

## NOTE

This file is **Part 2** of a two-part digital document comprising the entirety of:

*Documentation of Contributing Elements, Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District, Davids Island, City of New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York, Volume 1: Historic Overview and Buildings 1-13, Rev. 1, May 2008. Prepared by Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Boston, for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Concord, Massachusetts.*

This PDF version of the document was prepared from the source digital files in August 2009.

At the time Volume 1 was completed in May 2008, some of Fort Slocum's buildings and structures were still standing. Such structures were identified in the documentation as "To be demolished." Buildings or structures included in **Volume 1-Part 2** that have since been demolished are listed below:

<b>Building Number</b>	<b>Demolition Date</b>
9	July 2008
10	July 2008
11	July 2008
12	July 2008
13	June 2008

## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 6)

**Location:** Davids Island–Fort Slocum  
0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland  
USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle  
UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603506.4526604

**Present Owner(s):** City of New Rochelle, NY

**Date of Construction:** circa 1892

**Architect/Engineer:** U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps

**Present Use:** Abandoned when documented (2004-2007). Demolished 2008.

**Significance:** The Officers' Quarters (Building 6) is related to Officers' Row, and the housing of officers and their families in support of Fort Slocum's nineteenth- and twentieth-century military activities. The building is considered a contributing element to the proposed Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District.

**Project Information:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (Corps), has been authorized under the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2004, to perform building demolition, debris removal, and remediation of asbestos materials (Project) at the Fort Slocum on Davids Island in the City of New Rochelle, New York. The purpose of the Project is to remove buildings and infrastructure from the abandoned fort installation that create safety hazards as part of a long-range plan to restore Davids Island for future use. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), the Corps has consulted with the New York State Historic Preservation Officer (NYSHPO) regarding the effects of the Project on historic properties. The consultation resulted in the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the Corps, NYSHPO, County of Westchester, and City of New Rochelle as consulting parties. This documentation report was prepared in accordance with Stipulation II.C.1 of the MOA.

**Prepared by:** C.L. Borstel, J.C. Sexton, R.M. Jacoby, S.B. Marshall, and C.W. Christopher  
**Title:** Cultural Resources Documentation Team  
**Affiliation:** Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ  
**Date:** March 2007 (Revision 1, May 2008)



**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 6)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

The Officers' Quarters (Building 6) is located in the west-central section of Davids Island. The island is in the western portion of Long Island Sound, 0.6 miles southeast of the New Rochelle, NY, mainland and 19 miles northeast of Midtown Manhattan (Location Map and Site Map). Davids Island is a roughly pear-shaped, relatively flat landmass consisting of approximately 78 acres above mean high water. It is heavily wooded and contains the ruins of more than 100 buildings and structures associated with an abandoned U.S. Army post, Fort Slocum. The ruins include barracks and quarters; quartermaster, administrative, medical, and recreation buildings; and coastal and air defense facilities. A concrete and stone seawall encircles most of the shore, and a system of roads and paths runs throughout the island. Building 6 is part of the Officers' Row area, where commissioned officers and their families once resided.

Building 6 is a two-and-one-half-story, Romanesque Revival-style two-family dwelling (Figures 1-6; Photos 1-16). It has a U-shaped plan that opens to the west. The main façade is on the east. The building consists of a main rectangular block four rooms long by two rooms deep, with two one-room wings on the rear. Parts of the roof and upper sections of the walls have collapsed. Portions of the walls and flooring above the first floor level have also collapsed. Only fragments of the wood sash windows remain. The roof is slate tile over wood sheathing and wood rafters. Remnant sections of the roof and historical photographs show that originally the building had a flat topped, hipped roof. A pair of cross gables extended from the main part of the roof near the midline of the building on the front; the north and south wings at the building's rear also had gabled roofs. Hip-roofed dormers whose sides are sheathed with slate shingles still project from the roof on the north and south ends of the building's main block and from both the north and the south sides of the roof over each wing. The dormers over the main block each have a pair of windows, while those over the wings are narrower and have just a single window each. Six chimneys project above roof line. One pair of chimneys is located near the center of the building, and chimneys are also placed at each end of the main building block and at the ends of each wing. The chimneys are constructed of brick and have corbelled brick caps. Gutters and downspouts are not present, but their supports are evident.

The building's exterior walls and foundation, constructed of brick, support the interior floors and roof framing. A projecting bay that rises into a pair of wall dormers dominates the center of the main façade. Two one-story wood frame porches, now collapsed, wrapped around the corners at the front of the building and created its main entrances. The sides and back of the building are relatively plain. A single bricked-up window opening each on the north and south sides of the building indicates that alterations were made to its original fenestration. Ornamental detailing includes a corbelled brick beltcourse around the entire building and corbelled brick dentils at the roof line on the north, east, and south sides. Windows have brick segmental arch openings, with marble sills on the second floor and sandstone sills on the first floor and basement levels. A line of smooth brown stucco coats the exterior walls to the height of the basement window sills to simulate a stone foundation. The interior is constructed with wood floor joists and wall framing. Floors are wood and walls and ceilings are finished with lath and plaster finishes. An interior brick wall separates the two units of the duplex. The Quartermaster's Property Card for this building includes a circa 1940 interior floor plan with room uses and dimensions (Figure 4).

## **PART II. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

### *Fort Slocum*

Dauids Island is named for Thaddeus Davids (1816-1894), a New Rochelle ink manufacturer, who owned the island between 1856 and 1867. Davids was next-to-last in a line of private owners and lessees associated with the island between circa 1700 and the 1860s. During this period, the island was used primarily as farmland, but beginning probably in the 1840s, it also became a destination for excursionists who traveled by steamboat from New York and Brooklyn to picnic by the sea. The U.S. Army leased the island in 1862 and purchased it outright in 1867. In 1967, the federal government sold Davids Island to the City of New Rochelle, which sold it in turn the following year to Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. Consolidated Edison returned ownership of most of the island to the city in 1976.

Two U.S. Army posts successively occupied Davids Island between 1862 and 1965. The earlier post was established as De Camp General Hospital in May 1862. The hospital treated wounded Union soldiers and, from 1863 onwards, also cared for Confederate prisoners of war. After the Civil War, the Army remained on the island, apparently using the post somewhat discontinuously as a hospital, mustering-out camp, and subdepot for recruits. By the early 1870s, the hastily-built wood frame buildings of the Civil War had deteriorated badly, and in October 1874 the Army entirely withdrew from the island, beginning a hiatus in occupation of nearly four years.

The Army returned in July 1878, when Davids Island was designated as a principal depot of the General Recruiting Service, supplanting Governors Island off lower Manhattan in that role. Originally known simply as Davids Island, the Army formally named the post Fort Slocum in 1896 to honor Maj. Gen. Henry Warner Slocum (1827-1894), a prominent Union soldier and New York politician. Recruit intake and training was a primary function of the post well into the twentieth century. Fort Slocum also saw service as an overseas embarkation station; hosted Army specialty schools for bakers, transportation officers, chaplains, public affairs personnel, and military police; provided retraining for court-martialed soldiers; and was an administrative center for the Air Force. Coastal artillery batteries operated at the post around the beginning of the twentieth century. During the Cold War, Fort Slocum supported an air defense missile battery.

When the post closed in 1965, Fort Slocum's landscape integrated elements from different episodes of development into a campus-like whole. Several episodes of development were represented, particularly 1885-1910 and 1929-1940. A few wood frame buildings remained from the late 1870s and early 1880s, and at least nine such buildings represented the Second World War. However, of the more than 50 temporary wood frame buildings erected during the First World War, only a single, partial example survived. Most of the buildings at Fort Slocum followed standard Army plans, but Army personnel or outside professional architects also produced a few designs specifically for the post. The permanent buildings at Fort Slocum generally reflected conservative and eclectic interpretations of different currents in American architecture, producing an engaging mix of Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Romanesque, and Italianate styles. The temporary buildings around the post were in contrast unadorned and starkly utilitarian, as they were designed principally for speed of construction.

The period after Fort Slocum closed in November 1965 saw severe deterioration of the former Army post. The City of New Rochelle repeatedly sought to redevelop Davids Island, at one time considering a Consolidated Edison proposal to build a nuclear power plant and later supporting proposals for luxury residences. None of these plans materialized. Neglect and vandalism took a heavy toll on the former post.

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**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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By the first decade of the twenty-first century, the landscape was overgrown, and the more than 100 buildings and structures that once comprised Fort Slocum were in decay and ruin.

Detailed accounts of Fort Slocum's history can be found in the general historic overview to this documentation series (Tetra Tech 2008) and in Olausen et al. (2005), among other sources.

*Officers' Quarters (Building 6)*

The Officers' Quarters (Building 6) is situated in the southern half of Officers' Row. Officers' Row was one of the first functional areas to be established at Fort Slocum, and its southern end can be traced directly back to the post's Civil War predecessor, De Camp General Hospital. During the Civil War, five officer's quarters stood roughly in the area now occupied by Buildings 2 to 6. Four were identical one-story dwellings that were located approximately where Buildings 2 to 5 are situated today. The fifth building, the two-and-a-half story (plus basement) Surgeon's Quarters stood at about the location of present-day Building 6.

Of these five Civil War-era quarters, it appears only the Surgeon's Quarters survived the Army's abandonment of Davids Island in 1874. When a garrison returned to the island in 1878, the Army almost immediately began construction of a new generation of wood frame buildings. Present-day Buildings 2, 3, and 4 were among the first of these new buildings to be erected at the post. The site now occupied by Building 5, just to the south of Building 6, was apparently empty until 1886, when the present duplex set of quarters was built. Likewise, the site of Building 7 to the immediate north also remained empty until 1886, when that building was constructed. (In the 1880s and early 1890s, several wood-frame buildings other than officer's quarters stood north of present-day Building 6 in the area now occupied by the northern end of Officers' Row. These were replaced by quarters as the row grew north.) Buildings 5, 7, and 8 were the last wood-frame officer's quarters to be erected at the post. Around the time those buildings were built in the mid-1880s the Army began a service-wide shift to the use of durable masonry for new construction on permanent posts everywhere in the country, and later quarters at Fort Slocum, including Building 6, were built of brick.

The predecessor of Building 6, the Civil War-era wood-frame Surgeon's Quarters, was demolished about 1890. Its replacement, present-day Building 6, was completed in 1892, and it was the first brick officers' quarters on the post. The Quartermaster Corps property card from Fort Slocum prepared for the building in 1940 does not record a standard plan number for its design (Figure 5), and no information is currently available about that aspect of Building 6. It was built around the time when the Quartermaster General was centralizing and standardizing designs of Army buildings, and it may have been built just before a standard plan for buildings of this type was adopted. No buildings of similar design are depicted in the studies of Army architecture by Chattey et al. (1997) and Hoagland (2004).

Stylistically, Building 6 is a simple example of the Romanesque Revival style that was popular in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. Romanesque Revival design elements include the parapetted cross gables, or wall dormers, the use of multiple dormers, the decorative brickwork, and the arched window openings. The complex geometry of the roof is characteristic of many dwellings built in the second half of the nineteenth century and the twentieth century. Likewise the interior plan, with separate rooms designated for individual household functions (Figure 6), is characteristic of this period as well.

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There are only a few indications of alterations to Building 6 after its construction. The north and south walls each have one bricked-up window opening between the second floor and attic levels, probably where a stairwell was located (Photo 4). The date of this change is unknown. Both front porches were renovated and expanded, probably between about 1920 and 1940. In this alteration, the spindle columns of the porch posts were replaced or enclosed by box columns and the openwork balustrade was enclosed. In addition, the porches were expanded to wrap around the front corners of the building.

Building 6 was variously designated as company officer or "captains' quarters" (e.g., Murray 1909) and as quarters for field-grade officers (majors and colonels) (e.g., the 1939 Quartermaster Corps property card). Until 1957, each set of quarters in the duplex now designated as Building 6 was numbered separately, with the southern of the pair being assigned the lower number. In the 1893 and 1941 numbering systems, they were identified as Buildings 10 and 11. In the numbering system introduced in 1957, the duplex was assigned its present single number, Building 6, and the two sets of quarters were differentiated by the letters A (south unit) and B (north unit). The A-B designation has been routinely omitted in drawings prepared after the post closed.

### **PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

#### **Published Materials**

Chattey, Paul, Horace Foxall, Flossie McQueen, Cynthia Nielsen, Mary Shipe, Terri Taylor, and Jamie Tippet

1997     *Context Study of the United States Quartermaster General Standardized Plans, 1866-1942.* Prepared for the U.S. Army Environmental Center, Environmental Compliance Division, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Technical Center of Expertise for Preservation of Structures and Buildings, Seattle, Washington. Accessed online, January 15, 2007, at <http://handle.dtic.mil/100.2/ADA352432>.

Hoagland, Alison K.

2004     *Army Architecture in the West: Forts Laramie, Bridger, and D.A. Russell, 1849-1912.* University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Nichols, Herbert B.

1938     *Historic New Rochelle.* Board of Education, New Rochelle, NY.

#### **Unpublished Materials**

Appiarius, John C.

1941     "Report of Inspection of Fort Slocum, N.Y." 10 November 1941. Record Group 92, Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives and Records, College Park, MD.

Cavanaugh, Michael

2007     *What Is, What Was, and What Was NOT: A Companion to the 2005 Davids Island Footage.* May 2007 version. Unpublished ms in possession of author, Los Angeles, CA.

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Olausen, Stephen, Matthew Kierstead, and Jeffrey Emidy

2005 *Historic Architectural Survey and National Register Evaluation, Davids Island/Fort Slocum New Rochelle, New York.* Prepared for Tetra Tech FW, Inc., Morris Plains, New Jersey, by PAL, Inc., Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Tetra Tech EC, Inc.

2008 "Fort Slocum: Overview." In *Historic Building Documentation, Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District, Davids Island, City of New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York*, Volume 1. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Concord, Massachusetts, by Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Boston.

United States Army Quartermaster Corps

ca. 1905-41 Fort Slocum Property Cards (Form 117 and predecessors). Record Group 77. National Archives, College Park, MD.

**Maps and Drawings**

May 1893 "Map of Davids Island, New York." Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.

March 1909 "Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, NY. Made by Direction of Peter Murray, Capt. and Construction Q.M." Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

May 1933 "Fort Slocum, New York: Reconstruction of Sewerage System, General Layout." Revisions of April 29, 1933 map. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 6)**

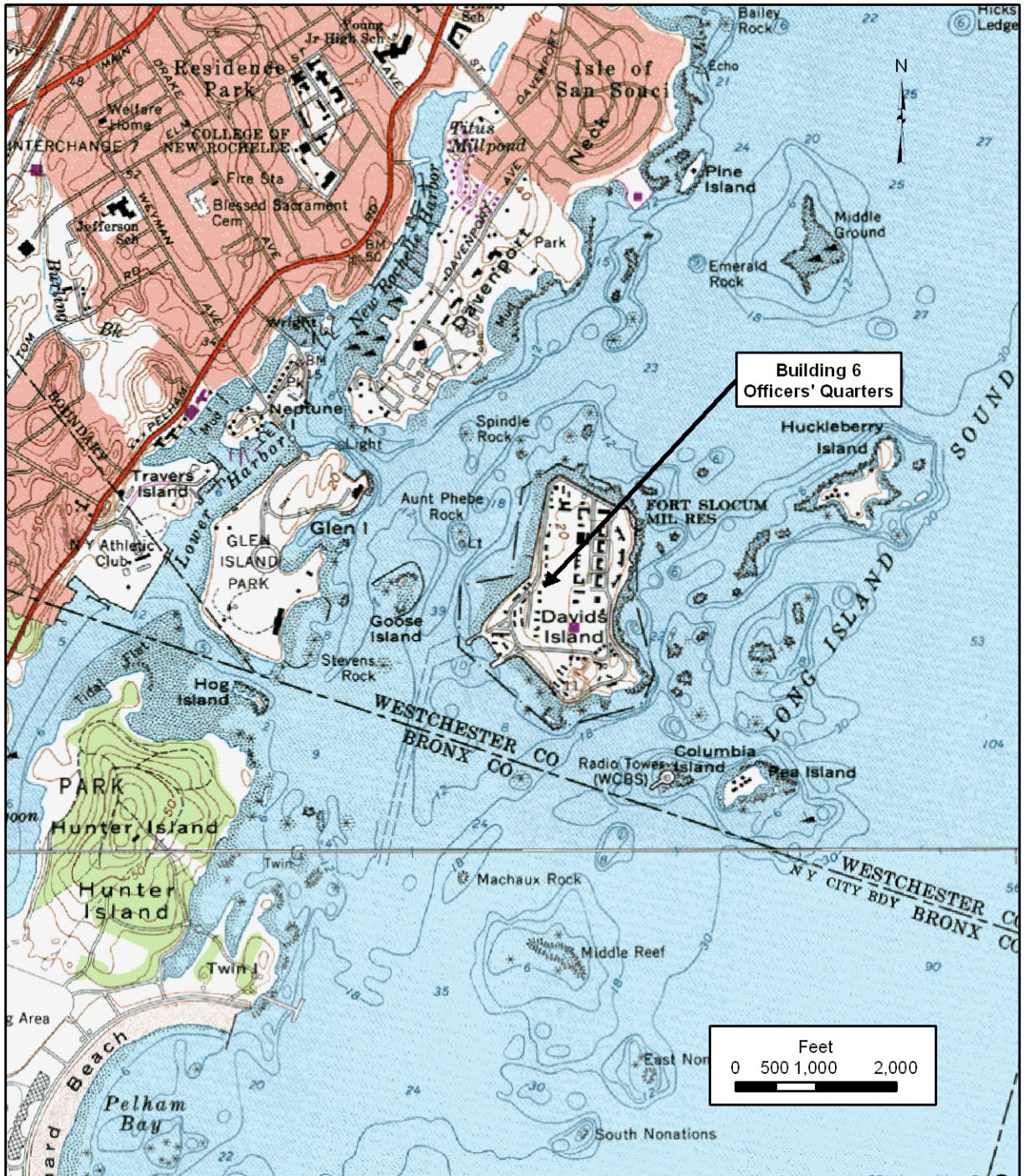
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LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)

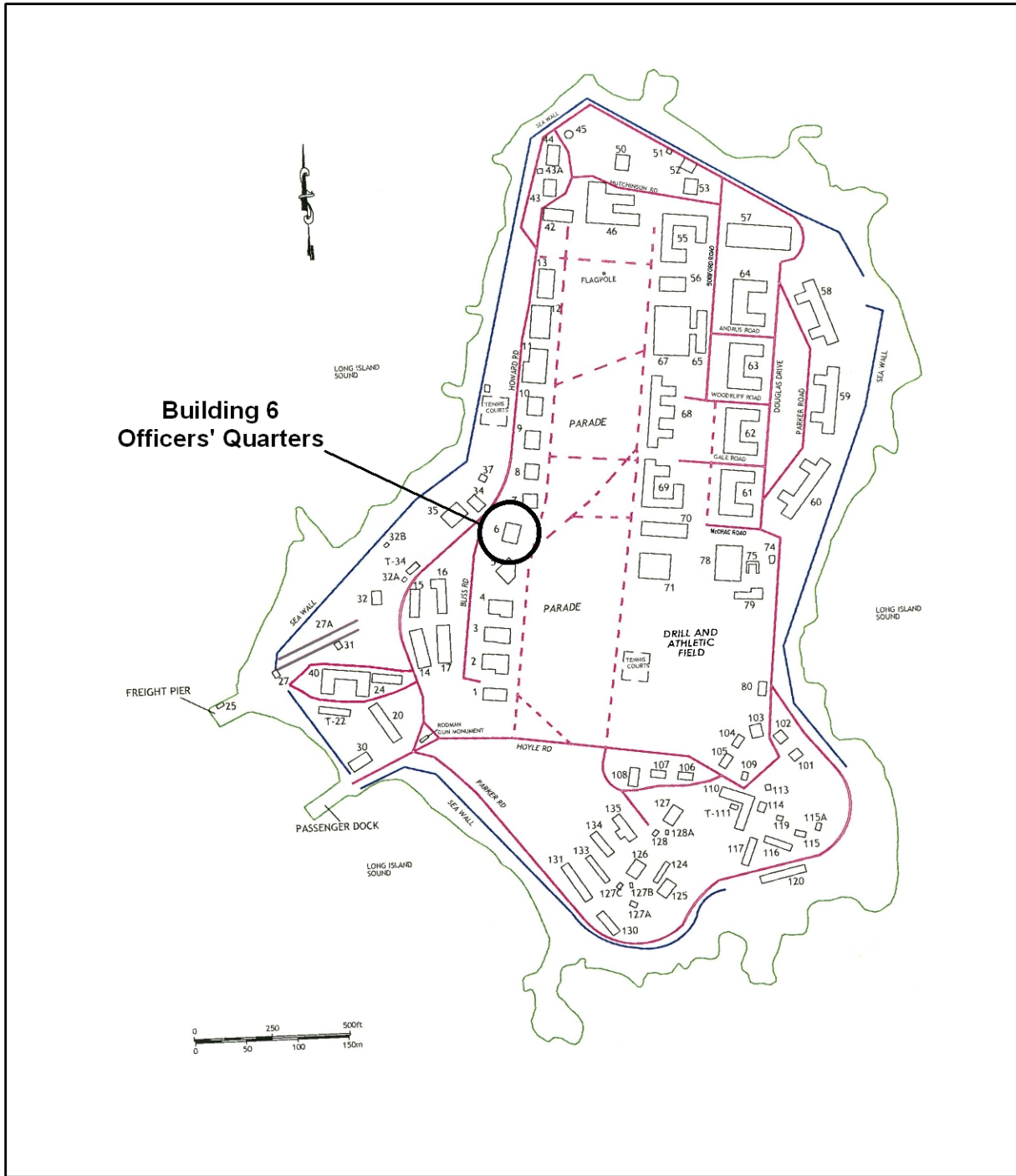
Scale: 1:24,000

1966 (Photorevised 1979)



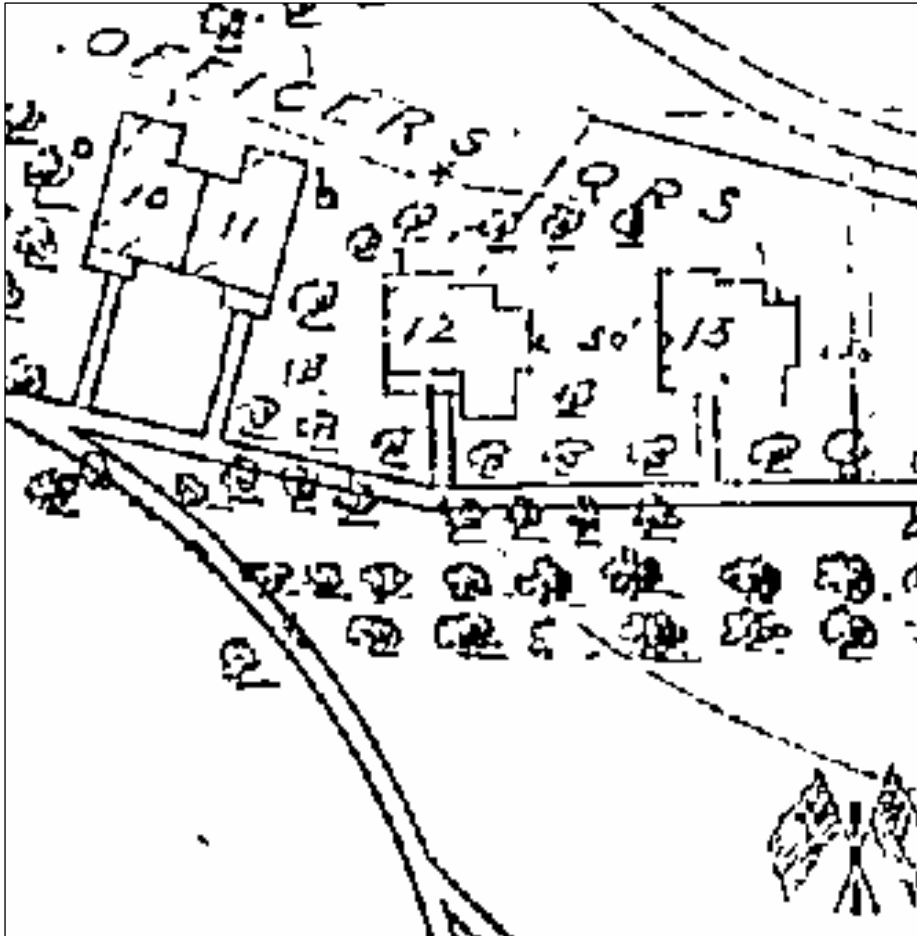
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SITE MAP



**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 6)**  
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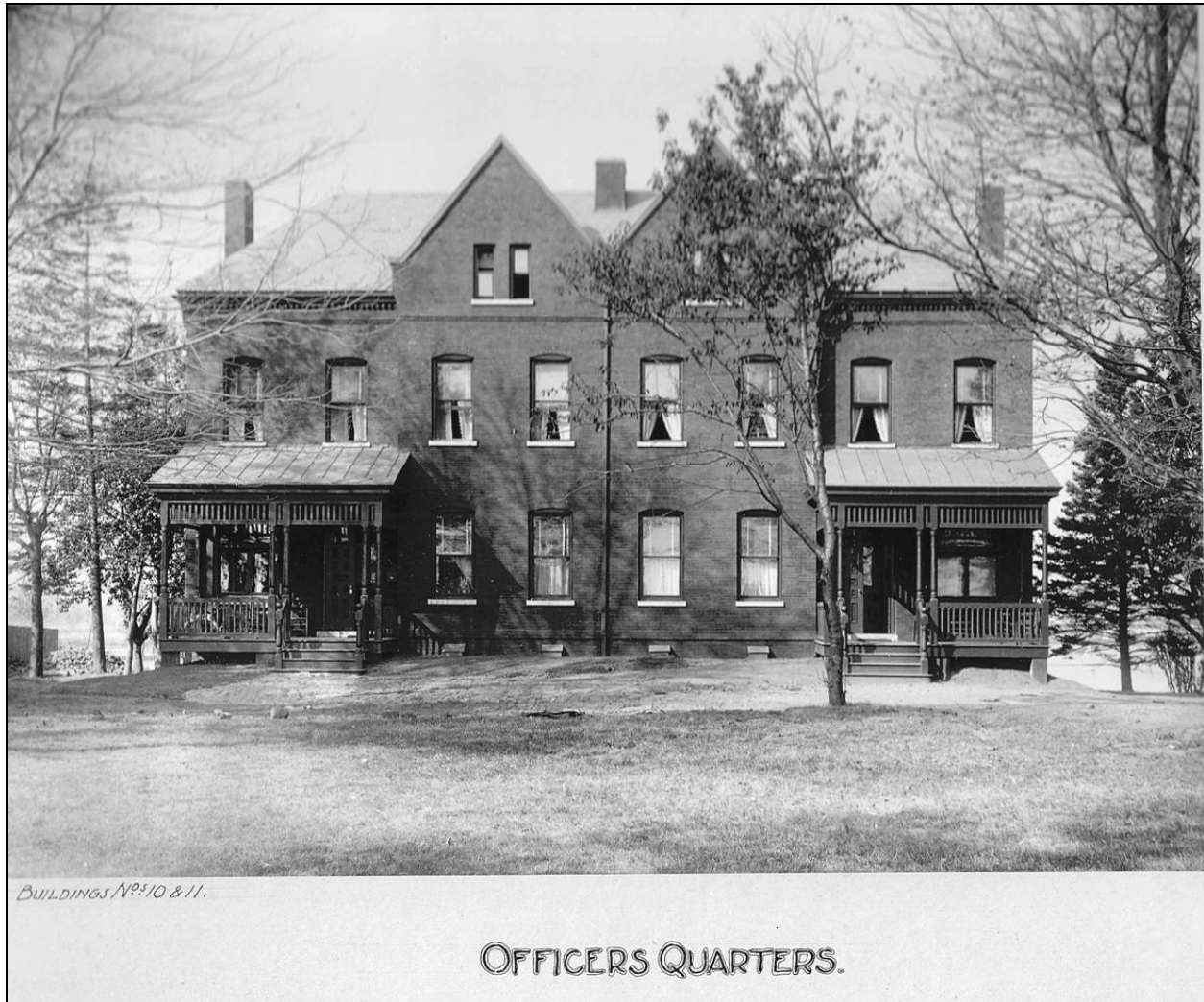
Figure 1. "Map of Davids Island, New York." May 1893, detail. Building 6 is labeled Building 10-11 in this drawing. West is to top of drawing. Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.





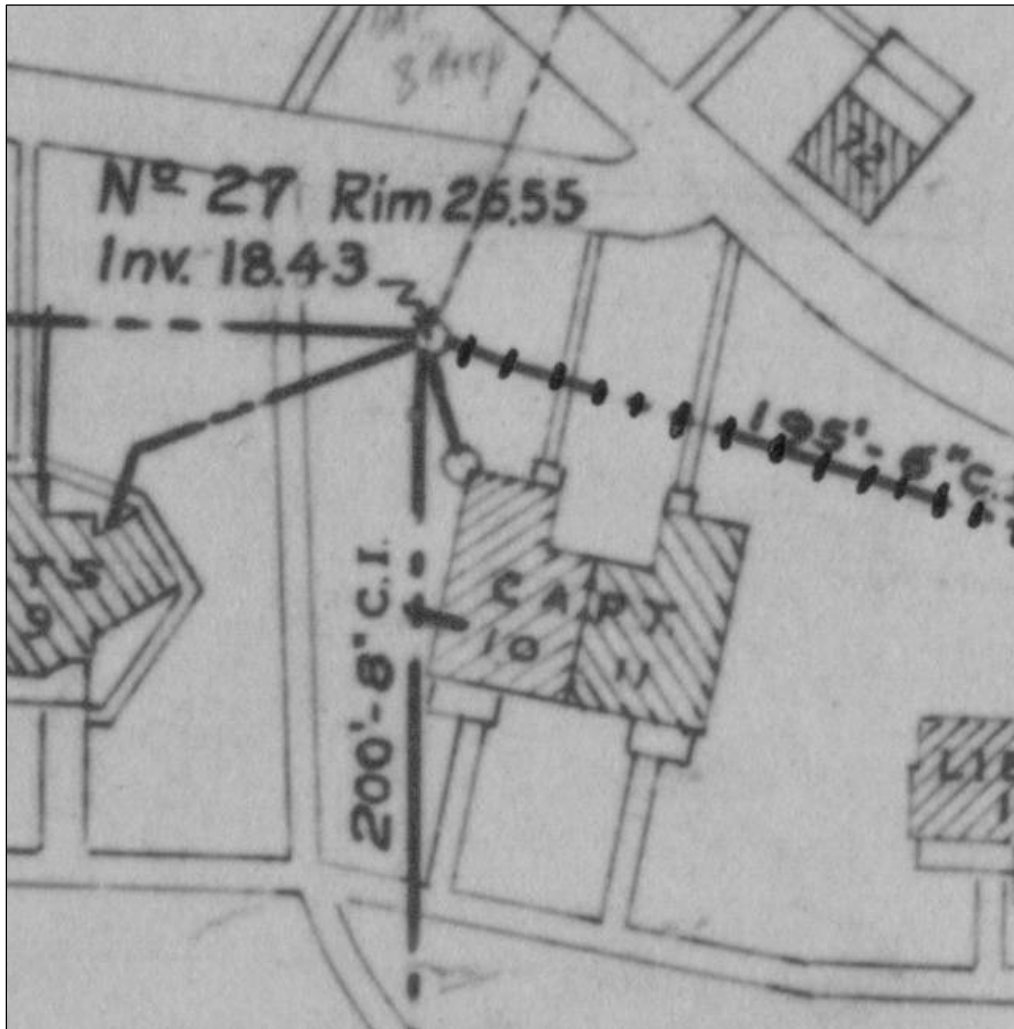
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Figure 2. Inventory photograph circa 1893. View west. Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 6)**  
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Figure 3. "Fort Slocum, New York: Reconstruction of Sewerage System, General Layout." May 1933, Revisions of April 29, 1933 map. Building 6 is labeled "Capt. 10-11." West is to top of drawing. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.




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Figure 4. Property Record Photograph, September 1939. View west. Note the reconstructed and enlarged porches. Compare with Figure 5. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park MD.



