

Histories of the Harbor Forts Defending Portsmouth, NH

by Pete Payette, 2016

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Fort Washington, 1775-1815

Located on Peirce's Island, Fort Washington was built in 1775 under orders of Major General John Sullivan, overall commander of the Portsmouth harbor defenses at that time, to control the Piscataqua River at "the Narrows" and to provide crossfire with Fort Sullivan directly across the river on Seavey's Island. A log boom defense was placed in the river between the two forts. The fort was garrisoned by 180 men under the command of Captain Titus Salter from 1775-78. The garrison was also responsible for the security of the powder magazine in Portsmouth. The fort was designed by Captain Ezekiel Worthen, who also designed Fort Sullivan and the Clark's Point (Shaw's Hill) Redoubt on New Castle Island, and who, with the rank of Major, later replaced General Sullivan as the overall commander of the Portsmouth harbor defenses. Peirce's Island was renamed "Isle of Washington" in 1776, in honor of General George Washington, who was then commander of the Army of New England in Cambridge, Massachusetts, during the siege of Boston. The fort was repaired and regarrisoned in 1814-15 during the War of 1812 when British warships blockaded the New England coast. The fort was in ruins by 1850, and was probably not used at all during the Civil War.

The abandoned ruins last saw military service in 1941, when Peirce Island became the location of an Army Recreation Center, a tent camp for 500 men set up by the Army's Morale Division for coastal artillery troops from Portsmouth and Boston. A permanent staff of two officers, three NCOs, and nine privates made up the garrison. The center's mess units were actually placed within the earthen ramparts of the old fort.

Only a portion of the fort's outer breastworks still exist today, completely overgrown. The land face and sally port was bulldozed in 1963-64 when the Portsmouth Wastewater Treatment Facility was built on the site. There was little local opposition at the time of the plant's construction. The remaining portion of the fort site has now been formally preserved as part of the Peirce Island East End Trail, completed in

2004. There are historical markers of the fort and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard across the river, as well as several panels on the natural history and ecology of the island and river.

History of Fort Sullivan, 1775-1874

Any discussion of Fort Sullivan should also mention other older related military sites abutting the harbor, including Camp Long (1898), Camp Heywood (1898-1918), Portsmouth Naval Prison (1905-1974), and the Marine Barracks within the Naval Shipyard (1808-1987).

The site of Fort Sullivan is on Seavey's Island, part of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, near the old water reservoir site. The old Naval Prison now occupies the top of the bluff near where the fort is believed to have been built.

The earthwork fort was first built in 1775 by the New Hampshire militia, in conjunction with Fort Washington on Peirce's Island and Clark's Point (Shaw's Hill) Redoubt on New Castle Island, and named after Major General John Sullivan, commander of New Hampshire forces in the American Revolution, and overall commander of the Portsmouth defenses in 1775. Captain Ezekiel Worthen drew the plans for Fort Sullivan, as well as Fort Washington and Clark's Point, and was later to relieve General Sullivan as overall commander of the Portsmouth defenses.

The fort was first under the command of a Colonel Wingate in 1775, and then Captain Eliphalet Daniels after 1776, with one lieutenant and 25 artillerymen. It was probably not garrisoned after 1778. The fort was regarrisoned and rearmed in 1814 as British warships patrolled off the coast. In 1861 two 8-inch smooth-bore Rodmans were emplaced at the old earthwork. The fort was completely rebuilt in April 1863 by the US Navy and Marines based at the Shipyard, as a naval battery of eleven 8-inch smooth-bore Rodmans along with barracks, which would protect the Shipyard from possible Confederate naval attacks that might slip past Forts Constitution and McClary. In July 1863 the fort was manned by 117 Negro "contrabands" brought up from the South, who were to be trained as sailors and soldiers under command of several white officers to relieve the manpower shortage at the time. They served for 10 months until May 1864, when they were transferred to serve as part of the crew for a "new" ship being outfitted at the yard, the *USS New Hampshire* (formerly the *USS Alabama*). In August 1863 a controversy arose concerning the Negroes manning the fort. A target practice shot went astray and hit a boat in the harbor near Pest Island, killing a twelve-year-old boy from New Castle, and wounding four other passengers.

Seavey's Island was not part of the actual Shipyard holdings until 1866, after which the fort was soon dismantled. The fort site was virtually demolished in 1901 when the new reservoir and water tanks were built. The general site is marked on a walking trail of the historic Shipyard.

The old Naval Prison, commonly referred to as "The Castle", was built beginning in 1905, and received its first military prisoners in 1908. It replaced a temporary stockade called Camp Long that was originally used for 1,612 Spanish naval POWs in July-September 1898. The camp was named after Secretary of the

Navy John Long. A Marine detachment from the Boston Naval Shipyard provided guard detail for the camp in 1898. The central turreted structure of the prison was added in 1912. Prison population in 1918 was at 2,295 inmates. An additional wing was added in 1942, matching the architecture of the original section, and the large 8-story south wing, also known as the "Fortress," was built in 1943 to accommodate the swelled ranks of wartime convicts. It was also used in 1945 to house the crews of several captured German U-boats. The prison population reached its peak of 3,088 in 1945. It was finally closed in 1974, with the remaining inmates transferred to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. This was the primary prison facility for the entire US Navy and Marine Corps during its heyday, equal in security and reputation to the military prisons at Fort Leavenworth, and Alcatraz Island, California. The building, closed to the public, now sits abandoned and derelict, awaiting some future re-purposing.

A temporary Marine encampment called Camp Heywood, named after the USMC Commandant at the time, Col. Charles Heywood, was established on the Shipyard in August-September 1898 following the Spanish-American War, for the returning veterans of the First Marine Battalion. The troops needed a cooler climate to recuperate after the campaign in tropical Cuba. The site, just north of the Naval Prison, was later used as a Naval Reservists' camp during World War I.

The Marines were first stationed at the Naval Shipyard in 1808. The Marine Barracks was built in 1824, and used until 1987 when the garrison was withdrawn. The barracks are now used by the Naval Shipyard Police Department.

Fort Constitution, 1791-1948

Fort Point on Great Island, the site of Fort Constitution, has been an active military position guarding the entrance to Portsmouth Harbor for nearly four hundred years, and may be the oldest continuously occupied military site in the United States.

The first documented defense installation was built in 1631, and consisted of an earthen redoubt with four "great guns". In 1666 a timber blockhouse was built. In 1692 the fort, by then also known as "The Castle", was formally named Fort William and Mary after the reigning English monarchs, and a breastwork for 19 guns was then constructed to defend against the French fleet during King William's War. The first stone walls were built in 1705. Repairs were made in 1722 under Lieutenant Governor John Wentworth I, and additional repairs and more guns were added in 1757 under Royal Governor Benning Wentworth. However, the basic structure of the fort remained the same. Throughout the colonial era, the average complement of men was only four to eight, with 20 to 40 additional soldiers added in the summer or in times of crisis. In 1771-72 a major improvement to the fort was made when a barbette battery was built protected by a stone wall about seven feet high, with several gun embrasures. The first harbor light was installed here in April 1771, which was at first only a lantern hung up a flagpole. A shingled 50-foot tall wooden lighthouse with a copper-roofed iron lantern was built in July 1771, and was tended by soldiers at the fort. It was the first light station established at a military installation in the British colonies of the present United States, the tenth of eleven light stations

established in the colonies before the American Revolution, and the first lighthouse in the American colonies north of Boston.

