NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Johnson's Island Civil War Prison

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number N/A ☐ not for publication N/A

city, town Johnson's Island, Danbury Township ☐ vicinity N/A

state Ohio code OH county Ottawa code 123 zip code 43440

(mailing address: Lakeside-Marblehead)

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
[X] private	☐ building(s)		249 buildings
☐ public-local	[X] district	2	1 sites
☐ public-State	☐ site	2	structures
[X] public-Federal	☐ structure		objects
	☐ object	4	250 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☐ 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 ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
GOVERNMENT/ correctional facility	DOMESTIC/ single dwelling
DEFENSE/ fortification	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
N/A	foundation
	walls earth (lunette and redoubt)
	roof
	other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Johnson's Island is located 2.5 miles northwest of Sandusky within Sandusky Bay. It is approximately .6 miles south of Marblehead Peninsula and lies within Danbury Township, Ottawa County, Ohio (Figures 1 and 2). The island is just over 1 mile in length (northeast by southwest) and about 1/2-mile wide. The island gradually rises in elevation towards the center, where the highest elevation is about 50 feet above the shoreline. The northeastern portion of the island has a slightly lesser slope than the rest.

Surface soils are shallow, with depths of just a few inches near the summit to more than two feet in some areas. The soils are of the Castalia-Milton Association, formed in loamy and clayey materials overlying dolomitic limestone bedrock. The limestone bedrock was a highly prized building material resulting in a portion of the island being quarried. Originally forested, the island was almost completely deforested during the prison-era, but is now in secondary forest growth within much of the interior.

Johnson's Island has been the scene of various forms of human activity since post-glacial times. Although a complete understanding of its use during aboriginal times has not been realized, there is artifactual evidence of Late Archaic through Late Prehistoric use of the island. With Euroamerican settlement, Johnson's Island was contained within the Connecticut Western Reserve. Epaproditus W. Bull obtained the island from the Connecticut Land Company in the lottery. Known as Bull's Island, it saw little change until after it was purchased by Leonard B. Johnson in 1852. Prior to that, there was an attempt to create a town on the island. There are also unconfirmed reports that the island was used during the War of 1812 for a brief army encampment. At the time Mr. Johnson purchased the island he renamed it Johnson's Island, a name it carries with it today. Forty acres of forest that Mr. Johnson had cleared on the southeastern portion of the island became the location of the Federal prison in 1861-1862.

During October, 1861, Lt. Col. William Hoffman was examining the Lake Erie islands for a prison site. Johnson's Island was chosen because of its size (large enough to house the facility and yet small enough to be easily

XX See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

[X] nationally [ ] statewide [ ] locally

Applicable National Register Criteria [X] A [ ] B [ ] C [X] D NHL Criteria: 1 and 6

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) [ ] A [ ] B [ ] C [ ] D [ ] E [ ] F [ ] G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
VI Civil War	Dec. 1861-Sep. 1865	
B War in the East		
C War in the West		

Cultural Affiliation

American Military

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Col. William H. Hoffman (Planner)
William West and Philander Gregg, (Builders)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SUMMARY

Johnson's Island, the site of an important depot for the confinement of Confederate prisoners-of-war during much of the Civil War, is judged to be nationally significant because it possesses "exceptional values in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history ...." The island also possesses "a high degree of integrity of location, setting, feeling and association."

In this respect, Johnson's Island, as the site of a major Union prisoner-of-war depot, meets two of the six criteria for designation as a National Historic Landmark:

(1) It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with ... the broad patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of these patterns may be gained.

(6) that have yielded or may be likely to yield information..., or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded or which may be expected to yield, date affecting theories, concepts and ideas to a major degree.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Johnson's Island Prisoner-of-War Depot is one of 65 facilities in which the United States and Confederate governments held hundreds of thousands of military prisoners during the Civil War. Nothing in 19th-century warfare better illustrates man's inhumanity to man and its pathos and tragedy than the Civil War prisoner-of-war camps and stockades. Statistics; gravesites; official reports; letters; diaries, reminiscences; and the trial of Maj. Henry Wirz, the commandant of the Confederate prison for Union prisoners-of-war at Andersonville, Ga., combine to underscore that these facilities--whether administered by the Union or Confederacy--or located on a island in Sandusky Bay on near a small village in southwest Georgia--were places where thousands of Americans suffered and died.

[X] See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

[X] See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [XX] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- [X] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [X] Other

Specify repository:
David R. Bush, David R. Bush, Inc.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 300

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	355230	4569120
B	17	356060	4595620
C	17	355080	4594080
D	17	354240	4594580

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the Johnson's Island Civil War Prison are the entire island minus the 20th-century built causeway, the islanders' docks, and the three large docks/piers on the southeastern end of that portion of the middle dock that is likely to preserve the remnants of the prison-era dock.

[X] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The quarry area at the southeast central portion of the island is the lone intrusion that eliminates part of the historic lands from the nomination. All historic and archaelological integrity related to the prison-era has been destroyed by quarry-related activities during the late 19th and early 20th centuries in this area of the island (see Figure 9).

[X] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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manageable), wood resources (mostly for fuel), and its proximity to Sandusky which would make provisioning possible. On October 26, 1861, the recommendation for the leasing of Johnson's Island as the site of a prison was officially approved. One hundred and fifty of the approximately 300 acres of the island were leased for $500.00 per year from Mr. Johnson, with an understanding that the entire island would be controlled by the Commissary-General of Prisoners of War.

The prison proper was located on the southeastern side of the island, facing Sandusky. This area included the 40 acres cleared by Mr. Johnson. Construction of the various prison facilities began in the winter of 1861-1862. Construction was completed within the prison compound and exterior support buildings to allow the first prisoners to arrive on April 10, 1862, from Camp Chase in Columbus, Ohio. On April 13, 1862, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton ordered that Johnson's Island prison be used solely for housing Confederate Officers because of its security features.

The exchange of prisoners between the Union and Confederate forces resulted in there being little overcrowding for the first year of operation. After October, 1863, this cartel ceased and prisoners were confined at the prison for much longer periods of time. Although originally designed to house 1,000 prisoners, at peak periods (such as December, 1864) there were more than 3,000 prisoners on the island. The overcrowding resulted in a straining of the resources and abilities of the island to handle the increased use. Garbage and waste disposal became a significant problem. The wells that were located within the prison yard became contaminated. New latrines were constantly being excavated because of the shallow soil. Additionally, storm waters were slow to run off due to the slight slope of the island, resulting in stagnant pools. All of these problems resulted in proposed improvements to the water and sanitary systems for the island. The waterworks plan was designed in August, 1864, and resulted in a very detailed plan of the existing resources at the prison. However, the costs related to construction and piping prohibited the proposed system from being built. A third pump from Lake Erie was installed to help with the problem.

In the fall of 1864 there was a Confederate plot to free the prisoners at Johnson's Island. This was to be accomplished by seizing the USS Michigan, an armed steamer sidewheel and force the garrison on Johnson's Island to free the prisoners. The attempt was aborted, but it caused the Union forces to consider greater security measures for the island. The fortification was accomplished through the planning and construction of two gun emplacements, a lunette and a redoubt (Figures 3 - 8), and an artillery battery on Cedar Point

to the east. These forts were constructed during the winter of 1864 and the spring of 1865. They were garrisoned until the prison closed in September, 1865.

The surrender of Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, signalled the approaching end of the Civil War. After June, 1865, the numbers of prisoners on the island was rapidly decreasing. By September 5, 1865, the last of the prisoners were transferred and the facility prepared for final disposition. Although there was some consideration for continuing Johnson's Island as a military installation, these plans were quickly abandoned and a decision was made to auction the buildings off to the highest bidder. This occurred in November, 1865, and in the spring of 1866. Total evacuation of the facility occurred on June 8, 1866. At this time the facility was returned to Mr. L. B. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson purchased the majority of the buildings. He converted the island to an orchard and vineyard, which he removed by 1890 and reverted to cereal crops. Shortly after the prison was returned to Mr. Johnson, he also opened a small quarry operation, which continued into the early 20th-century.

Mr. Johnson leased approximately 30 acres on the east side of the island to Sandusky and Cleveland businessmen who created the Johnson's Island Resort. This resort opened on July 1, 1894, and consisted of a canvas pavilion, refreshment stand, bath houses, and picnic areas. Although very successful, the resort folded in 1898 after a lawsuit was lost. Fire destroyed much of the resort, the rest being razed by 1900.

On January 20, 1898, Mr. Johnson died and the island was purchased by Carl Dick. He expanded the quarry operations, establishing in 1902 a small "shanty town" servicing the quarry workers. This village included small shanties, a school, post office, and saloon. The quarry was at the peak of its production in 1904. This small village was abandoned by 1905, with the quarry operations suspended in 1908. By 1912 the quarry was abandoned because of competition from quarries at Marblehead and Kelley's Island. Little is left from this era of the island's history except for the large quarry pit and the remains of what is reputed to be the saloon (Figures 9 and 10).

Mr. Dick leased acreage on the eastern side of the island to two businessmen from Sandusky for a second attempt at creating a resort. Opened in 1904, the resort was called the Johnson's Island Pleasure Resort Company and consisted of a dance pavilion, bath house, and theater. This summer resort became quite successful. The owners of the resort on Cedar Point obtained the lease in 1907 and immediately cancelled all activities on the island. This was done to

eliminate competition with Cedar Point. A camp ground was still used for summer campers, but this was closed after 1909. Small cottages on the island were moved to Cedar Point. The rest of the buildings were either sold (and removed) or burned.

There were no other major activities occurring on Johnson's Island until the 1950s. In 1956, the heirs of Mr. Dick sold the island to Johnson's Island Incorporated of Cleveland for subdivision. They created the Bay Haven Estates and began to sell lots for private development. Although ownership has shifted several times over the years, Johnson's Island Incorporated of Cleveland still controls the land not already purchased and under private ownership.

A causeway was proposed by Johnson's Island Incorporated of Cleveland in 1967 to allow greater access to the island by its weekend users. A permit was obtained and construction began in 1968. The project was slightly delayed, but the causeway opened in the winter of 1972. The opening of the causeway resulted in greater sales of lots. Sales and construction have continued on the island to this day.

HISTORIC RESOURCES DESCRIPTIONS

The following includes a description of the major historic resource types from the island represented during its use as a Federal prison for Confederate officers. The areas, identified on Figure 5, include the Cemetery, Prison Compound, Federal Area, Fortifications, and the Late Federal Area.

Cemetery

The cemetery was used to bury Confederate prisoners, most of whom were officers. It is about one acre in area and contains the graves of 206 men, 52 of which are listed as unknown. Following the end of the war and the closing of the prison, Mr. Johnson constructed a wire fence around the cemetery. A decade later the wooden headboards marking each grave and the wire fence were in disrepair. In 1890 the wire fence was replaced with the iron fence that presently exists, and each grave was marked with a headstone of Georgian marble. This maintenance was made possible through funds raised by a group of Georgia officials and newspaper editors. In 1904 the Daughters of the Confederacy purchased the 100' x 485' long cemetery. A bronze statue of a Confederate private soldier on a marble base was erected at the eastern end of

the cemetery in a rededication ceremony in 1910. This statue was made by Sir Moses Ezekiel, world famous sculptor of Confederate monuments. In 1932 the cemetery was transferred to the United States Department of the Interior.

Prison Compound

The prison compound originally consisted of thirteen blocks (buildings) in two rows of six with the thirteenth between the rows on the northern end (Figures 4 and 5). Four of the blocks were 117' by 29' (blocks 5,7,9,11) and the nine others were 130' by 24'. Block 6 served as the prisoner hospital. All constructions were two-story with no basement. Floors were elevated above ground by support beams running the length of the buildings. The open space between the rows of the buildings was 150', creating the prison yard. The exterior of the buildings consisted of vertical planking and weatherboards/wood siding.

The prison compound was enclosed with a fence standing 14' high. It was solid except on the east side, where the planking was reported to be 4" apart. A platform was constructed on the outside of the fence 4' from the top. Guards utilized this platform to gain the needed view of the prisoners. A ditch was excavated just inside of the fence to prevent escape through tunnelling. Two blockhouses, one at the northeast corner (near the shoreline) and the other at the main gate on the south side, completed the security constructions directly associated with the prison yard.

Also within the compound were the latrines (sinks), a sutler's stand (used only during the summer of 1862), two large dining halls (built in August, 1864), condemned prisoner's cells, a wash house, and prisoner pest houses. The latrines were located near the "dead-line" which was 15' from the interior ditch. The location of the latrines shifted due to the shallowness of the soils. New sinks were proposed on the westside, to be blasted into the limestone to a depth of 15'. These were constructed in the fall of 1864. The western edge of the prison was extended another 95' to allow greater space for the prisoners being confined. This also allowed the relocation of the sinks farther from the blocks.

All of the buildings from the Prison Compound have been removed from the site. The only remains are archaeological in nature. The ditch that was constructed on the interior of the fence is visible on aerial photographs from 1939 through 1957. A very small portion of the ditch is still exposed along the southern boundary (Figure 10). The exposed ditch is approximately 100' in length and 12' in width. It is less than 3' in depth. Other portions of the ditch were located in the field through coring. These locations are also

noted on Figure 10. To confirm the ditch, an excavation trench was placed on the northern end of the western ditch line. Plate 6 shows the ditch profile as it was exposed. The location of the ditch enabled superimposing the prison compound plans over present day topography.

Disturbance to the Prison Compound consists of private residence development, road construction, and relic hunting. Much of the western portion of the prison has been subjected to intense metal detecting and some digging by relic hunters. Despite these disturbances, the archaeological integrity of the Prison Compound area appears to be retained.

Federal Area

The major Federal Area was constructed at the same time as the Prison Compound. Originally, this area consisted of the Officers' Quarters, Soldiers' Barracks, Headquarters, the Commissary, Bakery, multiple Laundry Houses, a School House, the Sutler's, the Barber's Shop, the Band Room, the Carpenter's Shop, the Beef House, the Boat House, the Ice House, Horse Stable, Mule Stable, Hay Barn, the Blacksmith Shop, the Blockhouse, and Powder Magazine. The area was arranged with the Officers' Quarters fronting the parade ground, which separated the prison compound from the Union forces. Other support structures were located on the south side of the main roadway from the wharf to Fort Hill. The dock consisted of two piers, the northern one being built in late 1864 or early 1865.

Very little remains from the Federal area. Figures 5 and 9 show how the quarry operation has removed significant portions. After the war and after the buildings had been auctioned off, several of the Officers' Quarters, the Block House, the stone Powder Magazine, and the school and chapel remained. By 1939, all of the structures were gone.
The piers were modified during the life of the quarry and the resort. It is uncertain how much of the Prison-era piers are intact, but there is reason to believe that a portion exists beneath the middle pier. This area is scheduled for archaeological investigation in 1990.

Fortifications

In response to the potential threat of attack from Canada by Confederate forces, it was determined in late 1864 to construct three fortifications to protect the prison and the entrance to Sandusky Bay. These constructions consisted of the Fort Hill Redoubt, Fort Johnson Lunette, and the Cedar Point Battery, the latter of which is not part of this nomination.