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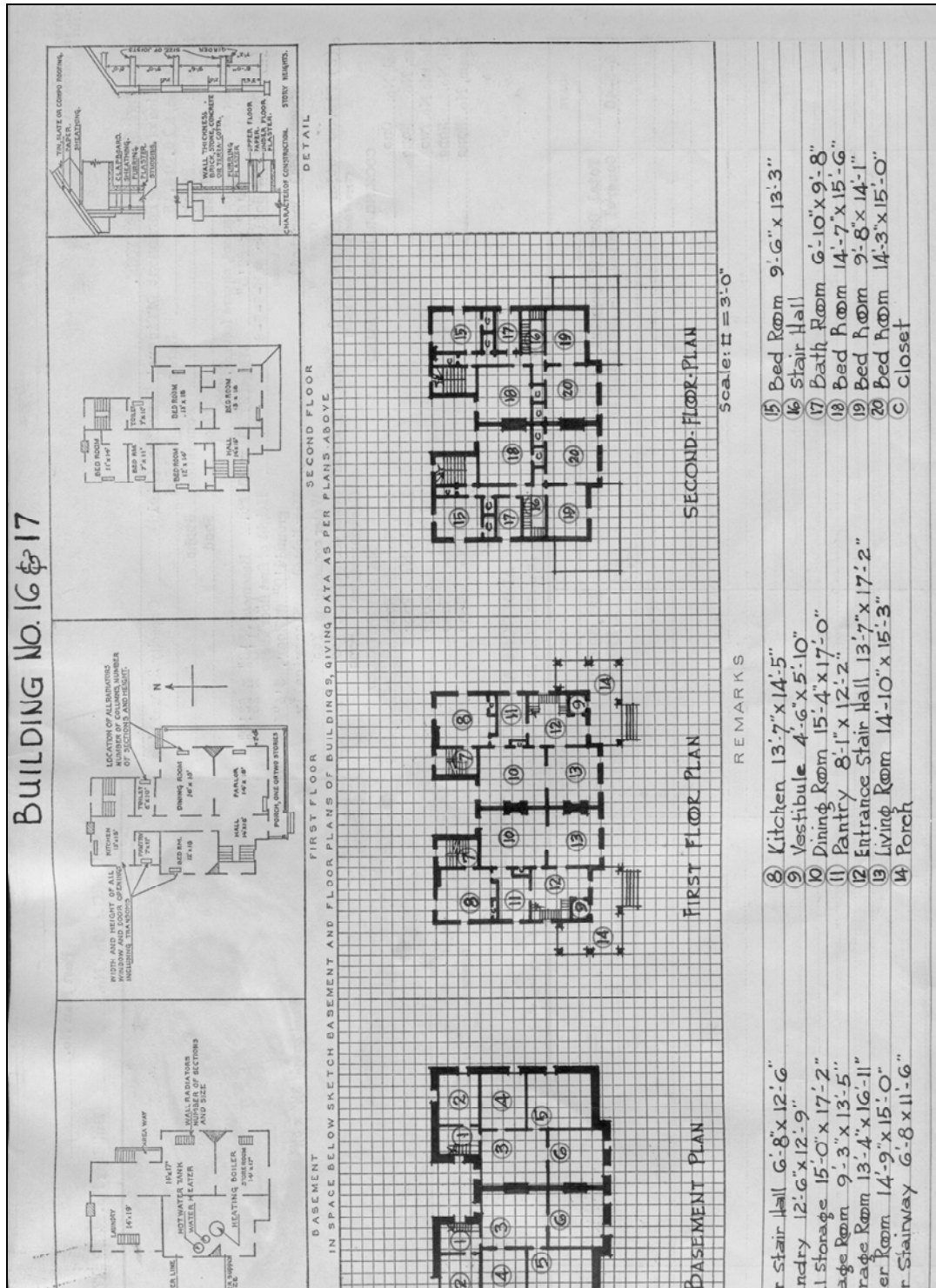
Figure 5. Property Record, September 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park MD.

O.Q.M.C.; Plan No. .... Post Plan No. .... Building No. 10 & 11	SEP 1939  SEP 1939	Capacity 2 Families Date completed 1892 Foundation Stone Floors Wood Main building 70'0" x 31'7" Wings (2) 15'0" x 19'2" Basement 70'0" x 31'7" Height of first floor above ground 5'6" @ Rear 3'4" @ Front How lighted Electrically Water connections Yes Sewer connections Yes Gas connections None Meters installed Gas No. None Electric No. Four Oil No. None Steam No. None Water No. None
ADDITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS (Below enter chronologically all modifications, additions, introductions of water, sewer, lights, heating, etc.)		
DATE 6-14-40 6-5-40	Total Repairs to June 30, 1939 General Repairs - Building No. 10 General Repairs - Building No. 11	COST \$29,552.62 CR 1,645.06 CR 1,416.12



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Figure 6. Interior Plan from Property Record, November 28 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park MD.





## HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

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#### **OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 6)**

Davids Island—Fort Slocum  
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 Westchester County  
 New York

Photographer: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, October 2005.

1. Western façade, facing east.
2. Eastern facade, facing southwest.
3. Eastern facade, facing west (taken December 2005)..

Photographer: Caleb Christopher, Tetra Tech EC, Morris Plains, NJ, January 2007.

4. Eastern facade, facing southeast.
5. Western facade, facing southeast.
6. Eastern facade detail.
7. Southern facade, facing north.
8. Southern facade, facing north.
9. Southern facade, detail.
10. Eastern facade, facing west.
11. Eastern facade, detail.
12. Interior, detail.
13. Interior, detail.
14. Northern facade, facing southwest.
15. Northern facade, detail.
16. Western facade, facing southeast.

Photo 1. Western façade, facing east.



Photo 2. Eastern facade, facing southwest.





Photo 3. Eastern facade, facing west.



Photo 4. Eastern facade, facing southeast.



Photo 5. Western facade, facing southeast.



Photo 6. Eastern facade detail.



Photo 7. Southern facade, facing north.



Photo 8. Southern facade, facing north.



Photo 9. Southern facade, detail.





Photo 10. Eastern facade, facing west.





Photo 11. Eastern facade, detail.



Photo 12. Interior, detail.



Photo 13. Interior, detail.



Photo 14. Northern facade, facing southwest.



Photo 15. Northern facade, detail.



Photo 16. Western facade, facing southeast.



## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 7)

**Location:** Davids Island–Fort Slocum  
0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland  
USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle  
UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603523.4526632

**Present Owner(s):** City of New Rochelle, NY

**Date of Construction:** 1886, expanded 1938

**Architect/Engineer:** U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps

**Present Use:** Abandoned when documented (2004-2006). Demolished 2006.

**Significance:** The Officers' Quarters (Building 7) is related to the Officers' Row area, and the housing of officers in support of Fort Slocum's nineteenth- and twentieth-century military activities. The building is considered a contributing element to the proposed Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District.

**Project Information:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (Corps), has been authorized under the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2004, to perform building demolition, debris removal, and remediation of asbestos materials (Project) at the Fort Slocum on Davids Island in the City of New Rochelle, New York. The purpose of the Project is to remove buildings and infrastructure from the abandoned fort installation that create safety hazards as part of a long-range plan to restore Davids Island for future use. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), the Corps has consulted with the New York State Historic Preservation Officer (NYSHPO) regarding the effects of the Project on historic properties. The consultation resulted in the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the Corps, NYSHPO, County of Westchester, and City of New Rochelle as consulting parties. This documentation report was prepared in accordance with Stipulation II.C.1 of the MOA.

**Prepared by:** C.L. Borstel, J.C. Sexton, R.M. Jacoby, S.B. Marshall, and C.W. Christopher  
**Title:** Cultural Resources Documentation Team  
**Affiliation:** Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ  
**Date:** October 2006 (Revision 1, May 2008)

**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 7)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

The Officers' Quarters (Building 7) is located on the western side of Davids Island. The island is in the western portion of Long Island Sound, 0.6 miles southeast of the New Rochelle, NY, mainland and 19 miles northeast of Midtown Manhattan (Location Map and Site Map). Davids Island is a roughly pear-shaped, relatively flat landmass consisting of approximately 78 acres above mean high water. It is heavily wooded and contains the ruins of more than 100 buildings and structures associated with an abandoned U.S. Army post, Fort Slocum. The ruins include barracks and quarters; quartermaster, administrative, medical, and recreation buildings; and coastal and air defense facilities. A concrete and stone seawall encircles most of the shore, and a system of roads and paths runs throughout the island. Building 7 is part of the Officers' Row area, where commissioned officers and their families once resided.

Building 7 was a wood-frame dwelling that housed one officer and his family (Figures 1-7). It was destroyed by fire after Fort Slocum closed and is now a ruin (Photos 1-7). Recent tree growth and leaf litter obscure the remaining traces of the building. The extant building site is marked principally by an open cellarhole and, inside the cellarhole, a single chimney stack. The cellarhole is roughly L-shaped; its main section approximates a rectangle, and it has a short, square wing projecting to the east. A sloping ramp near the northwestern corner provides access into the cellar from the outside. The foundation walls are brick. The upper portions of the walls, which once served as the sill for the wood-frame building above it, are irregular and incompletely preserved. Where the foundation walls retain their full, original height, they stand approximately 24 inches above the ground surface. These sections of the foundation walls are parged with concrete on their exterior surfaces (Photos 6-7). Inside the foundation, there is a north-south brick bearing wall that divides the main part of the cellarhole into two sections. Several brick piers on either side of this wall once helped support the main joists of the building's wood framing. An intact, freestanding brick chimney stack stands inside the cellarhole along the dividing line between the main area of the cellar and its eastern wing (Photos 2, 4, and 5). At the cellar level, a flue opening on the western side of the stack provides a terminus for exhaust ductwork from the furnace. A fireplace in the chimney stack at the first floor level faces east, into what was, according to a floor plan of the building, the study (Figure 6). The interior of the fireplace is lined by yellow firebricks, and surrounding exterior of the fireplace is neatly laid up with smooth, dark red bricks. In addition to these brick elements, the interior of the cellar also contains a scatter of water pipes and the remnants of the dwelling's furnace. Outside the cellarhole, several short, brick pillars that once supported the porch are located in the angle of the L between the main and wing sections of the cellarhole.

In 1965, when the post closed, Building 7 was two-and-one-half-stories tall with a roughly rectangular block and a one-and-one-half-story wing projecting to the south (Figure 5). The primary, eastern façade clad in wood clapboard siding and capped by a side gable roof with abbreviated returns. The roof was interrupted to the east by the one-and-one-half-story cross-gable wing. The intersection between the wing and the main building was punctuated by a wide brick chimney at the peak of the lower roof. The two-and-a-half story main block had a simple geometry with symmetrical divisions highlighted by three evenly-spaced gable peak dormers, each with a four pane wooden window. A pair of six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows with wood trim sat beneath the two southernmost dormers, on the second story. Beneath these two windows, on the first story, was a hipped-roof porch supported by three simple wooden posts set atop a shingled wall. The one-story cross-gable wing intersected the northern end of the eastern façade. The gable included a small window directly beneath the peak, and, on the first story, a single, central six-over-six double-hung wood sash window. This section of the building was clad with clapboards on the first floor and imbricated shingles above that. The southern façade had a small rectangular slatted opening directly beneath the peak while the second story had a single six-over-six double-hung wood sash window. The first story included a central pair of six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows. A low pitched shed roof capped a rectangular wing that ran



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for nearly the whole length of the western side of the main block. In photographs, the building appears to have been set atop a concrete foundation, but examination of the building's ruins show the foundation to have been brick parged with concrete.

The Quartermaster Corps property card for this building includes a circa 1940 interior floor plan that indicates room uses and dimensions (Figure 6).

## **PART II. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

### *Fort Slocum*

Davids Island is named for Thaddeus Davids (1816-1894), a New Rochelle ink manufacturer, who owned the island between 1856 and 1867. Davids was next-to-last in a line of private owners and lessees associated with the island between circa 1700 and the 1860s. During this period, the island was used primarily as farmland, but beginning probably in the 1840s, it also became a destination for excursionists who traveled by steamboat from New York and Brooklyn to picnic by the sea. The U.S. Army leased the island in 1862 and purchased it outright in 1867. In 1967, the federal government sold Davids Island to the City of New Rochelle, which sold it in turn the following year to Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. Consolidated Edison returned ownership of most of the island to the city in 1976.

Two U.S. Army posts successively occupied Davids Island between 1862 and 1965. The earlier post was established as De Camp General Hospital in May 1862. The hospital treated wounded Union soldiers and, from 1863 onwards, also cared for Confederate prisoners of war. After the Civil War, the Army remained on the island, apparently using the post somewhat discontinuously as a hospital, mustering-out camp, and subdepot for recruits. By the early 1870s, the hastily-built wood frame buildings of the Civil War had deteriorated badly, and in October 1874 the Army entirely withdrew from the island, beginning a hiatus in occupation of nearly four years.

The Army returned in July 1878, when Davids Island was designated as a principal depot of the General Recruiting Service, supplanting Governors Island off lower Manhattan in that role. Originally known simply as Davids Island, the Army formally named the post Fort Slocum in 1896 to honor Maj. Gen. Henry Warner Slocum (1827-1894), a prominent Union soldier and New York politician. Recruit intake and training was a primary function of the post well into the twentieth century. Fort Slocum also saw service as an overseas embarkation station; hosted Army specialty schools for bakers, transportation officers, chaplains, public affairs personnel, and military police; provided retraining for court-martialed soldiers; and was an administrative center for the Air Force. Coastal artillery batteries operated at the post around the beginning of the twentieth century. During the Cold War, Fort Slocum supported an air defense missile battery.

When the post closed in 1965, Fort Slocum's landscape integrated elements from different episodes of development into a campus-like whole. Several episodes of development were represented, particularly 1885-1910 and 1929-1940. A few wood frame buildings remained from the late 1870s and early 1880s, and at least nine such buildings represented the Second World War. However, of the more than 50 temporary wood frame buildings erected during the First World War, only a single, partial example survived. Most of the buildings at Fort Slocum followed standard Army plans, but Army personnel or outside professional architects also produced a few designs specifically for the post. The permanent buildings at Fort Slocum generally reflected conservative and eclectic interpretations of different currents in American architecture,

**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 7)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 4)

producing an engaging mix of Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Romanesque, and Italianate styles. The temporary buildings around the post were in contrast unadorned and starkly utilitarian, as they were designed principally for speed of construction.

The period after Fort Slocum closed in November 1965 saw severe deterioration of the former Army post. The City of New Rochelle repeatedly sought to redevelop Davids Island, at one time considering a Consolidated Edison proposal to build a nuclear power plant and later supporting proposals for luxury residences. None of these plans materialized. Neglect and vandalism took a heavy toll on the former post. By the first decade of the twenty-first century, the landscape was overgrown, and the more than 100 buildings and structures that once comprised Fort Slocum were in decay and ruin.

Detailed accounts of Fort Slocum's history can be found in the general historic overview to this documentation series (Tetra Tech 2008) and in Olausen et al. (2005), among other sources.

*Officers' Quarters (Building 7)*

The Officers' Quarters (Building 7) is situated near the middle of Officers' Row. Officers' Row was one of the first functional areas to be established at Fort Slocum, and the section from Building 6 south can be traced directly back to the post's Civil War predecessor, De Camp General Hospital. During the Civil War, five officer's quarters stood roughly in the area now occupied by Buildings 2 to 6. The northernmost of these, a two-and-a-half story dwelling called the Surgeon's Quarters, stood about where present-day Building 6, which neighbors Building 7 to the south, now stands.

Of the five Civil War-era quarters, it appears only the Surgeon's Quarters (demolished circa 1890) survived the Army's abandonment of Davids Island in 1874. When a garrison returned to the island in 1878, the Army almost immediately began construction of a new generation of wood frame buildings, including three sets of officer's quarters, present-day Buildings 2, 3, and 4, which were built in 1878 south of the Surgeon's Quarters. The Army extended this line of buildings in the early 1880s, and a schoolhouse-chapel, commissary sergeant's quarters, bakery, and subsistence storehouse were erected north of the Surgeon's Quarters. These buildings occupied the area approximately where Buildings 8 to 11 were later built, while the future site of Building 7 remained vacant (Gillespie 1884). Between 1886 and 1895, however, this mix of buildings was replaced, as a line of officers' quarters in wood frame and brick (Buildings 7 to 11) was erected. As early as 1886, the schoolhouse-chapel had been removed, and Buildings 7 and 8, a pair of wood-frame single-family officer's quarters, were built just north of the Surgeon's Quarters (Figure 1).

Along with Buildings 5 and 8, Building 7 was part of the second group of three wood frame quarters constructed in 1886 at Fort Slocum. The three officer's quarters constructed in 1886 were the last such buildings to be built of wood and intended for long-term service at the post. Around the time these buildings were built, the Army was making a service-wide shift to the use of durable masonry for new construction on permanent posts everywhere in the country, and later quarters at Fort Slocum were built of brick.

Building 7 was identical to Building 8, its neighbor to the north. Quartermaster Corps property cards for Buildings 7 and 8 do not record standard plan numbers for their design (Figure 7). No buildings of similar design are depicted in the studies of Army architecture by Chattey et al. (1997) and Hoagland (2004). Both quarters were relatively simple and plain buildings with few embellishments (Figure 4). They had a few design elements, such as the peak dormers and the use of textured shingling, characteristic of vernacular interpretations of late nineteenth-century American high architectural styles like Queen Anne and Shingle, but

**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 7)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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without sufficient elaboration to permit a meaningful specific style attribution. Their floor plans are likewise characteristic of Victorian house design, as the interior is divided into various spaces with separate functional designations.

Available historic photographs, maps, and other records provide little evidence of significant alteration of Building 7 during the first 50 years of its existence. Like many other quarters along Officers' Row, a comparison of a photograph from circa 1920 to one from circa 1939 shows that in the intervening period, the original porch balustrade was enclosed by a half-height wall clad on the exterior by clapboards. A more substantial alteration took place in 1938 when the central north-south section of the building was raised from one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half stories \$6,279.66 (Figures 4-6).

The small size and wood frame construction apparently made Building 7 less prestigious quarters than some other dwellings on Officers' Row, and in the hierarchy of Fort Slocum's housing assignments, it was designated as lieutenant's or company officer's quarters (Murray 1909) (Figures 3 and 7). Before 1893, it was designated as Building 10. In both the 1893 and 1941 numbering systems, this set of quarters was enumerated as Building 12. In the numbering system introduced in 1957, it was assigned its present number, Building 7.

### **PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

#### **Published Materials**

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Hoagland, Alison K.

- 2004     *Army Architecture in the West: Forts Laramie, Bridger, and D.A. Russell, 1849-1912.* University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Nichols, Herbert B.

- 1938     *Historic New Rochelle.* Board of Education, New Rochelle, NY.

#### **Unpublished Materials**

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- 1941     "Report of Inspection of Fort Slocum, N.Y." 10 November 1941. Record Group 92, Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives and Records, College Park, MD.

**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 7)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Cavanaugh, Michael

2007 *What Is, What Was, and What Was NOT: A Companion to the 2005 Davids Island Footage.*  
May 2007 version. Unpublished ms in possession of author, Los Angeles, CA.

Olausen, Stephen, Matthew Kierstead, and Jeffrey Emidy

2005 *Historic Architectural Survey and National Register Evaluation, Davids Island/Fort Slocum  
New Rochelle, New York.* Prepared for Tetra Tech FW, Inc., Morris Plains, New Jersey, by  
PAL, Inc., Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Tetra Tech EC, Inc.

2008 "Fort Slocum: Overview." In *Historic Building Documentation, Fort Slocum Historic and  
Archeological District, Davids Island, City of New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York,*  
Volume 1. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Concord,  
Massachusetts, by Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Boston.

United States Army Quartermaster Corps

ca. 1905-41 Fort Slocum Property Cards (Form 117 and predecessors). Record Group 77. National  
Archives, College Park, MD.

### **Maps and Drawings**

September 1884 "Map Showing Lines of Water Pipes of Proposed Water Works at Davids Island N.Y.H.,  
Sept. 27th, 1884." Inscribed "U.S. Eng'r. Office, New York City, Jan'y. 15th, 1885, to accompany letter of  
this date." Signed by G.L. Gillespie, Maj. Of Eng'rs. Bvt. Lieut. Col. Record Group 77, National Archives,  
College Park, MD.

May 1893 "Map of Davids Island, New York." Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy  
from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.

March 1909 "Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, NY. Made by Direction of Peter Murray, Capt. and  
Construction Q.M." Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

July 1915 "Map of Fort Slocum, New York. Made by Direction of F.E. Smith, Capt. & Quartermaster.  
Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 7)**

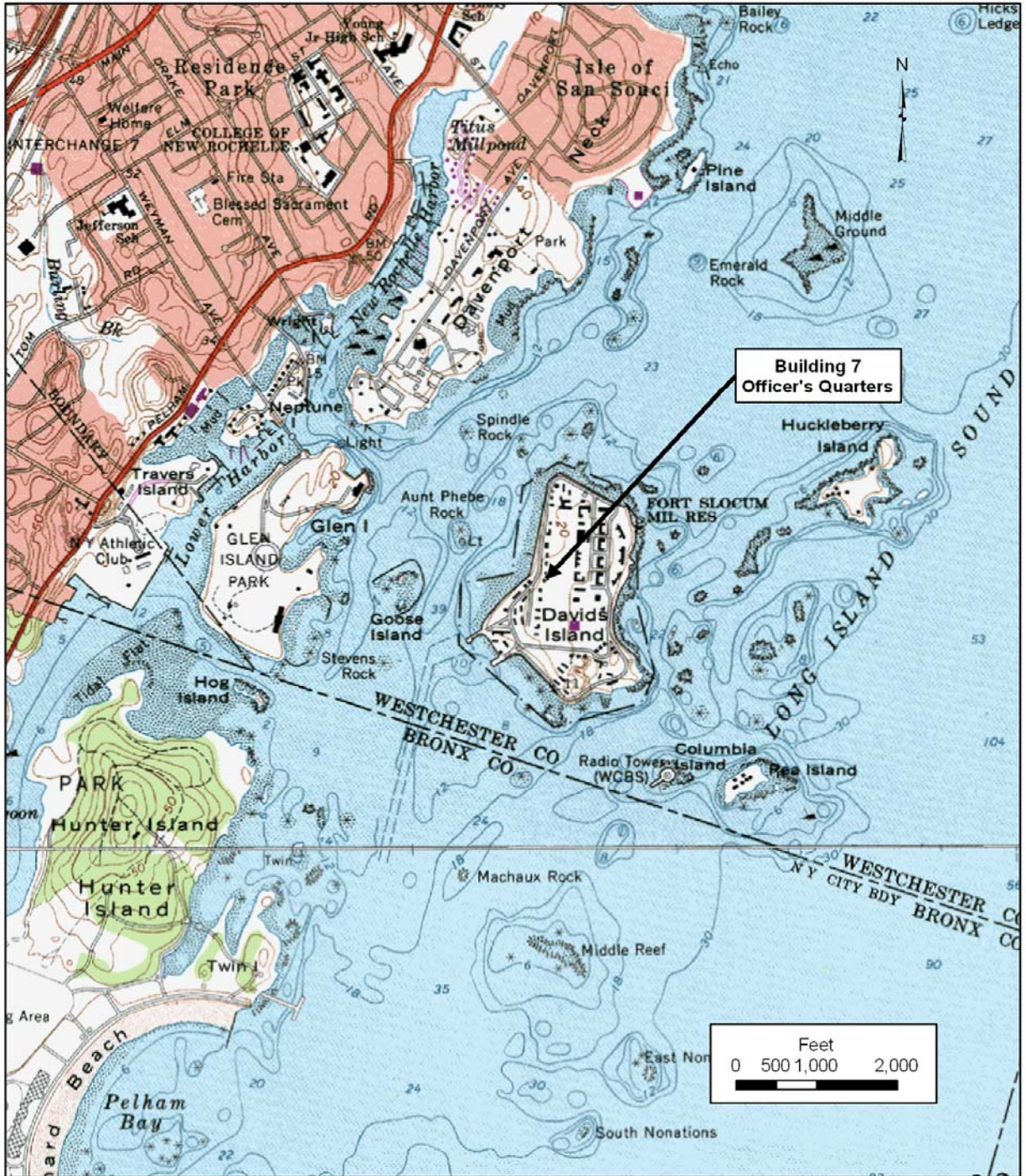
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**

(Page 7)

LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)

Scale: 1:24,000

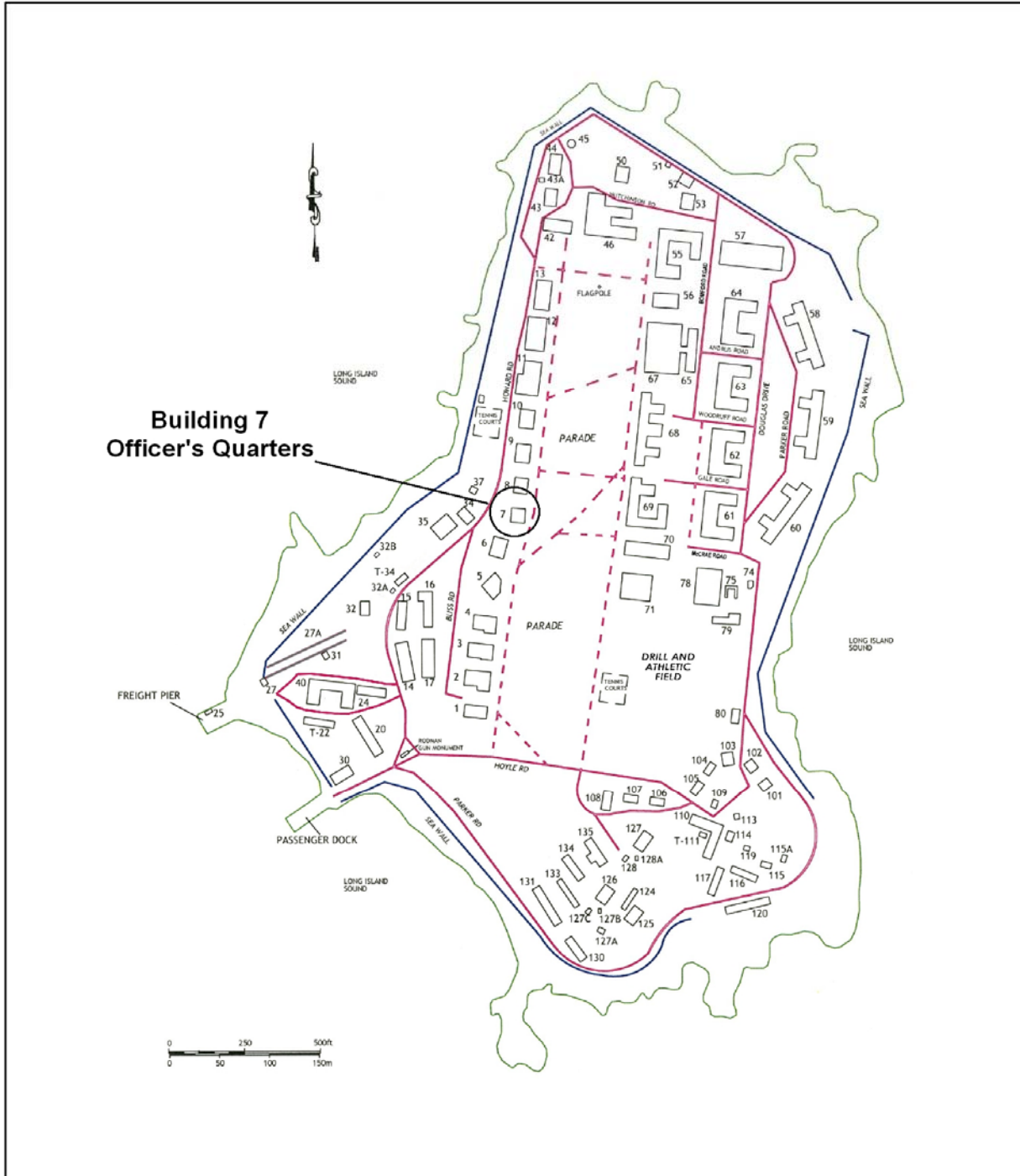
1966 (Photorevised 1979)





**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 7)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 8)

**SITE MAP**



**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 7)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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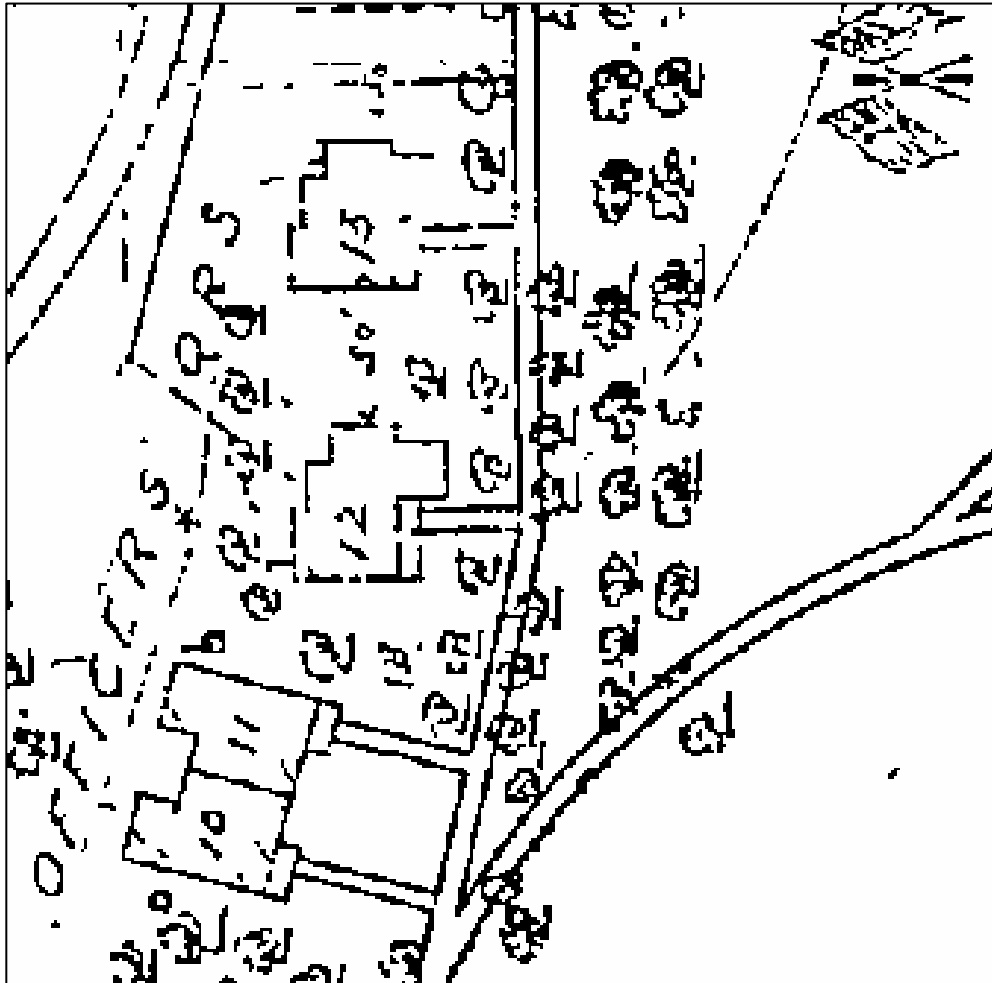
Figure 1. Detail of panoramic view of Fort Slocum facing north-northwest, circa 1889. This view shows Building 7 and its neighbors on the western side of the Parade Ground. Lettering has been added to this reproduction of the photograph to identify the buildings: A—Surgeon's Quarters (demolished circa 1890); B—present-day Building 7 (built 1886); C—present-day Building 8 (built 1886); D—Commissary Sergeant's Quarters (removed circa 1892) (obscured—largely behind Building 8); E—Bakery (demolished circa 1890) (obscured—behind tree); F—Subsistence Storehouse (removed circa 1892); G—Flagpole (removed 1914); H—Engine House (Waterworks) (demolished circa 1900); I—Hospital Stewards Quarters (demolished circa 1914). Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.