During the nights of December 14 and 15, 1774, in two separate raids, about 400 men of the local chapters of the "Sons of Liberty", warned by Paul Revere beforehand on December 13, stormed the fort and overcame British Captain John Cochran and his five-man garrison, capturing 16 light cannon and 97 barrels of gunpowder, some of which later made its way to the Battle of Bunker Hill in June 1775. This incident is remembered locally as the first overt action of the American Revolution. The arrival of two British warships (*HMS Scarborough* and *HMS Chanceaux*) three days later, with upwards of 100 Royal Marines, prevented a third raid. The remaining guns and stores were removed by the British in February 1775 and sent to Boston. The British then later partially dismantled the fort on May 30, 1775. In retaliation, about 500-600 men of the New Hampshire militia under Dr. Hall Jackson dismantled the eight-gun battery at Jerry's Point on May 31 and removed everything of value. Facing increasing public anger, the Royal Governor of New Hampshire, John Wentworth II, and his family sought refuge inside the fort in June 1775 after news of the Battle of Bunker Hill, and finally left for Boston with the British Royal Navy in August 1775, thus effectively ending British rule in New Hampshire. The New Hampshire militia, under the command of General John Sullivan, dismantled what was left of the fort in September 1775, and proceeded to build entirely new works upriver (Forts Washington, Sullivan, and Clark's Point) at the "Narrows" of the Piscataqua River, which was deemed to be more easily defensible. The abandoned fort, renamed Fort Hancock in 1776, saw little use for the duration of the war, except that the lighthouse (unlit during the war) was sometimes used as a lookout post. A sentry would raise a signal flag on any sign of trouble, which would then be answered by flag and a four-pounder gun at Fort Sullivan, and then relayed to Portsmouth by flag and a four-pounder gun at Fort Washington. After the war the site was known thereafter simply as the "Castle Fort" or "Fort Castle".

In 1783 Lieutenant Meshech Bell was appointed to command "the old Fort at New Castle", with a garrison of five men, and to tend the lighthouse. The wooden barracks and gun platforms from the Jerry's Point Battery were moved here, as well as a timber powder magazine and the flagstaff from Fort Washington. Thirteen guns were also newly emplaced, consisting of seven heavy guns of 18-, 24-, and 42-pounds on seacoast carriages and six light guns on field carriages. The fort's main purpose at this time was for collecting and enforcing customs duties on all ships entering the harbor. Captain Titus Salter took command of the fort in 1786 until dismissed in 1793 and replaced with a Mr. Duncan, who was solely tasked to be the lighthouse keeper. The lighthouse was apparently rebuilt or repaired in 1784.

In 1791 the State of New Hampshire ceded to the United States 1.75 acres, which included the old fort and lighthouse. It is unknown when the fort was officially renamed, or by whom, due to lost records at the War Department from this time period, but it is known that in 1802 Secretary of War Henry Dearborn was referring to "Fort Constitution" in official documents. An official War Department naming order was not reissued until 1937. The fort was essentially unchanged from the colonial era except for repairs and the addition in 1794 of a two-story wooden citadel/blockhouse, which would be rebuilt in 1808 as the "Captain's House". The fort at this time would be considered a "First System" work. The

fort was briefly garrisoned by federal units in 1798-99 during the French-American Quasi War. A federal garrison again returned for duty in 1802. Local militia units were to augment the garrison in times of crisis. A new 85-foot high wooden lighthouse was constructed in 1803 about 100 yards east of the original 1771 lighthouse. An additional 1.5 acres was ceded by the state to the federal government in 1807. The fort underwent additional repairs and modifications until completed in 1808 during the so-called "Second System" of fortifications. Renovations included a new outer stone wall twice as high as the original, with a bastion in the southwest corner facing the sea, two brick barracks which could accommodate 150 men, two brick powder magazines, a shot furnace, and emplacements for 36 guns. The foundations of the two barracks still remain to be seen today, as well as the larger of the two powder magazines.

In 1809 an explosion during an Independence Day celebration badly damaged the Captain's House and killed 14 people. Colonel Walbach was having a late afternoon dinner party, when two kegs of gunpowder and several boxes of cartridges somehow ignited and exploded. The house was repaired, but later burned down in 1861. It was located at the end of the north inner wall past the present flagpole.

During the British blockade of 1814 a brick casemated Martello-type tower (known as Castle Walbach, or later Walbach Tower) was constructed on a small rocky hill west of the fort. It was named for and by Colonel John de Barth Walbach, originally from Germany, who served in the French Imperial Army until joining the American Army in 1799 as a lieutenant of light dragoons, and was now second-in-command of all New England seacoast defenses. The tower mounted a large 32-pounder naval gun on its roof to fire on ships in the channel to the east and south, as well as three 4-pounder field guns in casemates to protect the landward approach from the west. The remains of its foundation and arched magazine still stand today, in an overgrown area just behind Battery Farnsworth.

From 1821 to 1828 Company I, 1st U.S. Artillery was garrisoned here until transferred to Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia. A local militia company of artillery, musicians, and artisans (about 50 men total) was then posted here until withdrawn in 1852. In 1840 improvements were made to the outer walls, which included raising them higher, placing a stone coping on the parade and ramp walls, and replacing the temporary wooden gun platforms with permanent granite blocks with iron traverse rails. This is basically the fort structure we see today. Of historical note, Captain Robert Parker Parrott, ordnance inventor, who was a member of a prominent Portsmouth family, served at the fort as a lieutenant from 1829 to 1831.

In 1861 at the start of the Civil War, there were only 25 pieces of artillery mounted in the fort, which consisted of several 32-pounder seacoast guns and 100-pounder seacoast Parrott rifles. A local militia company of 25 men and a captain were rushed to activate the slumbering fort, inactive since 1852. The commanding officer was Josiah G. Hadley. A 150-man detachment of the Home Guard and the Portsmouth Volunteer Corps also arrived at the fort in the opening weeks of the war. A 42-pounder naval gun sent from the Naval Shipyard was emplaced in the bastion. The Hampton Volunteers (or Winnacunnet Guards) were in garrison from May to August 1861. They were later re-designated as Company D, 3rd New Hampshire Volunteer Regiment, and transferred to the war front at Hilton Head,

South Carolina. Battery A, 1st New Hampshire Heavy Artillery was stationed here from July 1863 to May 1864, until transferred to the defenses of Washington, DC. They returned to Portsmouth in November 1864. Various state militia units were also posted here from time to time to relieve the garrison. A new, larger "Third System" fort, begun in late 1862, was to include a massive, pentagonal three-tiered casemated granite wall constructed outside of the original outer wall. It was designed for 149 new gun emplacements. The northeast section of the original wall was blasted away in 1866 to prepare for the new wall. However, as the war had progressed, it became clear that masonry forts were becoming obsolete, and the new construction was halted by 1867. The fort was then placed on caretaker status until 1897, when war with Spain was imminent. Of historical note, Charles F. Conant, assistant Secretary of Treasury 1874-77, under the Hayes administration, served at Fort Constitution in the local militia from 1861-63.

In 1872 plans were drawn up for a massive V-shaped earth and concrete 14-bay barbette gun battery. It was to be located where Battery Farnsworth is now located, and it was to be similar to the other so-called "Fourth System" works started at Fort Foster and Fort Stark in 1874. Congress never provided any funds for this project, and it was therefore never built. In 1874 the small brick powder magazine in the old fort next to the bastion was removed to allow for the construction of a temporary emplacement of two 15-inch smooth-bore Rodman cannons on wooden platforms. In 1886 the emplacement was reported as empty, so it may be possible that the guns were never actually emplaced. Five of the original Civil War era 100-pounder seacoast Parrott rifles still remained, and four were emplaced and made ready in the eastern section of the unfinished outer casemates of the new wall. They remained there until 1905 when they were finally removed. In 1877 the old wooden lighthouse was demolished and replaced with the current 48-foot high cast-iron structure seen today, on the original foundation of the 1803 light tower.

