

NHL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fort Adams

AND/OR COMMON

Fort Adams Historic District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Fort Adams Road at Harrison Avenue

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

Newport

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY

Newport

CODE

005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
(except Jackson Road Houses, owned by U.S. Navy).

STREET & NUMBER

State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY, TOWN

Providence

VICINITY OF

STATE

Rhode Island

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Newport

STATE

Rhode Island

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey; National Register

DATE

1970-74; 1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress and Rhode Island Historical Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Washington and Newport; Washington

STATE

Commission; NR
D.C.-R. I.; D.C.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1824-1947 BUILDER/ARCHITECT U.S. Army/ Simon Bernard Joseph Totten

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Although several seacoast forts have been made National Historic Sites and National Historic Landmarks already, there are overwhelming reasons why Fort Adams should be added to the list of landmarks.

First, built between 1824 and 1857, the installation uniquely illustrates American military engineering and technology as it developed throughout the 19th century, and it excellently demonstrates the defense recommendations of both the Bernard and Endicott Boards.

Second, the landward defenses of the earth-and-masonry fort include tenailles, works that, according to the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and distinguished historian of military architecture and engineering Willard B. Robinson, were used exclusively in the United States at Fort Adams. It was in part because of these structures that, as Robinson points out, "Fort Adams was much admired by contemporary engineers for its complexity and uniqueness."¹ Such admiration is still forthcoming from military architects, and according to Jerry Rogers of the National Park Service, no other masonry fort on either the east or the west coast is interpreted, as is this one, for its military architecture.

Third, when the fort was erected, defense of Narragansett Bay was considered one of the most important objectives of the national system. This view was reflected in the size of the fort. It had a perimeter of 1,759 yards measured at the cordons, and it could mount 468 cannon, more than either Fort Monroe or Fort Jefferson.

Fourth, the history of Fort Adams, more than that of any sister installation, is closely associated with both Simon Bernard and Joseph G. Totten, preeminent 19th-century military architects and engineers. Bernard developed the original design of the fort, and Totten modified it and supervised construction for more than a decade. It was here

¹ Willard B. Robinson, "Fort Adams: American Example of French Military Architecture" Rhode Island History, XXXIV (August 1975), 93.

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that he conducted the studies that led to publication of his influential work Hydraulic and Common Mortars (circa 1840).

Finally, in later years, the Fort Adams installation served as the Civil War home of the U.S. Naval Academy, figured prominently in the coastal defense system recommended by the Endicott Board, and served as a summer White House during the Eisenhower administration.

Fort Adams Historic District includes approximately 80 acres; the masonry main work designed by Bernard and modified by Totten; its unique outworks and 2 redoubts; 6 Endicott-period batteries; 10 brick or frame officers' quarters erected in the late 19th century; and 2 brick warehouses. Most of this area and these structures are owned by the State of Rhode Island, which is restoring the masonry fort.

History

Situated on a northeasterly thumblike protuberance near the southwest end of Aquidneck or Rhode Island, Fort Adams guards the strategic eastern passage into Narragansett Bay and Newport harbor. This position probably was first fortified in the late 17th century. William Brenton arrived in Newport in 1683 bearing a charter from King Charles I for an area now known as Brenton Point. He erected a house somewhere on the point, and tradition holds that he ordered two cannon from England to protect his property from pirates and privateers. Since Brenton's contemporaries already recognized the present fort site as a key to the defense of the bay's east passage, it is likely that he placed his guns here.

In 1740, British subjects, fearful of a French invasion, built an observation post on the site, and during the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars, they established earthwork fortifications here. Half a century later, about 1799, the United States erected a robust brick fortress on this spot. Designed by Louis de Tousard, the installation comprised part of the Nation's "First System" of coastal defense and was named "Fort Adams" in honor of the country's second President. By the end of the War of 1812, however, this first Fort Adams stood in decay. Moreover, the British burning of Washington proved the inadequacy of America's entire coastal defense.

To rectify this situation, in 1816 the Government created a special board of officers to create and implement a program to improve seacoast fortifications. Headed by former French military engineer Simon Bernard,

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the group also included Lt. Col. Joseph G. Totten. Both men earned international reputations for their work, with Totten, according to scholar Raymond E. Lewis, becoming "one of the leading military engineers in American history."² Showing broad vision the Bernard Board developed a national defense plan that consisted of an interior system of communications, a militia, a navy, and permanent forts strategically situated to control navigable bays and rivers. The maritime frontier was divided initially into four subsystems: the Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeast Atlantic. Because, as architectural historian Willard B. Robinson points out, the board considered Narragansett Bay "one of the most important objectives of the national system," the area was selected as a center for the northeast region.³ Only Narragansett Bay among northeastern harbors could shelter ships during violent northwestern storms, and between Cape Cod and Cape Hatteras only Narragansett Bay and Hampton Roads, says Robinson, were regarded by the board as "proper for naval rendezvous."⁴

The national importance of the Narragansett area was reflected in the magnitude of the polygonal fort designed for Rhode Island. Begun in 1824 and not completed until midcentury--at a cost of more than \$3 million--the new Fort Adams was one of the largest installations in the national chain. Designed to mount 468 guns, it had a perimeter, measured at the cordons, of 1,739 yards. The constructors used Maine granite for scarps, parade walls, and supports, brick for vaults, and shale for structural walls. Defense of the huge fort in time of war would have required 2,400 men, but in peacetime a garrison of 200 proved sufficient. Some military historians attribute the design of new Fort Adams to Totten, but Robinson, whose study of the fort dwarfs all others, has shown that Bernard drew the original plans and Totten modified and implemented them.⁵ Thus the resultant edifice commemorates both of these important military

²

Raymond E. Lewis, Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History (Washington, 1970), 38.

³

Robinson, "Fort Adams: American Example of French Military Architecture," 78.

⁴

Ibid.

⁵

Willard B. Robinson, "Report on the Interpretation of Fort Adams' Theory of Design." Mimeographed. Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, June 1974, 6.

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engineers.

Fort Adams demanded two basic types of military architecture: one to protect against enemy ships in the bay and one to defend against land attack. In meeting these needs, Bernard and Totten created a fortress that included tenailles (land defense fixtures used exclusively in the United States at Fort Adams) and according to Robinson "was much admired by contemporary engineers for its complexity and uniqueness."⁶ The tenailles formed part of a system of bastions, curtains, and other structures based essentially on the theory of the "First System" of fortification developed by Sebastien Le Prestre de Vauban, the brilliant military engineer of Louis XIV. The overall form of the fort resulted from adapting the estimated requirements for artillery and their enclosures to existing land forms. Within this context, the form of individual components was designed to fulfill the most essential conditions for securing defensive strength. The south approach was defended by the use of fortifications conceived to be sufficiently strong to resist an open assault; every point exterior to the defenses within range could be thoroughly swept by cannon fire; communication for the movement of troops was secure and easy within the defensive works and to the exterior; and the fort had bombproof shelters (casemates) in suitable locations to protect the troops, armament, provisions, and munitions. Along the seafront curtains, each of the casemates "was designed to contain two cannons, an uncommon feature," according to Robinson, "in American fortifications."⁷ In most forts only one cannon was housed in each enclosure. Complementing the land defenses of the main structure was a formal casemated masonry redoubt measuring about 300 by 100 feet and situated some 1,700 feet south of the fort itself. Totten supervised most of the construction, and it was while here that he studied masonry and wrote Hydraulic and Common Mortars, an important technological work.

When completed, Fort Adams stood as a major American defense installation. During the Civil War, though, it functioned primarily as a staging and training facility and served briefly as the wartime home of the U.S. Naval Academy. After moving from Annapolis when that community was under

⁶
Robinson, "Fort Adams: American Example of French Military Architecture"; 93.

⁷
Willard B. Robinson, "Report on the Restoration of Fort Adams." Mimeographed. Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, June 1972, 5.

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threat of Confederate attack, the school remained at the fort until temporary quarters could be found in Newport. In the postwar years, the Army adapted Fort Adams to other than defense uses, erecting quarters and warehouses south of the old fort and modifying some of the casemated artillery space for additional quarters and shops. Meanwhile, the development of more effective weaponry, especially in European nations, rendered most masonry fortifications obsolete. In 1875 Congress ceased for a time appropriating funds for harbor defense, and Fort Adams and other coastal installations began to deteriorate. With a sizable group of Congressmen, most Army and Navy officers, and much of the public concerned about this situation, President Grover Cleveland in 1885 appointed a board headed by Secretary of War William C. Endicott to review the entire coastal defense system. The joint military-civilian Endicott Board made the most comprehensive study since the Bernard Board and called for an enormous number of new works.

The Endicott report proved controversial but nevertheless provided the basic framework for a new and thoroughly modern generation of sea-coast fortifications. Emphasis now shifted from fortified structures to the weapons contained therein. Massive and costly reinforced concrete structures designed to blend in with the surrounding landscape began to replace stark, vertical-walled forts. At many seacoast installations, the new emplacements were built within or imposed over existing forts. At Fort Adams, however, the Army erected the new batteries generally along the bay south of the old fort. These remain today a striking contrast to the masonry post and with it present a significant example of the changing history and technology of seacoast fortifications during the entire 19th and early 20th centuries.