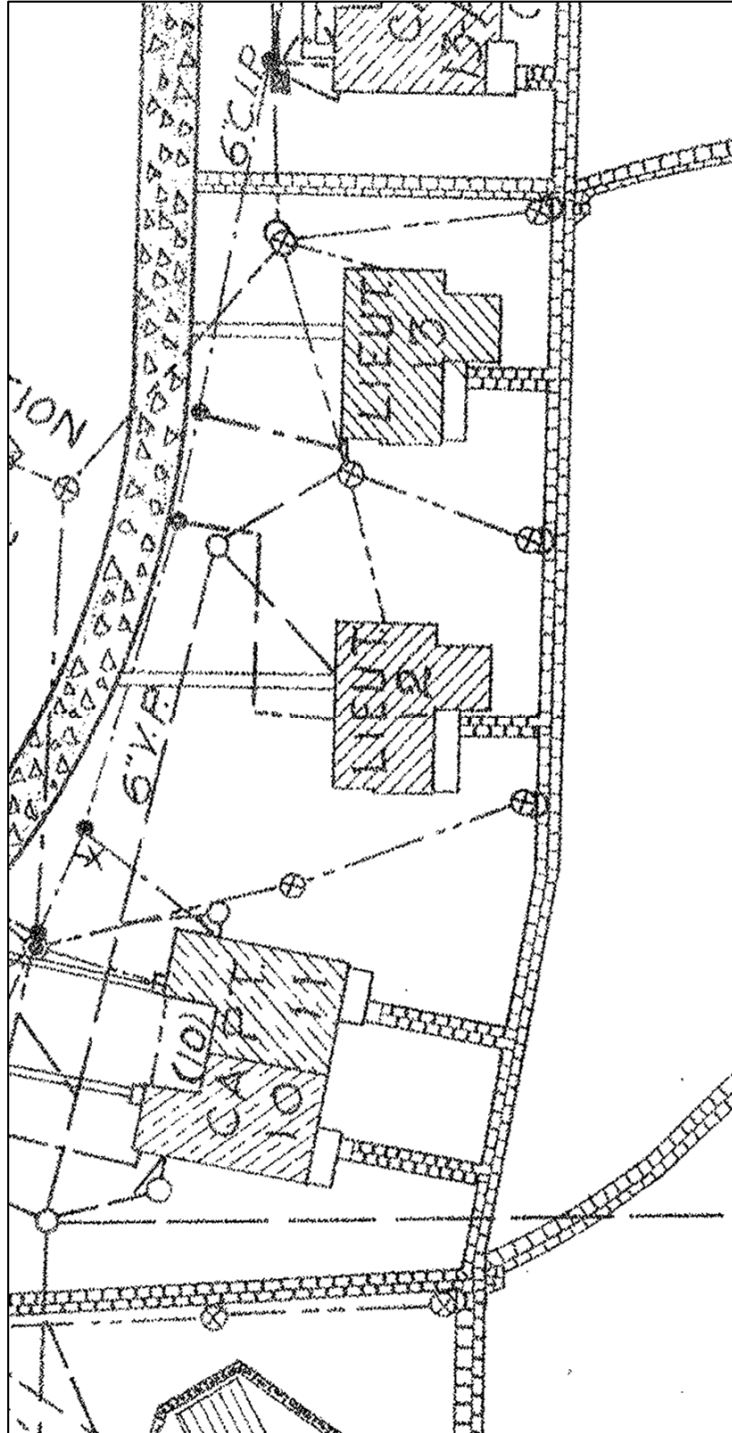
**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 7)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 2. "Map of Davids Island, New York." May 1893, detail. Building 7 is labeled Building 12 in this drawing. North is to top of drawing. Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 7)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 3. "Map of Fort Slocum, New York," detail, 1915. Building 7 is labeled "Lieut. 12" in this drawing. North is to top of drawing. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 7)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM  
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Figure 4. Circa 1920 Inventory photo. View northwest. This image is prior to building's conversion from 1 ½ to 2 ½-stories. Contrast with Figure 4. Record Group 111, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 7)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 5. Property Record Photo, May 1939. View northwest. This image shows building after conversion to 2 ½-stories. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 7)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 14)

Figure 6. Property Record, May 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

Post Plan No. .... Building No. .... 12  
 O.Q.M.G.: Plan No. .... MAY 1939



Place FORT SLOCUM, NEW YORK  
 Designation of building Company Officer's Quarters Capacity 1 Family  
 Total cost, \$ 11,415.74 Date completed 1936  
 Material: Walls Frame Construction Foundation Brick, stucco finish above grade  
 Roof Sheathed asphalt shingles Floors Oak over M.C. Pine  
 Total floor area above basement, square feet 1,906 Basement 28x48 & 15x18'  
 Size: Main building 29' x 46' Height of first floor above ground 5' @ rear, 2' @ front  
 Steam (Coal Operated) Wings 15' x 16' How lighted Electrically  
 Weil-McLain Boiler #4-G-S-6 (How heated) Water connections Yes  
 American Ideal Coal Heater #50 (Type of heat) Gas connections None  
 (Type of domestic hot water heater)

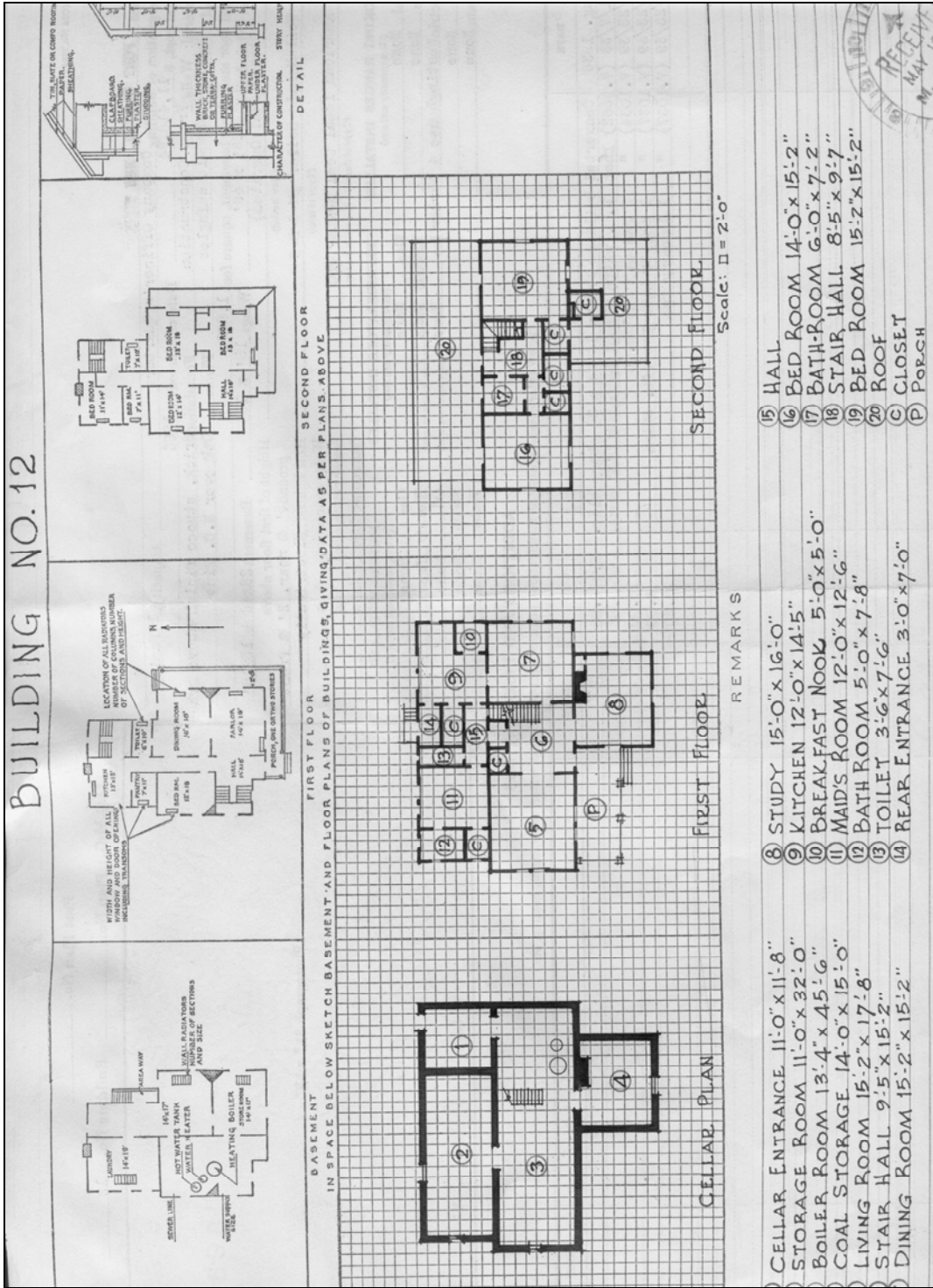
**COOKING RANGES INSTALLED** REFRIGERATORS INSTALLED  
 (Give quantity and size) (Give quantity and size)  
 Coal None Gas None  
 Electric Westinghouse 4 burner Ice None  
 Oil None Steam None  
 Steam None

**ADDITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS**  
 (Below enter chronologically all modifications, additions, introductions of water, sewer, lights, heating, etc.)

DATE	DESCRIPTION	COST
Aug. 1938	Converted building from a 1 1/2 to a 2 1/2 story bldg.	6,272.68
11/7/38 (V. 562)	Inst. L.H. white enamel bath tub 5'6" comp.	49.53
1/23/39 (V. 1034)	" 2 radiators @ \$9.00	18.00
1/23/39 (V. 1037)	" 1 toilet tank 10" w. vit. china	3.00
1/23/39 (V. 1037)	" 1 laundry tub	26.30

Figure 7. Interior Plan from Property Record, May 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

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 DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM  
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## **HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION**

### **INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS**

#### **OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 7)**

Davids Island—Fort Slocum

New Rochelle

Westchester County

New York

Photographer: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, October 2005.

1. General view looking northeast.
2. General view looking southwest.

Photographer: Caleb Christopher, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, November 2006.

3. North wall looking south.
4. Fireplace looking west.
5. Foundation looking southwest.
6. North wall detail.
7. North wall detail.



Photo 1. General view looking northeast.



Photo 2. General view looking southwest.



Photo 3. North wall looking south.



Photo 4. Fireplace looking west.



Photo 5. Foundation looking southwest.



Photo 6. North wall detail.



Photo 7. North wall detail.





## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 8)

**Location:** Davids Island–Fort Slocum  
0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland  
USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle  
UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603525.4526663

**Present Owner(s):** City of New Rochelle, NY

**Date of Construction:** 1886, expanded 1938

**Architect/Engineer:** U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps

**Present Use:** Abandoned when documented (2004-2006). Demolished 2006.

**Significance:** The Officers' Quarters (Building 8) is related to the Officers' Row area, and the housing of officers in support of Fort Slocum's nineteenth- and twentieth-century military activities. The building is considered a contributing element to the proposed Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District.

**Project Information:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (Corps), has been authorized under the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2004, to perform building demolition, debris removal, and remediation of asbestos materials (Project) at the Fort Slocum on Davids Island in the City of New Rochelle, New York. The purpose of the Project is to remove buildings and infrastructure from the abandoned fort installation that create safety hazards as part of a long-range plan to restore Davids Island for future use. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), the Corps has consulted with the New York State Historic Preservation Officer (NYSHPO) regarding the effects of the Project on historic properties. The consultation resulted in the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the Corps, NYSHPO, County of Westchester, and City of New Rochelle as consulting parties. This documentation report was prepared in accordance with Stipulation II.C.1 of the MOA.

**Prepared by:** C.L. Borstel, J.C. Sexton, R.M. Jacoby, S.B. Marshall, and C.W. Christopher  
**Title:** Cultural Resources Documentation Team  
**Affiliation:** Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ  
**Date:** October 2006 (Revision 1, May 2008)

**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 8)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

The Officers' Quarters (Building 8) is located on the western side of Davids Island. The island is in the western portion of Long Island Sound, 0.6 miles southeast of the New Rochelle, NY, mainland and 19 miles northeast of Midtown Manhattan (Location Map and Site Map). Davids Island is a roughly pear-shaped, relatively flat landmass consisting of approximately 78 acres above mean high water. It is heavily wooded and contains the ruins of more than 100 buildings and structures associated with an abandoned U.S. Army post, Fort Slocum. The ruins include barracks and quarters; quartermaster, administrative, medical, and recreation buildings; and coastal and air defense facilities. A concrete and stone seawall encircles most of the shore, and a system of roads and paths runs throughout the island. Building 8 is part of the Officers' Row area, where commissioned officers and their families once resided.

Building 8 was a wood-frame dwelling that housed one officer and his family (Figures 1-6). It was destroyed by fire after Fort Slocum closed and is now a ruin (Photos 1-8). Recent tree growth and leaf litter obscure the remaining traces of the building. The extant building site is marked principally by an open cellarhole and, inside the cellarhole, a single chimney stack. The cellarhole is roughly L-shaped; its main section approximates a rectangle, and it has a short, square wing projecting to the east. A sloping ramp near the northwestern corner provides access into the cellar from the outside. The foundation walls are brick. The upper portions of the walls, which once served as the sill for the wood-frame building above it, are irregular and incompletely preserved. Where the foundation walls retain their full, original height, they stand up to approximately 30 inches above the ground surface. These sections of the foundation walls are parged with concrete on their exterior surfaces (Photos 2 and 8). Inside the foundation, there is a north-south brick bearing wall that divides the main part of the cellarhole into two sections. Several brick piers on either side of this wall once helped support the main joists of the building's wood framing. An intact, freestanding brick chimney stack stands inside the cellarhole along the dividing line between the main area of the cellar and its eastern wing (Photos 1-3 and 6-7). At the cellar level, a flue opening on the western side of the stack provides a terminus for exhaust ductwork from the furnace. A fireplace in the chimney stack at the first floor level faces east, into what was, according to a floor plan of the building, the study. The interior of the fireplace is lined by yellow firebricks, and surrounding exterior of the fireplace is neatly laid up with smooth, dark red bricks. In addition to these brick elements, the interior of the cellar also contains a scatter of water pipes and the remnants of the dwelling's furnace. Outside the cellarhole, several short, concrete pillars that once supported the porch are located in the angle of the L between the main and wing sections of the cellarhole (Figure 1).

In 1965, when Fort Slocum closed, Building 8 was two-and-one-half-stories tall with a roughly rectangular block and a one-and-one-half-story wing projecting to the south (Figure 4). The primary, eastern façade clad in wood clapboard siding and capped by a side gable roof with abbreviated returns. The roof was interrupted to the east by the one-story cross-gable wing. The intersection between the wing and the main building was punctuated by a wide brick chimney at the peak of the lower roof. The two-and-a-half story main block had a simple geometry with symmetrical divisions highlighted by three evenly-spaced gable peak dormers, each with a four pane wooden window. A pair of six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows with wood trim sat beneath the two southernmost dormers, on the second story. Beneath these two windows, on the first story, was a hipped-roof porch supported by three simple wooden posts set atop a shingled wall. The one-story cross-gable wing intersected the northern end of the eastern façade. The gable included a small window directly beneath the peak, and, on the first story, a single, central six-over-six double-hung wood sash window. This section of the building was clad with clapboards on the first floor and imbricated shingles above that. The southern façade had a small rectangular slatted opening directly beneath the peak while the second story had a single six-over-six double-hung wood sash window. The first story included a central pair

**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 8)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 3)

of six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows. A low pitched shed roof capped a rectangular wing that ran for nearly the whole length of the western side of the main block. The building was set atop a concrete foundation.

The Quartermaster Corps property card for this building includes an interior floor plan with room uses and dimensions circa 1940 (Figure 6).

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### *Fort Slocum*

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**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 8)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 4)

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Along with Buildings 5 and 7, Building 8 was part of the second group of three wood frame quarters constructed in 1886 at Fort Slocum. The three officer's quarters constructed in 1886 were the last such buildings to be built of wood and intended for long-term service at the post. Around the time these buildings were built, the Army was making a service-wide shift to the use of durable masonry for new construction on permanent posts everywhere in the country, and later quarters at Fort Slocum were built of brick.

Building 8 was identical to Building 7, its neighbor to the south. Quartermaster Corps property cards for Buildings 7 and 8 do not record standard plan numbers for their design (Figure 5). No buildings of similar design are depicted in the studies of Army architecture by Chattey et al. (1997) and Hoagland (2004). Both quarters were relatively simple and plain buildings with few embellishments (Figure 4). They had a few design elements, such as the peak dormers and the use of textured shingling, characteristic of vernacular

**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 8)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 5)

interpretations of late nineteenth-century American high architectural styles like Queen Anne and Shingle, but without sufficient elaboration to permit a meaningful specific style attribution. Their floor plans are likewise characteristic of Victorian house design, as the interior is divided into various spaces with separate functional designations.

Available historic photographs, maps, and other records provide little evidence of significant alteration of Building 8 during the first 50 years of its existence. By 1939, the porch was enclosed by a half-height wall clad on the exterior by clapboards (Figure 4), which was probably an alteration from an original balustrade like that built on Building 7. A more substantial alteration took place in 1938 when the central north-south section of the building was raised from one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half stories \$9,662.35 (Figure 5).

The small size and wood frame construction apparently made Building 8 less prestigious quarters than some other dwellings on Officers' Row, and in the hierarchy of Fort Slocum's housing assignments, it was designated as lieutenant's or company officer's quarters (Murray 1909) (Figures 3 and 5). Before 1893, it was designated as Building 11. In both the 1893 and 1941 numbering systems, this set of quarters was enumerated as Building 13. In the numbering system introduced in 1957, it was assigned its present number, Building 8.

### **PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

#### **Published Materials**

Chattey, Paul, Horace Foxall, Flossie McQueen, Cynthia Nielsen, Mary Shipe, Terri Taylor, and Jamie Tippet

- 1997     *Context Study of the United States Quartermaster General Standardized Plans, 1866-1942.* Prepared for the U.S. Army Environmental Center, Environmental Compliance Division, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Technical Center of Expertise for Preservation of Structures and Buildings, Seattle, Washington. Accessed online, January 15, 2007, at <http://handle.dtic.mil/100.2/ADA352432>.

Hoagland, Alison K.

- 2004     *Army Architecture in the West: Forts Laramie, Bridger, and D.A. Russell, 1849-1912.* University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

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#### **Unpublished Materials**

Appiarius, John C.

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- 2007     *What Is, What Was, and What Was NOT: A Companion to the 2005 Davids Island Footage.* May 2007 version. Unpublished ms in possession of author, Los Angeles, CA.

**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 8)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 6)

Olausen, Stephen, Matthew Kierstead, and Jeffrey Emidy

2005 *Historic Architectural Survey and National Register Evaluation, Davids Island/Fort Slocum New Rochelle, New York.* Prepared for Tetra Tech FW, Inc., Morris Plains, New Jersey, by PAL, Inc., Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Tetra Tech EC, Inc.

2008 "Fort Slocum: Overview." In *Historic Building Documentation, Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District, Davids Island, City of New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York*, Volume 1. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Concord, Massachusetts, by Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Boston.

United States Army Quartermaster Corps

ca. 1905-41 Fort Slocum Property Cards (Form 117 and predecessors). Record Group 77. National Archives, College Park, MD.

### **Maps and Drawings**

September 1884 "Map Showing Lines of Water Pipes of Proposed Water Works at Davids Island N.Y.H., Sept. 27th, 1884." Inscribed "U.S. Eng'r. Office, New York City, Jan'y. 15th, 1885, to accompany letter of this date." Signed by G.L. Gillespie, Maj. Of Eng'rs. Bvt. Lieut. Col. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

May 1893 "Map of Davids Island, New York." Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.

March 1909 "Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, NY. Made by Direction of Peter Murray, Capt. and Construction Q.M." Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

July 1915 "Map of Fort Slocum, New York. Made by Direction of F.E. Smith, Capt. & Quartermaster. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 8)**

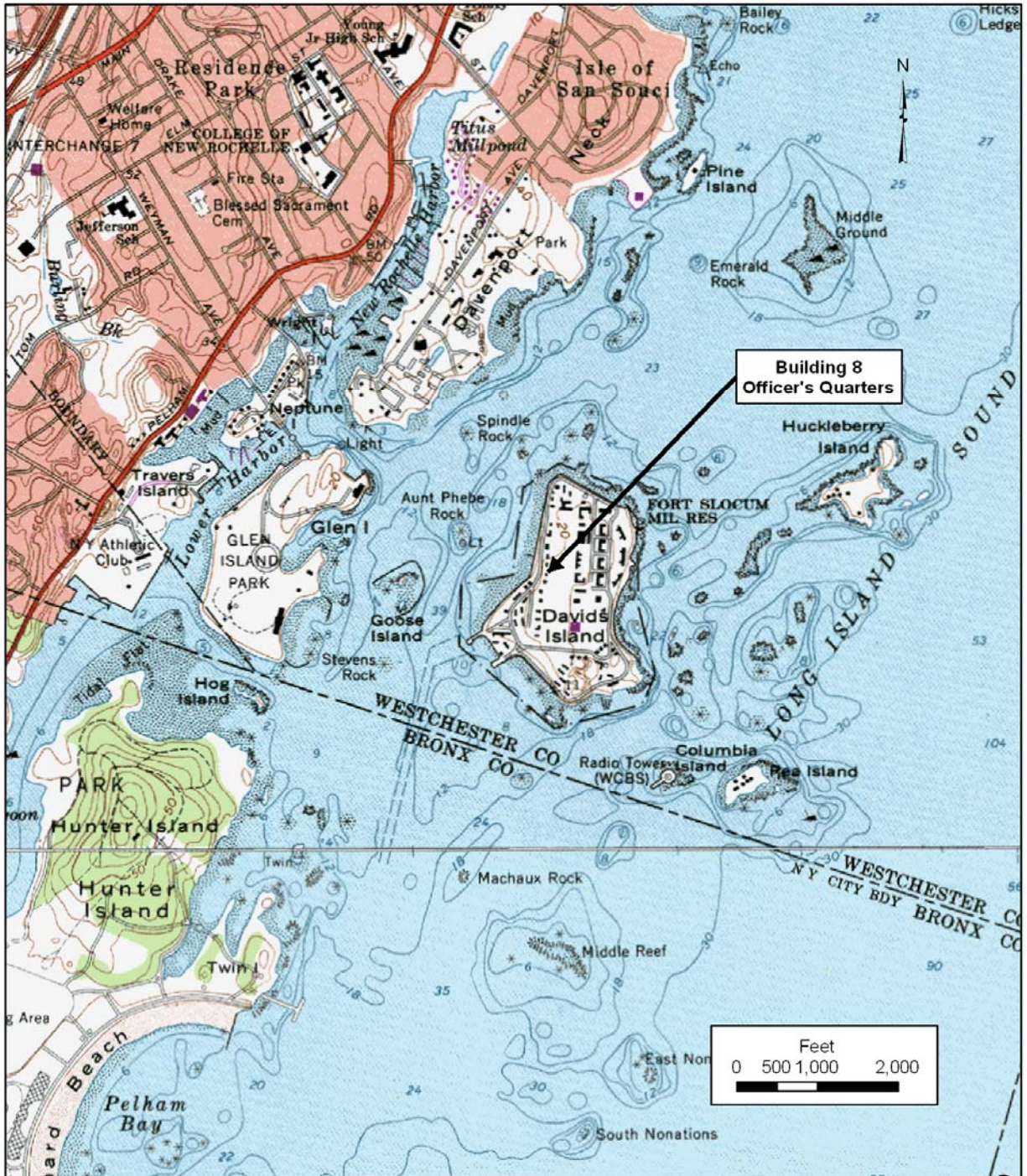
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**

(Page 7)

LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)

Scale: 1:24,000

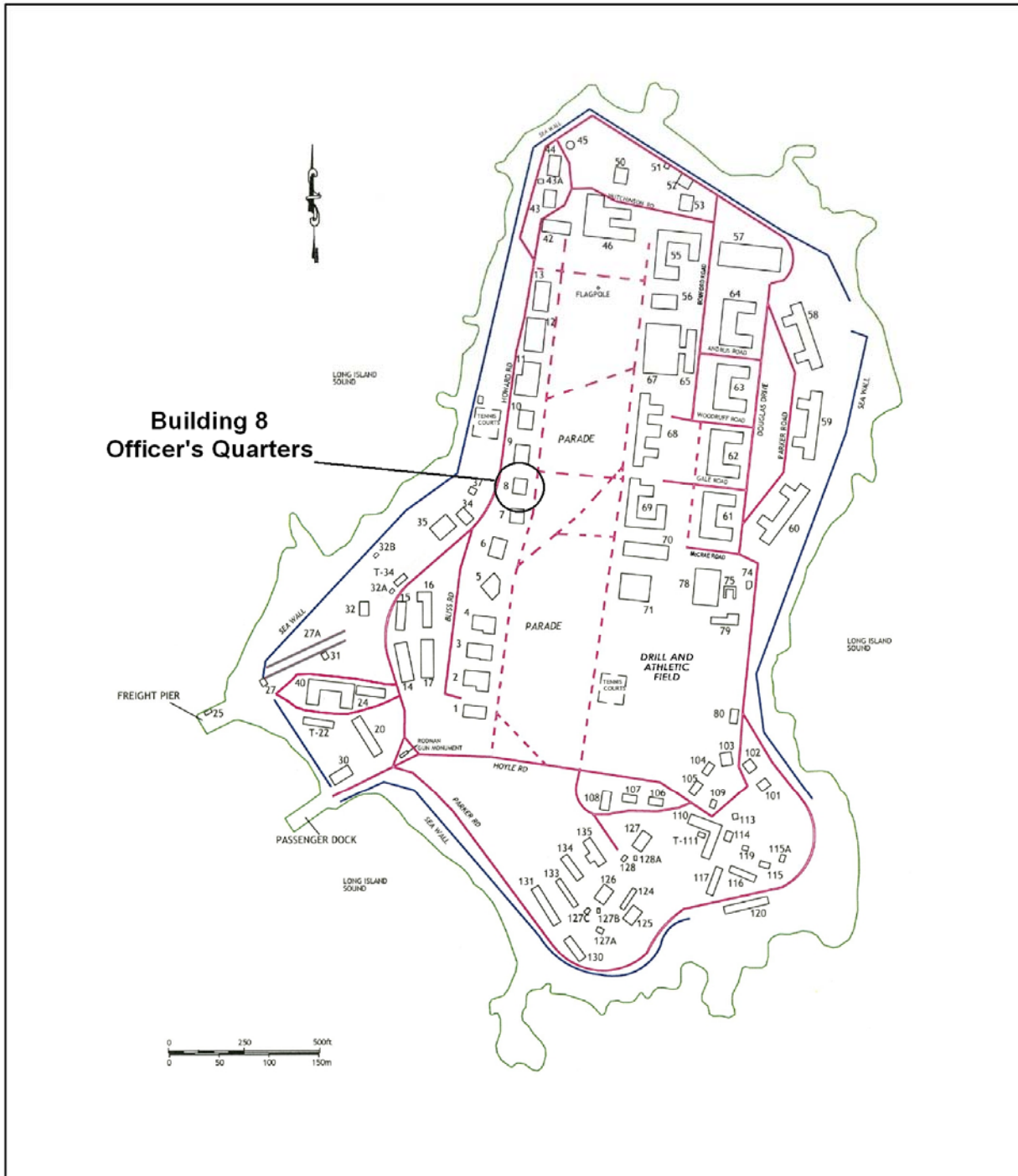
1966 (Photorevised 1979)





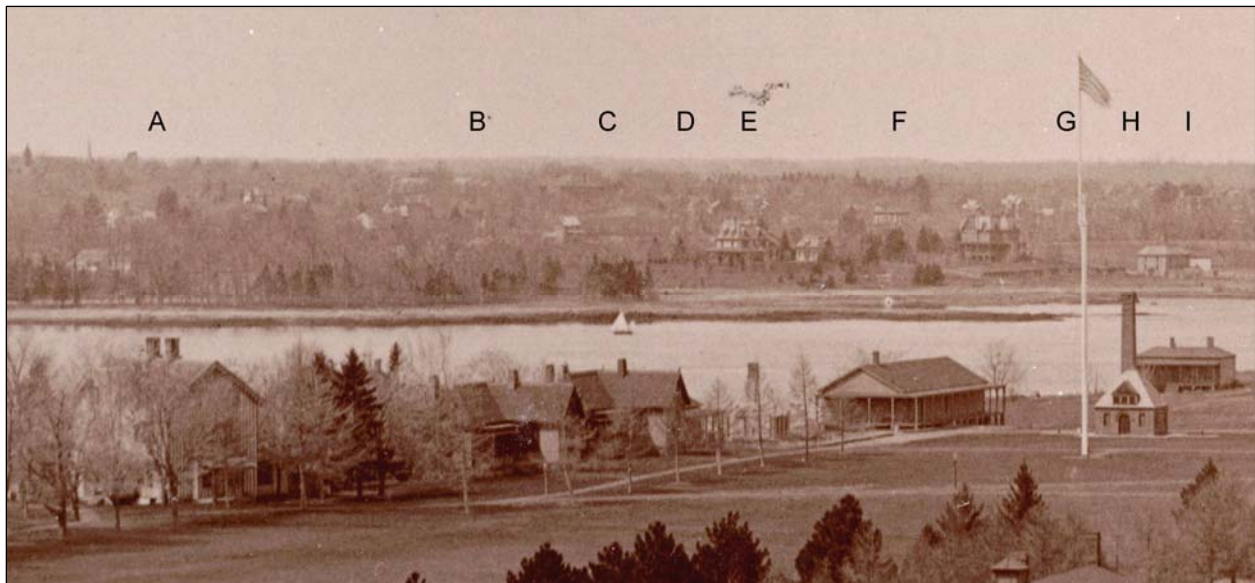
**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 8)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 8)

SITE MAP



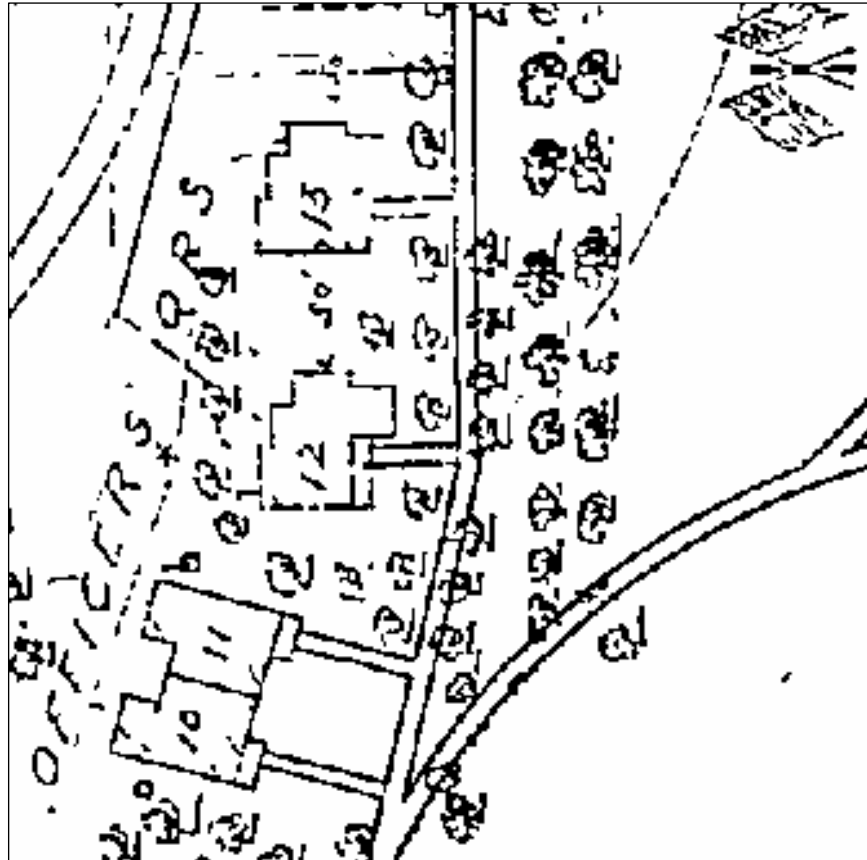
**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 8)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 9)

Figure 1. Detail of panoramic view of Fort Slocum facing north-northwest, circa 1889. This view shows Building 7 and its neighbors on the western side of the Parade Ground. Lettering has been added to this reproduction of the photograph to identify the buildings: A—Surgeon's Quarters (demolished circa 1890); B—present-day Building 7 (built 1886); C—present-day Building 8 (built 1886); D—Commissary Sergeant's Quarters (removed circa 1892) (obscured—largely behind Building 8); E—Bakery (demolished circa 1890) (obscured—behind tree); F—Subsistence Storehouse (removed circa 1892); G—Flagpole (removed 1914); H—Engine House (Waterworks) (demolished circa 1900); I—Hospital Stewards Quarters (demolished circa 1914). Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



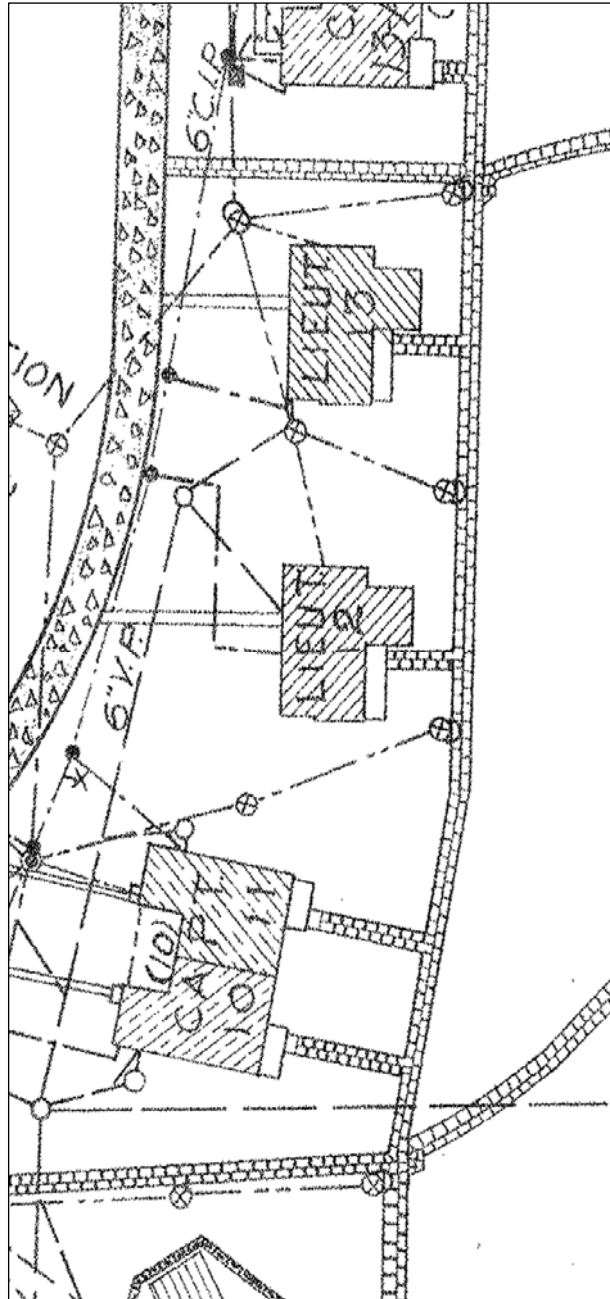
**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 8)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 10)

Figure 2. May 1893 "Map of Davids Island, New York." Building 8 is labeled Building 13 in this drawing. North is to top of drawing. Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 8)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 11)

Figure 3. "Map of Fort Slocum, New York," 1915, detail. Building 8 is labeled "Lieut. 13," in this drawing. North is to top of drawing. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 8)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM  
(Page 12)**

Figure 4. Property Record Photo, May 1939. View northwest. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park MD.




**OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 8)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 5. Property Record, May, 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park MD.

Post Plan No. .... Building No. 13  
 O.Q.M.G.: Plan No. .... Building No. 13

MAY 1939



FACE FORT SLOCUM, NEW YORK  
 designation of building Company Officer's Quarters Capacity 1 Family  
 Total cost, \$14,722.43 Date completed 1886  
 Material: Walls Frame Construction Foundation Brick, stucco finish above grade  
 Roof Sheathed asphalt shingles Floors Oak over N.C. Pine  
 Total floor area above basement, square feet 1,906  
 Height of first floor above ground 21' @ front  
 Height of second floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of third floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of fourth floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of fifth floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of sixth floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of seventh floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of eighth floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of ninth floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of tenth floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of eleventh floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of twelfth floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of thirteenth floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of fourteenth floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of fifteenth floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of sixteenth floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of seventeenth floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of eighteenth floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of nineteenth floor above ground 15' x 16'  
 Height of twentieth floor above ground 15' x 16'

Basement 23x46 & 15x16'  
 How lighted Electrically  
 Water connections Yes  
 Sewer connections Yes  
 Gas connections None  
 Meters installed (Give quantity and capacity)  
 Gas None  
 Electric Two  
 Oil None  
 Steam None  
 Water None

WEIL-McLAIN Boiler #4-S-5-6  
 (Type of heat)  
 American Ideal Coal Heater #50  
 (Type of domestic hot water heater)

**COOKING RANGES INSTALLED**  
 (Give quantity and size)  
 Gas None  
 Electric Grunow 8.2 Cu. Ft.  
 None None  
 Electric Westinghouse 4 Burner Ice None  
 None None  
 Steam None

**REFRIGERATORS INSTALLED**  
 (Give quantity and size)  
 Gas None  
 Electric Grunow 8.2 Cu. Ft.  
 None None

**METERS INSTALLED**  
 (Give quantity and capacity)  
 Gas None  
 Electric Two  
 Oil None  
 Steam None  
 Water None

**ADDITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS**  
 (Below enter chronologically all modifications, additions, introductions of water, sewer, lights, heating, etc.)

