

## 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 3: Buildings 42-64, Rev. 1, October 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.

## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### GUARDHOUSE (BUILDING 56)

**Location:** Davids Island–Fort Slocum  
0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland  
USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle  
UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603661.4526850

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

**Date of Construction:** 1896; 1910 addition

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

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

**Significance:** The Guardhouse (Building 56) is associated with the Barracks Area. In support of the military functions of Fort Slocum during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, it served as the administrative center for security activities at the post, housed the post's prisoners, and, for part of this period, was also used as the post's fire station (1910-ca. 1942). The building is 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:** April 2007 (Revision 1, October 2008)

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**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

The Guardhouse (Building 56) is located in the northeastern quadrant 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 56 stands in the post's Barracks Area near the northeastern corner of the Parade Ground. The Barracks Area contains ten brick buildings originally designed to house soldiers and other enlisted personnel, along with a few other buildings, including the Guardhouse itself, a mess hall, and a drill hall-gymnasium.

Building 56 is a one-and-a-half-story rectangular-plan brick building in ruined condition (Photos 1-21). The main axis of the building runs east-west, and its principal façade faces west onto the adjoining Parade Ground. The ground to the east (rear) of the building is excavated to allow an exposed basement, where a garage is located. The building was destroyed by a fire in April 1982 (Louis Berger and Associates 1986; New York Times 1982), and what now remains is a roofless brick shell without windows, doors, porch, interior partitions, or wood floors. The building has a brick bearing wall structural system, set atop a quarry-faced random-coursed, schist foundation and quarry-faced schist water table. The primary entrance is located on the western façade, and a two-bay vehicle entrance is located at the basement level of the eastern façade. A chimney remains in the northwestern quadrant of the building. Inside the building to the east and center are the remains of steel-cage holding cells which stand on a concrete floor. The interior is littered with debris from the collapse of the roof, interior walls, and flooring.

The guardhouse was constructed in two phases. The front (western) half was erected in 1896, while the rear (eastern) half was built in 1910. Historic documents and photographs provide information about the building as it was prior to the fire (Figures 1-8). As was typical of many buildings at Fort Slocum, its design owed much to the Colonial Revival style, but some features of its roof were decidedly atypical of that style. The building had a hipped slate roof with a large, square, hipped-roof monitor at each end of the ridge and a hipped roof dormer on the front slope. A hipped roof, which swept down from the main roof in a continuous plane, also covered a nearly full-width porch at the front of the building. Originally, the roofs had exposed rafter tails, but by the 1940s the soffits had been enclosed. The main façade of the building was dominated by a porch with brick piers, simple wood posts, and pipe railings. The porch was reached by four wood steps. The façade sheltered by the porch had five openings in it: doors at the northern end and in the middle flanking a single window, with two windows to the south of the central doorway. Each of the doors had five horizontal panels beneath a three light transom and segmental arch. The windows were six-over-six double-hung wood sash in brick segmental arches with grey sandstone sills. Openings of this type were characteristic of all of the building's first-story windows and doors.

The southern and northern façades were quite similar to one another. At the western end of each of these walls, large, six-over-six double-hung wood-sash windows flanked a doorway. The door at the southern side was reached by a flight of steps, while the one on the northern side was at grade. (The northern door was bricked up by the 1960s.) The windows on the southern side were also protected by bars. Further east in both walls was a line of barred windows (indicating the location of the cells). There were four cell windows on the southern side and five slightly larger ones on the northern side. Small three-over-three

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double-hung wood-sash windows, illuminating the basement, were located in the north, south and west walls of the foundation. These were set in rectangular openings and relied upon the blocks of the water table to serve as the lintels.

The eastern façade had four barred windows in the brick wall of the first story. The schist foundation of the basement was nearly fully exposed and was approached by a descending apron paved in concrete. A wide opening framed in light steel with a central post gave access to a two-bay vehicle garage. This opening was flanked at each side by a rectangular window.

A floor plan included with the Quartermaster Corps property card of 1939 (Figure 6) and the present ruins of the building show that the first-story interior of the guardhouse was divided into two sections. The western end was an office space, and the eastern end contained steel cells for prisoners. The office area had a wood-framed floor, now gone, while the cell area has a concrete floor, which was still extant when the building was documented. The basement was divided into a boiler room at the eastern end of the building, and a large garage area at the western end. From 1910 until ca. 1942, this area served as the post's fire station (relocated to Building 79). Subsequent installation of concrete block partitions in the southern half of the garage substantially reduced its floor area.

## **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

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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.

*Guardhouse (Building 56)*

Building 56 is situated in the northwestern corner of the Barracks Area, whose architecture is dominated by buildings designed to house unmarried enlisted personnel. In addition to ten barracks buildings, the area also contains the Guardhouse, a large mess hall, a drill hall and gymnasium, and the post exchange. The Barracks Area is one of the oldest functionally-distinct sections of Fort Slocum and can be traced to the layout of its Civil War predecessor, De Camp General Hospital. It is separated from Officers Row to the west by the Parade Ground, a feature inherited from De Camp's layout and characteristic of Army posts designed in the nineteenth century. While the Barracks Area primarily housed enlisted personnel, it also developed into the post's main training area, starting in the Second World War when the Army converted some of barracks to classroom and administrative uses.

Development of the Barracks Area after the Army's return to Davids Island in 1878 was marked by several major episodes of construction. Initially, the Army erected a group of wood-frame barracks in areas now occupied by Buildings 62-64 and also a single building where Buildings 68 and 69 now stand. In the late 1880s the service initiated use of brick for the construction at the post and started replacing the wood-frame buildings with brick structures, beginning with a line of buildings on the northeastern edge of the Parade Ground. These first brick buildings included Buildings 55, 68, and 69, along with the post's mess hall, Building 67. Later construction added two more lines of brick barracks, Buildings 61 to 64 near the center of the area, in 1906 to 1909, and Buildings 58 to 60 on its eastern edge, in 1930 to 1939. At one time, a pair of coast artillery batteries, built at the beginning of the twentieth century, and ten

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temporary wood-frame buildings, erected during the First World War and consisting mostly of barracks, also stood in the area, but these structures had all been removed by 1940. The guardhouse, drill hall, and post exchange were erected in the area between 1896 and 1910.

Guardhouses such as Building 56 were the places from which security activities at Army posts were administered (Chattey et al. 1997:76-81). The officer of the guard had his office at the guardhouse, and personnel on guard duty reported to the guardhouse at the beginning of their shift and were dismissed from it at the end. Since one of the important duties of sentries on their rounds was to watch for signs of fire, fire apparatus might also be kept in a combined fire station-guardhouse, as it was at Fort Slocum for several decades from around the beginning of the twentieth century. Guardhouses also contained cells for detention and short-term punishment. Most prisoners in guardhouses in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were enlisted men, not only because they made up majority of the Army, but also because officers were typically confined to quarters during investigations of misconduct and as punishment for minor infractions. Depending on the size and layout of a post, the guardhouse might be complemented by ancillary buildings at other locations, such as sentry boxes or gatehouses. At Fort Slocum, guard rooms at Neptune Dock on the New Rochelle mainland and in the Quartermaster Area served in this capacity, helping to control access to the post.

Building 56 was the third guardhouse erected by the Army on Davids Island. The first such building was part of De Camp General Hospital and stood on the south side of what is now Hoyle Road near the southeastern corner of the Parade Ground. This original guardhouse apparently continued in use until the early 1880s until it was, in the words of a report from the post's quartermaster, "unfit for either occupancy or repair" (Cavanaugh 2008). A replacement was erected prior to 1884. It was placed near the edge of the Barracks Area, probably about where the eastern end of the north wing of Building 61 subsequently stood. The second guardhouse was replaced by the present guardhouse in 1896, which, unlike its two wood-frame predecessors, was built of masonry. It was placed prominently within the Barracks Area along the Parade Ground, occupying an opening in the line of the new brick buildings that were gradually being built there: to the north was the 1889 brick barracks (Building 55), while to the south was the consolidated mess hall of 1886 (Building 67).

The Quartermaster Corps property card does not identify the standard plan used to construct Building 56 (Figure 5). Nonetheless, a photograph reproduced in a study of Quartermaster Corps standardized plans of the 1911 guardhouse at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming (formerly Fort D.A. Russell), depicts a building very similar in appearance to Fort Slocum's guardhouse. This building was constructed as a "Post Guard House" in accordance with Plan No. 30-C (Chattey et al. 1997:78, 370). Michael A. Cavanaugh (2007, 2008), who is writing a history of Fort Slocum, reports that the guardhouse (built 1897) at the former Madison Barracks at Sackets Harbor in upstate New York, appears to be identical to Fort Slocum's. Historical photographs show that the Fort Slocum guardhouse had features typical of those constructed in the late nineteenth century, for they were commonly "square or rectangular building[s] with a hipped roof and a full-façade veranda... [incorporating] a porch under the principal roof, dormer windows, and spindle woodwork that echoed the decorative features popular in late Victorian designs" (Chattey et al. 1997:76). In addition to serving as the post's main guard post, Fort Slocum's guardhouse also housed the fire brigade between 1910 and ca. 1942. Between ca. 1880 and 1898, the post's fire engine was housed in a small brick building in the area later occupied by Building 58. With the construction of Battery Fraser-Kinney starting in 1899, the fire station was relocated to a temporary wood-frame building situated directly behind the new brick guardhouse, and this building was replaced in 1910 by the masonry addition to Building 56. That addition also appears to have involved a

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substantial increase in the number of jail cells in the building. In ca. 1942, the Army erected a new fire station on the northern edge of the Drill and Athletic Field and relocated the post's firefighting equipment there. Aside from the 1910 addition, other alterations to Building 56 appear to have been rather minor, and included the closing-off of one exterior entrance and the replacement of wood steps with concrete ones.

Building 56 was the only building at Fort Slocum to retain its roof monitors until the post closed (Figures 1, 3, 4, and 7). These were apparently intended to promote ventilation and were installed on many of the larger buildings at the post when they were constructed, but they were removed from all other buildings, probably beginning around the First World War. On most buildings, the functional replacements for the monitors seem to have been large cylindrical sheet metal ventilators.

Until 1941, the guardhouse was identified as Building 71. Revisions to the garrison's building numbering system changed the designation to Building 119 in July 1941. Since 1957, the structure has been identified by its present designation, Building 56.

### **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>.

New York Times

- 1982     "Fire Destroys 15 Buildings on Island in Long Island Sound." April 23:B2.

Nichols, Herbert B.

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

#### **Unpublished Materials**

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.

- 2008     "Comments on virtual exhibit." E-mail message with attached drafts of book chapters to Nancy J. Brighton, USACE, with copy to Christopher L. Borstel, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., April 4.

Louis Berger & Associates, Inc.

- 1986     *Fort Slocum, Davids Island, New York: A Historic Architectural Assessment.* Prepared for Dresdner Associates, Jersey City, New Jersey, by the Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, East Orange, New Jersey.

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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 [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 6, 1872 "Quarter Master Buildings, Davids Island, N.Y. Harbor." Map and six sheets of drawings. Record Group 92. National Archives, College Park, MD.

March 1884 "David's Island, N.Y. Harbor... [Showing] Buildings as They Stand, March 12, 1884." Prepared by George H. Cook, Capt. & A.Q.M. Record Group 92, 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.

July 1903 (or earlier) "Fort Slocum, New York." No supervisor or preparer indicated. Shows proposed locations of Quartermaster storehouses near Freight Pier (west of present-day Buildings 14 and 15). Reverse bears various stamps and endorsements dated 1903 and 1904, the earliest of which is July 27, 1903. 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 77 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.

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

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.



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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.

**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. 1922: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View southeast. Winter.

1926: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View west. August 10.

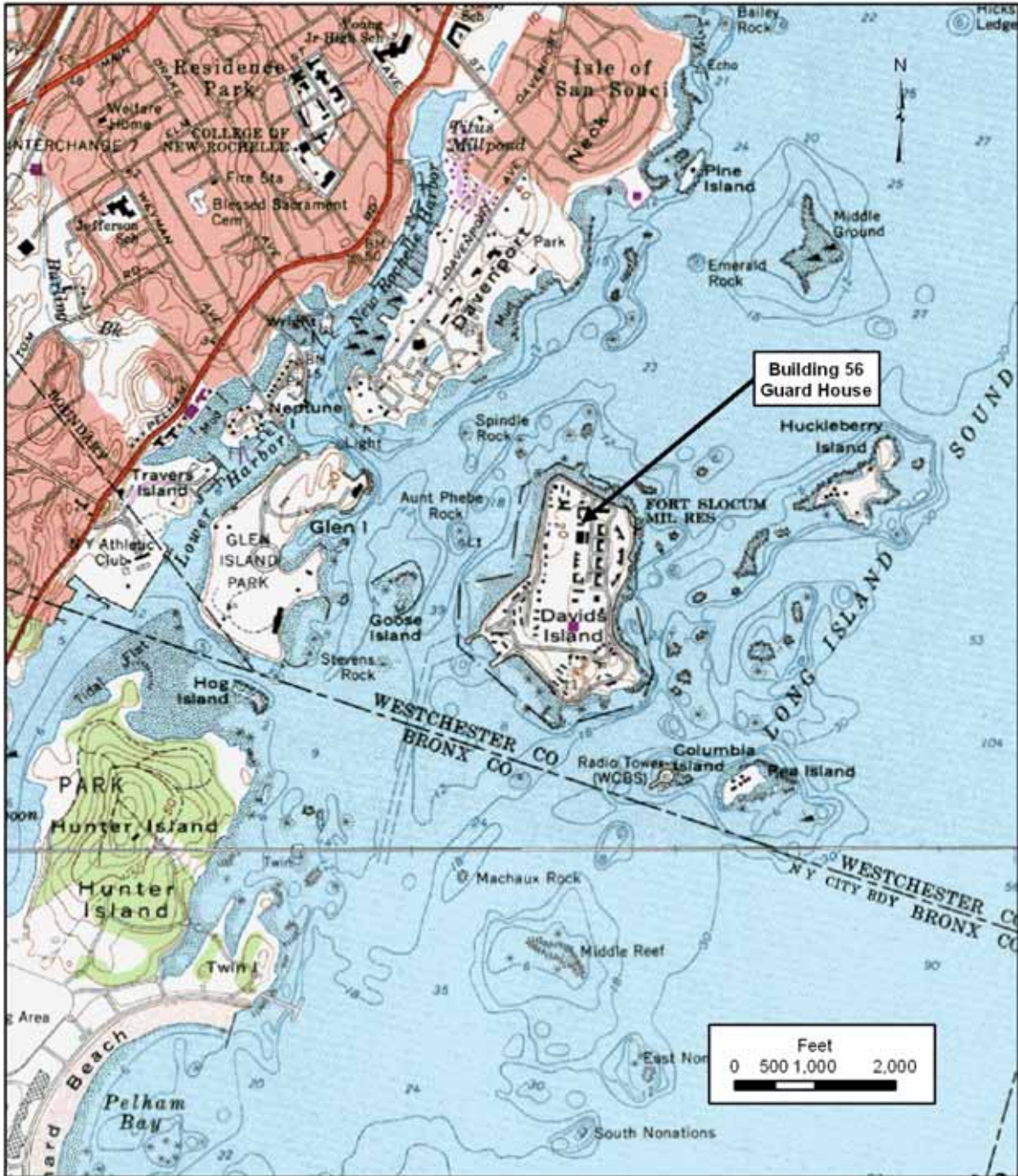
1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View southeast. June 29.

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

1961: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Fort Slocum's Barracks Area (northeastern side of Davids Island). View northwest. November 15. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. In the Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection.

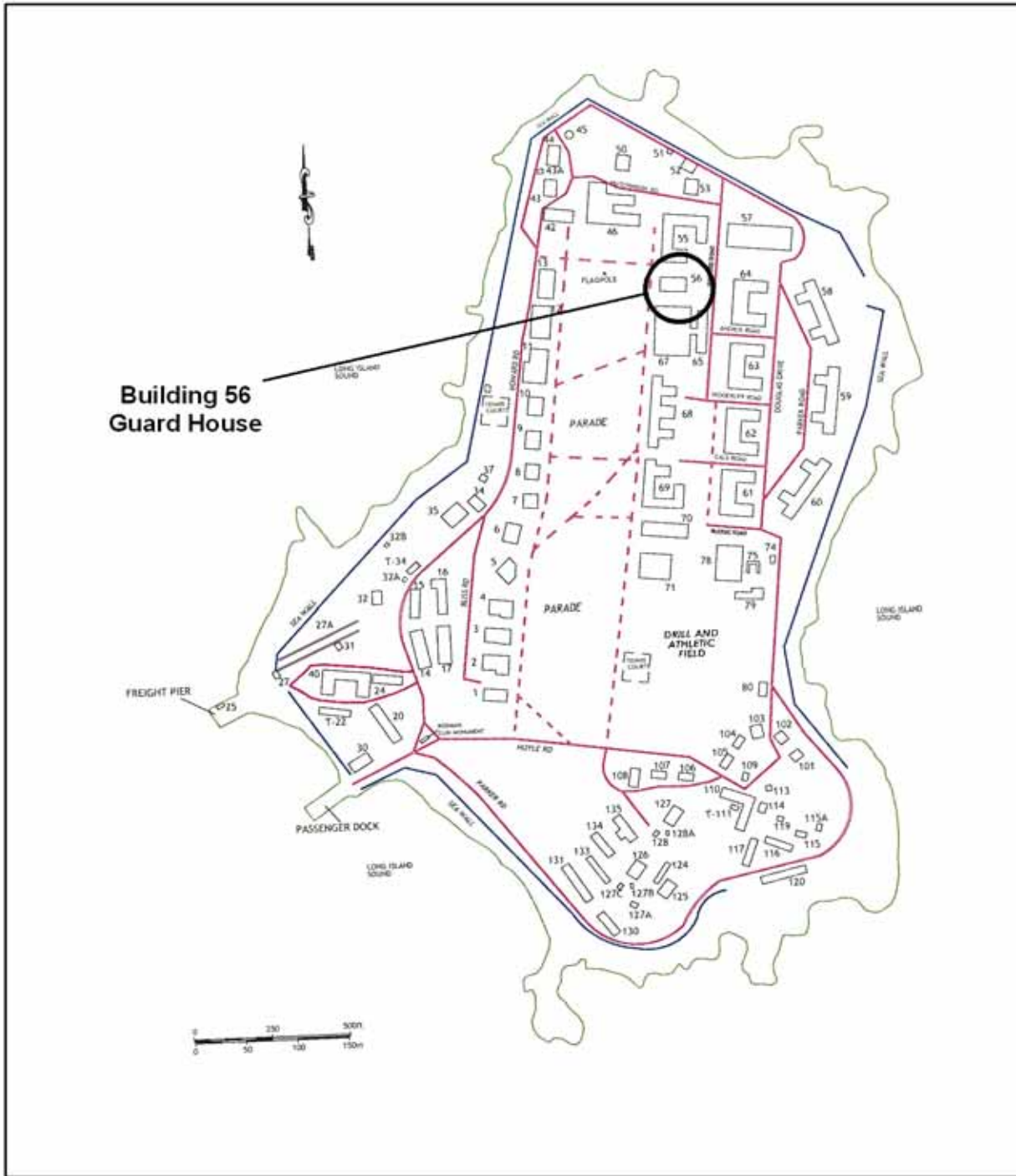
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LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)  
Scale: 1:24,000  
1966 (Photorevised 1979)



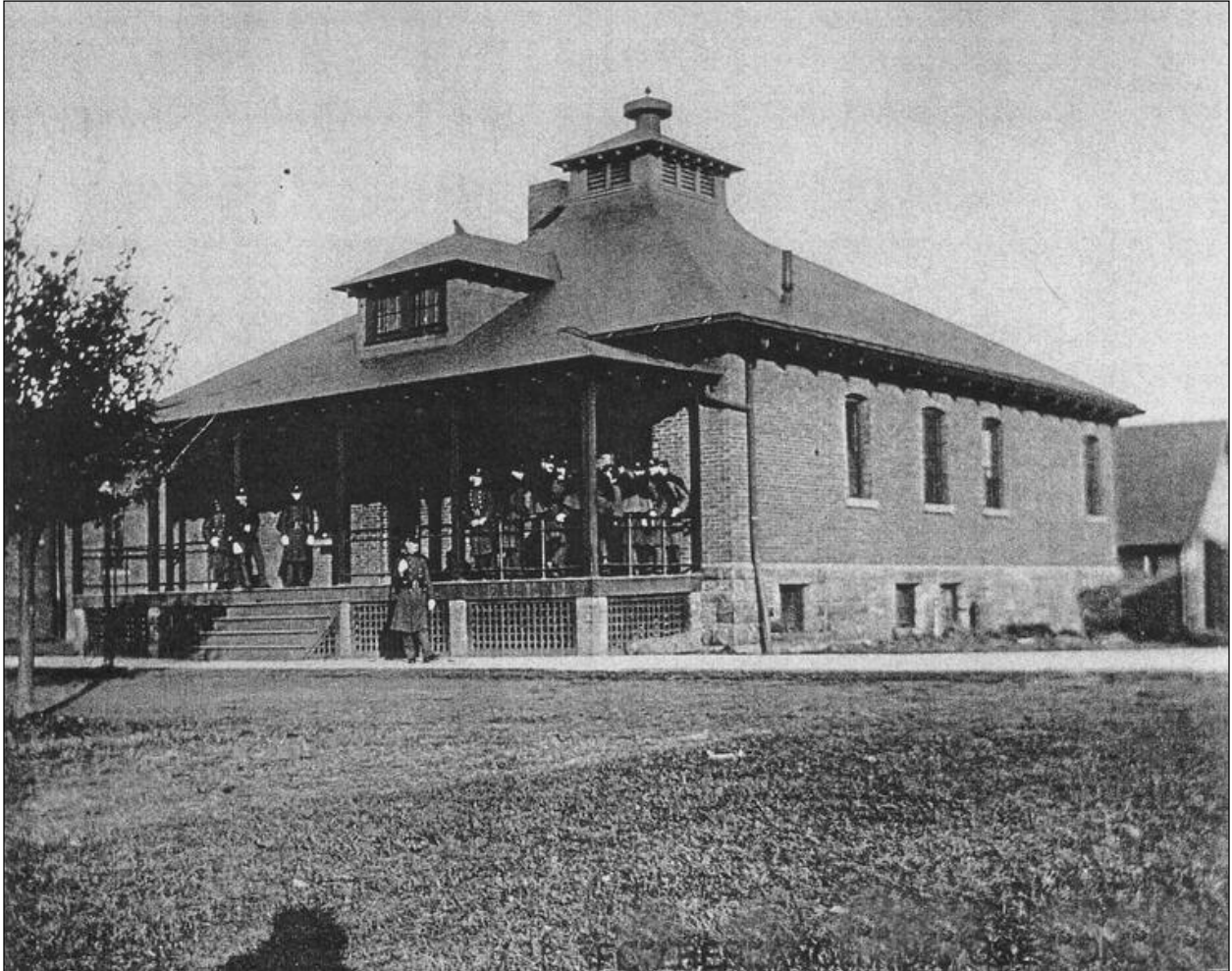
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SITE MAP



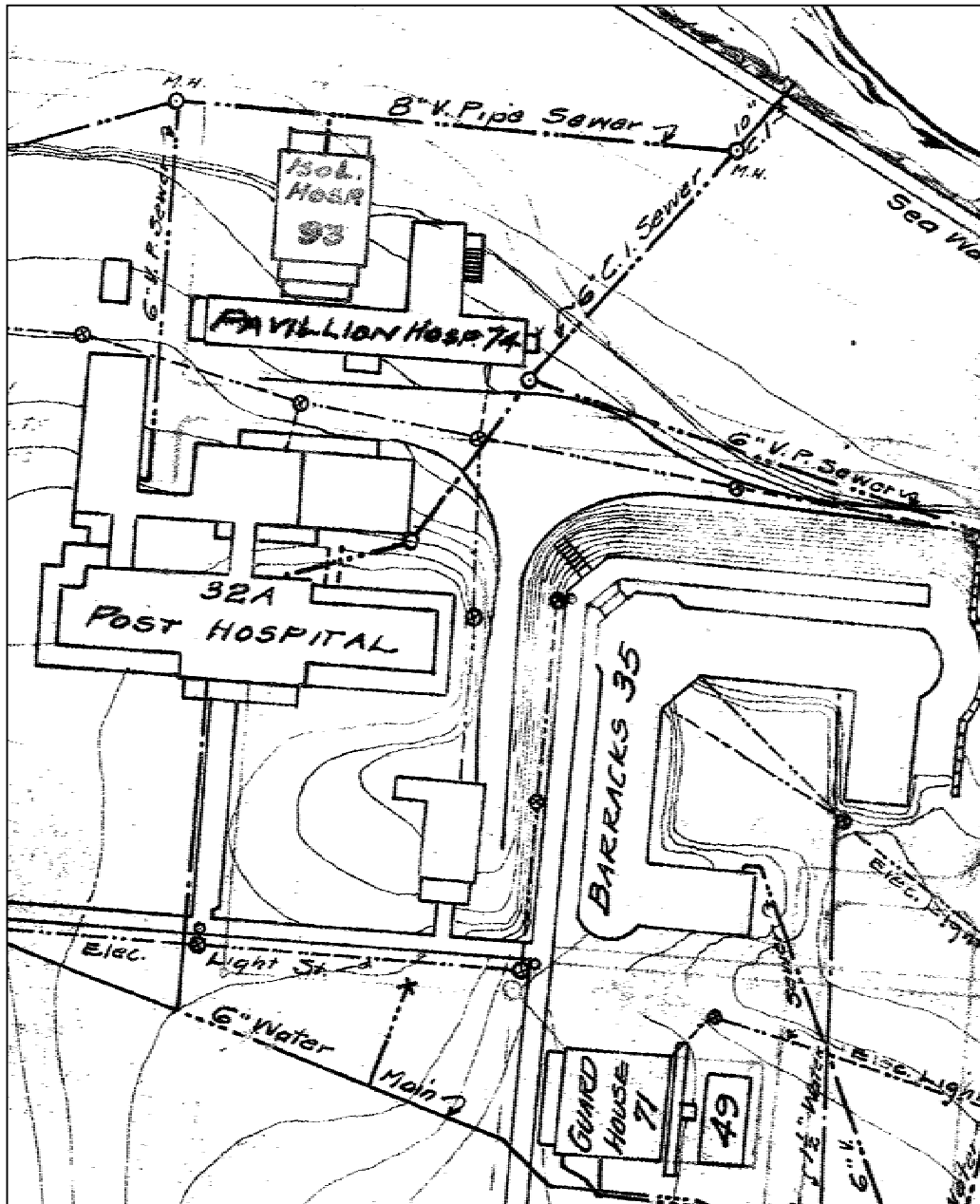
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Figure 1. Inventory photo, ca. 1898. View northeast. Original in National Archives. Digital copy from the Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



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Figure 2. "Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, NY." 1909, detail. The guardhouse, at bottom right, is referred to as Building 71. Building 49, immediately to the east, was the wood-frame building that served as the post's fire station between ca. 1898 and 1910. North is to the top of the drawing. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



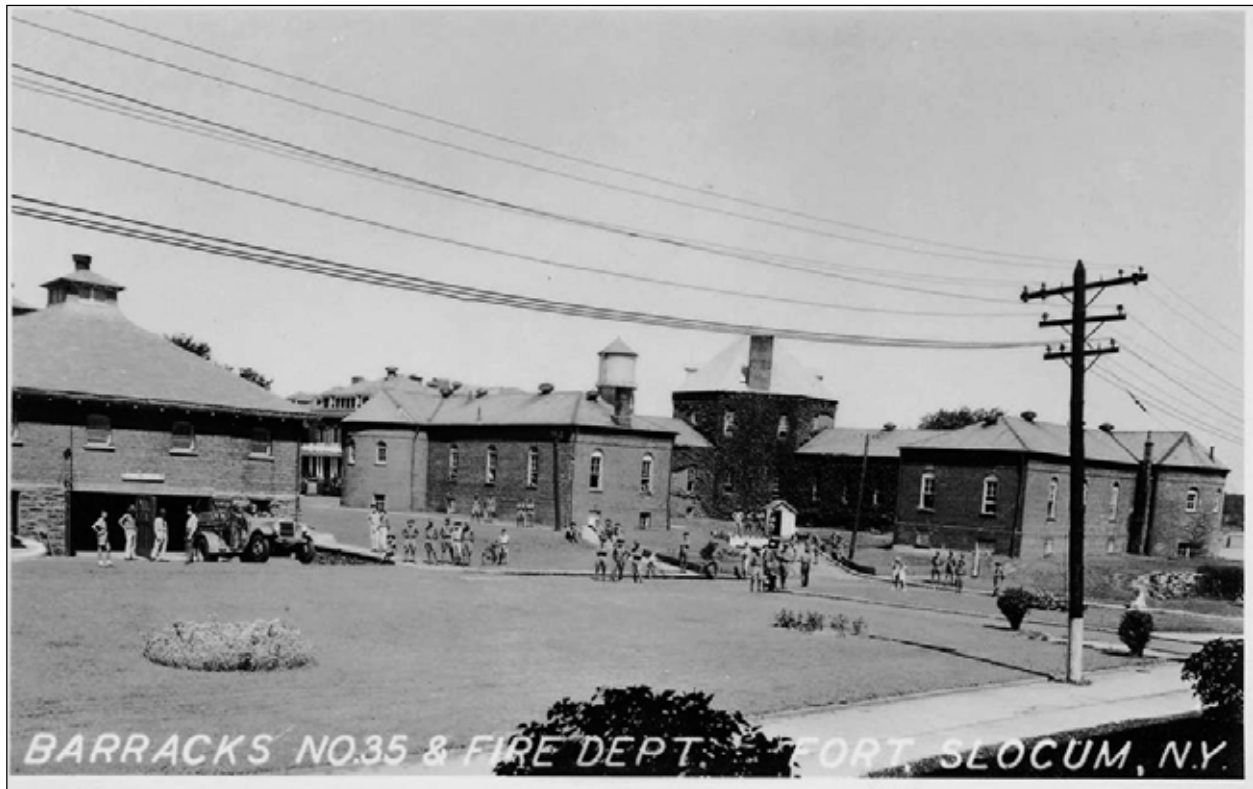
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Figure 3. Inventory photo, mid-1930s. View east. Record Group 111, National Archives, College Park, MD.