Beginning in 1897, a new system of defenses was built outside of the fort proper. A concrete battery was built into the rocky hill under Walbach Tower, which was equipped with two 8-inch breach-loading rifles, Model 1888MII, on disappearing carriages, Model 1894, with hand-operated platform ammunition hoists. The battery was armed and operational in 1898 during the Spanish-American War, but was not fully completed until 1899. It was named Battery Elon Farnsworth in honor of Brigadier General Elon John Farnsworth, killed in action in Pennsylvania in 1863. The battery continually suffered from extreme dampness, however, and was never electrified. Due to structural problems that were never completely fixed, it was also never modernized prior to World War I.

During the Spanish-American War, the harbor was planted with 21 underwater mines, each loaded with 101 pounds of gun-cotton, and anchored by 1000-pound anchors. The U.S. Lightship *Lilac* laid buoys to mark the locations of the mines. The buoys also served as day markers to warn local boaters. The Lighthouse Board then ordered that all lights and fog signals at Fort Constitution and on Seavey's Island be turned off at night. The minefield was electrified at night from 8pm to 4am. The crisis ended after about two months, but the mines remained in place until 1899. A small concrete mine casemate was completed in 1898 under the left flank of Battery Farnsworth to control the detonation of the mines in the harbor. However, this casemate was never again used afterwards due to wetness problems. (NOTE:

This casemate may or may not have been actually used in 1898 for mining operations. Sources are not clear as to whether there was also a temporary casemate built during the war, because of the stated wetness problems.) Harbor mining operations at that time were conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers, not the Coast Artillery, until about 1901. A replacement mine casemate was later built at Fort Stark in 1907. The wartime garrison of the fort in 1898 first consisted of one company of the 1st Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, sent in late May - early June, who were then replaced in July by Battery K, 2nd U.S. Artillery, commanded by a Captain Curtis. They were posted here until 1900, and then replaced by a 20-man detachment from Battery M, 4th U.S. Artillery, sent from Fort Strong in Boston, Mass. Of historical note, Tom Mix, the famous Hollywood Westerns actor during the 1920s, served here with Battery M, 4th U.S. Artillery.

The 124th Company, Coast Artillery, was headquartered here from 1902 to 1907 before being transferred to Fort Andrews in Boston. It was replaced by the 156th Company (Mines), Coast Artillery, who were posted here from 1907 to 1924. In 1901 a large brick mine-storage building (or torpedo storehouse) was built on the granite pavement between the two outer walls, to supply the mines for the defense of the harbor. A small pier was built on the north side of the fort, near the mine-storage building, to load the prepared mines onto mine planter boats for planting in the harbor.

The mine boat assigned to Portsmouth Harbor during this time was the *USAMP General Royal T. Frank*, which was also used in Boston and Portland Harbors. A wooden cable tank building was built in 1901 in front of the old fort's gatehouse. A wooden loading room and service dynamite room were built in 1907 in front of the torpedo storehouse, near the wharf. A rail system, or tramway, of hand-pushed cars was devised to transport the mines from the storage and loading rooms to the mine wharf. An additional 8.15 acres of land was purchased by the federal government in 1902 to accommodate several new garrison buildings planned for construction. In 1904 a second battery was completed between Battery Farnsworth and the old fort, consisting of two shielded 3-inch rapid-fire guns, Model 1903, on pedestal-mounted barbette carriages, Model 1903, to supplement the fire of the 8-inch guns. This battery was named Battery Pleasant Adam Hackleman in honor of Brigadier General Pleasant Adam Hackleman, killed in action in Mississippi in 1862.

In 1917 the harbor was again planted with mines. Also, the two guns of Battery Farnsworth were removed and sent to Watertown Arsenal, Mass. for the intended purpose of remounting as railway guns to be used in France by the American Expeditionary Force. The carriages were removed in 1918. The battery was never rearmed. Later it would be used for storing mine cable and other equipment. During the war wooden barracks were erected on concrete pilings on the parade ground inside of the old fort. These housed the battery gunners, as well as serving as receiving quarters for new National Guard and Coast Artillery troops until 1945.

In 1920 a Coincidence Range Finder (CRF) Station was built atop the bastion of the old fort to direct the fire of Battery Hackleman, but without a roof. A large modern concrete mine casemate was constructed behind Battery Farnsworth, into the hill under Walbach Tower, replacing the temporary mine casemate at Fort Stark. Electrical cables ran underground from here to a "cable hut," often known as a junction box, at Fort Stark, which then sent another cable underwater to a distribution box which sent cables

separately to each of the mines in the harbor. Control and firing of the mines were operated from the plotting room in the casemate, with visual guidance from the two mine observation stations. The cable tank building was enlarged to accommodate the extra cable lengths needed for the mines. The earthen berm behind the central traverse of Battery Farnsworth was removed, and an electrical power plant was completed in 1921. The fort was placed on caretaker status between 1922 and 1940, under the watch of Battery E, 8th Coast Artillery Regiment (Harbor Defense), which was based in Portland, Maine. The seawall on both sides of the old fort was built by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1938, using many of the granite blocks taken from the unfinished Civil War era walls.

In 1941 the Headquarters, Harbor Defenses of Portsmouth Harbor was relocated to Camp Langdon, a short distance south between Fort Constitution and Fort Stark, in an area now called "Great Island Common". The 22nd Coast Artillery Regiment (Harbor Defense) was formed in 1940 and headquartered there. The Mine Group Command post for Portsmouth Harbor was transferred to Fort Foster, and Fort Constitution then became strictly a Mine Operations Depot. In 1942 a new concrete Mine Observation station was built on top of Battery Farnsworth, and used in conjunction with an opposite station at Fort Foster.

A second mine casemate was also built at Fort Foster. The inner two lines of mines (seven groups, 13 mines each) in the outer harbor (outside of Whaleback Light) were controlled from the mine casemate here at Fort Constitution. The outer line (seven groups, 13 mines each) was controlled from Fort Foster. The explosive TNT for the mines was stored in an isolated magazine at Fort Dearborn. A set of two hydrophones was located between the middle and outer line of mines, controlled from Fort Stark. A second set of four hydrophones was located outside the outer line of mines, controlled from Fort Foster. A series of four underwater magnetic indicator loops were installed further out to sea, from Sisters' Point to Appledore Island, and back around to Rye Ledge, controlled from the Navy Indicator Loop Station on Appledore Island. The hydrophones and magnetic indicator loops were used to detect submerged enemy submarines trying to enter the outer harbor. No enemy vessels are known to have penetrated the harbor defenses of Portsmouth.

During the war the mine casemate was upgraded to protect against shell fire, gas attack, and commando raids. The concrete facade, with an airlock chamber (still visible today), was added to the front. The CRF station for Battery Hackleman was rebuilt in 1942 as a fully enclosed Battery Commander's Station. The original guns of Battery Hackleman were removed in 1942 and sent to Fort H. G. Wright, Fishers Island, New York. They were replaced with the guns from Battery Lytle at Fort Stark, which was in the process of being relocated.

In 1943 the Civil War era wooden boathouse at the wharf was rebuilt to accommodate and repair the eight mine yawls assigned to the harbor. They were listed as the M-302, M-304, M-320, M-321, M-348, M-385, M-414, and the M-460. The Army mine planter boat assigned to Portsmouth Harbor during this time was the Boston-based *USAMP Brigadier General Henry L. Abbott*, which was also used in Portland. A junior mine planter, the JMP 70, was also berthed here. Two smaller DB (distribution box) boats, the L-95 and the L-111, were also in use here. During the war, other Boston-based vessels also served Portsmouth from time to time, including among others, the *USAMP General Absalom Baird*, the *JMP*

General Richard Arnold, the JMP Lt. Col. M.N. Greeley, and the DB boat L-88. The Army deactivated the fort in 1948, along with the rest of the nearby forts defending Portsmouth Harbor.