DATE	DESCRIPTION	COST
Dec. 1938	Converted bldg. from a 1 1/2 to a 2 1/2 story bldg.	\$2,662.35
12/10/38 (V1731)	Inst. 1 clothes drier	1.50
1/23/39 (V1034)	" 2 radiators @ \$9.00	18.00
1/23/39 (V1037)	" 1 toilet tank low vit. china	3.00
1/23/39 (V1037)	" 1 laundry tub	26.30
1/23/39 (V1003)	" 1 laundry tray 23x24" wh. enamel	11.70
3/10/39 (V1079)	" 1 laundry tray 23x24" wh. enamel	11.46





## **HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION**

### **INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS**

#### **OFFICER'S QUARTERS (BUILDING 8)**

Davids Island—Fort Slocum

New Rochelle

Westchester County

New York

Photographer: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, October 2005.

1. General view facing east.
2. General view facing southeast.
3. General view facing southwest.

Photographer: Caleb Christopher, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ October 2006.

4. Cellar facing east.
5. Detail, foundation brick.
6. Chimney detail.
7. Foundation facing north.
8. Foundation facing north.

Photo 1. General view facing east.



Photo 2. General view facing southeast.



Photo 3. General view facingsouthwest.



Photo 4. Cellar facing east.



Photo 5. Detail, foundation brick.



Photo 6. Chimney detail.





Photo 7. Foundation facing north.



Photo 8. Foundation facing north.



## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 9)

**Location:** Davids Island–Fort Slocum  
0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland  
USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle  
UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603523.4526694

**Present Owner(s):** City of New Rochelle, NY

**Date of Construction:** 1895

**Architect/Engineer:** U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps

**Present Use:** Abandoned when documented (2004-2007). To be demolished.

**Significance:** The Officers' Quarters (Building 9) is related to the Officers' Row Area, and the provision of residential functions in support of Fort Slocum's nineteenth- and twentieth-century military activities. The building is considered a contributing element to the Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District.

**Project Information:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (Corps), has been authorized under the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2004, to perform building demolition, debris removal, and remediation of asbestos materials (Project) at the Fort Slocum on Davids Island in the City of New Rochelle, New York. The purpose of the Project is to remove buildings and infrastructure from the abandoned fort installation that create safety hazards as part of a long-range plan to restore Davids Island for future use. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), the Corps has consulted with the New York State Historic Preservation Officer (NYSHPO) regarding the effects of the Project on historic properties. The consultation resulted in the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the Corps, NYSHPO, County of Westchester, and City of New Rochelle as consulting parties. This documentation report was prepared in accordance with Stipulation II.C.1 of the MOA.

**Prepared by:** C.L. Borstel, J.C. Sexton, R.M. Jacoby, S.B. Marshall, and C.W. Christopher  
**Title:** Cultural Resources Documentation Team  
**Affiliation:** Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ  
**Date:** May 2007 (Revision 1, May 2008)

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 9)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

The Officers' Quarters (Building 9) is located on the western side of Davids Island. The island is in the western portion of Long Island Sound, 0.6 miles southeast of the New Rochelle, NY, mainland and 19 miles northeast of Midtown Manhattan (Location Map and Site Map). Davids Island is a roughly pear-shaped, relatively flat landmass consisting of approximately 78 acres above mean high water. It is heavily wooded and contains the ruins of more than 100 buildings and structures associated with an abandoned U.S. Army post, Fort Slocum. The ruins include barracks and quarters; quartermaster, administrative, medical, and recreation buildings; and coastal and air defense facilities. A concrete and stone seawall encircles most of the shore, and a system of roads and paths runs throughout the island. Building 9 is part of the Officers' Row area, where commissioned officers and their families once resided.

The Officers' Quarters (Building 9) is a Colonial Revival-style, two-and-one-half-story, duplex brick building with a roughly U-shaped plan (Figures 1-2; Photos 1-5). The main façade of the building, at the "bottom" of the U-shaped plan, faces east. The building has a cross gable roof with the ridge of the main roof running north-south. Gable-roofed dormers flank the crossing gable on the eastern slope of the roof. The cross gable sits on a slightly projecting bay which was originally flanked by 1-story entry porches. Historical photographs of Building 10, which neighbors Building 9 to the north and was built to the same plan, show that the porches were originally only along the main façade but were later enlarged to wrap around their corners of the building. In the rear of the building, projecting bays at each corner sat under smaller cross gables. The roof consists of slate tile over wood sheathing and wood rafters. The roof dormers consist of slate tile on both the roof and walls with wood trim and include a flared apron. Two chimneys, constructed of brick with a corbelled brick cap, are located just inside the west wall of the two wings. Chimneys also run through the gable walls of the projecting bays in the rear of the building. The building has a brick structural system, with wood framing of the roof and interior partitions, set atop a dark gray schist ashlar foundation capped by a course of grayish-brown sandstone blocks. The exterior walls of the building are brick with red-tinted mortar. Ornamental detailing includes brick segmental arch window openings with sandstone sills and an elaborate cornice combining brick dentals with wooden molding elements. The interior consists of wood floor joists and walls, with plaster interior finishes, pressed tin ceilings and an interior brick tenant separation wall.

Currently, the building is little more than a shell. Isolated portions of the roof have collapsed. Sections of the interior floors have collapsed and plaster has fallen from the walls.

No floor plan for Building 9 was obtained as part of the research for this documentation. However, circa-1940 floor plans for the identical neighboring structure, Building 10, were obtained and have been included with the documentation for that building.

**PART II. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

*Fort Slocum*

Davids Island is named for Thaddeus Davids (1816-1894), a New Rochelle ink manufacturer, who owned the island between 1856 and 1867. Davids was next-to-last in a line of private owners and lessees associated with the island between circa 1700 and the 1860s. During this period, the island was used primarily as farmland, but beginning probably in the 1840s, it also became a destination for excursionists who traveled by steamboat from New York and Brooklyn to picnic by the sea. The U.S. Army leased the island in 1862 and purchased it outright in 1867. In 1967, the federal government sold Davids Island to the City of New Rochelle, which sold

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 9)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 3)

it in turn the following year to Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. Consolidated Edison returned ownership of most of the island to the city in 1976.

Two U.S. Army posts successively occupied Davids Island between 1862 and 1965. The earlier post was established as De Camp General Hospital in May 1862. The hospital treated wounded Union soldiers and, from 1863 onwards, also cared for Confederate prisoners of war. After the Civil War, the Army remained on the island, apparently using the post somewhat discontinuously as a hospital, mustering-out camp, and subdepot for recruits. By the early 1870s, the hastily-built wood frame buildings of the Civil War had deteriorated badly, and in October 1874 the Army entirely withdrew from the island, beginning a hiatus in occupation of nearly four years.

The Army returned in July 1878, when Davids Island was designated as a principal depot of the General Recruiting Service, supplanting Governors Island off lower Manhattan in that role. Originally known simply as Davids Island, the Army formally named the post Fort Slocum in 1896 to honor Maj. Gen. Henry Warner Slocum (1827-1894), a prominent Union soldier and New York politician. Recruit intake and training was a primary function of the post well into the twentieth century. Fort Slocum also saw service as an overseas embarkation station; hosted Army specialty schools for bakers, transportation officers, chaplains, public affairs personnel, and military police; provided retraining for court-martialed soldiers; and was an administrative center for the Air Force. Coastal artillery batteries operated at the post around the beginning of the twentieth century. During the Cold War, Fort Slocum supported an air defense missile battery.

When the post closed in 1965, Fort Slocum's landscape integrated elements from different episodes of development into a campus-like whole. Several episodes of development were represented, particularly 1885-1910 and 1929-1940. A few wood frame buildings remained from the late 1870s and early 1880s, and at least nine such buildings represented the Second World War. However, of the more than 50 temporary wood frame buildings erected during the First World War, only a single, partial example survived. Most of the buildings at Fort Slocum followed standard Army plans, but Army personnel or outside professional architects also produced a few designs specifically for the post. The permanent buildings at Fort Slocum generally reflected conservative and eclectic interpretations of different currents in American architecture, producing an engaging mix of Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Romanesque, and Italianate styles. The temporary buildings around the post were in contrast unadorned and starkly utilitarian, as they were designed principally for speed of construction.

The period after Fort Slocum closed in November 1965 saw severe deterioration of the former Army post. The City of New Rochelle repeatedly sought to redevelop Davids Island, at one time considering a Consolidated Edison proposal to build a nuclear power plant and later supporting proposals for luxury residences. None of these plans materialized. Neglect and vandalism took a heavy toll on the former post. By the first decade of the twenty-first century, the landscape was overgrown, and the more than 100 buildings and structures that once comprised Fort Slocum were in decay and ruin.

Detailed accounts of Fort Slocum's history can be found in the general historic overview to this documentation series (Tetra Tech 2008) and in Olausen et al. (2005), among other sources.

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 9)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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*Officers' Quarters (Building 9)*

Building 9 is situated in the center third of Officers' Row. Located on the western side of the Parade Ground, Officers' Row was one of the first functional areas to be established at Fort Slocum. Its southern end can be traced directly back to the post's Civil War predecessor, De Camp General Hospital. During the Civil War, five officer's quarters stood roughly in the area now occupied by Buildings 2 to 6. When the Army reoccupied the post in 1878, it built the first of the present-day officer's quarters (Buildings 2, 3, and 4) in the same area as the southerly three of the earlier dwellings. Until the mid-1880s, Officers' Row extended only as far north as the lone surviving quarters from the Civil War hospital, a two-and-a-half-story wood-frame dwelling originally known as the Surgeon's Quarters (demolished circa 1890), which was located about where present-day Building 6 now stands. By the early 1880s, a dual-function wood frame building that was both a schoolhouse and a chapel had been erected about where Building 8 now stands or immediately north of it. Soon thereafter, three more wood frame buildings, a commissary sergeant's quarters, bakery, and subsistence storehouse, were built roughly where Building 9 and its neighbors to the immediate north, Buildings 10 and 11, now stand. These wood frame buildings were all extant in late September 1884, when a map showing the post's proposed waterworks was prepared (Gillespie 1884). However, by 1886 the schoolhouse-chapel had been removed to allow construction of Building 8, one of two one-story wood-frame single-family officer's quarters built in that year just north of the Surgeon's Quarters. In about 1892, the commissary sergeant's quarters, which stood about where Building 9 now stands, was removed. The nearby bakery and the subsistence storehouse were also removed around this time.

Building 9 was one of a group of officer's quarters built of brick at Fort Slocum in the early to mid-1890s. This group comprised Buildings 6 (built 1892), 1 (built 1893), and 9 and 10 (built 1895). Beginning in the mid-1880s, the Army shifted from wood frame to more durable masonry construction to erect most buildings on permanent posts throughout the country (Chattey et al. 1997; Hoagland 2004), and the use of brick to build this group of structures reflected this servicewide shift.

Buildings 9 and 10 were built to identical plans. The Quartermaster Corps property card for Building 9 records that it was constructed according to the Office of the Quartermaster General's standardized plan No. 90 (Figure 2). This plan number is among those included in the partial inventory of standardized plans assembled by Chattey et al. (1997:389), which identifies them as plans for "Double Set Officer's Quarters." Plan No. 90 is also discussed and illustrated by Hoagland (2004:219-225). Both sources refer to examples of this standardized plan that were constructed circa 1905 at Fort D.A. Russell, near Cheyenne, Wyoming (now F.E. Warren Air Force Base). Though separated in construction date by roughly ten years and by a distance of more than 1,600 miles, the presence of examples of Plan No. 90 quarters at both posts illustrates the broad geographic reach and comparative longevity of the standardized plans that were developed under the auspices of the Quartermaster General beginning in the 1890s. Like many buildings the Quartermaster Corps built in the 1890s and 1900s at Fort Slocum and throughout the country, stylistically Buildings 9 and 10 are Colonial Revival designs.

Little information is available concerning alterations that may have been made to Building 9 over its lifespan. Like other buildings on Officers' Row, the original porch balustrade was replaced with a solid half-height wall, and also like some buildings, such as Building 6, the porches were expanded by wrapping them around the corners of the building. These changes probably took place in the 1920s or 1930s.

Because of the size of the two sets of quarters, Building 9 was usually assigned as captain's quarters or field officer's quarters. Each duplex unit of Building 9 was originally given a separate designation. Around the

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 9)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 5)

time the building was constructed, they were known as Quarters A and B. By circa 1900, the designations had become 13-A (the southern unit of the duplex) and 13-B (north unit). Beginning around 1935, these officer's quarters were identified as Buildings 14 (south unit) and 15 (north unit). In the numbering system introduced in 1957, the duplex was assigned its present single number, Building 9, and the two sets of quarters were differentiated by the letters A (south unit) and B (north unit). The A-B designation has been routinely omitted in drawings prepared after the post closed.

### **PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

#### **Published Materials**

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Cavanaugh, Michael

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United States Army Quartermaster Corps

ca. 1905-41 Fort Slocum Property Cards (Form 117 and predecessors). Record Group 77. National Archives, College Park, MD.

**Maps and Drawings**

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March 1909 "Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, NY. Made by Direction of Peter Murray, Capt. and Construction Q.M." Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

July 1915 "Map of Fort Slocum, New York." Made by Direction of F.E. Smith, Capt. & Quartermaster. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 9)**

**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**

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LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)

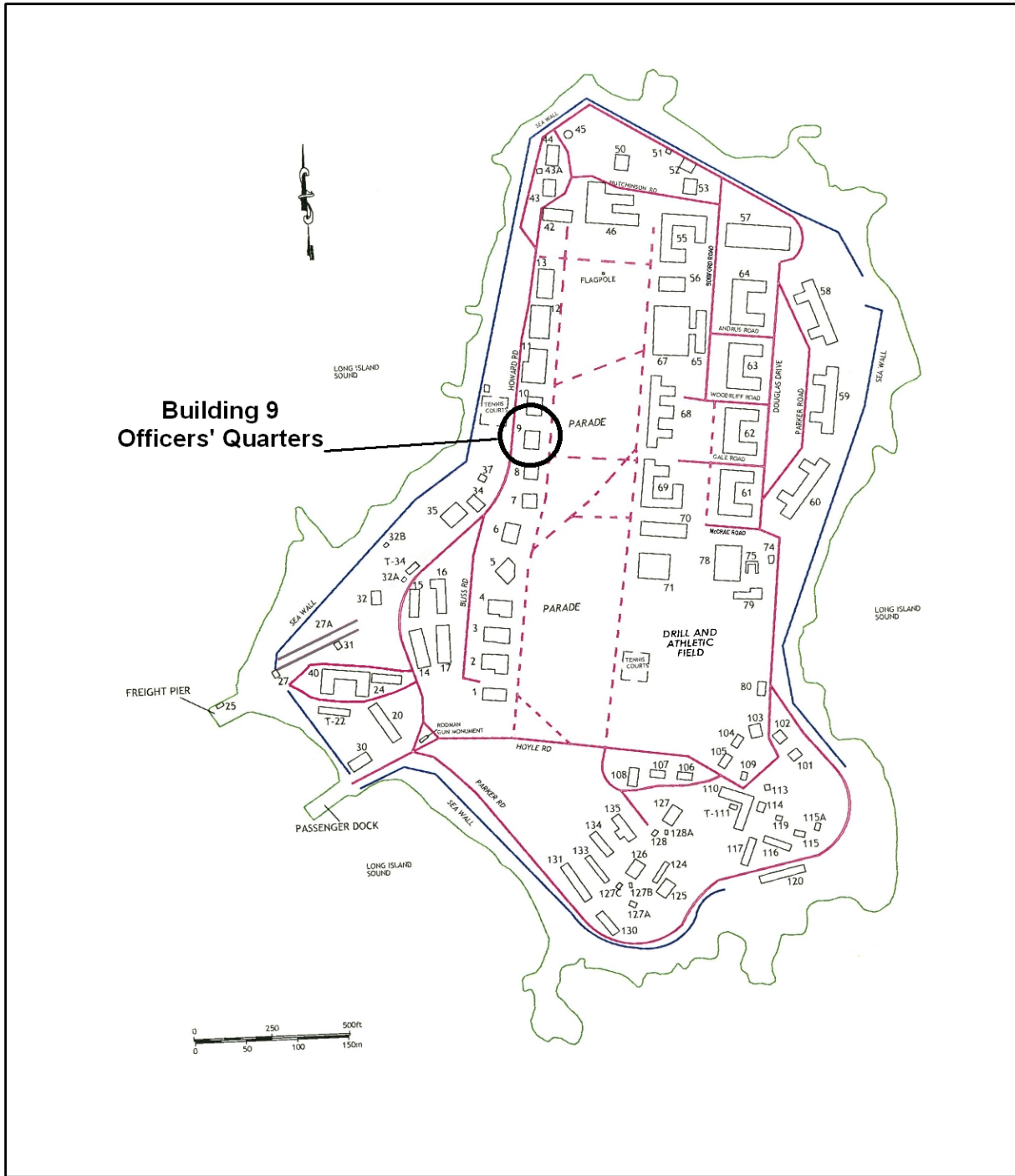
Scale: 1:24,000

1966 (Photorevised 1979)



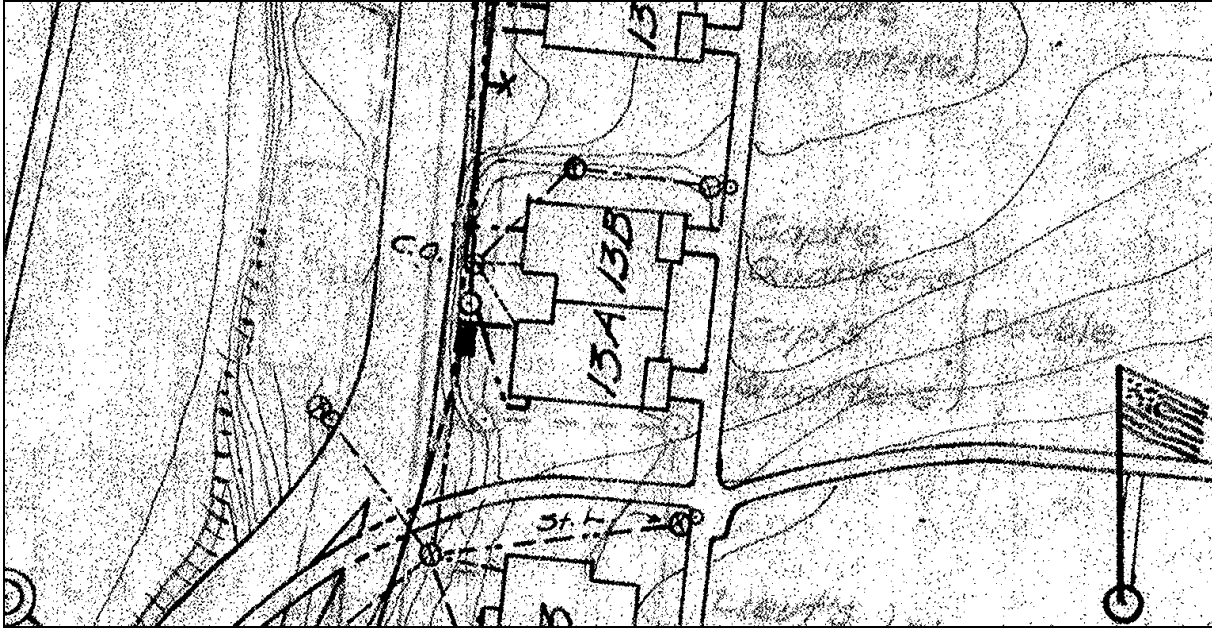
**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 9)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 8)

SITE MAP



**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 9)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 9)

Figure 1. "Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, NY," 1909, detail. Building 9 is labeled 13A-13B in this drawing. North is to top of drawing. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.






**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 9)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM  
(Page 10)**

Figure 2. Property Record, May 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

Post Plan No. \_\_\_\_\_ Building No. 14 & 15  
 O.Q.M.C.: Plan No. 90

FEB 1940



Fort Slocum, N. Y.  
 designation of building Permanent Officers' Quarters (Field)  
 Capacity 2 Families  
 total cost, \$ 16,427.98 Date completed 1895  
 Material Walls Brick Foundation Stone  
 Roof Slate Floors Wood  
 total floor area above basement, square feet 6340  
 size: Main building 33'6" x 62' Wings 11' x 23'  
 2. Ex. Magazine Feed #S-8 Newport Steam Boiler Height of first floor above (2) 11'0" x 23'  
 ground front 3'11" Rear 3'10"  
 How lighted Electrically  
 Water connections Yes  
 Sewer connections Yes  
 Gas connections None

METERS INSTALLED  
 Gas, No. None  
 Electric, No. Four  
 Oil, No. None  
 Steam, No. None  
 Water, No. None

COOKING RANGES INSTALLED  
 Coal, No. One (Army Range #3)  
 Gas, No. None  
 Electric No. Two  
 Oil, No. None  
 Steam, No. None

ADDITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS  
 (Below enter chronologically all modifications, additions, introductions of water, sewer, lights, heating, etc.)

DATE	DESCRIPTION	COST	DATE	COST
5-2-40	Total cost of repairs to June 30, 1939	\$22,512.31		
	General Repairs - Building No. 14	1,984.79		

## **HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION**

### **INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS**

#### **OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 9)**

Davids Island—Fort Slocum

New Rochelle

Westchester County

New York

Photographer: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, October 2005.

1. Northern and eastern façades, facing southwest.
2. Eastern and southern façades, facing northwest (taken December 2005).
3. Northern and western façades, facing southeast.
4. Western façade, facing east.
5. Northern façade, facing southeast.



Photo 1. Northern and eastern façades, facing southwest.



Photo 2. Eastern and southern façades, facing northwest.



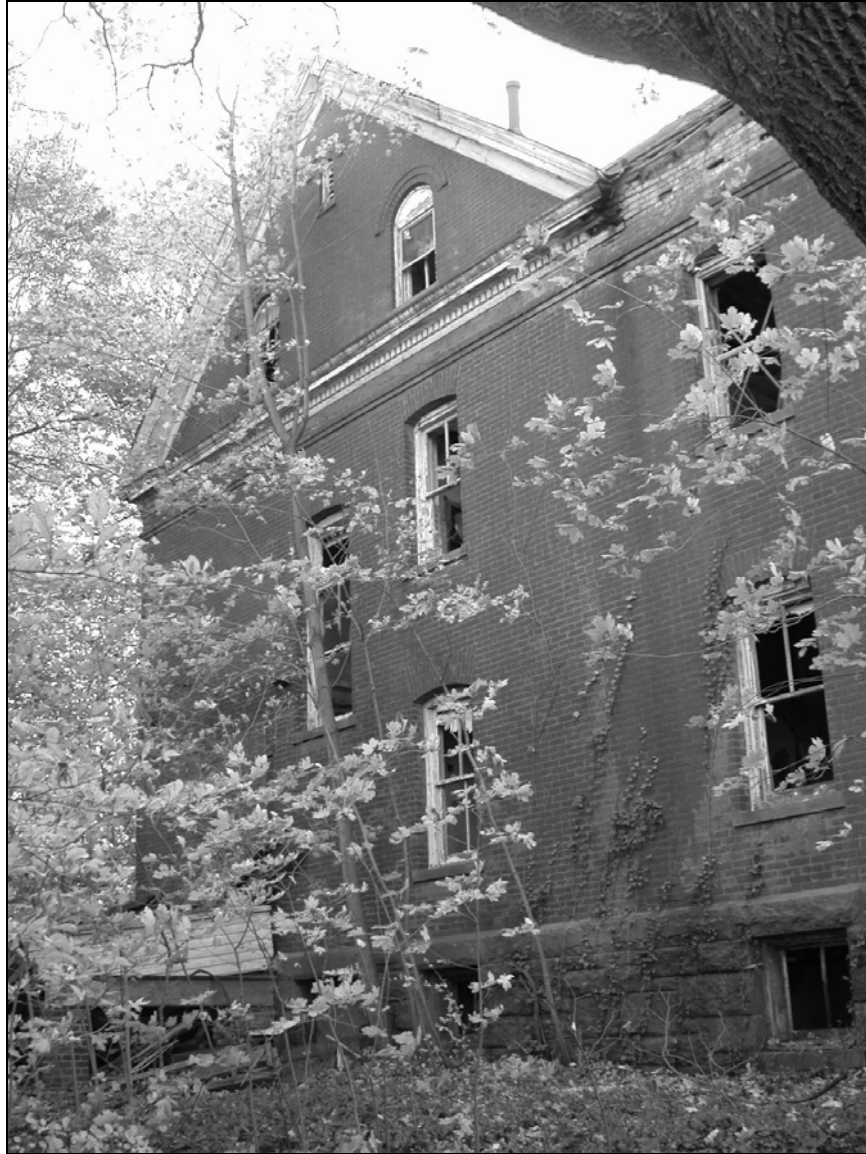
Photo 3. Northern and western façades, facing southeast.



Photo 4. Western façade, facing east.



Photo 5. Northern façade, facing southeast.



## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 10)

**Location:** Davids Island–Fort Slocum  
0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland  
USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle  
UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603527.4526728

**Present Owner(s):** City of New Rochelle, NY

**Date of Construction:** 1895

**Architect/Engineer:** U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps

**Present Use:** Abandoned when documented (2004-2007). To be demolished.

**Significance:** The Officers' Quarters (Building 10) is related to the Officers' Row Area, and the provision of residential functions in support of Fort Slocum's nineteenth- and twentieth-century military activities. The building is considered a contributing element to the Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District.

**Project Information:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (Corps), has been authorized under the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2004, to perform building demolition, debris removal, and remediation of asbestos materials (Project) at the Fort Slocum on Davids Island in the City of New Rochelle, New York. The purpose of the Project is to remove buildings and infrastructure from the abandoned fort installation that create safety hazards as part of a long-range plan to restore Davids Island for future use. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), the Corps has consulted with the New York State Historic Preservation Officer (NYSHPO) regarding the effects of the Project on historic properties. The consultation resulted in the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the Corps, NYSHPO, County of Westchester, and City of New Rochelle as consulting parties. This documentation report was prepared in accordance with Stipulation II.C.1 of the MOA.

**Prepared by:** C.L. Borstel, J.C. Sexton, R.M. Jacoby, S.B. Marshall, and C.W. Christopher  
**Title:** Cultural Resources Documentation Team  
**Affiliation:** Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ  
**Date:** May 2007 (Revision 1, May 2008)

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 10)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 2)

**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

The Officers' Quarters (Building 10) is located on the western side of Davids Island. The island is in the western portion of Long Island Sound, 0.6 miles southeast of the New Rochelle, NY, mainland and 19 miles northeast of Midtown Manhattan (Location Map and Site Map). Davids Island is a roughly pear-shaped, relatively flat landmass consisting of approximately 78 acres above mean high water. It is heavily wooded and contains the ruins of more than 100 buildings and structures associated with an abandoned U.S. Army post, Fort Slocum. The ruins include barracks and quarters; quartermaster, administrative, medical, and recreation buildings; and coastal and air defense facilities. A concrete and stone seawall encircles most of the shore, and a system of roads and paths runs throughout the island. Building 10 is part of the Officers' Row area, where commissioned officers and their families once resided.

The Officers' Quarters (Building 10) is a Colonial Revival-style, two-and-one-half-story, duplex brick building with a roughly U-shaped plan (Figures 1-6; Photos 1-4). The main façade of the building faces east; this is the bottom of the U. The building has a cross gable roof with the ridge of the main roof running north-south. Gable-roofed dormers flank the crossing gable on the eastern slope of the roof. The cross gable sits on a slightly projecting bay which was originally flanked by 1-story entry porches. Historical photographs show that the porches were originally only along the main façade but were later enlarged to wrap around their corners of the building. In the rear of the building, projecting bays at each corner sat under smaller cross gables. The roof consists of slate tile over wood sheathing and wood rafters. The roof dormers consist of slate tile on both the roof and walls with wood trim and include a flared apron. Two chimneys, constructed of brick with a corbelled brick cap, are located just inside the west wall of the two wings. Chimneys also run through the gable walls of the projecting bays in the rear of the building. The building has a brick structural system, with wood framing of the roof and interior partitions, set atop a dark gray schist ashlar foundation capped by a course of grayish-brown sandstone blocks. The exterior walls of the building are brick with red-tinted mortar. Ornamental detailing includes brick segmental arch window openings with sandstone sills and an elaborate cornice combining brick dentals with wooden molding elements. The interior consists of wood floor joists and walls, with plaster interior finishes, pressed tin ceilings and an interior brick tenant separation wall.

Currently, the building is little more than a shell. Isolated portions of the roof have collapsed. Sections of the interior floors have collapsed and plaster has fallen from the walls.

The Quartermaster Corps property card for this building includes an interior floor plan that provides room uses and dimensions circa 1940 (Figure 6).

**PART II. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

*Fort Slocum*

Davids Island is named for Thaddeus Davids (1816-1894), a New Rochelle ink manufacturer, who owned the island between 1856 and 1867. Davids was next-to-last in a line of private owners and lessees associated with the island between circa 1700 and the 1860s. During this period, the island was used primarily as farmland, but beginning probably in the 1840s, it also became a destination for excursionists who traveled by steamboat from New York and Brooklyn to picnic by the sea. The U.S. Army leased the island in 1862 and purchased it outright in 1867. In 1967, the federal government sold Davids Island to the City of New Rochelle, which sold it in turn the following year to Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. Consolidated Edison returned ownership of most of the island to the city in 1976.



**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 10)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 3)

Two U.S. Army posts successively occupied Davids Island between 1862 and 1965. The earlier post was established as De Camp General Hospital in May 1862. The hospital treated wounded Union soldiers and, from 1863 onwards, also cared for Confederate prisoners of war. After the Civil War, the Army remained on the island, apparently using the post somewhat discontinuously as a hospital, mustering-out camp, and subdepot for recruits. By the early 1870s, the hastily-built wood frame buildings of the Civil War had deteriorated badly, and in October 1874 the Army entirely withdrew from the island, beginning a hiatus in occupation of nearly four years.

The Army returned in July 1878, when Davids Island was designated as a principal depot of the General Recruiting Service, supplanting Governors Island off lower Manhattan in that role. Originally known simply as Davids Island, the Army formally named the post Fort Slocum in 1896 to honor Maj. Gen. Henry Warner Slocum (1827-1894), a prominent Union soldier and New York politician. Recruit intake and training was a primary function of the post well into the twentieth century. Fort Slocum also saw service as an overseas embarkation station; hosted Army specialty schools for bakers, transportation officers, chaplains, public affairs personnel, and military police; provided retraining for court-martialed soldiers; and was an administrative center for the Air Force. Coastal artillery batteries operated at the post around the beginning of the twentieth century. During the Cold War, Fort Slocum supported an air defense missile battery.

When the post closed in 1965, Fort Slocum's landscape integrated elements from different episodes of development into a campus-like whole. Several episodes of development were represented, particularly 1885-1910 and 1929-1940. A few wood frame buildings remained from the late 1870s and early 1880s, and at least nine such buildings represented the Second World War. However, of the more than 50 temporary wood frame buildings erected during the First World War, only a single, partial example survived. Most of the buildings at Fort Slocum followed standard Army plans, but Army personnel or outside professional architects also produced a few designs specifically for the post. The permanent buildings at Fort Slocum generally reflected conservative and eclectic interpretations of different currents in American architecture, producing an engaging mix of Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Romanesque, and Italianate styles. The temporary buildings around the post were in contrast unadorned and starkly utilitarian, as they were designed principally for speed of construction.

The period after Fort Slocum closed in November 1965 saw severe deterioration of the former Army post. The City of New Rochelle repeatedly sought to redevelop Davids Island, at one time considering a Consolidated Edison proposal to build a nuclear power plant and later supporting proposals for luxury residences. None of these plans materialized. Neglect and vandalism took a heavy toll on the former post. By the first decade of the twenty-first century, the landscape was overgrown, and the more than 100 buildings and structures that once comprised Fort Slocum were in decay and ruin.

Detailed accounts of Fort Slocum's history can be found in the general historic overview to this documentation series (Tetra Tech 2008) and in Olausen et al. (2005), among other sources.

*Officers' Quarters (Building 10)*

Building 10 is situated in the center third of Officers' Row. Located on the western side of the Parade Ground, Officers' Row was one of the first functional areas to be established at Fort Slocum. Its southern end can be traced directly back to the post's Civil War predecessor, De Camp General Hospital. During the Civil War, five officer's quarters stood roughly in the area now occupied by Buildings 2 to 6. When the Army reoccupied the post in 1878, it built the first of the present-day officer's quarters (Buildings 2, 3, and 4) in the

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 10)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 4)

same area as the southerly three of the earlier dwellings. Until the mid-1880s, Officers' Row extended only as far north as the lone surviving quarters from the Civil War hospital, a two-and-a-half-story wood-frame dwelling originally known as the Surgeon's Quarters (demolished circa 1890), which was located about where present-day Building 6 now stands. By the early 1880s, a dual-function wood frame building that was both a schoolhouse and a chapel had been erected about where Building 8 now stands or immediately north of it. Soon thereafter, three more wood frame buildings, a commissary sergeant's quarters, bakery, and subsistence storehouse, were built roughly where Building 10 and its neighbors, Buildings 9 and 11, now stand. These wood frame buildings were all extant in late September 1884, when a map showing the post's proposed waterworks was prepared (Gillespie 1884). However, by 1886 the schoolhouse-chapel had been removed to allow construction of Building 8, one of two one-story wood-frame single-family officer's quarters built in that year just north of the Surgeon's Quarters. In about 1892, the commissary sergeant's quarters, which stood about where Building 9 now stands, was removed. The nearby bakery and the subsistence storehouse were also removed around this time.

Building 10 was one of a group of officer's quarters built of brick at Fort Slocum in the early to mid-1890s. This group comprised Buildings 6 (built 1892), 1 (built 1893), and 9 and 10 (built 1895). Beginning in the mid-1880s, the Army shifted from wood frame to more durable masonry construction to erect most buildings on permanent posts throughout the country (Chattey et al. 1997; Hoagland 2004), and the use of brick to build this group of structures reflected this servicewide shift.