Fort Hill Redoubt

Fort Hill Redoubt is the larger of the two fortifications, and was built to serve as the most strategically placed fortification (Figures 3 - 7). Its placement at the highest point on the island commanded a view of potentially attacking Confederate forces. It contained three multiple gun emplacements allowing for six to eight 30 pdr. Parrott guns mounted on Marsilly carriages. Four of the gun mounts were permanent on wooden tracks. It was built specifically for artillery to protect the island from amphibious assault.

The fortification was approximately 380' in length and 320' in width. It consisted of nine separate wall segments braced with stone and timber creating three gun emplacements on the northern and eastern sides. The gorge (entrance) was in the southern parapet. Within this redoubt were a soldiers' barracks and powder magazine. The height of the redoubt varied from its northern front at more than 15' to only a height of 3' at the southern end. As already noted, this fortification sat on the highest point of land on the island, where protruding bedrock existed. There is no ditch associated with this fortification.

The quarry activity removed the southern two-thirds of this fortification (Figures 5, 7 and 10). The northwest parapet was truncated about 135' from its intersection with the northern end. This results in the majority of the barracks area being within the area still present. The powder magazine has been partially eroded through all-terrain-vehicle activity. The northern most gun emplacement is intact to the first wall junction to the south. The ramp leading up to the gun emplacement north of the powder magazine is visible, although slightly eroded. All construction timber has been removed from the fortification. Trees are presently growing throughout this structure. There has been no reported unscientific collecting at this fortification.

Fort Johnson Lunette

Fort Johnson is located on the northern end of the island about 1/4-mile northeast from Fort Hill. Its placement allowed for earlier attack on vessels coming into the entrance of Sandusky Bay than was allowed by Fort Hill. Fort Johnson's basic half-bastioned lunette design was to afford three gun emplacements protecting the north, northeast, and southeast portions of the island (Figures 5, 8 and 10). All three emplacements were for 30 pdr. Parrott guns mounted on Marsilly carriages. In times of conflict, these guns could be rolled up the ramps for use, and then removed with ease.

Archaeological field survey shows this structure is 240' in length and width. This six-sided structure is quite symmetrical, with the two longer fronts being 145' in length, the attached walls to the south being 117' and 102' in length, and the back walls being 66.5' in length forming the entrance. The southeastern wall had attached to it the powder magazine and the 24' platform containing two additional possible gun emplacements. Central ramps were built leading up to the northwestern and northeastern gun emplacements. A ramp to the northeast of the powder magazine and parallel to the eastern wall allowed access to the southeastern platform. Originally, the parapets were constructed of earth and braced with stone and timber. All remnants of timber have been removed.

Presently, this fortification is in excellent condition. All parapets, ramps, and the platform are present and reflect its original design. The parapets are approximately 8' high except for the back wall which is only about 4' high. The powder magazine is present, although collapsed. The only evidence of disturbance to this fortification is the attempted exploration of the interior chamber of the powder magazine by a local relic hunter several years ago. There is no evidence of ditches around this fortification.

On the 1865 Gould map of Johnson's Island (Figure 4), a small structure appears on the northwest (short) wall. This structure is not on the plans that were drawn by the U.S. Engineers Office in 1865. Its existence is questionable. There is no physical evidence of this structure on the parapet.

Late Federal Area

In response to the growing number of prisoners on the island and in order to properly outfit the fortifications, additional Union troops were required at Johnson's Island. Soldiers' barracks were constructed in the southwestern portion of the island in 1864 and 1865. Additionally, a hospital complex was constructed to the southeast of these barracks (Figures 4 and 5). These constructions were wood frame two-story buildings with no basements, in the same design as the rest of the buildings on the island. When the war ended, these buildings were also sold and many immediately removed. None have survived.

The expansion of the quarry destroyed most of the area where the soldiers' barracks stood. The area of the hospital remains, but has been impacted by various land use activities since the close of the prison. The area has been particularly impacted from private dwelling construction and by relic hunting.

Although some prison-era cultural materials remain on or near the surface, their extent is not well understood at this time. There is also a possibility that some sinks remain from the hospital or barracks.

Description Summary

Figure 10 depicts the extent of the archaeological investigations conducted to date. The goal of this work was to accurately locate the fortifications, the prison complex, and understand the archaeological integrity of the prison-era resources on the island generally within the perimeter road. Figure 9 shows the areas of major disturbances. The quarry has destroyed the southeast central portion of the island which included the majority of the Federal Area, part of Fort Hill, and some of the Late Federal Area. The perimeter residential development has disturbed some of the Prison Compound and Hospital Complex. All above ground modern improvements are considered non-contributing. Relic hunting and exploration have resulted in thousands of artifacts being removed from the island (Plates 9 - 11). Although the majority of these artifacts can still be recorded, much of their provenience has been lost.

Despite these impacts, the Johnson's Island Civil War Prison retains historic and archaeological integrity through its location, setting, association, materials, and feeling. The island's geographic configuration remains, thus reflecting the physical characteristics which convey an important historical aspect of its significance, the choice of the island, for purposes of protection, for the site of the prison. Several major archaeological features remain and display integrity of location, setting, association, feeling, materials, and in some instances design, particularly the spatial relationships between the artifacts and features which convey important information regarding the prison facilities and activities during the period of significance, the Civil War. The apparent abundance of related artifacts reflects the The cemetery's location, setting, feeling, design, and association remain. The Fort Hill Redoubt retains integrity of location, association and partial evidence of design, and the Fort Johnson Lunette retains excellent integrity of location, setting, feeling, design, materials and association. The Prison Compound, although portions have been disturbed by late 20th-century residential development, retains integrity of location, design, and setting. The Civil War era archaeological resources on Johnson's Island generally retain important information potential about prison-era activities. Archaeological investigations supported by the historical information available from a variety of primary sources, including diaries and government records, are planned for 1990.

As Figure 9 reveals, the major impacts upon the integrity of the island's archaeological resources have been the quarrying, road construction, looting, and 20th-century residential development. The quarrying activities have destroyed portions of the archaeological record. The other 20th-century impacts do not appear to have destroyed the Civil War era archaeological record. Despite the fact that the island's soils are shallow, these disturbances have not compromised the Civil War era archaeological record to the point where its integrity has been lost. Archaeological investigations, along with information obtained from looters, indicate that much of the archaeological integrity remains intact on or near the surface.

The four contributing resources within the boundary of the Johnson's Island Civil War Prison are two sites - the Cemetery and the rest of the nominated area, except for Forts Hill and Johnson, which are the two contributing structures. The noncontributing resources (n=210) are the 209 above ground modern improvements (buildings), and the site of the quarry.

In 1903 Adjutant General of the Army Frederick Ainsworth reported that his study of Union and Confederate records documented that 211,411 Union soldiers were captured during the war, of whom 16,668 were paroled on the field and 31,218 died while prisoners. The same sources listed 462,634 Confederate soldiers captured, of whom 247,769 were paroled on the field and 25,956 died while in captivity. This gave a 12 percent mortality for Northern prison pens and 15.5 for Southern.

If, in the years following 1865, in an effort to heal the wounds of that terrible fratricidal conflict, in which more than 621,000 soldiers perished, a memorial had been erected in the Nation's Capital on which were incised only the names of the Americans who died as prisoners-of-war it would have been as awe-inspiring as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The number of names included on such a memorial would be less by 1001 than the 58,175 Americans who gave their lives from all causes in Vietnam, but far exceed the 27,704 American battle deaths in the Korean Conflict or the 50,510 American battle deaths in World War I.

Because most facilities for confinement of Civil War prisoners-of-war were, by their nature, temporary, most of them disappeared soon after the last Confederate soldiers laid down their arms. All that remained within a few years at almost all of these sites were cemeteries, fading memories, and archeological resources. Of the 33 principal places used by the Confederates for the confinement of Union prisoners, Andersonville is the only one recognized and administered by the United States government as a National Historic Site. Eight others--Cahaba, Alabama; Salisbury, North Carolina; Charleston, South Carolina, City Jail; Florence, South Carolina; Camp Lawton, near Millen, Georgia; Castle Thunder and Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia; and Petersburg, Virginia--are identified by historic markers. Only Camp Lawton is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and its listing is as an archeological site.

Confederate prisoners were held at 32 different facilities by United States forces. Nine of these--Fort McHenry, Maryland; Camp Chase and Johnson's Island, Ohio; Fort Delaware, Delaware; Alton Military Prison Site, Illinois; Fort Warren, Massachusetts; Fort Pickens, Florida; Fort Wood, New York; and Fort Mifflin, Pennsylvania--are listed in the National Register, and two of these, Forts Warren and Mifflin, have been designated National Historic Landmarks.

Fort McHenry is included in the National Park System as Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, although its use as a prison camp for Confederates is not a prime interpretive theme; Fort Wood has become the foundation for the Statue of Liberty; and Fort Pickens is a unit in Gulf Islands National Seashore.

Of the ten sites/structures listed in the National Register that served as depots for Civil War military prisoners, five are masonry seacoast forts. At only two of these--Forts Warren and Delaware--is the interpretation of their use as prisoner-of-war camps

a major theme. The other five sites entered in the Register are Andersonville, Camp Chase, Alton, Johnson's Island, and Camp Lawton. Andersonville--the best known of these--is a National Historic Site. In October 1970, the Congress, "To provide an understanding of the overall prisoner-of-war story of the Civil War" on-site and to interpret "the role of prisoner-of-war camps in history," established Andersonville National Historic Site to be administered by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

An evaluation of the other National Register listed prisoner-of-war depots documents that Johnson's Island, because of its isolated location, surface and subsurface archaeological evidence, open space, and associated cemetery, possesses the greatest historic integrity.

Johnson's Island, because of its mission as the major depot for the confinement of Confederate general, field grade, and company officers, assumes particular significance as a critical element in the war of attrition that brought victory to the Union. The depot became a focal point for plots by Confederate agents, operating from Canadian sanctuaries, and Northern Copperheads to foment mass escapes that they hoped would bring fire and riots to Great Lakes cities. Although these plots and conspiracies came to naught, they compelled the Lincoln Administration to divert needed resources of men and materiel from more important theaters of the war.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Archeological investigations at Johnson's Island have resulted in an overall understanding of the archeological resources of the Island. The archeological integrity which is composed of location, association, design, material, and workmanship has not be compromised. The archelogical record is now being seen as an important component in the understanding of the prisoner-of-war experience. Andersonville has in recent years undergone a series of new excavations which have altered, and may further alter, the interpretation and understanding of that site hopefully a national perspective could provide additional comparison/context for other such archeological studies as they relate to Johnson's integrity, and information potential. Johnson's Island is not a totally undisturbed site, but through a variety of they uses the physical features of the prison compound, such as the ditch, have caused the site to retain much of its archeological integrity. The interior of the prison was plowed separately from the adjacent federal areas. This is apparent from the 1939 aerial photographs. The ditch was still present and prevented the plows from crossing over which would have caused the materials to be transported from the one area to another. Since separate fields were being plowed on the island, the overall site mixing that negates the evidence from a previously plowed context would not be present. Within aricultural fields there will be intermixing but not to the extent that the overall distributional contexts will be affected.

Other land disturbing activities have occurred on the island, but they have been proven, with the exception of the quarry operation, to not have resulted in a total destruction of the archeological record. The archeological testing program currently underway at Johnson's Island and the examination of the existing aerial photographs have shown that archeological integrity exists over the majority of the island. Surface evidence and archeological testing have shown that various forms and types of cultural materials exist. The evidence has shown excellent preservation and in good to excellent association. Currently faunal and vegetal remains, ceramics, metals, and glass have been recovered; subsurface features are evident as well as several above ground structural elements. Since the archeological testing has shown that the integrity of location, association, design, materials, and workmanship still exist both in the subsurface an surface remains, both general and specific research questions can be addressed at Johnson's Island that could not be addressed elsewhere. Such work at Johnson's Island may both alter and validate the documentary research that has been done on the prisoner experience, and would provide needed insight into the Federal or guard experience which has not been provided through the examination of primary source documents.

General Research Questions

There are several questions concerning the overall design of the prison that can be addressed by further archeological investigation. First, there needs to be further understanding of the overall use of the island. The major architectural/functional areas have been identified, but there is much lacking in terms of areas used for waste encampments, or other special use areas. Controlled surface and subsurface sampling of the island will allow the recovery of the types of material culture which will allow these areas to be identified. Residents along the western shoreline of the island have reported recovering large animal bones and other products suggesting garbage disposal. The detailed recording of these (dependent upon the memory of the landowner) should allow an additional portion of this picture to be discerned. It may also be possible to distinguish the dump areas servicing the Union troops and the dump areas servicing the Confederate prisoners, if they were different.

The question of the encampmetn has been a problem because several areas are suggested in the historical records, but no definite areas were ever specifically mapped. The controlled collection of areas should allow the recovery of materials that will specifically identify which military units were camped in certain areas of the island. Encampment areas are suggested for the central and western portions of the island. Land disturbance in the western sections of the island is minimal.

The Prison Compound areas has many historical maps completed for it. This provides an accurate picture of what the interior of the prison should contain. There is evidence of the roadways that were part of both the interior of the prison and the Federal Area. Plotting of the roadway will further enhance our ability to separate materials found

within the compound. When the prison was functioning, there was a "dead line" constructed fifteen feet inside of the stockade. No prisoners were allowed to enter that zone under threat of being shot. Just inside of the stockade there was the ditch. Controlled surface and subsurface collection within the "dead line" zone (the area between the "dead line: and the stockade) should produce a markedly smaller amount of cultural materials due to the inaccessibility of this area to the prisoners. Additionally, it would be suspected that the ditch should contain materials that may have been deposited by the guards rather than the prisoners. Just inside of the "dead line" there should be an increase of materials because of the construction of the latrines (sinks). The area between the blocks and the "dead line" should be productive in producing evidence of subsistence. On the western boundary the prison compound was extended 96 feet to give the prisoners additional (and needed) space for existence. An attempt should be made to define the existence of the first western boundary stockade (may be discernible through the exposure of post holes) and determine if a ditch were part of that earlier constructions. Definition of the this earlier boundary would then allow an even more accurate depiction of the location of the blocks and associated sinks. As before, the "dead line" associated with the first boundary should also be 15 feet inside of the stockade. Even though plowing has moved some of the materials, there is a certain amount of integrity that can be expected with the materials recovered.

During the period when an attempt was made to improve the quality of life for the prisoners, several deep sinks were cut into the limestone bedrock. Historically, these are thought to be located on the eastern portion of the prison compound. They would thus be within the area that has received the most recent development. However, the sinks have a good chance of being present because of their depth and the fact that little recent construction includes excavation to or through the bedrock. Their location and exploration can address many historical questions and thus confirming their existence is extremely important.

Construction of the fortifications seems to have followed the design plans accurately. There is no physical deviation from the plans. Within Fort Johnson there is noted on the Gould 1865 map a small structure appended to the western short wall not noted on the plans. Exposure of a portion of the interior of this wall would confirm this structure's existence and possibly lend some evidence as to its purpose. Exploration of the interior of Fort Hill is needed to discover the types of materials that may still be present form its use. There was a barracks area on the western side of this fortification, the majority of which has not been greatly impacted. Exposure of a portion of the barracks would help in understanding how this structure was attached to the fortification, and undoubtedly produce materials related to the troops stationed within its confines.