The Portsmouth Harbor Lifeboat Station was established in 1948, transferring some functions away from the Portsmouth Harbor Lifesaving Station on Wood Island. Coast Guard personnel were quartered in the Light Keeper's House, and a former Army barrack was converted to a Recreation Center. The CRF/BC Station for Battery Hackleman was used as a lookout station until later replaced with a steel-frame tower. The US Navy took over responsibility of the post in 1950. The New Hampshire National Guard used the old fort from 1951 until 1958 for training purposes, and also as a post for the Military Police Company, 737th AFA Service Battalion. In 1960 the General Services Administration (GSA) transferred the original 1.75 acres, along with the original fort, back to the State of New Hampshire, which was designated a state historic site, but remained undeveloped and was not opened for general public visitation until 1973. In 1965 the Treasury Department received 8.30 acres, establishing the Coast Guard Station, Portsmouth Harbor.

In 1965 Battery Hackleman was demolished to make way for the current Coast Guard Administration Building, completed in 1966. An asphalt helipad was constructed between the Administration Building and Battery Farnsworth. The old mine storehouse became the visitor center for the new park in 1974, but since 1989 it has been used as the Coastal Marine Laboratory of the University of New Hampshire (UNH). It is closed to the general public. In 1973 Fort Constitution was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In September 1999, 1.85 acres of land were transferred by quitclaim from the Coast Guard to the Town of New Castle, as a green space buffer. This parcel is located at the corner of Wentworth Road and Ocean Avenue. In June 2001, 5.5 acres of land were transferred by quitclaim from the Coast Guard to UNH for the new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - UNH Cooperative Institute for New England Mariculture and Fisheries (CINEMar). This includes the parcel containing Battery Farnsworth, the Mine Casemate, and Walbach Tower, which are currently fenced off from public access due to their deteriorating and unsafe condition. Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documentation was undertaken for Battery Farnsworth, the Mine Casemate, and Walbach Tower in 2004, and a formal Historic Structures Report for the same was produced in 2006 by UNH and the National Park Service.

Fort Constitution Lighthouse, more commonly known as Portsmouth Harbor Light, or "Fort Point Light", is outside the southeast corner of the old fort. It was built in 1877 upon the 1803 tower foundation. It was originally a dark reddish-brown until painted white in 1902. The adjacent brick oil house was built in 1903, restored in 2004. The light was electrified in 1934, and was automated in 1960. It was refurbished in 1977, and again in 1998-2000. It is still an active aid to navigation. The present Light Keeper's House, built in 1872, was originally located about 1000 feet west, near where Battery Farnsworth was later built. It was moved in 1897 closer to the lighthouse, near where Battery Hackleman was later built. It was moved again in 1906 to its present location within the two walls of the old fort. It is still currently in use by the Coast Guard. Public access to the Lighthouse and the adjacent ground is not allowed, except for special prearranged tours and open houses given by the "Friends of

Portsmouth Harbor and Whaleback Lighthouses,” an American Lighthouse Foundation chapter and lease-holder of the lighthouse since 2000.

From various vantage points around the fort, all of the harbor forts can be seen, as well as Whaleback Light (1872), and the old Portsmouth Harbor Lifesaving Station (1908-1966), located on Wood Island.

Fort McClary, 1808-1918

The site occupied by Fort McClary has been an important military defensive position since 1689, when William Pepperrell, a wealthy merchant and landowner, acquired a tract of land known as "Battery Pasture", which was adjacent to his own house. The first structures were probably simple earthworks and a small blockhouse, which was known as Pepperrell's Garrison, or Fort Pepperrell.

Not until 1715 did the Colony of Massachusetts Bay vote to erect a permanent breastwork of six guns for the defense of the river. However, it may not have been until around 1720 that the fort was actually built. The position of a Naval Officer was also established, to collect duty from all ships entering the harbor, and to prevent New Hampshire's Naval Officer from extracting unreasonable duties. This money went to the purchase of powder and shot for the fort. The new fort was named Fort William, again after William Pepperrell, although some still called it Fort Pepperrell.

When the American Revolution broke out in 1775, the Pepperrell family still remained loyal to the British Crown. Local citizens confiscated all property belonging to the family, including the fort. The New Hampshire militia manned the fort until 1779, after which it was abandoned.

In 1808 the State of Massachusetts ceded to the federal government 1.87 acres of land needed to build a new "Second System" fort. The new fort was named Fort McClary in 1808 in honor of New Hampshire native Major Andrew McClary, who was the highest ranking American officer killed at the Battle of Bunker Hill in 1775. The modifications included the rebuilding of the original breastwork into a large semi-circular granite wall (the Lower Battery), which was located at the foot of the central hill. There were emplacements for nine guns on the Lower Battery, along with a shot furnace. The Upper Battery was located at the top of this hill, upon which stands the current blockhouse. There does not seem to be any record of any guns mounted at the Upper Battery. Built behind the Upper Battery were barracks, Officers' quarters, a cookhouse with mess hall, and a powder magazine, all of brick. None of these buildings exist today, with the exception of the magazine and the foundations of the barracks.

In 1844 the large hexagonal blockhouse that exists today was built, replacing the Upper Battery. Its foundation is mortared fieldstone, the first story walls are of cut granite, and the second and third stories are built of squared logs. A powder magazine is located in the center of the first floor. The upper stories were furnished for Officers' quarters. This was the last blockhouse built in Maine. Two brick Rifleman's houses to either side of the blockhouse were also built at this time. The one to the west, which was the smaller of the two, no longer exists. They were designed for flank defense by the infantry. Five 32-pounder guns and four 8-inch howitzers were emplaced at the Lower Battery during

this time, replacing older smaller guns. In 1846 about 25 additional acres were purchased by the federal government, bringing the total land area close to its present size. After 1846 the fort was deactivated, and not until the Civil War began in 1861 was the fort again brought back to life.

In the opening weeks of the American Civil War, the Maine Coast Guards and a 50-man company of the Kittery Artillery (mostly old men and young boys), commanded by Dr. Mark Wentworth, Captain, were sent to garrison the fort. Four 32-pounder naval guns sent from the Naval Shipyard were emplaced at the fort to bolster its defenses. The Kittery Company was shortly replaced by a company recruited from Biddeford, Maine. Battery B, 1st New Hampshire Heavy Artillery was stationed here from September 1863 to May 1864, until transferred to the defenses of Washington, DC. They returned to Portsmouth in November 1864. Of historical note, then-Vice President Hannibal Hamlin enlisted in the Maine Coast Guards, Company A in 1864, and spent about three months at the fort as the company cook.

Because of the fear of Confederate naval raids, a massive refortification project was begun in 1863, to include a new large enclosed "Third System" fort with two tiers of casemates. If the modifications had been completed, the fort would have resembled Fort Knox and Fort Popham, located further up the coast of Maine. A caponier was constructed on the southern apex of the outer wall located at the river's edge. A bastion for flank howitzers was built on the northern apex of the outer wall, enclosing the garrison's well. A large granite powder magazine was built at the bastion. Another planned bastion at the northeastern apex of the outer wall was never built. A guardhouse and hospital were also built at this time, about 500 yards north of the blockhouse, which no longer exist. Several 250-lb (10-inch) seacoast Parrott rifles were added to the Lower Battery to keep the fort functional. Only one tier of the outer wall ever neared completion, and in 1868 all work was suspended. No new guns were ever mounted on the new work. Scores of cut granite blocks still lie in their positions on the ground to this day.

The old circular granite wall at the Lower Battery was modified into a broad earthwork in 1874, with three temporary wooden gun platforms. It still basically exists this way today. In 1890 nine 15-inch smooth-bore Rodmans, with seven iron carriages, were brought here and placed in storage, replacing the Parrott guns on the Lower Battery. These older guns were the only armament available to the fort during this time. Three of the Rodmans were emplaced at the Lower Battery in 1898 during the Spanish-American War. The six additional Rodmans, with four iron carriages, were unmounted in storage, as well as two remaining 250-lb Parrott guns with iron carriages, until 1905. All were scrapped or sold by 1910. One of the 250-lb Parrott guns from Fort McClary still exists today, located in a public park in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Many of the buildings began to fall into disrepair during this period. The fort was not garrisoned at all during this time, except briefly in 1898 with a detachment from Fort Constitution. A final small parcel of land was sold to the federal government in 1893.

