Note

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Prepared for:

Department of the Army New England District, Corps of Engineers 696 Virginia Road Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751

Total Environmental Restoration Contract (TERC)

Documentation of Contributing Elements Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District Davids Island, City of New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York

Volume 4 Buildings 65-108

December 2008 (Revision 1)

Contract Number:
DACW33-03-D-0006
TASK ORDER 2

Prepared by:

Tetra Tech EC, Inc. 133 Federal Street Boston, MA 02110

Submitted by Tetra Tech, EC, Inc., on behalf of: Jacobs – Tetra Tech EC Joint Venture 55 Old Bedford Road Lincoln, MA 01773 USACE CONTRACT NO. DACW33-03-D-0006
TASK ORDER NO. 0002
TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION CONTRACT (TERC)

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2008-O-JV02-0061

PREFACE

The *Documentation of Contributing Elements of the Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District* describes and illustrates the individual buildings, structures, objects, and features that are part of the District. The District is located on Davids Island in the City of New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York, and it comprises the former U.S. Army post of Fort Slocum (Olausen et al. 2005). The District is a relict landscape whose various elements illustrate significant aspects of the design of military posts and the adaptation of popular American architectural styles on a permanent post of the United States Army during the period 1878 to 1965. As discussed in the historic overview section of the documentation (see Volume 1), the District's historical significance also derives from Fort Slocum's role in the defense of New York City during two periods, 1897-1906 and 1955-1961, and from its regional and national role as a recruit depot, transit station, and training center between 1878 and 1965.

In 2005, with the concurrence of New York's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (USACE) determined that the District was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (SHPO 2005). The descriptions, photographs, and primary historical materials assembled in these volumes are intended to record the appearance and history of the buildings, structures, objects, and features that comprised the contributing elements of the District as it existed in 2004-2007. Nearly all of the elements documented in these volumes have either since been demolished or are at this writing scheduled for imminent demolition.

Documentation of the individual contributing elements in the District was completed in compliance with Stipulation II.C.1 of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed in 2005 by the USACE, SHPO, City of New Rochelle, and Westchester County. Pursuant to the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 USC 470f) and its procedural regulations (36 CFR 800), the MOA as a whole addresses the adverse effects on the District of a USACE project to demolish buildings, remove debris, and remediate asbestos at former Fort Slocum. Congress authorized this project in the Department of Defense (DoD) Appropriations Act of 2004 and provided funds through the DoD's Office of Economic Adjustment. Stipulation II.C.1 of the MOA requires the preparation of an "appropriate level of documentation" for the contributing elements of the historic district that will be adversely affected by the USACE project. The documentation was prepared by the staff of Tetra Tech EC, Inc. (Tetra Tech) under contract to the USACE, with some early assistance from a subcontractor, the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. The documentation is one element of Task Order No. 0002 of USACE Contract No. DACW33-03-D-0006, a contract held by a joint venture between Jacobs Engineering Group and TtEC ("Jacobs - Tetra Tech EC Joint Venture"). The six volumes of the *Documentation of Contributing Elements of the Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District* are concerned only with historic architectural aspects of the District. Results of subsurface archeological investigations are reported elsewhere (Tetra Tech 2008a).

As defined by the National Register of Historic Places (1997:5), a district is a type of historic property that "possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development." Districts may be comprised of extant historic elements or the archeological remnants thereof. The USACE designated the district at former Fort Slocum as jointly historic and archeological to highlight the mixed character of its components, which include standing but deteriorated buildings, exposed standing ruins, and belowground archeological deposits. Like many districts, the one on Davids Island contains both contributing and non-contributing elements. Contributing elements help to convey a district's sense of time and place and historical development or help to contain the important historical information that makes the district significant. Non-contributing elements are situated within the boundaries of a district but by virtue of their age, physical condition, historical associations, or other factors do not help to convey its defining

historical qualities or historical information. The 2004 architectural survey of former Fort Slocum inventoried 105 buildings, structures, objects, and features (Olausen et al. 2005). Of these, 92 were classified as contributing elements to the District (Table 1), and they included quarters, barracks, storehouses, medical facilities, and administrative, training, and support buildings, along with fortifications, landscape features and objects, roads and paths, and the seawall surrounding the entire island. The remaining 13 buildings and structures in the architectural inventory were categorized as non-contributing (Table 1), based upon a combination of factors that included presumed age, structural design, overall integrity, and apparent historical associations. The non-contributing elements comprised several structures associated with the post's water, sewage, or electrical utilities, and several poorly-preserved or ruinous wood-frame, ostensibly temporary buildings with minimal foundations, typically consisting of concrete piers or slab-on-grade construction.