Research on Prisoner Conditions

It was noted that in 1864 the western boundary of prison was extented 96 feet. This added zone should mostly contain materials from the later part of the war. The controlled subsurface testing of this zone should produce an accurate picture of the material culture available to the prisoners during the last part of imprisonment. This was considered to be the darkest period for the prison and comparing the materials from this area to the areas farther inside (just on the western side) should provide some of this contrast.

The deep sinks contructed on the eastern side of the prison should also provide evidence of the last prison days of Johnson's Island. This is the time when rations were cut, supplies from the south were denied, adn the sutler's stand was eliminated. Prison life was considered severe. The archeological record should reflect this change in living conditions.

It has been noted that the prisoners made various articles for sale to the sutler to gain some finances for purchase of needed items. One of the most favorite items were rings and pins made from gutta-percha buttons. Several of these items have been recovered in the unprofessional excavations that have taken place on the island. Unfortunately, there is no record from where these items were recovered. It would be of interest to have a better understanding of the types of arts and crafts that were developed by the prisoners both for sale and for self expression. Additionally, if these items were discovered outside of the prison compound, it may be possible they were made for the Union officers and soldiers as well.

As noted earlier, it may be possible to horizontally distinguish the late period of the prison from the earlier. Comparsion of the materials within these horizontal zones may shed some light on the overall condition as well. Personal articles available to the prisoners would be an indication of the amount of stress present in the sense that there was great restraints placed on the prisoners receiving any materials from the south in the last part of the war, a condition that was not enforced in the first part. Additionally, it may be possible to gain some insight on the amount of amusement activity present during the various periods.

Surface and subsurface testing of the prison compound may also enable the distinction of the prison hospital (block 6) from the other areas. It is of interest to understand the medical supplies that were available to the prisoners and gain some insight on the treatment of the injured or sick prisoners. Sinks located near this area may also furnish much needed data of the hospital conditions.

Research on Union vs Confederate Conditions

Unfortunately, the majority of the Federal area has been removed through the quarry activity. However, there are still some marginal areas intact and much of the dump areas to be investigated. Additionally, the later hospital complex area may be able to provide needed data on Federal treatment of its troops.

Of interest would be the comparison of the type of hospital supplies provided to both the Union and Confederate forces. In gaining an understanding of the material cultural associated with the Union hospital complex, there would be the data necessary for comparing the medical treatment of the two forces. Not only would it be important to gain insight on the actual materials being used by both groups, but also what that may have meant in terms of the approaches to treatment of the sick or injured.

There is less historical information available about the condition of the Union officers and soldiers on Johnson's Island than about the Confederate officers. Examination of the dump areas (if identified) and some of the remaining Federal areas should result in a better understanding of their living conditions. It is possible some sink may be present by the northwest corner of the original Federal Area. If so, this would be an excellent source for gaining data on their condition. Additionally, there is a remote chance that some of the barracks are on the southern portion of the island may contain the archaelogical integrity necessary to provide data on the later condition of the Union soldiers. If this cannot be recovered archaelogically, there is the ability of reconstructing some of this through supplies records. Comparisons could then be made between the Union forces and the Confederate prisoners.

There are questions of what was happening to the materials being sent to the prisoners by family members and friends in the south. Were the materials eventually provided to the prisoners or were the materials split up among the Union officers and soldiers? This could be determined by examination of the content within the prison and also through comparisons to materials within the Federal areas.

National Context Questions

A fuller understanding of Johnson's Island will enable comparison of what transpired at this prison to other Union and Confederate prisons. The facts that Johnson's Island was built specifically as a prison and that it only (with the few exceptions) housed Confederate officers make it unique to the Union Civil War Prison system. It would be very useful to compare this prison to the other prisons within the Union to understand what special treatment the Union or Confederate occupants received. Questions related to diet, supplies, medical treatment, and the like can only be addressed with further historical and archaeological investigations.

It would also be appropriate to undertake comparisons between Union and Confederate prisons. Archaelogical work at sites like Andersonville is beginning to provide the data base for these comparisons. Housing, rations, personal freedoms, and personal belongings afforded to the prisoners can be further understood through extensive exploration into the archaelogical record.

SUMMARY

There are many research questions that can be addressed by the continued study of the archeology at Johnson's Island. It has been demonstrated that there is the archaelogical integrity needed to allow for the needed interpretation of this site. The research can relate to construction/design concerns, prisoner conditions concerns, Union versus Confederate comparisons, and overall national questions related to treatment of prisoners of war (in this case the Civil War).

Archeological surveys (see Resource Description, Item 7) have identified subsurface features and could provide valuable information on the material culture and day-to-day existence of the prisoners and guards. The preceeding statement of significance is based on the more detailed statements that follow.

JOHNSON'S ISLAND - NARRATIVE HISTORY

A. The Prisoner-of-War Dilemma

The weeks after the firing on Fort Sumter found both the North and South lacking any systematic organization for processing and care of prisoners of war. The beginning of hostilities demonstrated that there was no one to care for the prisoners, as a prison system with its Commissary-General, stockades, clerks, officers-in-charge, and guards had not been necessary when the Nation was at peace. A system for paroling captured military personnel could solve this problem. With the exception of the forces in the Department of Texas surrendered by Brig. Gen. David Twiggs in February 1861 to Texas authorities, where the enlisted men were confined in warehouses and jerry-built stockades, paroles had been extracted from military prisoners. In Missouri, State Guards disarmed at Camp Jackson were released on their taking an oath not to again bear arms against the Union unless exchanged. Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, in western Virginia, released troops on parole soon after they were captured. Bvt. Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott made an exception to this practice in the cases of officers who had resigned commissions in the Regular Establishment to accept Confederate commissions. They were sent to New York Harbor's Fort Lafayette.[1]

The system of paroling and promptly releasing prisoners, although humane, could only be expected to suffice in a conflict of short duration. Fearful of widespread partisan warfare, the captors had no assurance that prisoners released on parole would not promptly return to haunt them as bushwhackers. If soldiers were to be exchanged, a

system of indiscriminate paroling created almost insuperable problems when the time came for counting and establishing equivalents for the prisoners. Wars of attrition dictate that captured soldiers be held as prisoners of war for the advantage of the captors.

B. The First Northern Prisoner-of-War Depots

In the weeks immediately after the Battles of First Manassas (July 21, 1861) and Wilson's Creek (August 10, 1861), the belligerents--first in the North and then the South--realized that the Civil War was not to be a 90-day holiday for enthusiastic volunteers. By law and U.S. Army regulations, the duty of putting in place an administrative apparatus for locating and establishing facilities for the anticipated large numbers of enemy prisoners was the responsibility of the Army's Quartermaster General: Brig. Gen. Montgomery Meigs, an extremely able administrator only recently named to head that Department. He found time, in addition to his many other duties, to initiate measures toward inaugurating the Union prison system.[2]

Quartermaster General Meigs, in July, suggested to Secretary of War Simon Cameron that a position be established in his office for a Commissary-General of Prisoners. There was precedent for such a position, as a similar post had been held during the War of 1812 by Brig. Gen. John Mason of Virginia. His duties had been to keep an accounting of prisoners, to manage the exchanges should cartel for the exchange of prisoners be developed, and to care for the captures taken by his Government's armies. Because of the importance of the position, Meigs argued that the officer appointed must be a gentleman with a thorough knowledge of military law and customs. Meigs' candidate was Lt. Col. William H. Hoffman of the 8th U.S. Infantry, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. Hoffman, stationed in Texas in the winter of 1860-61, had been surrendered by Twiggs. He was soon exchanged, but the terms of his parole stipulated that he not serve in the field. On October 7, Secretary Cameron named Hoffman Commissary-General of Prisoners.[3]

The weeks following the battles of First Manassas and Wilson's Creek had seen a significant increase in the number of Southern prisoners in Union hands, and this undoubtedly speeded Hoffman's appointment. The number of captured sailors who had manned privateers and blockade runners had increased, as they were not paroled, and they had been sent to Fort Lafayette. The number of prisoners was limited, so their detention caused only minor dislocations. This situation changed for the worse after the capture of Forts Hatteras and Clark in the fourth week of August. The 678 prisoners were sent north to Governor's Island, in New York Harbor, the officers being housed in Fort Columbus, the enlisted men at Castle Williams.[4] The housing at Castle Williams was deemed inadequate, the command had difficulty enforcing sanitary regulations among the prisoners, and there was a measles epidemic, along with a number of cases of typhoid and pneumonia.[5] These health problems caused the War Department to

ready Fort Warren in Boston Harbor for the reception of the Governor's Island prisoners. The transfer was implemented early in November.[6]

Out West, Camp Chase at Columbus, Ohio, which had served as a camp of instruction for Union volunteers, became a stockade for confinement of political and military prisoners from Kentucky and western Virginia. In November, measures were implemented for upgrading the facilities and improving security, as a decision had been made to give the camp a single mission as an area for confinement of prisoners of war and state.[7]

In Missouri, "disloyal" citizens, partisans, Confederate soldiers, and members of the pro-Confederate State Guard were lodged at McDowell Medical College and in a former St. Louis slave pen. By December, the college facilities were overcrowded and it became necessary to move the prisoners. The new Illinois State Prison at Alton was acquired by the War Department and, on February 1, 1862, the St. Louis prisoners were transferred to it.[8]

C. Colonel Hoffman Selects a Lake Erie Site

From a military perspective, the scattered prison system which was evolving was unsatisfactory. When General Meigs recommended the appointment of Colonel Hoffman as Commissary-General, he also suggested to Secretary of War Cameron that a special camp for confinement of prisoners of war be established. The prisons at Forts Warren and Lafayette and on Governor's Island were unsatisfactory and not large enough. Meigs suggested that an island in Lake Erie, more particularly the islands in Put-in-Bay near Sandusky, would be excellent locations. There was no follow-up on this suggestion until after Hoffman's appointment. The first instructions Colonel Hoffman received as Commissary-General were to proceed to Lake Erie for an examination of the islands, with the goal of selecting a site for housing prisoners of war.[9]

Hoffman was the right man for this position. Arriving in Sandusky by train from New York City, he chartered Island Queen, a steamer engaged in the local trade, and began an examination of the Put-in-Bay Islands for a suitable prison site. He reconnoitered and rejected several of the isles. North Bass, nearest the international boundary, was too close to Canada and would be iced in for weeks or months during cold Great Lakes winters, making it difficult to supply. Middle Bass had similar deficiencies, besides its greater resident population. South Bass was more accessible, but grape culture there was extensive, and the vineyard owners feared midnight raids by the guards. Kelley's Island, to the east, was rejected for similar reasons, as well as a concern that the guards would find a nearby brandy establishment too great a temptation.

In the mouth of Sandusky Bay, two and one-half miles northwest of the town of Sandusky and one mile south of Marblehead Peninsula, he found a perfect site for a prison. Formerly known as Bull Island, the property had been recently purchased by L.B. Johnson and renamed Johnson's Island. It measured about 300 acres, "one-half of which with the

privilege of using the fallen timber as fuel," the owner was agreeable to leasing for $500 per year, with control over the entire island. Fuel was plentiful; a 40-acre clearing parallel to the eastern shore furnished a suitable site for barracks for the prisoners and the guards. The island was close to a railhead and would be easy to provision, even when Sandusky Bay froze. The ice supported teams engaged in cutting ice, so it could be crossed by Army supply wagons during the annual freeze-up. The proximity of the city made an uprising against the guards impractical, and the mile of water between the island and the mainland limited the possibility of escape as long as a warning cannon shot could alert the Sandusky residents.[10]

D. Establishing and Staffing the Depot

1. Planning the Facilities and Paring the Estimates

Hoffman used a sharp pencil in preparing estimates of the cost and time necessary to establish the depot. For economy, he called for a standard army barracks--a single-story wooden building, frame covered with shingle, and ceiled overhead. Each would be 105 feet long by 23 feet wide, with walls of 9 feet that could be divided into three rooms to house 180 men, with each room equipped with 2 stoves. He placed the cost of erecting one of these barracks at $800. A 12-room structure--112 feet long by 29 feet broad--divided by halls for purposes of discipline into group of 4, would house officers and cost $1,100. Costs could be reduced if several of these buildings were connected, and would be still less if raised to two stories. A hospital, storehouses, and kitchens would be needed and probably mess halls, as there would be scant room for eating in the barracks. The proximity of Sandusky alleviated the need for large warehouses. Arrangements for guarding the prisoners had to be investigated, and Hoffman recommended a:

> substantial plank fence to enclose the ground on three sides, a high opening picketing closing the fourth side toward the water for security in winter time. A gate at one of the angles with a block-house sufficiently large for the guard. A small block-house also at the angle near the water to guard that front. Sentinels should be posted at suitable points around the enclosure on elevated platforms so they could overlook the inside grounds. The quarters for the troops in charge should be outside.[11]

One hundred to 150 soldiers were needed to guard the stockade; one officer and some 30 enlisted men being required daily for guard duty. A small, canister-firing howitzer was to be mounted in each blockhouse, with a patrol boat, whenever Sandusky Bay was ice free.

Colonel Hoffman estimated the construction cost of the depot, to include "four two-story buildings to quarter 1,000 men (1,080 men), at $1400 apiece, each building to accommodate 270 men with sleeping and mess-room," at $26,266.[12]

On October 26 Quartermaster General Meigs, after reviewing Colonel Hoffman's report, approved the project as described and the proposed expenditures, but he cautioned on the need to observe "the strictest economy" consistent with the security and welfare of the prisoners. Hoffman was to establish his headquarters in New York City, and to visit the various "posts where prisoners are now held as may be necessary" to determine the wants and condition of the prisoners.[13]

2. The Initial Construction Program

Within two weeks of securing Meigs' go-ahead, Colonel Hoffman had leased the island and let the contract for construction of the facilities to local builders William T. West and Philander Gregg, who gave bond and promised to have the prison ready for occupancy by February 1, 1862.[14] When John Case, another Sandusky contractor, complained that the bidding was rigged, Hoffman explained that he had moved expeditiously to avoid delay, the season already being far advanced. In addition, West and Gregg were better qualified than other builders, and they had met Hoffman's $30,000 cost estimate.[15]

West and Gregg turned out a large workforce and, through the first of the year, the weather was moderate and the water in the bay ice free during most of December. By then, most of the building materials were on-site, and by mid-February the prison was ready to receive its first contingent of prisoners. The facilities were "spartan." In March, more structures were required to meet the big influx of prisoners that followed Union victories at Fort Donelson and Island No. 10, and another contract was signed for additional construction that would increase facilities to accommodate from 3,000 to 5,000 prisoners.

When all construction finally stopped, the depot included a prison yard (bullpen) enclosed on four sides by a plank fence, with a blockhouse at the northeast corner; 13 two-story barracks, four 117 by 39 feet, divided into 22 squadrooms; four 130 by 24 feet, divided into six squadrooms; and one to serve as a hospital, which was separated into four wards with rooms for the hospital steward and doctor. The last four built were similar, each designed for 270 prisoners. The roomier blocks were to house officers, while the smaller blocks were to house enlisted men. Later, the kitchens and mess rooms were removed from the barracks and separate kitchen and mess facilities built within the compound.