During World War I, as a sub post of Fort Foster which had been built on Gerrish Island in 1899, the blockhouse was utilized as a lookout post, aiding Fort Constitution and Fort Foster for the defense of the harbor. In 1918 the fort was deactivated.

In 1924 the United States transferred most of the property (25.58 acres) to the State of Maine, except for the original 1.87 acres containing the old buildings, which was not transferred until 1961 due to legal issues with Massachusetts. The buildings by this time had fallen into ruin. The second Rifleman's house was razed in 1928 for safety reasons. The barracks still existed at this time, based on photographs of the period. The Town of Kittery managed the park for several years until 1937, before the State of Maine took responsibility. The original plot still owned by the federal government was designated Fort McClary Military Reservation in 1937. From 1942-45 the blockhouse was again used as a lookout post by local Civil Defense units for spotting overhead aircraft and ships in the harbor.

In 1969 Fort McClary was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The blockhouse was refurbished in 1987.

Fort Stark, 1794-1948

The site of Fort Stark, on the southeast point of New Castle Island known as Jerry's Point, or Jaffrey's Point, has been fortified in one form or another since 1746, when Battery Cumberland, consisting of nine 32-pounders, was located here to defend against the French. The exact location of these guns has never been determined, but probably on the northeast tip of the peninsula.

The point was refortified by 1774 when the New Hampshire colonial legislature voted in 1775 to rebuild the old earthworks, with new wooden gun platforms and barracks, along the entire eastern side of the point. The eight guns here at that time (two 32-pounders and six 24-pounders) were removed by the local militia in May 1775 and transferred to the new works then being built on Peirce's Island (Fort Washington) and Seavey's Island (Fort Sullivan), as well as another new redoubt at Clark's Point /Shaw's Hill on the northwest arm of New Castle Island. Additional guns were later emplaced at Jerry's Point in September 1775 from Fort William and Mary, courtesy of the December 1774 raid. The Jerry's Point battery was used until 1778, after which it fell into disrepair.

In 1794 a "heavy" battery was built here, part of the Federal "First System" of fortifications. It was garrisoned in 1812-14 by a company of 120 local militiamen under Captain William Marshall, and armed with nine guns, consisting of both 6- and 9-pounders. After 1815 the fort was abandoned. The "Old Redoubt", labeled as such on an 1872 map, is thought to be the same feature that is found on an 1844 map featuring new work built in 1842, but may also be from the original 1794 fortification. In 1982 some stone and Rosendale cement rubble was uncovered near the shoreline in front of Battery Hunter, but it was later determined to be probably part of the foundation of the 1870s fortification project. The remnants of a stone wall, which may date to the original 1794 fortification, are located behind Battery Hunter and Battery Lytle.

Plans were drawn up in 1861 for a massive stone and earthwork fortress, but it was never built. It is unclear whether the old redoubt was in use during the Civil War period.

In 1872 the federal government purchased Jerry's Point and construction was started in 1873 for a so-called "Fourth System" concrete and earthwork 12-gun barbette battery known as Battery on Jerry's Point or Battery Stark, mounting 15-inch smoothbore Rodman guns in double bays with traverse-magazines. The old stone redoubt was also projected to have three "heavy guns" mounted on wooden platforms. In 1874 the plan was reduced to eight batteries in single bays, due to financial constraints. The fort was two-thirds finished when, in 1876, all construction was abruptly halted. Minor work was attempted in 1879, and again in 1885-86, before it was finally abandoned. There is no record of the guns ever being placed into position during this time, but the platforms and magazines were reported to be serviceable. A half-buried portion of the retaining wall of Battery Position 8 can still be viewed on the south side of Battery Hunter, next to the Oil Storage House and gun blocks of New Battery Lytle.

In 1887 the Jerry's Point Lifesaving Station was built on the western side of the point, along with a small wooden pier. The large stone breakwater on the southern tip of the point was constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1898, along with the larger Engineers' wharf just west of the breakwater. The Oil Storage House was built in 1903 to service a small light beacon (which no longer exists) at the end of the breakwater. The station remained in service until 1908, when the Portsmouth Harbor Lifesaving Station was built to replace it, located just offshore from Fort Foster on Wood Island.

In 1899, following the Spanish-American War, two 8-inch breach-loading rifles, Model 1888, on converted 15-inch Rodman iron carriages, were emplaced on the parapet of the 1874 work. They were dismantled in 1900 and shipped to Fort McKinley, Casco Bay, Maine.

In 1900 four new concrete batteries were planned for construction, and the reservation was officially named Fort Stark, after General John Stark, commander of the New Hampshire Militia during the American Revolution. Gun positions 5, 6, and 7 of the 1870s project were completely demolished for the construction of Battery David Hunter, named in honor of Civil War era Major General David Hunter, which was completed in 1904. This battery consisted of two 12-inch guns, Model 1895 M1, on disappearing carriages, Model 1897. Two General Electric Taylor-Raymond back-delivery projectile hoists carried the ammunition up from the lower magazines.

Gun positions 1-4 of the 1870s project were partially destroyed and buried for the other new batteries under construction. Battery Edward Kirk, named in honor of Brigadier General Edward N. Kirk killed in action in Tennessee in 1862, was completed in 1904 north of Battery Hunter, and consisted of two 6-inch rapid-fire guns, Model 1903, mounted on disappearing carriages, Model 1903. Battery Alexander Hays, named in honor of Brevet Major General Alexander Hays, killed in action in Virginia in 1864, was constructed north of Battery Kirk, and Battery William Lytle, designated after Brigadier General William H. Lytle, killed in action in Georgia in 1863, southwest of Battery Hunter. Both were completed in 1905, and armed with two 3-inch shielded rapid-fire guns, Model 1902, on pedestal-mounted Model 1902 barbette carriages.

In 1905 Fort Stark became a sub post of Fort Constitution, and was manned by a detachment of the 124th Company, Coast Artillery until 1907 until replaced by the 156th Company (Mines), Coast Artillery. A temporary wooden and concrete mine casemate was built in 1907 behind Battery Kirk to replace the

one built earlier at Fort Constitution. The Primary Mine Observation Station was completed in 1909 behind Battery Hays. The now exposed concrete instrument pedestal was once enclosed by a three-story wooden building, and originally supported a depression-position range-finding (DPF) instrument, which was used to triangulate the position of a ship in the mine field in the harbor. The Lifesaving Station, closed in 1908, was then used as barracks. Other buildings built were an Engineering Department Office, coal shed, lavatory, carpenter and blacksmith shop, storage rooms, and a water tank. The Engineering Department Office was replaced with the Ordnance Machine Shop in 1910. An electric generator was built in 1909 to supply lights to all the batteries, and to power a 60-inch General Electric searchlight installed in 1922, located on a rail-car on a track running out to the end of the Engineer wharf by Battery Lytle.

A two-gun anti-aircraft battery was proposed to be built here in 1915. It was instead located at Camp Langdon, situated on the road halfway to Fort Constitution. Several buildings were demolished and newer ones built. A barracks and a garage were added, as well as a recreation building and a post exchange. In 1917 the guns of Battery Kirk were removed and sent to Watertown Arsenal, Mass., for conversion into railway artillery to be used by the American Army heading to France. The gun carriages were finally removed in 1921. In 1920 Coincidence Range-Finder (CRF) stations were built atop Batteries Hays and Lytle. The temporary mine casemate was demolished as a new one was now built at Fort Constitution. The Mine Observation station was transferred to Fort Constitution in 1921, and its building then became the Primary Fire Command observation station, later to be designated the Harbor Defense Command and Gun Group observation station in 1941. The fort was then placed on care-taker status, with a detachment from Battery E, 8th Coast Artillery Regiment (Harbor Defense), based in Portland, Maine, living in the old Lifesaving Station that had previously been converted into barracks. In 1932 the Engineers' wharf was accidentally destroyed by fire during National Guard training exercises, and was not rebuilt.