Although the nature of Narragansett Bay defenses changed near the turn of the century, Fort Adams retained its central role in the area. The post served through World War II as the command center for an extensive defensive network that protected both the bay and Long Island Sound. After the Second World War, the Army continued to use the fort in various capacities until 1953, when the Navy took charge of it; and during the Eisenhower administration, it functioned briefly as a summer White House. In 1964 the State of Rhode Island acquired the area of the main work and now is restoring both the fort and its landward defenses.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Adams Historic District includes approximately 80 acres; the masonry fort from which the district takes its name; the fort's unique outworks and 2 redoubts; 6 Endicott-period batteries; 10 brick or frame officers' quarters; and 2 brick warehouses. The main work sits near the tip of a northeasterly thumblike protuberance of the southwest end of Aquidneck or Rhode Island. Narragansett Bay's east passage lies west of the fort, and Brenton Cove lies east. Stretching south from the fort along the west shore of the peninsula are four Endicott-period, reinforced concrete batteries. Two others are situated on the opposite shore of the peninsula. Also extending south, between the main work and its advanced redoubt, is a row of late 19th-century officers' quarters that front onto Jackson Road. These dwellings and the land on which they rest belong to the U.S. Navy, and they house staff officers of the U.S. Naval War College, Coaster's Harbor Island. All remaining structures and land within the historic district are the property of the State of Rhode Island.

The Masonry Fort. Fort Adams forms an irregular, hollow pentagon measuring about 1,000 by 1,200 feet overall. Its northern base is the shortest of the sides, and from it the east and west sides splay out to the south, where the fourth and fifth sides form a point and are protected by an elaborate system of outworks, including tenailles, which are found at no other 19th-century American fort. At the pentagon's northwest, northeast, and southwest angles there are aggressively projecting bastions that dominate the Narragansett Bay's east passage, Newport harbor, and Brenton Cove.

The casemated enceinte, or primary enclosure of the fort, forms around a large parade and features walls of Maine granite and native shale and vaults of brick. Along the enceinte's west front, where a high concentration of artillery was required to defend the bay's east passage, the structure is designed for two tiers of cannon en casemate and one tier en barbette. Original plans called for 24 and 32 pound smoothbores, but heavier guns were mounted about the mid-19th century. Openings for the guns reflect consideration of attack. Embrasures in the granite-covered walls are formed of brick, a soft material that would not splinter like granite when struck with cannon balls.

Elsewhere, on the east front, vaulted bombproof casemates--covered by earth ramparts and terrepleins and incessantly criticized by their former occupants for dampness--form secure quarters for officers. In the northeast bastion three large casemates house the three principal powder magazines, from which smaller magazines in the tenailles and counterscarp galleries were supplied. Other large casemates (about 18 feet by 52 feet) along the south interior fronts contain space for enlisted men's quarters, a hospital, quartermaster stores, a band, and a chapel. Smaller, more complex casemates in the southeast demibastion

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contain space for a bakery, a kitchen, cisterns, and latrines. Along the north side of the enceinte are more gun emplacements. Atop the west segment of the southside of the enceinte are a row of one-story, brick barracks erected in 1908. Far from distracting from the original architecture of the fort, these illustrate its continuing use into the Endicott period and beyond. In 1947 fire destroyed a similar row atop the east segment of the enceinte's south end, and due to cost and interpretive considerations, these will not be replaced in the restoration process. Entrance to the fort is by a large, rusticated, segmentally arched north portal and a smaller east postern.

The Redoubts. Fort Adams has two original redoubts, and the construction of both is patterned after the main work. The smaller redoubt, which doubled as a jail, forms a covered, elongated pentagon and stands just east of the east postern. The larger, advanced redoubt is situated on a rise about 1,700 feet south of the main work. Measuring about 100 feet by 300 feet, the casemated structure has several levels, is surrounded by a dry moat, and is designed so that the outer gallery is accessible only by a single tunnel extending under the moat and a second ditch on the south side. Two drawbridges provide north access from the main work. Although basically an example of a plain polygonal rather than a bastioned fortification, this redoubt is still an embodiment of the theories of the French school.

Warehouses (buildings 7th and 93). These 1 1/2-story, rectangular-shaped, red brick structures with their gabled, slate roofs and segmentally arched side windows and doors were built about 1878-79. They stand immediately east of the main work facing Brenton Cove and recall the Army's use of the installation as a staging and training center.

Commanding Officer's Quarters (Eisenhower House, building 1). This little-altered, 2 1/2-story, yellow-painted, frame dwelling with mansard roof was erected about 1873-75. It consists of a basically square-shaped central block and a rear wing, sits some 350 feet south of the advanced redoubt, fronts south onto Lincoln Drive, and recalls the transitional post-Civil War, pre-Endicott years of Fort Adams' history. Supported by decorative wood posts, a one-story, balustraded gallery--the east portion of which is enclosed--flanks the residence on three sides. At least four corbeled, brick, interior chimneys rise from the roof, and gabled dormers grace its lower slope on all sides. Main entrance is through a pedimented, sidelighted, double door in the center of the three-bay front facade. Inside, the house features a central hall plan with a parlor and two sitting rooms on the first floor of the main block and at least four bedrooms

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on each of the other two floors. Original trim remains throughout. The Parks Division of the Rhode Island Department of Natural Resources maintains offices in the building but has made no structural changes.

Officers' Quarters (buildings 2, 2B, 2C, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14, and 17). Standing along Jackson Road between the advanced redoubt and the main work is a row of east-facing officers' quarters erected in the late 19th century. They recall post history both during the post-Civil War transitional era and the Endicott period. With the exception of building 17--which is a 2 1/2-story, rectangular-shaped, gable-roofed, red brick edifice with a two-tiered front gallery flanked by two-story hexagonal bays--the quarters are of frame construction. Multicolored, they vary in configuration and design from one and one-half to two and one-half stories and from mansard to gable and cross-gable roofs. All appear to have undergone only minimal exterior alteration and to be in good condition.

Endicott Batteries (Bankhead, Talbot, Reilly, Belton, Edgerton, and Greene). Constructed of reinforced concrete in the 1890's; these massive structures housed the weapons of the Endicott period. Although none retains its guns, all are in fair to good condition and well illustrate the purpose for which they were designed. Batteries Bankhead, Talbot, Reilly, and Belton rest in a line extending south from the main work and along the west shore. Batteries Edgerton and Greene stand near the east shore and the advanced redoubt. A pair of mortar batteries, they are unusual for while a mortar emplacement usually held only four weapons, sixteen were mounted here.

Boundary Justification. Included within the boundary described below are approximately 80 acres; the masonry fort designed by Bernard and modified by Totten; its unique outworks and 2 redoubts; 2 brick warehouses from the post's transitional 1870's era; 10 frame or brick officers' quarters from the same period and the Endicott period; 6 Endicott-period batteries; and the post cemetery. This entire area and all these structures are essential to the interpretation of both the installation's early military architecture and the evolution of U.S. coastal defense.

Boundary Description. As indicated in red on the accompanying maps [(1) U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series, Rhode Island; Newport Quad., 1957, photorevised 1970; and (2) HABS, Fort Adams, Survey RI-347, Sheet 1 of 3 of 50], a line beginning at the intersection of Lincoln Drive and the main driveway approaching the Eisenhower House (building 1) and running westward approximately 240 feet along the north curb of Lincoln to the intersection of Lincoln and Buchanan Road; thence, northward approximately 1,000 feet

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along the east curb of Buchanan to the north curb of Pierce Road; thence, eastward about 150 feet along the north curb of Pierce to the east curb of Polk Road; thence, north about 1,400 feet along the east curb of Polk to a point about 125 feet distant from the outworks of Fort Adams; thence, westward about 200 feet along a line on a plane 125 feet south of the outworks of Fort Adams to an unnamed access road rear, or east, of Battery Bankhead, thence, southward about 2,700 feet along the west side of an unnamed meandering road that passes immediately to the east of Batteries Bankhead, Talbot, and Reilly and immediately west of building 202, and east of the post cemetery to the north curb of Lincoln Drive; thence, westward about 425 feet along the north curb of Lincoln to the west shore of Aquidneck or Rhode Island; thence, northward about 4,800 feet along the water's edge (at low tide) to the tip of the peninsula on which Fort Adams sits; thence, southward about 1,600 feet along the edge of the water (at low tide) on the east shore of said peninsula to the north side of a fishing pier opposite the southeast corner of the fort; thence, westward about 1,100 feet along a line on a plane 125 feet south of the outworks of Fort Adams to a point opposite the north-south axis of Jackson Road; thence, southward about 1,330 feet along the west curb of Jackson to the south curb of Pierce; thence, southeastward about 400 feet along the northwest side of the main redoubt to the north edge of Batteries Edgerton and Greene; thence, eastward, southward, and westward about 1,000 feet along the north, east and south edges of the batteries to a point on a plane with the rear, or west, side of building 903; thence, south along said plane about 700 feet to Lincoln; thence, west along the north curb of Lincoln to the point of beginning.

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- Lewis, Emanuel Raymond, Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1970).
- Millis, Walter, (ed.), American Military Thought (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1966).
- Ranson, Edward, "The Endicott Board of 1885-86 and the Coast Defenses," Military Affairs, XXXI (August 1967), 74-84.
- Robinson, Willard B., "Fort Adams: American Example of French Military Architecture," Rhode Island History, XXXIV (August 1975), 77-93.
- _____, "Report on the Restoration of Fort Adams." Mimeographed. Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, June 1972.
- _____, "Report on the Interpretation of Fort Adams' Theory of Design." Mimeographed. Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, June 1974.
- Weigley, Russell F., The American Way of War: A History of United States Military Strategy and Policy (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1973).



