

PH0021130

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Connecticut	
COUNTY: New London	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 88 SEP 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Trumbull/Underwater Sound Laboratory

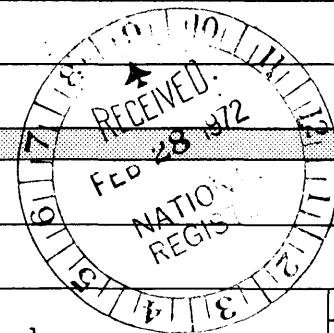
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Fort Trumbull

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Fort Neck

CITY OR TOWN:
New London

STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09 COUNTY: New London CODE: 011



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input 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) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
U.S. Government

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: New London STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Connecticut Historic Structures and Landmarks Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Connecticut Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
54 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Connecticut
COUNTY: New London
ENTRY NUMBER: 88 SEP 1972
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)
 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)
 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)
 Moved Original Site

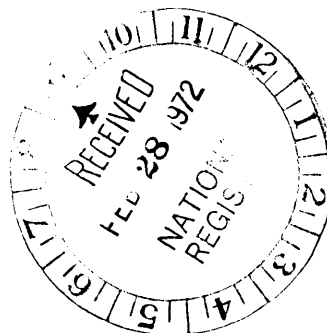
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present fort is the third structure built on this site for defense purposes. The original fort was begun in 1775 or 1776 for the protection of the inhabitants of New London during the Revolutionary War. The earliest remaining building is the Blockhouse, 1790, built on the site where Captain Adam Shapley and his small band of men defended the fort in 1781. It was slated for demolition in 1834 when it was considered to be useless as an arm of defense. It occupied a position on the parade field that was wanted for the military drills. The building was saved through an error by an assistant in the Army Engineering Department who, in interpreting the letter of a superior recommending the destruction of the Blockhouse, misquoted him as follows: "...recommends its being repaired or torn down, the former he would prefer."¹ The Blockhouse today looks very much as it must have originally. It is built of massive granite blocks, tapering to smaller sizes near the top. The roof is hipped and has what recalls a box cornice but is a layer of thick stone blocks. The door framing, lintel, and flat pediment are of very large blocks set upright and the window framing is of similar construction. A single chimney rises from the rear roof slope. The Blockhouse is now open to visitors on occasion, but is too damp to permit permanent exhibits.

The remainder of the Fort was rebuilt in 1812 but the ledges surrounding it were not left as an adequate defense.² In 1839 the fort of 1812 was blasted away and a third, the present, fort was built. Huge cut granite blocks form the tall wall surrounding the present fort and many of the buildings. The entrance to Building 32, the "old fort" (1839-1850), has a fine example of Egyptian detail, creating the impression of entering a crypt. The flat pediment has tryglyphs and metopes scribed in the stone. Another building, now housing Public Works, was built somewhat later (c. 1860) and is of rough-faced stone blocks with quoins at the corners.

The old fort is still an impressive sight structurally. The solidity and strength of the massive walls and buildings have permitted them to be used, unchanged for more than a century.

¹US Navy Underwater Sound Laboratory, USL Pub. No. 965, October 1, 1968.
²F.S.M. Crofut, Vol II, p. 724.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1839-1850

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 type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input 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 | | | _____ |

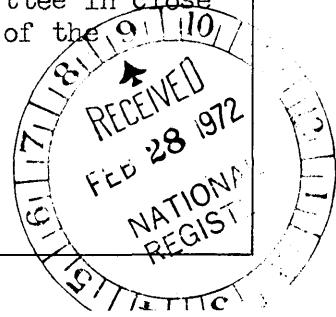
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Fort Trumbull was one of the most important defenses of the Revolutionary War in Connecticut. Constructed on the rocky point originally called Mamacock, it was meant to guard the city of New London from the approaching British. Colonel Elderkin, an engineer, proposed the construction of a rampart of eighty feet on each of three sides, north, south, and east, toward the Thames River. It was named in December of 1776 after the Governor of the State, but was not completed until the summer of 1777. In March, 1778, it was repaired and strengthened. At this time it was under the command of Colonel William Ledyard; Adam Shapley was captain of artillery. Captain Shapley and twenty-three of his men are remembered for their valient fight of September 6, 1781, with two memorial plaques, one laid by the DAR in 1932 and one by the Laboratory in 1955 at the dedication of Shapley Road. Shapley and his men warned the invaders with one volley of shots, then crossed the river to aid Fort Griswold.

After the Revolution the fort fell into decay. With the outbreak of war in Europe in 1793, Congress passed an act to fortify the harbors along the coast. Reputedly, the citizens of New London voluntarily restored the old fort. In 1798 the State of Connecticut General Assembly ceded the Fort to the Federal Government.

Apparently there were troops stationed at Fort Trumbull during the War of 1812, though there was little action, for the fort was rebuilt at this time. There are records that companies of artillery were stationed here from 1820 to 1838. In 1833 additional land was ceded to the Federal Government. In 1836 the Secretary of War recommended that in the plan of defense, the forts along the Thames River, Fort Trumbull and Fort Griswold, give place to more effective works. The construction of the present structure was begun in 1839 under the direction of Captain Cullum of the Army Engineers. It was completed in 1850. From 1910 to 1933 the Coast Guard Academy was housed at the fort. Underwater Sound Laboratory was established in 1941 and is the product of two World War II laboratories operated by the National Defense Reaearch Committee in close cooperation with the Navy. It is now the base of operation of the development of nuclear submarines and guided missiles.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crofut, F.S.M. Guide to the History and the Historical Sites of Connecticut.
New Haven, 1937.

USL Pub. No. 965: US Navy Underwater Sound Laboratory/Fort Trumbull, New
London, Connecticut. October 1, 1968.

