Storage Building (Building 405)
- Boat Shed and Boat Hoist (Building 404)
- Post Garage/Warehouse/Mechanical and Machine Repair Building (Building 403)
- Stable/Warehouse/Electronic and Survey Building (Building 401)

The nomination provides **additional documentation** to the original Fort Wayne nomination, which was approved by the Keeper of the National Register in 1971 (NRHP# 71000425). A copy of the original nomination is included for your reference.

This additional documentation nomination provides a complete inventory of all buildings, structures, and other features within the existing boundaries of the listed property, and include, in addition to the nomination form, new photographic documentation and mapping. This "additional documentation" nomination also

identifies specific and additional areas of significance, expands the period of significance to fully capture the historical military use of the property, and provides additional historical information about the use of the site, development of the fort, and the various eras for which the fort is significant.

After you have reviewed the nomination, please sign the form as the Commenting Official in the respective box in Section 3 of the attached form. We ask that you include the signed cover pages with the other materials marked NPS and forward that package to the Keeper of the National Register at the address below:

Ms. Joy Beasley, Keeper  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, DC 20240

A complete, digital copy of the nomination is included on a DVD for your reference.

If you have any questions about this nomination, please contact Todd A. Walsh, National Register Coordinator, at [WalshT@michigan.gov](mailto:WalshT@michigan.gov) or by telephone at (517) 373-1979.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Conway  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Michigan State Historic Preservation Office

## Walsh, Todd (MSHDA)

---

**From:** Sedlacek, Curtis H CIV USARMY CELRE (USA) <Curtis.H.Sedlacek@usace.army.mil>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2019 10:16 AM  
**To:** Walsh, Todd (MSHDA)  
**Cc:** Grennell, Brian (MSHDA); Uhlarik, Charles A CIV USARMY CELRE (USA)  
**Subject:** Historic Fort Wayne National Register Update

**Categories:** NR

Hey Todd, I spoke with our HQ about the Historic Fort Wayne National Register update, in particular Nancy Brighton our Deputy Federal Preservation Officer.

While the proposed update to the Historic Fort Wayne National Register form does include information about the Detroit Area Office, the update will not have any impact on how the Corps of Engineers manages the Detroit Area Office.

The Corps will continue to maintain and operate the Detroit Area Office, which is listed on the National Register separately from Historic Fort Wayne, in accordance with the Cultural Resources Management plan we have with your office.

Additionally, it would take significant time for the Corps to conduct a full review of the update including our the entire chain of command from the District, to Division, to HQ and I understand the City of Detroit is anxious to move ahead.

Given the information above, the Detroit District will not be signing the proposed update.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the phone numbers listed below.

Thank you,

Curtis Sedlacek  
District Archeologist and Tribal Liaison US Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District  
477 Michigan Avenue, 7th Floor  
Detroit, MI 48226  
Office: (313) 226-3510  
Cell: (313) 588-0148  
Curtis.h.sedlacek@usace.army.mil

**Certified Local Government  
National Register Nomination Review Report**

Michigan State Historic Preservation Office  
Michigan State Housing Development Authority

- \* **Complete and return to:** National Register Coordinator, Michigan State Historic Preservation
- \* Office, Michigan State Housing Development Authority, 735 East Michigan Avenue, PO Box
- \* 30044, Lansing, Michigan 48909

**Name of Property:** Fort Wayne (Additional Information)  
**Address:** 6325 West Jefferson Avenue  
**Owner:** multiple  
**Date Complete Nomination Approved by the SHPO:** n/a (see cover letter)

\*\*\*\*\*

The Certified Local Government (CLG) agrees with the SHPO to expedite the review period for this nomination.