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Figure 4. "Barracks No. 35 & Fire Dept. Fort Slocum, NY," ca. 1938, facing northeast. The basement-level two-vehicle fire engine bay is visible at the back of Building 56 (left); the back of present-day Building 55 (then designated as Building 35) is at right. Real-photo postcard view; publisher unknown. Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



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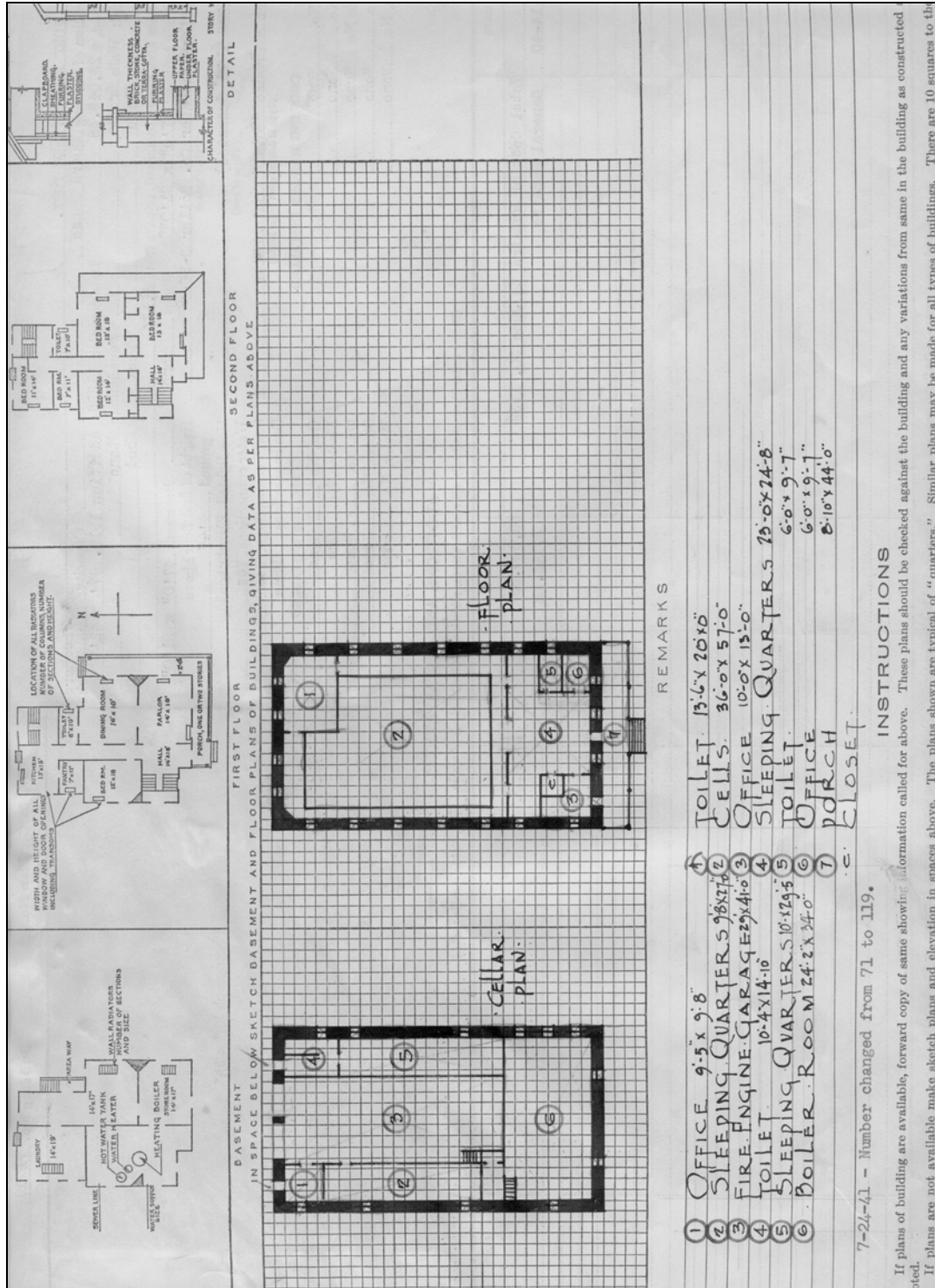
Figure 5. Property Record (front), September 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

Post Plan No. .... O.O.M.C.: Plan No. .... Building No. 7# 119	
SEP 4 1939 	
Place FORT SLOCUM, NEW YORK. Designation of building Guard House Capacity 35 Prisoners Total cost, \$23,045.48 Date completed 1896. addition 1910, 47' x 42', Material: Walls Brick Foundation Stone Roof Slate Floors Wood Total floor area above basement, square feet 3,134 Basement 47'0" x 91'0" Size: Main building 47'0" x 91'0" Wings None Height of first floor above ground 4'4" American Radiator Co. Boiler S-36-6 Steam (Coal Operated) Hart & Crouse "Royal" Coal Heater (Type of domestic hot water heater) COOKING RANGES INSTALLED Coal, No. None Gas, No. None Electric No. None Oil, No. None Steam, No. None Water, No. None METERS INSTALLED Gas, No. None Electric, No. One 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
6-14-40	Total Cost of Repairs to June 30, 1939 \$9,394.35
	General Repairs CR 3,146.18



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Figure 6. Property Record (rear), September 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



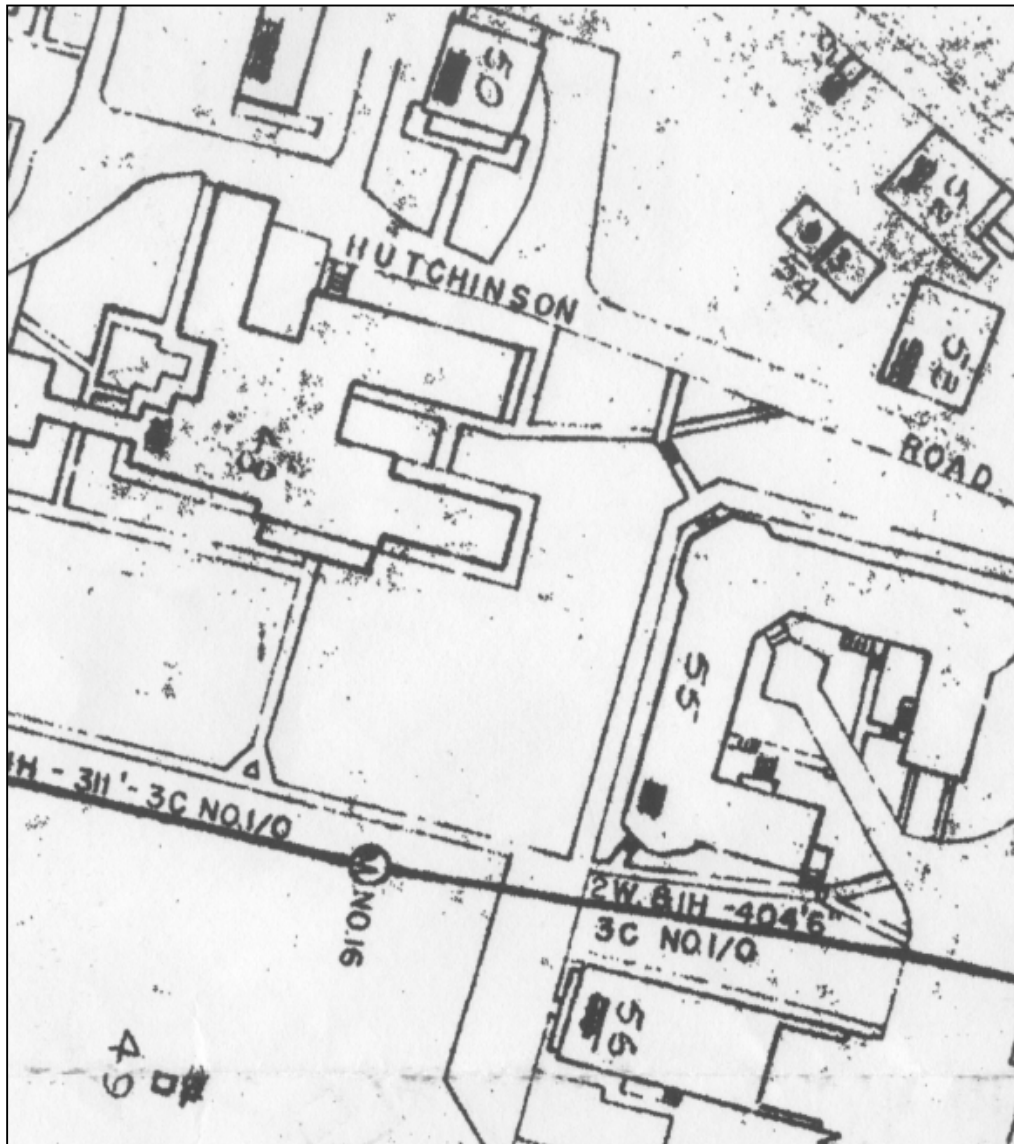
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Figure 7. Barracks Area, ca. 1950. Guardhouse is the building in foreground with porch. View southeast. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



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Figure 8. "Fort Slocum, New Rochelle, N.Y., Electric Distribution System Primary Lines." May 1949, revised through November 1957, detail. The guardhouse is identified by its present designation of Building 56. North is to the top of the drawing. 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

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Davids Island—Fort Slocum

New Rochelle

Westchester County

New York

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

1. Southern and eastern façades, facing northwest.
2. Northern and western façades, facing southeast.

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

3. Northern façade, facing east.
4. Western façade, facing northeast.
5. Ruin of steel cell in building interior.
6. Southern façade, facing northwest.
7. South end of eastern façade, facing west.
8. North end of eastern façade, facing west.
9. Vehicle bay interior, facing west-southwest.
10. Northern façade, facing southeast.

Photo 1. Southern and eastern façades, facing northwest.



Photo 2. Northern and western façades, facing southeast.



Photo 3. Northern façade, facing east.



Photo 4. Western façade, facing northeast.





Photo 5. Ruin of steel cell in building interior.



Photo 6. Southern façade, facing northwest.



Photo 7. South end of eastern façade, facing west.



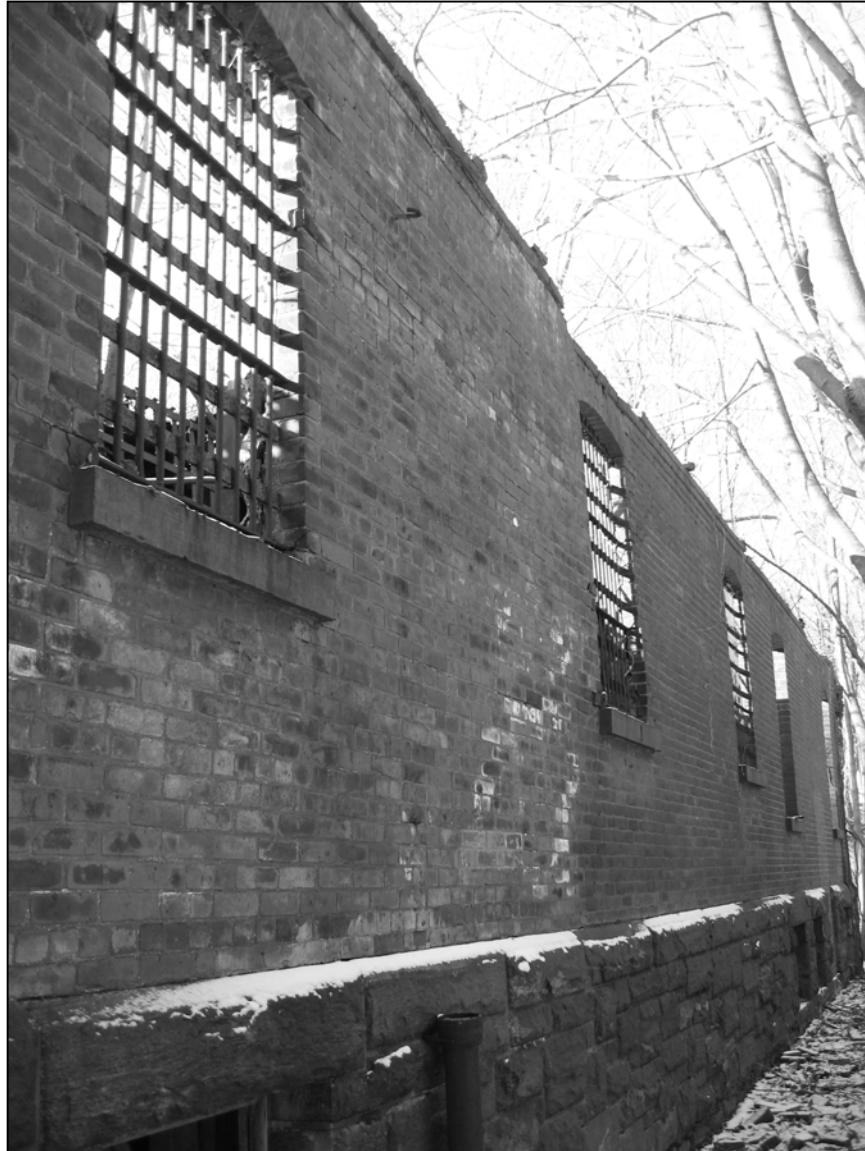
Photo 8. North end of eastern façade, facing west.



Photo 9. Vehicle bay interior, facing west-southwest.



Photo 10. Northern façade, facing southeast.



## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)

**Location:** Davids Island–Fort Slocum  
0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland  
USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle  
UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603747.4526902

**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). Demolished 2008.

**Significance:** The Drill Hall and Gymnasium (Building 57), also known as Raymond Hall, is associated with the Barracks Area. It was used for physical training and recreation in support of Fort Slocum's twentieth-century military functions. The building is 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, October 2008)

**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 2)

**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

The Drill Hall and Gymnasium (Building 57), also known as Raymond Hall, is located near the northeastern shoreline 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 57 is situated at the northern end of the post's Barracks Area. The Barracks Area contains ten brick buildings originally designed to house soldiers and other enlisted personnel, along with a few other buildings, including the Drill Hall and Gymnasium itself, a guardhouse, and a mess hall.

Building 57 is a large, low rectangular building in ruined condition (Photos 1-9). The main axis of the building runs east-west, and its principal façade faces west onto Bomford Road (Figures 1-7). The building is divided into two sections: a headhouse at its western end, behind which is a hall comprising the center and eastern end. The entire building is ten bays in length, and each bay is approximately 20 feet long. On the exterior, regularly-spaced buttresses mark the bays. The headhouse, which was used primarily as office space, takes up two bays, while the hall, which contained a large, vaulted room serving as combination drill hall, gymnasium, and auditorium, constitutes the remaining eight. The building has a compound structural system combining buttressed load-bearing masonry walls with arched steel trusses supporting a curved roof. The building's endwalls are parapet walls, and a parapet wall also divides the headhouse from the hall. The western endwall, interior parapet wall, and sidewalls of the headhouse are one-and-one-half stories tall, while the sidewalls of the hall are one story tall. The building was destroyed by a major fire on Davids Island in April 1982 (Louis Berger and Associates 1986; New York Times 1982), and Building 57 is now a partially collapsed, roofless brick shell. The exterior walls of the headhouse are largely intact while those of the drill hall have largely collapsed to the height of the window sills. The interior of the ruin is littered with twisted roof trusses, masonry debris, pipes, and other architectural material that survived the 1982 fire and a subsequent quarter century of exposure.

Historic photographs show that the design of Building 57 made allusions to the Gothic Revival style, without great elaboration. Its façades were, despite a line of buttresses running along each side, rather flat and unadorned. Walls were dominated by expanses of red brick. Copings, cornices, moldings, mullions, and sills of limestone or possibly fine concrete provided linear elements that contrasted with the brickwork in color and texture, but virtually all of the building's stonework was unadorned. A repeated pattern of ribbon windows unified the façades. Nearly all of the building's windows occurred in groups of three. The individual windows of a group were separated by stone or concrete mullions, while the sides of the openings for the group were plain brick. On the sides of the building, the three windows were gathered beneath a label molding, which was balanced by an extended sill, both of stone or concrete. The label moldings and sills extended between pairs of adjoining buttresses and were visually linked to them by plain stone or concrete copings on the set-offs, or shoulders, of the buttresses. On the ends of the building, most of the windows also occurred in groups of three and were also gathered beneath label moldings and separated by stone mullions; however, unlike the windows on sides, the sills beneath the groups were generally not extended. Double-hung, wood-sash windows were used throughout the building. Most had four-over-four glazing.



**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 3)

The main façade on the western end of the building at the headhouse was a long rectangular parapet wall capped by a low gable. The gable and its shoulders had a continuous stone or concrete coping, and stone or concrete copings also covered the set-offs of the modest buttresses at the sides and center of the façade. At the center of the façade, the building's main entrance was framed by a simple frontispiece. A tripartite group of windows beneath a label molding formed the top of the frontispiece. This window group was visually supported by two pairs of buttresses and linked to it by an extended sill and the copings at the buttress tops, all of stone or concrete. The buttresses divided the frontispiece into three panels. The outer, narrow panels each had a square shield plaque of stone or concrete up near the tops of the buttresses. Beneath the plaque and occupying roughly the middle third of the panel was a narrow window set between an extended lintel and sill of stone or concrete. A heavy two-leaf wood door carried on strap hinges occupied the wide center panel of the entrance. Surmounting the door was a large rectangular transom divided into a line of narrow lights by grill-like mullions, and above this was a large rectangular pediment containing a two-piece cast-concrete plaque comprising a perched eagle with outstretched wings mounted against a separate plain panel. Extensive traces of pigment on the eagle indicate that it was painted in yellow, gold, or bronze. The brickwork of the main façade was also painted—in dark red.

The north and south façades were essentially identical and were dominated by the rhythmic alteration of buttresses and the ribbon windows of the first story. The headhouse section featured pairs of gabled wall dormers at the attic level lit by single narrow windows. The gables were capped by a stone or concrete coping, while the top of the one-story wall of the hall section had a plain stone or concrete cornice. On each side, two-leaf entrances with heavy wood doors opened into the hall at the fourth bay east of the headhouse, replacing the window openings in this bay, and a later alteration had converted a window in the seventh bay into a doorway, probably for an emergency exit. The rear (eastern) façade was, like the front façade, a long rectangular parapet wall capped by a low gable. The façade was pierced by four groups of three windows like those found elsewhere on the building. Three of these groups were evenly array across the façade at the first-story level, while the fourth group was centered beneath the gable peak. While the parapet wall ended in buttresses, there were no buttresses perpendicular to the plane of the rear façade, unlike those of the front.

Historical research to date has not located a floor plan for Building 57. Descriptions and photographs indicate that the hall was a large open room with a wood floor, arched roof, and a stage at its eastern end. For many years, the building housed the post cinema, apparently another use of the auditorium, and during the Cold War, it had a bowling alley in the basement (Cavanaugh 2007).

## **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.

**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**

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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.

*Drill Hall and Gymnasium (Building 57)*

Building 57 is situated at the northern end of the Barracks Area, whose architecture is dominated by buildings designed to house unmarried enlisted personnel. In addition to ten barracks buildings, the area also contains the Drill Hall and Gymnasium (Raymond Hall), as well as a large mess hall, the post's guardhouse, and the post exchange. The Barracks Area is one of the oldest functionally-distinct sections

**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 5)

of Fort Slocum and can be traced to the layout of its Civil War predecessor, De Camp General Hospital. It is separated from Officers Row to the west by the Parade Ground, a feature inherited from De Camp's layout and characteristic of Army posts designed in the nineteenth century. While the Barracks Area primarily housed enlisted personnel, it also developed into the post's main training area, starting in the Second World War when the Army converted some of barracks to classroom and administrative uses.

Development of the Barracks Area after the Army's return to Davids Island in 1878 was marked by several major episodes of construction. Initially, the Army erected a group of wood-frame barracks in areas now occupied by Buildings 62-64 and also a single building where Buildings 68 and 69 now stand. In the late 1880s the service initiated use of brick for the construction at the post and started replacing the wood-frame buildings with brick structures, beginning with a line of buildings on the northeastern edge of the Parade Ground. These first brick buildings included Buildings 55, 68, and 69, along with the post's mess hall, Building 67. Later construction added two more lines of brick barracks, Buildings 61 to 64 near the center of the area, in 1906 to 1909, and Buildings 58 to 60 on its eastern edge, in 1930 to 1939. At one time, a pair of coast artillery batteries, built at the beginning of the twentieth century, and ten temporary wood-frame buildings, erected during the First World War and consisting mostly of barracks, also stood in the area, but these structures had all been removed by 1940. The ancillary permanent buildings of the Barracks Area, including the guardhouse, drill hall, and post exchange, were erected around the beginning of the twentieth century.

The Drill Hall and Gymnasium was completed in 1909 as part of an early twentieth-century building campaign at Fort Slocum. This campaign arose from the re-establishment of the recruit depot system in 1904-1905, which had been abandoned in 1894. In the recruit depot system as implemented in the 1900s, recruits received one to two months of basic training at a depot (initially these were Fort Slocum, Cloumbus Barracks, Ohio, or Jefferson Barracks, Missouri) before assignment to a permanent unit. An enlarged Army and the consequent need to train more recruits to replace soldiers lost through natural attrition also made it necessary to substantially expand both barracks and training facilities at recruit depots like Fort Slocum. During this period, the Army not only indoctrinated recruits into its customs and regulations, but also began physical conditioning and instruction in drill. Around the beginning of the twentieth century, officers began to regard systematic physical conditioning as valuable for improving soldiers' stamina and endurance but also for enhancing their moral character. Building 57 provided much-needed space for training and conditioning during inclement weather and for activities and games such as basketball that usually took place indoors. Moreover, it afforded the post new recreational opportunities and a large hall for meetings, theatricals, and similar activities (Coffman 2004:100-101; Pope 1995; Taft 1905:13-14).

According to the Quartermaster Corps property card for Building 57, it was constructed in accordance with Standard Plan No. 225. According to Chattey et al. (1997:110) from the 1880s until the 1930s, the Army constructed drill halls primarily for cavalry training. Enclosed drill halls for infantry were uncommon, as the infantry generally trained on outdoor parade grounds. Nonetheless, an increasing interest in athletics, recreation, and physical conditioning led to the introduction of buildings similar to cavalry drill halls, such as gymnasias and assembly halls. Standard Plan No. 225, a combination drill hall and gymnasium, was developed soon after 1900. Many details of this plan, such as the use of the parapet endwalls seen in Fort Slocum's Building 57, appear to be derived from cavalry drill halls (Chattey et al. 1997:110-112, 192-204, 370-382).

**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**

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Known alterations include the addition of exits, apparently in the vicinity of the stage at the eastern end of the hall and the subsequent replacement of the wood stairways of these exits with concrete. In addition, it appears that the original tarpaper roof reported on the Quartermaster Corps property card was replaced sometime in the 1930s by the standing seam roof shown in the inventory photograph of that card (Figures 5-6).

From its construction until about 1941, the Drill Hall and Gymnasium was referred to as Building 91. The 1941 revision to the post's building numbering system changed its designation to Building 82. A subsequent revision to the system in 1957 gave the building its present designation, Building 57. The building was long known as "Raymond Hall," but the origins of that name are obscure (Cavanaugh 2007).

### **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>.

Coffman, Edward M.

- 2004     *The Regulars: The American Army, 1898-1941.* Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

New York Times

- 1982     "Fire Destroys 15 Buildings on Island in Long Island Sound." April 23:B2.

Nichols, Herbert B.

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

Pope, Steven W.

- 1995     "An Army of Athletes: Playing Fields, Battlefields, the American Military Sport Experience, 1890-1920." *The Journal of Military History* 59:435-456.

Taft, W.H.

- 1905     Annual Report of the Secretary of War. In *Annual Reports of the Secretary of War for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1905*, vol. I, pp. 1-385. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington. Accessed online, September 11, 2008, at <http://books.google.com>.

#### **Unpublished Materials**

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.

**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)**  
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Louis Berger & Associates, Inc.

- 1986 *Fort Slocum, Davids Island, New York: A Historic Architectural Assessment.* Prepared for Dresdner Associates, Jersey City, New Jersey, by the Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, East Orange, New Jersey.

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 [Quartermaster Corps]

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

### **Maps and Drawings**

July 1906; revised November 1907 "Map of Fort Slocum, David's [sic] Island, N.Y. Made by Direction of Lieut. Col. W.P. Evans, 11<sup>th</sup> Inf. by C.B. Hodges, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut., 4<sup>th</sup> Inf." With revisions showing authorized and proposed work by Peter Murray, Capt. and Cons. Q.M. 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 77 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.

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

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 Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, from materials supplied by Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.

### **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.)

1924: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island showing area between Mortar Battery and

**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 8)

Raymond Hall (Building 57). View east. September 4.

1926: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View west. August 10.

1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 17.

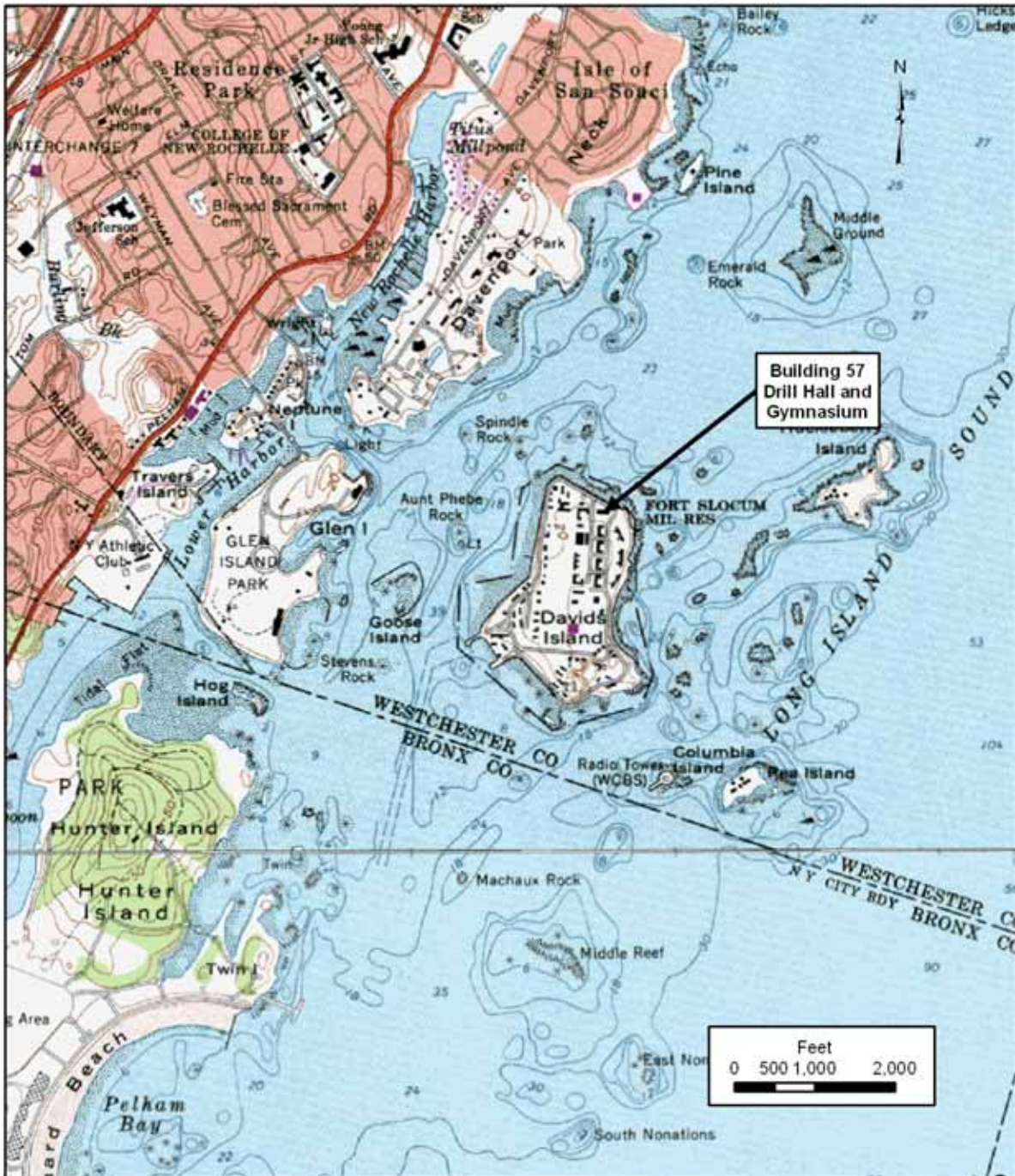
1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View southeast. June 29.

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

1961: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Fort Slocum's Barracks Area (northeastern side of Davids Island). View northwest. November 15. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. In the Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection.

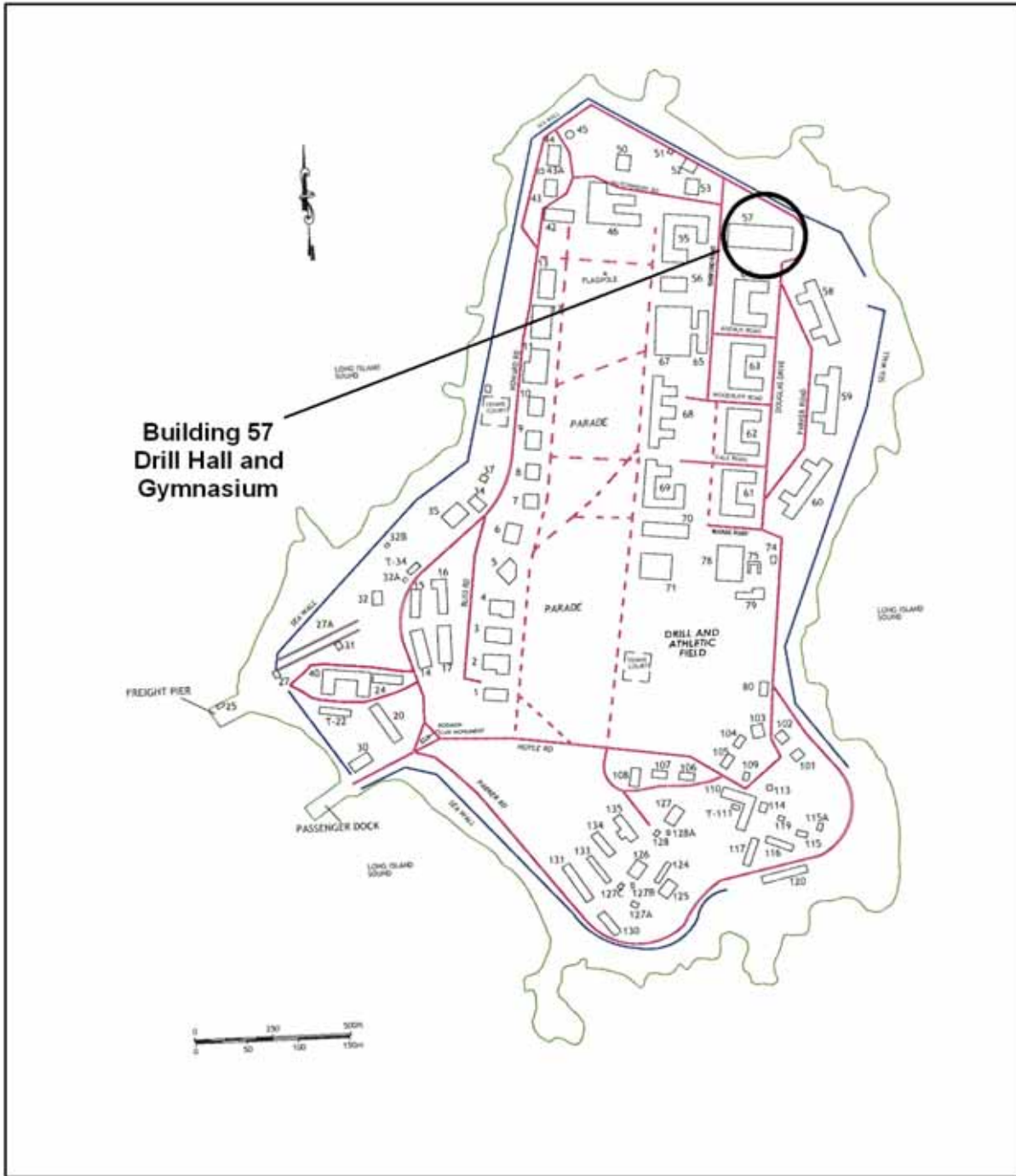
**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)  
Scale: 1:24,000  
1966 (Photorevised 1979)



**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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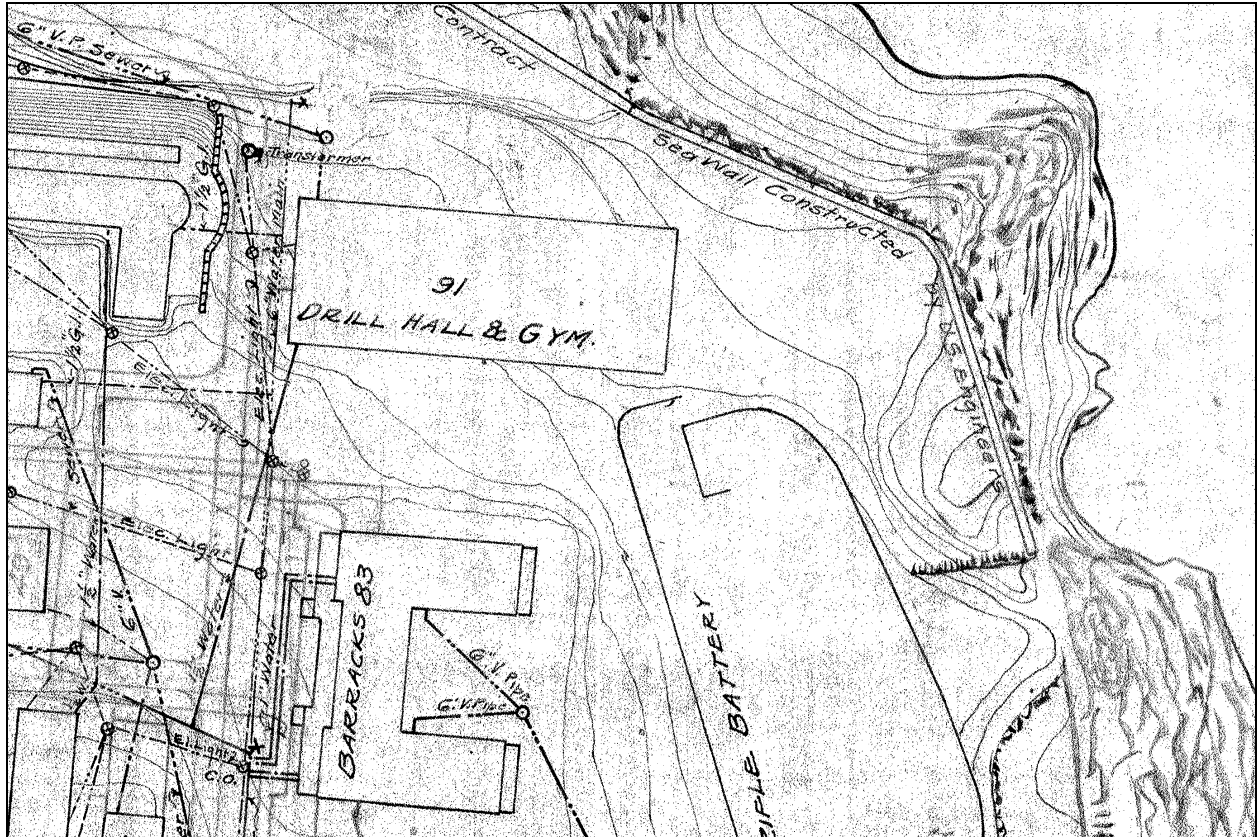
SITE MAP





**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 1. "Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, NY." 1909, detail. In this drawing the Drill Hall and Gymnasium is labeled Building 91. North is to the top of the drawing. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 2. Inventory photo, mid-1930s. View northeast. Record Group 111, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 3. Rear façade (east end) of Building 57 following crash of light airplane, March 1936. View west-northwest. Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 4. High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. June 1936, detail. View southeast. The roof of Building 57 is labeled "FT. SLOCUM." Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM  
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Figure 5. Property Record, October 1940. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

Old No. 173 A) Post Plan No. \_\_\_\_\_ Building No. 91 82  
 O. Q. M. G.: Plan No. 225 OCT 1940

Location: Fort Slocum, New York  
 Designation of building: Drill Hall & Gymnasium (Raymond Hall) Capacity: 5969 Sq. Ft.  
 Total cost: \$43,287.68 Date completed: March 25, 1909  
 Material: Walls Brick Foundation Brick  
 of Tar Paper (1928) Floors Wood (Basement concrete)  
 Total floor area above basement, square feet: 15,400 Basement 3550 Sq. Ft.  
 Size: Main building 202'4" x 82'12" Wings None  
American Radiator Company (4513)  
 Height of first floor above ground 0' NW corner 4'6" SE Cor  
 How lighted Electrically  
 Water connections Yes  
 Sewer connections Yes  
 Gas connections None

Steam \* Coal Operated (Type of heat)  
 Coal (Type of domestic hot water heater)


COOKING RANGES INSTALLED  
 al, No. None  
 s, No. None  
 etric, No. None  
 l, No. None  
 eam, No. None

REFRIGERATORS INSTALLED  
 Gas None  
 Electric None  
 Ice 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	COST
<u>6-30-40</u>	<u>Repairs FY 1940 (NPA/106.38)</u>		
	<u>Total cost of repairs to June 30, 1939</u>		<u>\$10,904.65</u>
			<u>1277.93</u>



**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 6. Inventory photograph, October 1940. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (RAYMOND HALL) (BUILDING 57)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 7. Southern façade of Building 57 (right) and neighboring buildings, including north side of Building 64 (left), ca. 1943. View to west. Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



## HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

#### **DRILL HALL AND GYMNASIUM (BUILDING 57)**

Davids Island—Fort Slocum  
 New Rochelle  
 Westchester County  
 New York

Photographer: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, November 2005 (Photos 1, 2, 4, and 9).