Buildings 9 and 10 were built to identical plans. Although no standard plan is indicated on the Quartermaster Corps property card for Building 10 (Figure 5), the identity of Buildings 9 and 10 is readily apparent, and is confirmed by an annotation on Murray (1915), recording that both buildings were constructed according to the Office of the Quartermaster General's standardized plan No. 90 (Figure 2). This plan number is among those included in the partial inventory of standardized plans assembled by Chattey et al. (1997:389), which identifies them as plans for "Double Set Officer's Quarters." Plan No. 90 is also discussed and illustrated by Hoagland (2004:219-225). Both sources refer to examples of this standardized plan that were constructed circa 1905 at Fort D.A. Russell, near Cheyenne, Wyoming (now F.E. Warren Air Force Base). Though separated in construction date by roughly ten years and by a distance of more than 1,600 miles, the presence of examples of Plan No. 90 quarters at both posts illustrates the broad geographic reach and comparative longevity of the standardized plans that were developed under the auspices of the Quartermaster General beginning in the 1890s. Like many buildings the Quartermaster Corps built in the 1890s and 1900s at Fort Slocum and throughout the country, stylistically Buildings 9 and 10 are Colonial Revival designs.

Little information is available concerning alterations that may have been made to Building 10 over its lifespan. Like other buildings on Officers' Row, the original porch balustrade was replaced with a solid half-height wall, and also like some buildings, such as Building 6, the porches were expanded by wrapping them around the corners of the building. These changes probably took place in the 1920s or 1930s (Figures 4-5).

Because of the size of the two sets of quarters, Building 10 was usually assigned as captain's quarters or field officer's quarters. Each duplex unit of Building 10 was originally given a separate designation. Around the time the building was constructed, they were known as Quarters C and D. By circa 1900, the designations had become 13-C (the southern unit of the duplex) and 13-D (north unit). Beginning around 1935, these officer's quarters were identified as Buildings 16 (south unit) and 17 (north unit). In the numbering system introduced in 1957, the duplex was assigned its present single number, Building 10, and the two sets of quarters were differentiated by the letters A (south unit) and B (north unit). The A-B designation has been routinely omitted in drawings prepared after the post closed.

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

#### Published Materials

Chattey, Paul, Horace Foxall, Flossie McQueen, Cynthia Nielsen, Mary Shipe, Terri Taylor, and Jamie Tippet

- 1997 *Context Study of the United States Quartermaster General Standardized Plans, 1866-1942.* Prepared for the U.S. Army Environmental Center, Environmental Compliance Division, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Technical Center of Expertise for Preservation of Structures and Buildings, Seattle, Washington. Accessed online, January 15, 2007, at <http://handle.dtic.mil/100.2/ADA352432>.

Hoagland, Alison K.

- 2004 *Army Architecture in the West: Forts Laramie, Bridger, and D.A. Russell, 1849-1912.* University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Nichols, Herbert B.

- 1938 *Historic New Rochelle.* Board of Education, New Rochelle, NY.

#### Unpublished Materials

Appiarius, John C.

- 1941 "Report of Inspection of Fort Slocum, N.Y." 10 November 1941. Record Group 92, Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives and Records, College Park, MD.

Cavanaugh, Michael

- 2007 *What Is, What Was, and What Was NOT: A Companion to the 2005 Davids Island Footage.* May 2007 version. Unpublished ms in possession of author, Los Angeles, CA.

Olausen, Stephen, Matthew Kierstead, and Jeffrey Emidy

- 2005 *Historic Architectural Survey and National Register Evaluation, Davids Island/Fort Slocum New Rochelle, New York.* Prepared for Tetra Tech FW, Inc., Morris Plains, New Jersey, by PAL, Inc., Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Tetra Tech EC, Inc.

- 2008 "Fort Slocum: Overview." In *Historic Building Documentation, Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District, Davids Island, City of New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York*, Volume 1. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Concord, Massachusetts, by Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Boston.

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 10)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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United States Army Quartermaster Corps

ca. 1905-41 Fort Slocum Property Cards (Form 117 and predecessors). Record Group 77. National Archives, College Park, MD.

**Maps and Drawings**

September 1884 "Map Showing Lines of Water Pipes of Proposed Water Works at Davids Island N.Y.H., Sept. 27th, 1884." Inscribed "U.S. Eng'r. Office, New York City, Jan'y. 15th, 1885, to accompany letter of this date." Signed by G.L. Gillespie, Maj. Of Eng'rs. Bvt. Lieut. Col. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

March 1909 "Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, NY. Made by Direction of Peter Murray, Capt. and Construction Q.M." Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

July 1915 "Map of Fort Slocum, New York." Made by Direction of F.E. Smith, Capt. & Quartermaster. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 10)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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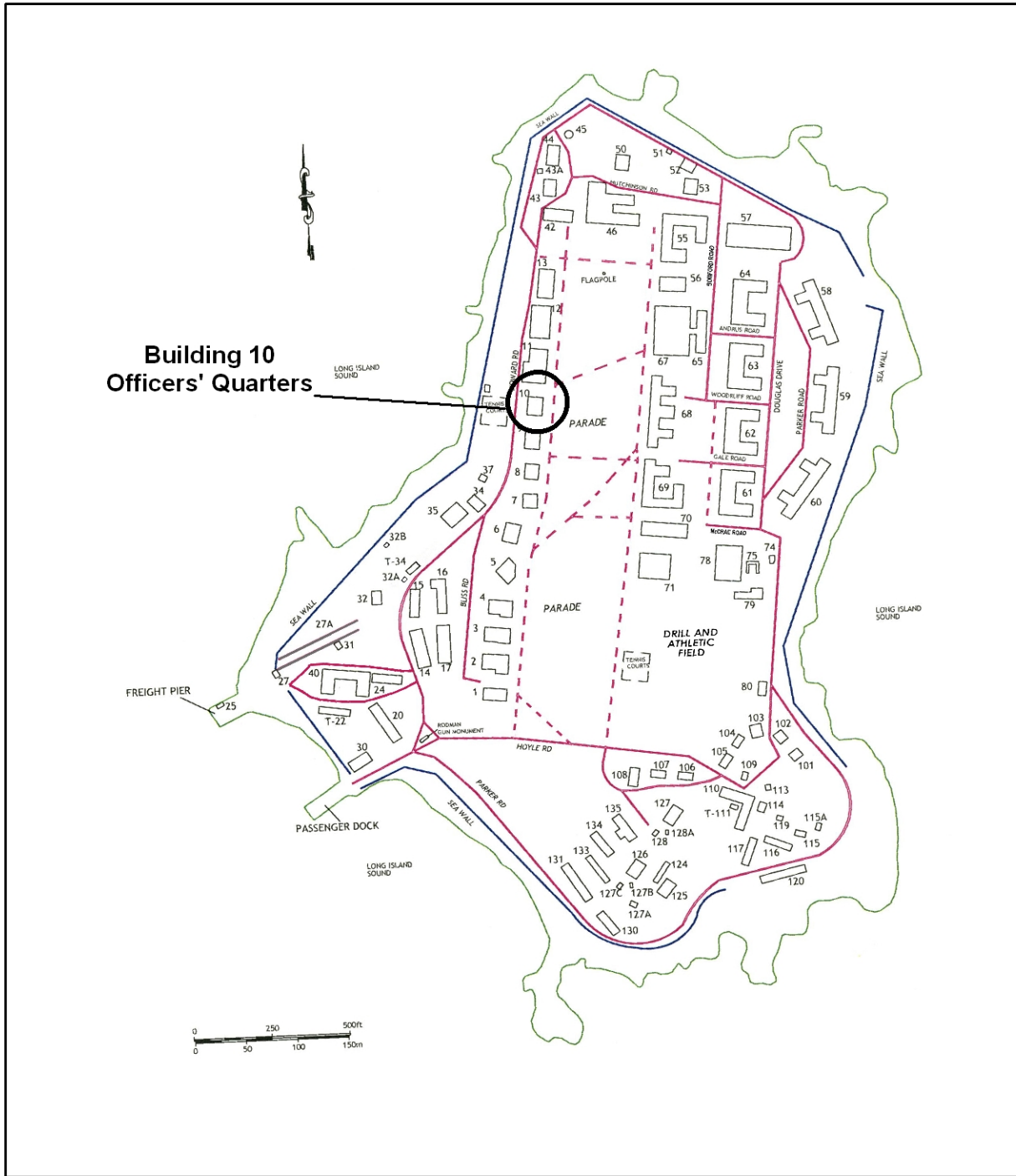
LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)  
Scale: 1:24,000  
1966 (Photorevised 1979)





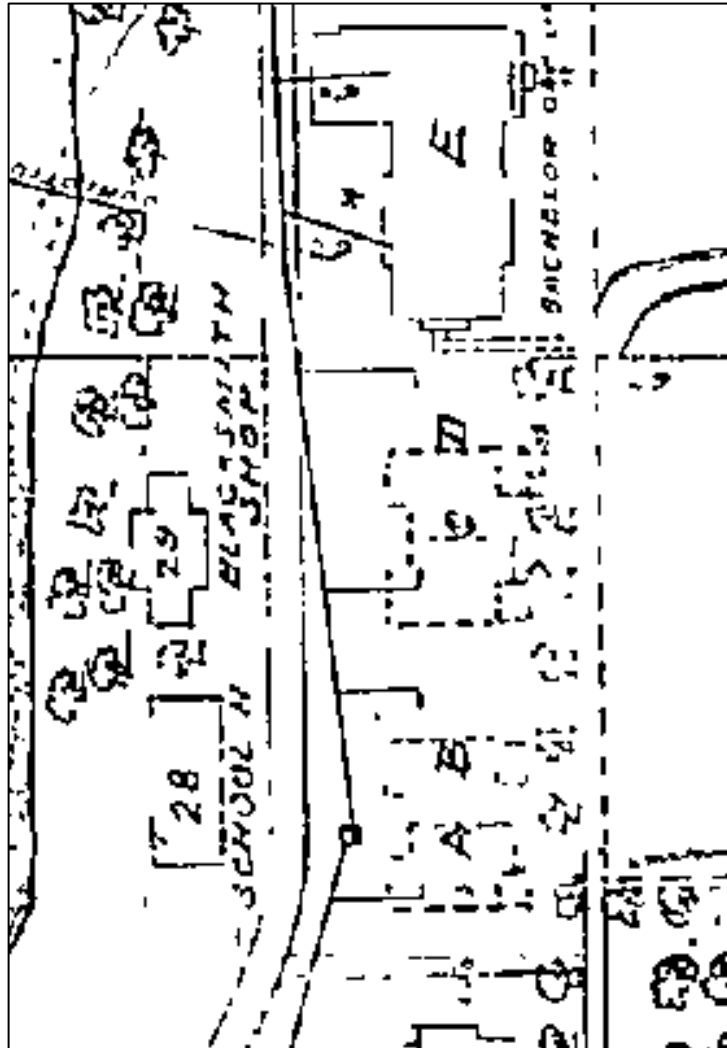
**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 10)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 8)

SITE MAP



**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 10)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 9)

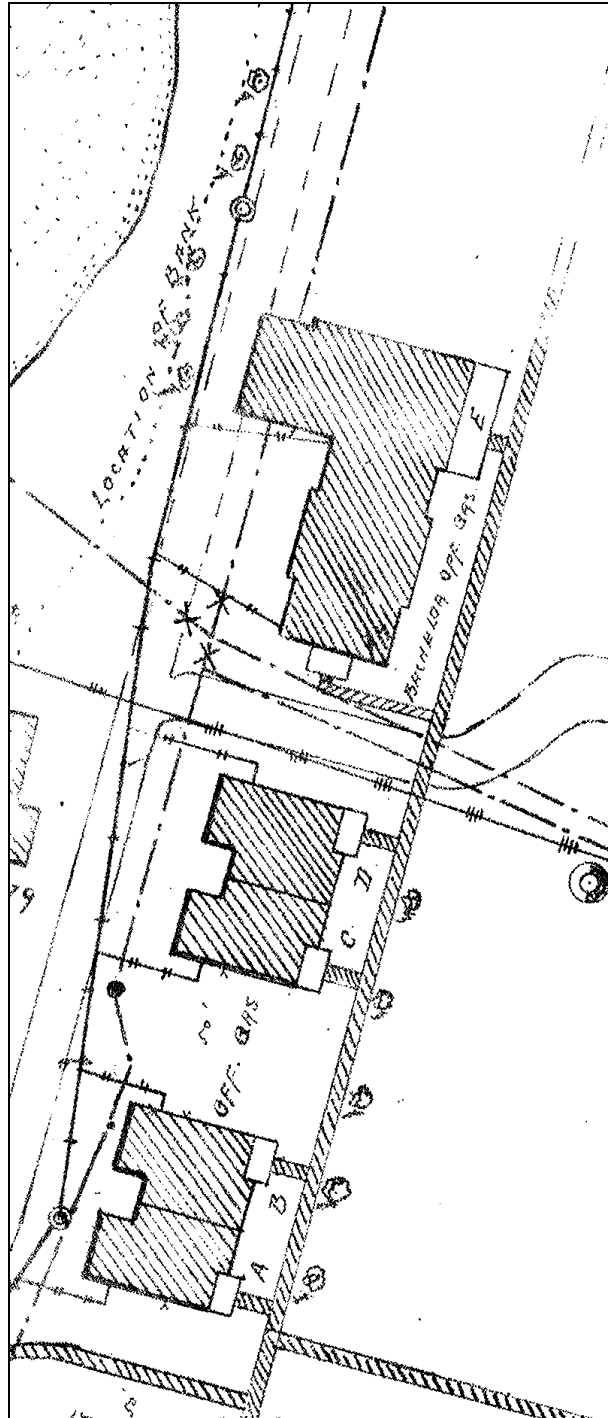
Figure 1. "Map of Davids Island, New York," 1893, detail. Building 10 is labeled Building C-D, at right center of image. North is to top of drawing. Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.





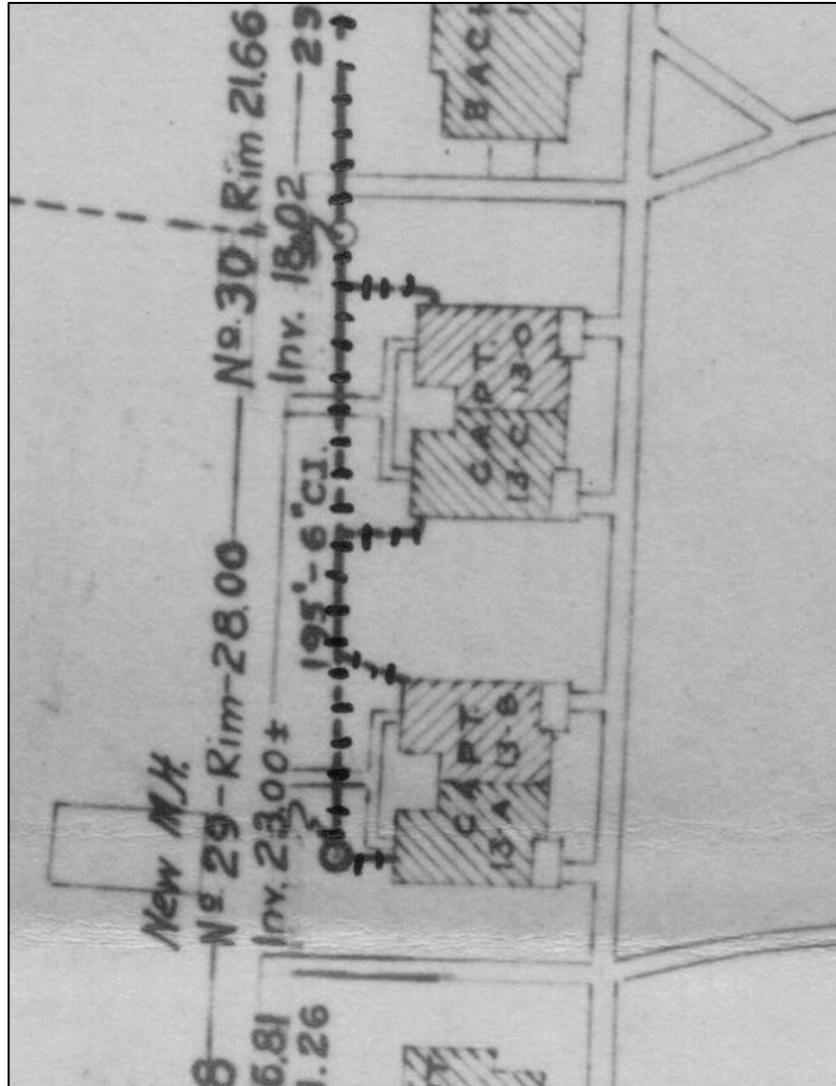
**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 10)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 2. "Map of Davids Island, New York Harbor, U.S. Military Reservation," 1894, detail. Building 10 is labeled Building C-D near center of image. North is to top of drawing. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 10)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 11)

Figure 3. "Fort Slocum, New York: Reconstruction of Sewerage System, General Layout." Revisions of April 29, 1933 map, detail. Building 10 is labeled "Capt. 13C-13D." North is to top of drawing. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 10)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 4. Inventory photo, circa 1920. Note that this image was taken prior to the enlargement of the porches; compare with Figure 5. View northwest. Record Group 111, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 10)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM  
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Figure 5. Property Record, May 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

Post Plan No. .... Building No. 16 & 17  
O.Q.M.G.: Plan No. .... SEP 1939



SEP 1939

Place **FORT SLOCUM, NEW YORK.**  
 Designation of building **Permanent Officers' Quarters (Field)** Capacity **2 Families.**  
 Total cost, \$16,918.15 Date completed **1895**  
 Material: Walls **Brick** Foundation **Stone**  
 Roof **Slate** Floors **Wood**  
 Total floor area above basement, square feet **6,340**  
 Size: Main building **33'6" x 52'0"** Basements **3'6" x 52'0"**  
 a. (2) Well **McLain Boiler # M-8-S-6** Wings (2) **11 x 23 Ft.** Height of first floor above ground **4'0"** @ Rear, **3'4"** @ Front  
 b. **Steam (Coal Operated)** (Type of heat) **Electrically**  
 c. (2) **Pierce Butler & Pierce Coal Heaters # PG-10** Water connections **Yes**  
 (Type of domestic hot water heater) **Gas connections None**

**COOKING RANGES INSTALLED**  
 Coal, No. **One**  
 Gas, No. **None**  
 Electric No. **Two**  
 Oil, No. **None**  
 Steam, No. **None**

**METERS INSTALLED**  
 Gas, No. **None**  
 Electric, No. **Four**  
 Oil, No. **None**  
 Steam, No. **None**  
 Water, No. **None**

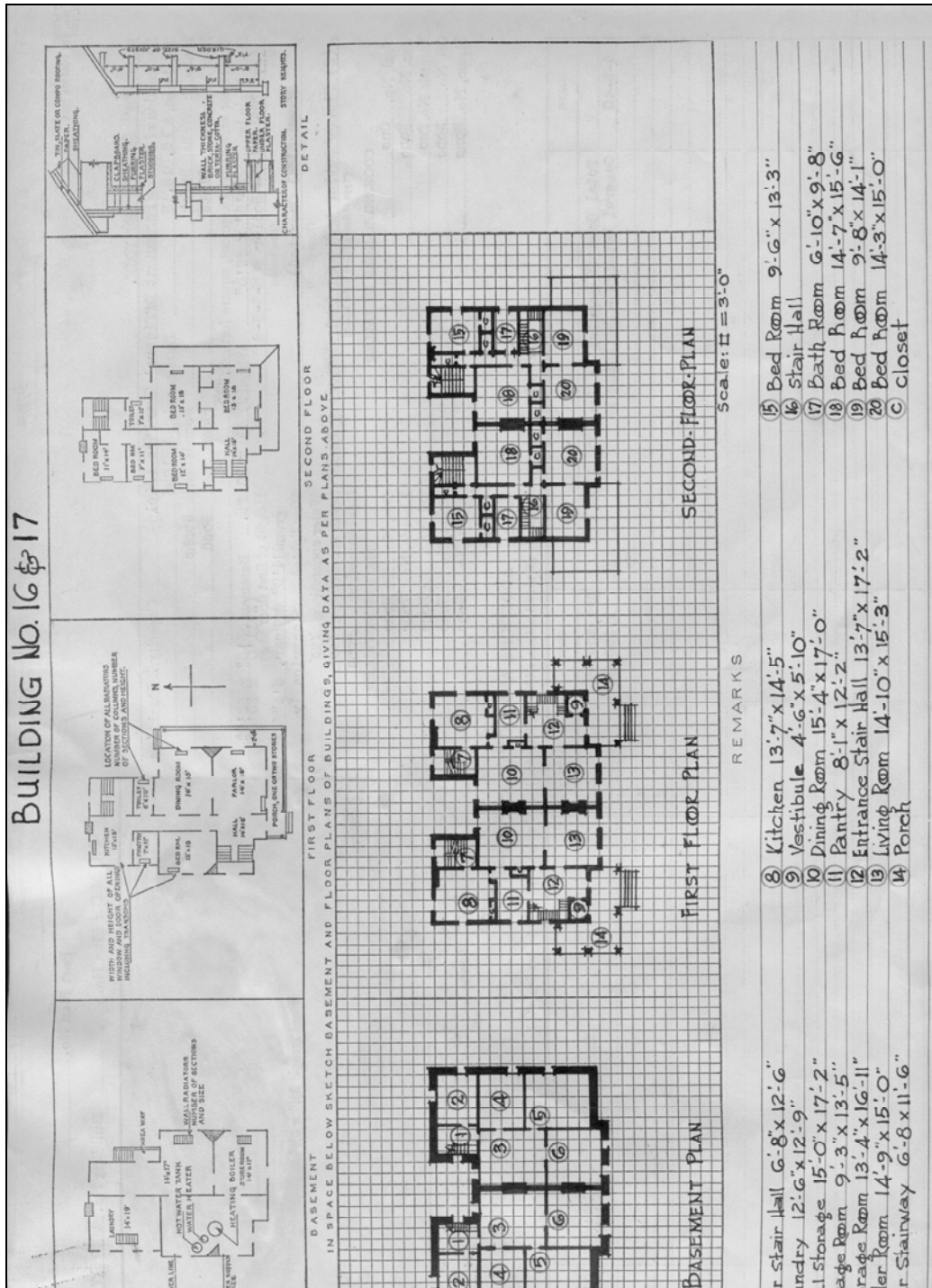
**ADDITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS**  
 (Below enter chronologically all modifications, additions, introductions of water, sewer, lights, heating, etc.)

DATE	COST	DATE
6-3-40	Total Cost of Repairs to June 30, 1939. General Repairs - Building 17	\$21,399.32 1,290.64

SEP 1939

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 10)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM  
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Figure 6. Property Record, May 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



## **HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION**

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#### **OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 10)**

Dauids Island—Fort Slocum

New Rochelle

Westchester County

New York

Photographer: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, October 2005.

1. Northern façade, facing southwest.
2. Southern façade, facing northeast.
3. Southern façade, facing north.
4. Southern and western façades, facing northwest (taken December 2005).

Photo 1. Northern façade, facing southwest.

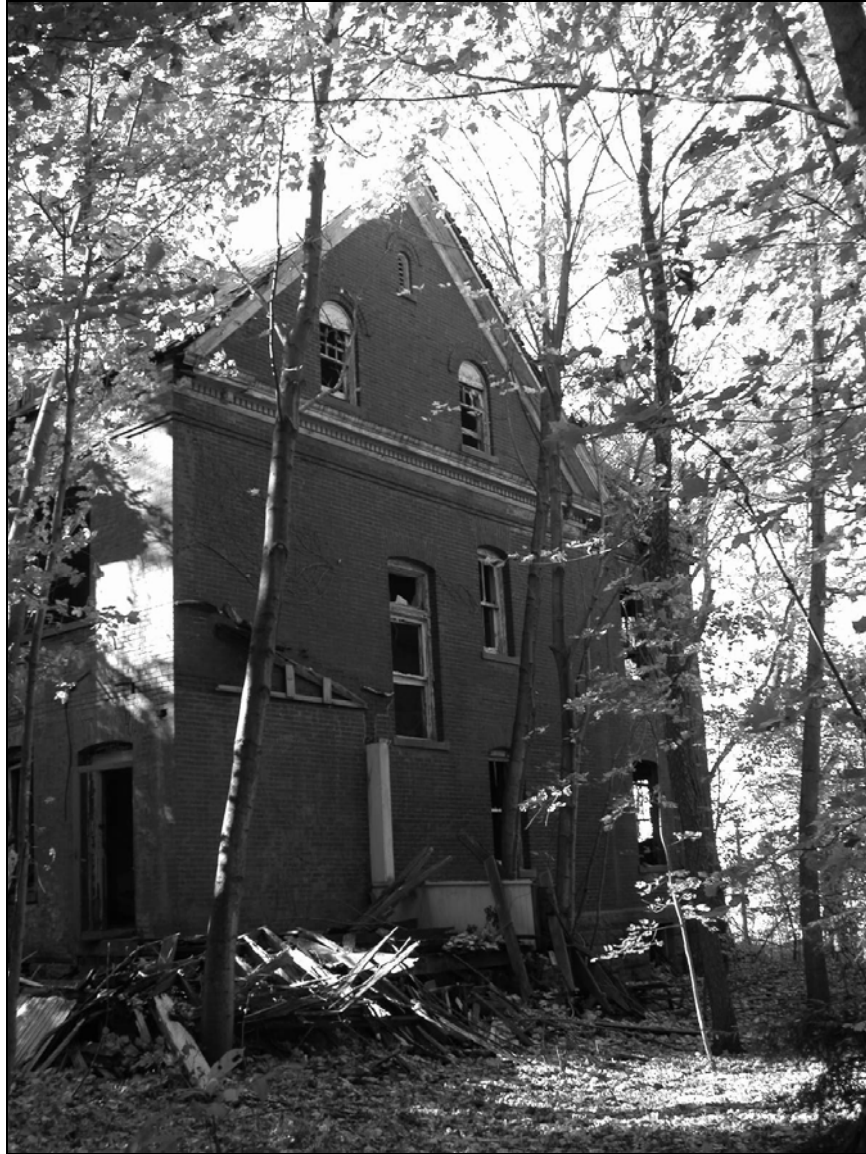




Photo 2. Southern façade, facing northeast.



Photo 3. Southern façade, facing north.

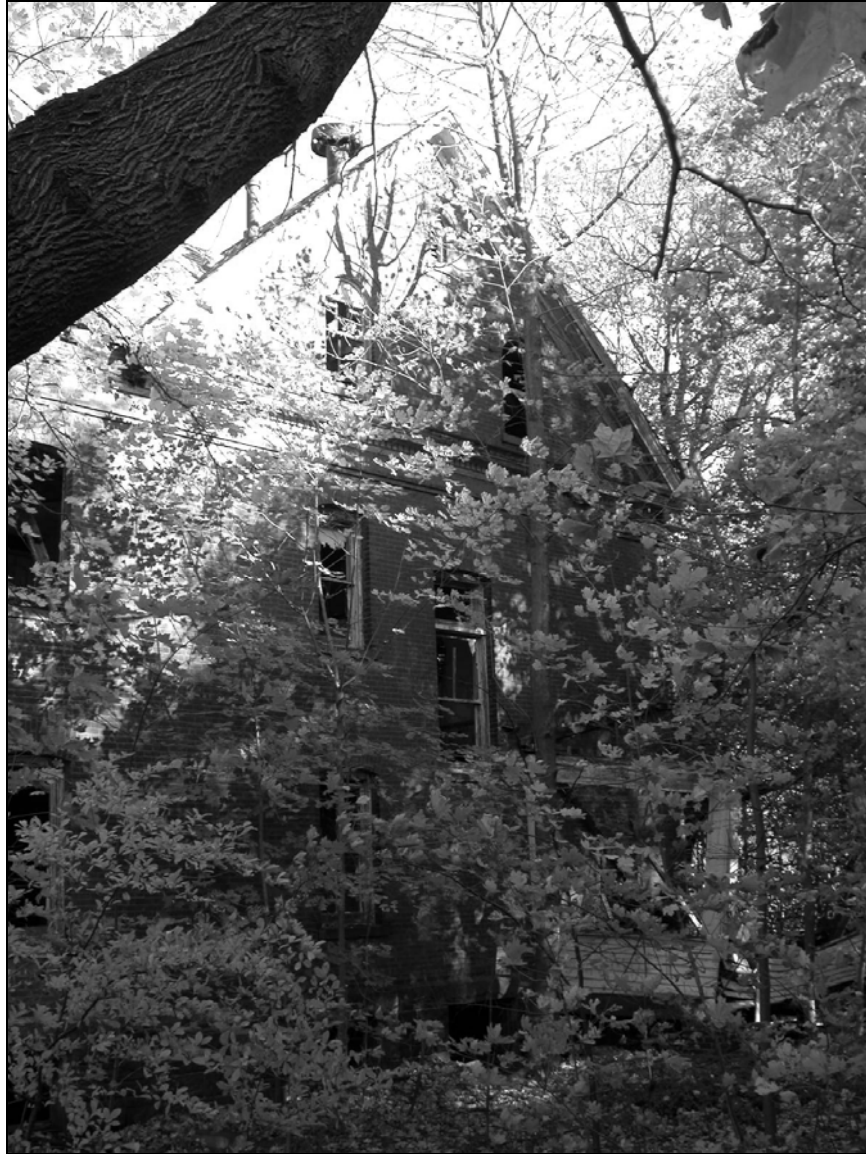


Photo 4. Southern and western façades, facing northwest.



## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### OFFICERS' MESS (BUILDING 11)

**Location:** Davids Island–Fort Slocum  
0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland  
USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle  
UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603526.4526767

**Present Owner(s):** City of New Rochelle, NY

**Date of Construction:** circa 1893, expanded circa 1939 and 1955

**Architect/Engineer:** U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps

**Present Use:** Abandoned when documented (2004-2007). To be demolished.

**Significance:** The Officers' Mess (Building 11) is related to the Officers' Row Area, and the provision of residential functions in support of Fort Slocum's nineteenth- and twentieth-century military activities. The building is considered a contributing element to the proposed Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District.

**Project Information:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (Corps), has been authorized under the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2004, to perform building demolition, debris removal, and remediation of asbestos materials (Project) at the Fort Slocum on Davids Island in the City of New Rochelle, New York. The purpose of the Project is to remove buildings and infrastructure from the abandoned fort installation that create safety hazards as part of a long-range plan to restore Davids Island for future use. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), the Corps has consulted with the New York State Historic Preservation Officer (NYSHPO) regarding the effects of the Project on historic properties. The consultation resulted in the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the Corps, NYSHPO, County of Westchester, and City of New Rochelle as consulting parties. This documentation report was prepared in accordance with Stipulation II.C.1 of the MOA.

**Prepared by:** C.L. Borstel, J.C. Sexton, R.M. Jacoby, S.B. Marshall, and C.W. Christopher  
**Title:** Cultural Resources Documentation Team  
**Affiliation:** Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ  
**Date:** May 2007 (Revision 1, May 2008)

## **PART I. DESCRIPTION**

The Officers' Mess (Building 11) is located on the western side of Davids Island. The island is in the western portion of Long Island Sound, 0.6 miles southeast of the New Rochelle, NY, mainland and 19 miles northeast of Midtown Manhattan (Location Map and Site Map). Davids Island is a roughly pear-shaped, relatively flat landmass consisting of approximately 78 acres above mean high water. It is heavily wooded and contains the ruins of more than 100 buildings and structures associated with an abandoned U.S. Army post, Fort Slocum. The ruins include barracks and quarters; quartermaster, administrative, medical, and recreation buildings; and coastal and air defense facilities. A concrete and stone seawall encircles most of the shore, and a system of roads and paths runs throughout the island. Building 11 stands near the northern end of the Officers' Row area. Most of Officers' Row was occupied by quarters that housed officers and their families, but it also included the Officers' Mess (originally the Bachelor Officers' Quarters) and the Administration Building (Building 13).

Building 11 has a roughly rectangular footprint. Its main façade faces the Parade Ground to the east, but there are also important secondary entrances on the south end of the building (Figures 1-8). The building was gutted by fire in 1979 (Cavanaugh 2007a). It is now a ruined brick shell because the interior flooring burned away and the roof collapsed during the fire. Window sashes, doors and door frames, and the porch on the north end of the main façade are all now gone as well (Photos 1-5). Although the majority of the building's walls remain, some sections have collapsed, including the northern gable on the main façade, much of the north wall above the first floor level, and portions of the 1950s addition at the rear. The interior of the building is open to the sky from the cornice to the basement in original part of the building and to the ground-level grade (possible foundation slab) in the 1950s addition. The basement in the original section of the building contains brick piers that formerly supported the main wood beams beneath the first floor level. A few charred sections of these beams remain in place. Steel beams span the width of the one-story addition above the height of the windows. Some of these beams have fallen from their original positions. The building's foundation floors are littered with masonry debris, pipes, and charred building materials. Young trees, shrubs, and leaf litter obscure much of the interior of the building shell.

Historic photographs, maps, and documents show that as Building 11 existed when Fort Slocum closed in 1965, the main section of the building was a two-and-a-half story brick structure of Romanesque Revival design (Figures 4-5 and 8). Overall, the building consisted of three easily-distinguished units that represented three phases of construction. The main section of the building, constructed circa 1893, faced the Parade Ground and comprised the eastern and northern façades. This part of the building was L-shaped, with the two legs of the L intersecting at the northeastern corner of the building. A one-story dependency approximately one bay long, also part of the building's original construction, extended from the east-west leg of L at its western end. The second section of the building was a short two-story addition dating to circa 1939 at the southern end of the original building's north-south leg. This section was stepped back from the main façade line of the building by several feet, and it faced south (Figure 5). The form of this addition was a simple block attached to the end of the original building. The addition was comparatively plain except for an ornate pair of side-by-side Colonial Revival entrances on the south side. The third section, which was constructed in the mid-1950s, was a broad, one-story addition that made little effort to harmonize with the original Romanesque Revival design. This section of the building had a low gabled front that filled most of the area in the angle of the L to the south and west of the original building. Its façades were smooth and unadorned, and through the use of steel framing, it had an open interior free of internal bearing walls or columns.