YES \_\_\_\_\_ (date of agreement) \_\_\_\_\_

NO

*Victoria Olivier*

9/14/17

Signature of CLG Commission Chairperson

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Elected Chief Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\*\*\*\*\*

Date(s) of commission meeting(s) when the nomination was reviewed: *SEPTEMBER 14, 2017*

Date of written notice to property owner of commission meeting: *SEPTEMBER 09, 2017*

The CLG provided the following opportunities for public participation in the review of this nomination:

Were any written comments received by the CLG? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Was the nomination form distributed to CLG commission members? YES  NO \_\_\_\_\_

Was a site visit made to the property by CLG commission members? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO   
If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_

*Individual Board Members VISITED THE SITE ON THEIR OWN.*

Did the CLG seek assistance of the SHPO in evaluating the eligibility of this property for the National Register? YES  NO

VERIFICATION of Professional Qualifications of Commission in accordance with 36 CFR 61, Appendix 1, of Michigan's Certified Local Government Program.

List those commission members who meet the 36 CFR 61 qualifications required to review this type of resource.

**Commission Member**

**Professional Qualifications**

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. MELANIE BAZIL         | ARCHIVIST / HISTORIAN     |
| 2. KEITH DYE             | PROFESSOR OF HISTORY UOFM |
| 3. LOUIS J. FISHER       | ARCHITECT                 |
| 4. VICTORIA-BYND OLIVIER | HISTORIC PRESERVATIONIST  |
| 5. KARI SMITH            | HISTORIC PRESERVATIONIST  |
| 6. _____                 |                           |
| 7. _____                 |                           |

Was an outside consultant used? YES  NO

If yes, provide the name and list the 36 CFR 61 qualifications the person meets:

TIM BOSCARINO, MASTER HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The CLG Commission finds that the property meets the following National Register criteria of significance: A, C, D

The CLG Commission finds that the property meets the National Register standards of integrity, YES  NO

Recommendation of CLG Commission:

APPROVAL

DENIAL  (specify reasons on a separate sheet of paper)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Chief Elected Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of transmittal of this report to the SHPO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of receipt of this report by the SHPO

STATE OF MICHIGAN TRANSMITTAL

TO:

1 Alexis Abernathy

2 NRHP/NPS

3

4 Fort Wayne Resend

FOR ACTION AS INDICATED

- |                                      |  |   |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE   | <input type="checkbox"/> REPLY—MY SIGNATURE    | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FORWARD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL    | <input type="checkbox"/> REPLY—COPY TO ME      | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACTION      | <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE SUMMARIZE      | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENTS    | <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE INVESTIGATE    | <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE PHONE ME  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION | <input type="checkbox"/> FORWARDED PER REQUEST | <input type="checkbox"/> PLEASE SEE ME    |

REMARKS:

Hi Alexis, Sorry about the disc.  
This disc should be ok.  
Please let me know if  
you need anything else.

FROM

Todd Walsh NPS/PO

DATE

10/11/19

MICHIGAN ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Friday, October 4, 2019

Ms. Joy Beasley, Keeper  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228  
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- 25 Digital photographs (Disc 2)
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed.
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67.
- The enclosed owner objections constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: Note correspondence from USACE FPO.

Questions concerning this nomination should be addressed to Todd A. Walsh, National Register Coordinator, at (517) 373-1979 or [walsht@michigan.gov](mailto:walsht@michigan.gov).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martha MacFarlane-Faes".

Martha MacFarlane-Faes  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Additional Documentation

Property Name: Fort Wayne

Multiple Name: \_\_\_\_\_

State & County: MICHIGAN, Wayne

Date Received: 10/9/2019      Date of Pending List: 10/25/2019      Date of 16th Day: 11/12/2019      Date of 45th Day: 11/25/2019      Date of Weekly List: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference number: AD71000425

Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason For Review:

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal       | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL            | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape       | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver       | <input type="checkbox"/> National        | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other        | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG             |   |

X Accept       Return       Reject      10/31/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The AD provides a much more comprehensive description of the property, accounts for all resources on the property, expands the period of significance to include locally significant activities in the Military context and evaluates the later buildings and structures under C in their own context.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept Additional Documentation

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:      see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : **Yes**

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.