

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Massachusetts

COUNTY:

Bristol

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

FEB 8 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:

Fort Taber District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Fort at Clark's Point

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Wharf Road (within Fort Rodman Military Reservation)

CITY OR TOWN:

New Bedford

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Bristol

CODE

005

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
(Check One)

- ☒ District ☐ Building
☐ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☒ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☐ Occupied
☐ Unoccupied
☒ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☒ Restricted
☐ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☒ Park
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious
☐ Entertainment ☒ Museum ☐ Scientific

- ☐ Transportation
☐ Other (Specify)

- ☒ Comments
now being
rehabilitated
for uses checked

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Custody of General Services Administration, Northeast Region

STREET AND NUMBER:

Post Office and Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Planning Department, City of New Bedford

STREET AND NUMBER:

Municipal Building, William Street

CITY OR TOWN:

New Bedford

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Fort Taber Historical Site

DATE OF SURVEY: August, 1972

- ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☒ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Planning Department, City of New Bedford

STREET AND NUMBER:

Municipal Building, William Street

CITY OR TOWN:

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent
 ☒ Good
 ☐ Fair
 ☐ Deteriorated
 ☐ Ruins
 ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☐ Altered
 ☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved
 ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fort Taber District, located in Fort Rodman Military Reservation on Clark's Point, New Bedford, includes six significant structures--Fort Taber and five major gun emplacements. Wharf Road, the primary access to the district, parallels Battery Barton-Walcott (2), Battery Gaston and the fort itself; a macadam road gives access to Battery Cross, Battery Craig and Battery Barton-Walcott (1). The area surrounding the district consists of sea-level plain with scattered patches of grass and Austrian pine. A water treatment plant (not included in this submission) has recently been constructed at the tip of Clark's Point, directly south-east of the fort.

Fort Taber is a seven-sided structure with a five-sided interior court. It is three stories high, constructed of large, rectangular blocks of hand-cut granite set in regular patterns. The depth of the fort from the exterior to the interior wall is about forty-five feet; the terreplein consists of earth fill approximately two and one-half to four feet deep. The seaward elevations of the fort (north-east, south-east and south sides) are broken by "Totten-class" embrasures, believed to be the only example of this class of gunport in the New England region. The landward elevation of the fort (north-west side) is broken by musketry loopholes and a massive sally-port (the only entrance to the structure) which is flanked by pilasters supporting an entablature and a low pediment.

The interior wall on four sides of the court consists of a series of large arches, each one forming one side of an interior room with granite walls and an arched brick ceiling covered with mastic. These rooms were used for artillery deployment and ammunition storage. The fifth (north-west) side, once used as barracks, has a rhythmic pattern of door and window openings which give out onto a balcony supported by fluted steel columns with leaf-like designs on the capitals. The interior walls of the fort are surrounded at the top by a steel cat-walk mounted on brackets. There are two interior spiral stairways, constructed of hand-cut triangular pieces of granite. The structure remains in good repair, though a few granite blocks in isolated sections have been pulled apart at the construction joints by the formation of ice during the winter months.

All five gun emplacements are constructed of reinforced concrete with asphaltic expansion joints and are faced with earth; all have steel and iron hardware. Batteries Barton-Walcott (1) and (2) were built in 1898-99; ordnance consisted of one 8-inch disappearing rifle at each emplacement. Battery Gaston was built in 1899-1900; ordnance consisted of two 3-inch rapid-fire rifles on balanced-pillar mounts. Batteries Craig and Cross were built between 1899 and 1901; ordnance at each emplacement consisted of two 5-inch rapid-fire rifles mounted on barbette-carriages.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1861, 1898-1901

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Phi- | ☒ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ losophy | recreation |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Science | |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☐ Social/Human- | |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | ☐ itarian | |
| ☐ Communications | ☒ Military | ☐ Theater | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | ☐ Transportation | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fort Taber District is representative of the development of American coastal fortifications from the Revolutionary period through the mid-20th century. Fort Taber itself is an example of the forts constructed in the northeastern United States during the Civil War and remains in a remarkable state of preservation.