Caleb Christopher, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, January 2007 (Photos 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8).

1. Headhouse, showing main (western) and northern façades, facing southeast.
2. Western façade, detail of frontispiece surrounding main entrance, facing east.
3. Western façade, detail of entrance with view into interior, facing east.
4. Western façade, detail of pediment with carved eagle over entrance, facing east.
5. Southern façade, detail of wall dormer at western end, facing north.
6. Northeastern corner of ruin, facing southwest.
7. Concrete stairway leading from center of hall, northern side of building, fifth bay from eastern end, facing west.
8. Headhouse, interior detail, facing east from main entrance.
9. Hall interior, detail showing collapsed roof trusses.



Photo 1. Headhouse, showing main (western) and northern façades, facing southeast.



Photo 2. Western façade, detail of frontispiece surrounding main entrance, facing east.



Photo 3. Western façade, detail of entrance with view into interior, facing east.



Photo 4. Western façade, detail of pediment with carved eagle over entrance, facing east.



Photo 5. Southern façade, detail of wall dormer at western end, facing north.



Photo 6. Northeastern corner of ruin, facing southwest.



Photo 7. Concrete stairway leading from center of hall, northern side of building, fifth bay from eastern end, facing west.



Photo 8. Headhouse, interior detail, facing east from main entrance.





Photo 9. Hall interior, detail showing collapsed roof trusses.



## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### BARRACKS (BUILDING 58)

<b><u>Location:</u></b>	Davids Island–Fort Slocum 0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603803.4526826
<b><u>Present Owner(s):</u></b>	City of New Rochelle, NY
<b><u>Date of Construction:</u></b>	1932
<b><u>Architect/Engineer:</u></b>	U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps
<b><u>Present Use:</u></b>	Abandoned when documented (2004-2007). Demolished 2007.
<b><u>Significance:</u></b>	The Barracks (Building 58) associated with the Barracks Area. It originally housed enlisted personnel in support of Fort Slocum’s twentieth-century military functions. During the 1950s and 1960s, it also served as bachelor officers’ quarters and housed printing equipment for one of the technical schools based at the post. The building is a key contributing element of the Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District.
<b><u>Project Information:</u></b>	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 I.I.C.1 of the MOA.
<b><u>Prepared by:</u></b>	C.L. Borstel, J.C. Sexton, R.M. Jacoby, S.B. Marshall, and C.W. Christopher
<b><u>Title:</u></b>	Cultural Resources Documentation Team
<b><u>Affiliation:</u></b>	Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	March 2007 (Revision 1, October 2008)

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 58)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

Building 58 is a barracks located along the northeastern shoreline 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 58 is situated on the eastern side of the post's Barracks Area. The Barracks Area contains ten brick buildings originally designed to house enlisted personnel, along with a mess hall, gymnasium-drill hall, and guardhouse. Among the ten barracks of this area is a group of three 1930s-era concrete and masonry buildings that comprise the "Trivium" (Cavanaugh 2007), of which Building 58 is one. These three buildings resemble one another in general size, footprint, and their stripped-down Colonial Revival designs. They form an arc along the northeastern shoreline of the island, with Building 58 at the northern end of the arc.

Building 58 is a large, three-and-a-half-story C-plan barracks (Photos 1-8). It has a reinforced concrete structural system, which is clad with hollow tile and brick and stands atop a concrete foundation. The building consists of a rectangular main block oriented approximately north-south and two short wings, which are set in from the building's ends and extend to the west. Interior chimneys rise from the western walls of the building at the gable end of each ell and in the center of the main block. The building's roof is not extant, but collapsed steel framing that formerly supported the roof is scattered on the concrete floor of the attic level. The main façade faces east, toward Long Island Sound. On the opposite, western, side of the building, large, three-story porches of reinforced concrete look into a courtyard that opens onto Parker Road. Throughout the building, windows and doors are heavily deteriorated or entirely missing, but patterns of fenestration can be readily discerned in the remnants.

Building 58 was one of many buildings on Davids Island that burned in a fire on the island in April 1982 (Louis Berger and Associates 1986; New York Times 1982). Compared to many of the older buildings of the Barracks Area, Building 58 and its contemporaries, Buildings 59 and 60, were fire resistant and appear to have retained a high degree of structural integrity despite the 1982 conflagration. Even so, the interior of the building has been vandalized and damaged by water infiltration.

Historic photographs and extant remnants reveal the building's former appearance and depict a fairly plain building with subdued and flattened Colonial Revival design elements (Figures 1-7). The building had a cross-gabled roof that appears to have been constructed on a combination of steel and wood framing. Wood decking evidently supported the slate cladding of the roof. Parapetted brick gables rose from set-offs at the ends of main block and the two ells. On the main block, the gables had a rectangular peak to imitate a wide chimney, while on the ells, actual chimneys rose at the gable peaks. The gables were capped by concrete copings, and they were pierced by pairs of small, quarter-round lunette windows. Small, regularly-spaced gabled dormers were distributed around the roof, including six on the eastern slope, two on the western slope of the main block overlooking the courtyard, along with two gables per ell.

The building's façades were generally flat and plain. The basic fenestration plan for the first, second, and third stories of all façades consisted of rows of regularly-spaced vertical rectangular windows, usually grouped into pairs by alternating bands of wide and narrow wall. The window openings had flat (jack) arches of brick and plain limestone sills. These contained six-over-six, double-hung wood-sash windows

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 58)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 3)

surmounted by a fixed three-light wood-sash transom. On all façades except those facing the courtyard, a belt course of plain limestone separated the first story from the second, while the smooth concrete foundation projected slightly to form a narrow water table with a chamfered lip. Horizontal rectangular openings pierced the foundation at intervals that mirrored the fenestration of the floors above. The basement windows set in these openings were steel frames with translucent lights, and the windows were protected by light steel bars.

The main entrances were located on the eastern façade and were approached by wide concrete stairways. Each consisted of a double-leaf door in an arched opening, with a carved limestone surround. The surround consists of faux voussoirs around the top of the door, pilasters flanking the entrance, a projecting cornice capped by large finials, and a continuation to the surround of the window directly above the entrance ending in a simple pediment. While noticeably more detailed than other sections of the building, the entrances were nonetheless comparatively shallow and did not substantially interrupt the overall flatness of the façade. The building has a date stone, which is unusual for the structures at Fort Slocum. The limestone is embedded in the main façade at the southeastern corner. It reads: "Erected by / The Quartermaster Corps / U.S. Army / 1931."

On the courtyard side of the building, wide three-story concrete porches covered the brick façade. The porches were supported by thick piers of cast-in-place concrete with steel reinforcing. They had heavy, platform-like floors also of concrete. The third-story porch had a flat roof, apparently with wood decking, which was supported on the beams that tied together the top of the porch structure. The porch roof is now missing. On each story, the porches were open and continuous. They were interconnected by concrete stairways. Pipe railings were used throughout. The fenestration of the courtyard façades was similar to that elsewhere on the building, except that certain windows were replaced by doors opening onto the interior.

No floor plan is currently available for Building 58. Generally speaking, the interior was divided by concrete walls into dormitory rooms, common rooms, occasional offices, lavatories, and corridors.

## **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

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 58)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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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.

*Barracks (Building 58) and the "Trivium" (Buildings 58-60)*

Building 58 is situated on the eastern side of the Barracks Area, whose architecture is dominated by buildings designed to house unmarried enlisted personnel. In addition to ten barracks buildings, the area also contains a large mess hall, the post's guardhouse, a drill hall and gymnasium, and the post exchange. The Barracks Area is one of the oldest functionally-distinct sections of Fort Slocum and can be traced to the layout of its Civil War predecessor, De Camp General Hospital. It is separated from Officers Row to the west by the Parade Ground, a feature inherited from De Camp's layout and characteristic of Army posts designed in the nineteenth century. While the Barracks Area primarily housed enlisted personnel, it also developed into the post's main training area, starting in the Second World War when the Army converted some of barracks to classroom and administrative uses.

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Development of the Barracks Area after the Army's return to Davids Island in 1878 was marked by several major episodes of construction. Initially, the Army erected a group of wood-frame barracks in areas now occupied by Buildings 62-64 and also a single building where Buildings 68 and 69 now stand. In the late 1880s the service initiated use of brick for the construction at the post and started replacing the wood-frame buildings with brick structures, beginning with a line of buildings on the northeastern edge of the Parade Ground. These first brick buildings included Buildings 55, 68, and 69, along with the post's mess hall, Building 67. Later construction added two more lines of brick barracks, Buildings 61 to 64 near the center of the area, in 1906 to 1909, and Buildings 58 to 60 on its eastern edge, in 1930 to 1939. At one time, a pair of coast artillery batteries, built at the beginning of the twentieth century, and ten temporary wood-frame buildings, erected during the First World War and consisting mostly of barracks, also stood in the area, but these structures had all been removed by 1940. The ancillary permanent buildings of the Barracks Area, including the guardhouse, drill hall, and post exchange, were erected around the beginning of the twentieth century.

Building 58 is one of a group of three adjoining large barracks on the northeastern shoreline of Davids Island that Michael A. Cavanaugh (2007), who is writing a history of Fort Slocum, refers to as the "Trivium." These structures, Buildings 58, 59, and 60, are not only the largest barracks at the post, but were also the last permanent ones to be built. The Army began development of this section of the post in the early 1880s. By 1884, several buildings stood in the area, including a bathhouse, laundry building, two small quarters for the laundresses, fire engine house, and Band Sergeant's quarters. With the exception of the brick fire engine house, all were wood-frame buildings. Most stood until the late 1890s, when they were removed to construct Battery Fraser-Kinney, which was located primarily where Building 58 was subsequently built. Battery Fraser-Kinney mounted four direct-fire coast artillery guns, and they, along with Battery Haskin-Overton, a large coastal mortar battery at the southern end of Davids Island (Buildings 125, 126, and 127), helped defend the eastern approaches to New York Harbor. The complete Battery Fraser-Kinney was in operation for only two or three years in around 1904 to 1906. Thereafter, it remained in caretaker status until the First World War. The decommissioned battery remained standing until around 1930, when construction of Building 58 commenced. In addition to the disused battery, during the 1920s the site of the Trivium also contained the old laundry (closed about 1924), the fire engine house (then in use as a storehouse), and six temporary buildings erected during the First World War.

Construction of Buildings 58, 59, and 60 between 1929 and 1939 helped to relieve chronic crowding among enlisted personnel at Fort Slocum. Overtaxed barracks were not just a problem at Fort Slocum during the 1920s, but were characteristic of many permanent Army posts during the period. New appropriations, in combination with a Congressional authorization allowing the Army to apply a portion of the returns from the sale of excess property acquired during the First World War to a housing construction fund eventually relieved this problem. Building 58 was constructed as part of the Army Housing Program.

According to the Quartermaster Corps property card for Building 58, the building was designated as a "Two-Company Barracks" and was constructed in accordance with standard Plan No. 621-751. This plan number is not among those included in the partial inventory of Quartermaster Corps standardized plans assembled by Chattey et al. (1997). However, that inventory does list approximately eight plans in the Quartermaster Corps 621-series, all of which (with the exception of one undated plan) were issued between 1930 and 1939. These plans appear to be a late subset of the Quartermaster Corps 600-series plans, most of which were developed during the First World War (Chattey et al. 1997:12, 385-386).

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 58)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Archival research to date has not located construction records for Building 58, and the contractor responsible for erecting the building has not been identified. Nonetheless, given the use of the same design and the closeness in date, it is believed that many aspects of the construction of Building 58 were mirrored by Building 60. (See the documentation for Building 60, also in Volume 3 of the *Documentation of Contributing Elements: Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District*.)

While Fort Slocum was in operation, Building 58 was used primarily as a barracks. During much of the Second World War (1942-1944), it was occupied by personnel of the Atlantic Coast Transportation Corps Officers' Training School (ACTCOTS), where transportation specialists, such as railroad men, were taught the basics of military life before being commissioned as lieutenants or captains. After ACTCOTS closed in late 1944, it may have been used by the Army's rehabilitation center at Fort Slocum (1945-1946). As an alternative to prison and dishonorable discharge, the rehabilitation center provided soldiers who had been court-martialed with additional basic training and also sought to address underlying psychological and social difficulties that may have led to the disciplinary problems. From 1951 to 1965, Building 58 was used by the Army's public affairs and troop information school. This school was known successively as the Armed Forces Information School (1951-1954), the Army Information School (1954-1964), and the Defense Information School (1964-1965). The school trained personnel in two specialties, public affairs (publicity) and troop education and information. Students in the public affairs branch learned print and broadcast journalism, while those in education learned communication skills needed to indoctrinate soldiers in current affairs and related broad social and political topics. During this period, Building 58 served variously as barracks for enlisted personnel and as bachelor officers' quarters for students enrolled at the school. It also housed the school's printing plant for at least a part of the time the school was at Fort Slocum. Alterations of the building associated with these successive tenants remain to be documented, but available photographic evidence suggests that no substantial exterior changes were made (Cavanaugh 2007; Defense Information School 2008; Ferencz 1943; Fine 1951a, 1951b; New York Times 1945; U.S. Army Information School ca. 1955).

When completed in 1932, this barracks was designated as Building 62. In the renumbering of buildings at Fort Slocum in July 1941, this was changed to Building 58, the designation it has had since.

### **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>.

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2008     "Institutional Characteristics, Defense Information School, Fort George G. Meade, Md." Defense Information School, U.S. Department of Defense, Fort Meade, MD. Accessed online October 3, 2008, at <http://www.dinfos.osd.mil/DinfosWeb/history.asp>.

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Ferencz, Benjamin B.

1943 Rehabilitation of Army Offenders. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 34:245-247.

Fine, Benjamin

1951a "Education Branch is Army Stepchild." May 18:16.

1951b "School for Forces Gets 5,000<sup>th</sup> Man." July 27:20.

New York Times

1945 "1,640 at Ft. Slocum on Comeback Trail." April 15:7.

1982 "Fire Destroys 15 Buildings on Island in Long Island Sound." April 23:B2.

Nichols, Herbert B.

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

**Unpublished Materials**

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.

Louis Berger & Associates, Inc.

1986 *Fort Slocum, Davids Island, New York: A Historic Architectural Assessment*. Prepared for Dresdner Associates, Jersey City, New Jersey, by the Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, East Orange, New Jersey.

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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.

Summerhayes, J.W., Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, U.S.A.

1893 "Building Numbers of the Army Post on Davids Island, New York Harbor, Showing Numbers Assigned Previous to March 10, 1893, and the New Numbers Adopted on that Date." Record Group 77. National Archives, College Park, MD.

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 [Quartermaster Corps]

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



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 58)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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United States Army Information School

ca. 1955 *Handbook of Information*. Army Information School, Fort Slocum, NY. On file at the U.S. Army Heritage Center, Carlisle, PA.

**Maps and Drawings**

March 6, 1872 “Quarter Master Buildings, Davids Island, N.Y. Harbor.” Map and six sheets of drawings. Record Group 92. 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.

March 1909 “Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, NY. Made by Direction of Peter Murray, Capt. and Construction Q.M.” Record Group 77 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.

August 1921 “New York Harbor, Fort Slocum, Davids Island.” U.S. Army Coast Artillery Corps, New York Harbor Eastern Long Island Sound Approaches Fortification Map Series. Revisions of January 14, 1915 map. Record Group 392, National Archives, College Park, MD.

May 1933 “Fort Slocum, New York: Reconstruction of Sewerage System, General Layout.” Revisions of April 29, 1933 map. Construction Division, Office of the Quartermaster General. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

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

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 Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, from materials supplied by Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.

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 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 58)**  
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**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. 1922: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View southeast. Winter.

1932: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 11.

1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 17.

1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View southeast. June 29.

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

1961: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Fort Slocum's Barracks Area (northeastern side of Davids Island). View northwest. November 15. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. In the Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection.

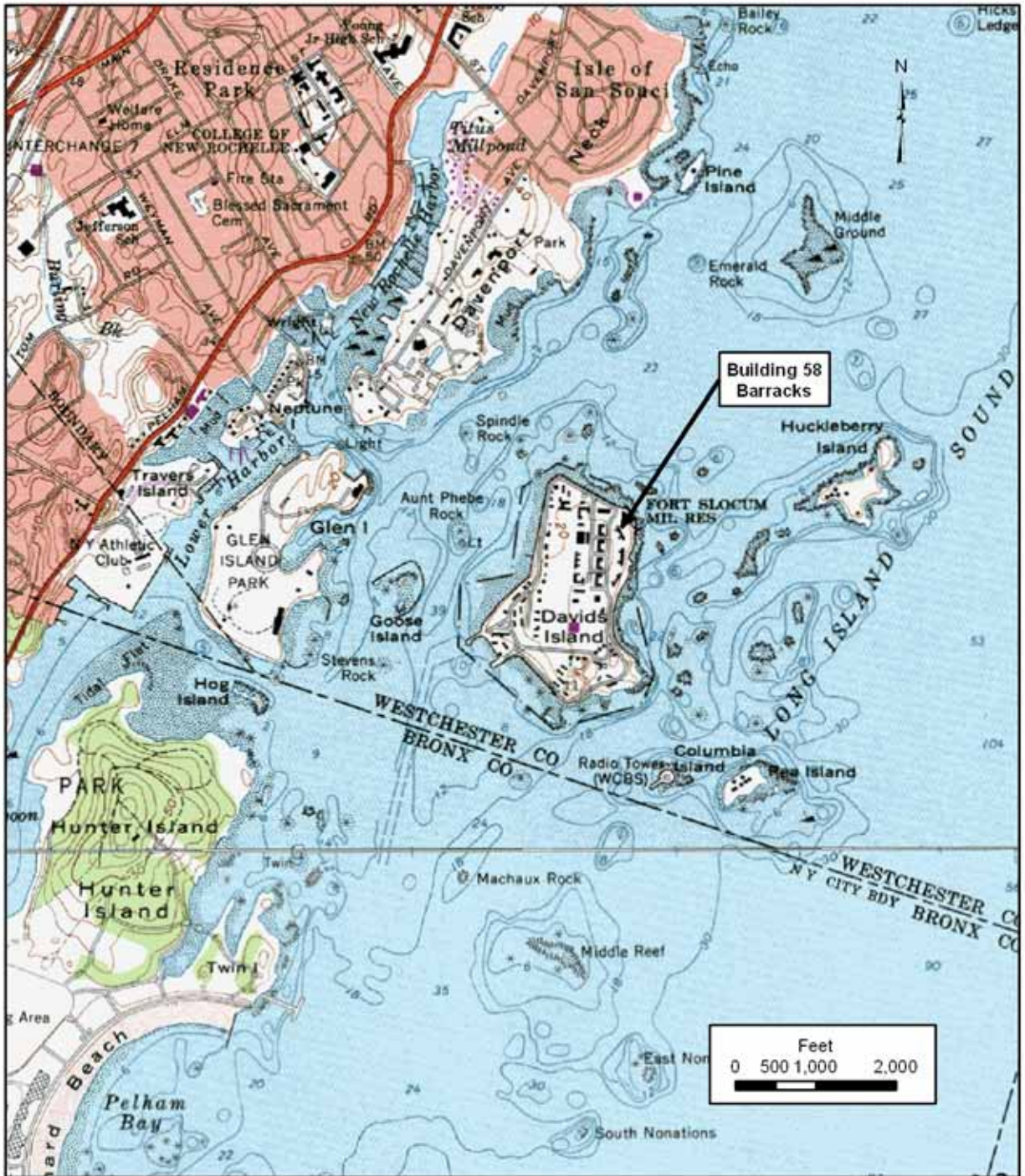
**BARRACKS (BUILDING 58)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**

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LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)

Scale: 1:24,000

1966 (Photorevised 1979)





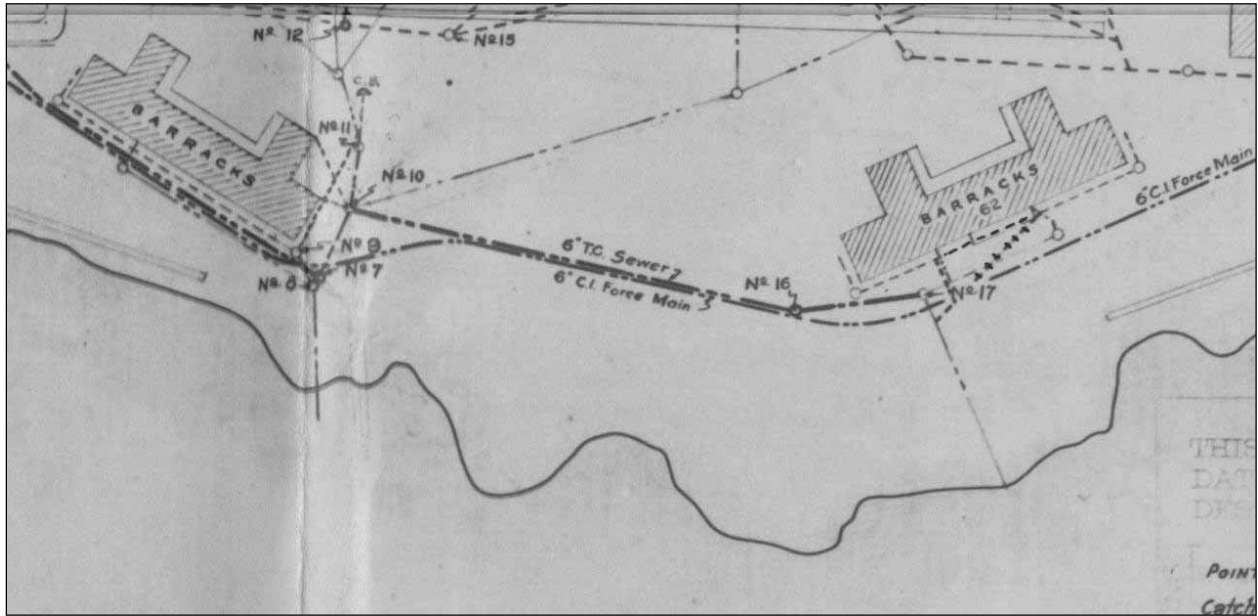
**BARRACKS (BUILDING 58)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 1. Inventory photo, March 1932. View south. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 2. "Fort Slocum, New York: Reconstruction of Sewerage System, General Layout." Revisions of April 29, 1933 map, detail. Building 58 is labeled on this drawing as "Barracks 62." North is to the right side of the map. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 58)**  
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Figure 3. High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. January 1936, detail. View south. Building 58 is located at center right, and Building 60 is at upper right. The last of the Trivium barracks, Building 59, had not yet been built when this photo was taken. It would be situated between Buildings 58 and 60. 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 4. Building 58 Property Record, updated through 1941. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

Old No. 173 A) Post Plan No. ....  
 O. Q. M. G.: Plan No. 521-751 Building No. 52 58

**Fort Slocum, New York**

Location of building **Two Company Barracks** Capacity 209  
 Total cost, \$ **187,550.17** Date completed **February 13, 1932**  
 Material: Walls **Hollow Tiled, Brick Faced** Foundation **Concrete**  
 Roof **Slate** Floors **Reinforced Concrete**  
 Total floor area above basement, square feet **47,904**  
 Size: Main building **224' x 37'** Wings **2- 32' x 42'** Basements **2- Wings - 33' x 42'**

Radiators **Electric** Height of first floor above ground **9 Ft**  
 (Flow heated)  
 Hot Water **Electric** How lighted  
 (Type of heat) Water connections **Yes** Sewer connections **Yes** Gas connections **No**

**COOKING RANGES INSTALLED**

Coal No. **NO** METERS INSTALLED  
 Gas, No. **NO** Electric, No. **3**  
 Oil, No. **NO** Steam, No. **NO**  
 Water, No. **NO**

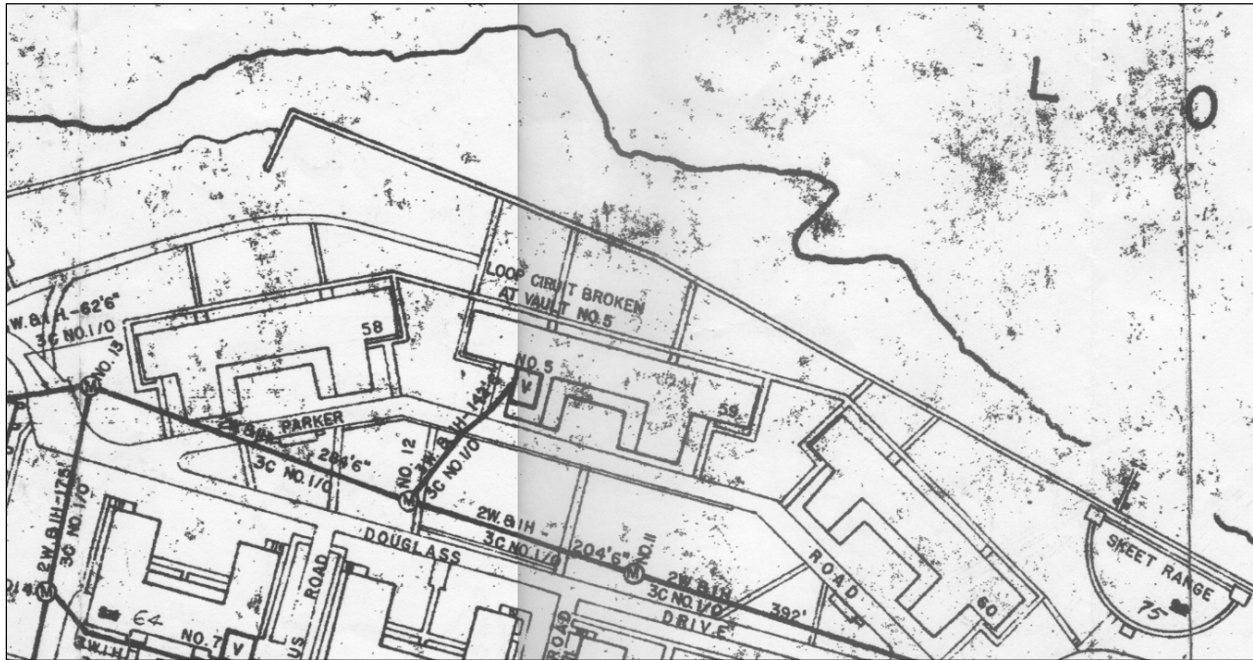
**ADDITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS**  
 (Below enter chronologically all modifications, additions, introductions of water, sewer, lights, heating, etc.)

DATE	DESCRIPTION	COST	DATE	COST
6-12-40	General Repairs	CR \$1,139.44		
2-20-41	Installed one tank, hot water 500 gallons	137.75		
3-3-41	Installed one heater, hot water, Ideal, 6M	Est. 50.00		
6-21-38	Inst. 1 transformer, W.H., Style 823630-A, 230/115	66.00		
3-14-41	Inst. 1 heater, H.W., 08 Ideal	70.35		
3-28-41	Removed 1 heater, H.W., 06 Ideal	35.00		



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Figure 5. "Fort Slocum, New Rochelle, N.Y., Electric Distribution System Primary Lines," May 1949, revised through November 1957, detail. Building 58 is at center left. North is to left. Copy on file at Tetra Tech, EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ.



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Figure 6. Buildings 58, 59, and 60 (left to right) ca. 1950. View north-northeast. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, New York.



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**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 7. High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island, 1961. View northwest. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. Buildings 60, 59, and 58 (left to right along shoreline). 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**

#### **BARRACKS (BUILDING 58)**

Davids Island—Fort Slocum  
 New Rochelle  
 Westchester County  
 New York

Photographers: Caleb Christopher, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, November 2006 (Photo 1).

Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, November 2004 (Photo 2) and November 2005  
 (Photos 4, 5, and 6).

Christopher L. Borstel, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, June 2007 (Photos 3 and 8).

Eric Hinkle, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Langhorne, PA, June 2007 (Photo 7).

1. East façade, facing northwest.
2. East façade, detail: main northern entrance, facing west.
3. East façade, detail: date stone at southeastern corner.
4. Northern façade, facing south.
5. Western façade at northern end of building (left) and northern façade of north wing, facing southeast.
6. Western façade of northern wing, facing southeast.
7. North wing, south façade facing northeast.
8. Building after removal of window frames in preparation for demolition.

Photo 1. East façade, facing northwest.



Photo 2. East façade, detail: main northern entrance, facing west.



Photo 3. East façade, detail: date stone at southeastern corner.



Photo 4. Northern façade, facing south.





Photo 5. Western façade at northern end of building (left) and northern façade of north wing, facing southeast.



Photo 6. Western façade of northern wing, facing southeast.



Photo 7. North wing, south façade facing northeast.



Photo 8. Building after removal of window frames in preparation for demolition.



## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### BARRACKS (BUILDING 59)

<b><u>Location:</u></b>	Davids Island–Fort Slocum 0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603812.4526736
<b><u>Present Owner(s):</u></b>	City of New Rochelle, NY
<b><u>Date of Construction:</u></b>	1939
<b><u>Architect/Engineer:</u></b>	U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps
<b><u>Present Use:</u></b>	Abandoned when documented (2004-2007). Demolished 2007.
<b><u>Significance:</u></b>	The Barracks (Building 59) associated with the Barracks Area. It originally provided housing for enlisted personnel in support of Fort Slocum’s twentieth-century military functions and later served as the administrative center and a classroom building for the Army Information School, one of the advanced technical schools located at the post between 1951 and 1965. The building is a key contributing element of the Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District.
<b><u>Project Information:</u></b>	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.
<b><u>Prepared by:</u></b>	C.L. Borstel, J.C. Sexton, R.M. Jacoby, S.B. Marshall, and C.W. Christopher
<b><u>Title:</u></b>	Cultural Resources Documentation Team
<b><u>Affiliation:</u></b>	Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	March 2007 (Revision 1, October 2008)

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 59)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 2)

**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

Building 59 (also known as Barrett Hall) is a barracks located along the northeastern shoreline 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 59 is situated on the eastern side of the post's Barracks Area. The Barracks Area contains ten brick buildings originally designed to house enlisted personnel, along with a mess hall, gymnasium-drill hall, and guardhouse. Among the ten barracks of this area is a group of three 1930s-era concrete and masonry buildings that comprise the "Trivium" (Cavanaugh 2007), of which Building 59 is one. These three buildings resemble one another in general size, footprint, and their stripped-down Colonial Revival designs. They form an arc along the northeastern shoreline of the island, with Building 59 at the center of the arc.

Building 59 is a large, three-and-a-half-story C-plan barracks (Photos 1-12). It is similar in appearance and layout to Building 58, its neighbor to the north, and the description of that building is generally representative of the appearance of this one. (See the documentation for Building 58, also in Volume 3 of the *Documentation of Contributing Elements: Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District*.) Despite these similarities, Building 59 is 23 feet longer and 2 feet wider than Building 58, giving it approximately 17 percent more floor area. Like the neighboring members of the Trivium, Building 59 was extensively damaged in an April 1982 fire on Davids Island and has further deteriorated as a result of vandalism and water infiltration. Historic photographs and extant remnants reveal the building's former appearance and depict a fairly plain building with subdued and flattened Colonial Revival design elements (Figures 1-9).

The building has a reinforced concrete structural system, which is clad with hollow tile and brick, and stands atop a concrete foundation. Building 59 consists of a rectangular main block oriented north-south and two short wings, which are set in from the building's ends and extend to the west. Interior chimneys rise from the western walls of the building at the gable end of each ell and in the center of the main block. The building's roof is not extant, but the partially collapsed steel framing that formerly supported the roof is scattered on the concrete floor of the attic level. Historic photographs show the roof as cross-gabled, clad in slate, and pierced by small, regularly-spaced gable dormers. The main façade faces east, toward Long Island Sound. On the opposite, western, side of the building, large, three-story porches of reinforced concrete look into a courtyard that opens onto Parker Road. Integral concrete stairways allow movement between adjoining stories of the porches, and doorways connect them to the building's interior. The building's windows and doors are heavily deteriorated or entirely missing, but patterns of fenestration can be readily discerned in the remnants. The parapetted brick gables have pairs of quarter-round lunette windows. The basic fenestration plan for the first, second, and third stories of all façades consists of rows of regularly-spaced vertical rectangular windows, usually grouped into pairs by alternating bands of wide and narrow wall. A belt course of plain limestone separates the windows of the first story from those of the second, except where the façade is hidden by porches at the rear of the building. The window openings are flat (jack) arches of brick with plain limestone sills. These contained six-over-six, double-hung wood-sash windows, but unlike Buildings 58 and 60, the windows of Building 59 were not surmounted by transoms. The basement is lit by horizontal windows set in steel frames. While most portions of the building's façades are flat and essentially utilitarian in character, the two main entrances to Building 59 on its eastern side clearly proclaim the building's Colonial Revival affinities, as they do on Buildings 58 and 60. Each entrance is approached by wide concrete stairways, and

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 59)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 3)

each consists of a double-leaf door in an arched opening, with a carved limestone surround. The surround consists of faux voussoirs around the top of the door, pilasters flanking the entrance, a projecting cornice capped by large finials, and a continuation to the surround of the window directly above the entrance ending in a simple pediment. The building does not have a date stone.

No floor plan is currently available for Building 59. Generally speaking, the interior was divided by concrete walls into dormitory rooms, common rooms, occasional offices, lavatories, and corridors.

## **PART II. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

### *Fort Slocum*

Between 1862 and 1965, Davids Island was the site of two successive posts of the U.S. Army posts. The earlier of these was DeCamp General Hospital (1862-1866/1874). The later, established in 1878, was known as Fort Slocum from 1896 onwards. Fort Slocum served as a recruit intake and training center, coastal and air defense installation, embarkation station, and advanced training school. The island has been abandoned since the late 1960s, soon after Fort Slocum closed. Over the past forty years, the over 100 buildings and structures that formerly comprised the post have deteriorated through neglect and vandalism. 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.

A more extensive summary of Fort Slocum's history appears in the documentation for Building 58. (See the documentation for Building 58, also in Volume 3 of the *Documentation of Contributing Elements: Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District*.) 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.

### *Barracks (Building 58) and the "Trivium" (Buildings 58-60)*

Building 59 is one of a group of three adjoining large barracks on the northeastern shoreline of Davids Island that Michael A. Cavanaugh (2007), who is writing a history of Fort Slocum, refers to as the "Trivium." These structures, Buildings 58, 59, and 60, are not only the largest barracks at the post, but were also the last permanent ones to be built. The area where the three buildings stand was occupied by various ancillary buildings, including the post's laundry, fire engine house, and several temporary barracks, as well as coast artillery batteries. The historical documentation for Building 58 traces the development of the area occupied by the Trivium in more detail.

Completed in 1939, Building 59 was the last of the Trivium to be built. According to the Quartermaster Corps property card for Building 59, the building was designated as a "Permanent Barracks" constructed in accordance with Quartermaster Corps standard Plan No. 6363-118. This plan number is not among those included in the partial inventory of standardized plans assembled by Chattey et al. (1997). This plan is a late example of the Quartermaster Corps 600-series plans, most of which were developed during the First World War (Chattey et al. 1997:12, 385-386).

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 59)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 4)

The construction records for Building 59 indicate that it was completed on December 12, 1939 by contractor Sol Lustabader of New York City, under contract W6511-qm-35 (Supervising Engineer 1939). The contract with Lustabader was dated December 10, 1938, and was undertaken as a Works Progress Administration (WPA)-sponsored project. The records show the building's dimensions as 39 x 259 feet for the main building, and 34 x 43 feet for each of two rear wings; each floor was 13,000 square ft and the story heights from all floors to the next above was 11 feet-5 ½ inches, except for the basement which measured 8 feet-6 inches. Regarding the structure, typical column and beam spacing was 16 x 16 feet and 16 x 18.5 feet and floor slabs were 5 ½ inches thick; "the essential supporting frame consists of a typical reinforced concrete column and floor system containing two interior stairs." The building's exterior walls were 12-inch brick with 2-inch tile furring and sheet-type waterproofing on spandrel beams. Interior partitions were of clay tile for plastered spaces, and architectural tile units for unplastered spaces. The building was constructed in two units, A and B, separated by a 1 ½-inch expansion joint extending the buildings' height, with a 4-inch firewall double pile partition on either side of the expansion joint. The interiors of exterior walls were dampproofed with mastic applications, including a creosote oil primer and two coats of coal tar pitch. The roof frame was constructed of 2 x 12-inch wood rafters anchored on plates anchored to the top of a concrete tie beam, "constructed in a rigid manner." The attic was unfinished and held mechanical systems; the basement was also unfinished. The building originally housed 30 non-commissioned officers and 310 enlisted men, with two day rooms. The floors were linoleum, and had tiled showers with marble wainscoting. The outside trim was white, interior paint was cream to match plaster. The building was constructed as part of the Army Housing Program.

Building 59 served as both a barracks and an administrative building. During the Second World War, it apparently housed student personnel of the Atlantic Coast Transportation Corps Officers' Training School (ACTCOTS) (active 1942-1944), where transportation specialists, such as railroad men, were taught the basics of military life before being commissioned as lieutenants or captains. Later, it became the administration building for the Army's public affairs school, which was known successively as the Armed Forces Information School (1951-1954), the Army Information School (1954-1964), and the Defense Information School (1964-1965). The school trained personnel in public affairs and in troop education and information. In its role as the school's administration building, it held administrative and faculty offices, student lounges, and classrooms (Cavanaugh 2007; Defense Information School 2008; U.S. Army Information School ca. 1955).

When completed in 1939, this barracks was designated as Building 61. In the renumbering of buildings at Fort Slocum in July 1941, this was changed to Building 59, the designation it has had since. In the 1950s and 1960s, it was also known as Barrett Hall in honor of Lt/Col. Myron K. Barrett of the information school (Cavanaugh 2007).

### **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,



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 59)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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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>.

Defense Information School

- 2008 "Institutional Characteristics, Defense Information School, Fort George G. Meade, Md." Defense Information School, U.S. Department of Defense, Fort Meade, MD. Accessed online October 3, 2008, at <http://www.dinfos.osd.mil/DinfosWeb/history.asp>.

New York Times

- 1982 "Fire Destroys 15 Buildings on Island in Long Island Sound." April 23:B2.

Nichols, Herbert B.

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

**Unpublished Materials**

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.

Louis Berger & Associates, Inc.

- 1986 *Fort Slocum, Davids Island, New York: A Historic Architectural Assessment*. Prepared for Dresdner Associates, Jersey City, New Jersey, by the Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, East Orange, New Jersey.

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.

Summerhayes, J.W., Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, U.S.A.

- 1893 "Building Numbers of the Army Post on Davids Island, New York Harbor, Showing Numbers Assigned Previous to March 10, 1893, and the New Numbers Adopted on that Date." Record Group 77. National Archives, College Park, MD.

Supervising Engineer

- 1939 "Completion Report of Construction of Two Company Barracks and Utilities." Contract W6511- qm with Sol. Lustabader, New York, New York, completed December 12, 1939. On file, Recor Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

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 [Quartermaster Corps]

- ca. 1905-41 Fort Slocum Property Cards (Form 117 and predecessors). Record Group 77. National

Archives, College Park, MD.

United States Army Information School

ca. 1955 *Handbook of Information*. Army Information School, Fort Slocum, NY. On file at the U.S. Army Heritage Center, Carlisle, PA.

### **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 77 National Archives, College Park, MD.

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

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

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 Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, from materials supplied by Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.

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

1932: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 11.

1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 17.

1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View southeast. June 29.

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

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 59)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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1961: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Fort Slocum's Barracks Area (northeastern side of Davids Island). View northwest. November 15. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. In the Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection.

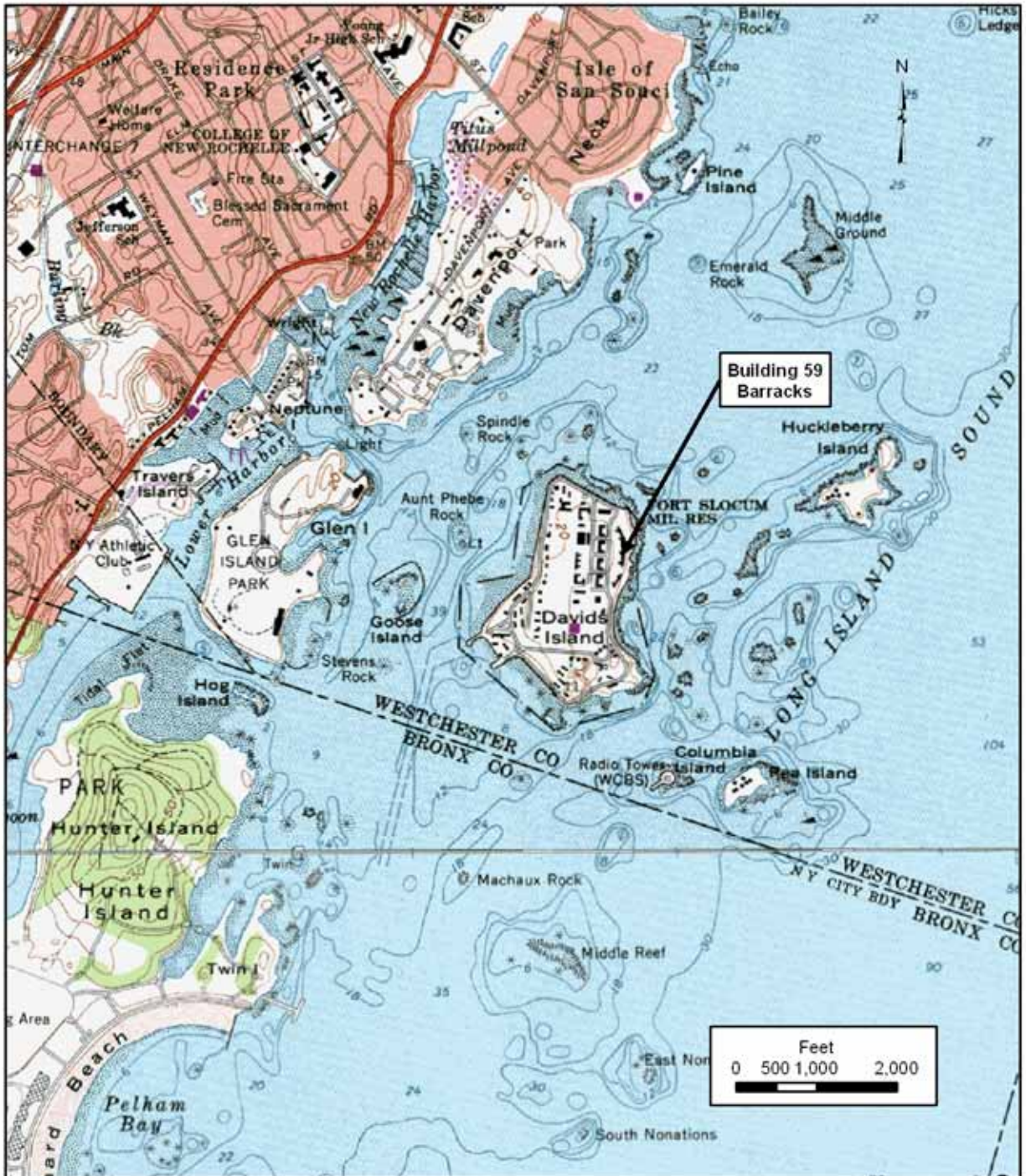
**BARRACKS (BUILDING 59)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**

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LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)

Scale: 1:24,000

1966 (Photorevised 1979)





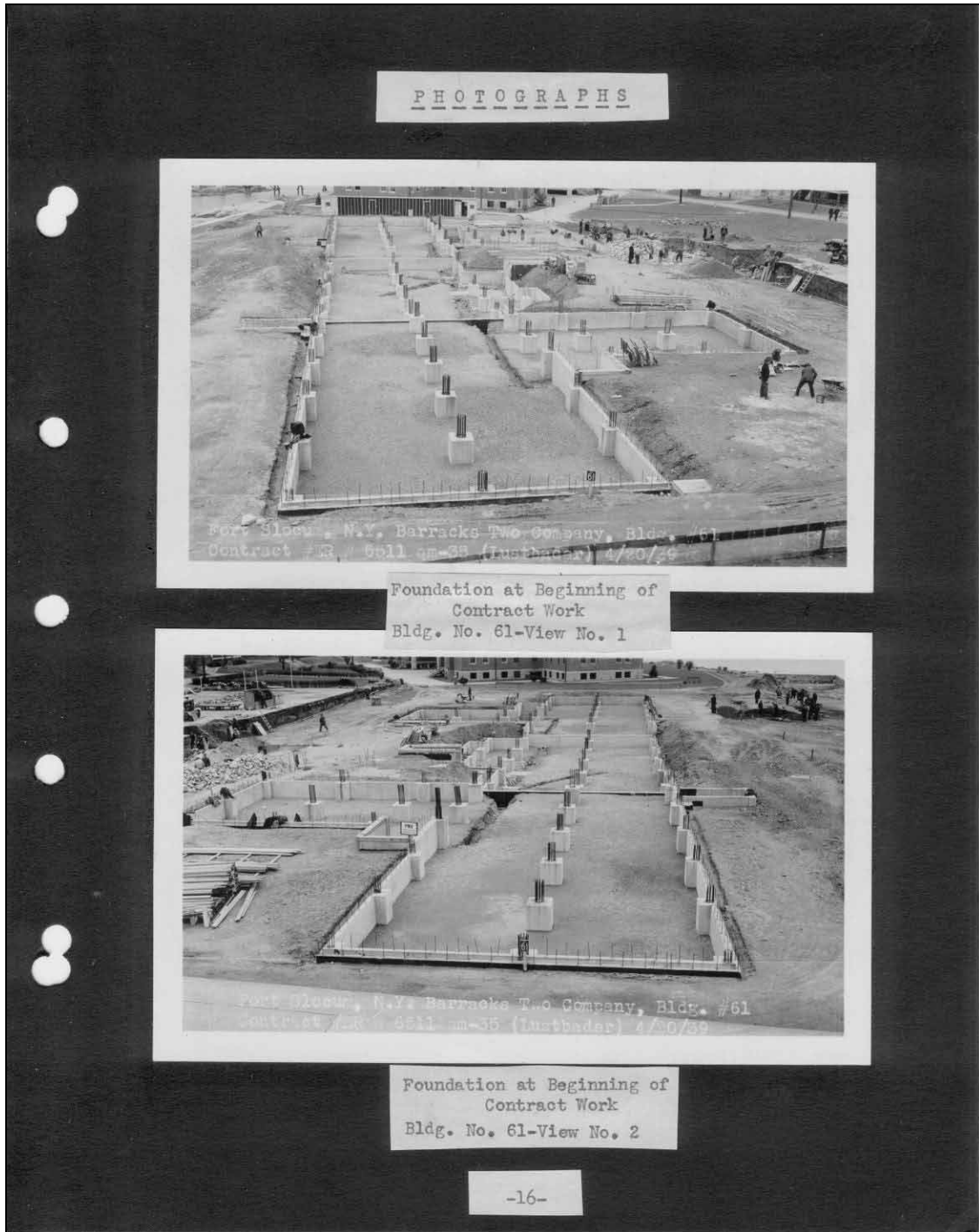
**BARRACKS (BUILDING 59)  
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Figure 1. Building 59 construction photographs, dated April 20, 1939. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



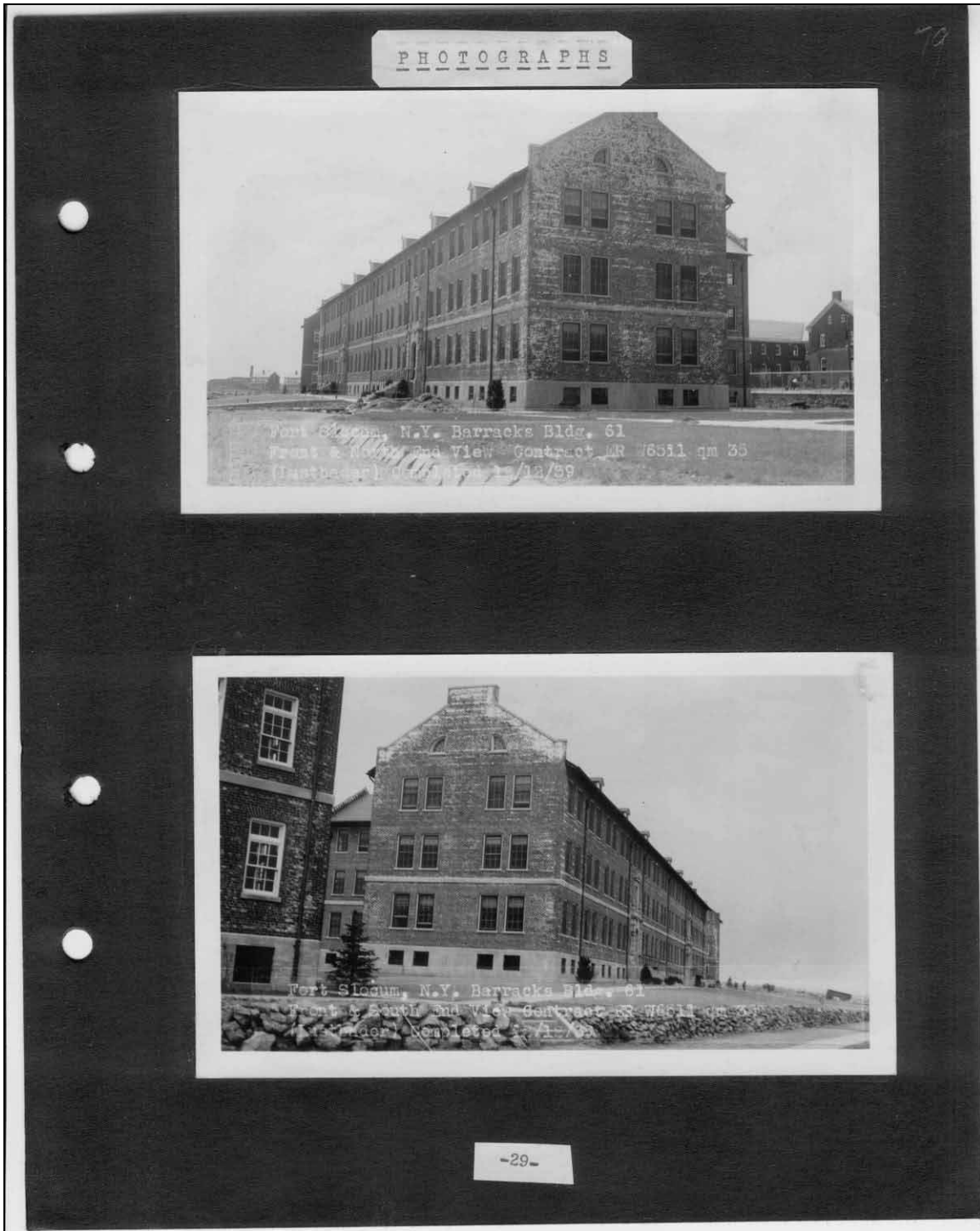
**BARRACKS (BUILDING 59)  
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Figure 2. Building 59 construction photographs, dated April 20, 1939. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 59)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM  
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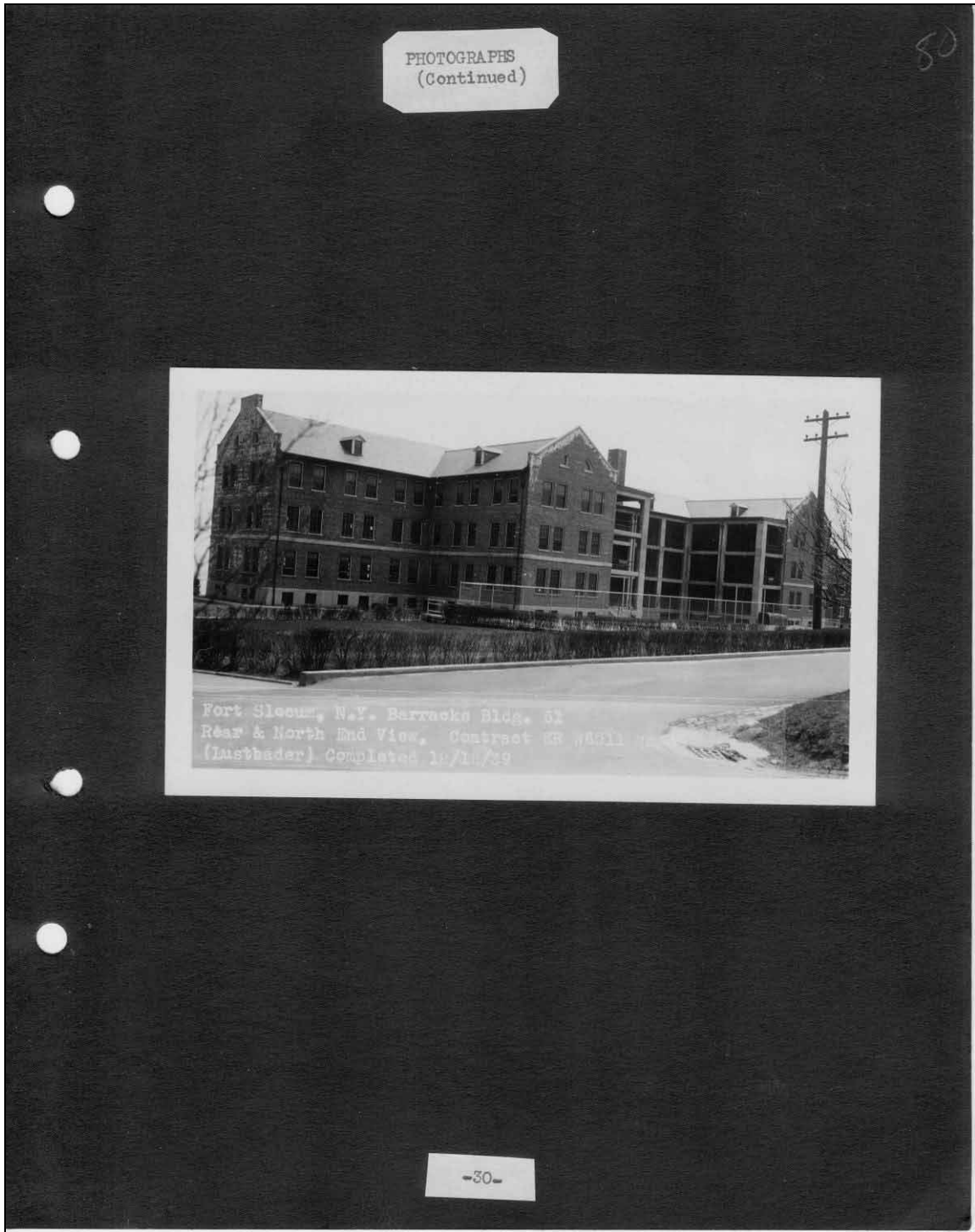
Figure 3. Building 59 construction photographs, dated December 12, 1939. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.





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Figure 4. Building 59 construction photographs, dated December 12, 1939. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

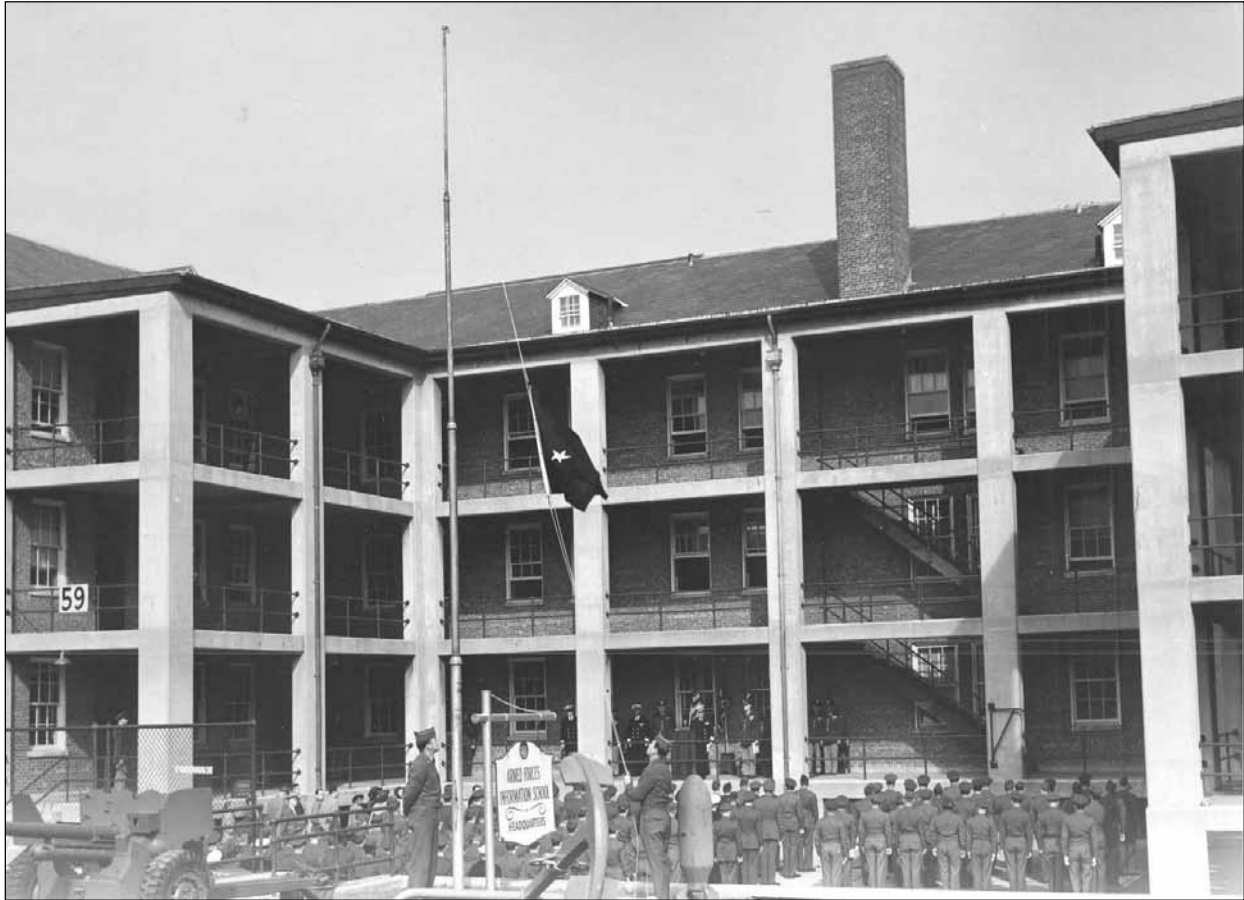






**BARRACKS (BUILDING 59)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 7. Building 59, 1951. View northeast. Ceremonial raising of Rear Admiral Thomas Binford's command flag, upon assuming command of the Armed Forces Information School. View east. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 59)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 8. Buildings 58, 59, and 60 (left to right) ca. 1950. View north-northeast. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 59)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 9. High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island, 1961. View northwest. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. Buildings 60, 59, and 58 (left to right along shoreline). 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

#### **BARRACKS (BUILDING 59)**

Davids Island—Fort Slocum  
 New Rochelle  
 Westchester County  
 New York

Photographers: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, November 2004 (Photos 1, 2, 3, and 9) and November 2005 (Photo 6).

Caleb Christopher, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, January 2007 (Photos 4, 5, 7, and 8).

Christopher L. Borstel, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, April 2006 (Photos 11 and 12) and June 2007 (Photo 10).

1. Eastern façade from Long Island Sound, facing west.
2. General view of building, facing northwest.
3. Roof of Building 59 from Building 58, facing north.
4. Eastern façade, facing south.
5. Southern end of eastern façade, detail, facing northwest.
6. Eastern façade, detail: one of two main entrances, facing west.
7. Eastern façade, detail: second-story window over main entrance, facing northwest.
8. Northern façade, facing southwest.
9. Western façade, facing southeast.
10. Third-story porch, western façade, facing north.
11. Western side of building, showing courtyard and porch stairs, facing southeast.
12. General view of building from Parker Road, facing northeast.

Photo 1. Eastern façade from Long Island Sound, facing west.





Photo 2. General view of building, facing northwest.



Photo 3 Roof of Building 59 from Building 58, facing north.



Photo 4. Eastern façade, facing south.



Photo 5. Southern end of eastern façade, detail, facing northwest.



Photo 6. Eastern façade, detail: one of two main entrances, facing west.



Photo 7. Eastern façade, detail: second-story window over main entrance, facing northwest.



Photo 8. Northern façade, facing southwest.



Photo 9. Western façade, facing southeast.





Photo 10. Third-story porch, western façade, facing north.



Photo 11. Western side of building, showing courtyard and porch stairs, facing southeast.



Photo 12. General view of building from Parker Road, facing northeast.



## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### BARRACKS (BUILDING 60)

<b><u>Location:</u></b>	Davids Island–Fort Slocum 0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603789.4526650
<b><u>Present Owner(s):</u></b>	City of New Rochelle, NY
<b><u>Date of Construction:</u></b>	1930
<b><u>Architect/Engineer:</u></b>	U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps
<b><u>Present Use:</u></b>	Abandoned when documented (2004-2007). Demolished 2007.
<b><u>Significance:</u></b>	The Barracks (Building 60) associated with the Barracks Area. It originally provided housing for enlisted personnel in support of Fort Slocum’s twentieth-century military functions. Later it provided classrooms and quarters for staff as part of the Army Information School, one of the advanced technical schools located at the post from 1951 to 1965. The building is a key contributing element of the Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District.
<b><u>Project Information:</u></b>	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 I.I.C.1 of the MOA.
<b><u>Prepared by:</u></b>	C.L. Borstel, J.C. Sexton, R.M. Jacoby, S.B. Marshall, and C.W. Christopher
<b><u>Title:</u></b>	Cultural Resources Documentation Team
<b><u>Affiliation:</u></b>	Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	March 2007 (Revision 1, October 2008)

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 60)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 2)

**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

Building 60 is a barracks located along the northeastern shoreline 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 59 is situated on the eastern side of the post's Barracks Area. The Barracks Area contains ten brick buildings originally designed to house enlisted personnel, along with a mess hall, gymnasium-drill hall, and guardhouse. Among the ten barracks of this area is a group of three 1930s-era concrete and masonry buildings that comprise the "Trivium" (Cavanaugh 2007), of which Building 60 is one. These three buildings resemble one another in general size, footprint, and their stripped-down Colonial Revival designs. They form an arc along the northeastern shoreline of the island, with Building 60 at the southern end of the arc.

Building 60 is a large, three-and-a-half-story C-plan barracks (Photos 1-11). It is quite similar in appearance and layout to Building 58, at the northern end of the Trivium, and both buildings have the same dimensions and were constructed to the same Quartermaster Corps standard plan. The description of Building 58 is representative of the appearance of the Building 60. (See the documentation for Building 58, also in Volume 3 of the *Documentation of Contributing Elements: Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District*.) Like the neighboring members of the Trivium, Building 60 was extensively damaged in an April 1982 fire on Davids Island and has further deteriorated as a result of vandalism and water infiltration. Historic photographs and extant remnants reveal the building's former appearance and depict a fairly plain building with subdued and flattened Colonial Revival design elements (Figures 1 to 10).

The building has a reinforced concrete structural system, which is clad with hollow tile and brick, and stands atop a concrete foundation. Building 60 consists of a rectangular main block oriented north-south and two short wings, which are set in from the building's ends and extend to the west. Interior chimneys rise from the western walls of the building at the gable end of each ell and in the center of the main block. The building's roof is not extant, but collapsed steel framing that formerly supported the roof is scattered on the concrete floor of the attic level. Historic photographs show that roof was cross-gabled, clad in slate, and pierced by small, regularly spaced dormers. The main façade faces east, toward Long Island Sound. On the opposite, western, side of the building, large, three-story porches of reinforced concrete look into a courtyard that opens onto Parker Road. Integral concrete stairways allow movement between adjoining stories of the porches, and doorways connect them to the building's interior. The building's windows and doors are heavily deteriorated or entirely missing, but patterns of fenestration can be readily discerned in the remnants. The parapetted brick gables have pairs of quarter-round lunette windows. The basic fenestration plan for the first, second, and third stories of all façades consists of rows of regularly-spaced vertical rectangular windows, usually grouped into pairs by alternating bands of wide and narrow wall. A belt course of plain limestone separates the windows of the first story from those of the second, except where the façade is hidden by porches at the rear of the building. The window openings are flat (jack) arches of brick with plain limestone sills. These contained six-over-six, double-hung wood-sash windows surmounted by fixed three-light wood-sash transoms. The basement is lit by horizontal windows set in steel frames. While most portions of the building's façades are flat and essentially utilitarian in character, the two main entrances to Building 60 on its eastern side clearly proclaim the building's Colonial Revival affinities, as they do on Buildings 58 and 59. Each entrance is approached by wide concrete stairways, and each consists of a double-leaf door in an arched

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 60)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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opening, with a carved limestone surround. The surround consists of faux voussoirs around the top of the door, pilasters flanking the entrance, a projecting cornice capped by large finials, and a continuation to the surround of the window directly above the entrance ending in a simple pediment. The building does not have a date stone.

No floor plan is currently available for Building 60. Generally speaking, the interior was divided by concrete walls into dormitory rooms, common rooms, occasional offices, lavatories, and corridors.

## **PART II. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

### *Fort Slocum*

Between 1862 and 1965, Davids Island was the site of two successive posts of the U.S. Army posts. The earlier of these was DeCamp General Hospital (1862-1866/1874). The later, established in 1878, was known as Fort Slocum from 1896 onwards. Fort Slocum served as a recruit intake and training center, coastal and air defense installation, embarkation station, and advanced training school. The island has been abandoned since the late 1960s, soon after Fort Slocum closed. Over the past forty years, the over 100 buildings and structures that formerly comprised the post have deteriorated through neglect and vandalism. 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.

A more extensive summary of Fort Slocum's history appears in the documentation for Building 58. (See the documentation for Building 58, also in Volume 3 of the *Documentation of Contributing Elements: Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District*.) 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.

### *Barracks (Building 60) and the "Trivium" (Buildings 58-60)*

Building 60 is one of a group of three adjoining large barracks on the northeastern shoreline of Davids Island that Michael A. Cavanaugh (2007), who is writing a history of Fort Slocum, refers to as the "Trivium." These structures, Buildings 58, 59, and 60, are not only the largest barracks at the post, but were also the last permanent ones to be built. The area where the three buildings stand was occupied by various ancillary buildings, including the post's laundry, fire engine house, and several temporary barracks, as well as coast artillery batteries. The historical documentation for Building 58 traces the development of the area occupied by the Trivium in more detail.

Completed in 1930, Building 60 was the first of the Trivium to be built. According to the Quartermaster Corps property card for Building 58, the building was designated as a "Two-Company Barracks" constructed in accordance with standard Plan No. 621-751. This plan number is not among those included in the partial inventory of Quartermaster Corps standardized plans assembled by Chattey et al. (1997). However, that inventory does list approximately eight plans in the Quartermaster Corps 621-series, all of which (with the exception of one undated plan) were issued between 1930 and 1939. These plans appear to be a late subset of the Quartermaster Corps 600-series plans, most of which were developed during the First World War (Chattey et al. 1997:12, 385-386).

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 60)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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The “Completion Report of Construction of Two Company Barracks and Utilities” was submitted on August 26, 1931 by the Constructing Quartermaster, and details construction of Building 60. The building used Jefferson Gravel and Cow Bay Sand furnished by Seabury Sand and Gravel of Staten Island, Port Lehigh Portland Cement, Rockland lime, reinforcing steel (made by E.T. Edwards of 25 Church Street, New York City, and tested by Columbia University); Washburn Bros. in Jersey City supplied brick. The stone work (including the main entrance, window sills and belt course) used Standard Buff Indiana Oolitic Limestone. The building used standard hardware (Quartermaster Corps Standard Specifications No 81-39). The report noted that “test holes made by the government before bids were opened showed that very little rock would be encountered down to the bottom of the footings at the elevation shown on the drawings. However the contractor found when excavating, that rock was encountered above the footing elevation in more than half of the building and the location of many of the footings in different parts of the building was filled ground. All footings were carried down to rock including the footings for outside steps.” The original contract was with the contractor W.P. Thurston, dated September 25, 1929, and was for \$210,022.60. The project was completed on time by Oct 31, 1930. The report notes that “the barracks consists of one building 226 feet in length, with two wings in the rear, and is divided into two units (Unit A and Unit B) which are entirely independent. The building is three stories high, has an attic and a basement extending under the entire structure. The framework is reinforced concrete with outer walls of hollow tile faced with brick. The interior partitions are hollow tile plastered with cement mortar” (Constructing Quartermaster 1931).

Building 60 served as both a barracks and an administrative building. During the Second World War, it housed student officers of the Atlantic Coast Transportation Corps Officers' Training School (ACTCOTS) (active 1942-1944), where transportation specialists, such as railroad men, were taught the basics of military life before being commissioned as lieutenants or captains. Later, it was part of the Army’s public affairs school, which was successively called the Armed Forces Information School (1951-1954), the Army Information School (1954-1964), and the Defense Information School (1964-1965). The school trained personnel in public affairs and in troop education and information. As part of the information school it had bachelor officers quarters for faculty and staff and later provided quarters for the permanently assigned enlisted personnel at the school; it also contained library and classrooms, bookstore, and photographic and reading laboratories. No floor plan of the building at any point in its history has been located (Cavanaugh 2007; Defense Information School 2008; U.S. Army Information School ca. 1955).

The building retained its original designation, Building 60, throughout its existence.

### **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>.

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**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 5)

Defense Information School

- 2008 "Institutional Characteristics, Defense Information School, Fort George G. Meade, Md." Defense Information School, U.S. Department of Defense, Fort Meade, MD. Accessed online October 3, 2008, at <http://www.dinfos.osd.mil/DinfosWeb/history.asp>.

New York Times

- 1982 "Fire Destroys 15 Buildings on Island in Long Island Sound." April 23:B2.

Nichols, Herbert B.

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

**Unpublished Materials**

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.

Constructing Quartermaster

- 1931 "Completion Report of Construction of Two Company Barracks and Utilities." Contract with W.P. Thurston Company Inc, Richmond VA, submitted August 26, 1931. Report prepared for the Quartermaster General of the Army, Washington, DC, by the Constructing Quartermaster, New York, NY. Record Group 92. National Archives, College Park, MD.

Louis Berger & Associates, Inc.

- 1986 *Fort Slocum, Davids Island, New York: A Historic Architectural Assessment*. Prepared for Dresdner Associates, Jersey City, New Jersey, by the Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, East Orange, New Jersey.

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 [Quartermaster Corps]

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

United States Army Information School

- ca. 1955 *Handbook of Information*. Army Information School, Fort Slocum, NY. On file at the U.S. Army Heritage Center, Carlisle, PA.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 60)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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**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 77 National Archives, College Park, MD.

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

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

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 Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, from materials supplied by Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.

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

1932: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 11.

1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 17.

1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View southeast. June 29.

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

1961: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Fort Slocum's Barracks Area (northeastern side of Davids Island). View northwest. November 15. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. In the Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection.

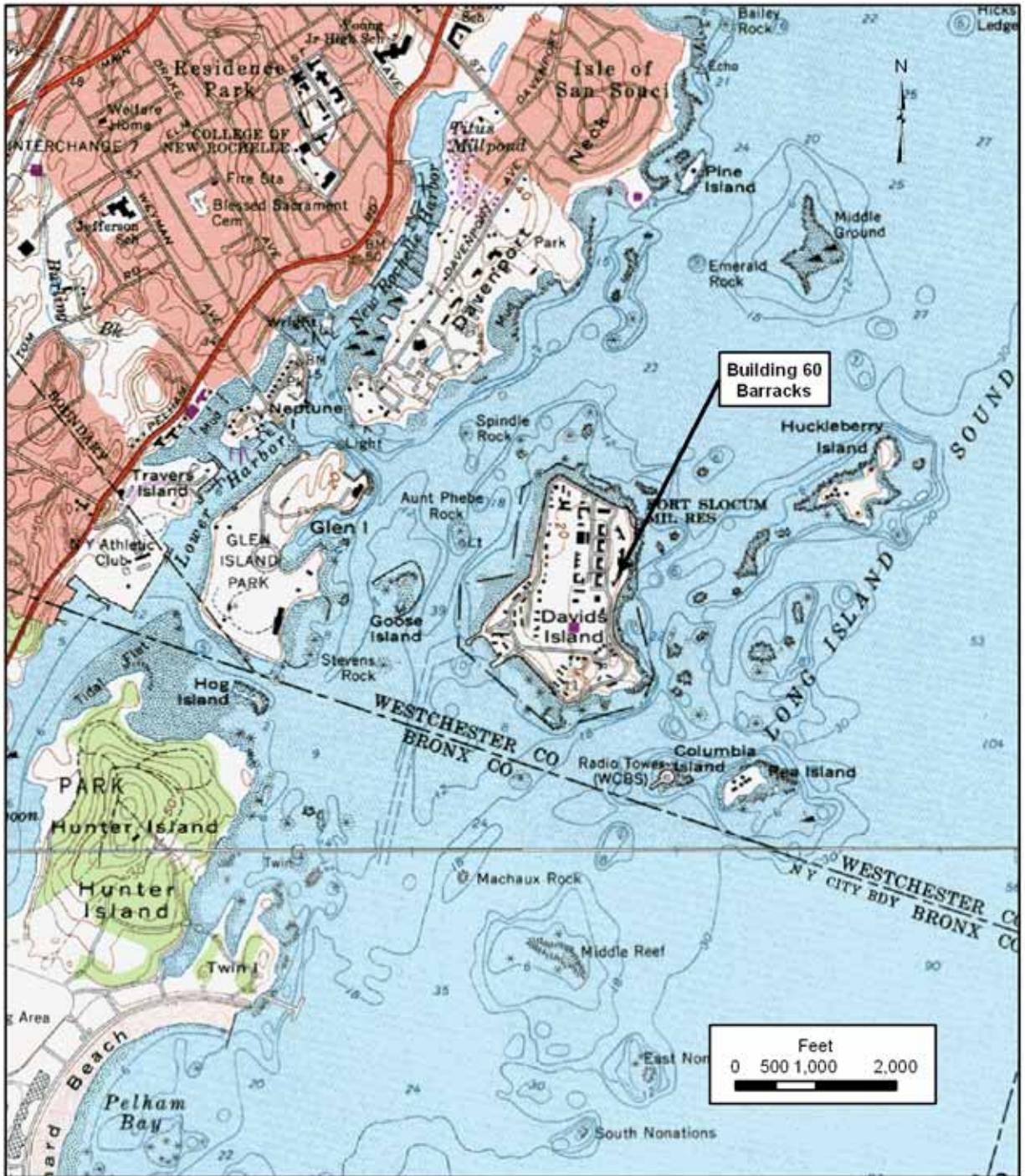
**BARRACKS (BUILDING 60)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**

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LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)

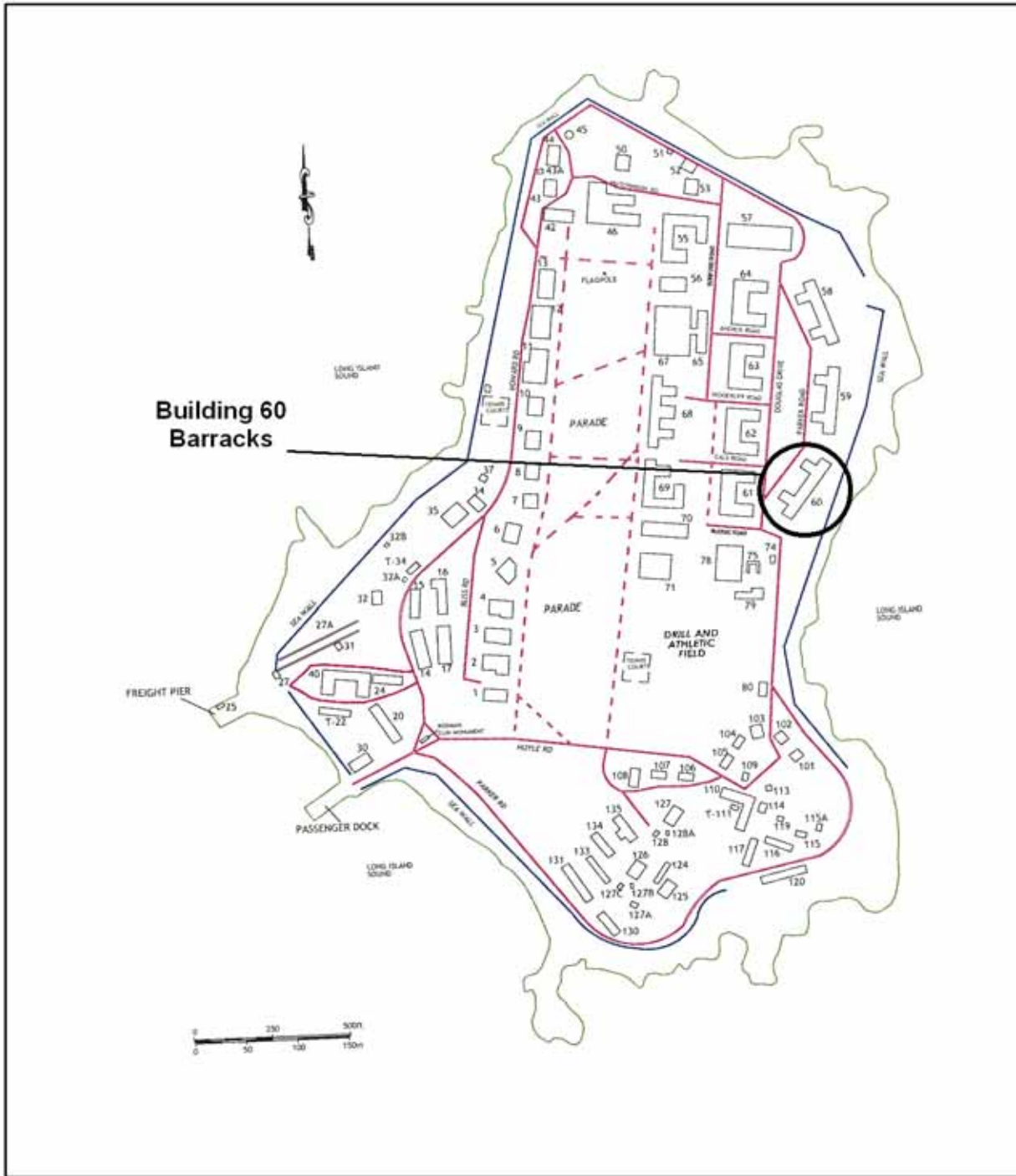
Scale: 1:24,000

1966 (Photorevised 1979)



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**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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SITE LAYOUT



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 60)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 1. Post-construction photo, 1932. View southeast. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



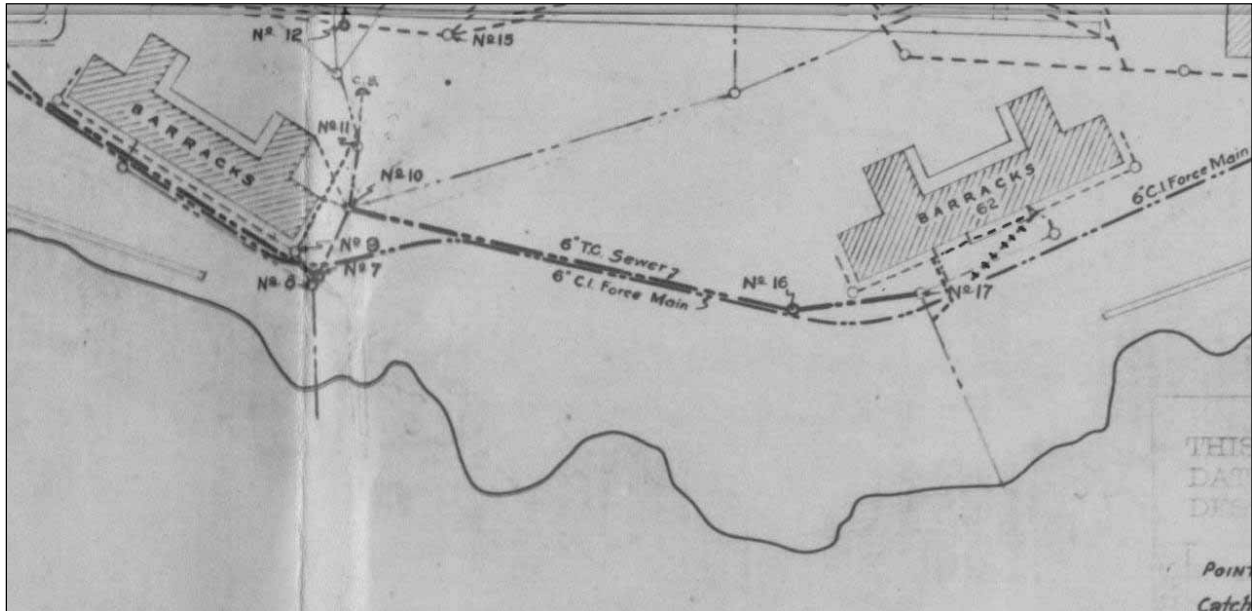
**BARRACKS (BUILDING 60)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 2. Post-construction photo, 1932. View north. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 3. "Fort Slocum, New York: Reconstruction of Sewerage System, General Layout." Revisions of April 29, 1933 map, detail. Building 60 is labeled on this drawing as "Barracks," (at left) with no number designation. Top of map is to west. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 4. Inventory photo 1932. View north. Record Group 111, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 5. High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. January 1936, detail. View south. Building 58 is located at center of image, Building 60 at upper right. The last of the Trivium barracks, Building 59, had not yet been built when this photo was taken. It would be situated between Buildings 58 and 60 (see Figure 8). Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.









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**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 8. Inventory photo, circa 1950. View northeast. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



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**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 7. Inventory photo, circa 1950. View northwest. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



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**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 9. Buildings 58, 59, and 60 (left to right) circa 1950. View northeast. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 60)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 10. High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. 1961 View northwest. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. Buildings 58, 59, and 60 (right to left along shoreline). 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

#### **BARRACKS (BUILDING 60)**

Davids Island—Fort Slocum  
 New Rochelle  
 Westchester County  
 New York

Photographers: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, November 2004 (Photos 1, 3, 4, and 11),  
 November 2005 (Photo 5, 6) and December 2005 (Photo 2).

Caleb Christopher, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, January 2007 (Photo 7) and  
 November 2006 (Photo 9 and 10).

Christopher L. Borstel, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, April 2006 (Photo 8).

1. Eastern façade from Long Island Sound, facing west.
2. Northern end of building, facing southwest.
3. Parapetted brick gable end on north ell, interior view, looking west.
4. Roof of Building 58 overlooking porches around courtyard, facing north.
5. Northern end of eastern façade, facing northwest.
6. Eastern façade, detail: northern main entrance, facing west.
7. Northern façade, facing south.
8. Mosaic photograph of courtyard on western side of building, showing porches, looking northeast.
9. Façade detail: window opening.
10. Façade detail: doorway off first-story porch.
11. Interior detail, southeastern corner.

Photo 1. Eastern façade from Long Island Sound, facing west.





Photo 2. Northern end of building, facing southwest.



Photo 3. Parapetted brick gable end on north ell, interior view, looking west.



Photo 4. Roof of Building 58 overlooking porches around courtyard, facing north.



Photo 5. Northern end of eastern façade, facing northwest.



Photo 6. Eastern façade, detail: northern main entrance, facing west.



Photo 7. Northern façade, facing south.



Photo 8. Mosaic photograph of courtyard on western side of building, showing porches, looking northeast.



Photo 9. Façade detail: window opening.





Photo 10. Façade detail: doorway off first-story porch.



Photo 11. Interior detail, southeastern corner.



## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### BARRACKS (BUILDING 61)

**Location:** Davids Island–Fort Slocum  
0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland  
USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle  
UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603721.4526642

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

**Date of Construction:** 1909, partially rebuilt 1939

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

**Present Use:** Abandoned when documented (2004-2006). Demolished 2007.

**Significance:** The Barracks (Building 61) is associated with the Barracks Area. It provided housing for enlisted personnel in support of Fort Slocum's twentieth-century military functions. The building is 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:** August 2006 (Revision 1, October 2008)

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 61)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

Building 61 is a barracks located along the northeastern 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 61 is situated in the south-central section of the post's Barracks Area. The Barracks Area contains ten brick buildings originally designed to house enlisted personnel, along with a mess hall, gymnasium-drill hall, and guardhouse. Among the ten barracks of this area is a group of four buildings constructed in the first decade of the twentieth century that comprise the "Quadrivium" (Cavanaugh 2007), of which Building 61 is one. These four Colonial Revival buildings share a common design and stand in a row near the center of Barracks Area. Building 61 is at the southern end of the row.

Building 61 is a two-and-a-half story U-plan building. It has a compound structural system, which is unique among the buildings of the Quadrivium and is the result of a partial reconstruction following a 1937 fire. The structural system in southern half consists of brick bearing walls on a concrete foundation; the interior was framed in wood, now collapsed, with slender iron columns to provide additional support. The northern half is constructed of steel-reinforced concrete on a concrete foundation; it has exterior walls of brick. The structural system of the southern half of the building not only resembles the remainder of the Quadrivium, Buildings 62 to 64, but also many other brick buildings that were constructed on the post around the beginning of the twentieth century. In contrast, that of the northern half is like that of Buildings 58 to 60, which were constructed between about 1929 and 1939. The building has two eastward projecting wings joined by a slightly recessed central pavilion. Overall, the building is approximately 150 feet north-south by 103 feet east-west. The main façade is on the west, and a courtyard on the east occupies the space between the two wings. A two-story porch of brick and concrete stretches across the back of the central pavilion and connects to the courtyard via a wide flight of concrete steps. This porch, probably built in the late 1930s, replaced the original two-story wood porch. A two-story wood porch across the front of the building and one-story porches at the ends of each wing were probably removed at the same time but were not rebuilt in masonry.

The building was severely damaged by a fire in April 1982, after the post closed and before the first historic architectural inventory of Fort Slocum was conducted (Louis Berger and Associates 1986; Cavanaugh 2007). Fire gutted the southern half of the building, leaving it as an open brick shell (Photos 1 to 12). The walls of this section of the building vary from foundation-high to two full stories, but neither gable of the south wing survives. The interior of this section has collapsed, and rubble litters the floor of the basement. Several cast iron support columns remain standing at various points in this half of the building. The later, fire-resistant construction of the northern half allowed its interior to survive, though the roof was destroyed. Nonetheless, later vandalism and water infiltration have contributed to the continued deterioration of the northern half of the building. Two chimneys are extant in the northern half of the building, and due to steel framing in the attic, the gables of the north wing are extant. Windows and doors are entirely missing from the south wing of the building, but remain in highly fragmentary condition in the center and northern sections.

Building 61 is by far the best preserved of any member of the Quadrivium (Buildings 61 to 64), and examination of its ruins in conjunction with historical photographs allow a general description of their former appearance (Figures 1 to 12). (There were minor variations in the buildings that can now be identified

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 61)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 3)

primarily through the close study of historic photographs.) As it appeared after the front and wing-end porches were removed in the late 1930s, Building 61 was a comparatively plain, strongly symmetric building. Its façades—and probably its floor plan—were reflected around an east-west line of symmetry through the center of the pavilion. Each wing had a gabled roof, with the center pavilion covered by a cross-gable. There were no dormers, but four large chimneys punctuated the pavilion roof: three rose on the front (west) slope, and one was centered on the rear (east) slope. Originally, the eastern end of each wing of the Quadrivium buildings also had a chimney, but these were gradually removed over time, and only the south wing of Building 61 had a chimney by the 1960s. Large cylindrical sheet-metal roof-ridge ventilators were also originally a prominent feature on Building 61 and its cohort, but by the 1960s, they only remained on the south wing of Building 61. The roof was decked and partially framed in wood (the north wing had a combination of wood and steel framing) and was clad in slate. There was a plain cornice with a simple return. Throughout the building, the first and second stories and the attic had multipane (generally two-over-two), double-hung wood sash windows set in vertical rectangular segmental arch openings of brick with limestone sills. On the main (western) façade, a pair of small windows was centered in the gable. Beneath the gables, the second and first stories had 14 openings, which were evenly spaced on the slightly projecting wing ends but were unevenly spaced on the center pavilion. Large, two-leaf doors, surmounted by a fixed, multipane transom and set into a brick segmental arch opening, were tucked close to the corners where the pavilion met the wings. After the removal of the front porch, these entrances were reached by wide concrete stairways. The basement was lit by windows set in horizontal rectangular openings in the foundation. On all façades of the wings, the fenestration was characteristically evenly-spaced and regular, interrupted only by doors at the ends. The north and south façades had nine windows each, and there were a pair of centered windows in each gable at the rear of the building, mirroring the pair in the front. The fenestration of the rear façade of the pavilion was similar to that of the front, with a couple of additional window and door openings on the first floor to accommodate small rooms and hallways at the back of this section of the building. The distribution of basement windows generally matched that of the floors above.

Archival research has not located a floor plan for Building 61 either for the period before the 1937 fire or afterwards. Since the buildings of the Quadrivium were constructed to a common plan, however, the floor plan of Building 63 may be typical of the original interior layout of all buildings in the group (Figure 8). The surviving north wing illustrates in a general way the appearance of the interior. This section of the building shows that it was characterized by a severe interior that stressed an open floor plan.

## **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.

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 61)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 4)

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.

*Barracks (Building 61) and the "Quadrivium" (Buildings 61-64)*

Building 61 is in the Barracks Area, whose architecture is dominated by buildings designed to house unmarried enlisted personnel. In addition to ten barracks buildings, the area also contains a large mess hall, the post's guardhouse, a drill hall and gymnasium, and the post exchange. The Barracks Area is one of the oldest functionally-distinct sections of Fort Slocum and can be traced to the layout of its Civil War predecessor, De Camp General Hospital. It is separated from Officers Row to the west by the Parade Ground,

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 61)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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a feature inherited from De Camp's layout and characteristic of Army posts designed in the nineteenth century. While the Barracks Area primarily housed enlisted personnel, it also developed into the post's main training area, starting in the Second World War when the Army converted some of barracks to classroom and administrative uses.

Development of the Barracks Area after the Army's return to Davids Island in 1878 was marked by several major episodes of construction. Initially, the Army erected a group of wood-frame barracks in areas now occupied by Buildings 62-64 and also a single building where Buildings 68 and 69 now stand. There were several other ancillary buildings in the area, including, within the present footprint of Building 61, the store for the post trader (sutler) (subsequently used as the officers' mess) and a guardhouse. In the late 1880s the service initiated use of brick for the construction at the post and started replacing the wood-frame buildings with brick structures, beginning with a line of buildings on the northeastern edge of the Parade Ground. These first brick buildings included Buildings 55, 68, and 69, along with the post's mess hall, Building 67. Later construction added two more lines of brick barracks, Buildings 61 to 64 near the center of the area, in 1906 to 1909, and Buildings 58 to 60 on its eastern edge, in 1930 to 1939. At one time, a pair of coast artillery batteries, built at the beginning of the twentieth century, and ten temporary wood-frame buildings, erected during the First World War and consisting mostly of barracks, also stood in the area, but these structures had all been removed by 1940. The ancillary permanent buildings of the Barracks Area, including the guardhouse, drill hall, and post exchange, were erected around the beginning of the twentieth century.

Building 61 is one of a group of four similar buildings in the south-central part of the Barracks Area, which Michael A. Cavanaugh (2007), who is writing a history of Fort Slocum, refers to as the "Quadrivium." These four structures, currently designated as Buildings 61 through 64, were completed between 1906 and 1909 to relieve overcrowding among enlisted personnel at Fort Slocum. The Army had abandoned the recruit depot system in 1894 and had begun shipping recruits immediately to their assigned units, but this scheme had caused such trouble that the officer corps quickly concluded it was a mistake. In the recruit depot system as implemented in the 1900s, recruits received one to two months of basic training at a depot (initially these were Fort Slocum, Cloumbus Barracks, Ohio, or Jefferson Barracks, Missouri) before assignment to a permanent unit. Around 1910, 7,000 to 9,000 recruits a year passed through Fort Slocum. The post was also used for training reserves, and there was a permanent party assigned to duty at the post to instruct recruits and perform other duties (Coffman 2004:100-101; Taft 1905:13-14). There were three brick barracks along the northeastern side of the Parade Ground that had been built in the late 1880s (Buildings 55, 68, and 69), supplemented by a few aging wood frame barracks from the early 1880s, but these were not sufficient to handle the post's growing population. Planning for the new barracks was underway by ca. 1905 and is evident in annotations on a 1906 plan of the post (Hodges 1906/Murray 1907). Under this plan, which was only partially realized, the Quadrivium would have been situated within a rigid, rectilinear system of roads and paths. As the eastern side of Davids Island actually developed in the early part of the twentieth century, the post's layout included both rectilinear elements (such as the roads and walks that immediately surround Buildings 61 to 64) and curvilinear elements that follow the shoreline and contours more closely.

Building 61 was completed on January 8, 1909 at an initial cost of \$75,182.69. Quartermaster Corps property cards record that all four buildings of the Quadrivium were originally constructed from variants of standard No. 75. These cards show Building 61, along with Buildings 62 and 64, as constructed according to Plan No. 75-M.R., but indicate that Building 63, the earliest of the Quadrivium, was constructed using Plan No. 75-G-1902. A 1915 map of Fort Slocum records that all four buildings were built according to Plan No. 75-M.R. (Smith 1915), but careful examination of historic photographs reveals small variations in fenestration that indicate the record of the property cards is more likely accurate. In any case, variants of Quartermaster Corps

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**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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standard Plan No. 75 appear to have been among the most widely used plans for Army barracks in the first decade of the twentieth century. The partial inventory of Quartermaster Corps standard plans developed by Chattey et al. (1997:388) lists three variants—Plan Nos. 75 (1902) and 75-M (1910) are titled “Cavalry Barracks,” while Plan No. 75-G (1904) is called “Double Barracks, 39x150.” Thirteen large barracks, most or all of which were derived from 75-series plans, were built at Fort D.A. Russell, Wyoming (now F.E. Warren Air Force Base), between 1903 and 1912 (Hoagland 2004:233-236), and they are also known to have been built at Fort Lawton, Washington, and Fort Des Moines, Iowa, among other posts (Greene et al. 1987; Lentz and Macapia 1981).