Outside the stockade were more than 40 structures erected in support of the prison operations, including officers' quarters, barracks for enlisted personnel, express office, bandroom, limekiln, storehouses, stables, barn, stone powder magazine, pest house, post headquarters, bakery, laundresses' quarters, sutler's store and quarters, etc. When the initial construction phases were complete, in mid-June 1862, the Johnson's Island prisoner-of-war depot "had the appearance of a complete military post.

Slightly more than six months before, the island had been a wilderness of little value to anyone."[16]

3. A Guard Battalion is Constituted and Organized

A guard force was vital and had to be on-site well before receipt of any prisoners. The prison was in Ohio, so Secretary of War Cameron, on October 29, called on Governor William Dennison of that State to provide Colonel Hoffman with a company of volunteers for guard duty on Johnson's Island. The Governor was to consult with Colonel Hoffman in the selection of company officers. The unit's name--Hoffman's Battalion--was chosen by Governor Dennison before the first enlistments. Word that the battalion would not be called on to serve elsewhere spurred recruiting, and Hoffman called on the Governor for a second company. By late summer 1862, two more companies were added to the battalion. In early January 1864 the four companies would be assigned to the 128th Ohio Infantry.

Hoffman, coincident with his December 1861 call for a second company, had recommended the appointment of William S. Pierson, a local businessman and the mayor of Sandusky, as major in the U.S. volunteers to command the prison. Though not a military man, Pierson, who assumed command on New Year's Day, had impressed Hoffman as combining the abilities and qualities of a gentleman, with a willingness to educate himself as to the duties of post commander. His initial tasks were to oversee the organization of the depot, especially the discipline and training of the officers and men of Hoffman's Battalion, and to assist the quartermaster assigned from Hoffman's office in supervising camp construction.[17]

E. The First Prisoners Arrive

Before Johnson's Island was ready for receipt of prisoners, it was evident that the preparations for their reception were too conservative. On February 8 some 2,000 Confederates were surrendered at Roanoke Island. Then, eight days later, more than 12,000 Rebel soldiers laid down their arms at Fort Donelson. In the West, Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck fired off a barrage of telegrams, as he frantically searched for places to confine the Fort Donelson prisoners, to relieve Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's army of the necessity of guarding them. The Governors of Indiana and Illinois volunteered their assistance. Three thousand of these Confederates were sent to Camp Morton in Indianapolis; 5,000 to Chicago's Camp Douglas; 3,000 to Springfield's Camp Butler; the general and field-grade officers to Fort Warren; and scattered groups to Terre Haute, Fort Wayne, Lafayette, and Richmond, Indiana. Upon the disposition of the Fort Donelson Confederates, permanent prison camps were established by Colonel Hoffman at Camps Douglas, Butler, Morton, and Chase. The latter was at Columbus, Ohio. In the latter camp were confined all the Rebel officers except those sent to Fort Warren.[18]

The Johnson's Island prison was ready for the reception of 500 men on February 25, but a postponement was suggested because the ice in the bay was breaking up. Some two weeks later, on March 12, Major Pierson announced that he was prepared to receive prisoners, and the captain of the sloop Harlequin began service between Sandusky and Johnson's Island. After more delays, the first Confederates--200 prisoners from Camp Chase--arrived in Sandusky on the evening of April 10 by train from Columbus. The local newspaper reported:

> A Special Train ... arrived at 6 P.M. yesterday with about 200 rebel prisoners from Camp Chase . ... They were clad variously. Some had the characteristic butternut color, and some did not. Some wore blue coats with brass buttons; others had on coats of no particular color, and, as for buttons, we saw none. Some wore hats and some had on caps. ... We learn that they are all officers, and conclude that they were not in full uniform yesterday.[19]

The prisoners were received by Major Pierson and a detachment of Hoffman's Battalion and marched aboard Island Queen, where, the editor of the Register presumed "they will find things as they deserve." The Johnson's Island stockade had been activated.[20]

In mid-June enlisted prisoners received in the weeks since mid-April were transferred to Camp Chase, and thereafter the Sandusky Bay prison would house only officers (with an occasional enlisted man arriving because of a foul-up in the reams of paperwork generated by Colonel Hoffman's office). This was done by direction of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, who had determined that all Confederate officers held as prisoners-of-war were to be confined at the Sandusky Bay stockade.[21]

As of July 31, 1862, there were 1,184 prisoners held on Johnson's Island. The number of prisoners confined there increased during the next two months and peaked at 1,949 on September 30. As of the latter date, there were eight prisoner depots in the North, in addition to Johnson's Island, and at three of these--Camp Chase, Camp Douglas, and Fort Delaware--more Confederates were confined.[22]

F. Johnson's Island and the Dix-Hill Cartel

1. The Prisoner-of-War Problem

In the autumn of 1862, there was a dramatic drop in the number of prisoners-of-war held in depots and stockades in the North and the Confederacy. This resulted from the ratification of the Dix-Hill Cartel on July 22 by responsible officials. The need for a cartel had become apparent as soon as the belligerents realized the conflict was not going to be a splendid 90-day war.

Among the most vexing problems that were confronted by Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis was how to address the prisoner-of-war dilemma. Standard practices, prevailing among European powers in the 1850s, provided that a prisoner-of-war was entitled "to all of the privileges and subject to all the inconveniences which the usages of civilized nations impose upon prisoners of war." They could be required to give a parole not to bear arms against their captors, not to visit certain localities, and not to give aid and comfort to the foe; or they could be confined in prison camps.

2. The Belligerents Agree on a Cartel

Even before the opening battles at Manassas and Wilson's Creek in July and August 1861, Union soldiers and Confederate volunteers had been captured and paroled. After the Battle of 1st Manassas, where the South captured almost 1,000 Federals, and the action at Hatteras Inlet, where the Union made prisoners of a number of Confederates, the two governments sought to establish a mutually accepted policy of providing for the parole and exchange of prisoners. In carrying out these negotiations, President Abraham Lincoln and his agents had to exercise care to avoid any tacit recognition of the Confederate government.

In July 1862, following Confederate successes in the Seven Days' Battles before Richmond and the passage by the United States Congress of a Joint Resolution calling on Secretary of War Stanton for information as to the progress of negotiations, Maj. Gen. John A. Dix was notified that President Lincoln wanted him to take charge of the negotiations, which had broken down in February. Dix was cautioned to avoid any recognition of the Confederacy. On July 18 he met with the Confederate representative, Maj. Gen. Daniel H. Hill, and a cartel was drafted providing for the parole and exchange of prisoners. This draft was submitted to and approved by their superiors.[23]

The cartel, and the mass exchanges that resulted, relieved the U.S. government of the necessity of caring for many thousands of prisoners and a number of camps were closed. Political prisoners were concentrated at Johnson's Island and St. Louis' McDowell's College.[24]

3. Mass Exchanges and Paroles Add A New Dimension

By the end of November, when most of the prisoners held in the prison pens had been exchanged, the number of depots in the North where Confederates were confined had been reduced to seven. Of these, Johnson's Island ranked second, housing 1,238 individuals. The only facility reporting more was the former Illinois penitentiary at Alton. On the last day of 1862 Major Pierson reported that the number of prisoners for whom he was accountable had fallen to 313. The population of the Johnson's Island stockade remained relatively constant until April, when it declined by two-thirds to number only 123 on the 30th.[25]

General Grant's 19-day campaign from Bruinsburg to Vicksburg, Mississippi (May 1-19), the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1-3), and the surrender of Port Hudson, Louisiana (July 9) caused the number of prisoners held in Northern prison pens to soar again. As of August 31, 1863, Major Pierson counted 2,000 Confederate officers in his stockade. There were at this time 17 Northern depots in which Rebels were held. Of these, four--Camps Chase, Douglas, and Morton, and Fort Delaware--had populations exceeding that of Johnson's Island.[26]

4. The Dix-Hill Cartel Breaks Down

The exchange system established by the Dix-Hill Cartel was under constant strain after the winter of 1862-63, soon to be followed by retaliation and counter-retaliation that, in the summer of 1863, caused a breakdown. On December 28, 1862, Secretary of War Stanton ordered the exchange of commissioned officers discontinued. Additional difficulties arose because of the organization of Black soldiers for combat by the United States and the refusal of Confederate authorities to exchange these Blacks and their White officers as prisoners of war, as well as misunderstandings as to the status of Southern prisoners paroled at the surrenders of Vicksburg and Port Hudson. General Grant accused the Confederates of bad faith in redeploying these paroled soldiers, while Confederate authorities replied that the paroles were irregular and invalid.[27]

Tempers further flared when Gen. Robert E. Lee paroled a large number of Federal soldiers in Pennsylvania and Maryland in June and July 1863. Lee, in accordance with the Cartel, had asked Maj. Gen. George G. Meade to appoint a place of exchange. Meade refused, and Lee, to "disembarass" himself of providing for the prisoners, had paroled them.[28] Because of these mutual recriminations, the system of exchanges under the Cartel broke down, and, on October 27, 1863, Secretary Stanton had Commissary-General Hoffman notify his prison camp commandants that, for the time being, there would be no more exchanges.[29] Then, in 1864, another factor arose--the grim fight-it-out war of attrition attitude of General Grant, who on March 9 had assumed command of all Union armies. On April 17, Grant ordered that no more exchanges of Confederate prisoners be permitted until the Davis government ceased its discrimination against Black prisoners and released enough Union prisoners to offset the Vicksburg and Port Hudson parolees, who, in Grant's view, had violated their paroles. Proposals for even exchanges, man-for-man and officer-for-officer, were advanced by the Confederates, but they were rejected until January 1865, when Grant, satisfied that the war was just about over, consented to the policy of even exchange.[30]

G. Johnson's Island Becomes the Major Depot for Confinement of Confederate Officers.

During the months from September 1863 through December 1864, in which there were few or no exchanges, the number of prisoners at Johnson's Island rose from a low of 2,144 in May 1864 to a high of 3,231 in December 1864. The average monthly return for this period was 2,526. The large numbers of Confederate enlisted men captured at the three-

day Battle of Chattanooga (November 23-25, 1863), and in the weeks after the Union armies took the offensive in North Georgia and Virginia in May 1864, compelled Commissary-General Hoffman to reopen a number of depots closed following the massive exchanges in 1862 and establish a number of new facilities. By March 1864, there were, in addition to Johnson's Island, 27 other prisoner-of-war camps. Those in which the largest numbers of Confederate noncommissioned officers and privates were confined were Point Lookout, Maryland; Fort Delaware, Delaware; Camps Douglas and Rock Island, Illinois; Elmira, New York; Camp Chase, Ohio; and Nashville, Tennessee.[31]

Although man-for-man and officer-for-officer exchanges were resumed in January 1865, the number of Confederates held in Union prison camps did not materially decline between January 1 and June 1865. This was because of the large numbers of Rebel soldiers captured by Grant's armies in Virginia between the March 25 Battle of Fort Stedman and the April 8 battle at Appomattox Station and those taken in the fighting on the eastern approaches to Mobile in early April. The number of officers held at Johnson's Island ranged from 3,256 in January to 2,623 in June.[32]

H. Johnson's Island Shuts Down

News of the surrender of General Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House, on April 9, and of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's command at Durham Station, North Carolina, on April 26, led most of the 2,800 Johnson's Island prisoners to request permission to take the oath of allegiance. By July 31, all but 110 of the prisoners had taken the oath, been transported to the mainland, and released. Meanwhile, on July 5, Colonel Hoffman reported to Secretary of War Stanton that all but a few sick had been released from all the prisons except Johnson's Island, Fort Warren, and Fort Delaware, and he recommended that 150 officers then at Johnson's be removed to one of the other prisons. On July 20, orders were issued for the release of all prisoners except those captured with President Jefferson Davis at Irwinville, Georgia, on May 10.[33]

The 128th Ohio Volunteers was mustered out in July, and only a small guard detachment remained on Johnson's Island. On September 5, orders were issued to transfer Major Styles and Captain Gusman, who refused to take oath; Lieutenant McBride, who claimed to be a British subject; Charles H. Cole and John B. Robinson, charged with piracy; and Harry B. Esteph, held as a deserter. When the five left the island for Fort Lafayette, Johnson's Island was free of Confederates, except for the 206 bodies in the cemetery, for the first time since April 10, 1862--40 months before.[34]

In November 1865, the buildings and furnishings of the prisons and forts were offered for sale at a series of public auctions. These ended on April 2, 1866. The guard detail was ordered to Columbus, Ohio; small arms and munitions went to the Detroit Arsenal; and heavy guns and cord wood were sent to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Thus ended the role of Johnson's Island in the Civil War.

I. The City of the Dead

Located near the bay, several hundred yards north of the stockade, is the Confederate cemetery in which 206 prisoners of war were buried. By 1866 the wooden headboards were tilting and a number beginning to rot. In 1890 the graves were marked by headstones of Georgia marble 1 by 3 feet and 2 inches thick, with the name, rank, unit and State of the deceased, except when they were unknown. On the latter were cut the word "Unknown." With the unexpended balance the Georgia Confederate Memorial Association provided an iron fence for the cemetery.

Some 20 years later, on June 8, 1910, a memorial to the dead soldiers, by noted sculptor and Civil War veteran Sir Moses Ezekiel, was dedicated in the cemetery. The monument, featuring a Confederate soldier, was funded by the Robert Patton Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy of Cincinnati.

J. The Island's Significance as the Principal Stockade for Confederate Officers.

Johnson's Island, from mid-June 1862 until the end of the Civil War, was the facility designated by the U.S. War Department for the confinement of Confederate officers--general, field grade, staff, and company. The practice of segregating captured officers from enlisted personnel has a long history. Among the reasons for this were to keep the officers from using their authority to organize escapes, riots, and harassment of the guards, and the belief that officers were gentlemen and deserving of better quarters and rations. The significance of holding a large number of Confederate officers on Johnson's Island, from which escape was very difficult, became increasingly important as the bloody battles of 1863 and 1864 resulted in the loss by death and wounds of hundreds and hundreds of promising leaders. With a much smaller manpower pool than the North, this war of attrition sapped the Confederates' strength and morale, and loss of the combat skills of the Johnson's Island prisoners became increasingly detrimental to the South.

In addition to a large number of field and staff officers, a number of Confederate generals were at one time or another held prisoner on Johnson's Island. They included: Maj. Gen. Isaac R. Trimble and Brig. Gen. John J. Archer, both captured at Gettysburg; Brig. Gen. William N.R. Beale, who surrendered at Port Hudson on July 9, 1863; Brig. Gen. John W. Frazer, captured with his 2,500-man command at Cumberland Gap on September 9, 1863; Brig. Gen. John R. Jones, who, after being relieved as a brigade commander with the Army of Northern Virginia for showing the "white feather" at Chancellorsville, was captured at Smithburg, Tennessee, on July 4, 1863; Col. M. Jeff Thompson, the "Swamp Fox of the Confederacy," who was captured August 22, 1862, in southwest Missouri; and Col. Basil W. Duke, captured at the Buffington Island fight on July 26, 1863, who was exchanged and promoted to brigadier general to rank from September 15, 1864.