Fort Adams

Newport, Rhode Island, April, 1975

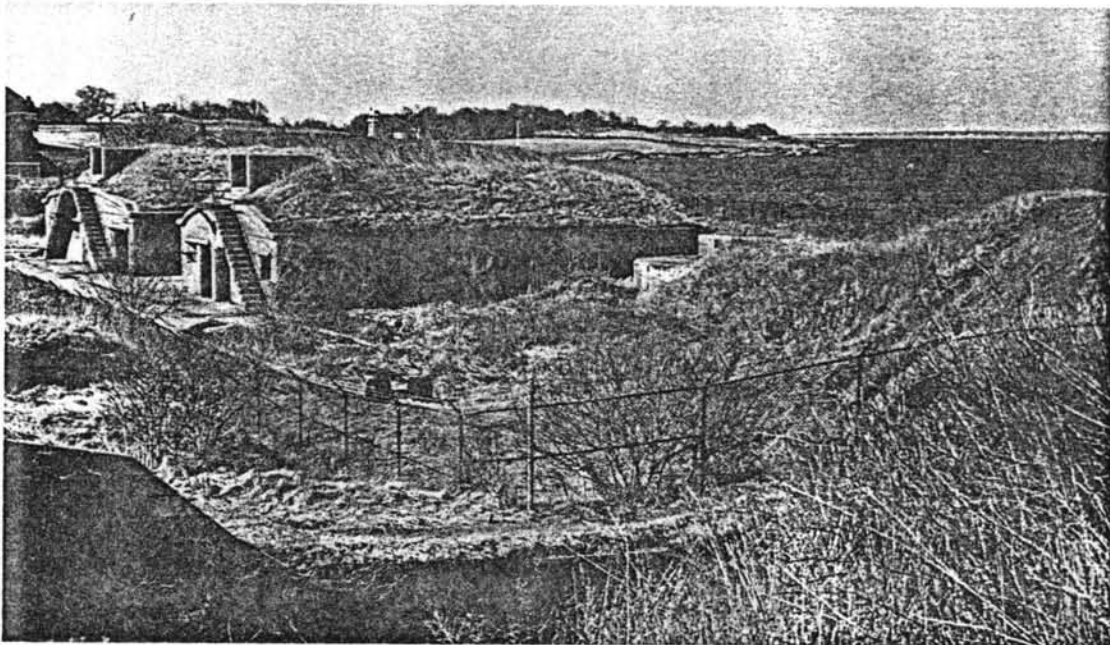
Photo: AASLH



Commanding Officer's Quarters, Fort Adams
Newport, Rhode Island

April, 1975

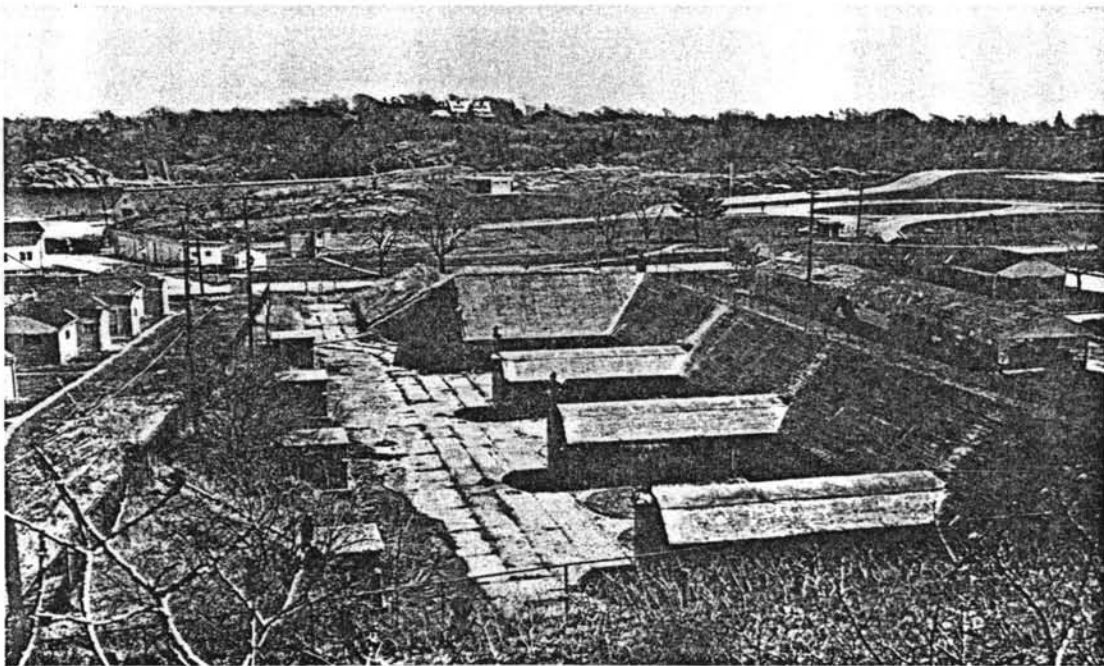
Photo: AASLH



Battery Bankhead, Fort Adams
Newport, Rhode Island

April 1975

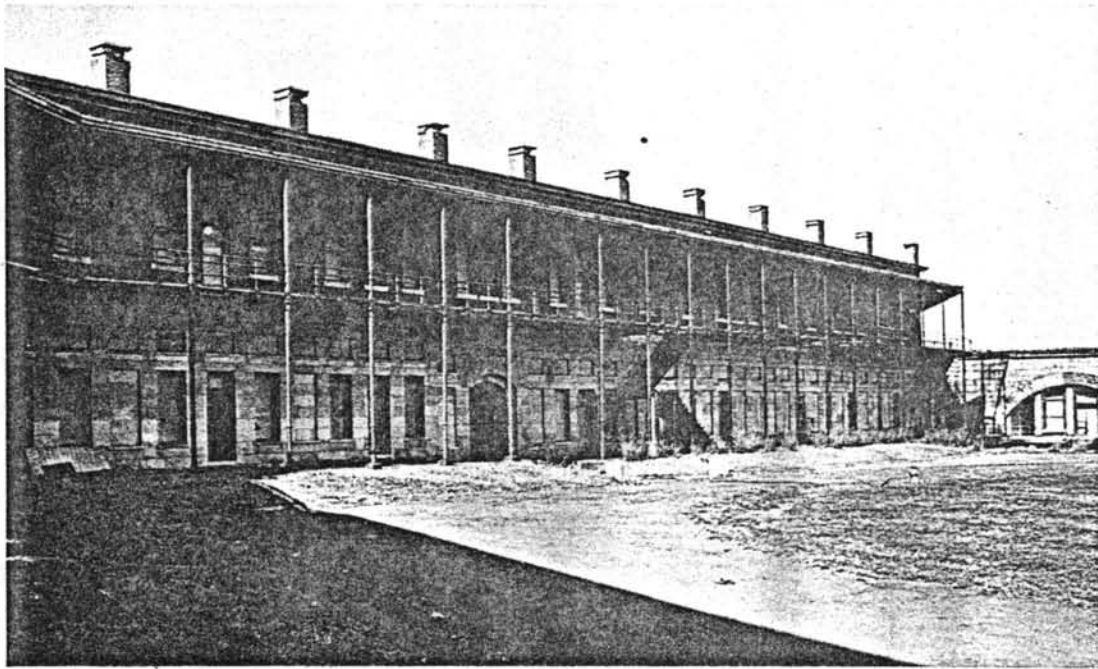
Photo: AASLH



Batteries, Fort Adams
Newport, Rhode Island

April 1975

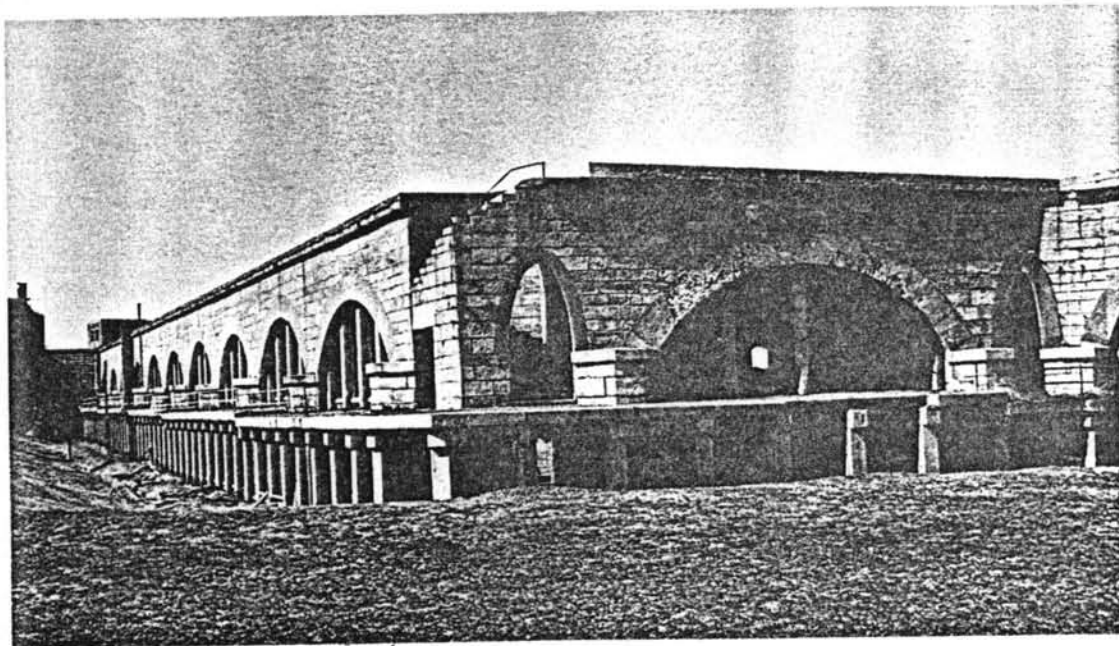
Photo: AASLH



Main Work, Fort Adams
Newport, Rhode Island

April 1975

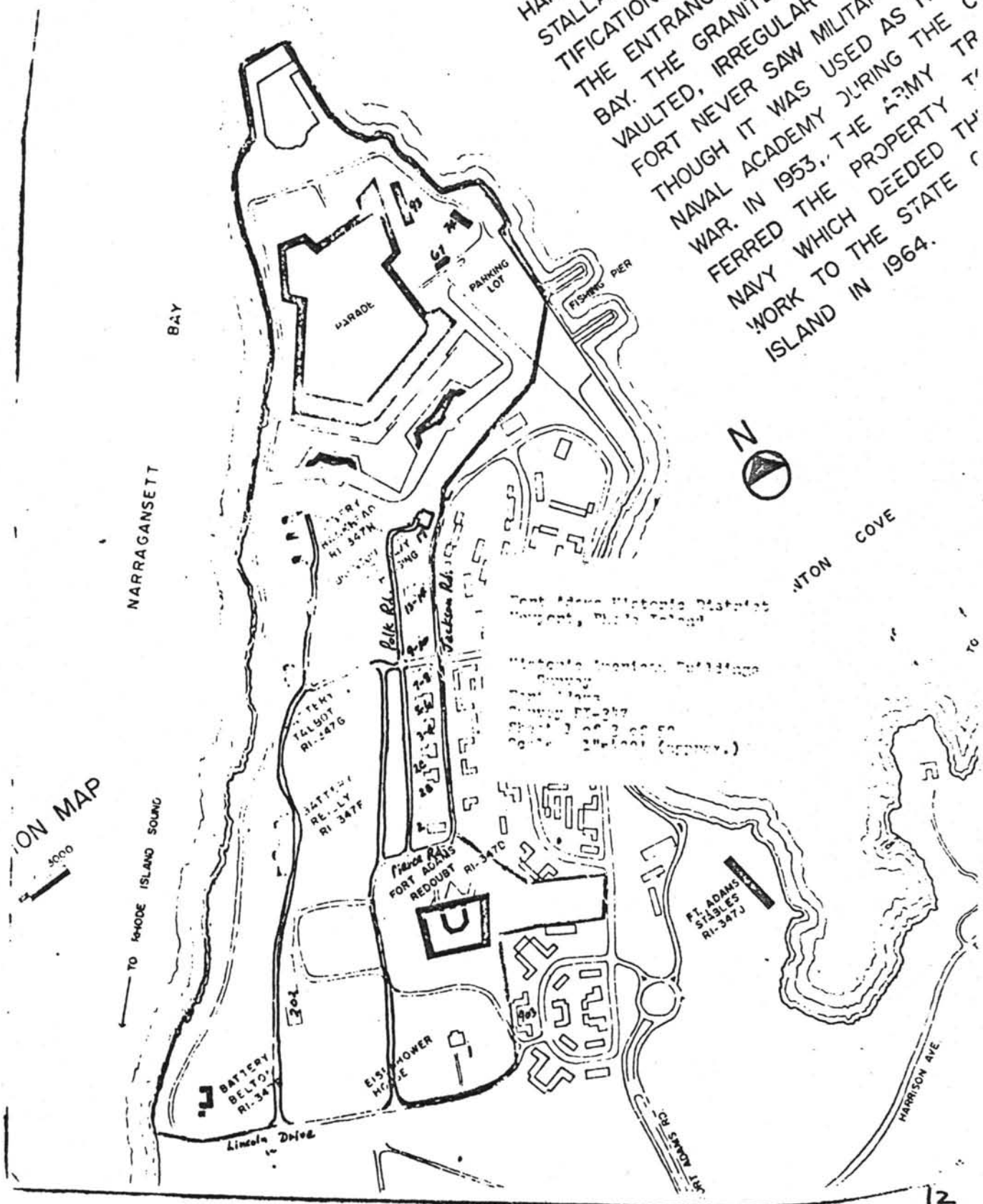
Photo: AASLH



Main Work, Fort Adams
Newport, Rhode Island, April, 1975

Photo: AASLH

PL SEABOARD
 AT THE
 HARBOR, IT
 STALLATION IN
 TIFICATIONS IN
 THE ENTRANCE TO NARRAGANSETT BAY. THE GRANITE WALLED, VAULTED, IRREGULAR PENTAGON FORT NEVER SAW MILITARY ACTION THROUGH IT WAS USED AS THE NAVAL ACADEMY DURING THE CIVIL WAR. IN 1953, THE ARMY TRANSFERRED THE PROPERTY TO THE NAVY WHICH DEEDED THE ISLAND IN 1964.



UNITED STATES
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 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

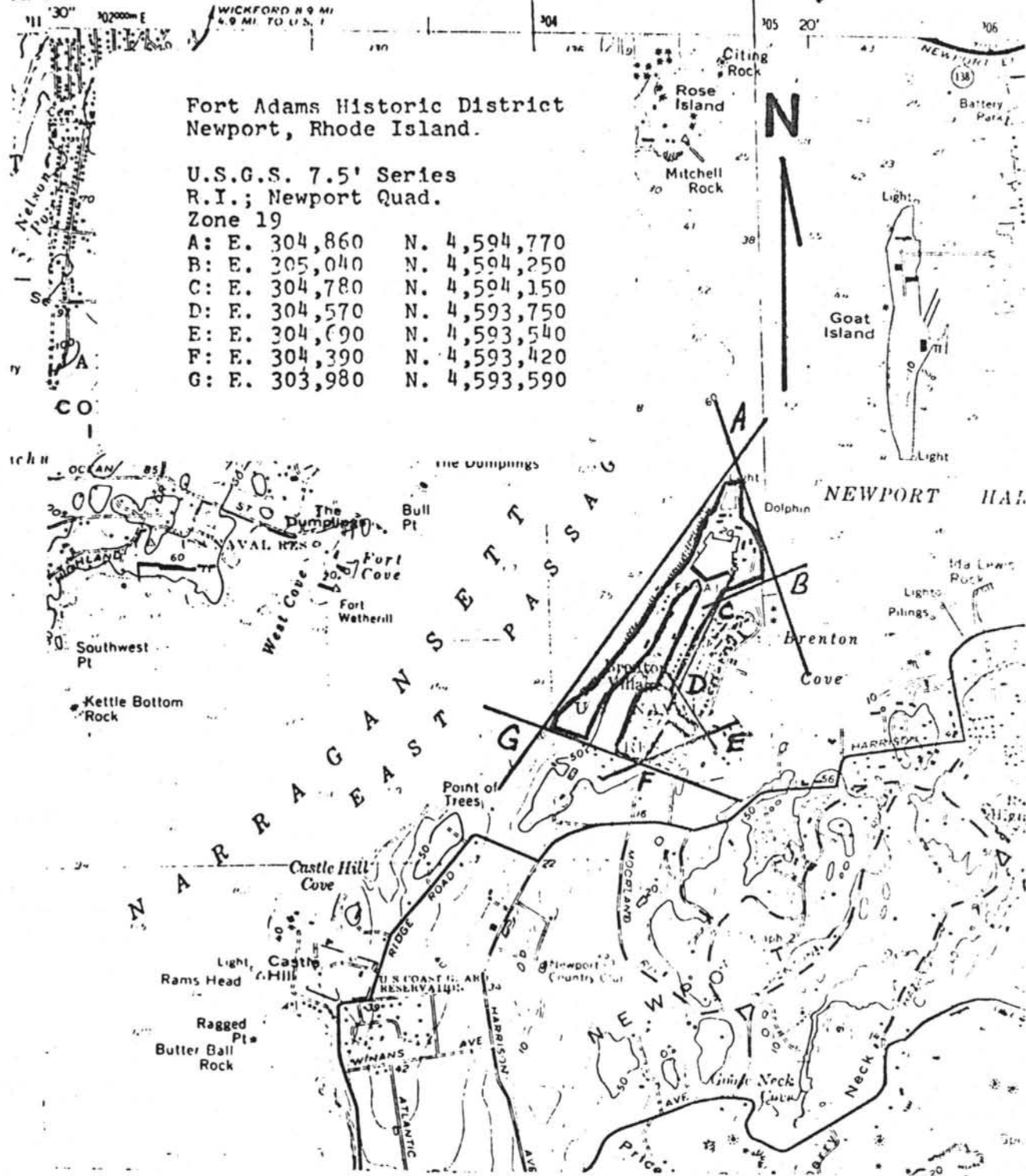
Fort Adams Historic District
 Newport, Rhode Island.

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series

R.I.; Newport Quad.

Zone 19

A: E. 304,860	N. 4,594,770
B: E. 305,040	N. 4,594,250
C: E. 304,780	N. 4,594,150
D: E. 304,570	N. 4,593,750
E: E. 304,690	N. 4,593,540
F: E. 304,390	N. 4,593,420
G: E. 303,980	N. 4,593,590



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cullum, George W., "Defense of Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island: Historical Sketch," Magazine of American History, XI (June 1884), 465-496.
 "Fort Adams," Fort Adams State Park Leaflet, (Providence: Rhode Island Department of Natural Resources, n.d.).

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY circa 80 acres.
 UTM REFERENCES

E	19	30,469,0	45,935,40
F	19	30,439,0	45,934,20
G	19	30,398,0	45,935,90