In consultation with the SHPO, the USACE determined that each contributing element in the District should be documented through descriptions, historic imagery, and contemporary existing-conditions photographs using a format patterned after that employed by the Historic American Buildings Survey and Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) for historical reports (HABS/HAER 2000). Such documentation of historic buildings, structures, and objects provides "raw data in an accessible format for easy use by future researchers" and may also synthesize "the information, making conclusions about the building being documented, either through an analysis of the building itself and its history, or by setting it in an appropriate context." The format of HABS/HAER documentation is flexible, allowing "the kind of structure or site being documented [to] dictate the final form of that documentation" (HABS/HAER 2000:3-4). For the Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District, the USACE and Tetra Tech chose to document most contributing elements of the district individually, using written descriptions and historic context statements; reproductions of historical maps, photographs, plans and similar materials; and digital photographs depicting their appearance in 2004-2007. Completing a separate documentation packet for individual contributing elements ensured that each was systematically considered and described.

Tetra Tech completed field documentation of the District's contributing elements in a sequence that accommodated the order of the remediation, demolition, and cleanup work. The order of this work depended upon engineering, logistical, and funding considerations and upon the ongoing consultations among the MOA's signatories and interested parties. Field documentation and preparation of draft materials thus did not proceed in the sequential order of building numbers shown in Table 1, nor did it proceed by Fort Slocum's historic functional areas (Figure 1). Rather, Tetra Tech prepared batches of draft documentation packets that roughly anticipated the sequence in which buildings and structures would be demolished. Completion of draft documentation and USACE approval of the draft was one of several conditions to be met before the demolition team could remove a building or structure.

This version of the *Documentation of Contributing Elements of the Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District* retains the format of the draft documentation, but the sequence of presentation has been altered from the drafts originally submitted to the USACE by placing the documentation generally in building number order. A general table of contents covering all volumes appears after that for the present volume. Since sequencing the documentation by building number may not serve all users of these materials equally well, the functional area map of the post with current building numbers (Figure 1) and a table listing buildings by construction date (Tables 2-3) are provided as cross-indexes at the end of this preface. Aside from the sequence of presentation, the present documentation has been revised from the draft form with editorial corrections and substantive amendments that are intended to enhance consistency and to reflect historical information that has become available since the drafts were completed.

Building names used in this documentation generally derive from the functional names originally assigned to buildings, even when there was a later substantial and longstanding change in a building or structure's use. Generally, the names employed here reflect those current around 1940, when the post

quartermaster prepared a set of record cards inventorying each building then extant (United States Army Quartermaster Corps ca. 1905-41). However, exceptions do occur, including instances where a different, less historically-reliable name had already become embedded in the overall vocabulary of the USACE's Fort Slocum Project and those in which no historical building name could be established. In addition, in a few instances, compound building names (e.g., "Magazine/Blacksmith Shop," Building 113) have been employed. These are used where it seemed essential to do so for functional or historical clarity. The historical narrative section of element's documentation usually discusses historical changes in building function.

Historical building numbers at Fort Slocum can be a source of confusion, because there were four successive numbering systems at the post, ca. 1887, 1893, 1941, and 1957. These systems are discussed in detail in the historic overview section of this documentation (see Volume 1). The numbering system used herein is that being employed currently by the USACE and Tetra Tech's demolition team. It derives from the 1957 system, but includes a few idiosyncrasies introduced at various points after the post closed in 1965.

Dates of construction are, like the building function names, also derived primarily from the Quartermaster Corps property cards (United States Army Quartermaster Corps ca. 1905-41). Where the property cards are unavailable or uninformative, the dates are drawn from study of other sources, such as historic maps and aerial photographs. As used here, the date of construction is usually taken as the year the building or structure was completed. Construction of most buildings and structures, however, stretched over months and often spanned more than one calendar year, and of course designs for buildings and structures might be executed long before the buildings were actually built. Information about the timing of the entire design and construction process is generally not available, so a single year, representing the date completed, is cited as the date of construction. Following the completion of a building or structure, they may later have been altered by expansion or substantial remodeling involving structural changes. Subsidiary dates following the original completion date reflect known significant alterations to building footprints and structural systems, but it is likely that further research would reveal additional major changes not identified herein.