In mid-December 1864, following the failure of a scheme by Confederate secret service operatives in Canada to release the Johnson's Island prisoners, it was decided by the War Department to transfer all Confederate generals and a number of field grade officers to more secure prisons at the Atlantic coast forts.[35]

K. The Island, the Prisoners, and the Great Lakes Conspiracies

1. Initial Concerns

The island's proximity to Canada; the presence in that nation of numbers of Confederate sympathizers and agents; the presumed strength of anti-war Democrats and "Copperheads," the latter led by Congressman Clement Vallandigham of Ohio; and the confinement of large numbers of Rebel soldiers in the stockade before implementation of the Dix-Hill Cartel led to fear of a revolt and seizure of the island by the prisoners. The first of these fears surfaced on June 18, 1862, when Prison Commander Major Pierson warned Commissary-General of Prisoners Hoffman that the prisoners had "a concerted plan for general revolt, with a view of taking the island" and escaping. In their effort, they were to receive aid and transportation from friends in Canada. Pierson urged that the only U.S. warship on the Great Lakes, the screw steamer Michigan, be rushed to Sandusky Bay.[36] Whereupon, Colonel Hoffman hurried an infantry company to the island from Camp Chase, observing that the "presence of a stronger guard will overawe the reckless and encourage the well disposed to insist on submission where resistance could only lead to a useless sacrifice of their own lives."[37] Nothing, however, came of Major Pierson's alarms.

2. The November 1863 Panic

After the summer 1863 break-down of the exchanges under the Dix-Hill Cartel, Johnson's Island became the primary depot for confinement of Confederate officers, and rumors of planned mass escapes again aroused concern. On September 21, Maj. Y.H. Blackwell of the 5th Missouri Cavalry wrote Confederate Secretary of War James A. Seddon from Washington, Arkansas, enclosing a secret letter from Brig. Gen. James J. Archer, who had been captured at Gettysburg on July 1, and was then housed in the Johnson's Island stockade. Archer had written, "We count here 1,600 prisoners, 1,200 officers. We can take the island, guarded by only one battalion, with small loss, but have no way to get off. A great lake steamer manned by a few good men would answer this problem."[38]

Camp Commander Pierson, now a lieutenant colonel, would have been more uncomfortable if he had known of the letter. Even so, he complained to Colonel Hoffman, on October 1, "There is a bad spirit among the prisoners. They have the idea it would be a great thing for the Confederacy for them to escape." To guard against a riot and escape, Pierson asked that his guard battalion be increased by two companies and that Michigan be ordered from her homeport of Erie, Pennsylvania, to Sandusky Bay.[39]

Hoffman was unsympathetic to Pierson's concerns and informed him that he "did not feel at liberty either to ask for additional companies or for the presence of the steamer Michigan.[40] Pierson disagreed with his superior and countered that his 2,452 prisoners were "a most desperate set of men, with great smartness and a conviction that their escape would be better than a victory in any battle. ..."[41]

In an effort to calm Pierson's fears, the Navy Department, in accordance with a request from Colonel Hoffman, ordered Michigan to proceed from Erie to Sandusky Bay. She arrived on October 24 and anchored off Johnson's Island. From her station, the warship's sailors commanded the stockade with a 68-pounder pivot gun.[42]

On November 11 Secretary of War Stanton panicked, upon being advised by Lord Lyon, the British Minister, that the Governor-General of Canada had warned of a plot by Confederate partisans who had found haven in Canada "to invade the United States and destroy the city of Buffalo; that they propose to take possession of some steamboats on Lake Erie to surprise Johnson's Island and set free the prisoners of war confined there. ..." Whereupon, Stanton fired off a barrage of telegrams to the Governors of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois; the mayors of Buffalo and other cities on or adjacent to the Great Lakes; and the general officers commanding the Military Districts of Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania, alerting them to the plot.[43]

This corroborated reports from Lt. Col. Joseph R. Smith at Detroit, stating that he had "definite informations of the fitting out of a rebel steamer at Montreal to attack Johnson's Island and release the rebel prisoners." Brig. Gen. Jacob D. Cox, a combat veteran in charge of the Ohio Military District, rushed a six-gun rifle battery of artillery and a 500-man detachment of infantry by rail to Sandusky.[44] Cox, departing Cincinnati at mid-day on November 12, detrained in Sandusky that evening. Upon his arrival, he learned that Ohio Governor David Tod had ordered out the Toledo, Cleveland, and Sandusky
militia--2,000 strong--to assemble at Sandusky.[45]

General Cox and Governor Tod assured the War Department, on the 13th, that the situation at the prison camp was under control.[46] The Sandusky Register likewise informed its readers that

> whether the fears were well or ill-founded, matters little. What with troops from Cleveland ..., the full battery of six guns which arrived last evening [the 12th], the U.S.S. Michigan, the Hoffman Battalion, and the Sandusky volunteer militia, we opine Johnson's Island is now pretty safe from without or disturbance within.[47]

On November 15, General Cox received a report from Detroit stating, "Rebels who left Windsor to join the raid are returning, saying that the plans are frustrated for the present, and will have to be postponed for a time." Relaying this news to Secretary of

War Stanton, Cox noted that "I regard this as ending the immediate danger, but will keep force here as it is till the report is confirmed."[48]

Satisfied that the crisis had passed, General Cox, on the 17th, notified the War Department that, unless directed otherwise, he would dismiss part of the militia called out by Governor Tod on the 18th and the rest on the 19th. He planned to retain at Johnson's Island the company of artillery sent from Camp Dennison and the battalion of recruits. He recommended that a battery of cannon--some long-ranged and the rest Napoleons--be positioned in earthworks on the island. The big guns would command the channel, and the canister-belching Napoleons would annihilate the prisoners if they rioted and sought to escape. The cannon, with the increase of the Hoffman Battalion to regimental strength, Cox opined, "will make the Johnson's Island secure."[49] Secretary Stanton approved Cox's proposal to dismiss the militia. This was done as scheduled, and General Cox, after arranging to have four siege guns emplaced on Johnson's Island, left Sandusky on November 30, en route to report to Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, the commander of Union forces in East Tennessee.[50]

The mid-November panic had important repercussions on the administration and security of the Johnson's Island depot. Colonel Pierson had demonstrated that, when confronted by threats of riots and mass escapes, he was not the man to handle a crisis. In addition, an inspecting officer noted that the prisoners'

> quarters are, with but one or two exceptions, filthy, the prisoners policing or not ... as they see fit, no organized system being in force, but the whole matter left to the caprice of the prisoners themselves. The kitchens are filthy, with all their utensils, and the ground around the outer doors covered with filth and slops, frozen to a depth of several inches.[51]

3. Security Measures Become Top Priority

It was apparent that Pierson must be replaced. On January 14, 1864, Brig. Gen. Henry D. Terry arrived in Sandusky from northern Virginia, with a five-regiment infantry brigade detached from the Army of the Potomac's Sixth Corps, and took command of the post, as well as Johnson's Island. Four of the regiments were quartered on the island and one in the city. Colonel Pierson retained his prison-associated administrative duties.[52] In early May, General Terry and his command were withdrawn from the area and returned to northern Virginia to rejoin the Sixth Corps. Terry's replacement as Johnson's Island commander was Col. Charles W. Hall. Colonel Pierson by this time had been relieved of his administrative duties, had departed the island, and resigned from the army in July. Hall remained in charge until the prison was shut down in the summer of 1865.[53]

In addition to the measures taken to reinforce the troops charged with security measures and improving administration of the depot, other steps were taken to improve

security because of General Cox's recommendations. This involved construction of fortifications and emplacement of cannon in the works. These works had dual missions, underscored by their fields of fire. The first redoubt completed and armed was on Cedar Point, the guns of which were initially manned by the 24th Ohio Battery. They commanded the channel giving access to Sandusky Bay from Lake Erie.[54]

More impressive were the two large enclosed earthworks erected on Johnson's Island west of the stockade by fatigue parties drawn from General Terry's brigade. The larger of these works, a redoubt sited on the highest point of the island, was designated Fort Hill. The fort's big guns, several mounted on front-pintle barbette carriages, were sited to command the stockade and approaches to the island dock from the channel and the Marblehead Peninsula from the northwest. Fort Johnson, a lunette, was sited on the high ground north and west of the stockade. Its guns commanded the narrow expanse of water separating the island from the peninsula.

4. The "Lake Erie Conspiracy"

The defenses had been completed and armed and Colonel Hall had improved administration of the prison when the much written about "Lake Erie Conspiracy" surfaced. Again, it centered on a plan by Confederate agents in Canada, in cooperation with Copperheads, to free the Johnson's Island prisoners. On September 19, 1864, Rebel agents seized the steamer Philo Parsons off Kelley's Island. Island Queen, which came to assist Parsons, was also captured. Most of the passengers and crew were put ashore on one of the islands unharmed. Parsons, towing Island Queen, set about with her Rebel crew, seeking to run into Sandusky Bay, seize USS Michigan, and release the prisoners from Johnson's Island.

Things turned sour--possibly a signal from Sandusky was missed--and the agents grew suspicious and decided to abandon the plot. Course was shaped for Canadian waters, while the remaining crews, captured with the steamboats, were let off unharmed on Fighting Island. The boats were set adrift near Sandwich, and that ended the Philo Parsons Plot. Reports of other plots came again in October and November of 1864, but again the efforts failed.[55]

ENDNOTES

1. The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, (Hereafter cited as Official Records.) 73 vols., 128 parts (Washington, 1880-1901), Ser. II, Vol. 3, 10; William B. Hesseltine, Civil War Prisons: A Study in War Psychology (New York, 1964), p. 34.

2. Hesseltine, Civil War Prisons, pp. 34-35.

3. Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. 3, 8, 32, 48-49. General Mason was the father of James M. Mason, formerly U.S. Senator from Virginia and then Secretary of State in the Confederate Cabinet.

4. Ibid., 34, 35, 39.

5. Ibid., 47.

6. Ibid., 46-47, 50-51, 53, 122.

7. Ibid., 136; Hesseltine, Civil War Prisons, p. 37.

8. Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. 1, 151, 163; Ser. II, Vol. 3, 257-259.

9. Ibid., 8, 49; Hesseltine, Civil War Prisons, p. 37.

10. Hesseltine, Civil War Prisons, p. 36; Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. 3, 54-55; Roger Long, "Johnson's Island Prison," Blue and Gray Magazine, Vol. IV, No. 4 (March 1987), p. 11.

11. Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. 3, 56.

12. Ibid., 56-58.

13. Ibid., 122-123; Hesseltine, Civil War Prisons, p. 39.

14. Long, "Johnson's Island Prison," p. 11. West and his brother were the builder-owners of Sandusky's leading hotel.

15. Ibid.; Charles H. Frohman, Rebels on Lake Erie (Columbus, Ohio, 1965), p. 4.

16. Long, "Johnson's Island Prison," p. 11; Frohman, Rebels on Lake Erie, pp. 4-5.

17. Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. 3, 123, 163, 171; Long, "Johnson's Island Prison," pp. 12-13; Frohman, Rebels on Lake Erie, pp. 6-7.

18. Hesseltine, Civil War Prisons, p. 41.

19. Sandusky Register, April 11, 1862; Frohman, Rebels on Lake Erie, pp. 7-8.

20. Ibid.; Long, "Johnson's Island Prison," p. 12.

21. Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. 3, 574; Vol. 4, 24, 28, 35-36.

22. Ibid., Vol. 8, 986-987.

23. Edwin C. Bearss, Historic Resources Study and Historical Base Map: Andersonville National Historic Site (National Park Service, 1970), pp. 1-2; Hesseltine, Civil War Prisons, pp. 1, 7-31.

24. Hesseltine, Civil War Prisons, p. 54.

25. Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. 8, 988-989.

26. Ibid., 989-991.

27. J.G. Randall, The Civil War and Reconstruction (Boston, 1953), p. 438; Official Records. Ser. II, Vol. 3, 673.

28. Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. 7, 427.

29. Ibid., 427.

30. Ibid., Ser. II, Vol. 7, 62-63; John F. Rhodes, History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850 to 1877 (New York, 1893-1906), Vol. 5, 500.

31. Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. 8, 992-999.

32. Ibid., 1000-1002.

33. Ibid., 700-701, 709-710; Hesseltine, Civil War Prisons, p. 232; Frohman, Rebels on Lake Erie, pp. 68-69.

34. Frohman, Rebels on Lake Erie, p. 69; Long, "Johnson's Island Prison," p. 31.

35. Long, "Johnson's Island Prison," pp. 25-26.

36. Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. 4, 37-38, 42.

37. Ibid., 87.

38. Ibid., Ser. II, Vol. 6, 311.

39. Ibid., 333.

40. Ibid., 368.

41. Ibid., 385.

42. Ibid., 491; Frohman, Rebels on Lake Erie, pp. 39-40.

43. Official Records, Ser. III, Vol. 3, 1013-1015.

44. Ibid., 1012-1013. The infantry battalion, newly recruited, came from Camp Cleveland, and the artillerists from Camp Dennison.

45. Ibid., 1023-1024.

46. Ibid., 1033.

47. Sandusky Register, Nov. 14, 1863; Frohman, Rebels on Lake Erie, p. 41.

48. Official Records, Ser. III, Vol. 3, 1043.

49. Ibid., 1075.

50. Ibid., 1084, 1090-1091, 1104.

51. Official Records, Ser. II, Vol. 6, 826.

52. Ibid., 871; Long, "Johnson's Island Prison," 13. The 65th and 67th New York Infantry Regiments and the 23rd and 82nd Pennsylvania Infantry Regiments were posted on the island, and the 122nd New York Infantry was quartered in Sandusky.

53. Ibid., Ser. II, Vol. 7, 140-141; Frohman, Rebels on Lake Erie, pp. 12-13.

54. Frohman, Rebels on Lake Erie, p. 41. The 24th Ohio Battery remained at Cedar Point and Johnson's Island until August 6, 1864, when it was ordered to Camp Douglas.

55. For an exciting and timely account of the "Lake Erie Conspiracy," the reader is referred to Roger Long's, "The Conspiracy: Pirates on Lake Erie," Blue and Gray Magazine, Vol. 4, 4 (March 1987).

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_____. "Johnson's Island Prison," Blue and Gray Magazine. IV, 4 (March 1987).

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The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. 73 vols., 128 pts. Washington, 1880-1901.