Owing in part to the two additions to the building but also to its original Romanesque Revival style, the form of the roof was somewhat complex (Figure 8). The original L-plan building had a hipped north-south leg that

**OFFICERS' MESS (BUILDING 11)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 3)

was interrupted by a cross-gable at about the mid-point of the leg and intersected a second cross-gable that roofed over the main section of the building's east-west leg. In addition to the large cross dormers, this section of the building had three small subsidiary dormers, at the southern end and on the northern and western sides of the roof. The western one-story dependency was covered by a hipped roof, as was a porch at the building's northeastern corner. The southern two-story addition had a flat or nearly flat roof. All of these roof elements were apparently framed in wood and clad with slate shingles, except for northeastern porch, whose cladding is undetermined. The 1950s addition had a low-pitch gabled roof, framed in steel and probably clad with asphalt.

The original building and the circa-1939 addition were constructed with brick walls constructed atop a dark gray schist ashlar foundation walls capped by a water table of grayish brown sandstone. Romanesque Revival elements in the building's original façades included parapetted cross dormers with small bipartite or tripartite arched window openings, segmental arch window openings on the second floor, small subsidiary dormers set into the roof at several places, and use of a hipped roof line (Figure 4). The corners of the gables were accented by dark red terracotta blocks with a curled, foliate design. All window openings had sills of sandstone that matched the material used for the water table. A large porch, which by the 1960s was enclosed, marked the main eastern entrance to the building at its northeastern corner. On the circa-1939 addition, plain rectangular window openings with concrete sills were employed. The adjoining entrances on the south side were approached by short, conjoined stairways of brick with schist ashlar block sidewalls. The elaborate Colonial Revival entrances were constructed of wood and included a portico with a curved underside and large fanlight, rectangular lintels, 5-pane sidelights, and 3 by 5-pane wood exterior doors. The circa-1955 addition connected to the original part of Building 11 on the south side of the east-west leg, leaving a narrow blind alley between the addition and the west side of the north-south leg. The addition was constructed of concrete blocks with an exterior brick veneer on concrete sills. It appears to be a slab-on-grade structure. The façades of this section of the building were plain and the window and door openings were large rectangles with brick sills. The windows had steel frames.

The Quartermaster Corps property record for this building comprises several cards, and the currently available material includes only those cards for the circa-1939 addition, of which there were two, one of which is included as Figures 6 and 7.

## **PART II. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

### *Fort Slocum*

Davids Island is named for Thaddeus Davids (1816-1894), a New Rochelle ink manufacturer, who owned the island between 1856 and 1867. Davids was next-to-last in a line of private owners and lessees associated with the island between circa 1700 and the 1860s. During this period, the island was used primarily as farmland, but beginning probably in the 1840s, it also became a destination for excursionists who traveled by steamboat from New York and Brooklyn to picnic by the sea. The U.S. Army leased the island in 1862 and purchased it outright in 1867. In 1967, the federal government sold Davids Island to the City of New Rochelle, which sold it in turn the following year to Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. Consolidated Edison returned ownership of most of the island to the city in 1976.

Two U.S. Army posts successively occupied Davids Island between 1862 and 1965. The earlier post was established as De Camp General Hospital in May 1862. The hospital treated wounded Union soldiers and, from 1863 onwards, also cared for Confederate prisoners of war. After the Civil War, the Army remained on

**OFFICERS' MESS (BUILDING 11)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 4)

the island, apparently using the post somewhat discontinuously as a hospital, mustering-out camp, and subdepot for recruits. By the early 1870s, the hastily-built wood frame buildings of the Civil War had deteriorated badly, and in October 1874 the Army entirely withdrew from the island, beginning a hiatus in occupation of nearly four years.

The Army returned in July 1878, when Davids Island was designated as a principal depot of the General Recruiting Service, supplanting Governors Island off lower Manhattan in that role. Originally known simply as Davids Island, the Army formally named the post Fort Slocum in 1896 to honor Maj. Gen. Henry Warner Slocum (1827-1894), a prominent Union soldier and New York politician. Recruit intake and training was a primary function of the post well into the twentieth century. Fort Slocum also saw service as an overseas embarkation station; hosted Army specialty schools for bakers, transportation officers, chaplains, public affairs personnel, and military police; provided retraining for court-martialed soldiers; and was an administrative center for the Air Force. Coastal artillery batteries operated at the post around the beginning of the twentieth century. During the Cold War, Fort Slocum supported an air defense missile battery.

When the post closed in 1965, Fort Slocum's landscape integrated elements from different episodes of development into a campus-like whole. Several episodes of development were represented, particularly 1885-1910 and 1929-1940. A few wood frame buildings remained from the late 1870s and early 1880s, and at least nine such buildings represented the Second World War. However, of the more than 50 temporary wood frame buildings erected during the First World War, only a single, partial example survived. Most of the buildings at Fort Slocum followed standard Army plans, but Army personnel or outside professional architects also produced a few designs specifically for the post. The permanent buildings at Fort Slocum generally reflected conservative and eclectic interpretations of different currents in American architecture, producing an engaging mix of Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Romanesque, and Italianate styles. The temporary buildings around the post were in contrast unadorned and starkly utilitarian, as they were designed principally for speed of construction.

The period after Fort Slocum closed in November 1965 saw severe deterioration of the former Army post. The City of New Rochelle repeatedly sought to redevelop Davids Island, at one time considering a Consolidated Edison proposal to build a nuclear power plant and later supporting proposals for luxury residences. None of these plans materialized. Neglect and vandalism took a heavy toll on the former post. By the first decade of the twenty-first century, the landscape was overgrown, and the more than 100 buildings and structures that once comprised Fort Slocum were in decay and ruin.

Detailed accounts of Fort Slocum's history can be found in the general historic overview to this documentation series (Tetra Tech 2008) and in Olausen et al. (2005), among other sources.

*Officers' Mess (Building 11)*

Building 11 is situated near the northern end of Officers' Row. Officers' Row was one of the first functional areas to be established at Fort Slocum, and its southern end can be traced directly back to the post's Civil War predecessor, De Camp General Hospital. When the Army reoccupied the post in 1878, it built the first of the present-day officer's quarters (Buildings 2, 3, and 4) in the same area as the southerly three of the earlier dwellings. Until the mid-1880s, Officers' Row extended only as far north as the lone surviving quarters from the Civil War hospital, a two-and-a-half-story wood-frame dwelling originally known as the Surgeon's Quarters (demolished circa 1890), which was located about where present-day Building 6 now stands. In the early 1880s, a chapel, commissary sergeant's quarters, bakery, and commissary storehouse stood north of the



**OFFICERS' MESS (BUILDING 11)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 5)

Surgeon's Quarters, but they were not functionally part of Officers' Row. Building 11 stands about where the wood frame commissary storehouse was formerly located. Beginning with the construction of two single-family quarters beyond the Surgeon's Quarters in 1886 (present-day Buildings 7 and 8), Officers' Row was extended to the north. The Army added three multi-unit quarters, Buildings 9, 10, and 11, to the row further north in the mid-1890s. These buildings were all constructed of brick and were built soon after the Army undertook a shift from wood frame to more durable masonry construction on permanent posts throughout the country. The final two buildings in this line, another apartment-style quarters (Building 12) and the Administration Building (Building 13), were built at the northern end of the row in 1909-1910.

Building 11 was constructed in circa 1893 as a bachelor officers' quarters. These quarters were provided for unmarried officers and for those stationed at a post without their families. According to Chattey et al. (1997:227), bachelor officers' quarters developed as a distinct building type in the 1880s and 1890s after the Army began to construct duplex and single-family officer's quarters according to standardized designs, and Quartermaster General issued the first standard plan for bachelor officers' quarters in 1891. Each permanent post usually had one set of such quarters, and they typically contained sleeping rooms, sitting rooms, dining room, and rooms for recreation. Little is currently known about the original design of Building 11 beyond what can be observed in the present building ruin. An annotation on Smith's (1915) plan of Fort Slocum shows that its design followed Office of the Quartermaster General's Standardized Plan No. 89. This plan number is not among those included in the partial inventory of standardized plans assembled by Chattey et al. (1997), and Hoagland (2004) does not discuss any similar building in her study of Army architecture. Similarly, no information is currently available about the designs of either of the additions.

It is not clear whether the original floor plan of Building 11 followed the pattern of typical bachelor officers' quarters described above, with individual private bedrooms and communal dining and activity rooms. In 1909, the building was described as "Bachelor Officers Quarters with Mess" (Figure 2), suggesting that a mess open to all officers on the post was operating in the building by this time. By the late 1930s, the Quartermaster Corps property cards appear to indicate that there were at least two separate apartments for officers of field-grade rank permanently assigned to Fort Slocum (Figure 6). It is not clear whether the circa 1939 addition at the south end of the building represented an alteration to existing apartments or whether the apartments were created by the addition coupled with the remodeling of space previously used in other ways. By 1943, Building 11 contained the Officers' Club, but the date it moved into the building is unknown, and it is not clear how much of the building the club actually occupied. The addition built in the 1950s expanded the space available for the Officers' Mess and available to the Officers' Club by creating a large function room that could be used for dinners, dances, meetings, and the like (Cavanaugh 2007a). In the 1950s, the Officers' Mess occupied the first floor of Building 11 and the Officers' Club, which comprised a lounge and bar, was on the second floor. During the late 1950s a room was set aside in the Officers' Club for children's recreation, and it was equipped with a color TV. Unlike most activities for children at Fort Slocum, this TV was strictly for the use of officers' families (Cavanaugh 2007b). In the absence of floor plans, it remains unclear how the Building 11 was divided up among club, mess, and bachelor officers' quarters during this period.

Aside from the two aforementioned additions, other changes to the building included alterations to the front porch at the northeastern corner. Originally this porch had an open balustrade and narrow, turned porch posts. Probably in the late 1930s, the balustrade was enclosed by a solid wooden wall and the original posts were replaced by larger box posts. By the 1950s the porch had been enclosed by large wood sash multi-pane window panels.

**OFFICERS' MESS (BUILDING 11)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Around the time of construction, Building 11, then the post's Bachelor Officers' Quarters, was identified as Quarters E. By circa 1900, this designation was changed to Building 13-E, and around 1935 it became Building 18. The Quartermaster Corps property cards prepared in August 1939 for this building appear to differentiate between the north part of the building (Building 18) and two apartments in the southern end of the building (units 18-A and 18-B on the first and second floors, respectively). In the numbering system introduced in 1957, the entire building was given its present designation.

### **PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

#### **Published Materials**

Chattey, Paul, Horace Foxall, Flossie McQueen, Cynthia Nielsen, Mary Shipe, Terri Taylor, and Jamie Tippet

- 1997 *Context Study of the United States Quartermaster General Standardized Plans, 1866-1942*. Prepared for the U.S. Army Environmental Center, Environmental Compliance Division, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Technical Center of Expertise for Preservation of Structures and Buildings, Seattle, Washington. Accessed online, January 15, 2007, at <http://handle.dtic.mil/100.2/ADA352432>.

Hoagland, Alison K.

- 2004 *Army Architecture in the West: Forts Laramie, Bridger, and D.A. Russell, 1849-1912*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Nichols, Herbert B.

- 1938 *Historic New Rochelle*. Board of Education, New Rochelle, NY.

#### **Unpublished Materials**

Appiarius, John C.

- 1941 "Report of Inspection of Fort Slocum, N.Y." 10 November 1941. Record Group 92, Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives and Records, College Park, MD.

Cavanaugh, Michael

- 2007a *What Is, What Was, and What Was NOT: A Companion to the 2005 Davids Island Footage*. May 2007 version. Unpublished ms in possession of author, Los Angeles, CA.

- 2007b Oral interview with Robert M. Jacoby on December 16 at Rancho Santa Fe, California. Transcribed in Appendix F.2 of *Davids Island/Fort Slocum Oral History Project*—"And by golly I'm so proud of being part of this military life." *Conversations with Members of the Fort Slocum Community*, April 2008 (draft report). Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Concord, Massachusetts, by Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Boston.

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**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Olausen, Stephen, Matthew Kierstead, and Jeffrey Emidy

2005 *Historic Architectural Survey and National Register Evaluation, Davids Island/Fort Slocum New Rochelle, New York.* Prepared for Tetra Tech FW, Inc., Morris Plains, New Jersey, by PAL, Inc., Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Tetra Tech EC, Inc.

2008 "Fort Slocum: Overview." In *Historic Building Documentation, Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District, Davids Island, City of New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York*, Volume 1. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Concord, Massachusetts, by Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Boston.

United States Army Quartermaster Corps

ca. 1905-41 Fort Slocum Property Cards (Form 117 and predecessors). Record Group 77. National Archives, College Park, MD.

### **Maps and Drawings**

October 1894 (or undetermined month thereafter through December 1895) "Map of Davids Island, New York Harbor, U.S. Military Reservation, Drawn Under the Direction of Cap. J.W. Summerhayes, Asst. Qr. Mr. U.S.A." Date stamp from QMGO on reverse bears a date in 1895. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

March 1909 "Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, NY. Made by Direction of Peter Murray, Capt. and Construction Q.M." Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

July 1915 "Map of Fort Slocum, New York." Made by Direction of F.E. Smith, Capt. & Quartermaster. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

May 1933 "Fort Slocum, New York: Reconstruction of Sewerage System, General Layout." Revisions of April 29, 1933 map. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

1943 No title [Informal guide map of Fort Slocum]. Prepared by T/3 Richard Williams. Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.

May 1949, revised through November 1957 "Fort Slocum, New Rochelle, N.Y., Electric Distribution System Primary Lines." Office of Post Engineer, Fort Slocum. On file at National Archives, College Park, MD.

1952 "Fort Slocum, New Rochelle, NY." Prepared by Armed Forces Information School. Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.

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1961 "Map of Fort Slocum (Davids Island), New Rochelle, N.Y." Prepared under the direction of the First Army Engineer by the Engineer Intelligence Division, Governors Island, New York. Record Group, National Archives, College Park, MD.

**Aerial Photographs**

(Except as noted, all photographs are on file at National Archives, College Park, Maryland. Digital copies examined for this research come from the Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.)

ca. 1922: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View northeast. Winter.

1923: Vertical aerial photograph of Davids Island. November 20.

1924: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island showing area between Mortar Battery and the Hospital. View northeast. August 24.

ca. 1932: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View east. Winter. One of a pair of approximately 5x7-inch photographs pasted to a sheet of looseleaf paper with the typescript annotation "Delivered to T & O Div. by an officer from Mitchel Field, N.Y. – July 1932."

1940: Vertical aerial photograph of Davids Island. September 4.

1961: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Fort Slocum with the Barracks Area in the foreground. View west-northwest. November 15. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. In the Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection.

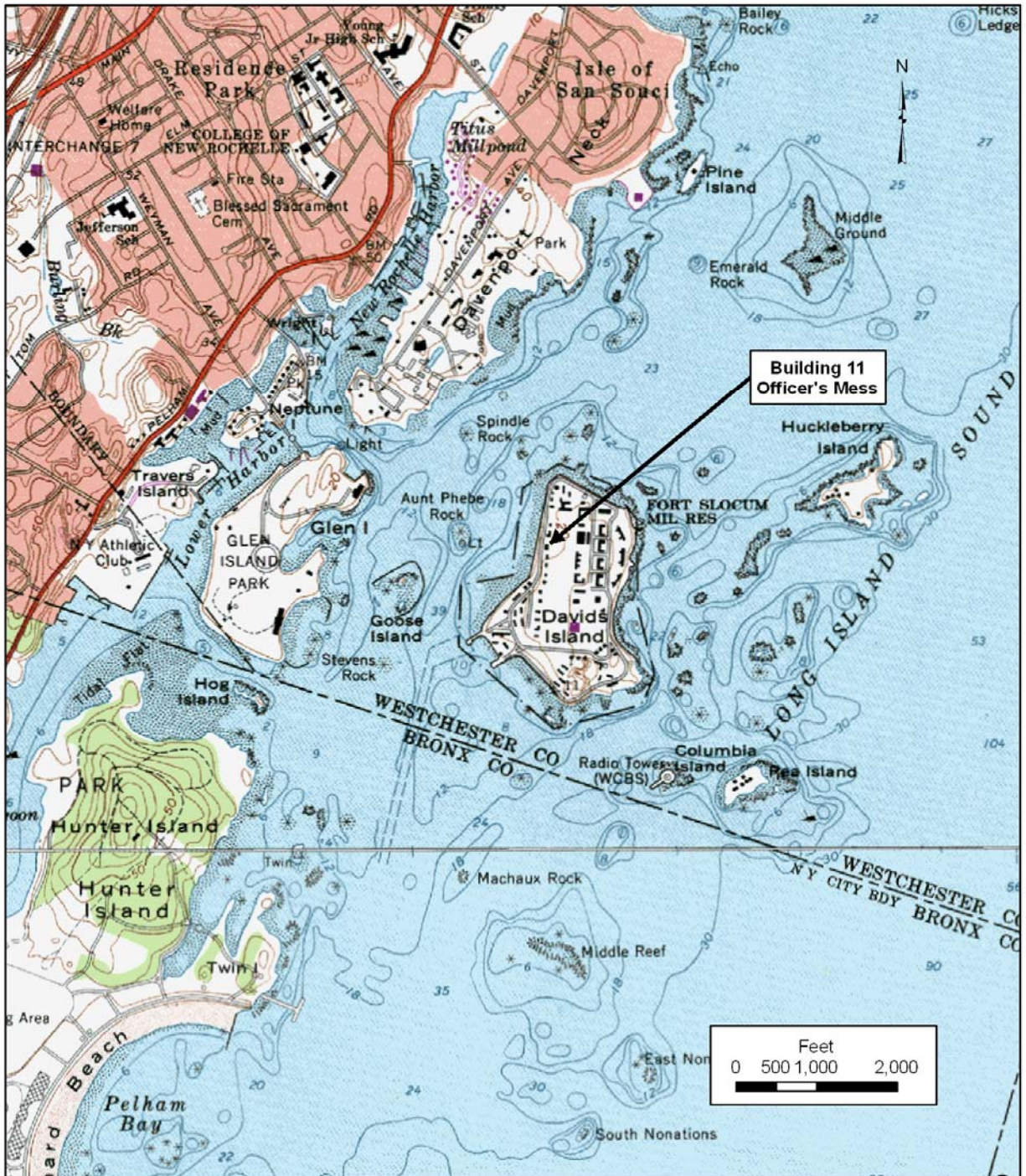
**OFFICERS' MESS (BUILDING 11)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**

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LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)

Scale: 1:24,000

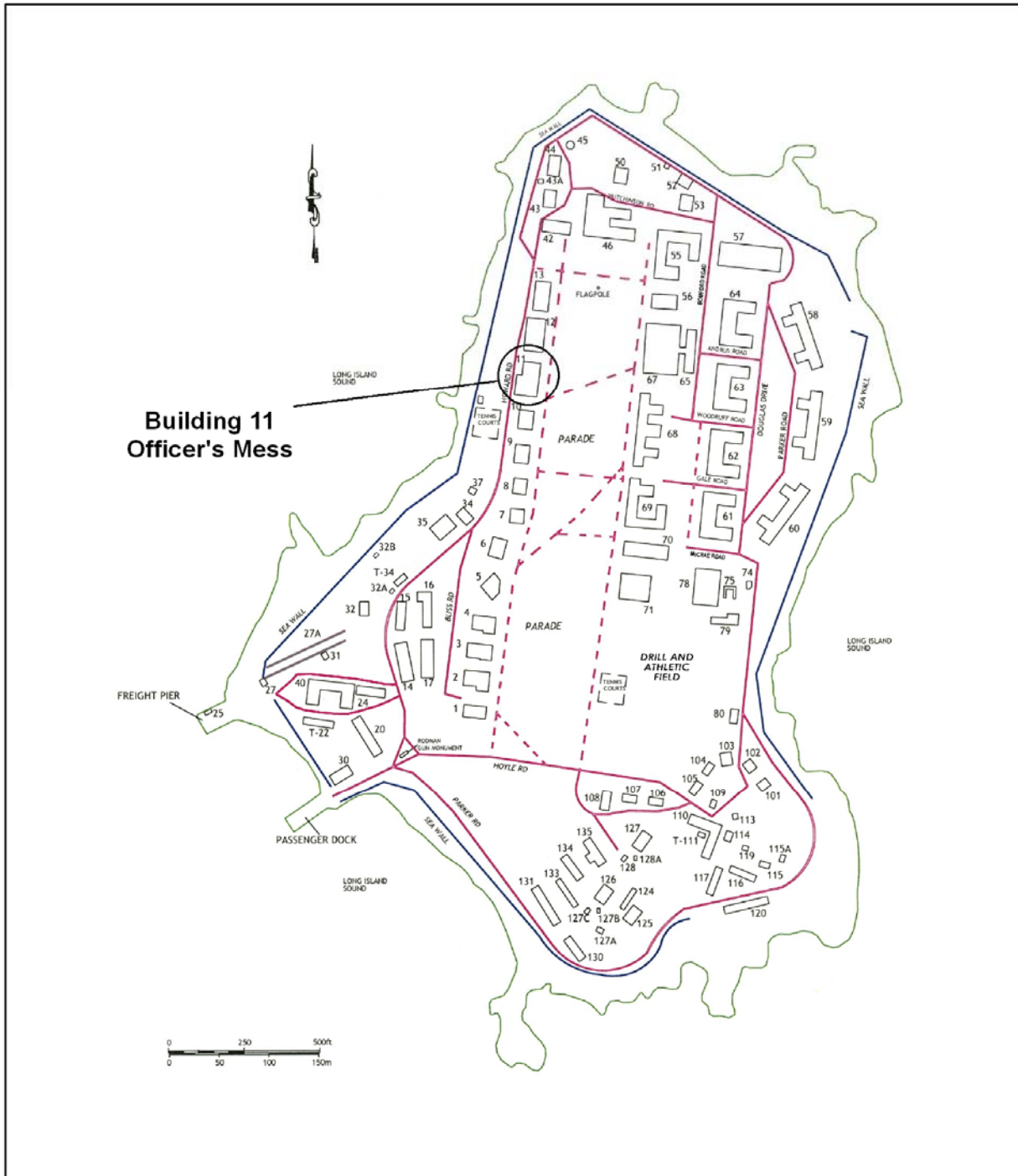
1966 (Photorevised 1979)





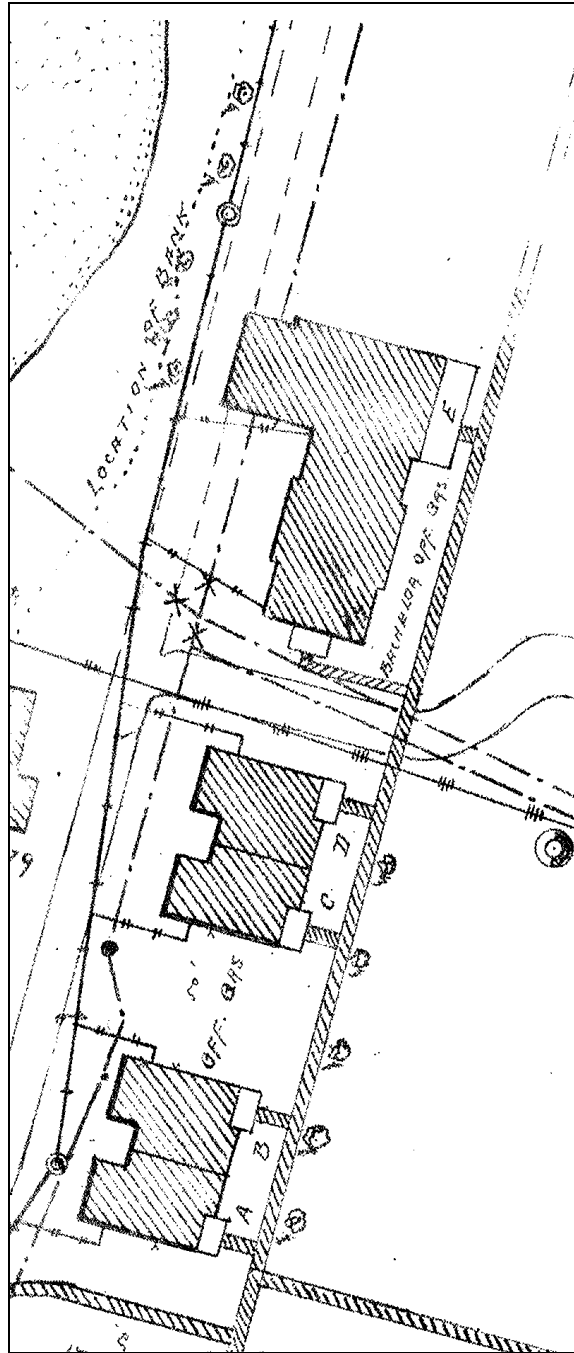
**OFFICERS' MESS (BUILDING 11)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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SITE MAP



**OFFICERS' MESS (BUILDING 11)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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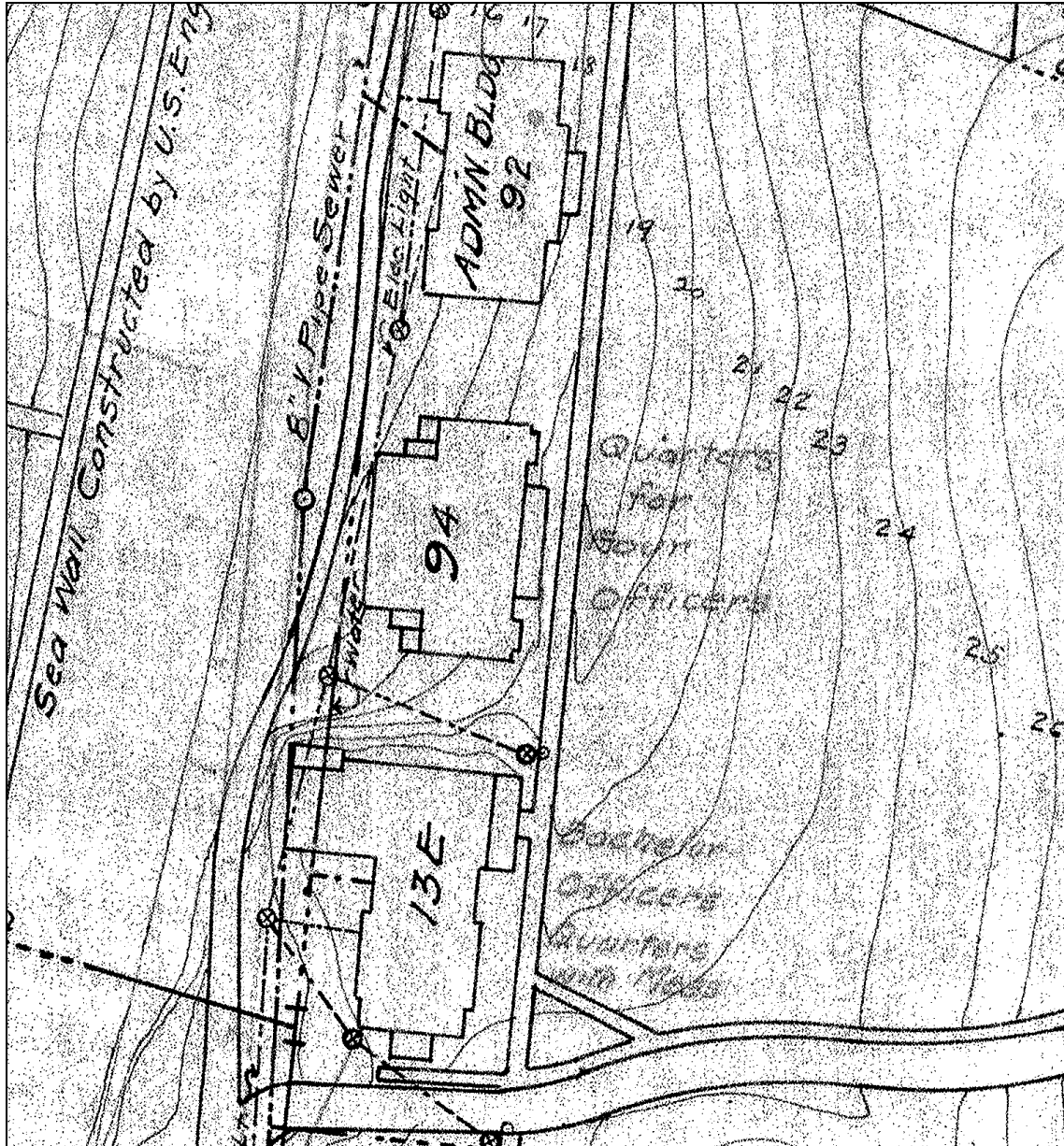
Figure 1. "Map of Davids Island, New York Harbor, U.S. Military Reservation," 1894, detail. Building 11 is labeled as Building E. North is to top of drawing. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.





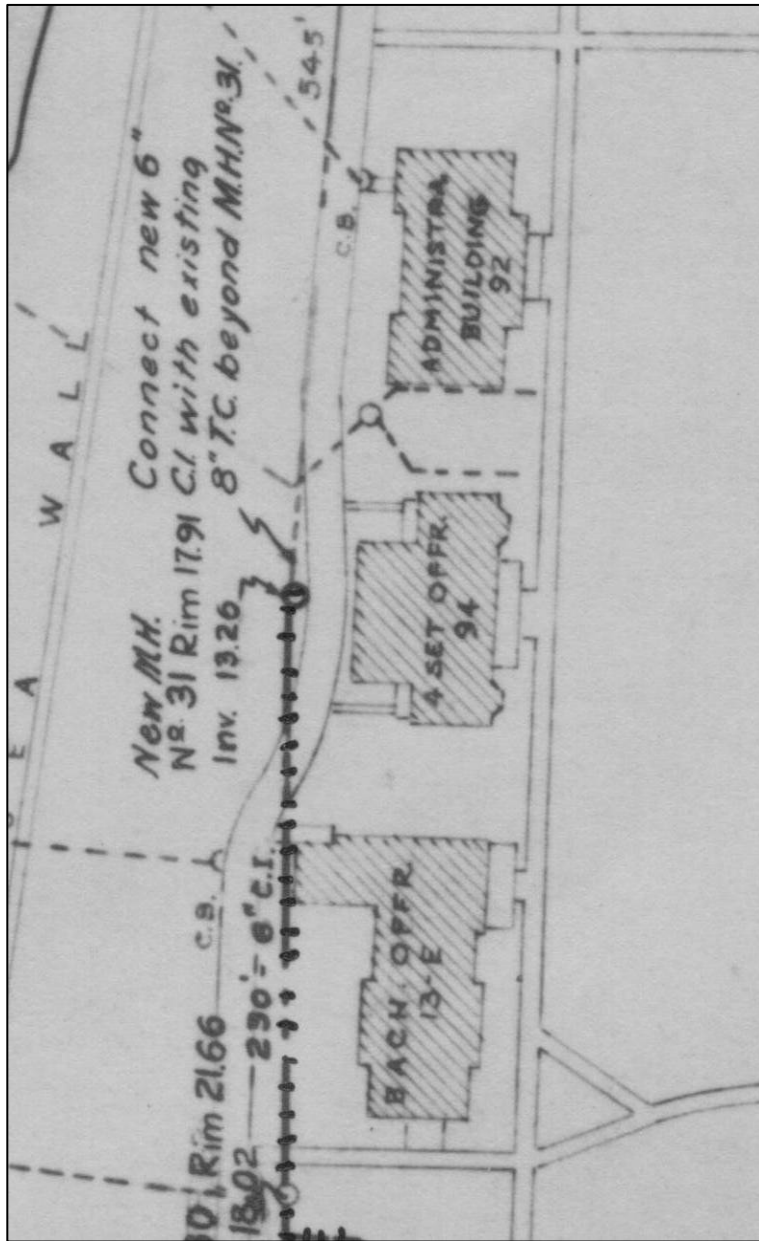
**OFFICERS' MESS (BUILDING 11)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 2. "Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, NY," 1909, detail. Building 11 is shown as Building 13E in this drawing. North is to top of drawing. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 3. "Fort Slocum, New York: Reconstruction of Sewerage System, General Layout." Revisions of April 29, 1933 map. Building 11 is labeled as "Bach. Offr. 13-E." North is to top of drawing. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**OFFICERS' MESS (BUILDING 11)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 4. Undated Postcard, "Officers' Row, Fort Slocum, N.Y." Building 11 is situated center-left with twin gables facing the Parade Ground. View southwest. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



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DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 5. Inventory photo, circa 1920. View west. Record Group 111, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 6. Property Record covering one unit in the circa-1939 addition to Building 11, August 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

Post Plan No. .... Building No. 118-A  
 O.Q.M.C.: Plan No. 1970 AUG 1939

FACE FORT SLOCUM, NEW YORK.  
 Designation of building Permanent Officers' Quarters Capacity 1 E.A.O.  
 Total cost, \$ \* Date completed  
 Material: Walls Brick Foundation Brick  
 Roof Slate Floor Wood  
 Total floor area above basement, square feet 2,026 Sq.Ft.  
 Size: Main building 60'-4" x 43'-3" Wings None Basement 51'-4" x 43'-3"  
 Central Heating Plant Height of first floor above ground 3'-3"

How lighted Electrically  
 Water connections Yes  
 Sewer connections Yes  
 Gas connections None

COOKING RANGES INSTALLED  
 Coal, No. None  
 Gas, No. None  
 Electric No. One  
 Oil, No. None  
 Steam, No. None  
 Water, No. None

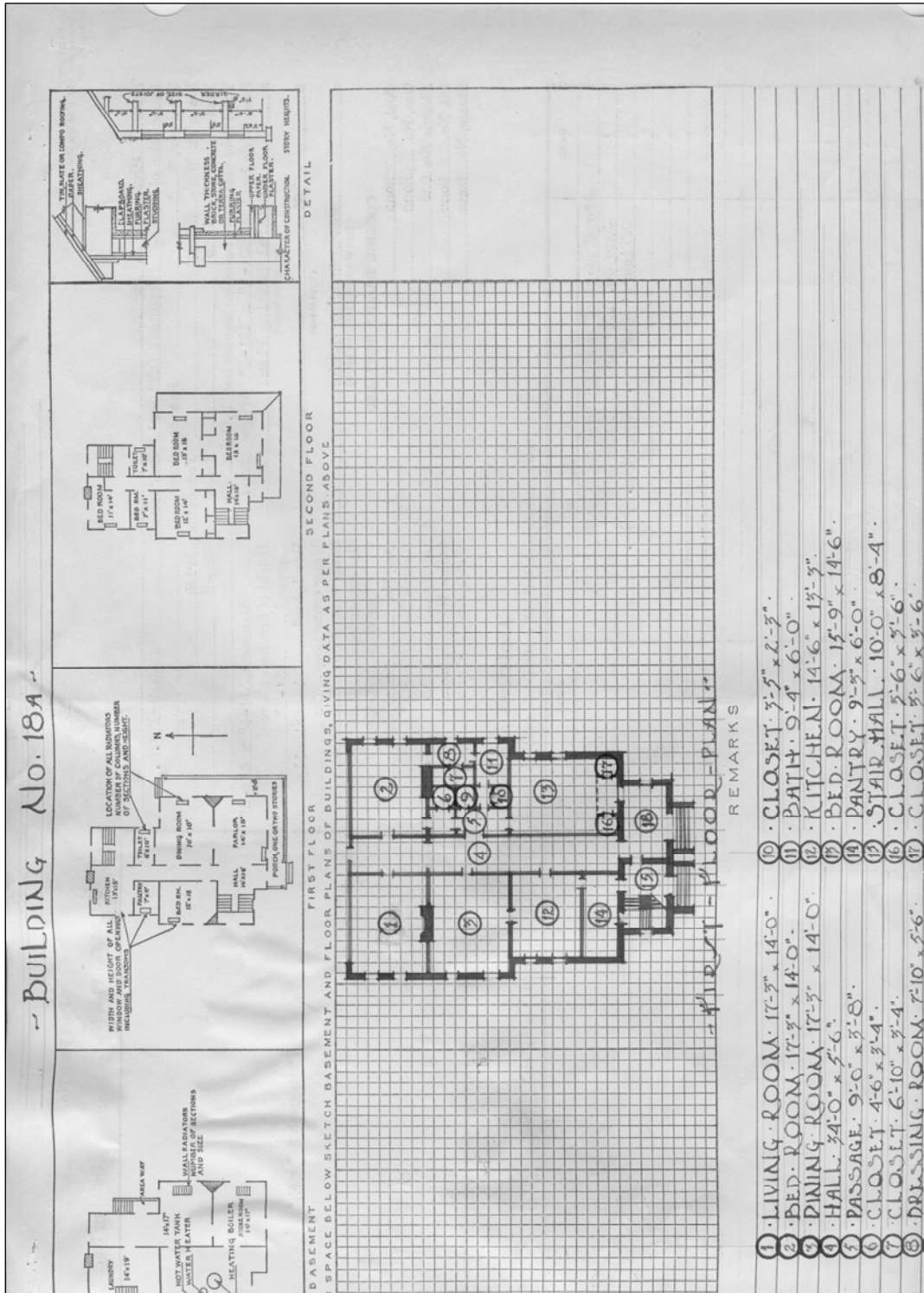
METERS INSTALLED  
 Gas, No. None  
 Electric, No. Two  
 Oil, No. None  
 Steam, No. None  
 Water, No. None

ADDITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS  
 (Below enter chronologically all modifications, additions, introductions of water, sewer, lights, heating, etc.)

