

PH0001333

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.12.10.0019	DATE 12/16/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Pea Patch Island in the Delaware River

CITY OR TOWN:
Off Delaware City

STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: New Castle	CODE 003
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3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Delaware

STREET AND NUMBER:
Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control, Division of Parks, Recreation & Forestry

CITY OR TOWN: Dover	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Secretary of State

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Dover	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Delaware Heritage Buildings and Areas in New Castle County

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Greater Wilmington Development Council, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
300 Delaware Avenue, Suite 1320

CITY OR TOWN: Wilmington	STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

71.12.10.0019
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Delaware is situated on Pea Patch Island, in the Delaware River, just one mile from Delaware City. The 178 acre island was named from a colonial-day tale that a boat loaded with peas ran aground and sprouted in the sandy loam.

An earthwork fort was built on Pea Patch in 1813. It was later dismantled and in 1821 a masonry fort was constructed. It served until 1831 when it was destroyed by fire.

After a claim by New Jersey that the island belonged to it had been settled in Delaware's favor, Congress passed an appropriation in 1847 of one million dollars to construct the fort.

Work on the present fort started in 1848. Cost of driving the pilings ate up the million dollar appropriation and Congress provided another million to continue the work. It was 1849 before actual construction on the fort--which was to surpass Fort Sumter in size--began, and it was not completed until 1859--just two years before the War Between the States.

The pentagon-shaped fort covers about 6 of the 70 acres which are considered fast land. It had a parade ground which was originally more than two acres. This was reduced in 1896 when emplacements for three 12-inch disappearing guns were built in the southern half of the enclosure.

The walls are of solid granite blocks and vary in width from seven feet to 30 feet thick and are 32 feet high. The fort is surrounded by a 30 foot moat, crossed by a drawbridge on the Delaware side leading from the sally port--or principal entrance.

There are three tiers for guns, two consisting of rows of casemats containing examples of what was once described as some of the finest brick masonry in the country. This is still in evidence. More than 25 million bricks are said to have been used for the fort and barracks. The circular granite stairways are unique architectural features.

There are two barracks buildings facing the parade ground. Offices of the commanding general and quarters for officers were in the building on the north side. The mess halls and kitchens were located in the barracks on the west side.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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) 1849 - 1859

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input 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 checked="" 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The fort was first occupied by one company of regular artillery in February 1861. The Commonwealth Artillery of Pennsylvania provided the first volunteers to move in after the beginning of the war.

After the battle of Kernstown in 1862 some 250 men of Stonewall Jackson's army--mostly Virginians--were brought to the island as the first Confederate prisoners of war. It had not been planned for such use up to that time. The barracks space was crowded by these prisoners. By June of 1863 there were some 8000 prisoners on the island and the barracks had been expanded to house 10,000.

Most of the prisoners captured at Gettysburg from General James J. Archer down to the last private were held at Fort Delaware after the battle. There were some 12,500 prisoners on the island in August 1863.

Among the political prisoners housed here were Burton H. Harrison, private secretary to Jefferson Davis, and Governor F. R. Lubbock of Texas, who was the last prisoner at the fort in 1865.

About 2700 prisoners died while incarcerated at Fort Delaware. Some 2400 are buried in a national cemetery at Finn's Point, New Jersey, just across the Delaware River--adjoining Fort Mott.

In 1896, on the eve of the Spanish-American War, Congress appropriated \$600,000 to install modern disappearing guns. (The fort had been in little use for nearly 20 years). The fort was again fully garrisoned. In 1903, practically all of the garrison was removed except for a token force. However, when World War I came in 1917, the fort was garrisoned again for a short time and then deactivated in 1919. Only a caretaker force remained.