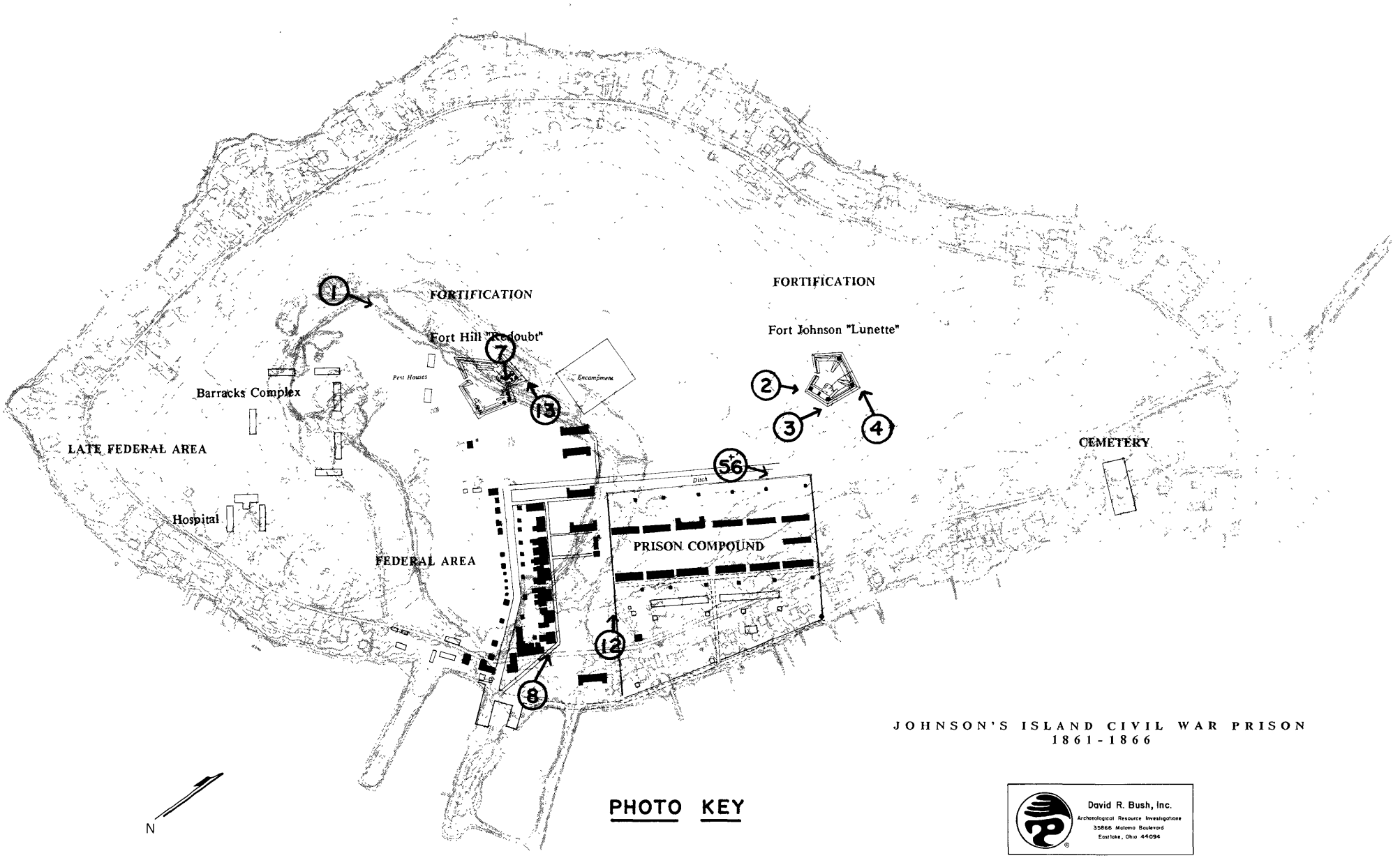
Sandusky Register

Boundary Justification

The entire island is nominated because the Federal Government chose this place to build the prison because it was an island (making escape difficult), because the entire island was considered and utilized as the prison site, with much of the non-prison proper used to support the prison, even though the building of prison related structures (about 100 in all) was generally confined to the eastern half of the island, and because the island, except for the quarry area and the above ground improvements in the residential (perimeter) area (intrusions), retains its historic and archaeological integrity, as demonstrated by the archaeological investigations undertaken in 1989 by Dr. David R. Bush of David R. Bush, Inc.

In October, 1861, Lt. Col. William Hoffman arrived in Sandusky charged with finding a proper site for a prison. He had been to Detroit, Toledo, and Cleveland looking for suitable prison sites, but found none. Col. Hoffman inspected and rejected several Lake Erie isles, including North Bass (too close to Canada and difficult to supply during the winter), Middle Bass (similar problems, plus a larger civilian population), and South Bass and Kelley's (the viticulture industry was extensive and the vineyard owners were against the idea). Within Sandusky Bay, however, he found Johnson's Island uninhabited. It was about the right size, 300 acres, much of which was covered with hickory and oak. The price was right. Half the island could be leased for $500/year from its owner, Mr. Leonard B. Johnson, with control over the rest. Fuel was plentiful, with 40 acres of good hardwood already cleared that was suited for building the prison. Johnson's Island was only a mile from the mainland (Marblehead Peninsula) to the north and three miles from the City of Sandusky to the south. It was close to a rail head and would be easy to supply, even when the bay froze during the winter. The ice could support teams of horses for army supply wagons and ice harvesting.

Johnson Island Civil War Prison, Ottawa County, Ohio



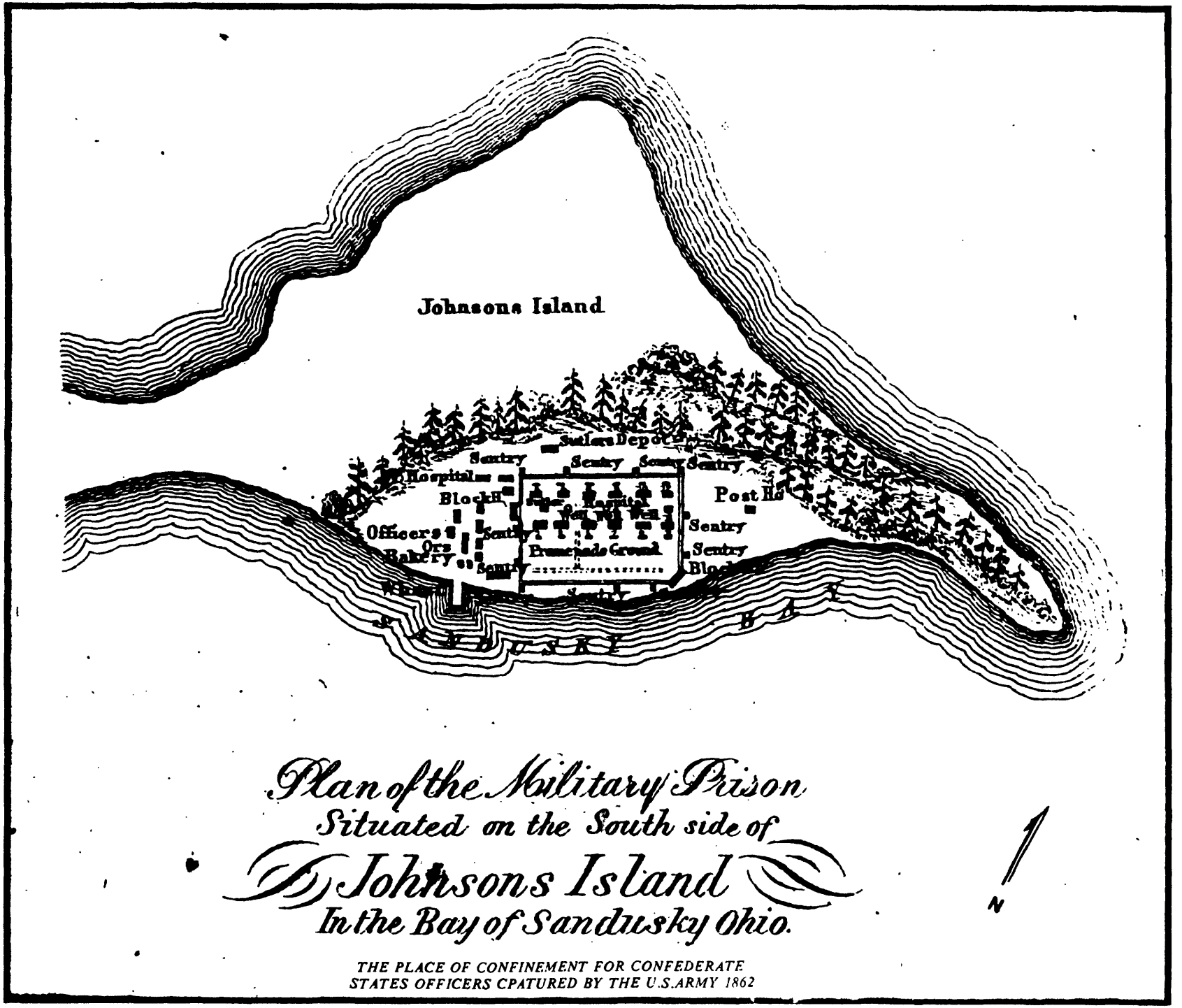

Johnsons Island
Sutlers Depot
Sentry
Hospital
Block H
Officers
Ors
Bakery
Post Ho
Promenade Ground
Block
SANDUSKY
Plan of the Military Prison
Situated on the South side of
Johnsons Island
In the Bay of Sandusky Ohio.
N
THE PLACE OF CONFINEMENT FOR CONFEDERATE
STATES OFFICERS CPATURED BY THE U.S.ARMY 1862

FIGURE 2

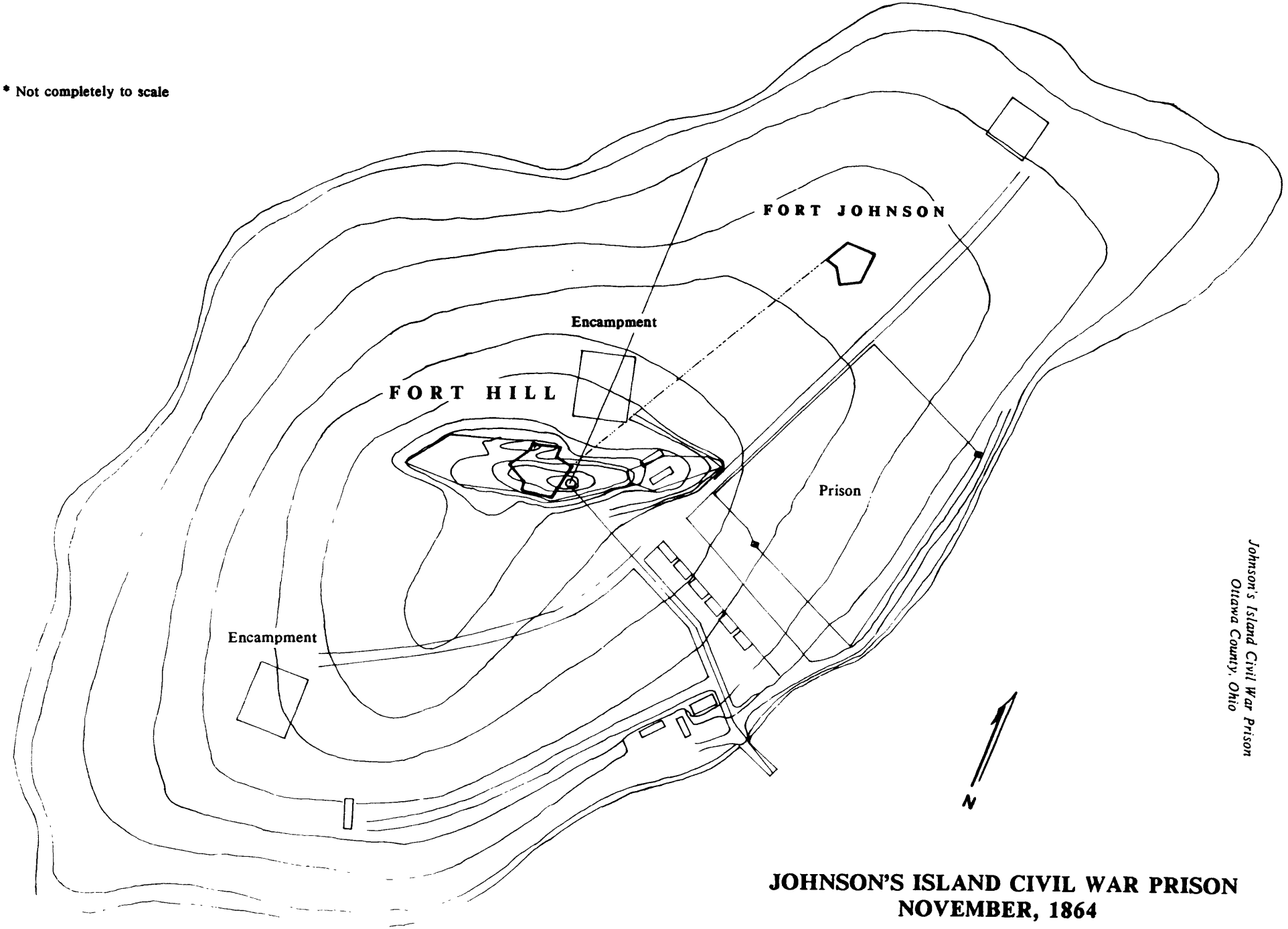
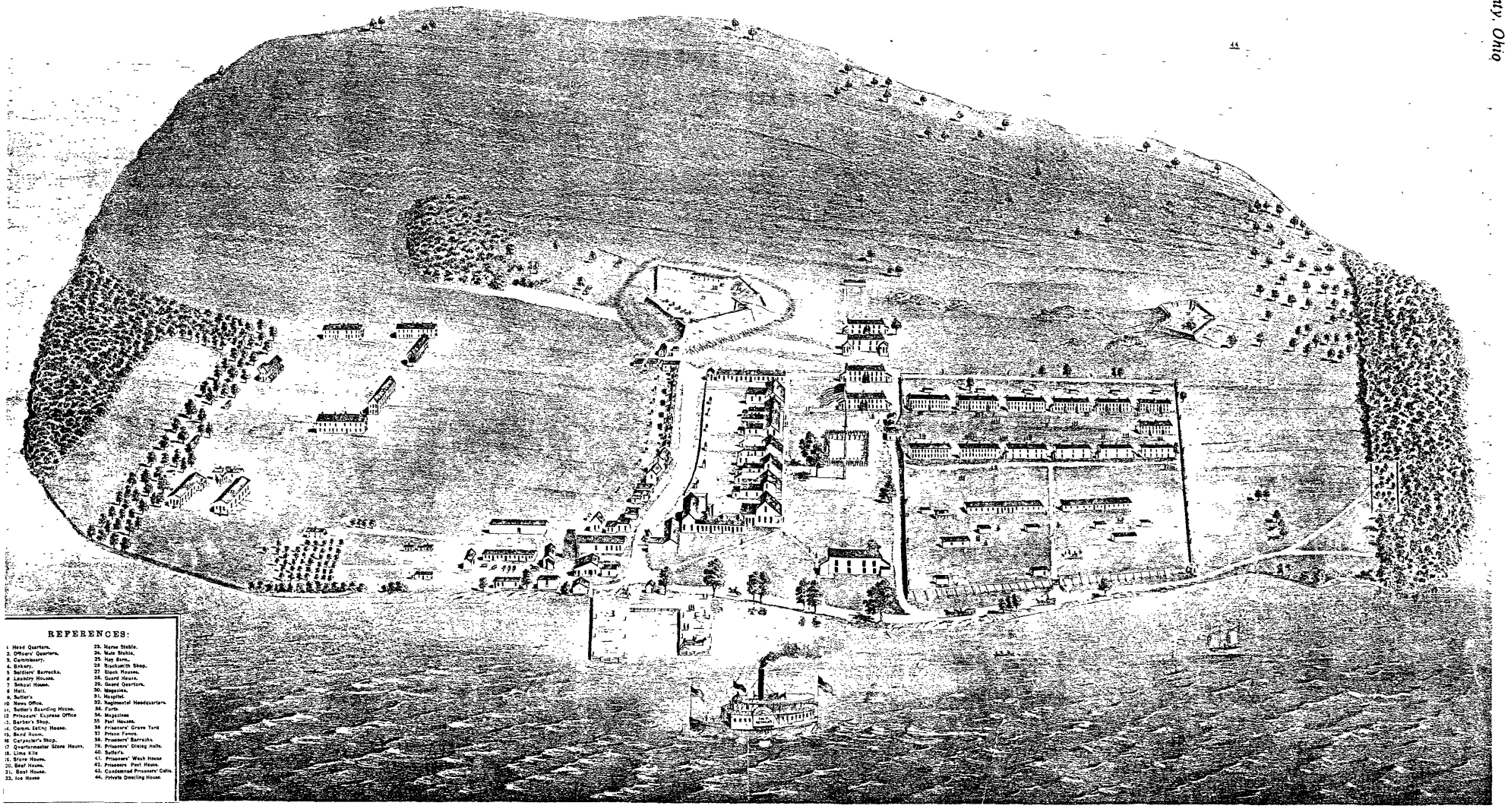