A	19	30,486,0	45,947,70
B	19	30,504,0	45,942,50
C	19	30,478,0	45,941,50
D	19	30,457,0	45,937,50

B	19	30,504,0	45,942,50
D	19	30,457,0	45,937,50

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See last page of description)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE: George R. Adams, Managing Editor
 ORGANIZATION: American Association for State and Local History
 DATE: April 1976
 STREET & NUMBER: 1400 Eighth Avenue South
 TELEPHONE: 615-242-5583
 CITY OR TOWN: Nashville
 STATE: Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island
COUNTY: Newport
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Eisenhower House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Commandant's Residence, Quarters Number One, Fort Adams

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Harrison Avenue, Fort Adams

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
#1: Fernand J. St. Germain

STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44 COUNTY: Newport CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: United States of America, Department of the Navy
Commanding Officer, Navy Public Works Center

STREET AND NUMBER:
--

CITY OR TOWN: Newport STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Newport City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: Newport STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Rhode Island Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1974 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: _____

DATE: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1872-73, 1958, 1960

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Eisenhower House is a well preserved late nineteenth century dwelling. It was designed by George C. Mason and Son, a leading Newport architectural firm. It cost \$20,000, and is representative of upper middle class suburban residences of the period. As a 1958 newspaper article suggests, "spaciousness without show" distinguishes the house architecturally.