The original fortifications at this site consisted of a series of earthworks built during the American Revolution and mounted with six 24-pound cannon. No improvements were made in these fortifications until the late 1850's when civil war appeared eminent. In 1858, the Federal government purchased the land at Clark's Point and in May, 1861, the War Department began construction of Fort Taber. The initial designs for the fort were drawn by Major Richard Delafield, author of The Art of War in Europe - 1854-56, which became a standard reference for American Coastal fortifications in the period 1861-1880. Major Delafield was assisted in his work on Fort Taber by Captain Robert E. Lee, who as General Lee led the Confederate forces during the Civil War. Actual construction of the fort was supervised by Colonel Henry Martyn Roberts. While on duty here, he wrote Roberts' Rules of Parliamentary Procedure, the standard reference on this subject. New Bedford's "Great Stone Fleet", which assembled under the guns of Fort Taber, dealt a severe blow to the Confederacy with its blockade of the entrances to Charleston and Savannah Harbors in late 1861 and early 1862. A planned retaliatory attack by the Confederate Shenandoah failed only because the ship could not pass Fort Taber's guns to enter New Bedford Harbor.

Following the Civil War, Fort Taber remained empty until 1892, when the City of New Bedford petitioned the War Department for use of the property. The request was granted and Fort Taber became Marine Park, a favorite recreation area for the city. However, at the outbreak of the Spanish American War in 1898, the Army reclaimed the fort, rehabilitated and garrisoned it. In the years from 1898 to 1901, five major gun emplacements--Batteries Barton-Walcott (1) and (2), Craig, Cross and Gaston--were constructed to add to the defenses of the fort. Further improvements were made in Fort Taber during World Wars I and II, but in 1947 the fort was declared obsolete as a defense installation. Since that time, Fort Taber has been used as a training center by the Army, Navy and Marine Corps and most recently served as a Job Corps Center.

The City of New Bedford is now in the process of acquiring Fort Taber from the Federal government and plans to rehabilitate the area for use as a military museum and park.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adjutant General's Office, U.S.A. Description of Military Forts and Posts, 1879.
 Henry, James. History of Fort Rodman, 1969 (unpublished).
 National Archives, Fortifications Division. Plans and Elevations of the Fort at Clark's Point (later Fort Rodman), New Bedford, Massachusetts, 1846-1914.
 New Bedford City Council Records, 1857-1898.
 War Department Bulletin, Nos. 12, 14, 1920.
 Wallback, Lucy. History of the Fortifications at Clark's Point, 1967.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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
NW	41° 35' 40"	70° 54' 24"	0		
NE	41° 35' 40"	70° 54' 03"			
SE	41° 35' 32"	70° 54' 03"			
SW	41° 35' 32"	70° 54' 24"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 10.87

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Gerald W. Butler, Curator

ORGANIZATION: Fort Taber Historical Association, Inc. DATE: January 22, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
 1 Wharf Road

CITY OR TOWN: New Bedford STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

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: John F. X. DAVOREN
 Title: Secretary of the Commonwealth, Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date: January 24, 1973

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: Robert M. Utley

ATTEST: 2/8/73

Date: 2/8/73

Keeper of The National Register

PROPERTY

7th Labor District

STATE

MASS

Bristol

WORKING NUMBER

2.173.22/2

TECH REVIEW

Photos

2

Maps

2

5/1/73

CONTROL REVIEW

18

2-5-73

OK

HISTORIAN

2-5-73

C. Shull

O.K.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

KH

2/5/73

OK

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

OK 2/9/73

KEEPER

OK
Bradford
Sor
Mortogh,
2/8/73

National Register write-up

Send-back

Federal Register entry

3/6

Re-submit

Entered

FEB 8 1973



#1

NPS Number 2/8/73Title: Fort Taber Dist.FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)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)

1. NAME

COMMON

Fort Taber District

AND/OR HISTORIC

Fort at Clark's Point

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

FEB 8 1973

2. LOCATION

STATE

Massachusetts

COUNTY

Bristol

TOWN

New Bedford

STREET AND NUMBER

1 Wharf Road

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Alfred K. Schroeder

DATE

November, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Fort Taber Historical Assn.
1 Wharf Road, New Bedford, Ma.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Battery Barton-Walcott (2) as viewed from north

#1



NPS Number 2/8/73

Title: Fort Taber Dist.