Aside from the widespread use of the Quartermaster Corps 75-series standard plan, the buildings of the Quadrivium, including Building 61, displayed several features common to barracks built by the U.S. Army at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries. They were usually designed to house two companies (about 200 men at full strength) and were typically laid out with a central block flanked by wings and two-tiered porches. Porches served as corridors and provided ventilation. Indeed, good ventilation, provided by non-motorized means, was regarded as of critical importance for keeping soldiers healthy. As originally constructed the porches of Fort Slocum’s Buildings 61 to 64 were built of wood on piers of brick. Wood columns provided support on the first and second stories, and pipe railings were strung between the porches. All of the porches were removed sometime between 1937 and 1940 and were generally replaced by concrete stairways leading directly to entrances, except at the rear of the center pavilion, where a wide concrete stoop or platform was built. Building 61 was an exception to this last alteration, for it received a full two-story concrete and masonry porch where the other buildings of the Quadrivium got only a wide stoop (Chattey et al. 1997:236-253; Havard 1914:501-524; Hoagland 2004:183-186, 233-234).

Earlier designs of Army barracks incorporated simplified versions of contemporary architectural styles, such as the Romanesque, seen at Fort Slocum in Buildings 55, 68, and 69. Beginning around 1900, the Army adopted Colonial Revival motifs, as was apparently the case with the 75-series plans used for the Quadrivium (Chattey et al. 1997:237-238).

Archival research has located a floor plan for only one building of the Quadrivium (Building 63), but it was perhaps representative of the interior arrangement of all four buildings (Figure 8). This plan shows that like barracks constructed elsewhere at the beginning of the twentieth century, those of the Quadrivium had a lavatory, including bathing facilities, urinals, and toilets, in the basement, along with storage spaces and other rooms (e.g., barber and tailor shops and boiler room). While this arrangement was typical, available floor plans for 75-series barracks built elsewhere indicate much of the area of the wings on the first story was usually devoted to kitchens and mess halls in the wings on the first floor. Fort Slocum, however, had a consolidated (or general) mess (Building 67, completed in 1886) where units ate together, eliminating the need for individual company cooking and mess facilities. Each building had a number of large open rooms that served as dormitories, day rooms, and elsewhere as messes and kitchens. These rooms were not quite completely open, for double rows of slender iron columns supported the floor beams, as was typical of the 75-series barracks design (Havard 1914:465-471; Greene et al. 1987; Hoagland 2004:233-236).

Building 61 was severely damaged by a fire on January 20, 1937. Despite the efforts of the post’s eight firefighters, assisted by many soldiers, the fire gutted the northern half of the building. A brick fire wall across the middle of the center pavilion, however, prevented the fire from spreading to its southern half (New York Times 1937). The northern half of the building was demolished, and it was rebuilt in 1939 following Quartermaster Corps Plan No. 6363-141. Although the reconstructed northern half had a brick façade that resembled that of the surviving southern half, fire-resistant concrete and steel construction like that seen in



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Buildings 58 to 60 was employed internally. Wood porches were eliminated from all four buildings of the Quadrivium soon after the fire in Building 61, but it is unknown whether this alteration was a result of the fire or if it arose from other considerations. Removal of the porches altered the appearance of the Quadrivium, especially when viewed from the west, where a flattened streetscape was created (Figures 2, 3, 9, and 10).

Throughout the life of Fort Slocum, Building 61 served as a barracks. The Quartermaster Corps property card records it as a "Permanent Barracks." It generally housed enlisted personnel, but around 1961, it was used as bachelor officer quarters, probably for personnel associated with the Army Information School, which provided specialized training in public relations and education at Fort Slocum from 1951 to 1965.

When first constructed, the structure was designated as Building 85 in the post's numbering system of 1893. When this system was revised in 1941, it became Building 57. It received its present designation, Building 61, in 1957 during the final renumbering Fort Slocum's buildings.

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**Maps and Drawings**

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**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.)

1924: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island showing area between Mortar Battery and Raymond Hall (Building 57). View east. September 4.

1926: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View west. August 10.

1932: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 11.

1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 17.

1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View southeast. June 29.

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

1961: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Fort Slocum's Barracks Area (northeastern side of Davids Island). View northwest. November 15. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. In the Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection.

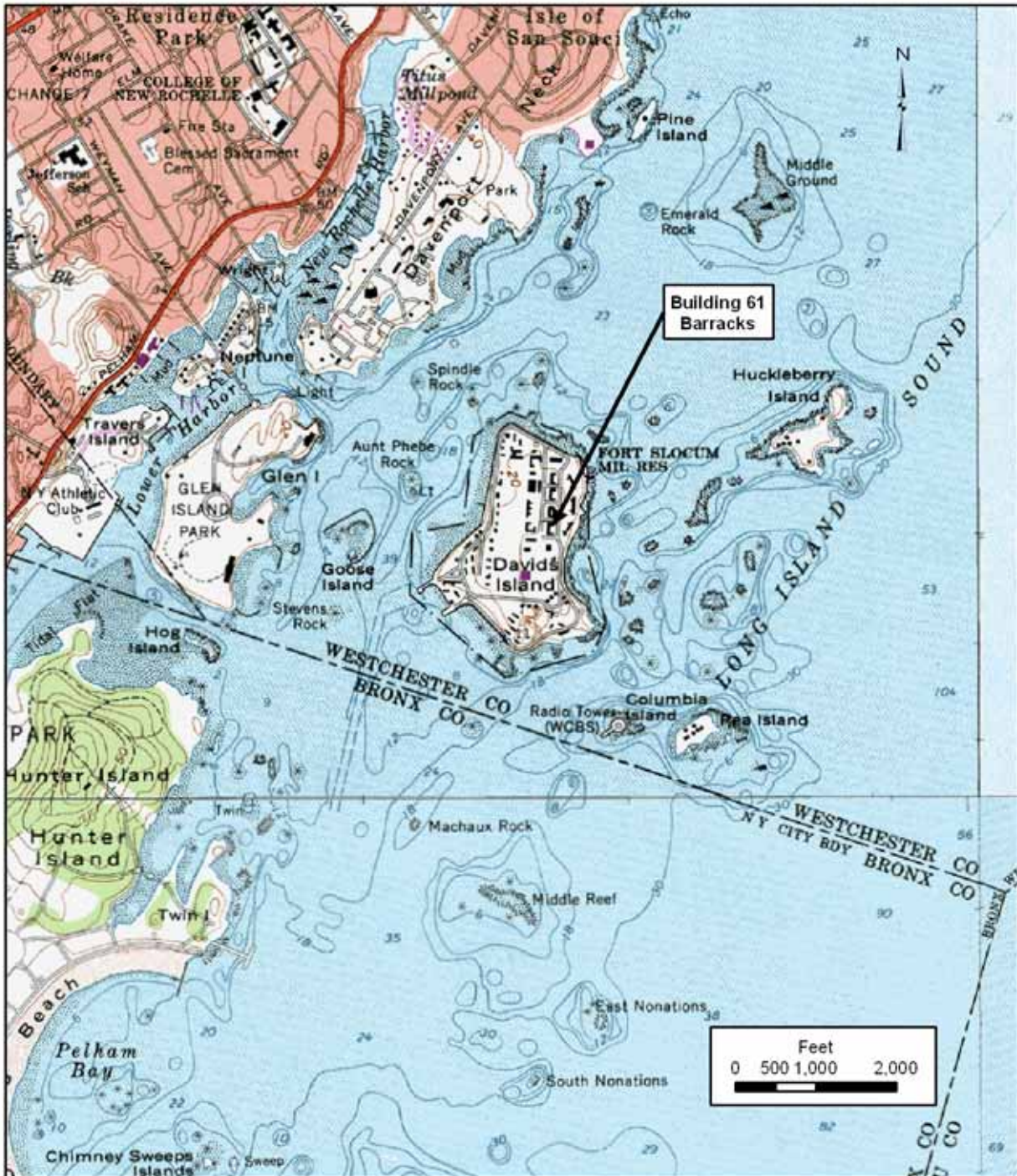
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LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)

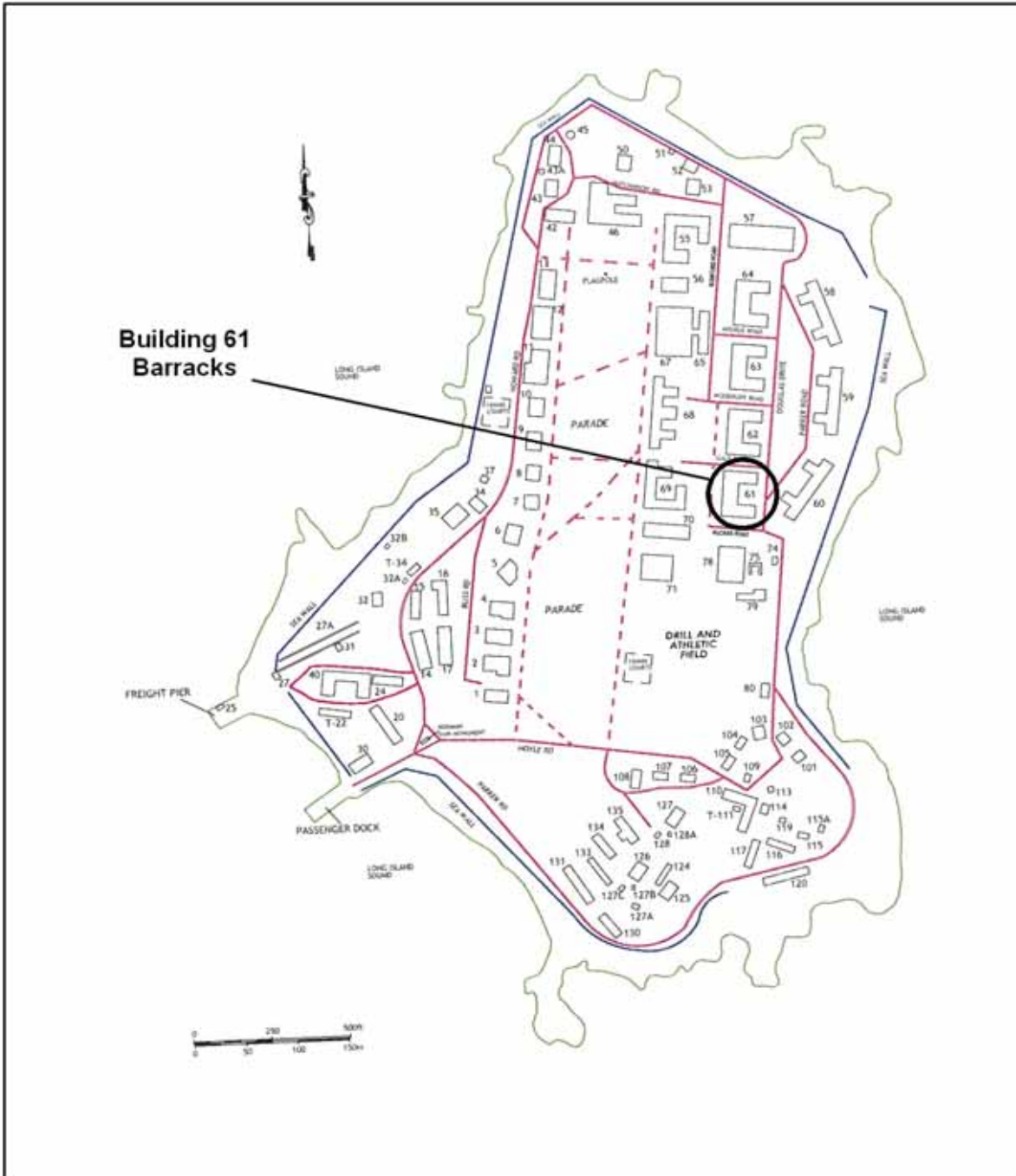
Scale: 1:24,000

1966 (Photorevised 1979)



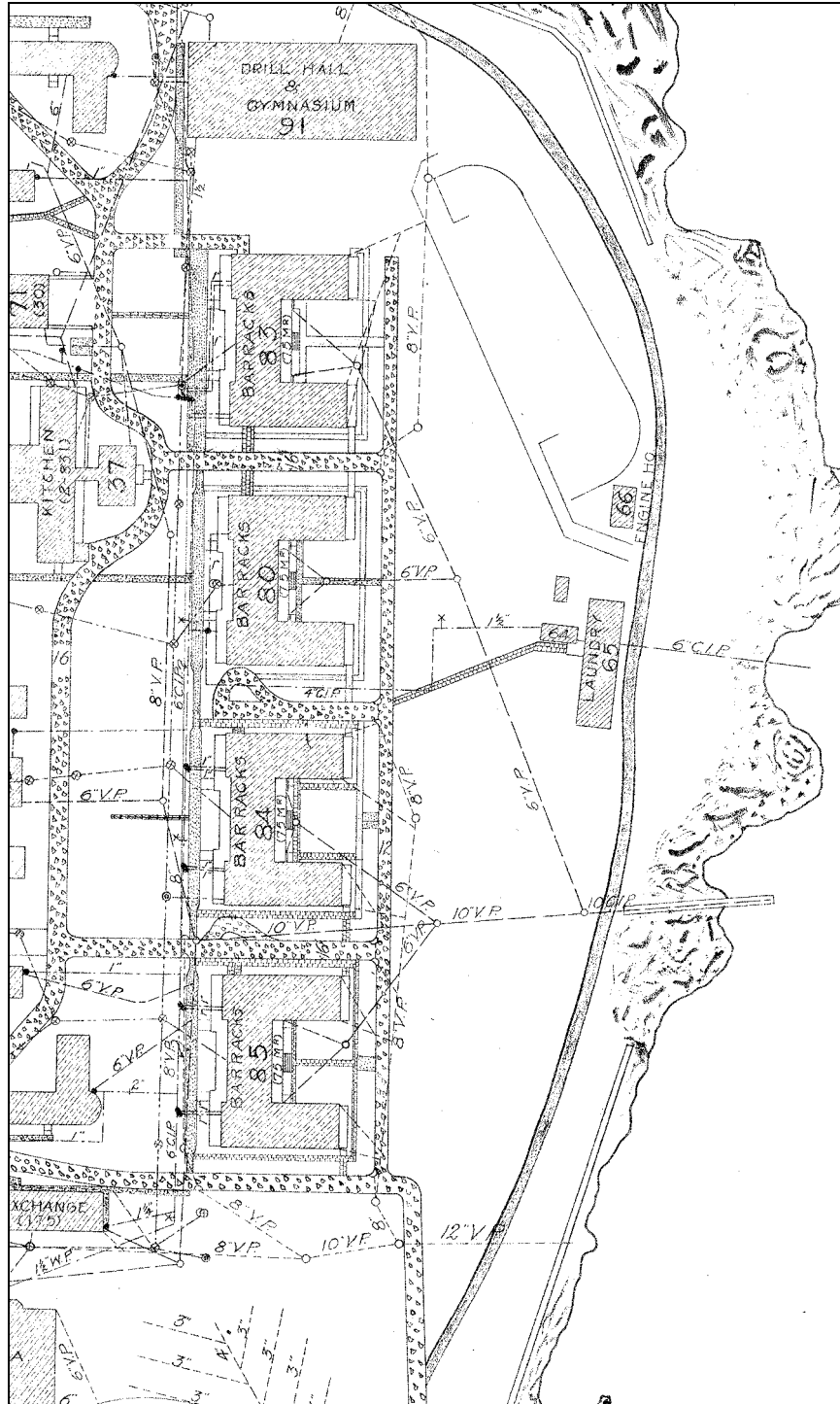
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SITE MAP



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Figure 1. "Map of Fort Slocum, New York." 1915. Barracks Building 61 is designated Building 85 in this earlier numbering scheme. North is to the top of the page. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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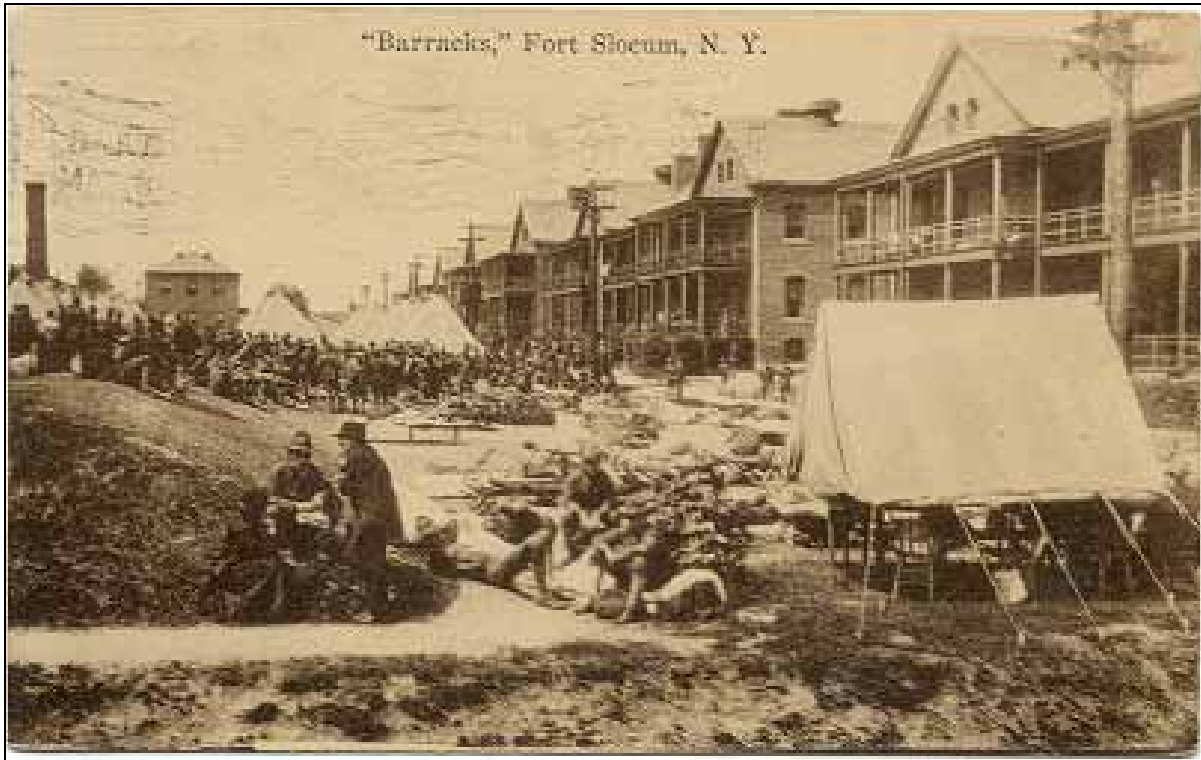
Figure 2. "Barracks, Fort Slocum, N.Y.," with detail showing Building 61. Southeasterly view. Undated panoramic postcard, ca. 1915-1925, published by Italia Art Co., New York. Collection of Christopher L. Borstel, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, N.J.





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Figure 3. “‘Barracks,’ Fort Slocum, N.Y.,” ca. 1918. View northeast. Photographic postcard; publisher unknown. Building 61 is at far right. The postcard illustrates the crowded conditions of the post at the height of enlistee training during the First World War. Fort Slocum print collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, New York.



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Figure 4. High angle oblique aerial photograph, August 1926, detail. View west. Buildings 61 to 64 (left to right) are in the row of nearly identical buildings closest to the foreground. 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 5. Building 61 after fire of January 20, 1937, illustrating destruction of north wing, as seen from rear of building. View northwest. The damaged wing was demolished and entirely rebuilt in 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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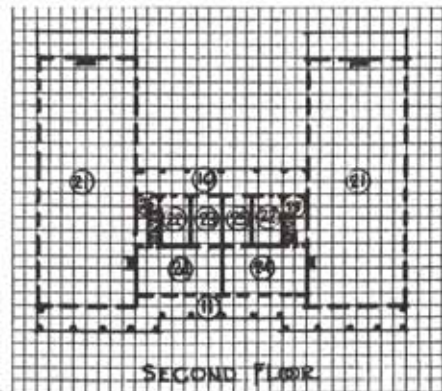
Figure 6. Foundation work for rebuilding of Building 61 after 1937 fire. Photo taken May 17, 1939. View southeast. Building 60 is at upper left. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



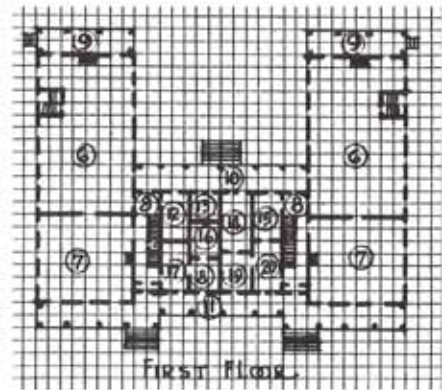


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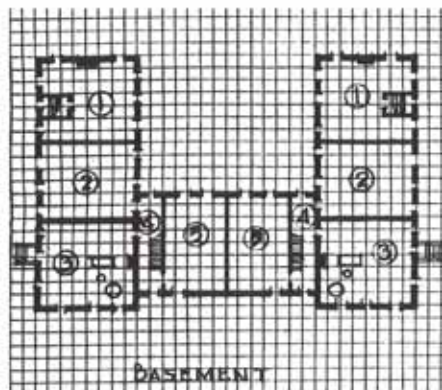
Figure 8. Representative floor plan of barracks constructed following Quartermaster Corps standard Plan No. 75, adapted from the 1940 Quartermaster Corps property card for Building 63 at Fort Slocum. The original property card is on file at the National Archives, Record Group 77.



- (21) Dormitory 36'-8" x 100'-8"
- (22) Dormitory 11'-8" x 16'-2"
- (23) Dormitory 11'-6" x 16'-3"
- (24) Dormitory 19'-9" x 35'-11"
- (5) Hall 11'-7" x 16'-2"



- (6) Dormitory 36'-8" x 67'-0"
- (7) Dormitory 33'-2" x 36'-7"
- (8) Hall 11'-7" x 32'-2"
- (9) Rear Porch 7'-11" x 36'-3"
- (10) Rear Court Porch 10'-1" x 72'-0"
- (11) Front Porch
- (12) Dormitory 11'-7" x 16'-4"
- (13) Dormitory 11'-5" x 11'-9"
- (14) Dormitory 11'-5" x 20'-10"
- (15) Dormitory 11'-6" x 16'-2"
- (16) Storage Room 8'-4" x 11'-5"
- (17) Dormitory 11'-5" x 19'-9"
- (18) Dormitory 11'-5" x 15'-4"
- (19) Dormitory 11'-4" x 15'-3"
- (20) Dormitory 11'-7" x 19'-10"



- (1) Dormitory 32'-5" x 36'-4"
- (2) Latrine 22'-9" x 36'-4"
- (3) Boiler Room 33'-10" x 36'-4"
- (4) Hall 11'-6" x 32'-0"
- (5) Storage Room 23'-0" x 31'-6"

Scale: □ = 5'-0"

Q.M.G.O. Standard Plan No. 75 (ca. 1905-1910)  
 Representative Floor Plan (Fort Slocum Building 63)

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Figure 9. Inventory photograph, March 1940. Difference in tone of brickwork differentiates original section (right) from rebuilt section (left). Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 10. "Company Street, Fort Slocum, N.Y.," ca. 1940. Real photo postcard; publisher unknown. This view shows the stark main facades of Buildings 64 to 61 (left to right) along Bomford Road after the front porches were removed in the late 1930s. View southeast. Collection of Christopher L. Borstel, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, N.J.





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Figure 11. Vertical aerial photograph, September 1940, detail showing Buildings 61-64. North is to right. Numbers have been added to this reproduction to identify the buildings. 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 12. Low-angle oblique aerial photograph of Barracks Area, November 1961, looking northwest, detail. The “Quadrivium” (Buildings 61-64, which have been labeled in this reproduction) stand in a row to the west of the “Trivium” (Buildings 58-60) along the shoreline. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. 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

#### **BARRACKS (BUILDING 61)**

Davids Island—Fort Slocum  
 New Rochelle  
 Westchester County  
 New York

Photographers: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, November 2005 (Photos 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 11, and 12) and November 2004 (Photos 2, 4, and 10).

Christopher L. Borstel, Tetra Tech, EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, June 2007 (Photo 6).

1. Western façade, facing east-southeast.
2. Western façade, north wing gable, facing east.
3. Western façade, detail: northern main entrance.
4. Western façade, southern half of central pavilion and south wing, facing east-southeast.
5. Northern façade of north wing, facing southeast.
6. Rear of building, after removal of vegetation and shortly before demolition, facing northwest.
7. First story of concrete porch at rear center, facing south.
8. First story of center-rear porch, detail of ceiling at northeastern corner, facing northeast.
9. Central pavilion, south half, first story and basement of open interior, facing southwest.
10. Interior, north half of building.
11. Interior, north half of building, showing room and corridor.
12. Interior, north half of building, showing shower and toilet stalls.

Photo 1. Western façade, facing east-southeast.



Photo 2. Western façade, north wing gable, facing east.



Photo 3. Western façade, detail: northern main entrance.



Photo 4. Western façade, southern half of central pavilion and south wing, facing east-southeast.



Photo 5. Northern façade of north wing, facing southeast.





Photo 6. Rear of building, after removal of vegetation and shortly before demolition, facing northwest.



Photo 7. First story of concrete porch at rear center, facing south.



Photo 8. First story of center-rear porch, detail of ceiling at northeastern corner, facing northeast.



Photo 9. Central pavilion, south half, first story and basement of open interior, facing southwest.



Photo 10. Interior, north half of building.



Photo 11. Interior, north half of building, showing room and corridor.



Photo 12. Interior, north half of building, showing shower and toilet stalls.



## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### BARRACKS (BUILDING 62)

**Location:** Davids Island–Fort Slocum  
0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland  
USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle  
UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603730.4526707

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

**Date of Construction:** 1909

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

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

**Significance:** The Barracks (Building 62) is associated with the Barracks Area. It provided housing for enlisted personnel in support of Fort Slocum's twentieth-century military functions. The building is 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:** August 2006 (Revision 1, May 2008)



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 62)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 2)

**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

Building 62 is a barracks located along the northeastern 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 62 is situated near the center of the post's Barracks Area. The Barracks Area contains ten brick buildings originally designed to house enlisted personnel, along with a mess hall, gymnasium-drill hall, and guardhouse. Among the ten barracks of this area is a group of four buildings constructed in the first decade of the twentieth century that comprise the "Quadrivium" (Cavanaugh 2007), of which Building 62 is one. These four Colonial Revival buildings share a common design and stand in a row near the center of Barracks Area. Building 62 stands second from the southern end of the row.

Building 62 was destroyed by fire before 1986, when the first architectural survey of Fort Slocum was conducted (Louis Berger and Associates 1986). The building is now in ruins (Photos 1-2). The interior and roof of the building have been entirely destroyed, and the building's brick walls have largely collapsed. Some sections of walls, particularly near corners, stand to heights of more than one story, but generally the walls are reduced to between the top of the foundation and the first-story window sills. Piles of rubble are spread around the outside perimeter of the building and cover the basement floor. Rows of two-story-high iron columns, which formerly supported floor beams, remain standing in the ruin.

When extant, Building 62 was a two-and-a-half story U-plan building with Colonial Revival details (Figures 1-8). It had two gabled wings oriented east-west connected by a slightly recessed central pavilion beneath a cross-gabled roof. Building 62 generally resembled Building 61, which is the best-preserved of the Quadrivium buildings. The description of that building is representative of the appearance of Building 62. (See the documentation for Building 61, also in Volume 3 of the *Documentation of Contributing Elements: Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District*.) Though the two buildings were similar, by the 1960s, when Fort Slocum closed, variations in original construction and accumulated alterations resulted in certain differences between the two buildings. Among these differences, Building 62 had a simple brick structural system, rather than the compound brick and concrete-and-steel system that was unique to Building 61. All ventilators had been removed from the roof of Building 62 by the early 1960s, and there was chimney only at the eastern end of the north wing of the building. At the rear of the pavilion section, there was a wide concrete platform or stoop leading to entrances on the first floor and connected to the courtyard between the building's wings by a flight of concrete stairs. Shelters constructed of concrete blocks stood on the platform at its two inside corners; the function of these shelters is not known. No specific information about the interior layout of the building during any period is available at present.

**PART II. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

*Fort Slocum*

Between 1862 and 1965, Davids Island was the site of two successive posts of the U.S. Army posts. The earlier of these was DeCamp General Hospital (1862-1866/1874). The later, established in 1878, was known as Fort Slocum from 1896 onwards. Fort Slocum served as a recruit intake and training center, coastal and air

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 62)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 3)

defense installation, embarkation station, and advanced training school. The island has been abandoned since the late 1960s, soon after Fort Slocum closed. Over the past forty years, the over 100 buildings and structures that formerly comprised the post have deteriorated through neglect and vandalism. 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.

A more extensive summary of Fort Slocum's history appears in the documentation for Building 61. (See the documentation for Building 61, also in Volume 3 of the *Documentation of Contributing Elements: Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District*.) 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.

*Barracks (Building 62) and the "Quadrivium" (Buildings 61-64)*

Building 62 is situated in an area formerly occupied by a group of eight wood-frame barracks erected in the early 1880s. It is one of four similar buildings in the south-central part of the Barracks Area, which Michael A. Cavanaugh (2007), who is writing a history of Fort Slocum, refers to as the "Quadrivium." These four structures, currently designated as Buildings 61 through 64, were completed between 1906 and 1909 to relieve overcrowding among enlisted personnel at Fort Slocum. The historical documentation for Building 61 traces the development of the Quadrivium in more detail.

Building 62 was completed on January 8, 1909 at an initial cost of \$75,182.69. It was built from Quartermaster Corps standard Plan No. 75-M.R., one of several variant plans for two-company barracks widely used by the Army around the beginning of the twentieth century (Chattey et al. 1997:236-253, 388; Hoagland 2004:233-236). Among the Quadrivium, the Army also used this particular variant of the 75-series plans to construct Buildings 61 and 64 (but not Building 63, which was built using a different variant). Later alterations to the exterior of Building 62 included removal of wood porches from the front and rear of the building in the late 1930s, removal of large cylindrical ventilators from the roof, and elimination of a chimney from the eastern end of the south wing of the building. Interior alterations before the building was destroyed by fire have not been documented.

Throughout the life of Fort Slocum, Building 62 served as a barracks. The Quartermaster Corps property card records it as a "Permanent Barracks." It generally housed enlisted personnel, but around 1961, it may have been used as bachelor officer quarters, probably for personnel associated with the Army Information School, which provided specialized training in public relations and education at Fort Slocum from 1951 to 1965.

When first constructed, the structure was designated as Building 84 in the post's numbering system of 1893. When this system was revised in 1941, it became Building 56. It received its present designation, Building 62, in 1957 during the final renumbering Fort Slocum's buildings.

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

#### **Published Materials**

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

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 62)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Tippett

- 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**

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.

Louis Berger and Associates, Inc.

- 1986 *Fort Slocum, Davids Island, New York: A Historic Architectural Assessment.* Prepared for Dresdner Associates, Jersey City, New Jersey, by the Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, East Orange, New Jersey.

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 [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.

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 62)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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July 1906; revised November 1907 "Map of Fort Slocum, David's [sic] Island, N.Y. Made by Direction of Lieut. Col. W.P. Evans, 11th Inf. by C.B. Hodges, 2nd Lieut., 4th Inf." With revisions showing authorized and proposed work by Peter Murray, Capt. and Cons. 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. Construction Division, Office of the Quartermaster General. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

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

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 Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, from materials supplied by Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.

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 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.)

1924: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island showing area between Mortar Battery and Raymond Hall (Building 57). View east. September 4.

1926: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View west. August 10.

1932: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 11.

1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 17.