The first Fort Adams commandant quartered in the house was General Henry Jackson Hunt. Hunt has been cited as the most distinguished American artillery officer of the mid-nineteenth century. He came from a military family and was educated at West Point, graduating in 1839. Hunt served in the Mexican War of the 1840's, revised artillery tactics for the army in the 1850's, and fought on the Federal side throughout the Civil War. Perhaps his most famous involvement in a Civil War battle was at Gettysburg where his cannon broke Pickett's charge.

The best known resident of the house, albeit the one who occupied it for the briefest periods, was Dwight Eisenhower. President Eisenhower lived here during late summer vacations in 1958 and again in 1960. It is from these visits that the house gets its name. During the President's first Newport vacation in 1957 he lived at the Naval War College on Coasters Harbor Island. But golf was President Eisenhower's chief recreational activity, and the house which bears his name is the closest government-owned residence to the Newport Country Club where he played. Thus it was that the former commandant's quarters at Fort Adams became the "Summer White House."

Aside from its associations with past residents, the Eisenhower House may be interpreted historically as a symbol of a momentous shift in American military strategy. To comprehend this point, one must perceive the house in relation to the artillery post on which it was built.

As planned in the 1820's, Fort Adams was considered an impregnable defensive bastion guarding the approaches to Narragansett Bay. As a fortress, it was designed to function effectively even under siege. Ammunition storage, food, water and living space for officers and men were provided within the fort. The potential battle ground to the south was kept clear so that no enemy would have a sheltered position from

See continuation sheet 2

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 2

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description cont.

turned and applied scrollsaw frets ornament the riser ends. The newel post is a massive moulded and carved affair. At its base the "U.S." cipher appears once again.

East of the stairhall are the library and dining room; a double door connects these rooms. The library is fitted out with paneled bookshelves and an iconographically unique mantelpiece in which colonnettes supporting the mantel shelf take the form of cannon and cannon balls, emblematic of the Artillery Corps. West of the hall is a single large parlor. An archway supported on paneled pilasters with Corinthian capitals divides the apartment in two. French doors in both the parlor and library lead out onto the piazza.

The layout of the service ell is a modest reflection of the sophistication the housekeeping arts achieved in the late nineteenth century. At the rear of the building is a large kitchen, back hall and service entrance. A staircase from the kitchen leads directly to the servants quarters above. Between the kitchen and dining room is a butler's pantry; a pass-through connects kitchen and pantry. The ell also contains a larder, now partially taken over by a lavatory.

The second and third stories of the house each contain four bedrooms. Bathrooms have been installed in the space over the vestibule. Four-panel doors and heavy moulded door and window casings are found throughout the house. Floors on the first and second story are hardwood; the third story floor is pine.

The Eisenhower House is in good condition and an excellent state of preservation. The property is in process of acquisition by the State of Rhode Island from the federal government. Plans are being developed for its use as a part of the emerging Fort Adams State Park. The 4.7 acre site includes the house (Building #1 at Fort Adams) and a two-car garage (Building #82).

8. Significance cont.

which to attack. An extensive system of landward defenses guarding this sector is a distinguishing feature of Fort Adams.

The fort was designed to defend against sailing ships with smooth bore cannon. Events of the Civil War proved that masonry coastal fortresses had been rendered obsolete by steampowered vessels and rifled naval guns. These weapons could demolish the likes of Fort Adams. In the Post-Civil War era, defensive armaments here and at other coastal forts were removed from masonry casemates and dispersed in external batteries.

The old fort was maintained as a command post, arsenal and barracks. It was no longer necessary to keep the obsolescent landward defenses and the surrounding field of battle free of compromising obstructions and soon

See continuation sheet 3

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) -3

STATE	
Rhode Island	
COUNTY	
Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance cont.

construction of new facilities took place in this area. The Eisenhower House serving Fort Adams' commander was the first dwelling on post built outside the walls, its handsome situation made available by a fundamental change in the conduct of coastal warfare.

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Eisenhower House at Fort Adams stands isolated on a bluff amidst broad lawns rimmed with hedges. The drive leads through an alley of old shade trees and encircles a flower bed in front of the house. The rear of the building faces the fort to the north. To the east is Brenton Cove and Newport Harbor, to the west Narragansett Bay and Conanicut Island. The southern prospect affords a view across the fields of Hammersmith Farm and Newport County Club to the Atlantic. One could hardly ask for a finer setting.

The house was built in the winter of 1872-73 for General H. J. Hunt, commandant of Fort Adams. It is a two story clapboard structure with high mansard roof. A mansarded ell extends from the rear of the building. The main body of the structure is three window bays wide and two deep. The static mass of this block is varied by a semi-octagonal bay, running the full height of the building, thrust out on the west side. A piazza surrounding the building on its three principle elevations has chamfered and braced posts supporting a flat roof. The east end of the piazza has been enclosed to form a glassed-in sun porch; the existing piazza balustrade does not appear to be original.

A boldly scaled modillioned and dentillated cornice ornaments the skirt of the mansard roof. The juncture of the steeply sloped lower roof pitch and the nearly flat deck above is finished with a heavy moulded curb. "Stick Style" barge boards and shaped fascias trim the mansard's dormer windows. Three brick chimneys ornamented with raised panels and corbel belts rise from the deck. A fourth chimney serves the ell. An exterior chimney has been added to the northwest face of the main body of the house.

The symmetrical three bay south elevation of the house has a central entrance, a hooded central second story window, and a central cross-gable in the roof. The vertical progression of these accents is played off against the emphatic horizontals of the cornice, unbroken by the cross-gable, and the piazza roof. Likewise, the peaked caps of the dormers contrast with the moulded and projected lintels of the second story windows.

Fenestration throughout the main body of the house is regular. The windows are arranged in a straightforward grid pattern. The window openings are of equal size on each floor. Dormer and second story windows have 2/2 double hung sash. The tall first floor windows reach to the floor; some are hung with french doors rather than sash.

One enters the house through paneled double doors leading into a small vestibule; a second pair of doors separates this entry from the central stairhall. Set in this second set of double doors are large panes of glass etched and frosted with vine borders, garlands; central wreaths contain the cipher "U.S." The stairhall gives access to the upper floors, the three public rooms on the first floor, and to the service ell. The stairs themselves rise in three runs to the second floor. The open newel is illuminated by a skylight. The balusters are

See continuation sheet 2

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

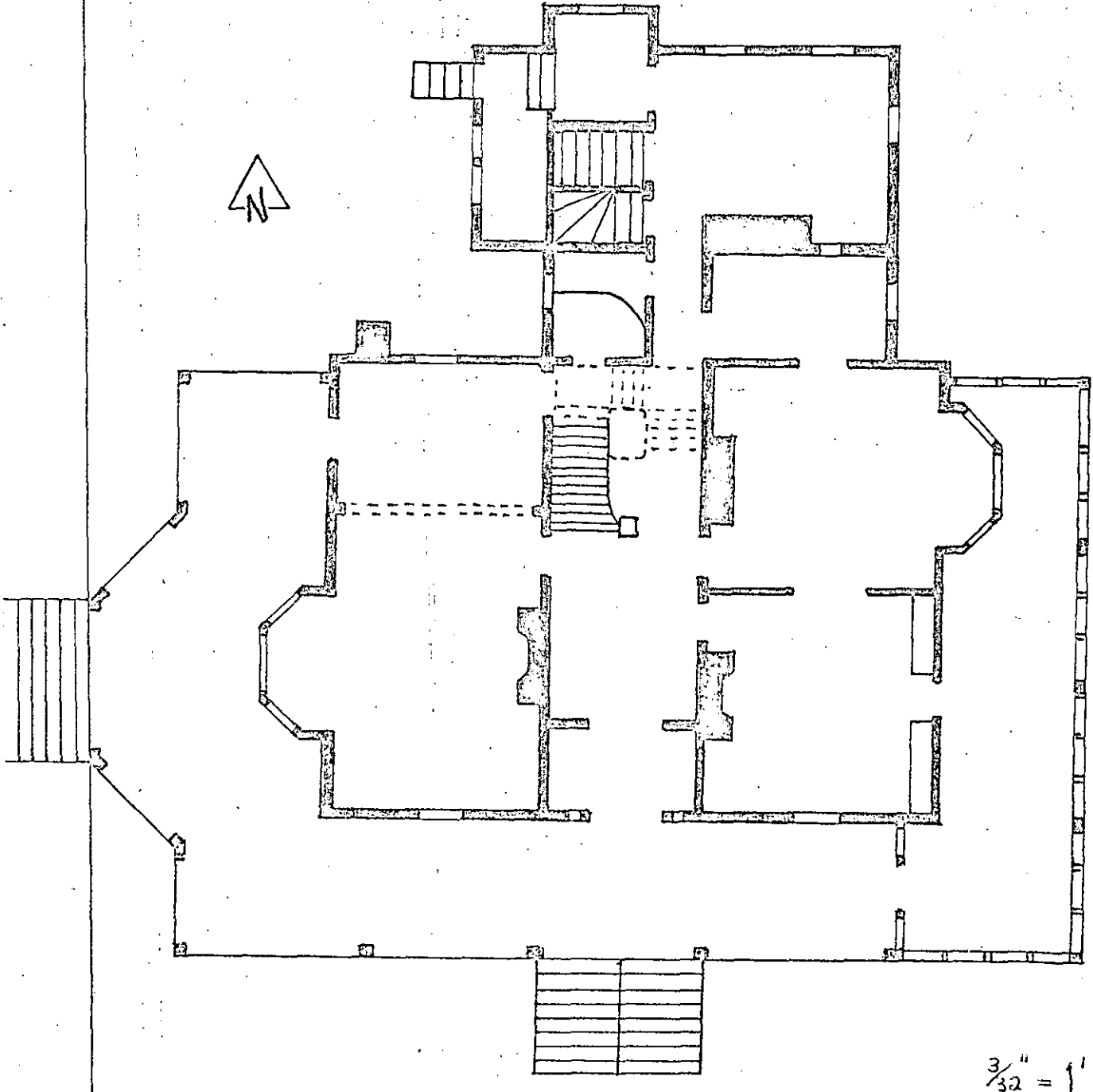
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 1