Loc. Bristol, Mass.

Fort Taber as viewed from N.E.

FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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TOWN

New Bedford

STREET AND NUMBER

1 Wharf Road

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Alfred K. Schroeder

DATE

November, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT

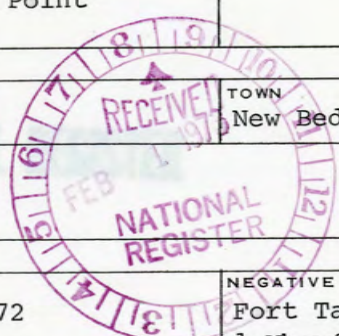
Fort Taber Historical Assn.

1 Wharf Road, New Bedford, Ma.

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Fort Taber as viewed from the north-east



#2 ✓



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)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Fort Taber. Located at Fort Rodman	Fort at Clark's Point - War Department Records	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Bristol	New Bedford
STREET AND NUMBER		
1 Wharf Road, Fort Rodman		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Paul A. Fernandes City Planning Department	September, 1972	New Bedford City Planning Department
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Second tier-officer and administration rooms in gorge section of Fort.



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1. NAME

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Fort Taber. Located in Fort Rodman	Fort at Clark's Point - War Department Records	

2. LOCATION

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Bristol	New Bedford
STREET AND NUMBER		

1 Wharf Road, Fort Rodman

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Paul A. Fernandes City Planning Department	September, 1972	New Bedford City Planning Department

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Enlisted men's quarter first tier, officer and administration second tier and catwalk.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

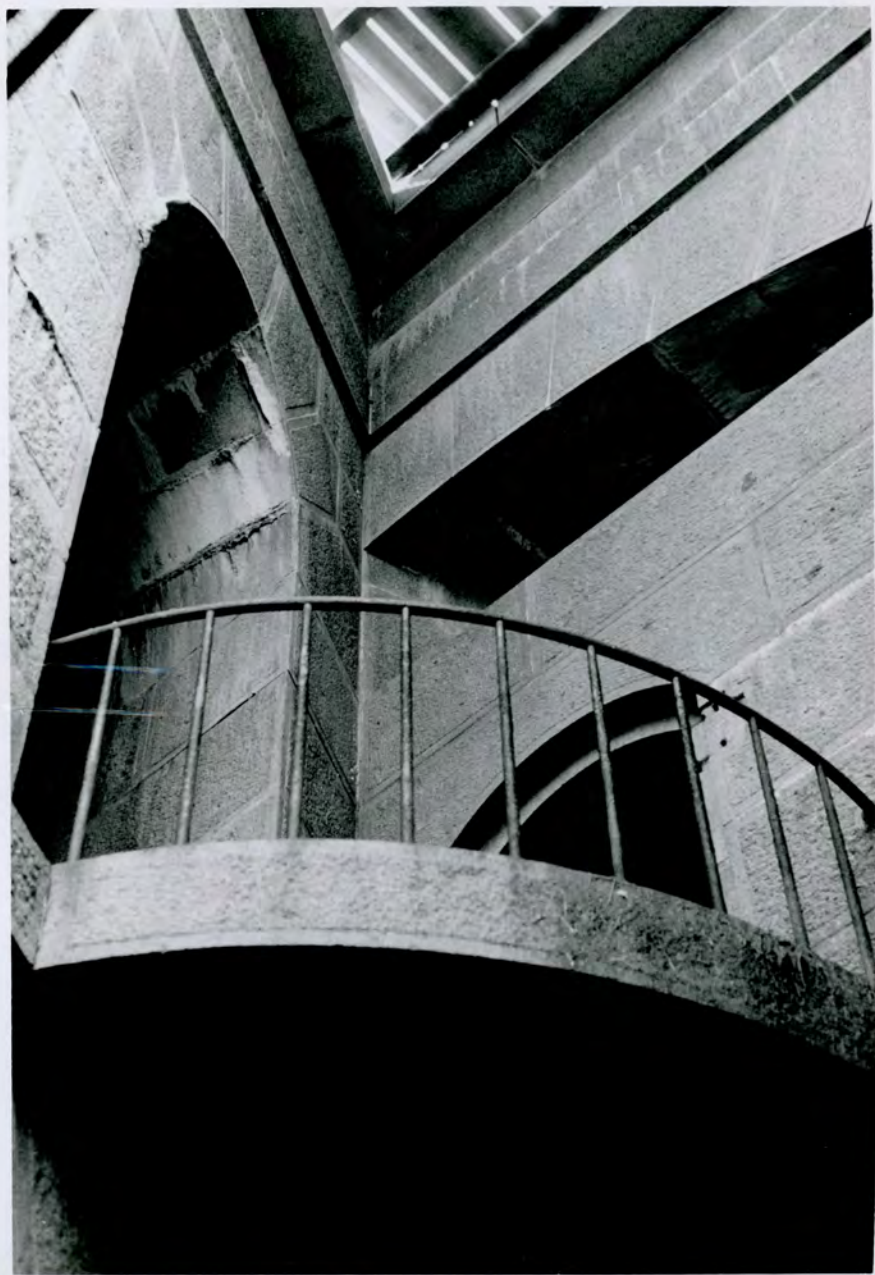
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