Stylistic classification of the buildings and structures in the District has sometimes proven to be problematic. Only a few of the buildings at Fort Slocum were designed as high-style exemplars of a single architectural trend or movement. Constraints on construction and future maintenance costs were ever-present, as was an Army ethos that favored functionality, efficiency, and disciplined restraint over excessive and exuberant display. Such constraints probably encouraged simplification of design and ornament, sometimes complicating attribution of specific architectural styles. The tendency toward simplification and a severe lack of ornament is most pronounced among the buildings intended to be temporary, such as those erected during the First and Second World Wars (e.g., Buildings T-34 and 130-135, respectively), as well as utilitarian buildings in out of the way places (e.g., Building 52, the noncontributing Sewage Tank House). In addition, the many individual design elements and ornaments that classically define a particular style were constantly being reshuffled in new building designs and major renovations (Brand 1994; McAlester and McAlester 2000). The permanent buildings constructed at Fort Slocum between the mid-1890s and ca. 1940—which comprise around half of all the buildings on the post—were built during a period when brick construction and the Colonial Revival style dominated Army architecture in most areas of the continental United States. To harmonize buildings on these posts, the style of earlier buildings from this period tended to draw later designs toward them, resulting in elements from newer styles being subsumed by the dominant style, but not entirely eclipsed by them (Chattey et al. 1997:1-14; Hoagland 2004:211-243). Many of the buildings at Fort Slocum are therefore a more or less eclectic mix of two or more named architectural styles, a point that is highlighted as appropriate in the documentation.

Research and preparation of this documentation spanned three years and involved several authors and editors. The work proceeded somewhat episodically over this period. For general historical background, Tetra Tech initially relied upon several earlier historical and architectural studies, including ones prepared by Historical Perspectives (1986), Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. (1986), and Olausen et al. (2005). Tetra Tech's early subcontractor, the Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL), collected a series of nineteenth- and twentieth-century maps from the National Archives and other sources and prepared the documentation on the Freight Pier and Passenger Dock (Volume 2). Tetra Tech staff conducted additional research online and in person at the National Archives, the New Rochelle Public Library, and other repositories. Tetra Tech greatly benefited from the knowledge and research of several people knowledgeable about aspects of Fort Slocum's history. Most importantly, Michael A. Cavanaugh of Los Angeles, California, author of a forthcoming book on Fort Slocum's history and organizer of the informal Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Association, was generous in sharing his knowledge and materials. Barbara Davis, New Rochelle City Historian and member of the staff of the New Rochelle Public Library, also helped Tetra Tech's team understand the history and significance of Fort Slocum and pointed out locally-available resources. E-mail correspondence and research materials from Bolling Smith, fortifications expert and member of the Coastal Defense Study Group, clarified many aspects of the artillery batteries erected at Fort Slocum. Oral history interviews with more than twenty-five people formerly associated with Fort Slocum as service personnel, civilian employees, or dependents (Tetra Tech 2008b) supplied additional historical details about life at the post and the uses and histories of individual buildings that otherwise would have been unavailable.

Field documentation of the contributing and noncontributing buildings and structures in the Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District, emphasizing digital photography, was completed by the staff members from PAL, the USACE, and Tetra Tech. PAL photographed most buildings between late 2004 and early 2006. Tetra Tech supplemented and expanded this core collection of images during archeological, historic architecture, and engineering investigations conducted between 2005 and 2008. The USACE provided additional supplementary images as a result of two trips to the island in early 2006.

Tetra Tech's Cultural Resources Documentation Team based in Morris Plains, New Jersey, consisted of Caleb W. Christopher and James C. Sexton, Ph.D. (architectural historians), Christopher L. Borstel, Ph.D., RPA (archeologist and research historian), and Robert M. Jacoby (oral historian and documentation compiler). The team was supervised by Tetra Tech's discipline lead for cultural resources, Sydne B. Marshall, Ph.D., RPA, who was responsible for initial project design, task management, personnel assignments, and technical quality assurance. Tetra Tech's overall work on Davids Island is managed by George M. Willant in the company's Boston office. At the USACE, Nancy J. Brighton has planned and guided the agency's compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and reviewed the draft versions of all documentation. Gregory J. Goepfert is the USACE's project manager for its remediation, demolition, and restoration project at former Fort Slocum.

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State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO]

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Tetra Tech EC. Inc.

2008a Phase IB Archeological Surveys of the Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District, City of New Rochelle, Westchester County, New York, 2005 and 2006 Field Season Reports. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Concord, Massachusetts, by Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Boston.

2008b Davids Island/Fort Slocum Oral History Project—"And by golly I'm so proud of being part of this military life:" Conversations with Members of the Fort Slocum Community, April 2008 (draft report). Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Concord, Massachusetts, by Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Boston.