The fort was reactivated in 1941 by the new 22nd Coast Artillery Regiment (Harbor Defense), and many new buildings were constructed. The old barracks were replaced by three new wood frame barracks. A mess hall, fire station, Officers' quarters, Quartermaster Supply building, gate house, and other supply and office buildings were constructed. The 30-man gun crew for Battery Hunter lived inside the bunker when on alert status. Other personnel were billeted at Camp Langdon.

The old Lifesaving Station was converted into the Navy signal tower (or Navy HECP) where signalmen alerted the Coast Guard picket boat to open or close the gate in the anti-submarine net, which stretched from Fort Stark to Fort Foster across the harbor.

Battery Kirk was converted into the combined Harbor Entrance Control Post (or Army HECP) and Harbor Defense Command Post (or HDCP) in 1942. This served as the communication and command center to control the entire Portsmouth Harbor Defense Area, which extended from Cape Porpoise, Maine, to Cape Ann, Mass. It was built to resemble the superstructure of a navy ship, and was painted dark gray during the war. The top of the structure housed an SCR-682 area surveillance radar within a radome.

Battery Hays was deactivated in 1942, and Battery Hunter remained in service until 1944, when Battery Seaman with its two 16-inch guns at Fort Dearborn came into service. Battery Lytle remained in service until 1942, when New Battery Lytle was built adjacent to Battery Hunter near the Oil Storage House, in order to increase the field of fire to the expanded anti-submarine nets and minefields in the harbor. The old guns of Battery Lytle were then transferred to Battery Hackleman at Fort Constitution, and the guns of Battery Hays were transferred to New Battery Lytle, which consisted only of two circular concrete blocks about 50 feet apart along the top of the old 1874 parapet wall, with an earth-covered concrete ammunition magazine between the gun mounts. The #2 block remains today underneath brush and ground cover. The #1 block has been washed out from underneath by the ocean and almost destroyed. The combined Battery Commander's station and Coincidence Range-Finder station for New Battery Lytle was built adjacent to the #1 gun position of Battery Hunter. In 1945 Anti-Motor Torpedo Boat (AMTB) Battery 953 was authorized to be emplaced at Fort Stark, utilizing one of the existing batteries (most probably Battery Hunter). It was to have two shielded fixed-mount 90mm guns. It was never built.

In 1948 all remaining Harbor Defense Commands were disbanded, the remaining guns scrapped, and in 1950 the fort was declared surplus property. The Navy then acquired the fort, and stationed about 30 Ships-Keepers and a civilian technician for harbor defense operations. Most of the abandoned equipment was restored, including some mines and monitoring components and hydrophones. They messed at Camp Langdon, and stayed until 1953. Many of the former Army buildings by that time had been destroyed for safety reasons, including the Lifesaving Station, the fire station, mess hall, the three barracks, and the Battery office buildings.

In 1953 a Naval Reserve unit, later known as the Inshore Underwater Warfare (IUW) Unit, was formed, and used the fort as a regular weekly drilling location and occasional active duty station until 1980. In 1959 the U.S. Marine Detachment from the Naval Shipyard assumed security responsibility for the post. In 1963 the Naval Reserve fenced-in the 1.5 acre area around Battery Kirk, and in 1970 added a septic system. After the *USS Thresher* accident in 1963 off the New Hampshire coast, two 3-inch naval deck guns were installed on New Battery Lytle as a permanent memorial. The guns remained for many years, even after the #1 block was undercut and toppled during a severe 1978 winter storm. By 1980 the gun on the #2 mount was removed and sent back to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, possibly still there as one of the several naval guns on display as various memorials. The #1 gun was later removed from its toppled block and placed inside the Ordnance Machine Shop/Visitor Center after the fort was opened as a state park in 1983.

In 1978 the federal government retroceded to the State of New Hampshire the two portions of the reservation on either side of the fenced-in area around Battery Kirk, totaling 8.49 acres, for parks and recreation usage. In 1983 the remaining portion was ceded to New Hampshire, bringing the total acreage of the park to 10 acres. All remaining buildings were then destroyed, except for the Ordnance Machine Shop and the batteries themselves. The entire area of Battery Kirk is closed to the public for safety reasons. The Ordnance building functions as the park's visitor center, but is open only on summer weekends or by appointment.

Fort Foster, 1873-1948

The land for Fort Foster, located on the southwest tip of Gerrish Island in Kittery Point, Maine, was acquired by the federal government in 1872, making this fort the last of the "old" forts that were built in the Portsmouth area.

The first fortification, planned in 1873-76, was to be a so-called "Fourth System" 12-gun earthwork and concrete battery known as Battery on Gerrish's Island, or Battery Berry, named after Major General Hiram G. Berry of Maine, killed in action in Virginia in 1862, similar to the work that was begun at Fort Stark. It was never fully completed. The parapet and gun platforms were built, but only two traverse magazines were completed. After minor work was again attempted in 1879, it was abandoned. No trace of it exists today. It was located in the area of where Battery Bohlen was later built.

In 1899 construction was started on new concrete batteries to help protect the Naval Shipyard in the aftermath of the Spanish-American War. In 1900 the reservation was officially named Fort Foster, after Civil War era Brevet Major General John G. Foster of New Hampshire, and the post became a sub-post of Fort Constitution. Battery Henry Bohlen was completed in 1902, named in 1904 in honor of Brigadier General Henry Bohlen, killed in action in Virginia in 1862, and consisted of three 10-inch guns, Model 1895, on disappearing carriages, Model 1896. Two Hodges back-delivery projectile hoists were installed to supply the shells up to the guns from the magazines below.

Battery Edward Chapin was completed in 1904, and named in honor of Brigadier General Edward P. Chapin, killed in action in Louisiana in 1863, and consisted of two 3-inch shielded rapid-fire guns, Model 1902, on pedestal-mount barbette carriages, Model 1902. A two-story wooden Secondary Mine Observation Station was built in 1909 behind Battery Chapin, which complimented the primary mine station at Fort Stark, which was later moved to a two-story wooden station at Fort Constitution. The mine stations were used to triangulate and plot the position of ships in the harbor mine field. All that remains today is the two-story concrete instrument pedestal base. A few other structures were also built during this time, including the 560-foot pier jutting out into the harbor (since rebuilt).

During 1905-07, the fort was officially garrisoned by the 124th Company, Coast Artillery, but then afterwards, except during World War I (1917-19), was never actually manned by more than a caretaker unit, specifically Battery E, 8th Coast Artillery Regiment (Harbor Defense), until the onset World War II.

In 1917 all three guns of Battery Bohlen were removed for modification as railway guns for use in France, but they never went further than the Watertown Arsenal in Massachusetts. They were returned to Kittery and remounted in place in 1920. They were reported to have never worked right again, with the #3 gun completely unserviceable by 1940. Also in 1920, a Coincidence Range-Finder (CRF) station was built atop Battery Chapin. In 1922 the two Hodges hoist systems in Battery Bohlen were replaced with three General Electric Taylor-Raymond back-delivery ammunition hoists.

In 1940 the U.S. Army Fortifications Board recommended that a new battery, to be known as Battery Construction No. 205, should be built atop Battery Bohlen's #1 and #2 gun emplacements, but that idea was turned down in favor of emplacing it as an entirely new battery. In 1942 additional land, formerly

the site of the old Pocahontas Hotel resort (1885-1904) which had been demolished in 1921, was purchased for the construction of the new battery. It was to have two shielded M1 6-inch guns on M4 barbette carriages, nearly identical to those of Battery 204 at Fort Dearborn. However, although the battery was essentially completed by 1944 but without the gun tubes, it was decommissioned before the end of the war. The proposed name for this battery was to be Battery Curtis, in honor of Major Edwin S. Curtis.