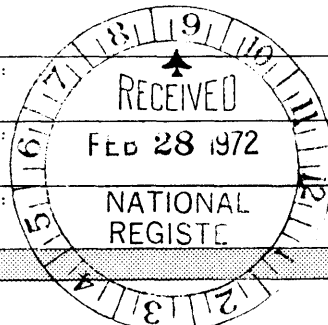
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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
NW	41°	20'	47"	72°	05'	50"			
NE	41°	20'	47"	72°	05'	33"			
SE	41°	20'	33"	72°	05'	33"			
SW	41°	20'	33"	72°	05'	50"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 14 acres

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Susan Babbitt, Administrative Trainee

ORGANIZATION: Connecticut Historical Commission DATE: February 9, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 54 Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN: Hartford STATE: Connecticut CODE: 09

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: *Susan Babbitt*

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: February 17, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert W. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 9/22/72

ATTEST:

William S. Ventres
Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

32 UNCASVILLE 4.2 MI.
QUAKER HILL 1.9 MI.
2 520 000 FEET (N.Y.)

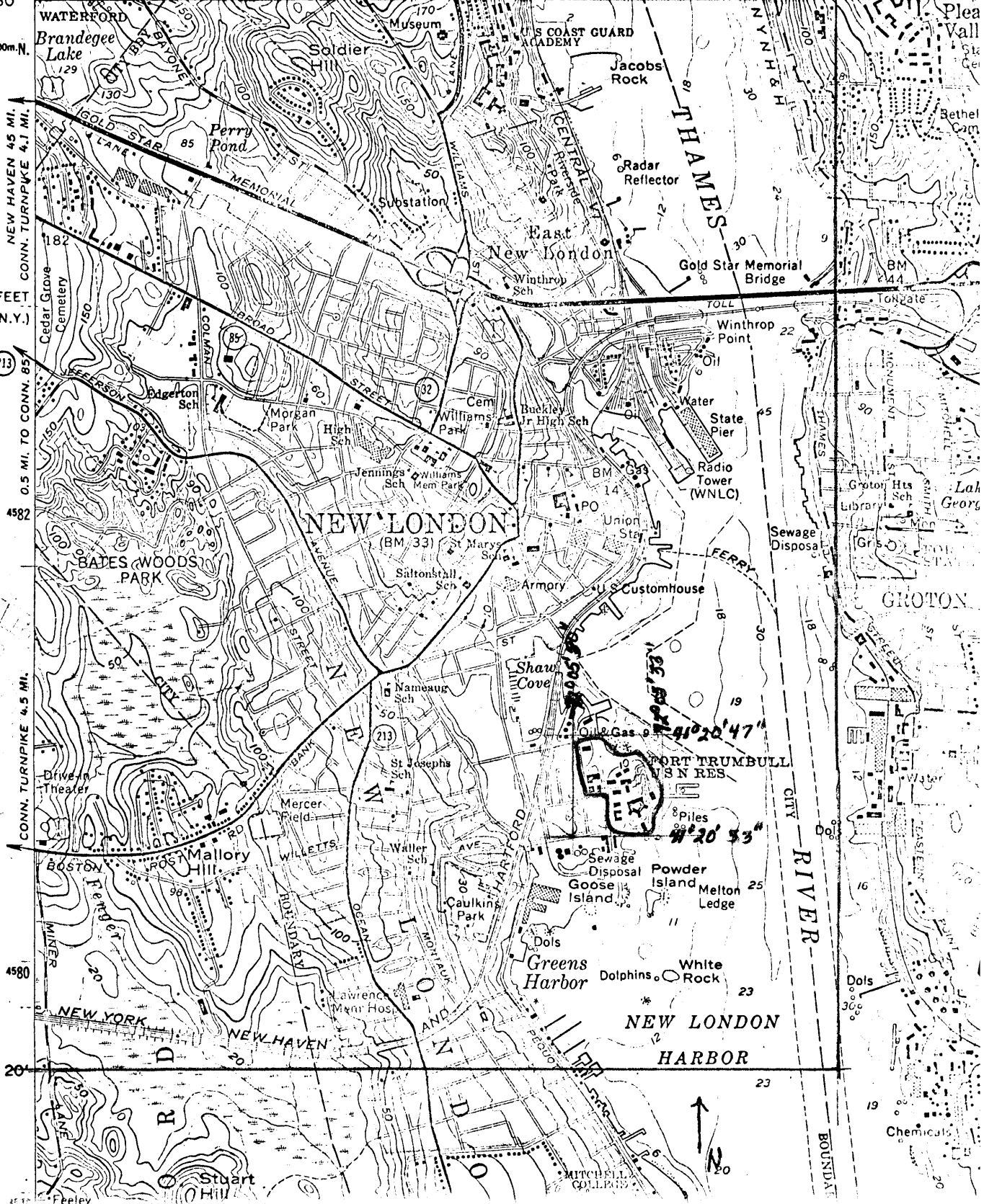
8.6 MI. TO CONN.
GALES FERRY 4.1 MI.

(MONTVILLE)
5288 L.N.W.

72°07'30"
41°22'30"

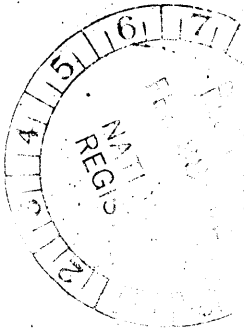
741000m.E.

4584000m.N.



NEW HAVEN 4.5 MI.
CONN. TURNPIKE 4.1 MI.
420 000 FEET
(N.Y.)

0.5 MI. TO CONN. 85
4582



CONN. TURNPIKE 4.5 MI.
4580

20