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

EISENHOWER HOUSE
first floor plan



$\frac{3}{32}'' = 1'$

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Malone, Dumas (Editor); Dictionary of American Biography;
 Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1932; V. IX, pp. 386-387.
Newport Mercury; 4 January, 1873.
Providence Journal; 27 August 1958; pp.1, 15;
 7 July 1960; pp.1, 8.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 28' 17.47"	71° 20' 33.87"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4.7 acres.

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

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 D. W. Chase, Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: March 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
 52 Power Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____ State Historic Preservation Title Officer _____</p> <p>Date APR 1 1974 _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
---	--

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Rhode Island	
COUNTY: Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Adams State Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Fort Adams

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Harrison Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

STATE: Rhode Island, 02840 CODE: 44 COUNTY: Newport CODE: 005

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02903 CODE: 44

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:
Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: Newport STATE: Rhode Island CODE: 44

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
Independence Avenue and 1st Street, S. E.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Adams is situated on a north-easterly, thumb-like protuberance near the south-west end of Aquidneck Island; between it and the island of Jamestown runs the "east passage" into Newport harbour and Narragansett Bay. It received its name when certain fortifications on this site (which from earliest times had been employed for harbour defence) were completed and dedicated in 1799; it was named in honour of the second President of the United States. The 1799 fort was of robust brick construction set at "amazing" angles--no doubt following a polygonal or star-shaped Vauban example. By the time of the War of 1812 this work had already fallen into serious decay and was not considered useful thereafter.

The fort as we see it now is mainly a product of the 1820's, with some inner and outer additions. Soon after 1820 congressional appropriations were made for construction of a new Fort Adams, to follow the plans and specifications of Colonel Joseph G. Totten. In 1824 work was commenced with, first, demolition of the 1799 brick fort and, next, construction both above and below ground of the present rugged granite structure. Vastly larger than its predecessors, it is a hollow pentagon, about 1200 by 1000 feet over-all, with a narrow "base" facing-roughly--north, east and west sides splaying out towards the south, where the fourth and fifth sides form a point. At north-west, north-east and south-east angles are aggressively projecting bastions dominating the channel passage, Newport harbour and Brenton's Cove.

The high granite walls have two casemate levels within, with their embrasures (now largely bricked-up) for directing artillery fire seawards and with their necessary corridors and stairs. Above runs a barbette, or parapetted unroofed gallery, also for artillery use. A maze of underground tunnels was dug through rock, some leading to the water's edge to provide exits in case the fort should suffer abandonment. Many of these latter passages are to-day under water and others have been sealed off for safety; but a few parts of the underground works can still be inspected. To the south of the main pentagon, but following the outline of the "V" there, are lower fortifications, embanked within, intended for land defence. Extending from the fort's water-bordered areas and roadways are a number of wharfage and mooring facilities, one dating from the 1820's, when it was used to unload the granite brought from Maine for construction and hauled into place by wagon, rope and pulley.

Entrance to the fort is through a large, rusticated, segmental north portal originally protected by a moat. Within the massive walls, a one-storey range of granite runs along the east wall, projecting towards the parade-lawn and sweeping around a bastion angle with a surprisingly elegant convex curve. This range continues along the south side also, but there has surmounting brick additions etc. Construction is of dressed

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description.

ashlar used in the simplest, most utilitarian, but handsome, manner. There is no applied ornament, no carving; yet recessed oblong panels let into the stonework over each opening give an understated adornment or at least a relief from monotony: this is surprising in its modest subtlety, somehow reminding one of Alexander Parris's work in this country and of the quieter sophistications of the English Regency style.

The southerly granite range mentioned above has for long served as basement to one floor of brick barracks prefaced by covered galleries supported on cast-iron columns at parade-ground-front and served by cast-iron stairs at rear, within the landward defences. The upper barracks structures and their chimnies survive, though mostly hollow through either fire or the collapse of roofs and floors. There are not other structures within the fort's walls.

A few other buildings of early date were placed outside the great walls, and of these the most interesting survivor is the old granite guardhouse, in very austere Greek Revival style and most penitentiary in aspect. Outside the walls there are also more structures to east and north; these are brick auxiliary buildings, shed-like in form, constructed in the late XIX and early XX Centuries, but they bear witness to the long-continuing use and development of the fort. To the south of the landward fortifications were erected the commander's residence (1873) and housing for officers and their families. This entire southern area stretching from the fort proper to Harrison Avenue is now a naval housing development and is not included in the state-owned park.

The fort and its masonry (with the exception of the fire-damaged barracks) is in sound condition and intact in form.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1821 ff.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

From Revolutionary War times onward the fort at Brenton Point has been not only a defence of Narragansett Bay, but a vital link in the east coast defence network. During the Civil War the fortification as we know it now played an important role in the continuing effectiveness of the Naval Academy. Throughout this period and up to the point at which the garrison was finally reduced, many officers of national distinction served there. The very fact that the fort was never called upon to perform its intended functions actively is testimony to its effectiveness. During the Spanish-American War there was a constant threat of Spanish landings in this area. That these never came about could possibly be related directly to the presence of Fort Adams. By World War II, Fort Adams, with its servant batteries, protected not only Narragansett Bay but the mouth of Long Island Sound as well.

Fort Adams is indeed an eloquent historical document--not only the only one of its kind in this state, but one of very few in the country--and it is unique in its potential for study of the entire scope of American coastal defence. It is second in size only to Fortress Monroe, and because that site is still an active army base it cannot compare with Fort Adams in terms of accessibility.

Parallel to its intended recreational purposes, Fort Adams affords the opportunity to become a comprehensive museum of American coastal defence and of day-to-day life in a major fortification. It would need only simple signs to indicate its original functions to the local and the touring public, which could use its open spaces for enjoyment and gain historical knowledge from its structures. Should funds be available for reinstating some interior spaces (mostly suffering from dirt and vandalism) a museum and instruction area could be established and would probably be heavily used by visitors.

However, unless attention, funds and re-use are soon directed on Fort Adams it will be another tragic case of "too late."

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Panaggio, Leonard J.: Portrait of Newport (Providence, R. I., 1969), pp. 56-59.
 Lewis, Emanuel Raymond: Seacoast Fortifications of the United States (Washington, D. C., 1970), pp. 49, 52.
 Downing, Antoinette F., and Scully, Vincent, J., Jr.: The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Rhode Island, 1640-1915 (Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1952), pp. 6, 35, 89, 100, 102, 112, 157, 158, 188, 195.
 Hite, Gerron S.: Historic American Buildings Survey. Fort Adams, Newport, Rhode Island. Historic and Architectural Written Data (Washington, D. C., 1970), unpagged.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	41°	28'	50"N	71°	20'	26"W
NE	41°	28'	50"N	71°	20'	09"W
SE	41°	28'	10"N	71°	20'	09"W
SW	41°	28'	10"N	71°	20'	26"W

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 52.5 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Richard B. Harrington, Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission DATE: January 17, 1971

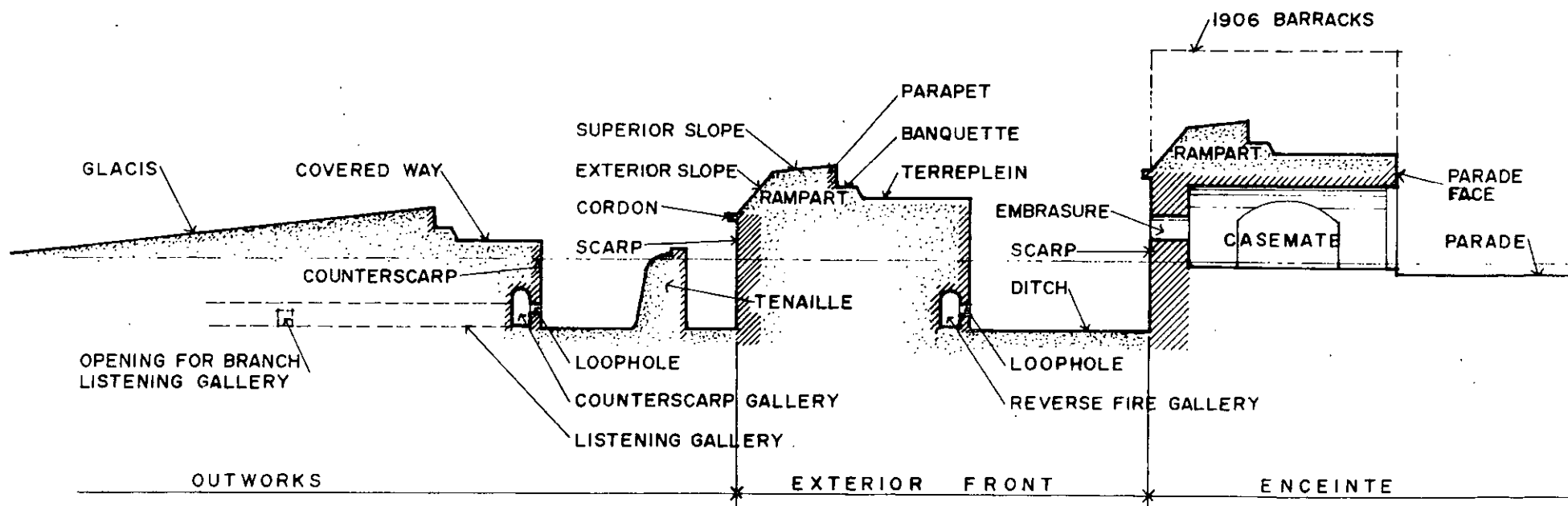
STREET AND NUMBER:
State House, 90 Smith Street

