

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Frederick State Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Fort Frederick

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
State Route 56

CITY OR TOWN:
Big Pool vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Maryland CODE: COUNTY: Washington CODE:

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
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 Maryland

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: Maryland CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: Maryland CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: Maryland CODE: 100

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STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

Built in 1756-57, Fort Frederick is a huge stone quadrangle with a bastion projecting from each corner. The curtain walls are three feet thick at the base, rise to a height of 17-1/2 feet, and are about 179 feet long. The throat of each corner bastion is about 41 feet wide, two faces are 31 feet long and the other two are each 89 feet in length. Bastion walls are 4 feet thick and each bastion was originally filled in with earth on their interior to within 4-1/2 feet of their height, so that cannon could be mounted there and infantry could also fire over the top of the bastion walls. Only the northwest bastion is now filled with earth in this manner, 50 restored to illustrate the original condition of the other 3 now empty bastions. The main gate, 10-1/2 feet wide, is located in the center of the south curtain. A short distance to the west, or left, of the gate is the hole that was knocked in the wall in 1861 so that a cannon could be utilized in the defense of the main gate.

Inside the stone foundations of three log barracks have been uncovered and stabilized. On the east and west sides stood two two-story log barracks for the troops, each about 117 feet long and 18 feet wide and on the north wall, centered directly opposite to the main gate, stood the third two-story log barracks, the officers' quarters, about 96 feet long and 28 feet deep. To the right of the officers' quarters, near the northeast bastion, is the reconstructed well. These barracks were designed for a garrison of 200 but could hold 400 men if needed.

A very large portion of the fort's walls are still original. These sections have been ~~stabilized~~ and then the missing portions reconstructed to their original 17-1/2 foot heights over the original bases.

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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) **1775-1783**

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

Fort Frederick is the largest and best-preserved architectural example in the Southern Colonies of an 18th-century fortress erected for frontier defense against Indians. Built in 1756-1757, as a defense against French and Indian attack, Fort Frederick was also utilized as a military prison during the War for Independence and again garrisoned during the Civil War. The fort, however, was never actually attacked during its long history.

After extensive archeological and historical research by the National Park Service, the original plans of the fort were located. In the 1930's the outside stone walls were restored and reconstructed to their original height and a part of the interior restored with the aid of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Fort Frederick State Park is owned by the State of Maryland and the public has unrestricted access to the fort.

History

On May 16, 1756, during the French and Indian War, the Maryland Legislature, at the request of Governor Horatio Sharpe, appropriated 6,000 pounds to build and maintain a fort for the purpose of providing shelter and protection to the frontier inhabitants of western Maryland settlements. By mid-August construction on Fort Frederick, so-named after the last Lord Baltimore (1731-1771), was well underway. Plans for the fort were prepared by Governor Sharpe and the frontier post was not designed to withstand cannon as it was believed that the French would not be able to bring large guns against it from the west.

Fort Frederick was garrisoned by militia companies of Maryland until the end of the French and Indian Wars. More than 700 terrified people found refuge in the fort during the Pontiac Uprising of 1763. From 1777 to March 1783, during the War for Independence, the fort served as a prisoner of war camp for captured British and German soldiers. At one time more than 1,000 prisoners were held there. The last such prisoners to be quartered at the fort were those captured at Yorktown in October 1781.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State (American Guide Series) (New York, 1940), 340.

Frank B. Sarles, Jr. and Charles E. Shedd, Colonials and Patriots (Washington, D.C., 1964), 202-203.

Dr. Charles W. Porter, "Progress Report on Fort Frederick, SP-1, Md." (N.P.S. Typescript, dated October 19, 1936), 7pp., maps, and photos.

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° 37' 06"	78° 00' 45"		39° 36' 37"	78° 00' 14"	
NE	39° 37' 04"	77° 59' 51"				
SE	39° 36' 05"	77° 59' 54"				
SW	39° 36' 07"	78° 00' 48"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **287 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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION **Historic Sites Survey, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service** DATE **1/2/73**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE **D.C.** CODE

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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Fort Frederick

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

(Continued)

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After the Revolution Fort Frederick was sold at public auction on September 5, 1791, and the huge fortress lay abandoned until the Civil War. At the outbreak of hostilities in 1861, Fort Frederick was once again summoned into action. A hole was broken in the south wall and a cannon was placed there to defend the main gate; the main mission of the fort was to guard the B&O Railroad and the C&O Canal against Confederate attacks. No significant military action occurred, however, and by the end of 1862, the fort's usefulness had ended.

The surrounding grounds of the Fort were used for agricultural purposes until 1922 when it was acquired by the State of Maryland for park purposes. By that time the old walls had decayed, but were still standing in many places more than 8 feet high, and the stone foundations of the three log barracks inside were buried under accumulations of earth.

After extensive archeological and historical research by the National Park Service, the original plans of the fort were located. With the aid of the Civilian Conservation Corps the outside stone walls were restored and reconstructed to their original height and a part of the interior restored in the 1930's.

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