United States Army Quartermaster Corps

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

Figure 1. Historic functional areas of the Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District

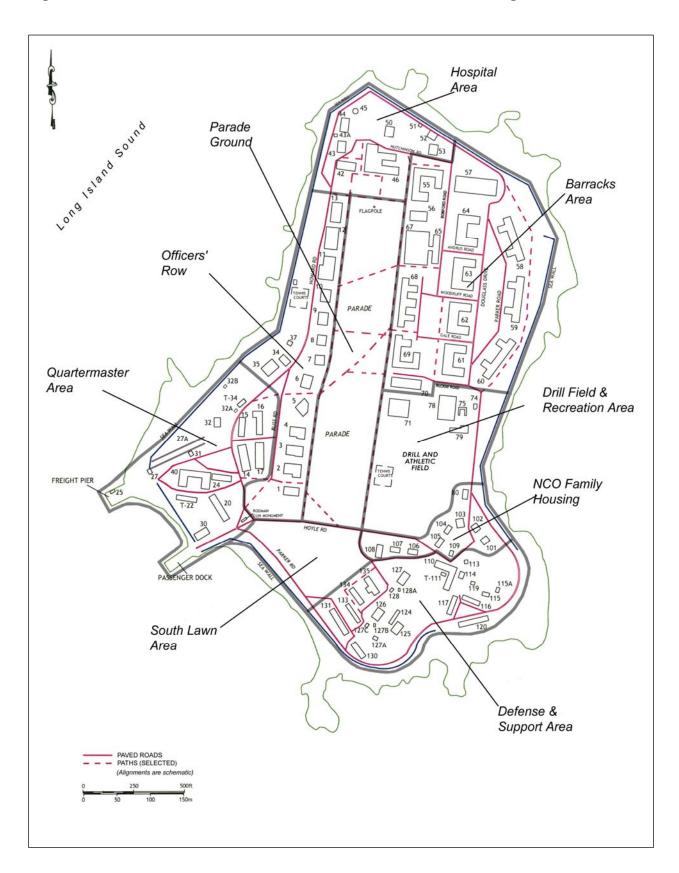


Table 1. Contributing and Non-Contributing Buildings, Structures, and Other Elements of the Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District, as Defined in Olausen et al. (2005), MOA (2005), and through subsequent research.

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55 X 135 X						
56 X Battery Practice X						
57 X Flagpole X						
58 X Freight Pier X						
59 X Officers' Tennis Courts X						
60 X Parade Ground X						
61 X Passenger Dock X						
62 X Rodman Gun Monument X						
63 X Seawall X						
64 X System of Roads and Paths X						

Table 2. Index of Contributing Elements in the Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District by Date of Construction.

Date Completed	Building Number	Name	Documentation Volume
ca. 1862-			
1950	-	System of Roads and Paths	6
ca. 1871	-	Parade Ground	6
1878	2	Officers' Quarters	1
1878	3	Officers' Quarters	1
1878	4	Officers' Quarters	1
1881	14	Quartermaster Storehouse and Quarters	2
1884	_	Passenger Dock	2
1885	113	Magazine / Blacksmith Shop	5
1885	119	Receiving Vault	5
1886	5	Officers' Quarters	1
1886	7	Officer's Quarters	1
1886	8	Officer's Quarters	1
1886	67	Mess Hall	4
1887	68	Barracks	4
1888	69	Barracks	4
1889	55	Barracks	3
1890-ca.		Burtuekt	3
1942	-	Seawall	6
1891-1897	125, 126,	Mortar Battery (Battery Haskin Pits A and B; Battery Overton	
	and 127	Pit B)	5
1892	6	Officers' Quarters	1
1893	1	Commanding Officer's Quarters	1
1893	11	Officers' Mess	1
1893	25	Freight Pier	2
1893	27A	Coal Yard & Conveyor	2
1893-1898	-	Battery Practice	6
1895	9	Officers' Quarters	1
1895	10	Officers' Quarters	1
1896	56	Guardhouse	3
1896	110	Ordnance Storehouse / Laundry	5
1897	128	Mortar Battery Powerhouse	5
1897	127B	Fire Control Building, Battery Haskin Pit B	5
1897	128A	Fire Control Building, Battery Overton Pit B	5
1898	46	Hospital	3
1900	=	Rodman Gun Monument	6
1902	24	Carpenter Shop	2
1902	34	Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters / Officer's Quarters	2
1904	16	Quartermaster Storehouse / Commissary	2
1904	17	Quartermaster Storehouse	2
1905	70	Post Exchange	4
1905	114	Searchlight Powerhouse	5
1906	63	Barracks	3
1908	20	Quartermaster Storehouse / Post Engineer's Office	2
1908	40	Wagon Shed / Garage	2

Table 2 (continued).