Additional construction on Fort Foster included a new mine casemate to supplement the one at Fort Constitution to control the outer line of mines, together with a mine observation tower, two observation stations (one for the Mine Group Commander and the other for the new M2 station), a Battery Commander's Command Post and Observation Station behind and to the left of Battery 205, several barracks, a mess hall, and other buildings. Also, a new concrete bridge was built on the north side of the island to replace an older and weaker wooden bridge to allow heavier military traffic.

The 22nd Coast Artillery Regiment (Harbor Defense) manned Fort Foster with 103 men from 1940 until 1942, when Battery Bohlen was decommissioned and scrapped. Anti-Motor Torpedo Boat (AMTB) Battery 952 was built in 1943 in front of Battery Bohlen, and used until 1946. It consisted of two shielded fixed-mount 90mm M1 guns and four .50-caliber heavy machine guns, which defended against possible commando raids. The wooden crib works for the motor torpedo boat defense can still be seen today at low tide between the fort and Wood Island. A picnic shelter has been built over the concrete block of the #1 gun. AMTB Battery 352 was set up on the south point near Battery 205. It consisted of two 37mm mobile AA guns (later replaced with two 40mm M2 mobile AA guns), along with a dedicated searchlight. The magazines in Battery Bohlen were used to store the ammunition for the AMTB batteries.

Fort Foster was closed in 1948, and every remaining weapon was removed and scrapped. The Navy then used the reservation for recreational purposes for Naval Shipyard personnel into the 1960s. The federal government later transferred the original area taken in 1873 to the Town of Kittery for park purposes, while the newer 1942 parcel was bought by Kittery at a later date. The entire park presently encompasses 88 acres. The Kittery Parks Division had the lower level of Battery Bohlen sealed and filled-in with soil in the late 1980s, along with sealing other structures. Battery Chapin's earthen berm was removed much earlier, probably by the Navy in the 1950s. The ground level of the Mine Observation Station is used as the park's public restroom.

From various vantage points around the fort, especially on the pier, all of the harbor forts can be seen from here, as well as Whaleback Light (1872), and the old Portsmouth Harbor Lifesaving Station (1908-1966) located on Wood Island.

Camp Langdon, 1909-1946

Situated along the coast of New Castle Island, between Fort Constitution and Fort Stark, lies the former Camp Langdon, originally known as the "New Reservation." The Army began acquiring the land in 1909

through several deeds, eventually totaling 32.3 acres. The original purpose of the reservation was to be an artillery post and a center for the anti-aircraft intelligence service for Portsmouth Harbor.

During World War I, Anti-Aircraft Battery No. 1 was located here. It consisted of two 3-inch AA guns, Model 1917, on concrete gun blocks. A temporary ammunition shelter was also built, but most wartime stores were stored at either Fort Stark or Fort Constitution. A fire-control communication cable was connected to the reservation from both forts. Officers' quarters were also built. No other gun batteries were emplaced here.

After the war the guns remained, and the 197th Coast Artillery Regiment (Anti-Aircraft), New Hampshire National Guard, was allowed to use the property for training. In 1937 the reservation was renamed New Castle Military Reservation. The guns were removed by this time. A third concrete platform was built about 50 yards from the original gun blocks for the use of a mobile AA gun, but was never used.

In 1941 the reservation was renamed Camp Langdon, after the former state Governor and Senator John Langdon, and construction of several buildings was undertaken by the Construction Quartermaster until 1943. Among these buildings were an armory, barracks, hospital, training buildings, storehouses, warehouses, and a concrete jetty and pier. The post became Headquarters, Harbor Defenses of Portsmouth, and served as a training and recruiting center. The previous harbor headquarters was located at Fort Constitution, under the 124th Coast Artillery Company from 1902 to 1907, and then under the 156th Coast Artillery Company (Mines) from 1907 to 1924. During the inter-war years, the Portsmouth defenses were put on caretaker status. A detachment of five men from Battery E, 8th Coast Artillery Regiment (Harbor Defense), from Portland, Maine served as caretakers, and resided at the Officers' quarters at Camp Langdon.

The 22nd Coast Artillery Regiment (Harbor Defense), formed in 1940, was originally organized as a reserve unit, the 614th Coast Artillery Battalion, First Corps, in 1924. In 1935 it became a unit of the regular Army. Camp Langdon became the garrison post for the regiment in 1941. In 1943 several units of the regiment were disbanded as the various batteries in the harbor forts were declared obsolete and deactivated. The surplus personnel were then mostly reassigned to combat units then shipping out overseas to Europe and the Pacific. The units remaining were then redesignated as the Harbor Defenses of Portsmouth. Finally, in 1946 the remainder of the regiment was officially disbanded.

In 1948 the Army transferred 27 acres of Camp Langdon to the Navy. The disposition of the remaining acreage is unknown. The Navy then referred to the post as Camp Langdon Annex, or Camp Langdon Naval Reservation, which was placed under the Naval Disciplinary Command, Naval Base, Portsmouth. It was used as a retraining and rehabilitation center for courts-martial prisoners soon to be released. During the 1950s several new buildings were constructed, and most of the older buildings were demolished or rebuilt. Building T-116, which still stands today (2001), was a small-arms indoor firing range built during this period.

In 1961 the southwestern portion of 2.8 acres, with five buildings, including T-116, was transferred to the Marine Corps for administration and training of the 54th Rifle Company, USMC Reserve. The indoor

range was also used by a local gun club during this time. In 1963 the remainder of the Naval Annex was transferred to the Town of New Castle for park and recreation usage, now known as "Great Island Common". In 1964 all military activity ceased at the post.

In 1967 the USMC Reserve Training Center was transferred by the GSA to the Town of New Castle. The New Castle Public Library is now on site, by the main entrance to the former post. The town beach is located at the northern portion of the park, near where the AA battery was located. The two concrete gun blocks still remain. The original concrete jetty and pier also still exist. Building T-102 also still stands, in the southern portion of the former post, as the park's caretaker residence. The Town of New Castle motor pool and garage is located in the former fire station (T-190), which was built by the Army in the 1940s. Several foundations of other former structures are still evident throughout the park.

Fort Dearborn, 1942-1948

The first recorded settlement and fortification at this site was Pannaway Plantation, built by David Thompson in 1623, as the first English settlement in the Piscataqua River area. A large stone structure was probably built, called the "Great House", with other additional structures. This may have been a trading post used by the first settlers. The Thompson group relocated to Boston Harbor in 1627. A log garrison house was probably built around 1670 by the Odiorne family, but no archaeological evidence exists to prove or disprove any type of building materials used in the early settlements here. A gravel pit operation in the early 1900s obliterated any trace of the original settlement sites.

The area was used almost exclusively for farming up through the 1880s, after which several cottages, including the Sagamore House resort hotel on Frost Point, were built for summer residences and tourists. A Life-Saving Station was built at Odiorne's Point in 1894, in use until 1906. It mainly served as a foot-patrol check-in station for the main station at Wallis Sands in Rye. The stone breakwater at Frost Point was built in 1902 by the Army Corps of Engineers to protect the small-craft anchorage in Little Harbor.

The onset of World War II saw the need for increased protection of Portsmouth Harbor that could not be met by any of the other existing forts of the area. Fort Foster only had room for one new battery, but there was no space available at any of the other forts without destroying existing batteries, which was deemed unacceptable. The Coast Artillery Corps had decided that the better solution was land between Odiorne's Point and Frost Point in Rye. This was to become Fort Dearborn. Two batteries of modern twin 6-inch guns (standard 200-series) with a range of 15 miles, and a single battery of twin 16-inch guns (100-series) having a range of 25 miles, were planned as part of the new defenses.