FIGURE 3

JOHNSON'S ISLAND CIVIL WAR PRISON
NOVEMBER, 1864

Johnson's Island Civil War Prison
Ottawa County, Ohio



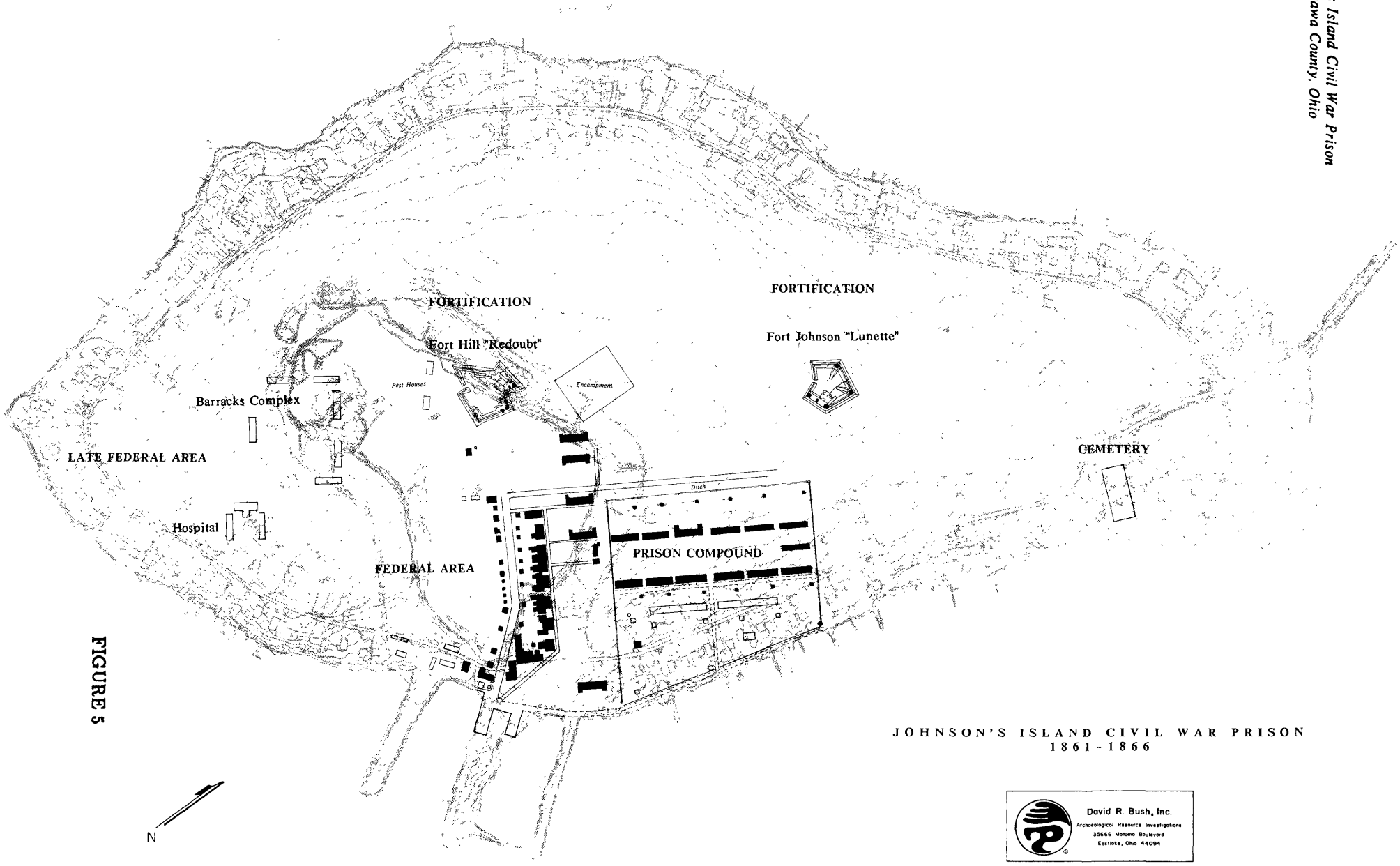
Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1866, by Edward Gould in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, for the Southern District of Ohio.

MIDDLETON, STROBRIDGE & CO., LITHOGRAPHERS, OPERA HOUSE BUILDING, CINCINNATI, O

VIEW OF JOHNSON'S ISLAND,
NEAR SANDUSKY CITY, O.
SKETCHED BY
EDWARD GOULD.

FIGURE 4

Johnson's Island Civil War Prison
Ottawa County, Ohio



JOHNSON'S ISLAND CIVIL WAR PRISON
1861-1866

David R. Bush, Inc.
Archaeological Resource Investigations
35666 Motomo Boulevard
Eastlake, Ohio 44094

FIGURE 5

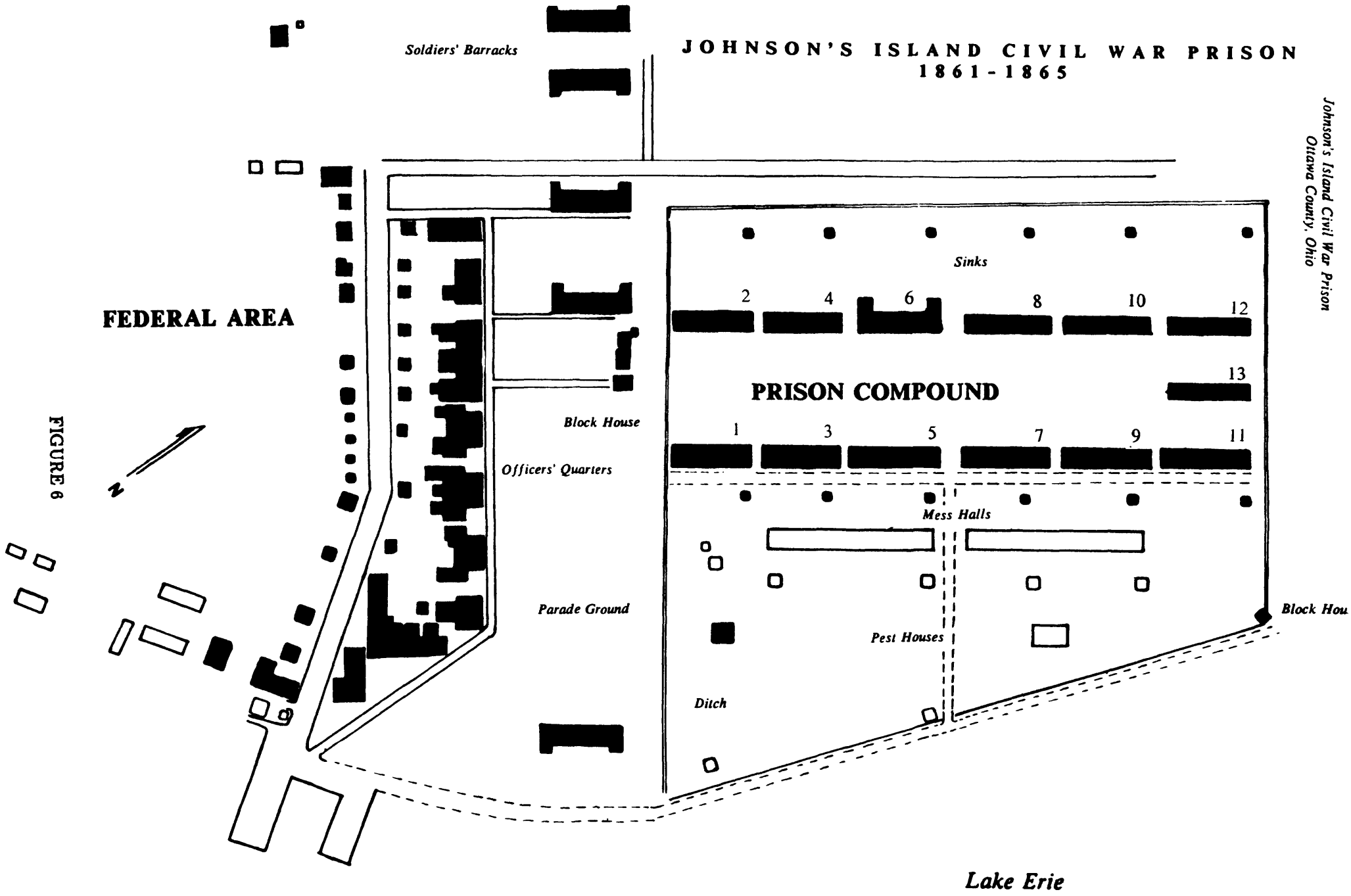
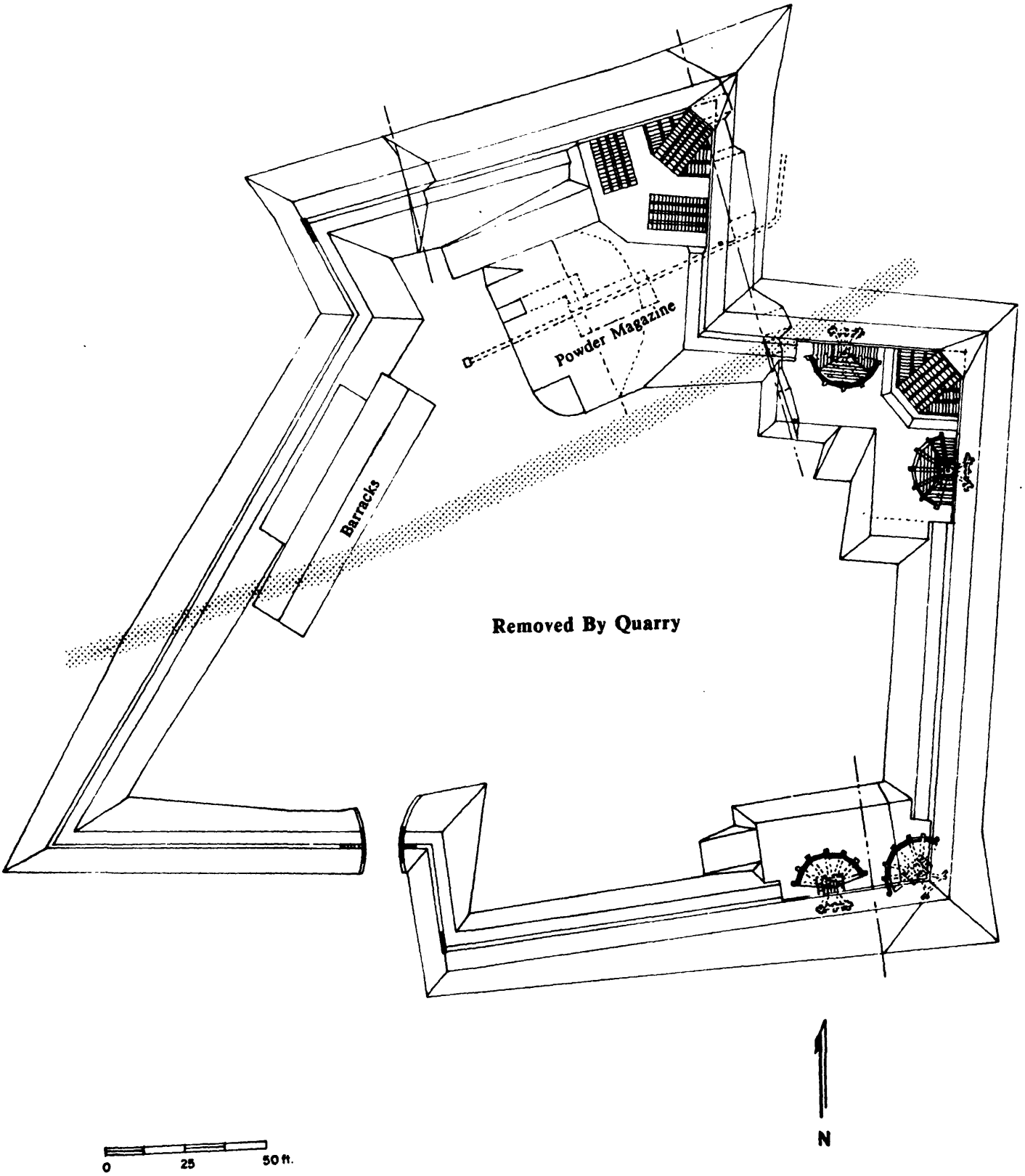