Date Completed	Building Number	Name	Documentation Volume
1908	42	Recruit Examination Building	3
1908	64	Barracks	3
1908	102	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters	4
1909	13	Administration Building	1
1909	50	Isolation Hospital	3
1909	57	Drill Hall and Gymnasium	3
1909	61	Barracks	3
1909	62	Barracks	3
1909	71	YMCA	4
1909	101	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters	4
1909	103	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters	4
1909	108	Chapel	4
1909	115	Incinerator	5
1910	12	Officers' Quarters	1
1910	35	Officers' Quarters	2
1910	33 37	Electrical Substation	2
1910	43	Hospital Sergeants' Quarters	3
		1 5	2
1917	T-34	Temporary Storehouse / Quarters	
1929	45	Water Tower	3
1930	60	Barracks	3
1930	104	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters	4
1930	105	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters	4
1930	106	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters	4
1930	107	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters	4
1932	58	Barracks	3
1933	74	Sewage Sump and Pumping Station A	4
1938	27	Coal Conveyor Shed	2
1938	30	Passenger Waiting Room / Quarters	2
1938	31	Coal Yard Shed	2
1939	53	Sludge Drying Bed Building	3
1939	59	Barracks	3
1940	32	Paint Shop	2
1940	44	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters	3
1940	65	Post Bakery	4
1941	15	Quartermaster Storehouse	2
1942	79	Firehouse	4
1942	T-111	Pistol Range Storehouse	5
1943	130	Temporary Barracks	6
1943	131	Temporary Barracks	6
1943	133	Temporary Barracks	6
1944	134	Temporary Barracks	6
1944	135	Temporary Barracks	6
1950	32A	Transformer Vault No. NE 1A	2
1955	124	Nike Sighting Station	5
1955	124 127A	Nike Generator Building	5
1955	127A 127C	Transformer Vault No. 9	5
1960	127C -	Flagpole	6

Table 3. Index of Non-Contributing Elements in the Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District by Date of Construction.

Date	Building	
Completed	Number	Name
1929	43A	Valve House
1933	51	Sewage Sump and Pumping Station B
1933	52	Sewage Tank House
1941	109	Transformer House No. 3
1941	117	Temporary Storehouse / Office
1942	T-22	Temporary Storehouse
1942	75	Handball Courts
1942	78	Armory & Gymnasium
1942	116	Temporary Storehouse
1944	120	Temporary Storehouse
1950	32-B	Pump House
1955	115A	Machine Shed
1960	80	Non-Commissioned Officers' Children's Swimming Pool

Detailed documentation has not been prepared for non-contributing elements in the District. Architectural inventory forms giving brief descriptions of these elements are included in Olausen et al. (2005).

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•	•			•		
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Post Bakery (Building 65)

Mess Hall (Building 67)

Barracks (Building 68)

Barracks (Building 69)

Post Exchange (Building 70)

YMCA (Building 71)

Sewage Sump and Pumping Station A (Building 74)

Firehouse (Building 79)

Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Building 101)

Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Building 102)

Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Building 103)

Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Building 104)

Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Building 105)

Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Building 106)

Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Building 107)

Chapel (Building 108)



Documentation of Contributing Elements Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District