At the outbreak of World War II another company was moved to the island. In 1943 the big disappearing guns were removed for scrap iron. The fort was closed up entirely in 1944 and was declared surplus property. It was turned over to the State of Delaware

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American State Papers, Military Affairs, Vol. I & II (1832,1834).
 Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, by U.S. Government (128 vols. 1880-1901); Esp. Series II, Vols. 3-8.
American Bastille (1883) John A. Marshall.
Civil War Prisons (1930) William B. Hesseltine.
 Southern Historical Society Papers, I (1876); Vols. II & III.
United States Bonds; or, Duress By Federal Authority (1872) by Reverend Isaac W. K. Handy.
Bull Run to Bull Run (1900); George Baylor.
Historical Sketch of Old Massachusetts Sixth Regiment (1866), Hanson.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	39° 35' 49"	75° 34' 48"		0	0	
NE	39° 35' 44"	75° 33' 47½"				
SE	39° 34' 37.4"	75° 33' 47½"				
SW	39° 35' 49"	75° 34' 48"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 178 acres total including 110 acres marsh.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Emerson Wilson, Chairman of Board

ORGANIZATION: **Fort Delaware Society** DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 1251

CITY OR TOWN: **Wilmington** STATE: **Delaware** CODE: **19899**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 **E. Berkeley Tompkins**
Dr. E. Berkeley Tompkins

Title **State Liaison Officer**

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ann A. Corvally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
DEC 16 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:
William J. ...
 Keeper of The National Register
DEC 14 1971

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Delaware	
COUNTY	
New Castle	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
7412.10.0019	12/16/71

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd.)

in 1947. The fort and most of Pea Patch Island are now under the jurisdiction of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. The Fort Delaware Society was organized to assist in the preservation and development of the fort as a tourist and historical attraction. Its officers also serve as an official advisory group to the State Division of Parks on matters pertaining to Fort Delaware.

Letter from D.S. Freeman to W. Emerson Wilson, December 22, 1949.

Mr. W. Emerson Wilson, City Editor
Wilmington Morning News
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Mr. Wilson:

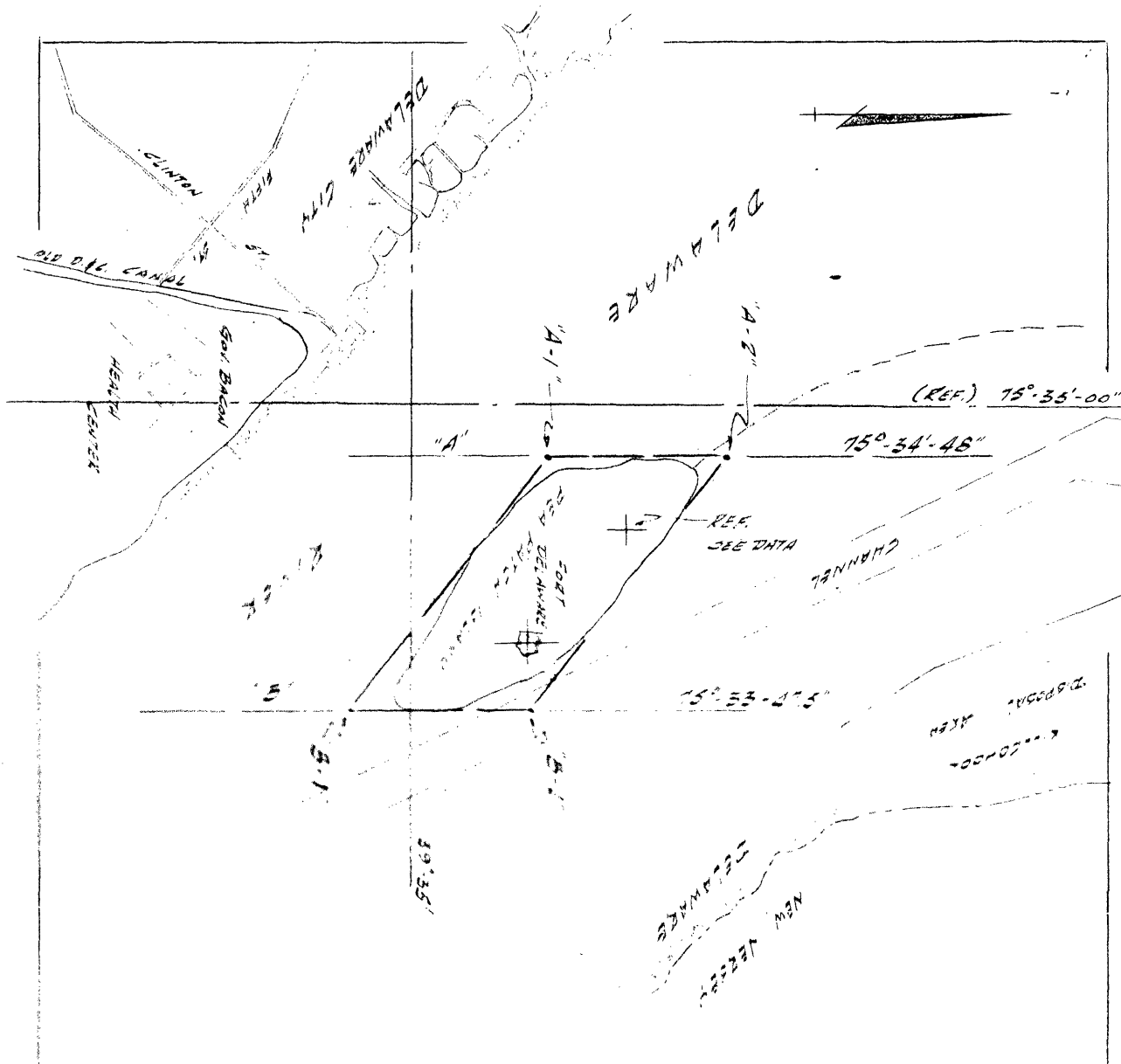
By all means preserve Fort Delaware. Quite apart from its unhappy associations with some of the great names of the Confederacy, it represents a type of coastal defense that should be passed on to posterity. One trouble with us of the mid-twentieth century is that we are unmindful of our obligations to posterity in the preservation of the more recent memorials of our civilization. All of us will rally to the proposal to preserve something of the eighteenth century, for example, but we never stop to think how close Americans of a thousand years hence will place the eighteenth century to the twentieth. The difference between the two will be "as a watch in the night." We must think of the long future of American history and not merely of our own interests.

Faithfully yours,

D. S. Freeman

DSF:mwa

NOTE: The above letter from an internationally known author we believe is one of the best expressions available of the significance of Fort Delaware. The late Douglas Southall Freeman was the author of the famous biography of Robert E. Lee and of the multi-volume biography of George Washington and of the three volume Lee's Lieutenants.



DATA:

SCALE: LONGITUDE / MIN = 0.3375" IN.
 LATITUDE / MIN = 0.03895" IN.

SCALE: LONGITUDE / MIN = 1.53125" IN.
 LATITUDE / MIN = 0.0552" IN.

A-1: 75°-34'-48"

A-1: 39°-35'-49"

A-2: 59°-36'-54.5"

B-1: 75°-33'-47.5"

B-1: 39°-34'-37.4"

B-2: 39°-35'-44"

FOR DELAWARE: LONGITUDE: 75°-34'-04"
 LATITUDE: 39°-35'-48"

FOR COORDINATES ON HISTORY RECORD:
 LONGITUDE: 75°-34'-03"
 LATITUDE: 39°-35'-48"

FOR DELAWARE: LONGITUDE: 75°-34'-04"
 LATITUDE: 39°-35'-48"

PORT DELAWARE
 NEW CASTLE ISLAND
 DELAWARE

DATE	100-20-57
DATE	24 AUG 1976
SCALE	AS ABOVE
DATE	100-20-57
DATE	24 AUG 1976
SCALE	AS ABOVE

WILLIAMS ASSOCIATES INC.
 100-20-57