CITY OR TOWN: Providence STATE: Rhode Island, 02903 CODE: 144

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
---	---

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



FORT ADAMS: NOMENCLATURE

PROFILE DIAGRAM: SOUTH AND EXTERIOR FRONTS

WBR 6-10-72



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE

Rhode Island

COUNTY

Newport

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Fort Adams State Park

AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Adams

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Harrison Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Newport

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

CODE

005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Robert P. Foley

DATE OF PHOTO: 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Robert P. Foley, 25 Bridge Street,
Newport, Rhode Island, 02840

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View across parade-ground, towards north-east, showing fortifications as seen from interior gallery.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

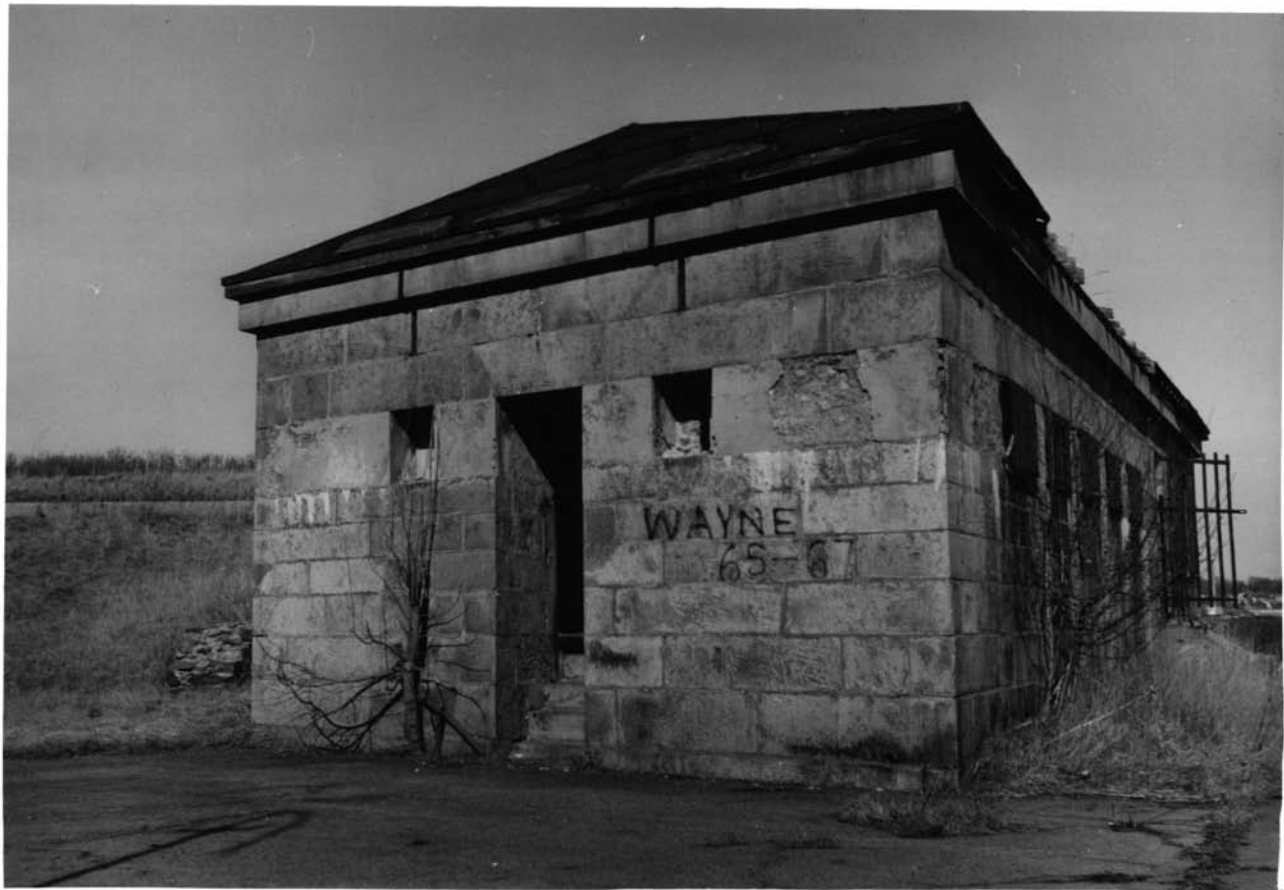
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Fort Adams State Park			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Adams			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Harrison Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Newport			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 111	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Richard B. Harrington			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
South range of barracks within the fort's walls, showing brick superstructure (now ruinous) and iron-supported galleries above older granite base.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Fort Adams State Park

AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Adams

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Harrison Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport

STATE:
Rhode Island

CODE
111

COUNTY:
Newport

CODE
005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Richard B. Harrington

DATE OF PHOTO: 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,
State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Exterior of old guard-house.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

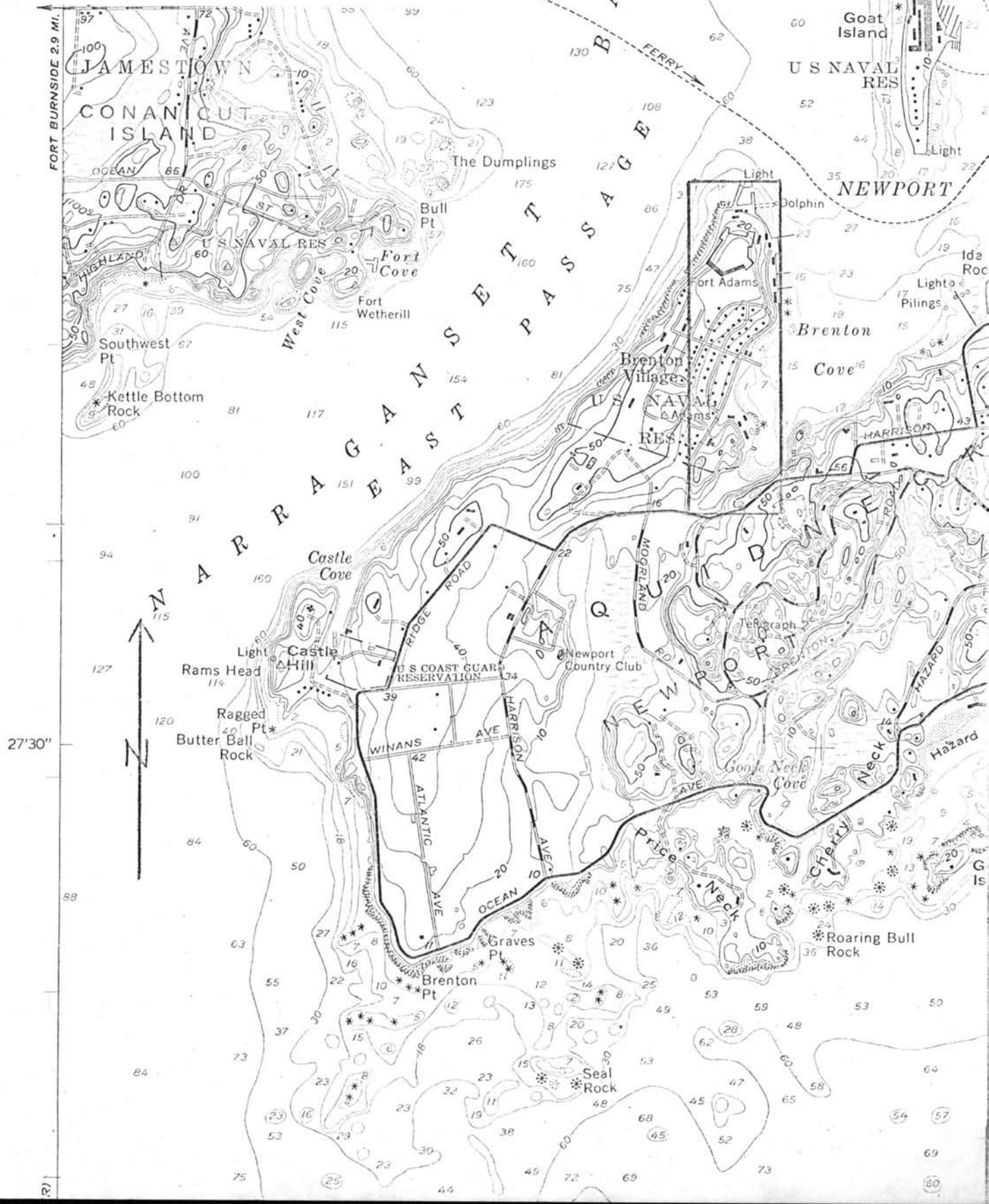
STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Fort Adams State Park			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Adams			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Harrison Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Newport			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 144	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Robert P. Foley			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Robert P. Foley, 25 Bridge Street, Newport, Rhode Island, 02840			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Granite stonework at ground-floor level facing on the parade-ground.			