Contents, Volumes 1 to 6

I/ - 1	- 1	17.1	2 ()
Volum			e 3 (cont.)
Blg. N	o. Building Name		o. Building Name
-	Fort Slocum: Historic Overview	61	Barracks
1	Commanding Officer's Quarters	62	Barracks
2	Officers' Quarters	63	Barracks
3	Officers' Quarters	64	Barracks
4	Officers' Quarters		
5	Officers' Quarters	Volum	e 4
6	Officers' Quarters	Blg. N	o. Building Name
7	Officer's Quarters	65	Post Bakery
8	Officer's Quarters	67	Mess Hall
9	Officers' Quarters	68	Barracks
10	Officers' Quarters	69	Barracks
11	Officers' Mess	70	Post Exchange
12	Officers' Quarters	71	YMCA
13	Administration Building	74	Sewage Sump and Pumping Station A
	E	79	Firehouse
Volum	e 2	101	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters
	o. Building Name	102	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters
-	Passenger Dock	103	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters
_	Freight Pier, including Crane (Blg. 25)	104	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters
14	Quartermaster Storehouse and Quarters	105	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters
15	Quartermaster Storehouse	106	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters
16	Quartermaster Storehouse / Commissary	107	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters
17	Quartermaster Storehouse Quartermaster Storehouse	107	Chapel
20	Quartermaster Storehouse / Post Engineer's	100	Chaper
20	Office	Volum	a 5
24	Carpenter Shop		
27	Coal Conveyor Shed	110	o. Building Name Ordnance Storehouse / Laundry
27A	Coal Yard & Conveyor	T-111	
30	Passenger Waiting Room / Quarters	1111	Magazine / Blacksmith Shop
31	Coal Yard Shed	113	Searchlight Powerhouse
32	Paint Shop	115	Incinerator
32A	Transformer Vault No. NE 1A	119	Receiving Vault
T-34		119	Nike Sighting Station
34	Temporary Storehouse / Quarters	124	Battery Haskin Pit A
34	Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters /		
25	Officer's Quarters	126	Battery Haskin Pit B
35	Officers' Quarters	127	Battery Overton Pit B
37	Electrical Substation	127A	Nike Generator Building
40	Wagon Shed / Garage	127B	Fire Control Building, Battery Haskin Pit B
17.1	2	127C	Transformer Vault No. 9
Volum		128	Mortar Battery Powerhouse
_	o. Building Name	128A	Fire Control Building, Battery Overton Pit B
42	Recruit Examination Building	77.1	
43	Hospital Sergeants' Quarters	Volum	
44	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters		o. Building Name
45	Water Tower	130	Temporary Barracks
46	Hospital	131	Temporary Barracks
50	Isolation Hospital	133	Temporary Barracks
53	Sludge Drying Bed Building	134	Temporary Barracks
55	Barracks	135	Temporary Barracks
56	Guardhouse	-	Battery Practice
57	Drill Hall and Gymnasium	=-	Flagpole
58	Barracks	=-	Parade Ground
59	Barracks	-	Rodman Gun & Monument
60	Barracks	-	Seawall
		=	System of Roads and Paths

DAVIDS ISLAND - FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

POST BAKERY (BUILDING 65)

Location: Davids Island–Fort Slocum

0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland

USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle

UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603690.4526802

<u>Present Owner(s):</u> City of New Rochelle, NY

Date of Construction: ca. 1909/1940

Architect/Engineer: U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps

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

Significance: The Post Bakery (Building 65) is situated in the Barracks Area and

played a key role in the provision of food services 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: July 2007 (Revision 1, December 2008)

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PART I. DESCRIPTION

The Post Bakery (Building 65) 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 65 stands in the post's Barracks Area directly behind the Mess Hall (Building 67). The Barracks Area contains ten brick buildings originally designed to house soldiers and other enlisted personnel, along with a few other buildings, including the Bakery and Mess Hall, a guardhouse, post exchange, and drill hall-gymnasium.

Building 65 is a plain Colonial Revival-style brick building of two and a half stories (Photos 1-10; Figures 1-8). It has a rectangular footprint, and its main axis is oriented north-south. The building faces east onto Bomford Road. A one-story brick corridor, which is centered at the rear of the building, connects it to the Mess Hall (Building 67). The building was severely damaged in the April 1982 great fire on Davids Island. It is now in ruins ((Berger 1986; New York Times 1982; Olausen et al. 2005).

The building is divided into three sections. The center third was apparently constructed in ca. 1909 and is flanked on either end by additions built in 1939-1940. The façades of the additions have been carefully harmonized with the original section to give an overall impression of uniformity. However, the center section was constructed using a brick structural system with wood framing to support floors and interior walls. These elements were destroyed by fire and the center section is an open shell from the basement to the cornice. In contrast, the adjoining additions were built with a reinforced concrete structural system. The concrete structural system was apparently similar to that used in Buildings 58-60 and the north half of Building 61, all of which were erected in the 1930s with fire-resistant construction. As with these other buildings, although the roof was destroyed by fire, the floors and internal support columns of the fire-resistant sections remain intact.

Historical photographs show that both in its 1909 form and in the later expanded version, Building 65 had a hipped roof clad in slate. Based on surviving roof elements above the level of the attic floor, the roof was framed with a spine of steel posts and beams supporting wood joists, rafters, and decking, now gone. After the building was expanded in 1940, the roof had a string of six small gabled dormers on the eastern (main façade) side, along with a single such dormer at each end. There were no dormers on the rear (western) side of the roof. After the expansion, two exterior chimneys were set along the back (western) wall approximately 13 feet from the northwestern and southwestern corners of the building. These rose slightly above the height of the roof ridge. Just beneath the narrow roof, a narrow band of rectangular machicolations in raised brickwork—which still survive at the top of the ruin's walls—formed a simple cornice. The cornice was continuous around the entire building and linked its original center section and the later additions into an apparently seamless whole. This type of cornice was also employed in the original sections of the neighboring Mess Hall.