1. NAME		
COMMON Fort Taber. Located in Fort Rodman	AND/OR HISTORIC Fort at Clark's Point - War Department Records	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
2. LOCATION		
STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Bristol	TOWN New Bedford
STREET AND NUMBER		
1 Wharf Road, Fort Rodman		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT Paul A. Fernandes, City Planning Department	DATE September, 1972	NEGATIVE FILED AT New Bedford City Planning Department
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Main sally-port entrance.

#3



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)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Fort Taber.	Fort at Clark's Point -	
Located in Fort Rodman	War Department Records	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Bristol	New Bedford
STREET AND NUMBER		
1 Wharf Road, Fort Rodman		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Paul A. Fernandes		New Bedford City
City Planning Department	September, 1972	Planning Department
4. IDENTIFICATION		

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Second tier balcony adjacent to magazine room.

#4



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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1. NAME

COMMON

Fort Taber.
Located in Fort Rodman

AND/OR HISTORIC

Fort at Clark's Point -
War Department Records

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

2. LOCATION

STATE

Massachusetts

COUNTY

Bristol

TOWN

New Bedford

STREET AND NUMBER

1 Wharf Road, Fort Rodman

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Paul A. Fernandes,
City Planning Department

DATE

September, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT

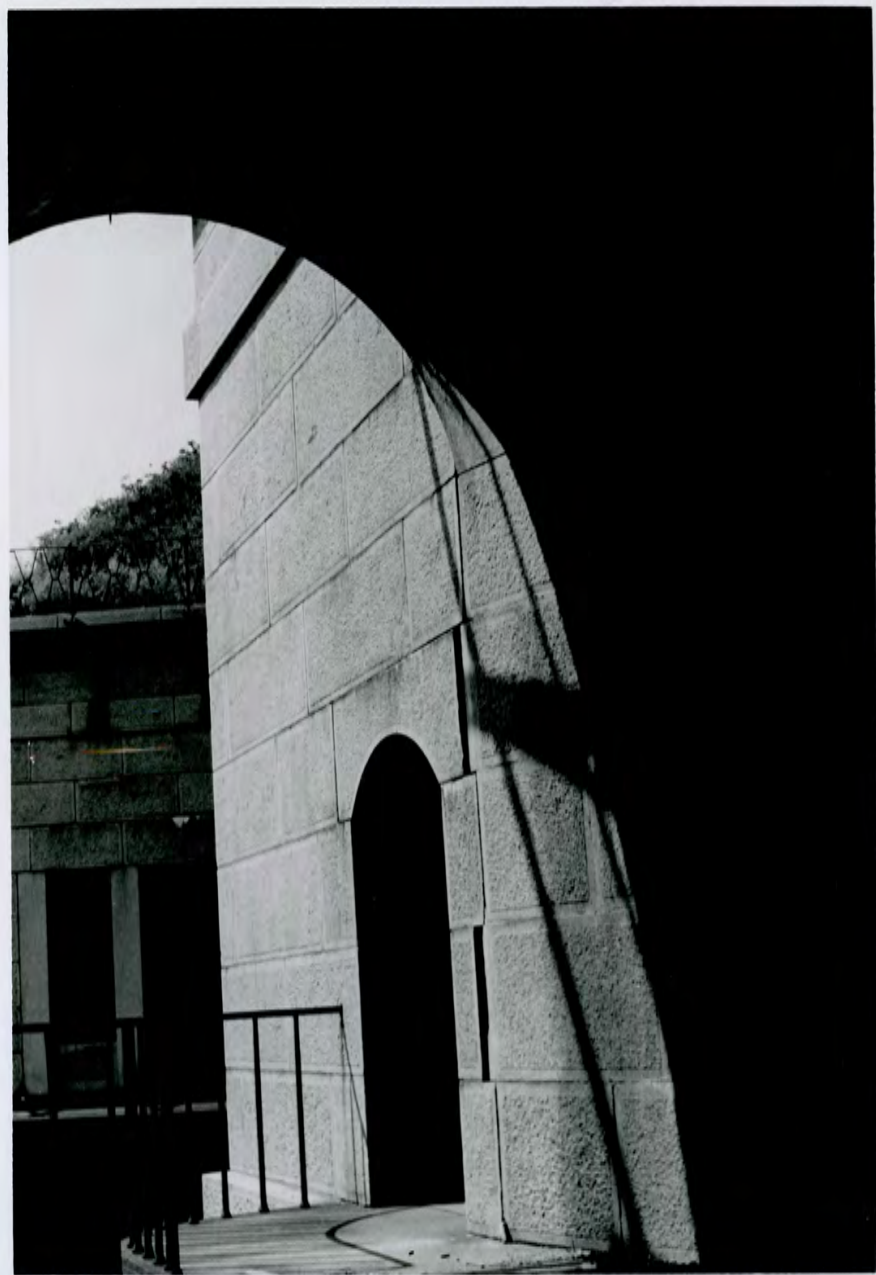
New Bedford City
Planning Department

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Center quardrangle facing Buzzard Bay.

#5



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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1. NAME

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Fort Taber.
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War Department Records

2. LOCATION

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Massachusetts

Bristol

New Bedford

STREET AND NUMBER

1 Wharf Road, Fort Rodman

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

DATE

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Paul A. Fernandes
City Planning Department

September, 1972

New Bedford City
Planning

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Repeat of number 9 photo on second tier level

#6