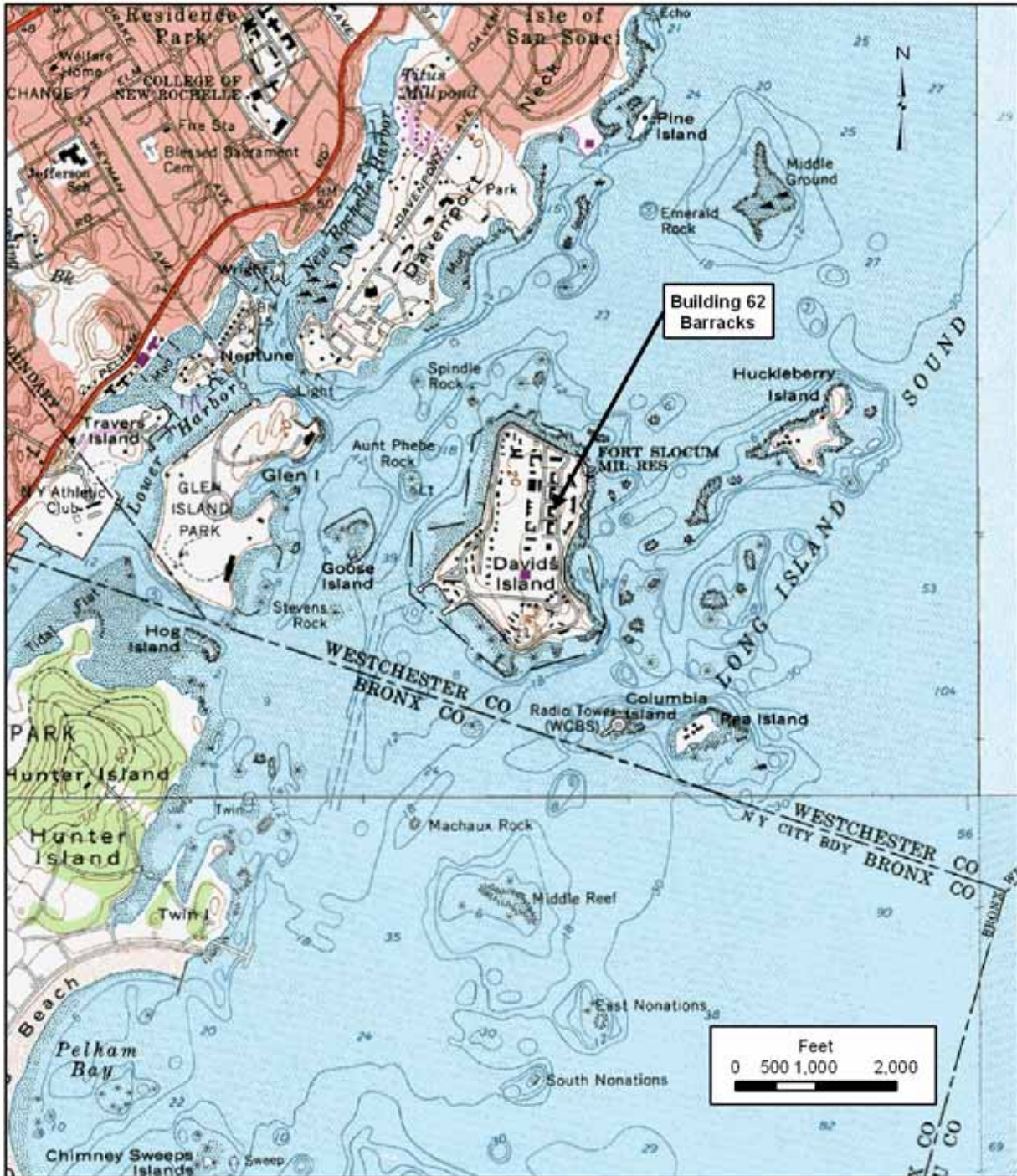
1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View southeast. June 29.

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

1961: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Fort Slocum's Barracks Area (northeastern side of Davids Island). View northwest. November 15. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. In the Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection.

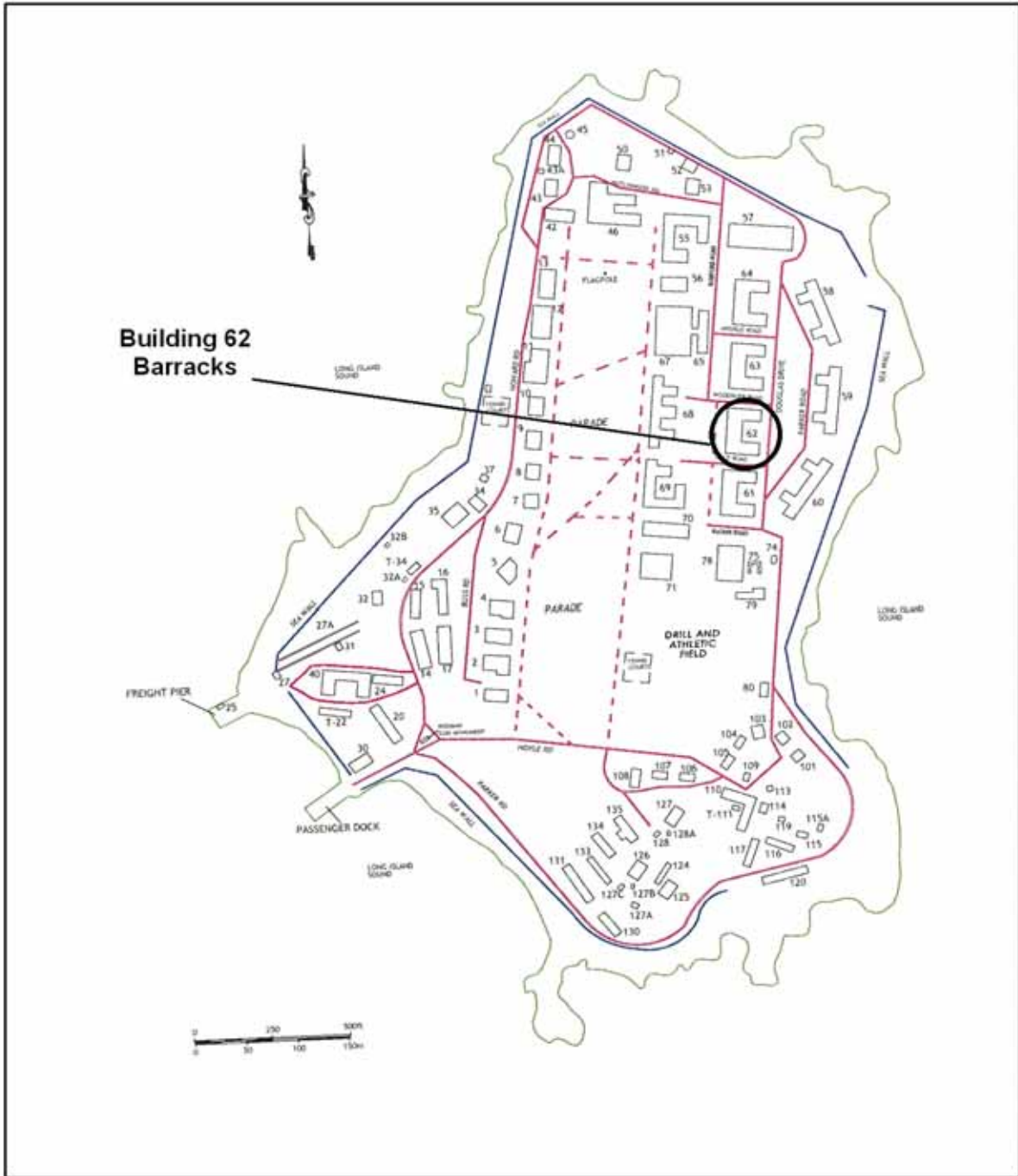
**BARRACKS (BUILDING 62)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 6)

LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)  
Scale: 1:24,000  
1966 (Photorevised 1979)



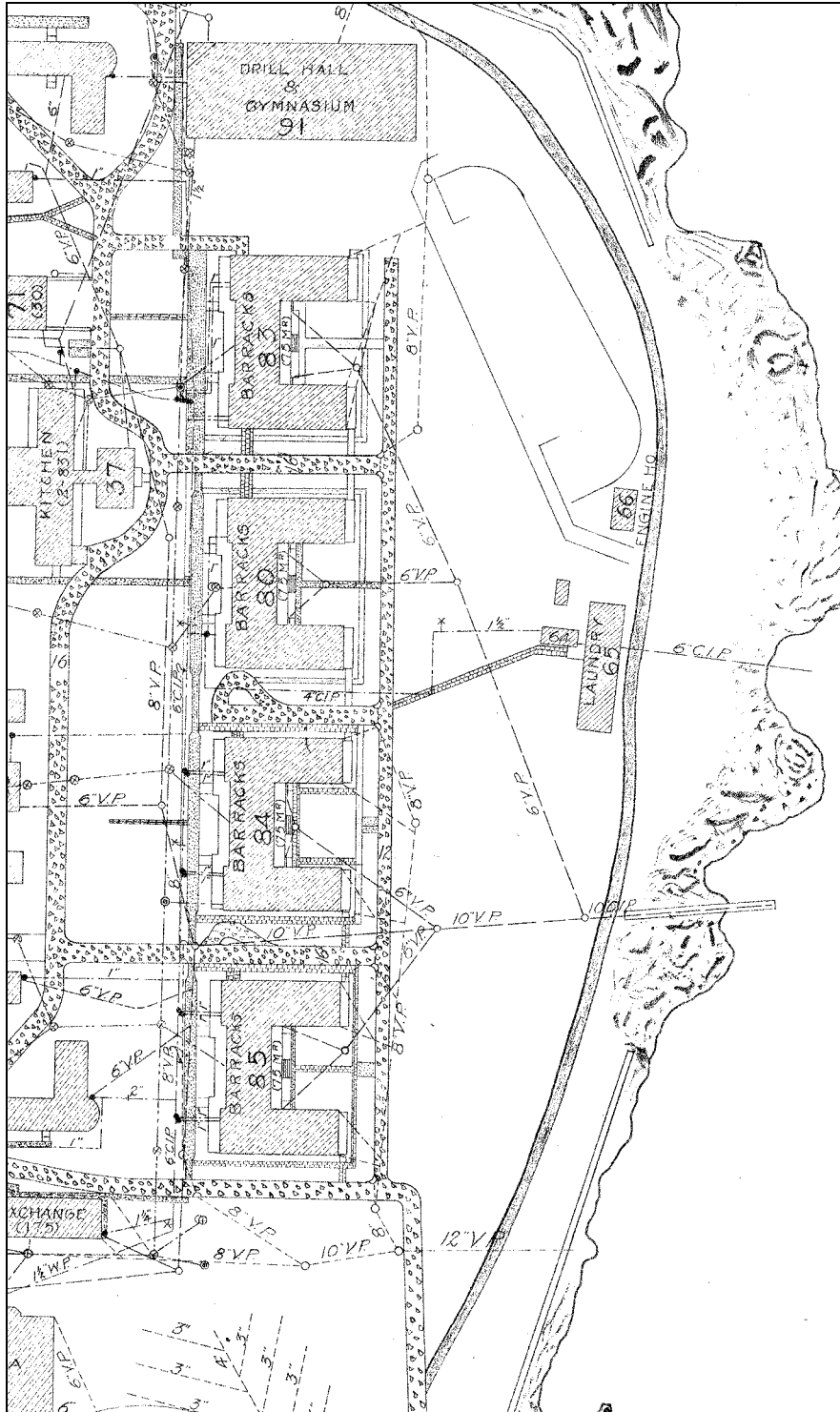
**BARRACKS (BUILDING 62)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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SITE MAP



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**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 1. "Map of Fort Slocum, New York," 1915, detail. Building 62 is designated Building 84 in this map. North is to the top of the page. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 62)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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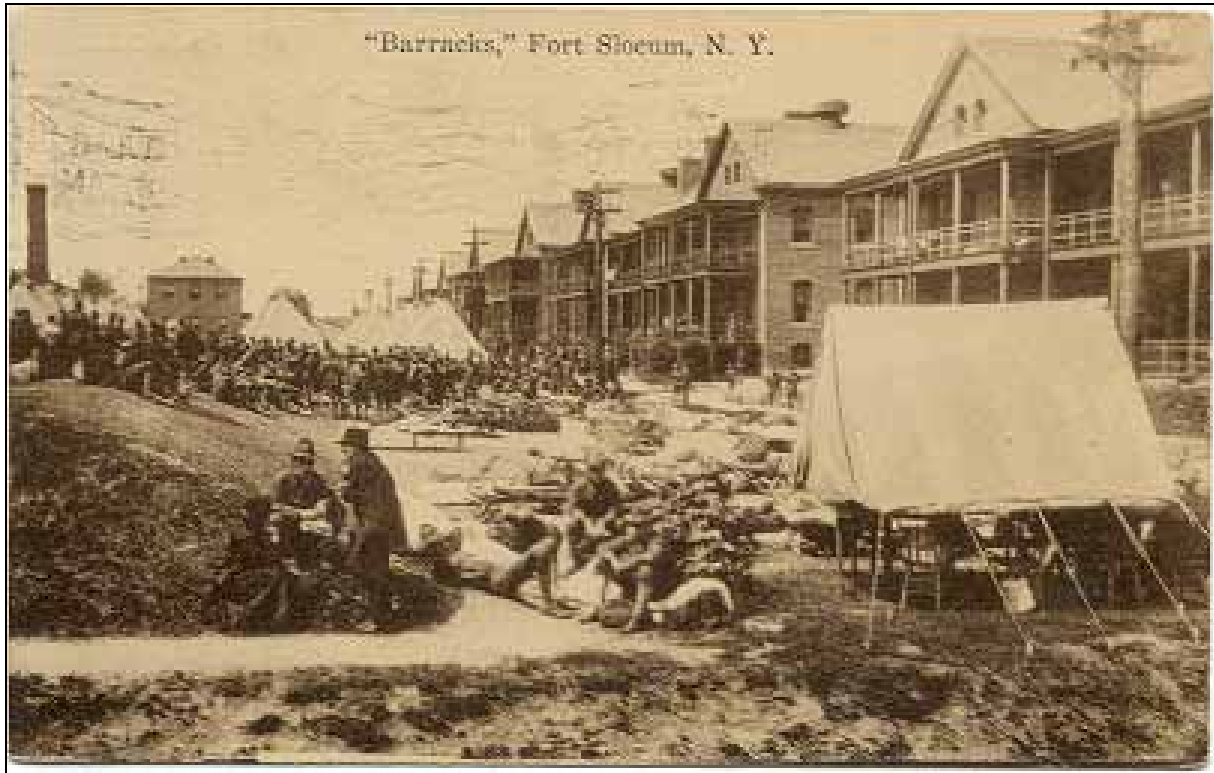
Figure 2. "Fourth Company, Fort Slocum, N.Y.," ca. 1918. View northeast. Photographic postcard; publisher unknown. Fort Slocum print collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, New York.





**BARRACKS (BUILDING 62)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 3. “‘Barracks,’ Fort Slocum, N.Y.,” ca. 1918. View northeast. Photographic postcard; publisher unknown. Building 62 is the second building from right. The postcard illustrates the crowded conditions of the post at the height of enlistee training during the First World War. Fort Slocum print collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, New York.




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**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 4. Property Record. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

7 (OH) No. 172A

Post Plan No. ....  
 O.Q.M.G.: Plan No. 75-M.R. Building No. 84 56

JUL 1940



Place Fort Slocum, New York  
 Designation of building Fort Slocum Barracks Capacity 294 Men  
 Total cost, \$75,182.69 Date completed January 8, 1909  
 Material: Walls Brick Foundation Concrete  
 Roof Slate Floors Wood  
 Total floor area above basement, square feet 19,450  
 Size: Main building 34'4" x 72' Basements 34'4" x 72'  
 Red Flash #3 Steam Boiler - American Radiator Co. Height of first floor above ground 5'6" to 8'  
 Steam (Coal Operated) How lighted Electrically  
 (Type of heat) Water connections Yes  
 Sewer connections Yes  
 Gas connections None

**1. Trojan & J. Pierce-Giant Coal Heater**  
 (Type of domestic hot water heater)

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

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

Sq. Ft. of Radiation 3,745 Sq. Ft.

JUL 1940

**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	\$31,402.55		

RECEIVED

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 62)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 5. Inventory photograph, July 1940. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 62)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 6. "Company Street, Fort Slocum, N.Y.," ca. 1940. Real photo postcard; publisher unknown. This view shows the stark main facades of Buildings 64 to 61 (left to right) along Bomford Road after the front porches were removed in the late 1930s. View southeast. Collection of Christopher L. Borstel, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, N.J.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 62)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 7. Vertical aerial photograph, September 1940, detail showing Buildings 61-64. North is to right. Numbers have been added to this reproduction to identify the buildings. Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 62)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 8. Low-angle oblique aerial photograph of Barracks Area, November 1961, looking northwest, detail. The “Quadrivium” (Buildings 61-64, which have been labeled in this reproduction) stand in a line to the west of the “Trivium” (Buildings 58-60) along the shoreline. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. 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**

#### **BARRACKS (BUILDING 62)**

Dauids Island—Fort Slocum

New Rochelle

Westchester County

New York

Photographer: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, November 2005 (photo 1) and November 2004 (photo 2).

1. Northwestern corner of the ruins of Building 62, facing south.
2. Detail of building ruins showing iron columns, which formerly supported floor beams.

Photo 1. Northwestern corner of the ruins of Building 62, facing south.





Photo 2. Detail of building ruins showing iron columns, which formerly supported floor beams.



## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)

**Location:** Davids Island–Fort Slocum  
0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland  
USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle  
UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603733.4526771

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

**Date of Construction:** 1906

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

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

**Significance:** The Barracks (Building 63) is associated with the Barracks Area. It provided housing for enlisted personnel in support of Fort Slocum's twentieth-century military functions. The building is 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:** August 2006 (Revision 1, May 2008)

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

Building 63 is a barracks located along the northeastern 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 63 is situated near the center of the post's Barracks Area. The Barracks Area contains ten brick buildings originally designed to house enlisted personnel, along with a mess hall, gymnasium-drill hall, and guardhouse. Among the ten barracks of this area is a group of four buildings constructed in the first decade of the twentieth century that comprise the "Quadrivium" (Cavanaugh 2007), of which Building 63 is one. These four Colonial Revival buildings share a common design and stand in a row near the center of Barracks Area. Building 63 stands second from the northern end of the row.

Building 63 was destroyed by fire before 1986, when the first architectural survey of Fort Slocum was conducted (Louis Berger and Associates 1986). The building is now in ruins (Photos 1-4). The interior and roof of the building have been entirely destroyed, and the building's brick walls have largely collapsed. Some sections of walls, particularly near corners, stand to heights of more than one story, but generally the walls are reduced to between the top of the foundation and the first-story window sills. Piles of rubble are spread around the outside perimeter of the building and cover the basement floor. Most of the iron columns that formerly supported floor beams have also collapsed.

When extant, Building 63 was a two-and-a-half story U-plan building with Colonial Revival details (Figures 1-9). It had two gabled wings oriented east-west connected by a slightly recessed central pavilion beneath a cross-gabled roof. Building 63 was similar to Building 61, which is the best-preserved of the Quadrivium buildings. The description of that building is representative of the appearance of Building 63. (See the documentation for Building 61, also in Volume 3 of the *Documentation of Contributing Elements: Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District*.) Variations in original construction and accumulated alterations, however, resulted in certain differences between the two buildings. Building 63 was unique among the Quadrivium in being constructed on a stone foundation, with quarry-faced schist ashlar laid in random courses where exposed above grade, and capped by a limestone water table. There were two exterior entrances to the basement located on the wings near the front of the building. Like Buildings 62 and 64, Building 63 had a simple brick structural system, rather than the compound brick and concrete-and-steel system that was unique to Building 61. The gables had three double-hung wood-sash windows instead of the two characteristic of the other buildings of the Quadrivium; these comprised a medium-size arched window beneath gable peak, which was flanked by two smaller rectangular windows. All ventilators had been removed from the roof of Building 63 by the early 1960s, as had both chimney that formerly stood at the ends of the wings. At the rear of the pavilion section, there was a wide concrete platform or stoop leading to entrances on the first floor and connected to the courtyard between the building's wings by a flight of concrete stairs. Shelters constructed of concrete blocks stood on the platform at its two inside corners; the function of these shelters is not known. A floor plan of the building from ca. 1940 show that the interior was divided into rooms of varying size, most of which were designated as common dormitory spaces (Figure 5).

## **PART II. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

### *Fort Slocum*

Between 1862 and 1965, Davids Island was the site of two successive posts of the U.S. Army posts. The earlier of these was DeCamp General Hospital (1862-1866/1874). The later, established in 1878, was known as Fort Slocum from 1896 onwards. Fort Slocum served as a recruit intake and training center, coastal and air defense installation, embarkation station, and advanced training school. The island has been abandoned since the late 1960s, soon after Fort Slocum closed. Over the past forty years, the over 100 buildings and structures that formerly comprised the post have deteriorated through neglect and vandalism. 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.

A more extensive summary of Fort Slocum's history appears in the documentation for Building 61. (See the documentation for Building 61, also in Volume 3 of the *Documentation of Contributing Elements: Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District.*) 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.

### *Barracks (Building 63) and the "Quadrivium" (Buildings 61-64)*

Building 63 is situated in an area formerly occupied by a group of eight wood-frame barracks erected in the early 1880s. It is one of four similar buildings in the south-central part of the Barracks Area, which Michael A. Cavanaugh (2007), who is writing a history of Fort Slocum, refers to as the "Quadrivium." These four structures, currently designated as Buildings 61 through 64, were completed between 1906 and 1909 to relieve overcrowding among enlisted personnel at Fort Slocum. The historical documentation for Building 61 traces the development of the Quadrivium in more detail.

Building 63 was the first of the Quadrivium to be built. It was completed in 1906 at a cost of \$68,104.20. It was built from Quartermaster Corps standard Plan No. 75-G-1902, one of several variant plans for two-company barracks widely used by the Army around the beginning of the twentieth century (Chattey et al. 1997:236-253, 388; Hoagland 2004:233-236). It was the only one of the four buildings of the Quadrivium to be built using this specific plan. (Distinct features of this plan included the stone foundation and the window triplets in the gables.) Later alterations to the exterior of Building 63 included removal of wood porches from the front and rear of the building in the late 1930s, removal of large cylindrical ventilators from the roof, and elimination of chimneys at the ends of the building wings. Interior alterations before the building was destroyed by fire have not been documented.

Throughout the life of Fort Slocum, Building 63 served as a barracks or quarters. The Quartermaster Corps property card records it as a "Permanent Barracks," and it generally housed enlisted personnel. During the 1950s, it was a bachelor officers' quarters for the Army Chaplain School.(1951-1961).

When first constructed, the structure was designated as Building 80 in the post's numbering system of 1893. When this system was revised in 1941, it became Building 55. It received its present designation, Building 63, in 1957 during the final renumbering Fort Slocum's buildings.

### **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**

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.

Louis Berger and Associates, Inc.

- 1986     *Fort Slocum, Davids Island, New York: A Historic Architectural Assessment.* Prepared for Dresdner Associates, Jersey City, New Jersey, by the Cultural Resource Group, Louis Berger & Associates, East Orange, New Jersey.

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 [Quartermaster Corps]

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

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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**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.

July 1906; revised November 1907 "Map of Fort Slocum, David's [sic] Island, N.Y. Made by Direction of Lieut. Col. W.P. Evans, 11th Inf. by C.B. Hodges, 2nd Lieut., 4th Inf." With revisions showing authorized and proposed work by Peter Murray, Capt. and Cons. Q.M. 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. Record Group 392, National Archives, New York, NY.

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. Construction Division, Office of the Quartermaster General. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

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

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**Panoramic and Aerial Photographs**

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1924: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island showing area between Mortar Battery and Raymond Hall (Building 57). View east. September 4.

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**BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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1932: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 11.

1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 17.

1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View southeast. June 29.

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

1961: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Fort Slocum's Barracks Area (northeastern side of Davids Island). View northwest. November 15. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. In the Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection.

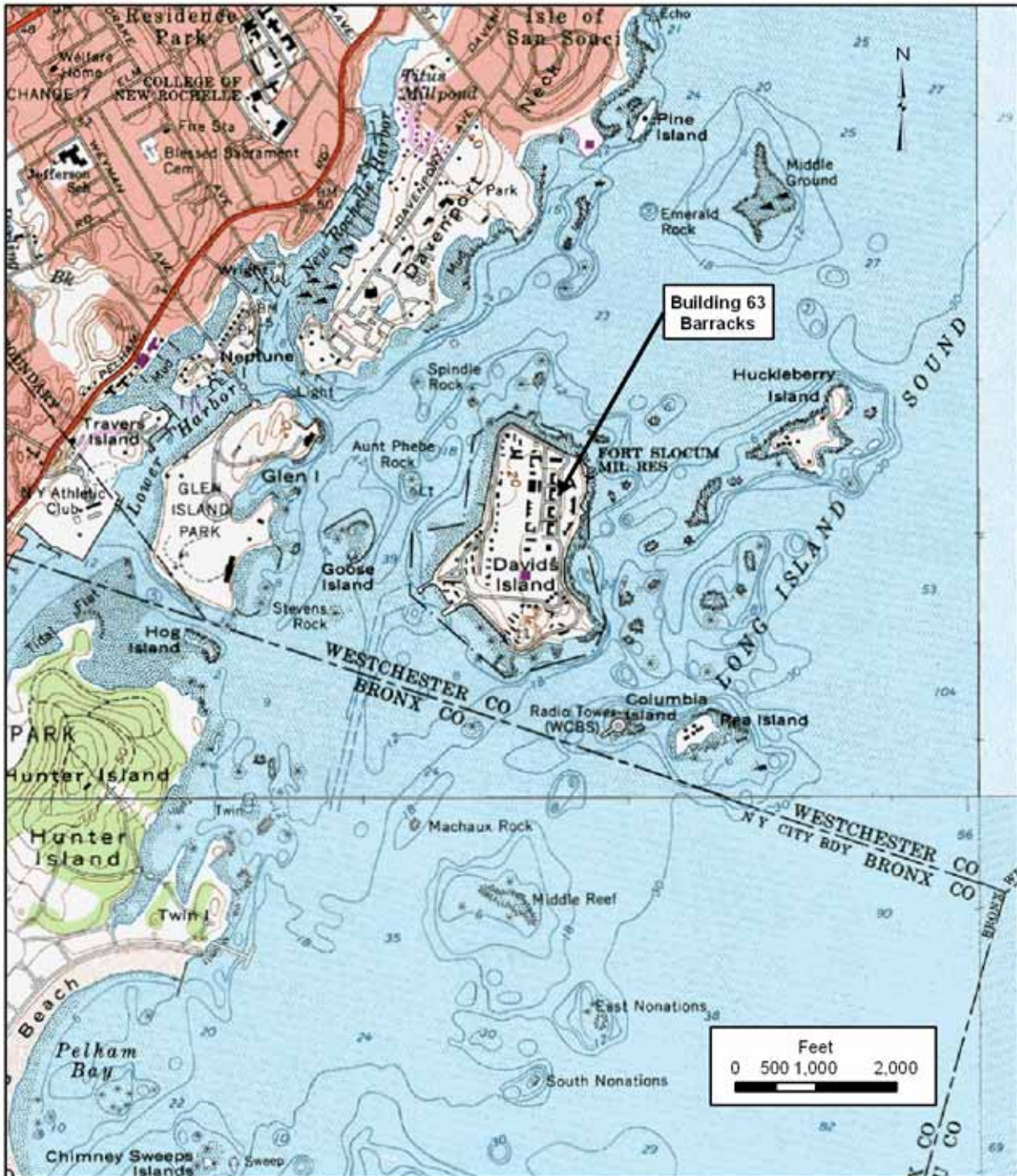
**BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**

(Page 7)

LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)

Scale: 1:24,000

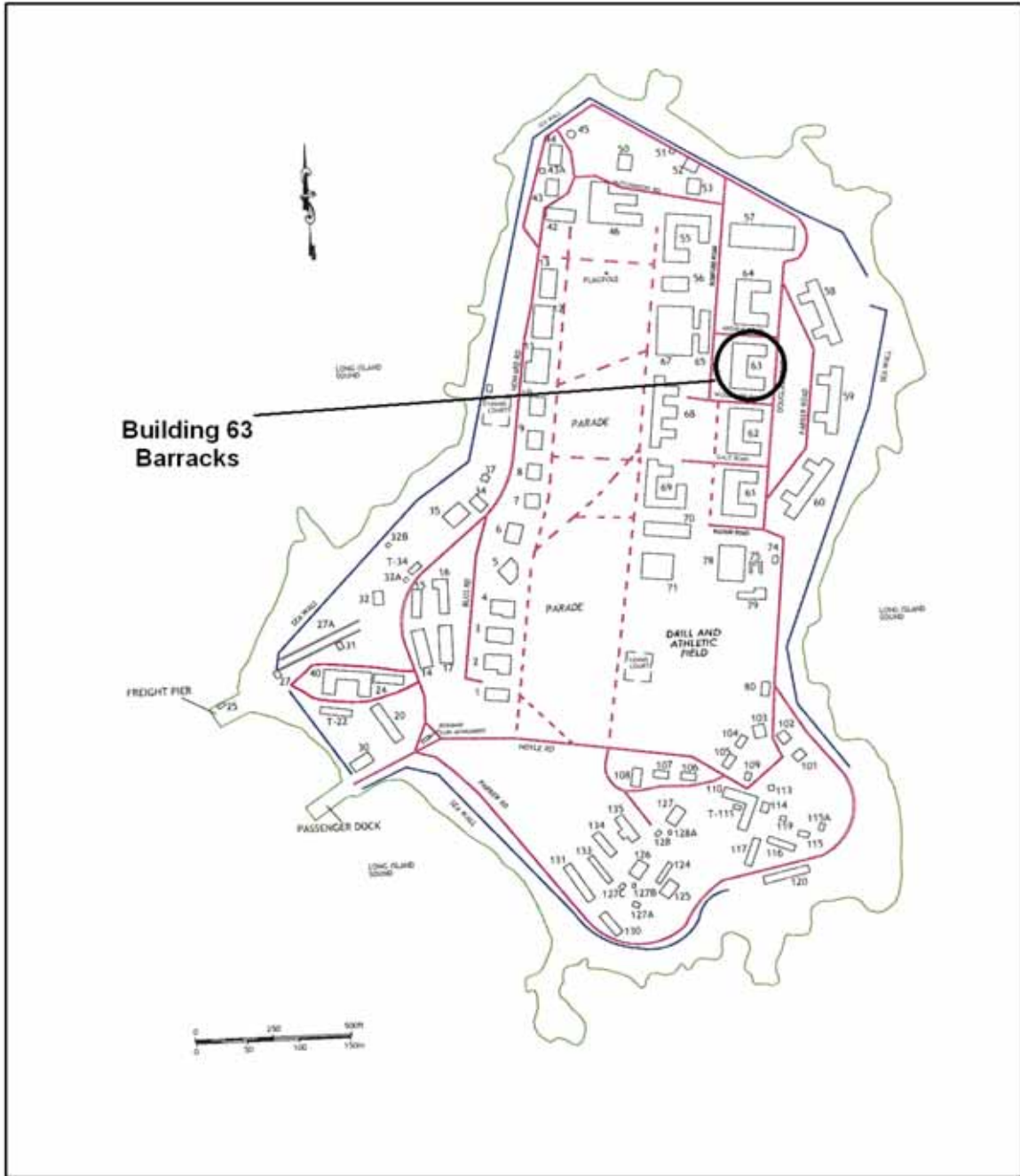
1966 (Photorevised 1979)