In the extant ruin, the main (eastern) façade has a row of regularly spaced window openings on the second and first stories. The windows are arranged in groups of four toward the ends of the building that alternate with a somewhat more closely spaced group of five in the center. On the first story, the center

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window is replaced by a large door opening. The window openings have brick segmental arches with limestone sills and were occupied by six-over-six double-hung wood-frame windows. The entrance is segmental arch opening framed with lightly glazed red-orange brick with a cast concrete keystone, voussoirs, and base blocks. Its size suggests it held a double-leaf door, but the door is no longer extant. Concrete steps leading up to a wide stoop stand in front of the entrance. A narrow water table of brick is located at the top of the brick-clad stone and concrete foundation. Small rectangular windows set into the foundation provide light to the basement, and these are placed beneath those of the first and second floor.

The pattern of fenestration seen on the front of the building continues around the sides to the back. The façades of the two ends have three openings on the second floor, but only two on the first floor, with a blank wall replacing the center window at the first story and basement levels. At the rear of the building, the fenestration generally mirrors that of the front façade; however, there is the enclosed central corridor connecting the Bakery to the Mess Hall, and there is also an additional rear first-floor entrance replacing a window on either side of the corridor.

Little information about the interior or its historical layout is available. The central section of the building has collapsed into the basement. The additions on either side have concrete floors, walls, and ceilings with a couple of supporting columns located along the centerline.

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

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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.

Post Bakery (Building 65)

Building 65 is situated in Fort Slocum's Barracks Area. The Barracks Area is dominated by buildings designed to house unmarried enlisted personnel, and it contains ten barracks constructed between 1887 and 1939 for this purpose. It also has several other buildings, including the Post Bakery, described here, which is attached to the Mess Hall (the separately numbered Building 67), a 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 became 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. Building 65 was erected during second major episode of masonry construction in the area, during which the "Quadrivium" barracks (Buildings 61-64) and the drill hall-gymnasium (Building 57); however, it seems to have replaced an earlier bakery at the rear of the Mess Hall that was constructed at the end of the first episode of masonry construction in this section of the post in the late 1880s. During this phase of development of the area, the Army built four brick buildings, including the first three brick barracks (Buildings 55, 68, and 69) and the Mess Hall on the northeastern

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edge of the Parade Ground. The Mess Hall is of particular interest in the history of Fort Slocum, as it was the first consolidated or general mess built by the U.S. Army. That building was completed in 1886, but the post bakery was not relocated adjacent to it until late 1888 or early 1889 (Holabird 1889:523; Moore 1889:833). Before the new building was completed, the post bakery was located in a wood-frame building on the western side of the Parade Ground about where Building 10, a brick duplex officers' quarters was later built (completed 1895). The 1889 brick bakery was a one-story brick building of several rooms connected to the kitchen wing of the mess hall. It was offset to the north of the center of the kitchen and was perpendicular to kitchen's long axis. The two buildings were connected by a corridor or breezeway.

This 1889 bakery stood until ca. 1909, when it was replaced by a two-story building, which forms the core of the present Building 65. The 1909 bakery was centered behind the kitchen wing, which itself received an addition at its northern end to make it the same length as the mess hall. The long axis of this bakery was parallel with that of the kitchen wing, and the two buildings were connected by an enclosed corridor. As early as 1920, there were calls to replace the existing bakery (said to be "in the basement of the permanent mess hall"), because it was held to be too small to address the needs of the post at times when it was manned to capacity (Marshall 1920:321), but apparently no progress was made on this proposal until the late 1930s, when funding was authorized to expand the 1909 building by adding to both ends of the building. The additions each appear to have been approximately the same length as the original 1909 core (roughly 52 feet), tripling the building employed a reinforced concrete structural system, rather than the brick structural system of the original, but Army architects took care to match the façades of the old and new sections to give it an overall unity. Later alterations have not been documented.