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Massachusetts	Bristol	New Bedford
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Paul A. Fernandes City Planning Department	September, 1972	New Bedford City Planning Department
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Circular fan staircase from second tier to parapet.

#7



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON Fort Taber. Located in Fort Rodman	AND/OR HISTORIC Fort at Clark's Point - War Department Records	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
2. LOCATION		
STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Bristol	TOWN New Bedford
STREET AND NUMBER 1 Wharf Road, Fort Rodman		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT Paul A. Fernandes City Planning Department	DATE September, 1972	NEGATIVE FILED AT New Bedford City Planning Department
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

First floor gun casemates for twenty-four pounder model 1860 seacoast weapon artillery.

48



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Paul A. Fernandes,
City Planning Department

DATE

September, 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT

New Bedford City
Planning Department

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Northeastern gun casemates and first floor casemates.

#9



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
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4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Granite circular fan type stairway fashioned by hand, only one of its kind in New England seacoast fortifications.

#10



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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Paul A. Fernandes
City Planning Department

DATE

September, 1972

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New Bedford City
Planning Department

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Southwestern gun casemates from first tier.

#11



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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Paul A Fernandes, City Planning Department	September, 1972	New Bedford City Planning Department

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View from interior exit of sally-port to gun casemates.

#12✓



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Paul Fernandes City Planning Department	September, 1972	New Bedford City Planning Department

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Southwestern gun casemates from metro and signal station showing W W II search light enclosure in upper left hand portion of photo.