DATE	COST	DATE	COST
* Total cost of quarters and total repairs to June 30, 1939 are included with Bachelor Officers' Quarters. See E.A.O. # 18.			

**OFFICERS' MESS (BUILDING 11)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 7. Property Record covering one unit in the circa-1939 addition to Building 11. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.





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Figure 8. Detail of low-angle oblique aerial photograph, showing Building 11 at center in middle distance (partially obscured by Building 68 in foreground), November 15, 1961. View west-northwest. Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.





## HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

#### **OFFICERS' MESS (BUILDING 11)**

Davids Island—Fort Slocum

New Rochelle

Westchester County

New York

Photographer: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, November 2004, except as noted.

1. South cross gable on main (east) façade, facing west.
2. Terracotta parapet ornament from cross gable (November 2005).
3. South façade, showing circa 1939 addition at right and circa 1955 addition at left. Facing northwest (December 2005).
4. South façade of addition of circa 1939, showing entrance detail. Facing north.
5. South and west façades of circa 1955 addition, facing northeast.
6. West façade facing southeast, showing original building at left and circa 1955 addition at center. Howard Road is at right.

Photo 1. South cross gable on main (east) façade, facing west.



Photo 2. Terracotta parapet ornament from cross gable.



Photo 3. South and east façades, showing circa 1939 addition at right and circa 1955 addition at left. Facing northwest.



Photo 4. South façade of addition of circa 1939, showing entrance detail. Facing north.



Photo 5. South and west façades of circa 1955 addition, facing northeast.



Photo 6. West façade facing southeast, showing original building at left and circa 1955 addition at center. Howard Road is at right.





## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 12)

**Location:** Davids Island–Fort Slocum  
0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland  
USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle  
UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603533.4526811

**Present Owner(s):** City of New Rochelle, NY

**Date of Construction:** 1910

**Architect/Engineer:** U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps

**Present Use:** Abandoned when documented (2004-2007). To be demolished.

**Significance:** The Officers' Quarters (Building 12) is related to the Officers' Row, and the provision of residential functions in support of Fort Slocum's twentieth-century military activities. The building is considered a contributing element to the proposed Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District.

**Project Information:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (Corps), has been authorized under the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2004, to perform building demolition, debris removal, and remediation of asbestos materials (Project) at the Fort Slocum on Davids Island in the City of New Rochelle, New York. The purpose of the Project is to remove buildings and infrastructure from the abandoned fort installation that create safety hazards as part of a long-range plan to restore Davids Island for future use. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), the Corps has consulted with the New York State Historic Preservation Officer (NYSHPO) regarding the effects of the Project on historic properties. The consultation resulted in the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the Corps, NYSHPO, County of Westchester, and City of New Rochelle as consulting parties. This documentation report was prepared in accordance with Stipulation II.C.1 of the MOA.

**Prepared by:** C.L. Borstel, J.C. Sexton, R.M. Jacoby, S.B. Marshall, and C.W. Christopher  
**Title:** Cultural Resources Documentation Team  
**Affiliation:** Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ  
**Date:** May 2007 (Revision 1, May 2008)

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 12)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

The Officers' Quarters (Building 12) is located on the western side of Davids Island. The island is in the western portion of Long Island Sound, 0.6 miles southeast of the New Rochelle, NY, mainland and 19 miles northeast of Midtown Manhattan (Location Map and Site Map). Davids Island is a roughly pear-shaped, relatively flat landmass consisting of approximately 78 acres above mean high water. It is heavily wooded and contains the ruins of more than 100 buildings and structures associated with an abandoned U.S. Army post, Fort Slocum. The ruins include barracks and quarters; quartermaster, administrative, medical, and recreation buildings; and coastal and air defense facilities. A concrete and stone seawall encircles most of the shore, and a system of roads and paths runs throughout the island. Building 12 is located near the northern end of the Officers' Row area, where commissioned officers and their families once resided.

Building 12 is a two-and-a-half story Colonial Revival building with some Craftsman elements (Figures 1 to 5; Photos 1 to 5). The building nominally contained four apartments for officers and their families, but according to an interview with one former resident who lived there in the late 1950s, there was at least one additional apartment in the attic (Olley 2007). Building 12 is severely deteriorated. Portions of the roof and interior have collapsed, and wood elements like window sashes and frames and porch railings remain only as fragments.

The building has a T-shaped plan. The main block is a rectangle whose long axis runs north-south, from which a central ell extends to the west. The main façade is on the east and faces the Parade Ground. The main block of the building has a side gable roof, to which is joined a hipped deck roof over the ell. The roof is wood framed and decked and is clad with slate shingles. There are five evenly-spaced low, wide hip-roofed dormers on the main façade, and there is also one gabled dormer at the western end of the ell. At both gable ends, pairs of large, integrated chimneys, which are centered on either side of the roof peak, rise from limestone-capped parapets (Photos 3-4). Elsewhere, the roof overhangs the walls, and the eaves have exposed beam and rafter ends with decorative brackets (Photos 2 and 5). The building has a brick structural system and exterior walls, with wood roof framing, set atop a brick foundation. Steel fire escapes are attached to the gable walls and the side walls of the ell. Two-story bay windows extend from the main façade near the building's north and south corners. These flank a central, two-story front porch. The porch is supported by four brick piers that rise to approximately one-third the height of the second-story level and continue upwards to the roof as pairs of square wood posts. The porch has a masonry floor and an unadorned brick wall with a limestone cap on the first story and a wood floor and heavy, patterned wood railings—most of which are now gone—on the second story. The wide, main entrance to the building is located at the center of the porch. Ornamental detailing on Building 12 includes a limestone water table, segmental arch windows with limestone sills, and the limestone cap at the side gables. Nearly all the building's windows are double-hung wood sash frames with six-over-one glazing. The doors are paneled wood. The interior consists of wood floor joists and walls, with plaster interior finishes.

No floor plan is currently available for this building, but the presence of a single centrally-located entrance at the front of the building suggests that an entrance hallway and stairwell separated the two apartments on each floor.

**PART II. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

*Fort Slocum*

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 12)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 3)

Dauids Island is named for Thaddeus Davids (1816-1894), a New Rochelle ink manufacturer, who owned the island between 1856 and 1867. Davids was next-to-last in a line of private owners and lessees associated with the island between circa 1700 and the 1860s. During this period, the island was used primarily as farmland, but beginning probably in the 1840s, it also became a destination for excursionists who traveled by steamboat from New York and Brooklyn to picnic by the sea. The U.S. Army leased the island in 1862 and purchased it outright in 1867. In 1967, the federal government sold Davids Island to the City of New Rochelle, which sold it in turn the following year to Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. Consolidated Edison returned ownership of most of the island to the city in 1976.

Two U.S. Army posts successively occupied Davids Island between 1862 and 1965. The earlier post was established as De Camp General Hospital in May 1862. The hospital treated wounded Union soldiers and, from 1863 onwards, also cared for Confederate prisoners of war. After the Civil War, the Army remained on the island, apparently using the post somewhat discontinuously as a hospital, mustering-out camp, and subdepot for recruits. By the early 1870s, the hastily-built wood frame buildings of the Civil War had deteriorated badly, and in October 1874 the Army entirely withdrew from the island, beginning a hiatus in occupation of nearly four years.

The Army returned in July 1878, when Davids Island was designated as a principal depot of the General Recruiting Service, supplanting Governors Island off lower Manhattan in that role. Originally known simply as Davids Island, the Army formally named the post Fort Slocum in 1896 to honor Maj. Gen. Henry Warner Slocum (1827-1894), a prominent Union soldier and New York politician. Recruit intake and training was a primary function of the post well into the twentieth century. Fort Slocum also saw service as an overseas embarkation station; hosted Army specialty schools for bakers, transportation officers, chaplains, public affairs personnel, and military police; provided retraining for court-martialed soldiers; and was an administrative center for the Air Force. Coastal artillery batteries operated at the post around the beginning of the twentieth century. During the Cold War, Fort Slocum supported an air defense missile battery.

When the post closed in 1965, Fort Slocum's landscape integrated elements from different episodes of development into a campus-like whole. Several episodes of development were represented, particularly 1885-1910 and 1929-1940. A few wood frame buildings remained from the late 1870s and early 1880s, and at least nine such buildings represented the Second World War. However, of the more than 50 temporary wood frame buildings erected during the First World War, only a single, partial example survived. Most of the buildings at Fort Slocum followed standard Army plans, but Army personnel or outside professional architects also produced a few designs specifically for the post. The permanent buildings at Fort Slocum generally reflected conservative and eclectic interpretations of different currents in American architecture, producing an engaging mix of Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Romanesque, and Italianate styles. The temporary buildings around the post were in contrast unadorned and starkly utilitarian, as they were designed principally for speed of construction.

The period after Fort Slocum closed in November 1965 saw severe deterioration of the former Army post. The City of New Rochelle repeatedly sought to redevelop Davids Island, at one time considering a Consolidated Edison proposal to build a nuclear power plant and later supporting proposals for luxury residences. None of these plans materialized. Neglect and vandalism took a heavy toll on the former post. By the first decade of the twenty-first century, the landscape was overgrown, and the more than 100 buildings and structures that once comprised Fort Slocum were in decay and ruin.

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 12)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 4)

Detailed accounts of Fort Slocum's history can be found in the general historic overview to this documentation series (Tetra Tech 2008) and in Olausen et al. (2005), among other sources.

*Officers' Quarters (Building 12)*

Building 12 is located at nearly the northern end of Officers' Row. Situated on the western side of the Parade Ground, Officers' Row was one of the first functional areas to be established at Fort Slocum. Its southern end can be traced directly back to the post's Civil War predecessor, De Camp General Hospital. During the Civil War, five officer's quarters stood roughly in the area now occupied by Buildings 2 to 6. When the Army reoccupied the post in 1878, it built the first of the present-day officer's quarters (Buildings 2, 3, and 4) in the same area as the southerly three of the earlier dwellings. Until the mid-1880s, Officers' Row extended only as far north as the lone surviving quarters from the Civil War hospital, a two-and-a-half-story wood-frame dwelling originally known as the Surgeon's Quarters (demolished circa 1890), which was located about where present-day Building 6 now stands. In the early 1880s, a chapel, commissary sergeant's quarters, bakery, and commissary storehouse stood north of the Surgeon's Quarters, but they were not functionally part of Officers' Row. Beginning with the construction of two single-family quarters beyond the Surgeon's Quarters in 1886 (present-day Buildings 7 and 8), Officers' Row was extended to the north. The Army added three multi-unit quarters, Buildings 9, 10, and 11, to the row further north in the mid-1890s. Building 12 and its northern neighbor, the Administration Building (Building 13), were built at the north end of the row in 1909-1910. Both of these buildings were constructed during a major building campaign at Fort Slocum in the first decade of the twentieth century, when roughly two dozen brick buildings, including officer's quarters, enlisted men's barracks, mess halls, hospital buildings, and support facilities, were erected.

Building 12 was the last quarters to be erected on Officers' Row, and it was among the last permanent structures at Fort Slocum to be designated as officer's quarters at the time of construction. It was designed during a period in the early twentieth century when the Army introduced the use of small apartment buildings, similar to garden apartments, as officer family housing at permanent posts. These buildings were expected to appeal to Army wives because the more compact floor plans of the individual units required less housekeeping, but the concept of apartment living did not prove to be particularly popular (Chattey 1997:295-296). Two other sets of quarters, built for non-commissioned officers, were similar in concept—Buildings 43 (erected 1910) and 44 (erected 1940).

According to the Quartermaster Corps property card for Building 12, its design was one of the Office of the Quartermaster General's standardized plans, No. 237 (Figure 4). This plan number is among those included in the partial inventory of standardized plans assembled by Chattey et al. (1997:382), where different versions are identified as "Officers Quarters 4 Officers" and "4-Set Officers Quarters." No further information about Plan No. 237 is currently available, but its mix of Colonial Revival and Craftsman elements suggests that the building was designed in the latter half of the first decade of the twentieth century, perhaps after the Quartermaster Corps hired its first professional civilian architect, Francis B. Wheaton, in 1905. The use of Craftsman design elements in this plan is also of interest, because on the whole during the early twentieth century, the Army favored the Colonial Revival style for its standard designs (Hoagland 2004:211, 214).

Major alterations to Building 12 or changes in its function during its half-century of use at Fort Slocum have not been documented in detail. Comparison of Building 12 with a version of Plan No. 237 from Fort Riley, Kansas (Chattey et al. 1997:317), suggests that the present steel fire escapes may be a replacement for original outside wood stairways. The Quartermaster Corps property card specifically identifies the building as housing company-grade officers, but other sources are less definitive about the ranks of officers normally assigned to these quarters (Figures 1, 2, and 4). At sometime when officer housing on the post was short, the

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 12)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 5)

attic was apparently converted into one or two apartments. These attic apartments were cramped and less desirable than those on the first and second stories, and when one of the lower apartments became available, attic dwellers sought to move downstairs (Olley 2007).

Building 12 was originally designated as Building 94. In the 1941 renumbering of buildings at Fort Slocum, it became Building 22. In the last renumbering of buildings on the post in 1957, it acquired its present number. Presumably the individual units in the building were designated by letter, but this cannot be confirmed from the available documentation.

### **PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

#### **Published Materials**

Chattey, Paul, Horace Foxall, Flossie McQueen, Cynthia Nielsen, Mary Shipe, Terri Taylor, and Jamie Tippet

- 1997 *Context Study of the United States Quartermaster General Standardized Plans, 1866-1942*. Prepared for the U.S. Army Environmental Center, Environmental Compliance Division, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Technical Center of Expertise for Preservation of Structures and Buildings, Seattle, Washington. Accessed online, January 15, 2007, at <http://handle.dtic.mil/100.2/ADA352432>.

Hoagland, Alison K.

- 2004 *Army Architecture in the West: Forts Laramie, Bridger, and D.A. Russell, 1849-1912*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

Nichols, Herbert B.

- 1938 *Historic New Rochelle*. Board of Education, New Rochelle, NY.

#### **Unpublished Materials**

Appiarius, John C.

- 1941 "Report of Inspection of Fort Slocum, N.Y." 10 November 1941. Record Group 92, Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives and Records, College Park, MD.

Cavanaugh, Michael

- 2007 *What Is, What Was, and What Was NOT: A Companion to the 2005 Davids Island Footage*. May 2007 version. Unpublished ms in possession of author, Los Angeles, CA.

Olausen, Stephen, Matthew Kierstead, and Jeffrey Emidy

- 2005 *Historic Architectural Survey and National Register Evaluation, Davids Island/Fort Slocum New Rochelle, New York*. Prepared for Tetra Tech FW, Inc., Morris Plains, New Jersey, by PAL, Inc., Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Olley, Rivka

- 2007 Oral interview with Robert M. Jacoby on October 1 at Pikesville, Maryland. Transcribed in Appendix L of *Davids Island/Fort Slocum Oral History Project*—"And by golly I'm so proud

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 12)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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*of being part of this military life:" Conversations with Members of the Fort Slocum Community, April 2008 (draft report). Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Concord, Massachusetts, by Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Boston.*

Tetra Tech EC, Inc.

2008 "Fort Slocum: Overview." In *Historic Building Documentation, Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District, Davids Island, City of New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York, Volume 1*. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Concord, Massachusetts, by Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Boston.

United States Army Quartermaster Corps

ca. 1905-41 Fort Slocum Property Cards (Form 117 and predecessors). Record Group 77. National Archives, College Park, MD.

### **Maps and Drawings**

March 1909 "Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, NY. Made by Direction of Peter Murray, Capt. and Construction Q.M." Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

July 1915 "Map of Fort Slocum, New York." Made by Direction of F.E. Smith, Capt. & Quartermaster. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

May 1933 "Fort Slocum, New York: Reconstruction of Sewerage System, General Layout." Revisions of April 29, 1933 map. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

### **Panoramic and Aerial Photographs**

(Except as noted, all photographs are on file at National Archives, College Park, Maryland. Digital copies examined for this research come from the Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.)

ca. 1932: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View east. Winter. One of a pair of approximately 5x7-inch photographs pasted to a sheet of looseleaf paper with the typescript annotation "Delivered to T & O Div. by an officer from Mitchel Field, N.Y. - July 1932."

1940: Vertical aerial photograph of Davids Island. September 4.

1961: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Quartermaster Area, Davids Island. View northeast. November 15. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. In the Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection.



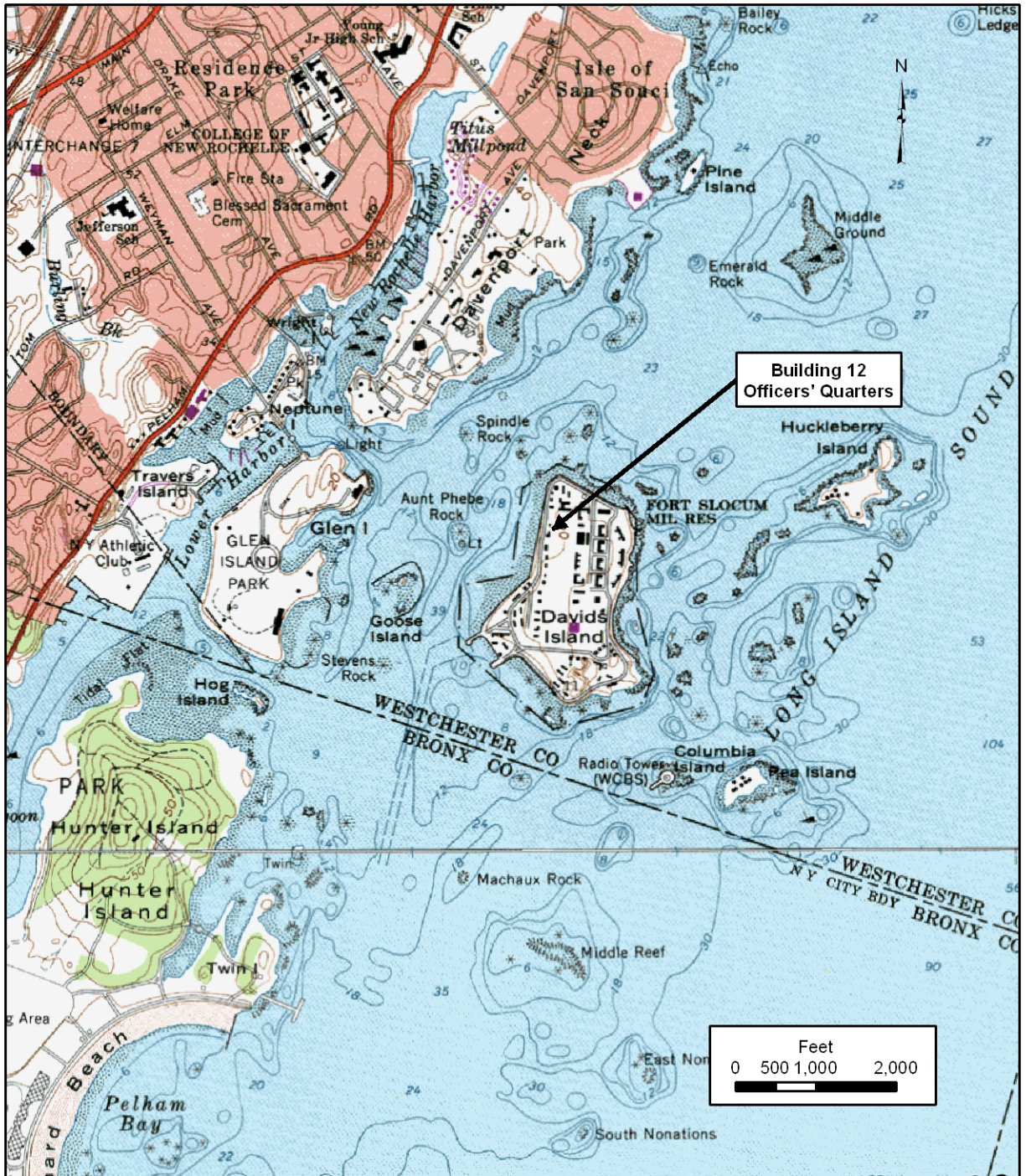
**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 12)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**

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LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)

Scale: 1:24,000

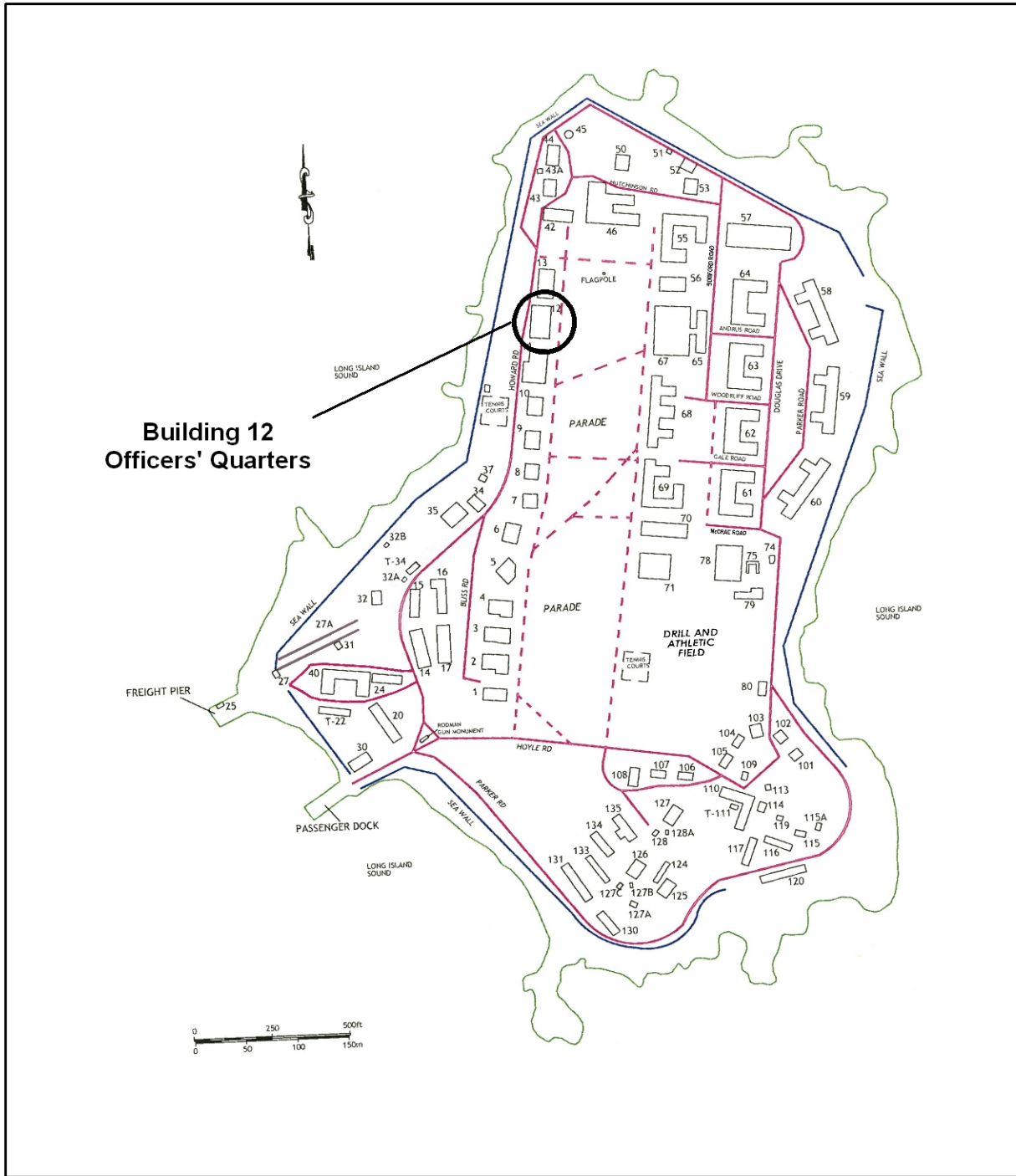
1966 (Photorevised 1979)





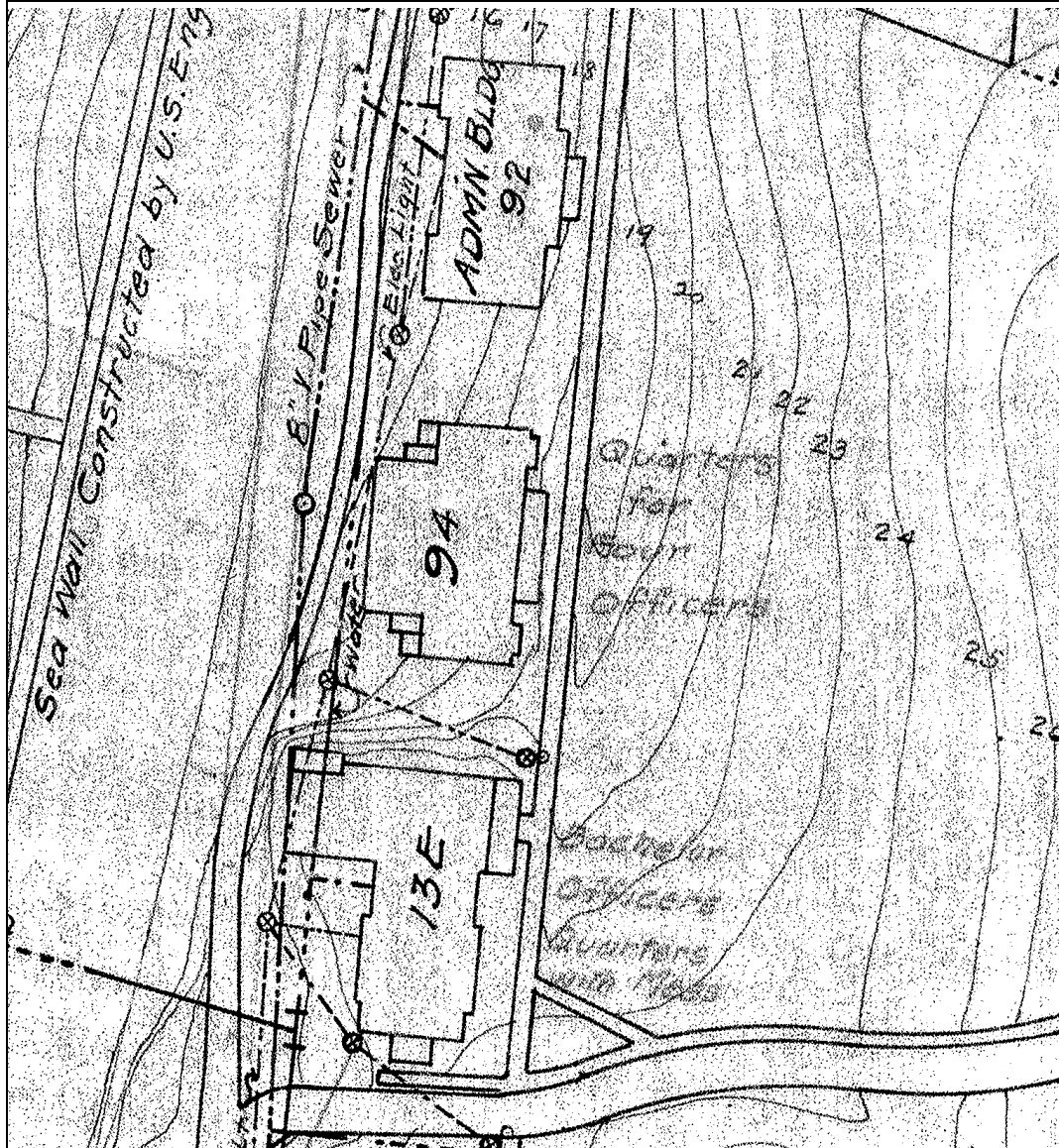
**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 12)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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SITE MAP



**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 12)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 9)

Figure 1. "Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, NY," 1909, detail. Building 12 is labeled Building 94 in this drawing. North is to top of drawing. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



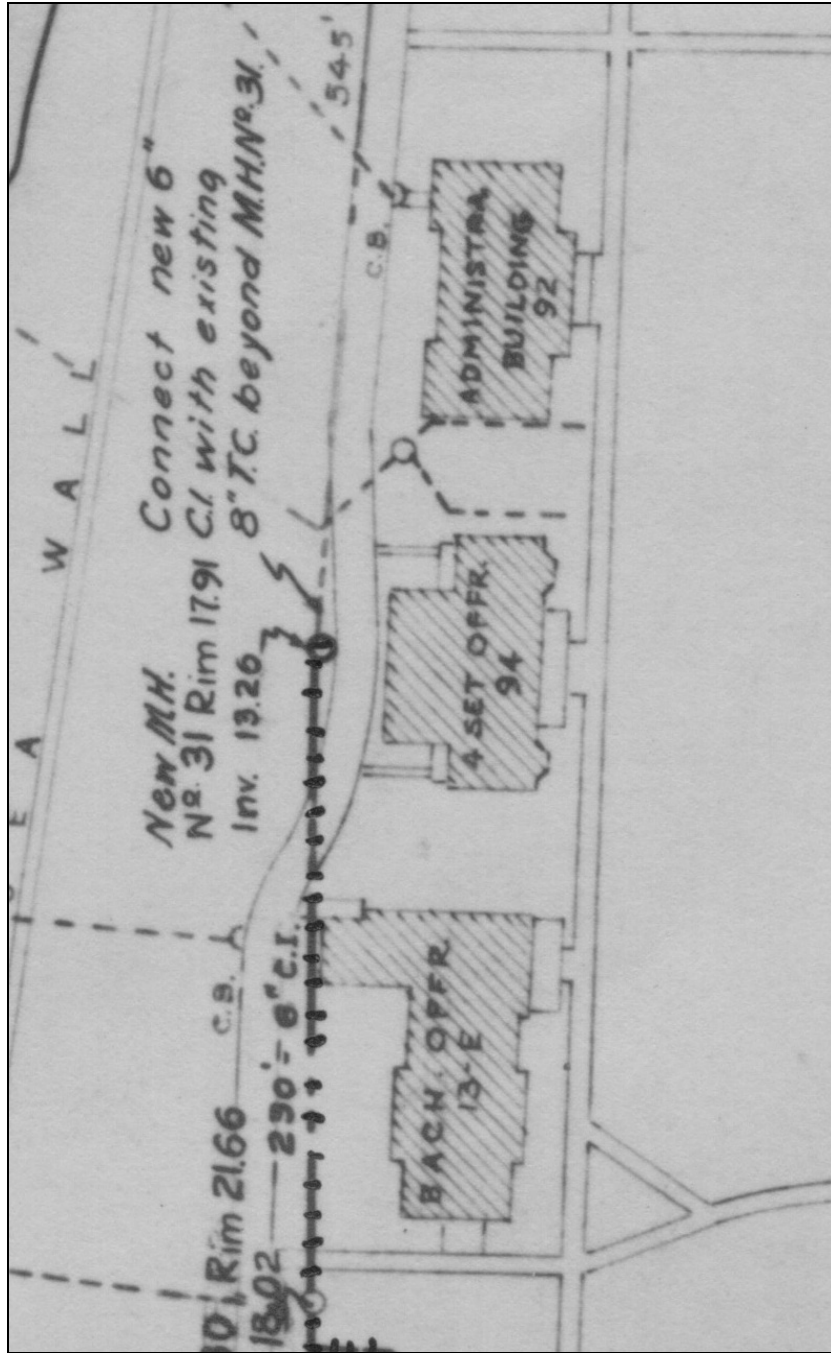
**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 12)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 2. Inventory photo, circa 1920. View west. Record Group 111, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 12)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 3. "Fort Slocum, New York: Reconstruction of Sewerage System, General Layout." Revisions of April 29, 1933 map. Building 12 is labeled "4 Set Offr. 94." North is to top of drawing. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 12)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 4. Property Record, 1940. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

Post Plan No. .... Building No. **04 22**  
 O.Q.M.C.: Plan No. **237**



Place **Fort Slocum, New York**  
 Designation of building **Officers' Quarters (Apartment)** Capacity **4 Officers, Company**  
 Total cost, **\$28,486.99 (original)** Date completed **February 11, 1910**  
 Material: Walls **Brick** Foundation **Wood**  
 Roof **Slate** Floors **None** Basement **1588 Sq Ft**  
 Total floor area above basement, square feet **9,128** Wings **None**  
 Size: Main building **54' x 74'** Height of first floor above ground **3' front 6'9" rear**  
 American Radiator Company (359S Size 9)  
 How lighted **Electrically**  
 Water connections **Yes**  
 Sewer connections **Yes**  
 Gas connections **None**  
 Meters installed

Steam - **Coal Operated** (Type of heat)  
 Coal (Trojan) (Type of heat)  
 COOKING RANGES INSTALLED  
 Gas, No. **None** REFRIGERATORS INSTALLED  
 Gas, No. **None** Gas **None**  
 Electric No. **Four** Electric **Four**  
 Oil, No. **None** Ice **None**  
 Steam, No. **None**  
 Water, No. **None**

**ADDITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS**  
 (Below enter chronologically all modifications, additions, introductions of water, sewer, lights, heating, etc.)