At the time, the land was home to several fashionable summer houses on 22 contiguous lots. In early 1942 the federal government condemned and purchased all of the land between the two points (264.9 acres) and gave all residents 30 days to pack up and leave. In those days, market conditions were depressed, and no property could get top dollar. To this day the surviving "old-timers" and their descendants still feel bitter about the whole affair, mostly because they did not get a chance to reclaim

any of their holdings back in the 1950s when the military left. In addition, the coastal highway was also closed to the public, which required travelers to use another more circuitous route to travel along the coast between Portsmouth and Hampton.

The first emplacement that was built here was a temporary one, consisting of four 155mm guns, Model 1918M1, on tractor-drawn carriages, Model 1918M1, set on concrete "Panama mounts" at Odiorne's Point. Three of these circular mounts are still visible today (the fourth is buried). The guns were originally temporarily set up at Frost Point in field emplacements in late 1941. Four earth-covered concrete magazines were built behind the gun mounts, two forward and two rear, along with a Battery Commander's Station. These structures no longer exist; however the concrete foundation of the #2 forward magazine can still be found. This battery remained in place until the new permanent batteries were completed in 1944.

Construction was started in 1942 on the concrete emplacements for the new shielded M1 6-inch guns, on M3 barbette carriages, for Battery Construction No. 204 at Odiorne's Point. Its proposed name was Battery M. H. Barry in honor of Lt. Colonel Michael H. Barry. The new set of 16-inch guns of Battery Construction No. 103 at Frost Point, was eventually named Battery Seaman, in honor of Col. Claudius M. Seaman. The layout of Battery 204 differed from most other similar batteries, in that the Battery Commander's Station was built directly on top of the magazine, and that access to the station was by interior ladder. This design was later deemed dangerous, as a direct hit on the Commander's Station could possibly reach the entire magazine. All subsequent 200-series batteries, including Battery 205 at Fort Foster, would have their Commander's Station built as a separate structure, a safe distance away from the magazine.

The 50-caliber MKII M1 Navy guns that were available to Battery Seaman under the 100-Series Program came from the "*South Dakota*" Class battleships of 1917, or the "*Lexington*" (CC1) Class heavy cruisers that were scrapped to comply with the 1922 Washington Naval Treaty. The gun tubes were mounted on M5 barbette carriages in protective concrete casemates. Steel-plate shields were added in 1946. The Battery Commander's and Gun Group Commander's Observation Stations were built on top of the battery, similar to Battery 204, except for exterior access. The Gun Group Command Post was located in a small concrete building behind the battery. The plotting room for Battery Seaman was built as a separate casemate behind the battery due to the shock of the firing of a gun that large.

In late 1942 construction was begun on fourteen Fire-control Stations (or Base-end Stations) that were needed for the new gun batteries. These ranged between 25 miles north and 25 miles south of Frost Point, the maximum range for the 16-inch guns of Battery Seaman. Five of those concrete towers still exist today, located at Moody Point, Pulpit Rock, Great Boars Head, Appledore Island, and Halibut Point.

In 1943 the entire reservation was formally named Fort Dearborn, reflecting Henry Dearborn from Hampton, a major in the American Revolution, the Secretary of War during 1801-09, and a Major General in the War of 1812. Construction was finished on several new buildings, including a gate house by the bridge over Seavey Creek, barracks, officers' quarters, chapel, commissary, and a TNT storage magazine used for the harbor mines. Most new construction was alongside the highway, including

several Quonset huts. Several of the original houses that were not immediately razed were used as barracks or officers' quarters, but all were demolished after the war, with the exception of the Odiorne Farmhouse (built 1800), and the Sugden House (built 1921), which is now the Seacoast Science Center and the park visitor center. Barbed-wire security fencing around the Seavey Creek marshes is still visible today. Anti-Motor Torpedo Boat (AMTB) Battery 951 was constructed in 1943 off post at Pulpit Rock, just to the south of the fort. It consisted of two shielded fixed-mount 90mm M1 guns, two mobile 90mm M1A1 guns, and four .50-caliber heavy machine guns. AMTB Battery 351 was also here, consisting of two 37mm mobile AA guns (later replaced with two 40mm M2 mobile AA guns), and a dedicated searchlight.

In June 1944, Batteries 204 and Seaman were completed and proof-fired with several rounds for each gun. This was the only time that they were ever fired. Windows were reportedly shattered as far away as downtown Portsmouth. Battery Seaman was then moth-balled and placed on caretaker status to finish out the war. Battery Hunter at Fort Stark was then retired, as it was no longer needed. Battery 204 remained active until the end of the war. In 1946 the ocean side of the reservation across the highway was fenced-in to allow the public re-opening of the coastal roadway.

In 1947 the 954th Coast Artillery Battery (Harbor Defense), New Hampshire National Guard, Portsmouth, was formed with 101 men to operate Battery 204. The 954th, along with its sister unit the 978th C.A. Battery (HD) of Dover, was a part of the 237th Coast Artillery Battalion (Harbor Defense), New Hampshire National Guard, headquartered in Dover. Units of the 281st Coast Artillery Battalion (Harbor Defense) were also present here at Fort Dearborn during this time. However, by 1948 the fort was deactivated and all the guns were removed. In 1949 the fort was declared surplus property, and the 954th Battery, as well as the entire 237th Battalion, was redesignated as Field Artillery, as the Army Coast Artillery was formally abolished. The Seavey Creek parcel of the reservation (128.2 acres of the old Odiorne farmstead) was deeded by quitclaim to private landowners—not the original landowners, however—with the original farmhouse still intact.

The U.S. Air Force took formal possession of 45.3 acres at Odiorne's Point in 1955, which it had been using since 1949. It was renamed Rye Air Force Station, used as an Air Defense Command (ADC) Air Defense Radar site for the 644th Aircraft Control and Warning (AC&W) Squadron, supporting the bombers and fighters of Portsmouth Air Force Base (1956 - 1990), which was re-named Pease AFB in 1957. A mobile AN/TPS-1D radar unit was placed atop Battery 204 from 1955-57. The Sugden House was used as barracks for about 15 men. A fire station, mess hall, gate house, operations center, and other buildings were built by the Air Force. Some older Army buildings and Quonset Huts still extant at the time were also used. The Air Force personnel left in 1959, while retaining an easement of 0.3 acres for the Fort Dearborn Gap-Filler Annex Air Defense Radar site, operated remotely by the 762nd AC&W Squadron (later the 762nd Radar Squadron) from the North Truro Air Force Station in North Truro, Massachusetts. An AN/FPS-14 SAGE System "Gap-Filler" radar tower was built behind Battery 204 in 1957, which operated until 1968. Meanwhile, units of the New Hampshire National Guard used the Frost Point parcel (91.4 acres), still known as Fort Dearborn, for training purposes from 1949-53. Battery 204 was also designated as a Civil Defense shelter during these years.

Finally in 1961, the federal government transferred by quitclaim the Air Station (Odiorne's Point) parcel and the National Guard (Frost Point) parcel to the State of New Hampshire for use as a state park. All of the remaining military structures, including the radar tower, were demolished between 1971 and 1976. Many of the WWII concrete gun batteries and casemates were buried by gravel and soil fill by 1980. Fort Dearborn State Park was informally open to visitors in 1962, with interpretive programs beginning in 1973 (by then renamed Odiorne Point State Park). The former Air Force fire station was used as the first visitor center for the park until 1976 when replaced by the Sugden House, which was enlarged in 1992 to become the Seacoast Science Center. The entrances of the gun batteries were exhumed in 1988, while the plotting room casemates are still entombed. The Seavey Creek parcel, with additional acreage, was sold to the State of New Hampshire in 1993, bringing the total state park acreage today to 331.5 acres. The WWII-era TNT magazine is located on this parcel of land.