#13

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)

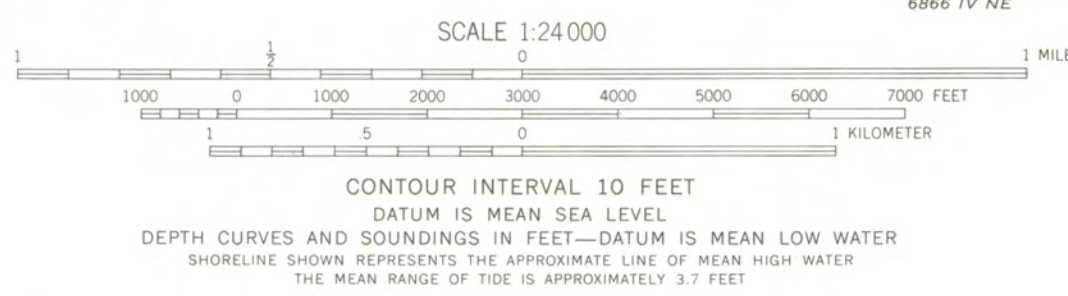
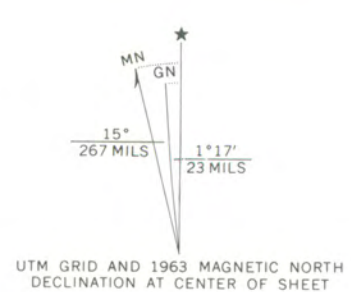
1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
FORT TABER	FORT AT CLARK'S POINT	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
MASSACHUSETTS	BRISTOL	NEW BEDFORD
STREET AND NUMBER		
1 WHARF ROAD, FORT RODMAN		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS	JUNE 1970	1" = 100' 00

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.



NE 19/341 580
4606 280
SE 19/341 570
4606 020
SW 19/341 080
4606 040
NW 19/341 090
4606 310
W

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1936. Revised 1963
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 252 (1961),
237 (1962), and 249 (1963). This information is not intended for
navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information furnished
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———

NEW BEDFORD SOUTH, MASS.
N4130—W7052.5/7 5

1963

AMS 6867 III SW—SERIES V814

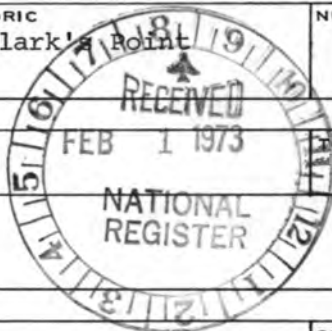
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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

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

1. NAME		
COMMON Fort Taber District	AND/OR HISTORIC Fort at Clark's Point	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i> FEB 8 1973
2. LOCATION		
STATE Massachusetts	COUNTY Bristol	TOWN New Bedford
STREET AND NUMBER 1 Wharf Road		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE Gerald W. Butler Fort Taber Historical Assn.	DATE March, 1972	SCALE 1 inch = 470 feet



REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW:

Note: boundaries of this submission are indicated by heavy black lines, labeled Fort Taber Historical Association.

Drawn for the FTHA by the Curator

G. W. Butler

G. W. Butler, SFH 03 12 1972

SCALE 1-INCH= 470-FEET

C/L FENCE

GATE

NEW BEDFORD HARBOUR

Fort Rodman

City of New Bedford, Mass



C/L FENCE

U S Army

GATE

C/L FENCE

Map Key

1. Battery Barton-Walcott (1)
2. Battery Craig
3. Battery Cross
4. Fort Taber
5. Battery Gaston
6. Battery Barton-Walcott (2)

FT TABER HIST ASSN

BOUNDARIES

Ref Sh I-III-b

BUZZARDS BAY

Treatment Plant (New)

MAP 'A'

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

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

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
FORT TABER	FORT AT CLARK'S POINT	FEB 8 1973
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
MASSACHUSETTS	BRISTOL	NEW BEDFORD
STREET AND NUMBER		
1 WHARF ROAD, FORT RODMAN		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
USGS 75 NEW BEDFORD, SOUTH, MASS.	1963	1:24000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.

- PROPERTY BOUNDARIES DELINEATED.
- NORTH ARROW DRAWN IN
- LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE CITED





lat. NW 41	35'	40"	long. NW	70	54'	24"
NE 41	35'	40"	NE	70	54'	03"
SE 41	35'	32"	SE	70	54'	03"
SW 41	35'	32"	SW	70	54'	24"



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
40 Beacon Street

Boston, Mass. 02108

January 24, 1973

National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attention: Mr. Jerry Rogers

CERTIFIED MAIL



Dear Jerry:

Enclosed is a National Register submission for:

Bristol County, New Bedford, Fort Taber District

This has been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and has been signed by Secretary of the Commonwealth John F. X. Davoren, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated the State Liaison Officer.