FIGURE 6

Johnson's Island Civil War Prison
Ottawa County, Ohio

FORT HILL "REDOUBT"
CONSTRUCTED SPRING 1865

Johnson's Island Civil War Prison
Ottawa County, Ohio

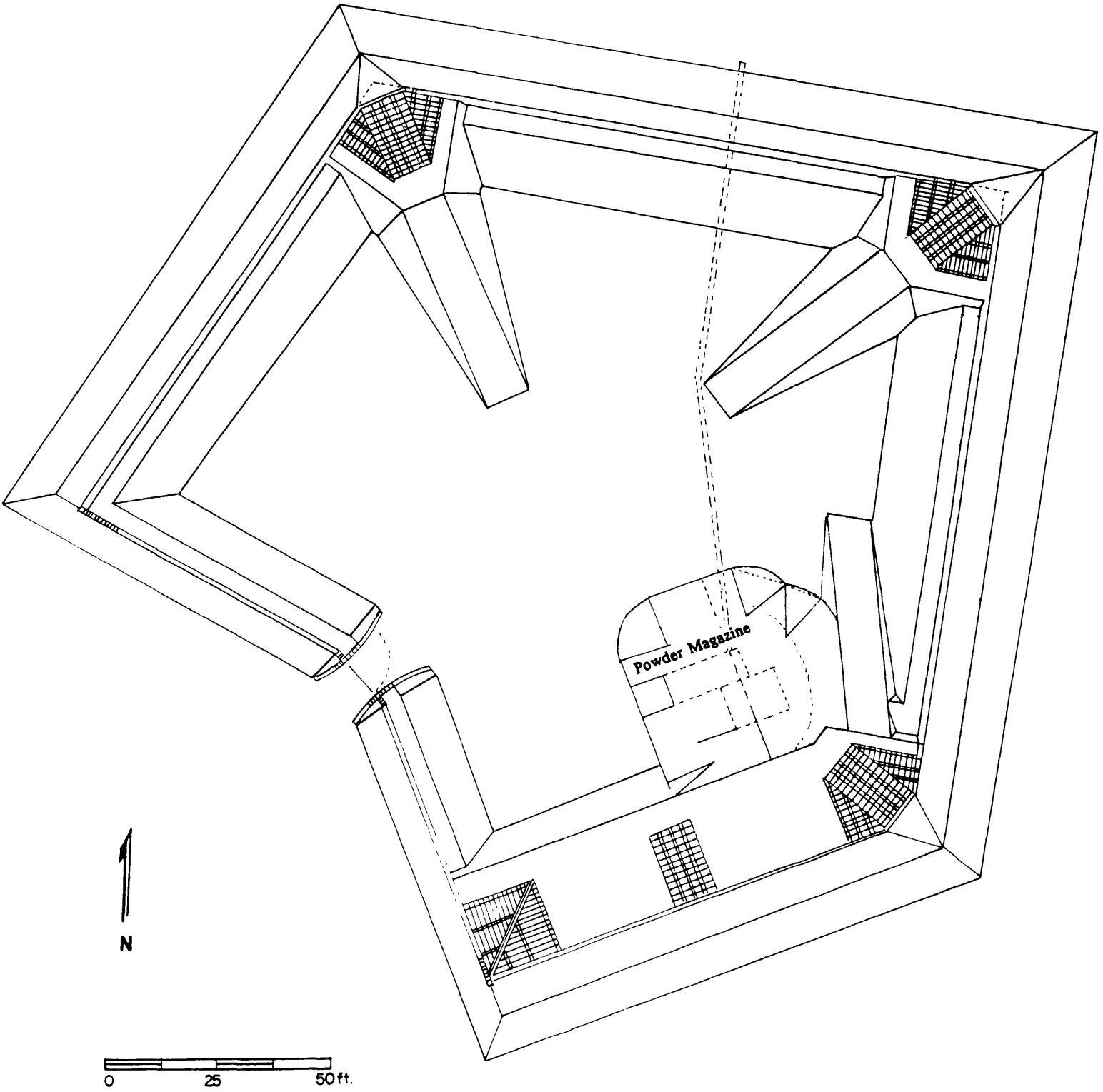


JOHNSON'S ISLAND CIVIL WAR PRISON

FIGURE 7

FORT JOHNSON "LUNETTE"
CONSTRUCTED SPRING 1865

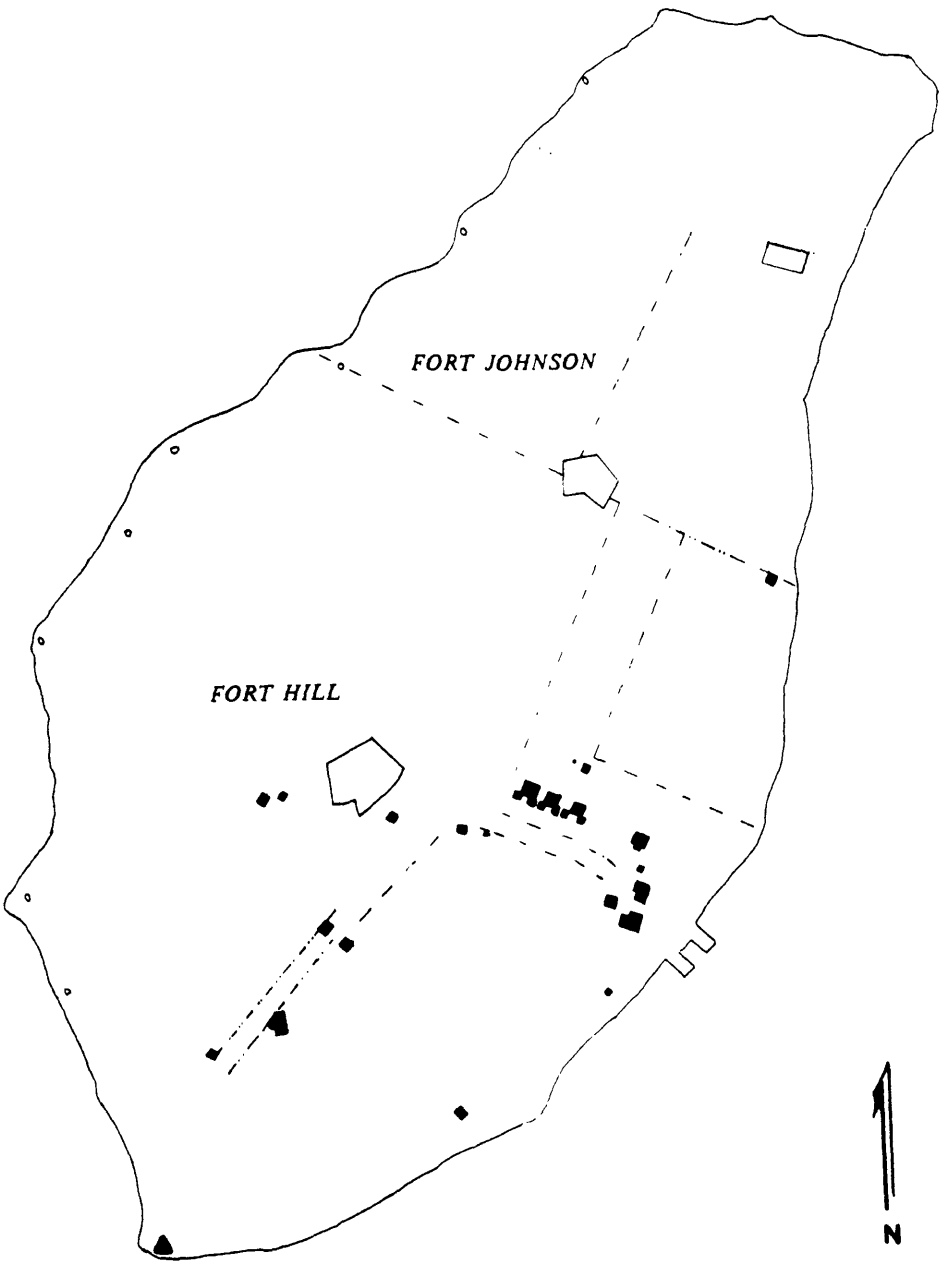
Johnson's Island Civil War Prison
Ottawa County, Ohio



JOHNSON'S ISLAND CIVIL WAR PRISON

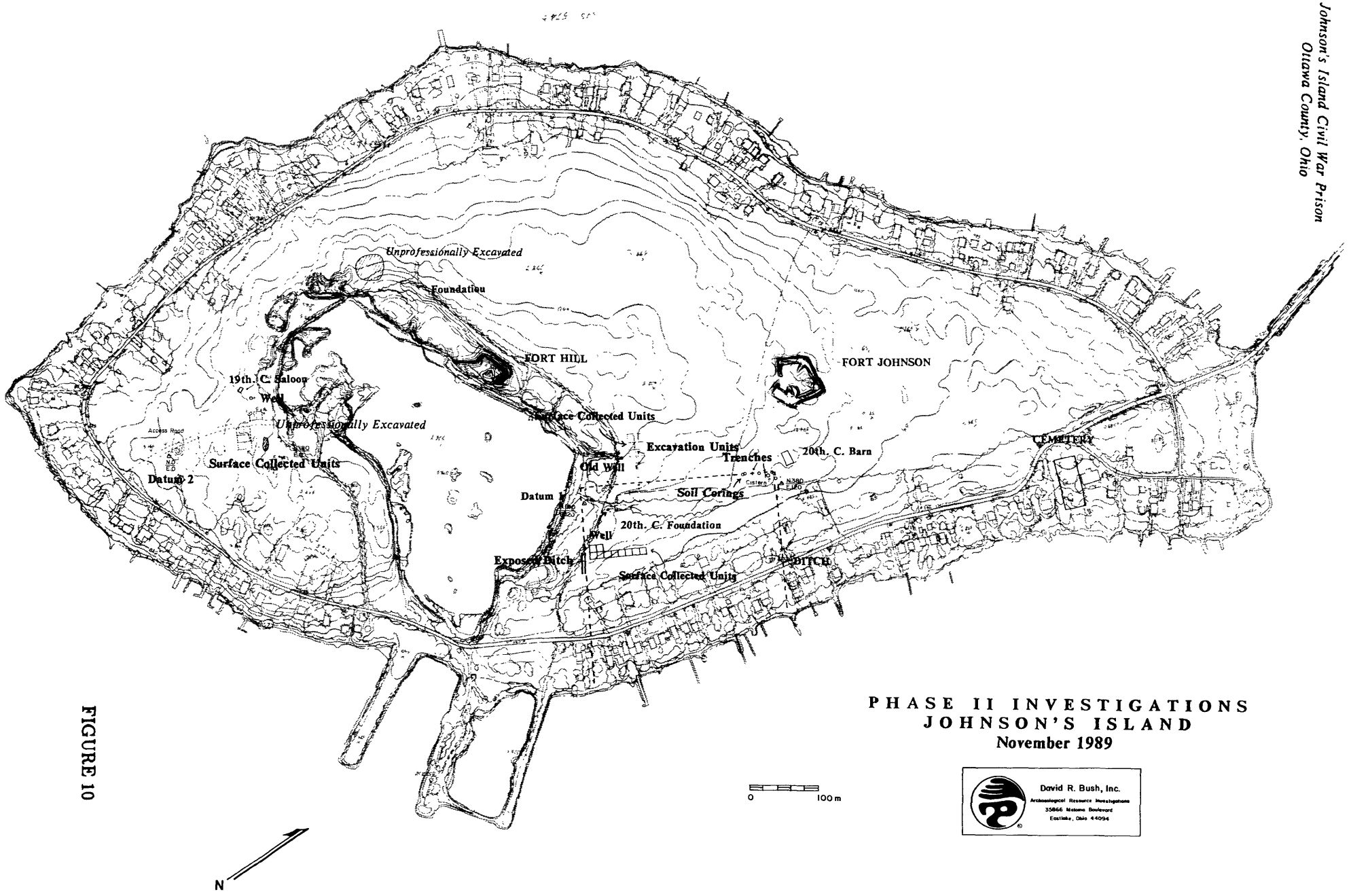
FIGURE 8

SURVEY OF NORTHERN AND NORTHWESTERN LAKES
MAJOR C.B. COMSTOCK, C.O.E.
SANDUSKY BAY
Surveyed by A.C. Lamson, U.S.L.S. 1872
Assisted by F. Terry and A.T. Morrow



* Not completely to scale

FIGURE 9



PHASE II INVESTIGATIONS
JOHNSON'S ISLAND
November 1989

David R. Bush, Inc.
Archaeological Resource Investigations
35866 Mentor Boulevard
Eastlake, Ohio 44094

FIGURE 10

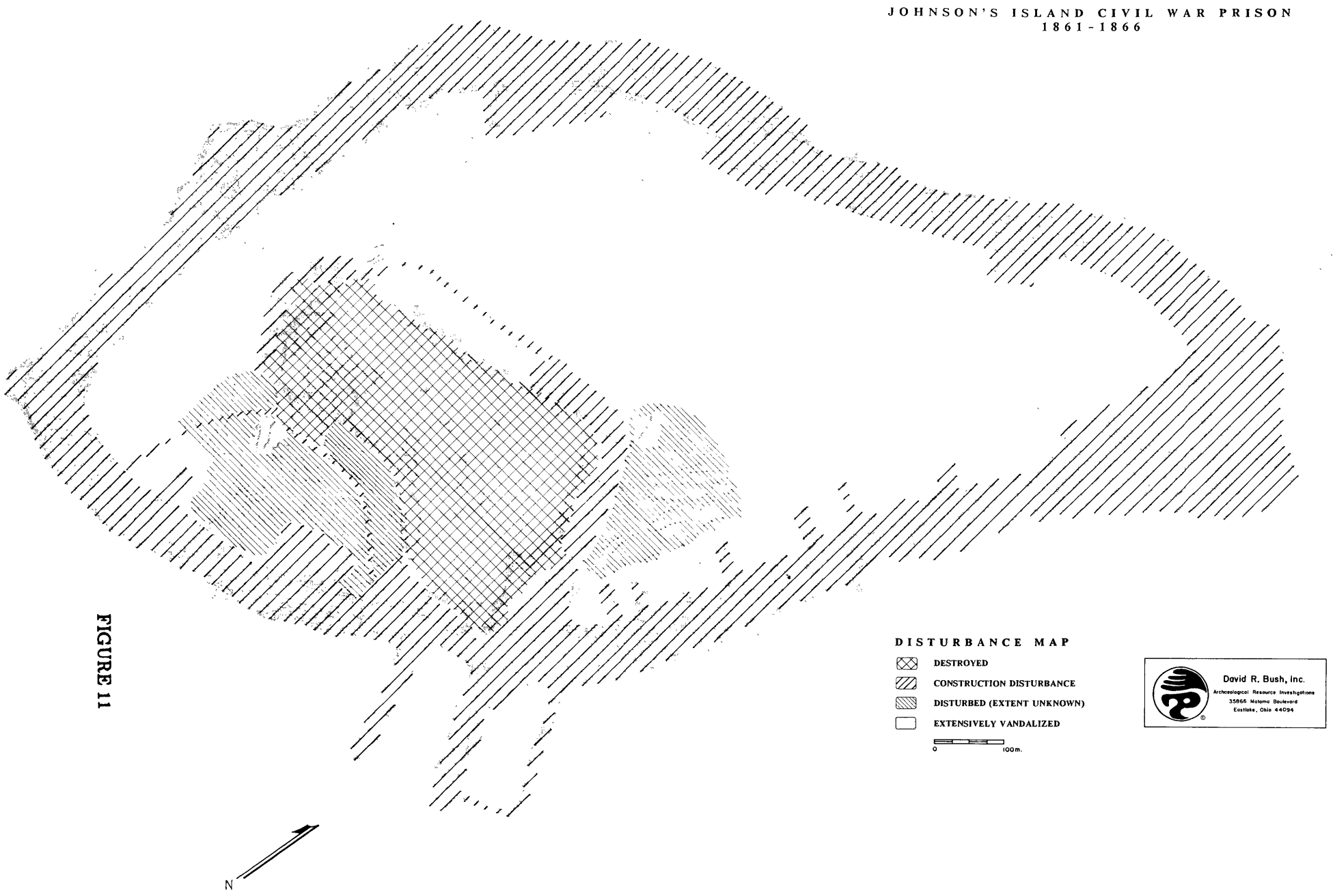

JOHNSON'S ISLAND CIVIL WAR PRISON
1861-1866
DISTURBANCE MAP
DESTROYED
CONSTRUCTION DISTURBANCE
DISTURBED (EXTENT UNKNOWN)
EXTENSIVELY VANDALIZED
0
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FIGURE 11