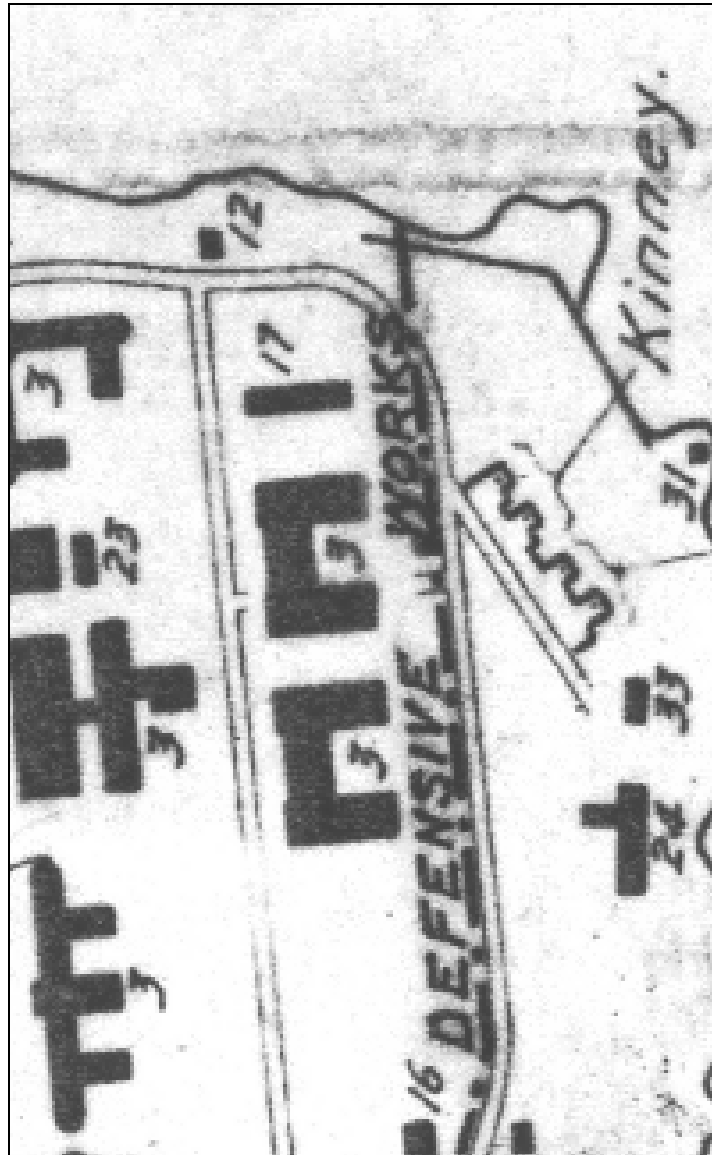
**BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)**  
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SITE MAP



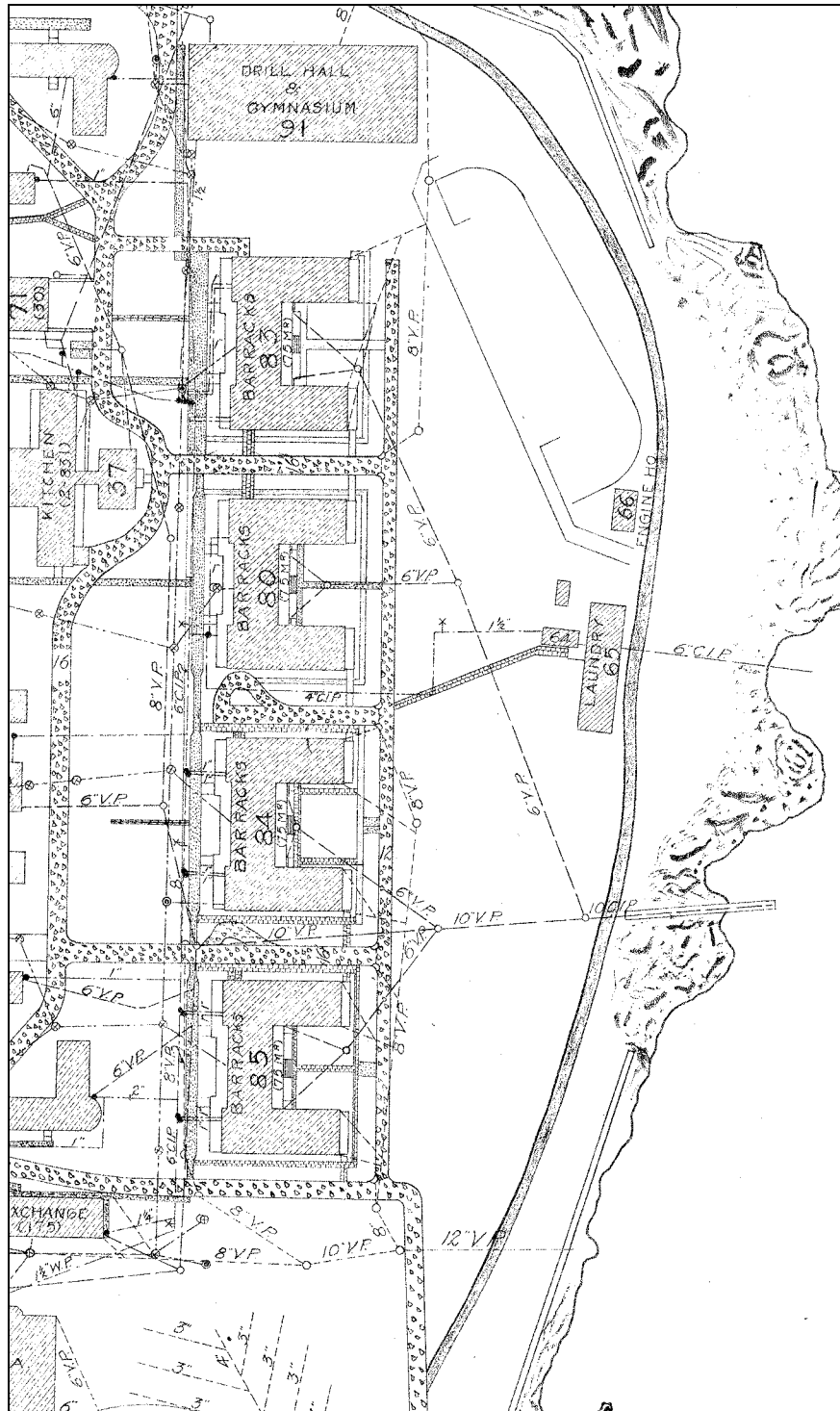
**BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 1. "Fort Slocum, Davids Island, N.Y.," 1908, detail. Building 63 is the lower of the two U-shaped buildings in the center of the image. North is to the top of the page. U.S. Army Coast Artillery Corps, New York Harbor Eastern Long Island Sound Approaches Fortification Map Series. Record Group 392, National Archives, New York, NY.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 2. "Map of Fort Slocum, New York," 1915, detail. Building 63 is designated Building 80 in this drawing. North is to the top of the page. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM  
(Page 11)**

Figure 3. "25<sup>th</sup> Company, Fort Slocum, N.Y.," ca. 1918. View northeast. Photographic postcard; publisher unknown. The open porches were removed shortly before the Second World War. View northeast. Fort Slocum print collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, New York.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
 (Page 12)

Figure 4. Property Record (front), November 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

64 No. 172A

Post Plan No. ....  
 O.Q.M.G.: Plan No. 75-G-1902 Building No. 50 55

NOV 6 1939



Capacity 312 Men

Date completed 1906

Foundation Stone

Floors Wood

1 floor area above basement, square feet 19,657

Main building 34'4" x 72'0" Wings (2) 39'0" x 103'0" Basement 34'4" x 72'0" (2) 39'0" x 103'0"

Flash Boiler #8-S-11-S and Pierce-Butler and Height of first floor above ground 5'4" @ front, 5'2" @ rear

How lighted Electrically

Water connections Yes

Sewer connections Yes

Gas connections None

METERS INSTALLED

Gas, No. None

Electric, No. Two

Oil, No. None

Steam, No. None

Water, No. None

COOKING RANGES INSTALLED

No. None

Electric No. None

No. None

No. None

COAL HEATERS

1. Pierce "Giant" Coal Heater # 1117 (Type of heat)

(Type of domestic hot water heater)

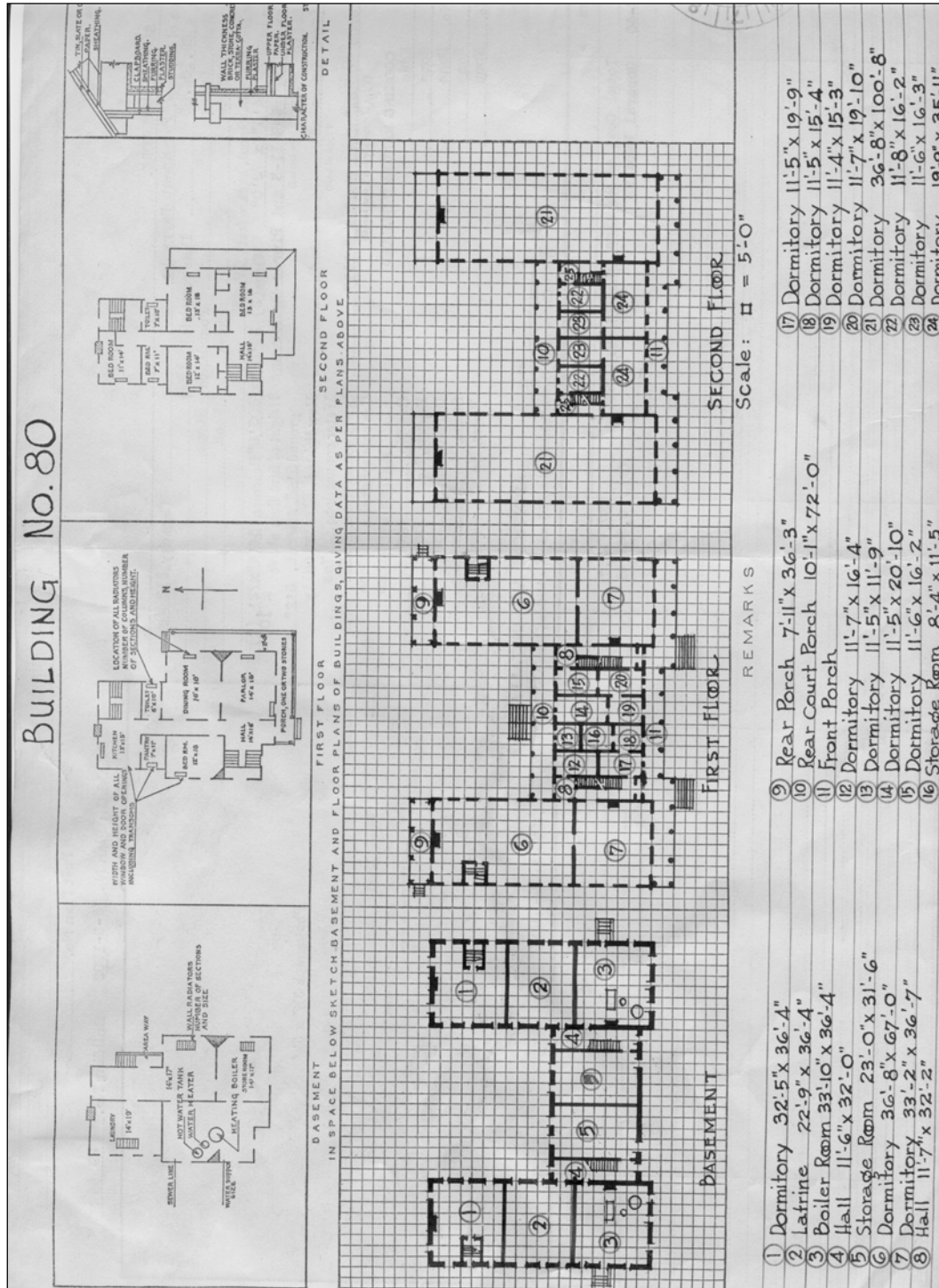
ADDITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

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

DATE	DESCRIPTION	DATE	COST
6-22-40	Total Cost of Repairs to June 30, 1939		37,953.71
	General Repairs		6,344.41

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 5. Property Record (back), November 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 6. Inventory photograph, ca. 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)  
DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 7. "Company Street, Fort Slocum, N.Y.," ca. 1940. Real photo postcard; publisher unknown. This view shows the stark main facades of Buildings 64 to 61 (left to right) along Bomford Road after the front porches were removed in the late 1930s. View southeast. Collection of Christopher L. Borstel, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, N.J.





**BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 8. Vertical aerial photograph, September 1940, detail showing Buildings 61-64. North is to right. Numbers have been added to this reproduction to identify the buildings. Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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Figure 8. The rear gables of the Quadrivium, as seen from Douglass Drive in ca. 1958. View southwest. The second and third gables from right belong to Building 63. Record Group 111, National Archives, College Park, MD.



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
(Page 18)

Figure 9. Low-angle oblique aerial photograph of Barracks Area, November 1961, looking northwest, detail. The “Quadrivium” (Buildings 61-64, which have been labeled in this reproduction) stand in a row to the west of the “Trivium” (Buildings 58-60) along the shoreline. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. 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**

#### **BARRACKS (BUILDING 63)**

Davids Island—Fort Slocum

New Rochelle

Westchester County

New York

Photographers: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, November 2005 (Photo 1) and November 2004 (Photo 2).

Christopher L. Borstel, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, October 2005 (Photo 3).

Nancy Brighton, USACE, New York, NY, March 2006 (Photo 4).

1. Building 63 ruins, facing southeast.
2. Southwestern corner of ruins, facing north.
3. Southwestern corner of ruins, detail: first-story window opening, facing north.
4. Stairway to concrete porch or stoop at center rear of building, facing northwest.

Photo 1. Building 63 ruins, facing southeast.



Photo 2. Southwestern corner of ruins, facing north.



Photo 3. Southwestern corner of ruins, detail: first-story window opening, facing north.



Photo 4. Stairway to concrete porch or stoop at center rear of building, facing northwest.





## DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

### BARRACKS (BUILDING 64)

**Location:** Davids Island–Fort Slocum  
0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland  
USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle  
UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603736.4526835

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

**Date of Construction:** 1908

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

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

**Significance:** The Barracks (Building 64) is associated with the Barracks Area. It provided housing for enlisted personnel in support of Fort Slocum's twentieth-century military functions. The building is 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:** August 2006 (Revision 1, October 2008)

**BARRACKS (BUILDING 64)**  
**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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**PART I. DESCRIPTION**

Building 64 is a barracks located along the northeastern 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 64 is situated in the north-central section of the post's Barracks Area. The Barracks Area contains ten brick buildings originally designed to house enlisted personnel, along with a mess hall, gymnasium-drill hall, and guardhouse. Among the ten barracks of this area is a group of four buildings constructed in the first decade of the twentieth century that comprise the "Quadrivium" (Cavanaugh 2007), of which Building 64 is one. These four Colonial Revival buildings share a common design and stand in a row near the center of Barracks Area. Building 64 stands at the northern end of the line.

Building 64 was destroyed by fire before 1986, when the first architectural survey of Fort Slocum was conducted (Louis Berger and Associates 1986). The building is now in ruins (Photos 1-4). The interior and roof of the building have been entirely destroyed. The brick walls in the center section of the building stand to a height of two stories, but those of the wings have largely collapsed to a height of between the top of the foundation and the first-story window sills. A chimney stands in the ruins at each end of the center section of the building. Piles of rubble are spread around the outside perimeter of the building and cover the basement floor. The basement also contains a boiler and the collapsed piping from the building's heating and plumbing system and a line of rusted steel lockers. Two-story-high iron columns, which formerly supported floor beams, remain standing in the ruin.

When extant, Building 64 was a two-and-a-half story U-plan building with Colonial Revival details (Figures 1-11). It had two gabled wings oriented east-west connected by a slightly recessed central pavilion beneath a cross-gabled roof. Building 64 generally resembled Building 61, which is the best-preserved of the Quadrivium buildings. The description of that building is representative of the appearance of Building 64. (See the documentation for Building 61, also in Volume 3 of the *Documentation of Contributing Elements: Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District*.) Though the two buildings were similar, by the 1960s, when Fort Slocum closed, variations in original construction and accumulated alterations resulted in certain differences between the two buildings. Among these differences, Building 64 had a simple brick structural system, rather than the compound brick and concrete-and-steel system that was unique to Building 61. A external entrance covered by a steel bulkhead was located at the southwestern corner. All ventilators had been removed from the roof of Building 64 by the early 1960s, and there was chimney only at the eastern end of the north wing of the building. At the rear of the pavilion section, there was a wide concrete platform or stoop leading to entrances on the first floor and connected to the courtyard between the building's wings by a flight of concrete stairs. Shelters constructed of concrete blocks stood on the platform at its two inside corners; the function of these shelters is not known. No specific information about the interior layout of the building during any period is available at present.

## **PART II. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

### *Fort Slocum*

Between 1862 and 1965, Davids Island was the site of two successive posts of the U.S. Army posts. The earlier of these was DeCamp General Hospital (1862-1866/1874). The later, established in 1878, was known as Fort Slocum from 1896 onwards. Fort Slocum served as a recruit intake and training center, coastal and air defense installation, embarkation station, and advanced training school. The island has been abandoned since the late 1960s, soon after Fort Slocum closed. Over the past forty years, the over 100 buildings and structures that formerly comprised the post have deteriorated through neglect and vandalism. 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.

A more extensive summary of Fort Slocum's history appears in the documentation for Building 61. (See the documentation for Building 61, also in Volume 3 of the *Documentation of Contributing Elements: Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District.*) 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.

### *Barracks (Building 64) and the "Quadrivium" (Buildings 61-64)*

Building 64 is situated in an area formerly occupied by a group of eight wood-frame barracks erected in the early 1880s. It is one of four similar buildings in the south-central part of the Barracks Area, which Michael A. Cavanaugh (2007), who is writing a history of Fort Slocum, refers to as the "Quadrivium." These four structures, currently designated as Buildings 61 through 64, were completed between 1906 and 1909 to relieve overcrowding among enlisted personnel at Fort Slocum. The historical documentation for Building 61 traces the development of the Quadrivium in more detail.

Building 64 was completed on January 8, 1909 at an initial cost of \$75, 692.00. It was built from Quartermaster Corps standard Plan No. 75-M.R., one of several variant plans for two-company barracks widely used by the Army around the beginning of the twentieth century (Chattey et al. 1997:236-253, 388; Hoagland 2004:233-236). Among the Quadrivium, the Army also used this particular variant of the 75-series plans to construct Buildings 61 and 62. Later alterations to the exterior of Building 64 included removal of wood porches from the front and rear of the building in the late 1930s, removal of large cylindrical ventilators from the roof, and elimination of a chimney from the eastern end of the south wing of the building. Interior alterations before the building was destroyed by fire have not been documented.

Throughout the life of Fort Slocum, Building 64 served as a barracks. The Quartermaster Corps property card records it as a "Permanent Barracks." Later, during the 1950s, it was part a bachelor officers' quarters for the Army Chaplain School.(1951-1961).

When first constructed, the structure was designated as Building 83 in the post's numbering system of 1893. When this system was revised in 1941, it became Building 54. It received its present designation, Building 64, in 1957 during the final renumbering Fort Slocum's buildings.

### **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.

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**DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM**  
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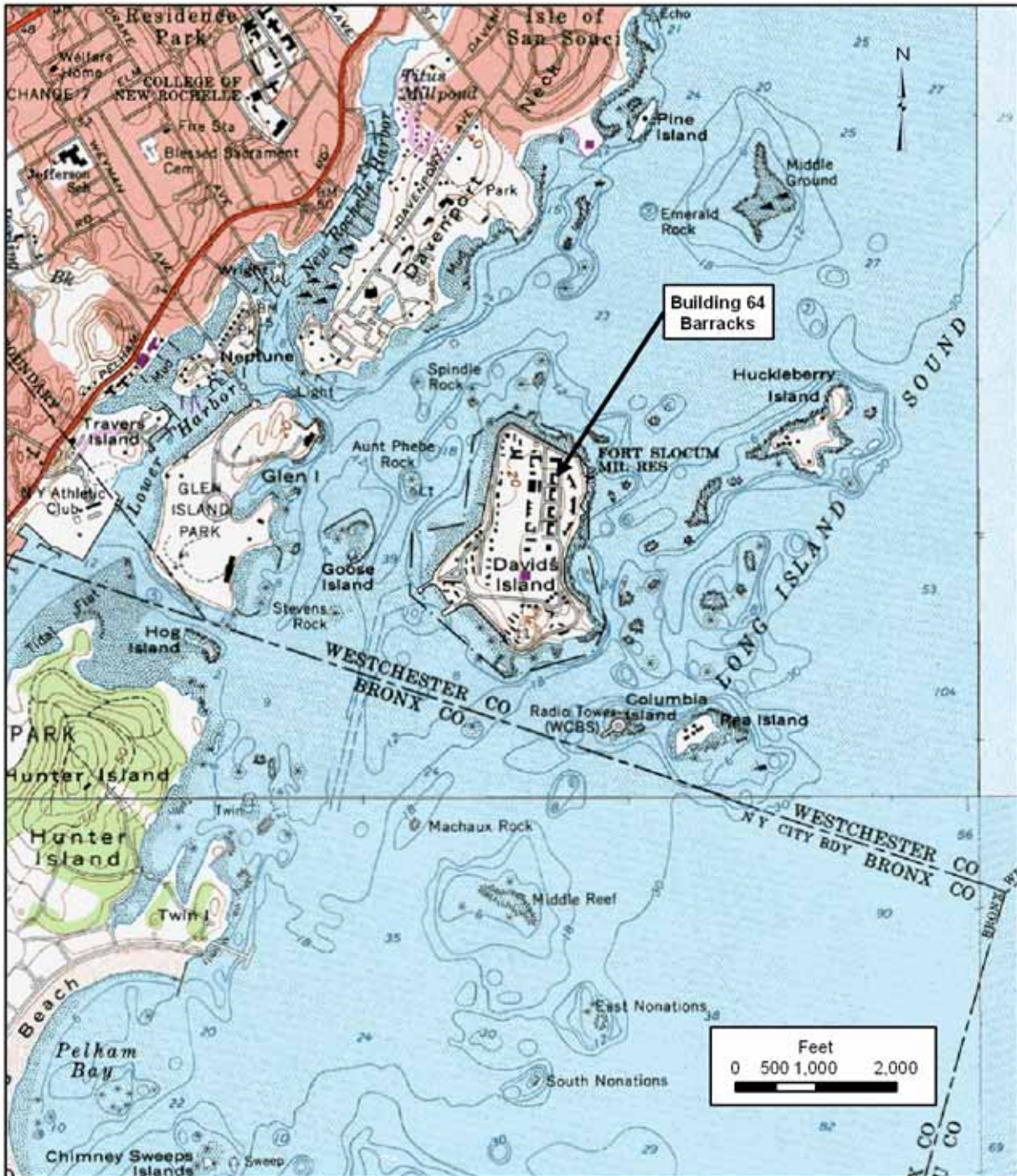
**BARRACKS (BUILDING 64)  
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LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)

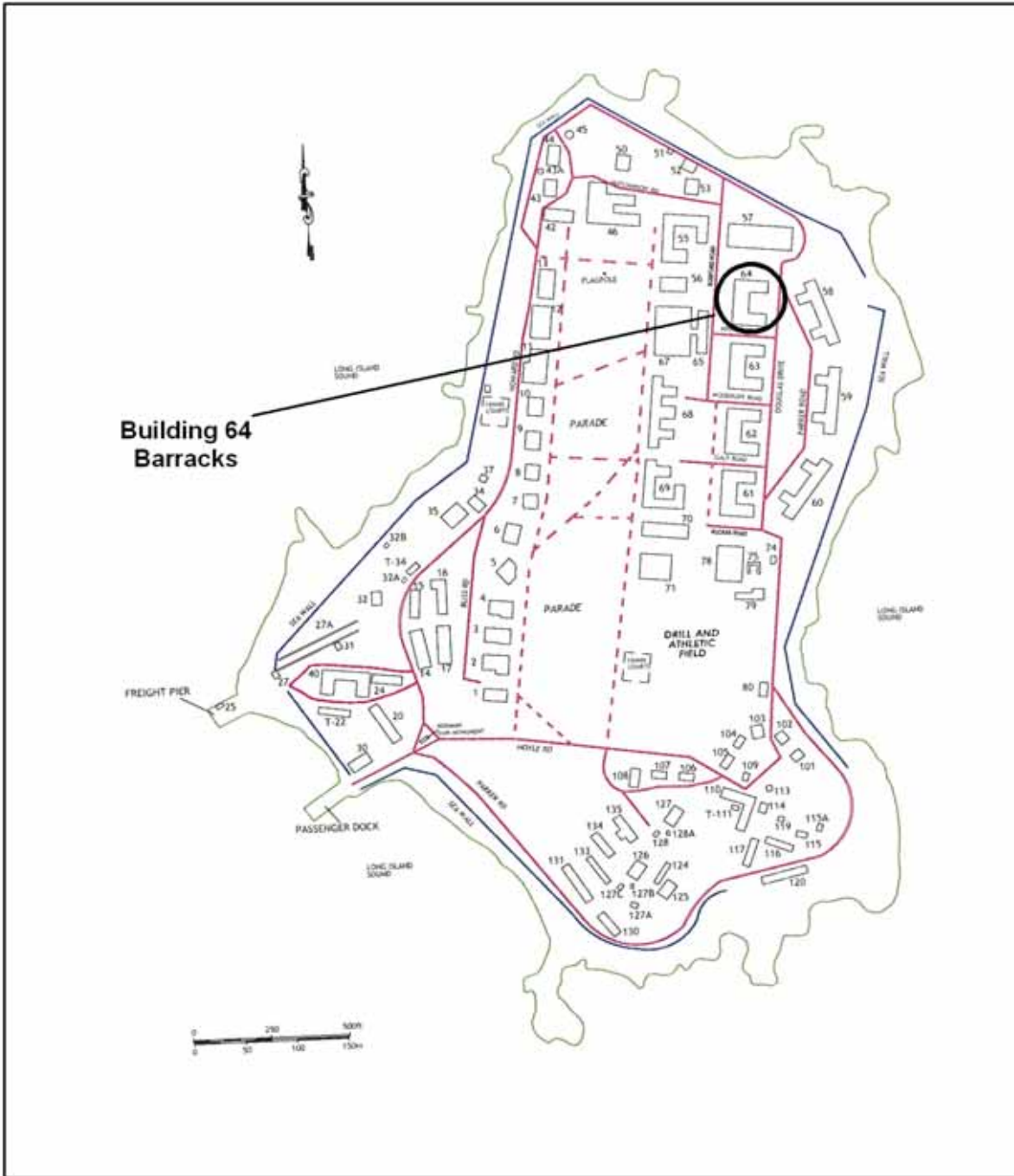
Scale: 1:24,000

1966 (Photorevised 1979)



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 64)**  
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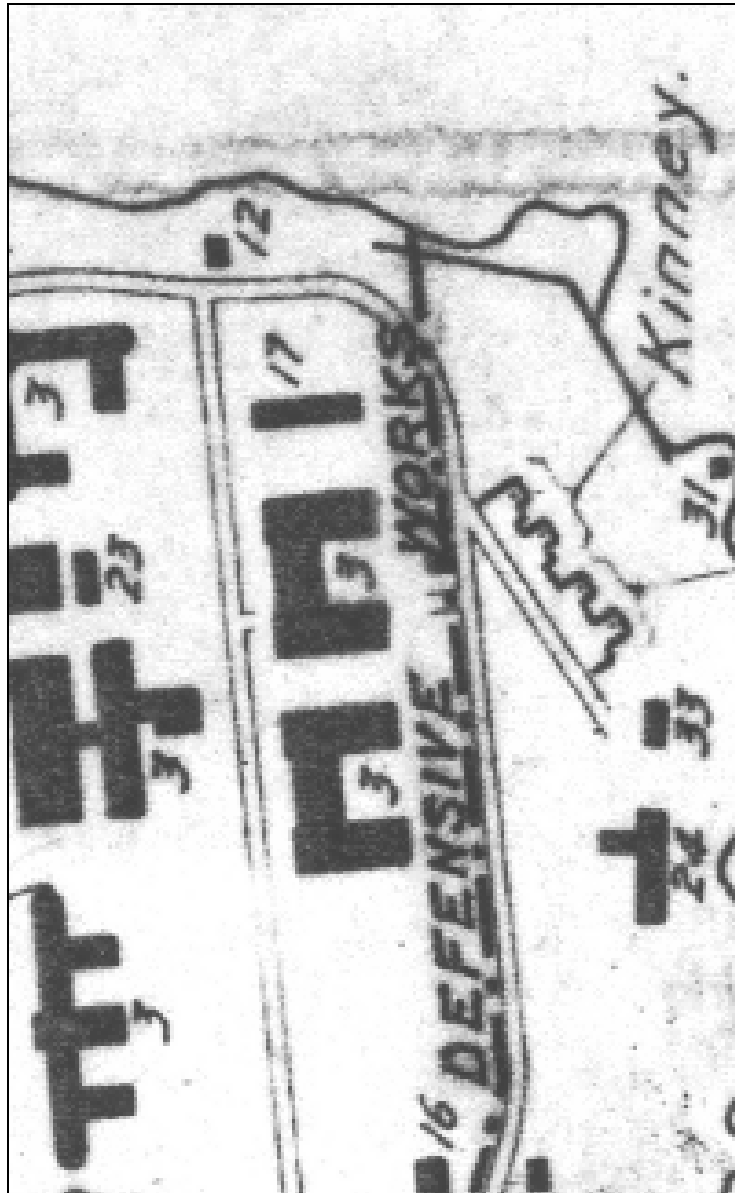
SITE MAP





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Figure 1. "Fort Slocum, Davids Island, N.Y.," 1908, detail. Building 64 is the upper of the two U-shaped buildings in the center of the image. North is to the top of the page. U.S. Army Coast Artillery Corps, New York Harbor Eastern Long Island Sound Approaches Fortification Map Series. Record Group 392, National Archives, New York, NY.





**BARRACKS (BUILDING 64)  
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Figure 3. Property Record, July 1940. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

Post Plan No. .... O.Q.M.C.: Plan No. 75-M.E. Building No. 62 54. JUL 1940				JUL 1940	
Place Fort Slocum, New York Designation of building Permanent Barracks Capacity 292 Men Total cost, \$75,692.00 Date completed July 10, 1908 Material: Walls Brick Foundation Brick Roof Slate Floors Wood Total floor area above basement, square feet 19,450 Size: Main building 34.14'x72' Wings (2) 39.10'x103.10' Basement 72.1'x41.4' a Red Flash #3 Steam Boiler - American Radiator Co. height of first floor above ground 5.6" to 6.6" b Steam (Coal-Operated) How lighted Electrically c 1 Trojan and 1 Pierce Giant Coal Heater Water connections Yes (Type of domestic hot water heater) Sewer connections Yes Gas connections None METERS INSTALLED COOKING RANGES INSTALLED Gas, No. None REFRIGERATORS INSTALLED Electric, No. Two Gas, No. None Oil, No. None Electric No. None Steam, No. None Oil, No. None Water, No. None Steam, No. None					
Sq. Feet of Radiation 4,680 Sq.Ft.					
<b>ADDITIONS AND INSTALLATIONS</b> (Below enter chronologically all modifications, additions, introductions of water, sewer, lights, heating, etc.)					
DATE	DESCRIPTION	COST	DATE	COST	CC
	Total cost of repairs to June 30, 1939	\$48,173.45			



**BARRACKS (BUILDING 64)**  
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Figure 4. Inventory photograph, July 1940. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 5. "Company Street, Fort Slocum, N.Y.," ca. 1940. Real photo postcard; publisher unknown. This view shows the stark main facades of Buildings 64 to 61 (left to right) along Bomford Road after the front porches were removed in the late 1930s. View southeast. Collection of Christopher L. Borstel, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, N.J.



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Figure 6. Vertical aerial photograph, September 1940, detail showing Buildings 61-64. North is to right. Numbers have been added to this reproduction to identify the buildings. 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 7. The rear gables of the Quadrivium, as seen from Douglass Drive in ca. 1958. View southwest. The first gable at right is at the eastern end of the south wing of Building 64. Record Group 111, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 8. Exterior, Building 64, circa 1958. View southeast. Record Group 111, National Archives, College Park, MD.





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Figure 9. Interior, Bachelor Officers' Quarters, possibly Building 64, circa 1958. Record Group 111, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 10. Basement, possibly Building 64, showing common areas, ca. 1958. Record Group 111, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 11. Low-angle oblique aerial photograph of Barracks Area, November 1961, looking northwest, detail. The “Quadrivium” (Buildings 61-64, which have been labeled in this reproduction) stand in a row to the west of the “Trivium” (Buildings 58-60) along the shoreline. Attributed to Capt. Donald P. Blake. 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**

#### **BARRACKS (BUILDING 64)**

Dauids Island—Fort Slocum

New Rochelle

Westchester County

New York

Photographer: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, November 2005 (Photo 1) and November 2004 (Photos 2-4).

1. General view facing east-northeast from intersection of Bomford and Andrus Roads.
2. Western façade of central pavilion, facing east.
3. Southwestern section of building ruins, facing northwest.
4. Western façade, facing southeast.

Photo 1. General view facing east-northeast from intersection of Bomford and Andrus Roads.



Photo 2. Western façade of central pavilion, facing east.



Photo 3. Southwestern section of building ruins, facing northwest.



Photo 4. Western façade, facing southeast.