We ask your cooperation in processing this submission as soon as possible. As you know, transfer of title to Fort Taber from the General Services Administration to the City of New Bedford is now pending. However, the property must be listed on the Register before this transfer can be completed.

Thank you for your assistance.

Cordially,

Bob,

Robert B. Rettig
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RBR:pm
Encls.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered FEB 8 1973

Name

Location

Fort Pickering

Salem
Essex County

Fort Taber District

New Bedford
Bristol County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy

Hon. Edward W. Brooke

Hon. Michael J. Harrington

Hon. Gerry B. Studds

Director, Northeast Region

PHR

NRowland:mm

2/8/73

State Liaison Officer

Hon. John F. M. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission

40 Beacon Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02133

24 May 1977

Keeper, The National Register of Historic Places
1100 L Street N W
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

My hobby is the study of the seacoast forts built by the United States. In trying to learn all I can about these forts, I recently spent a little time in the Offices of the National Register going over the files on some of the many forts listed in the Register.

I became a little puzzled as I wrote, and since taking the time to compare those notes to information I have at home, I am even more puzzled about a few things in those files.

The things that puzzled me are of several sorts:

OWNER APPARENTLY NOT CORRECT

Fort Livingston, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana has the owner listed as Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, 400 Royal St., New Orleans. Inquiry of that organization at that address showed that they do not nor did they ever own the fort- only some land on a nearby inhabited island.

NAME NOT THE "HISTORIC" NAME

Fort Taylor, Monroe County, Florida was named by the Army for Zachary Taylor- the General Order states that the name is "FORT TAYLOR". As nearly as I can tell, the fort was renamed "Fort Zachary Taylor" in the Register's paperwork. I was told recently that the Curator at the fort uses the Register as his authority for calling the place Fort Zachary Taylor.

At Fort Taber Historic District, Bristol County, Massachusetts, the files state that Fort Taber is a seven sided granite affair. The granite building was "Fort at Clark's Point" for many years, then simply (as nearly as I can find), the granite fort on the Fort Rodman Military Reservation. As nearly as I can find, Fort Taber was a temporary locally manned gun battery which existed late in the construction of the granite fort, early in our Civil War. A paper in the PERIODICAL, published by the COUNCIL ON ABANDONED MILITARY POSTS, Box 171, Alexandria, Va, written by the same Mr. Butler who authored much of the file on the Fort Taber District, supports the smaller Fort Taber.

MIXED NAMES IN THE NPS FILES

Fort San Carlos de Barrancas, Escambia County, Florida, is listed in the Historic American Building Survey as Bateria de San Antonio (HABS FLA 144). I was told at the Bateria that the old sign from the 1940s had been removed because it was so well proven that the structure is indeed the Bateria and not the Fort.

WEIRD CLAIMS

The file for Fort Delaware, New Castle County, Delaware, contains a photo of a "disappearing gun". This gun, on a homemade carriage only vaguely related to anything the U.S. ARMY ever built, is very clearly not anything the U.S. Army ever called a disappearing gun.

Fort Adams, Newport County, Rhode Island claims that their mortar battery is unique in that(I am not positive of exact words) the batteries had 16 mortars while other batteries had only 4. As a matter of fact, very nearly every one of the dozens of mortar batteries built by the U.S. around the turn of the century was originally organized that one battery of four pits had 16 mortars. At about the same time, all were renamed into two batteries of two pits (therefore 8 mortars) each. Much later, two mortars were removed from each pit, so that the usual final configuration, sometimes into World War II, was two pits and four mortars per battery. I know of no reason to believe that Fort Adama is in any way unique in this matter.

I realize that the things mentioned above are sort of nit-picking, that none of them detract from the data that indicate that a specific site is or is not HISTORIC, but that such things that I, a relative novice to my hobby, can recognize leaves me wondering how much else in the Register is equally erroneous.

Anyway, I appreciate the good that comes and can come from the National Register of Historic Places, and I hope for bigger and better history ahead.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Robert D. Zink
Route 1 Box 828
King George, Virginia 22485