DATE	DESCRIPTION	COST	DATE	COST
	Total cost of repairs to June 30, 1939	\$17,665.47		
	Repairs Fiscal year 1940 (WPA 1390.18)	1,573.62		
1-2-41	Removed 1 tank, H.W., 100 gal.	25.00		
1-2-41	Removed 1 machine, stoker, automatic	1,000.00		

**OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 12)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 13)

Figure 5. Building 12, at right, as seen from eastern edge of the Parade Ground, circa 1950. View west.  
Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



## **HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION**

### **INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS**

#### **OFFICERS' QUARTERS (BUILDING 12)**

Dauids Island—Fort Slocum

New Rochelle

Westchester County

New York

Photographer: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, October 2005.

1. Detail, eastern façade.
2. Eastern façade, facing west. (taken January 2006)
3. Northern façade, facing southeast.
4. Eastern and northern façades, facing southwest.
5. Eastern façade, detail.



Photo 1. Detail, eastern façade.



Photo 2. Eastern façade, facing west.



Photo 3. Northern façade, facing southeast.



Photo 4. Eastern and northern façades, facing southwest.



Photo 5. Eastern façade, detail.



## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (BUILDING 13)

**Location:** Davids Island–Fort Slocum  
0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland  
USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle  
UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603537.4526850

**Present Owner(s):** City of New Rochelle, NY

**Date of Construction:** 1909

**Architect/Engineer:** U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps

**Present Use:** Abandoned when documented (2004-2007). To be demolished.

**Significance:** The Administration Building (Building 13) is related to the Officers' Row Area, and the provision of administrative functions in support of Fort Slocum's twentieth-century military activities. The building is considered a contributing element to the proposed Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District.

**Project Information:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (Corps), has been authorized under the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2004, to perform building demolition, debris removal, and remediation of asbestos materials (Project) at the Fort Slocum on Davids Island in the City of New Rochelle, New York. The purpose of the Project is to remove buildings and infrastructure from the abandoned fort installation that create safety hazards as part of a long-range plan to restore Davids Island for future use. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), the Corps has consulted with the New York State Historic Preservation Officer (NYSHPO) regarding the effects of the Project on historic properties. The consultation resulted in the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the Corps, NYSHPO, County of Westchester, and City of New Rochelle as consulting parties. This documentation report was prepared in accordance with Stipulation II.C.1 of the MOA.

**Prepared by:** C.L. Borstel, J.C. Sexton, R.M. Jacoby, S.B. Marshall, and C.W. Christopher  
**Title:** Cultural Resources Documentation Team  
**Affiliation:** Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ  
**Date:** May 2007 (Revision 1, May 2008)

**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (BUILDING 13)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 2)

**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

The Administration Building (Building 13) is located on the western side of Davids Island. The island is in the western portion of Long Island Sound, 0.6 miles southeast of the New Rochelle, NY, mainland and 19 miles northeast of Midtown Manhattan (Location Map and Site Map). Davids Island is a roughly pear-shaped, relatively flat landmass consisting of approximately 78 acres above mean high water. It is heavily wooded and contains the ruins of more than 100 buildings and structures associated with an abandoned U.S. Army post, Fort Slocum. The ruins include barracks and quarters; quartermaster, administrative, medical, and recreation buildings; and coastal and air defense facilities. A concrete and stone seawall encircles most of the shore, and a system of roads and paths runs throughout the island. Building 13 stands at the northern end of the Officers' Row area. Most of Officers' Row was occupied by quarters that housed officers and their families, but it also included the Administration Building and the Officers' Mess (Building 11).

The Administration Building, also known as the Post Headquarters, was constructed in 1909 as a two-story brick and limestone structure in a Neoclassical Revival style (Figures 1-7; Photos 1-6). The building shell is superficially intact, but is beginning to show signs of damage, especially near the roofline, as the result of recent rapid deterioration and partial collapse of the roof. The building's main façade is on the east, facing the Parade Ground. Building 13 occupies gently sloping ground, and its basement is largely exposed at the back. With the added height of the exposed basement level, the rear façade rises to a height of three stories above the ground. The building has a roughly rectangular plan with its long axis running north-south and a projecting central pavilion on its main façade. The building's roof is hipped and consists of slate tile over wood sheathing and wood rafters. The exterior walls and foundation are constructed of brick, which support the interior floors and roof framing. The central pavilion is two stories tall and is surmounted by a projecting pediment supported by six monumental limestone columns. The pediment shelters the building's main entrance at the center of the front façade. The entrance is framed on either side by window openings, and the three openings at the first floor level are mirrored on the second story by three evenly-spaced window openings. The projecting pavilion is framed on either side by matching sections of the façade that are pierced by pairs of window openings on each floor located near the center of the façade. All façades contain remnants of six-over-six double hung wood sash windows. A steel fire escape is attached to the northern façade and extends from the third story to the ground. Ornamental detailing on the Administration Building includes a limestone foundation, windows sills, and an elaborate cornice with modillions. The ground floor apertures also include limestone springers and keystones. A carved limestone plaque occupies the center of the pediment of the projecting pavilion (Photo 6) and is one of the most important surviving decorative elements on any of Fort Slocum's buildings. The plaque has a flag shield beneath a draped garland of laurel leaves, a design whose symbolism likely alludes to a victorious American nation.

The building's interior consists of wood floor joists and walls, with plaster interior finishes. Historic data indicates that the building featured a central hallway plan, surrounded by small, compartmentalized offices on both floors. The Quartermaster Corps property card for Building 13 includes an interior floor plan with room use and dimensions (Figure 6).

**PART II. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

*Fort Slocum*

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**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (BUILDING 13)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 3)

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*Administration Building (Building 13)*

**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (BUILDING 13)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Building 13 anchors the northern end of Officers' Row. Situated on the western side of the Parade Ground, Officers' Row was one of the first functional areas to be established at Fort Slocum. Its southern end can be traced directly back to the post's Civil War predecessor, De Camp General Hospital. During the Civil War, five officer's quarters stood roughly in the area now occupied by Buildings 2 to 6. When the Army reoccupied the post in 1878, it built the first of the present-day officer's quarters (Buildings 2, 3, and 4) in the same area as the southerly three of the earlier dwellings. Until the mid-1880s, Officers' Row extended only as far north as the lone surviving quarters from the Civil War hospital, a two-and-a-half-story wood-frame dwelling originally known as the Surgeon's Quarters (demolished circa 1890), which was located about where present-day Building 6 now stands. In the early 1880s, a chapel, commissary sergeant's quarters, bakery, and commissary storehouse stood north of the Surgeon's Quarters, but they were not functionally part of Officers' Row. Beginning with the construction of two single-family quarters beyond the Surgeon's Quarters in 1886 (present-day Buildings 7 and 8), Officers' Row was extended to the north. The Army added three multi-unit quarters, Buildings 9, 10, and 11, to the row further north in the mid-1890s. The final two buildings in this line, another apartment-style quarters (Building 12) and the Administration Building (Building 13), were built at the northern end of the row in 1909-1910. Both of these buildings were constructed during a major building campaign at Fort Slocum in the first decade of the twentieth century, when roughly two dozen brick buildings, including officer's quarters, enlisted men's barracks, mess halls, hospital buildings, and support facilities, were erected.

Building 13 was the third purpose-built administration building the Army constructed on Davids Island. The first such building, a headquarters that served De Camp General Hospital, stood south of Hoyle Road beyond the end of what is now the Parade Ground. It did not survive the Army's brief abandonment of Davids Island during the mid-1870s. The Army erected a new two-story, wood-frame administration building on the re-opened post in about 1880. This building was located just north of Hoyle Road at the southeastern corner of the Parade Ground until it was destroyed by fire in 1899 (New York Times 1899). Over the next decade, the post's administrative offices were housed in one of the quartermaster storehouses (Building 14); it is not known whether any other buildings served administrative functions during this period.

Planning for a replacement for the lost administration building must have been well underway by 1908, but the location of the new building was apparently unsettled. A Coast Artillery Corps map of Fort Slocum dated May 1908 shows that the Army was considering constructing the new administration building at the southern end of the Parade Ground, roughly where Civil War hospital headquarters was located (Coast Artillery Corps 1908). However, this proposed location seems to have been opposed by the Coast Artillery Corps, which claimed the southern and eastern sides of Davids Island as a zone of fortifications over which it had control. As an alternative to the southern end of the Parade Ground, this map recommended a location at the northern end of Officers' Row in the general area where Buildings 12 and 13 now stand.

Whatever the details of these deliberations, the present Administration Building was erected in 1909 at the northern end of Officers' Row, off the northeastern corner of the Parade Ground. Its Neoclassical Revival design reflected the widespread use of architectural allusions to democratic and republican political ideals through the use of elements of Greek and Roman temple design in American public buildings during the first third of the twentieth century. According to the Quartermaster Corps property card, the building's design was one of the Office of the Quartermaster General's standardized plans, No. 169-A (Figure 5). This plan number is not among those included in the partial inventory of standardized plans assembled by Chattey et al. (1997). Nonetheless, Fort Slocum's Administrative Building clearly reflects trends in the function and design of such buildings around the beginning of the twentieth century. Chattey et al. (1997) observe that as the size of permanent Army posts grew in the 1880s and 1890s, such buildings tended also to increase to accommodate

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more administrative functions. Typically, administration buildings were situated “in a prominent position overlooking the parade ground,” as was the case at Fort Slocum. “During the twentieth century, administration buildings continued as multiple-use structures and grew in size to accommodate the oversight of larger installations.” Early twentieth-century buildings typically contained offices for the commanding officer, post adjutant, sergeant major, and several clerks. Other rooms were devoted to file storage, and a hearing room, meeting rooms, and a telephone and telegraph room were among those that were typically included (Chattey et al. 1997:82-83). In 1939, the Quartermaster Corps property card for Fort Slocum’s Administration Building records that it contained 17 rooms that functioned as offices, a vault (presumably for files) and a storage room, one meeting room, a telephone room with an associated battery room, a print shop, and a dormitory room, among other spaces (Figure 6). No substantial alterations to the design of this building have been documented.

Other than identifying Building 13 as the Administration Building, some historical sources refer to it as the Post Headquarters. The term “headquarters” is an organizational term. Every command has one, and where several distinct units occupy a single post, several buildings might simultaneously function as unit headquarters (Chattey et al. 1997:83). This was the case at Fort Slocum in the 1950s, when the headquarters of the Chaplain School was located in Building 46, formerly the Post Hospital, while the headquarters for the Armed Forces (later, Army) Information School was located in one of the barracks, Building 59. Building 13 then contained offices for the post commander, his staff, and other general post support functions, such as finance, signals, and transportation offices. By 1961, however, the post headquarters had apparently been shifted to Building 59, and the post’s administrative, intelligence, logistics, supply, operations, and training functions were all located in that building.

Building 13 was originally designated as Building 92. In the 1941 renumbering of buildings at Fort Slocum, it became Building 116. In the last renumbering of buildings on the post in 1957, it acquired its present number.

### **PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

#### **Published Materials**

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1997 *Context Study of the United States Quartermaster General Standardized Plans, 1866-1942*. Prepared for the U.S. Army Environmental Center, Environmental Compliance Division, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Technical Center of Expertise for Preservation of Structures and Buildings, Seattle, Washington. Accessed online, January 15, 2007, at <http://handle.dtic.mil/100.2/ADA352432>.
- New York Times  
1899 “Big Fire at Fort Slocum: The Administration Building and Contents Entirely Destroyed.”  
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Nichols, Herbert B.

1938 *Historic New Rochelle*. Board of Education, New Rochelle, NY.

**Unpublished Materials**

Appiarius, John C.

1941 "Report of Inspection of Fort Slocum, N.Y." 10 November 1941. Record Group 92, Office of the Quartermaster General, National Archives and Records, College Park, MD.

Cavanaugh, Michael

2007 *What Is, What Was, and What Was NOT: A Companion to the 2005 Davids Island Footage*. May 2007 version. Unpublished ms in possession of author, Los Angeles, CA.

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Tetra Tech EC, Inc.

2008 "Fort Slocum: Overview." In *Historic Building Documentation, Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District, Davids Island, City of New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York*, Volume 1. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Concord, Massachusetts, by Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Boston.

United States Army Quartermaster Corps

ca. 1905-41 Fort Slocum Property Cards (Form 117 and predecessors). Record Group 77. National Archives, College Park, MD.

**Maps and Drawings**

September 1884 "Map Showing Lines of Water Pipes of Proposed Water Works at Davids Island N.Y.H., Sept. 27th, 1884." Inscribed "U.S. Eng'r. Office, New York City, Jan'y. 15th, 1885, to accompany letter of this date." Signed by G.L. Gillespie, Maj. Of Eng'rs. Bvt. Lieut. Col. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

October 1894 (or undetermined month thereafter through December 1895) "Map of Davids Island, New York Harbor, U.S. Military Reservation, Drawn Under the Direction of Cap. J.W. Summerhayes, Asst. Qr. Mr. U.S.A." Date stamp from QMGO on reverse bears a date in 1895. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

May 1908 "Fort Slocum, Davids Island, N.Y." U.S. Army Coast Artillery Corps, New York Harbor Eastern Long Island Sound Approaches Fortification Map Series. Stamped "U.S. Engineer Office, New York City / Received May 18, 1908." Shows proposed and revised proposed locations of headquarters building. Record Group 392, National Archives, New York, NY.

March 1909 "Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, NY." Made by Direction of Peter Murray, Capt. and Construction Q.M." Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

**ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (BUILDING 13)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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May 1933 "Fort Slocum, New York: Reconstruction of Sewerage System, General Layout." Revisions of April 29, 1933 map. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

1943 No title [Informal guide map of Fort Slocum]. Prepared by T/3 Richard Williams. Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.

1952 "Fort Slocum, New Rochelle, NY." Prepared by Armed Forces Information School. Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.

1961 "Map of Fort Slocum (Davids Island), New Rochelle, N.Y." Prepared under the direction of the First Army Engineer by the Engineer Intelligence Division, Governors Island, New York. Record Group, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)

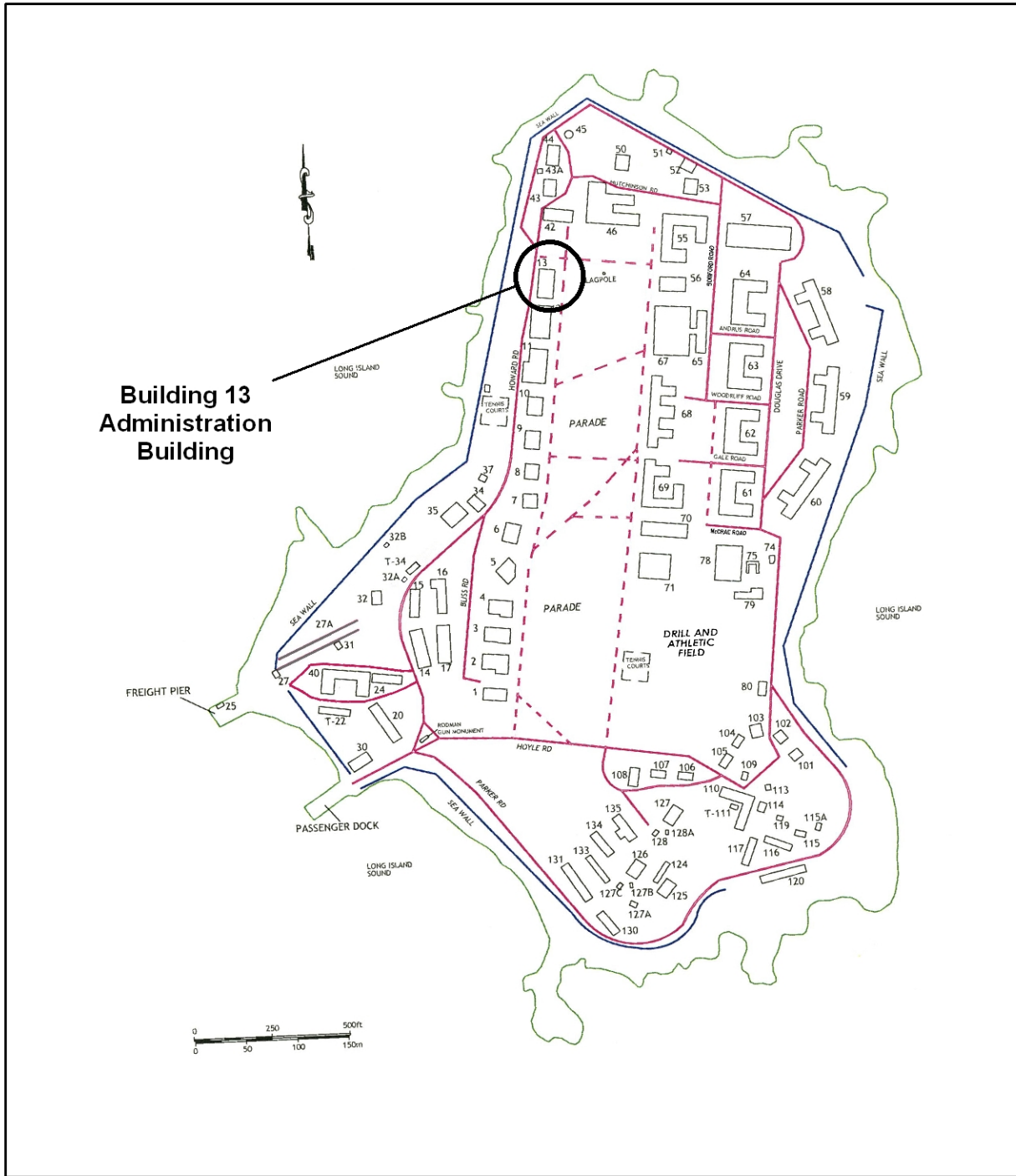
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1966 (Photorevised 1979)



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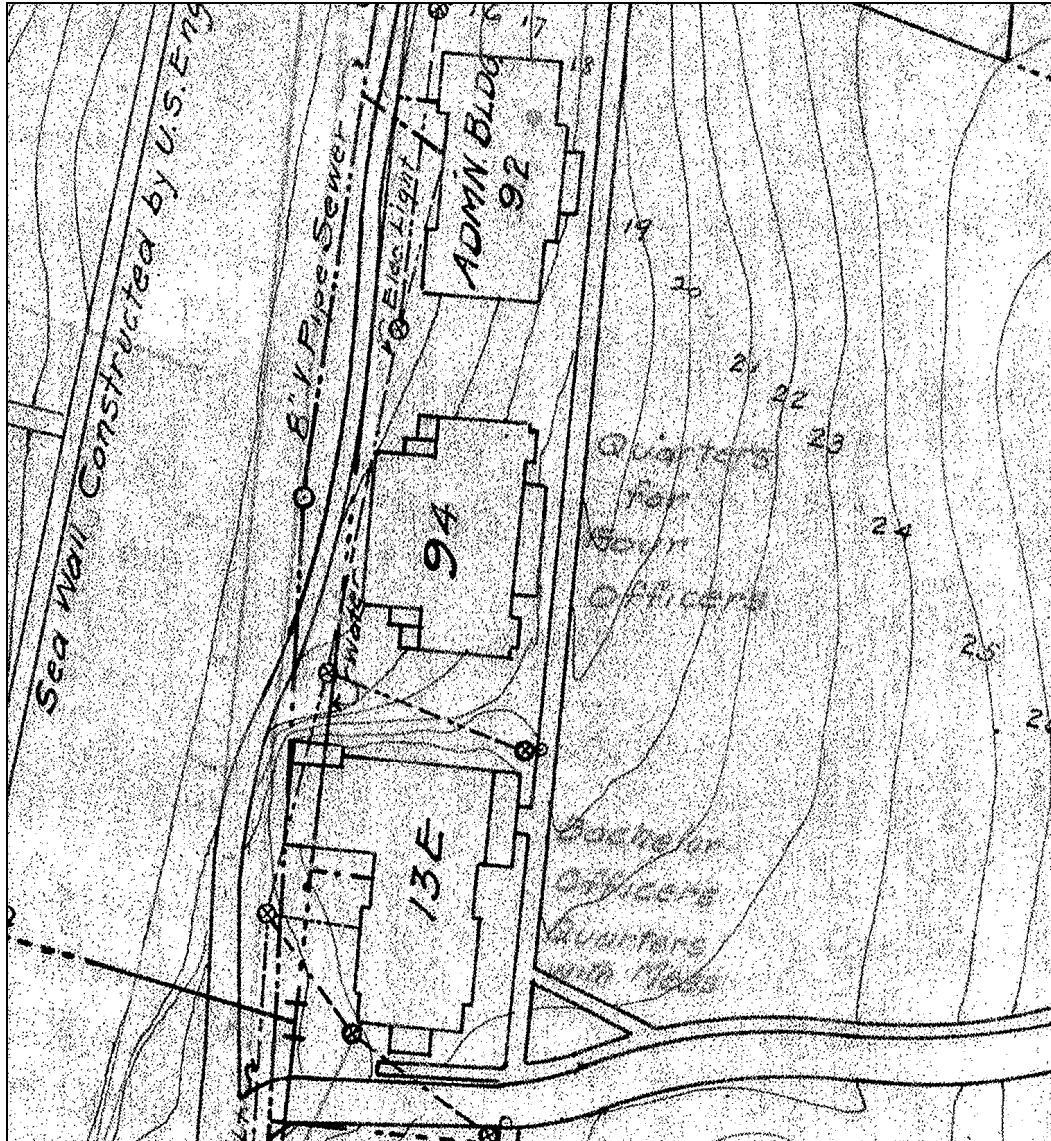
SITE MAP





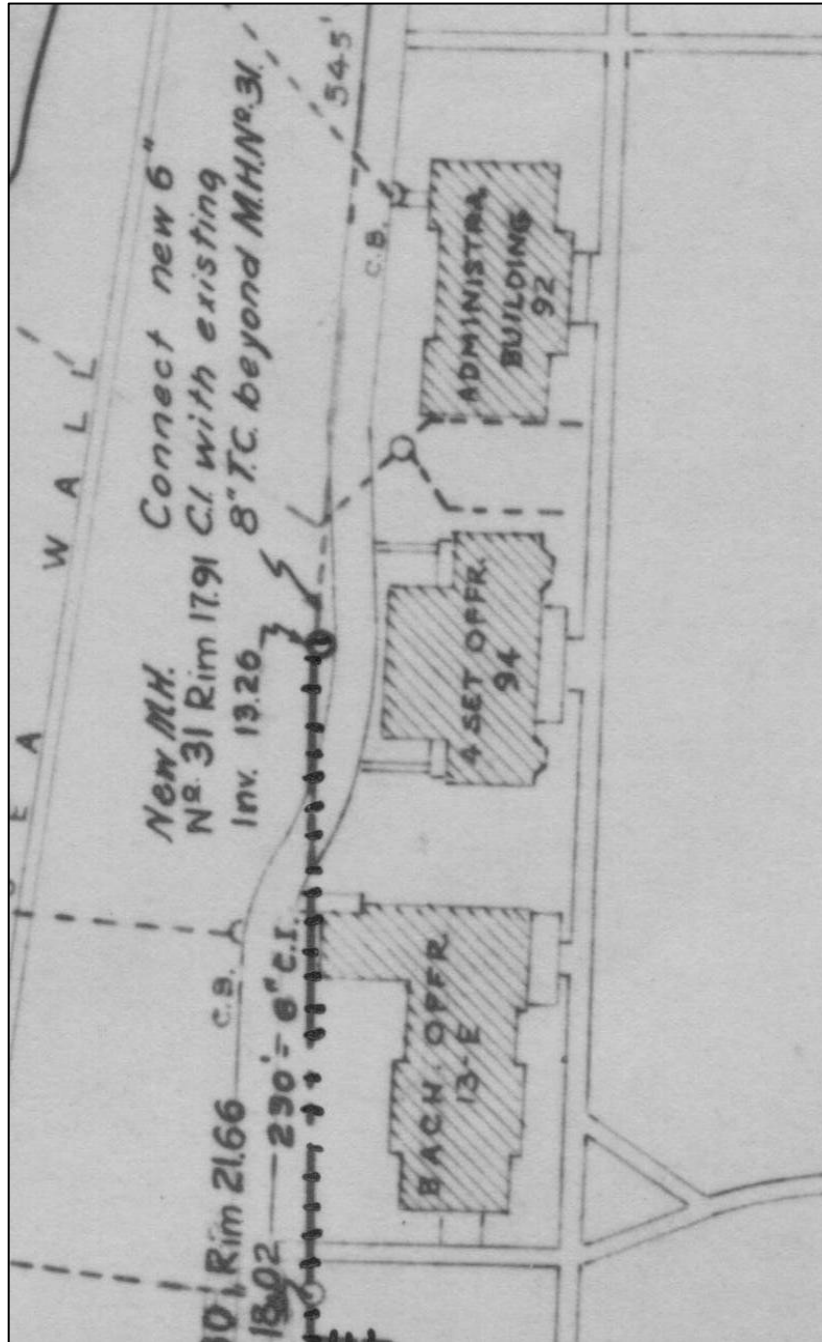
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (BUILDING 13)  
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Figure 1. "Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, NY," 1909, detail. Building 13 is labeled "Admin Bldg. 92." North is to top of drawing. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 2. "Fort Slocum, New York: Reconstruction of Sewerage System, General Layout." Revisions of April 29, 1933 map. Building 13 is labeled "Administration Building 92." North is to top of drawing. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 3. Inventory photo, circa 1920. View west. Record Group 111, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 4. Undated postcard, "Officers' Row, Fort Slocum, N.Y." Building 13 is at far right. View to southwest. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



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Figure 5. Property Record, November 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

Post Plan No. ....  
O.Q.M.C.: Plan No. 169-A Building No. 92-116

**FORT SLOCUM, NEW YORK.**  
 Location of building Administration Building. Capacity, 4664 Sq. Ft.  
 Cost, \$20,695.79 Date completed May 17, 1939  
 Foundation Stone  
 Walls Brick  
 Floors Wood  
 Slats  
 floor area above basement, square feet 5,308  
 Main building 44'4" x 88'4" Wings None  
 Basement 44'4" x 88'4"  
 Height of first floor above ground 18" @ front, 74" @ rear  
 Heating-Royton Newport Boiler # S-99  
 seam. (Coal Operated)  
 (Type of heat)  
 No. .... None  
 No. .... None  
 No. .... None  
 No. .... None  
 No. .... None  
 No. .... None

**METERS INSTALLED**  
 Gas, No. .... None  
 Electric, No. .... Three  
 Oil, No. .... None  
 Steam, No. .... None  
 Water, No. .... None

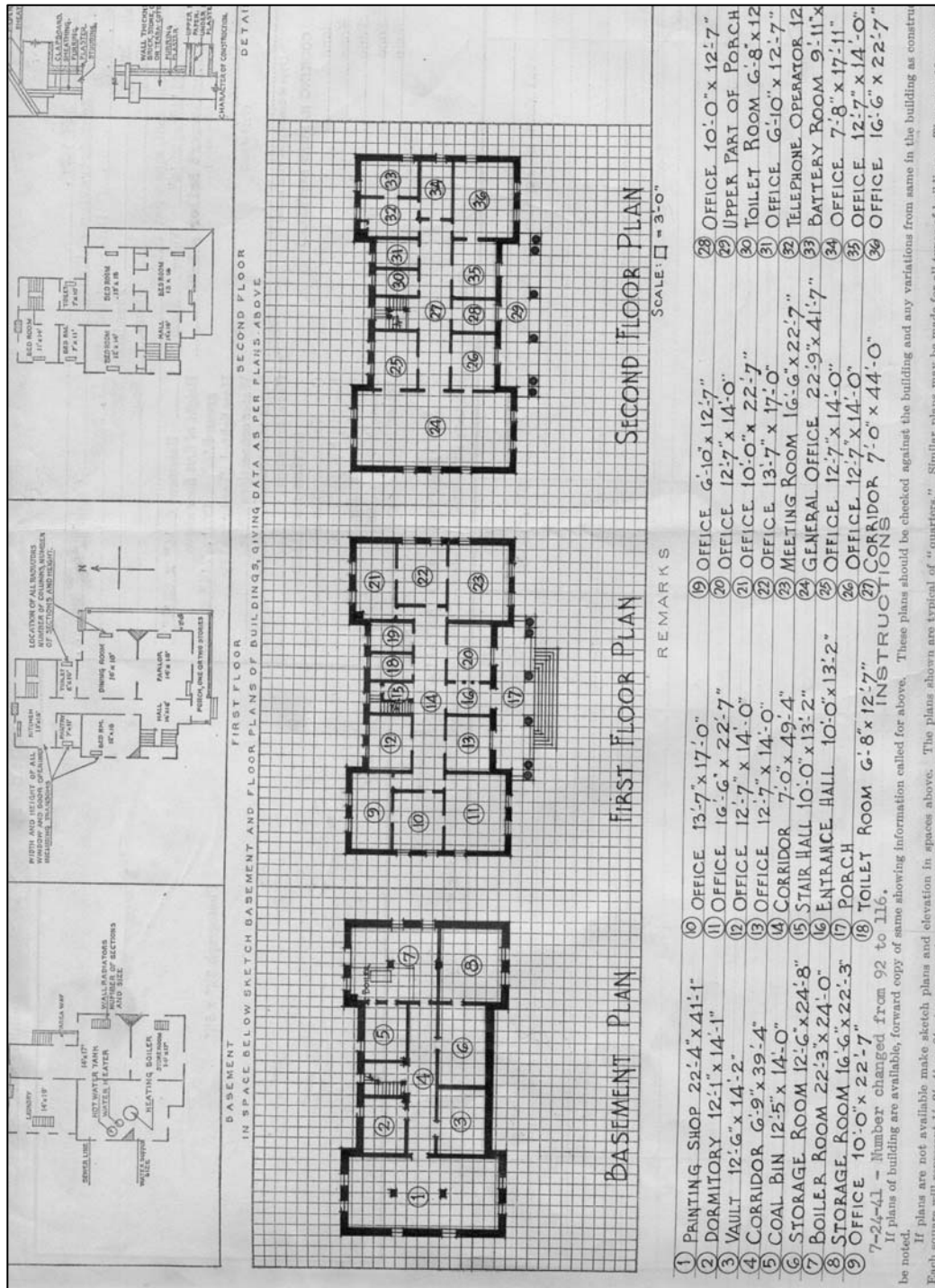
**COOKING RANGES INSTALLED**  
 No. .... None  
 No. .... None  
 No. .... None  
 No. .... None  
 No. .... None

**ADDITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS**  
 (Below enter chronologically all modifications, additions, introductions of water, sewer, lights, heating, etc.)

DATE	COST	DATE	COST
Total Cost of Repairs to June 30, 1939	\$17,862.55		

NOV 6 1939

Figure 6. Property Record, November 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 7. Building 13 as viewed from the eastern edge of the Parade Ground, circa 1950. View west. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.





## **HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION**

### **INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS**

#### **ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (BUILDING 13)**

Dauids Island—Fort Slocum

New Rochelle

Westchester County

New York

Photographer: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, October 2005.

1. Eastern façade, facing west (taken December 2005).
2. South and western façades, facing northeast.
3. Southern and eastern façades, facing northwest.
4. Northern and western façade, facing southeast.
5. Northern and eastern façades, facing southwest.

Photo 1. Eastern façade, facing west.



Photo 2. South and western façades, facing northeast.



Photo 3. Southern and eastern façades, facing northwest.



Photo 4. Northern and western façade, facing southeast.



Photo 5. Northern and eastern façades, facing southwest.