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	41 28' 50" N	71 20' 26" W
NE	41 28' 50" N	71 20' 09" W
SE	41 28' 10" N	71 20' 09" W
SW	41 28' 10" N	71 20' 26" W



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Fort Adams State Park			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Adams			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Harrison Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Newport			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 4400	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U. S. Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1: 21,000			
DATE: 1957			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

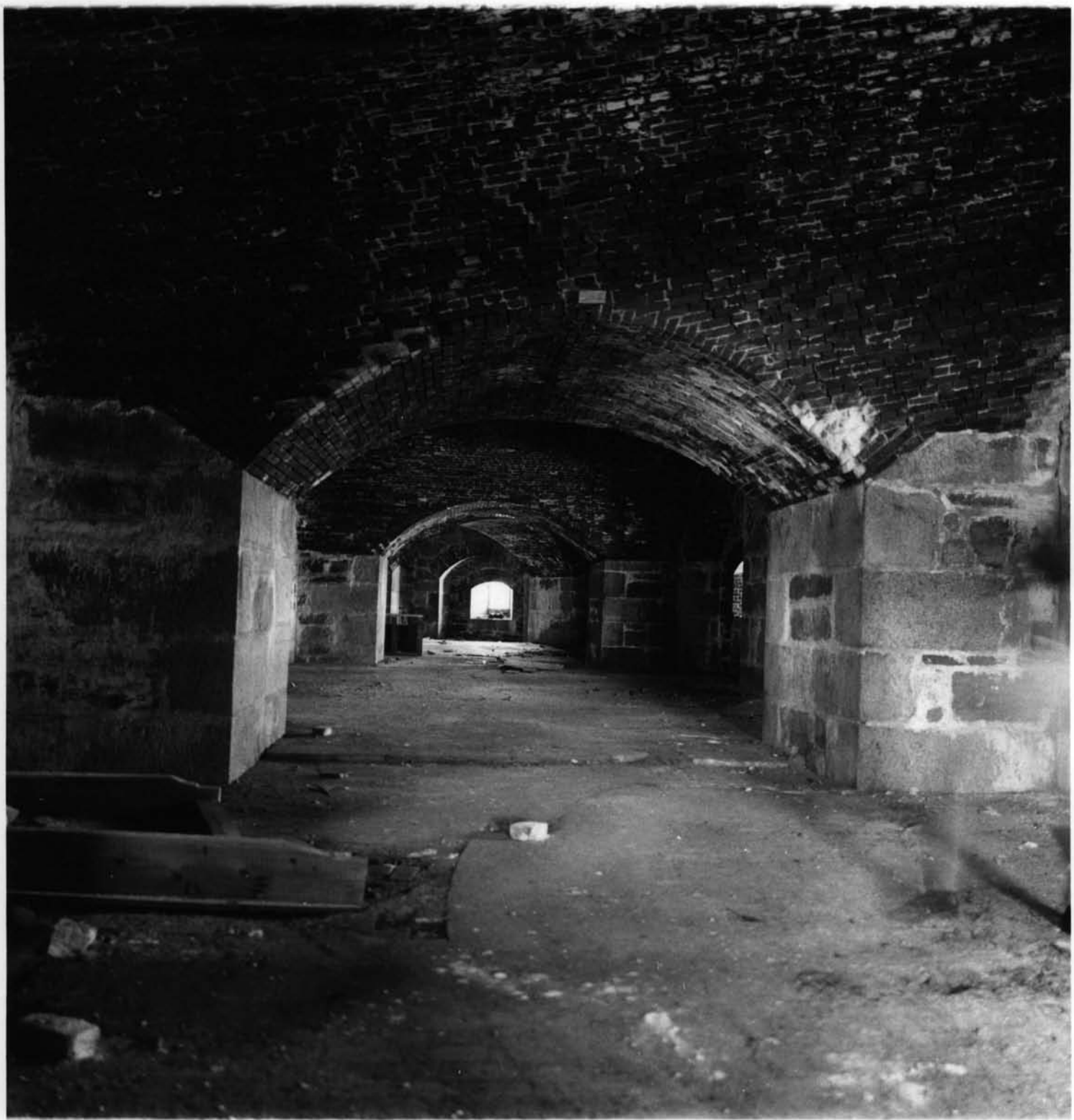
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Fort Adams State Park			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Adams			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Harrison Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Newport			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 411	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Richard A. Dorf			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
North gate			



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Fort Adams State Park

AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Adams

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Harrison Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Newport

STATE:

▼Rhode Island

CODE

44

COUNTY:

Newport

CODE

005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Robert P. Foley

DATE OF PHOTO: 1970

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Robert P. Foley, 25 Bridge Street,
Newport, Rhode Island, 02840

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View along casemate corridor of major seaward fortifications.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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Harrison Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Newport

STATE:

Rhode Island

CODE

111

COUNTY:

Newport

CODE

005

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Richard A. Dow

DATE OF PHOTO: 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission,
State House, 90 Smith Street, Providence, R. I., 02903

4. IDENTIFICATION

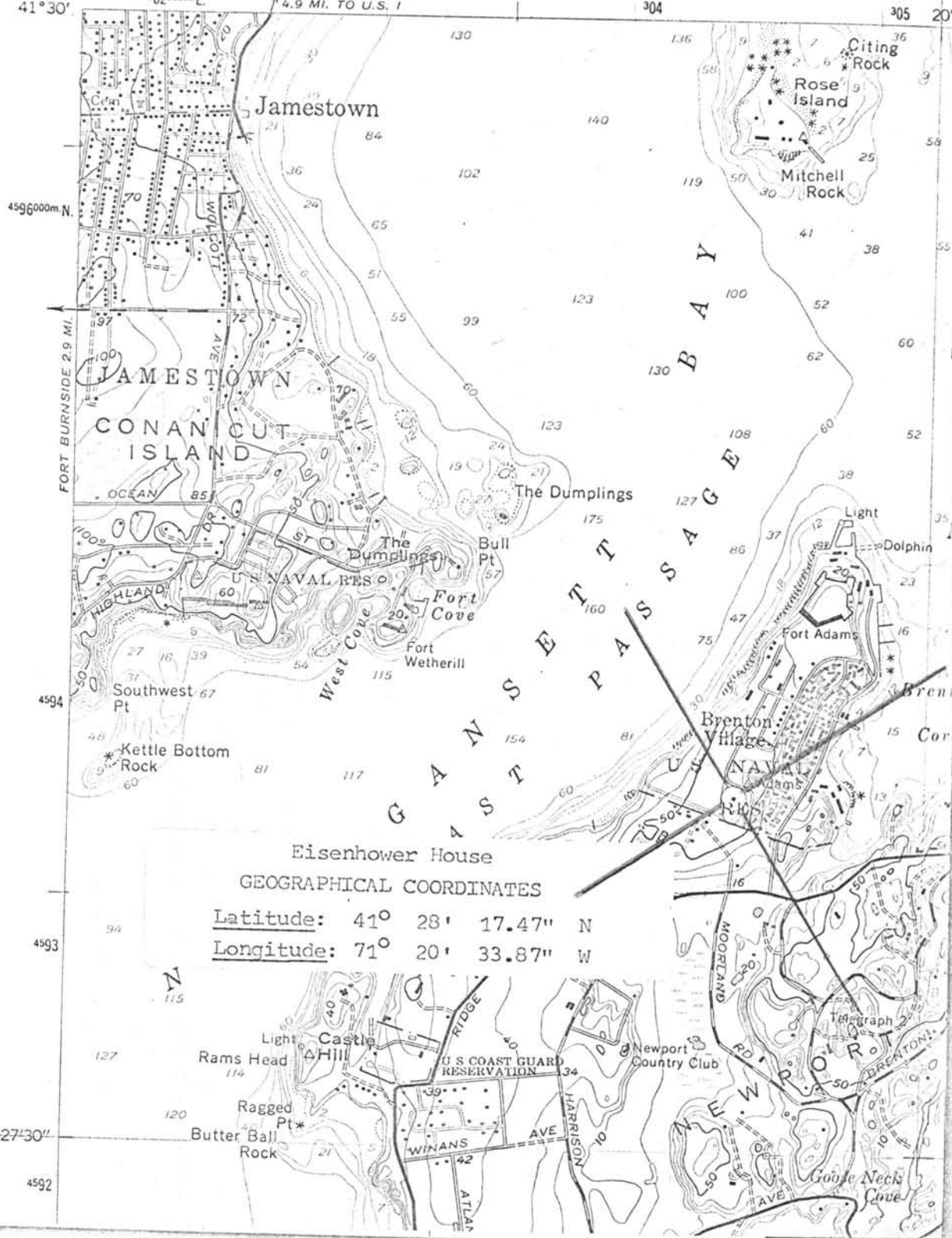
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Northwest bastion

6787 11 SW
(WICKFORD)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

71°22'30" 302000m E WICKFORD 8.9 MI. 4.9 MI. TO U.S. I 304 305 20'



Eisenhower House

GEOGRAPHICAL COORDINATES

Latitude: 41° 28' 17.47" N

Longitude: 71° 20' 33.87" W

4593

27'30"

4592

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Rhode Island	
COUNTY Newport	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Eisenhower House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Commandant's Residence, Fort Adams			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Harrison Avenue -- Fort Adams			
CITY OR TOWN: Newport			
STATE: Rhode Island	CODE 44	COUNTY: Newport	CODE 005
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1957; photorevised 1970			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