Maps of the post and other historical documents consistently identify the function of building 65 and its predecessors as a bakery where bread and other baked goods were made. Through long experience, the Army had found that even on posts where men messed by company, baking was more efficient if centralized, and the separation of the kitchen and bakery for the new consolidated mess (completed 1886) was either an institutional extension of this principle or one based on an analysis of the work and space needs of cooks and bakers. The typical post bakery of the late nineteenth and twentieth century included several rooms with separate designated functions, such as mixing, proofing, and baking bread, along with ancillary functions such as sleeping quarters for bakers, supply rooms, etc. (Chattey et al. 1997:155). Michael Cavanaugh (2007), who is writing a history of Fort Slocum reports that during the 1930s, Fort Slocum's Bakery was probably also used for training, as the Army's Cooks and Bakers' School was located at the post during this period.

The core section of the Post Bakery, constructed in 1909, was designated as Building 37 in the numbering system then used at Fort Slocum. Sometime in the late 1930s, or perhaps after the extensive expansion of 1939-1940, the Bakery was identified as Building 30. In the post-wide renumbering of 1941, it became Building 121. It received its present designation, Building 65, in 1957.

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Maps and Drawings

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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.

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

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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.)

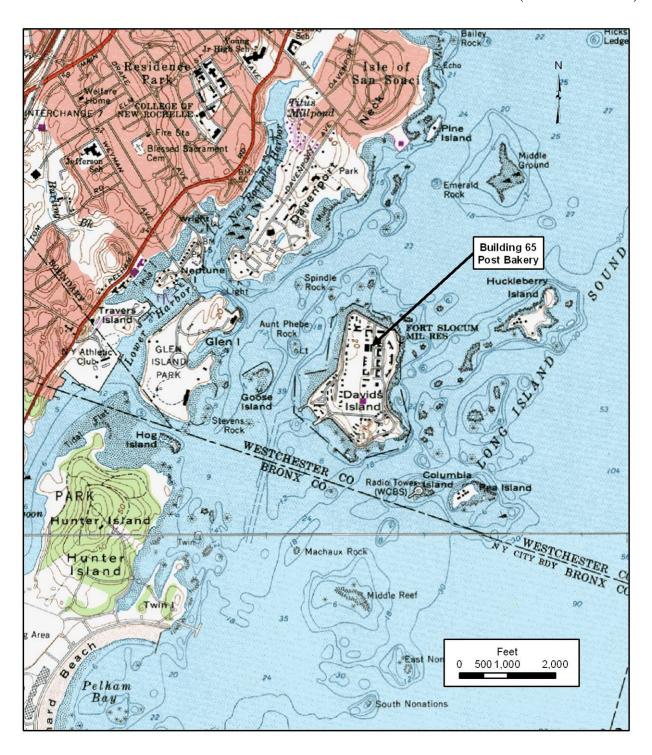
- 1924: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island showing area between Mortar Battery and Raymond Hall (Building 57). View east. September 4.
- 1924: Vertical aerial photograph of Davids Island. September 4.
- 1932: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 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.

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LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)

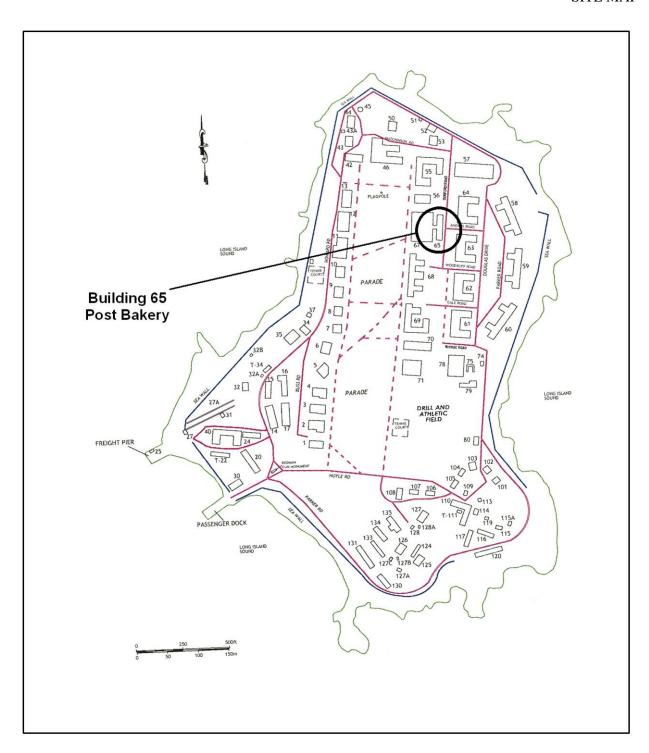
Scale: 1:24,000

1966 (Photorevised 1979)



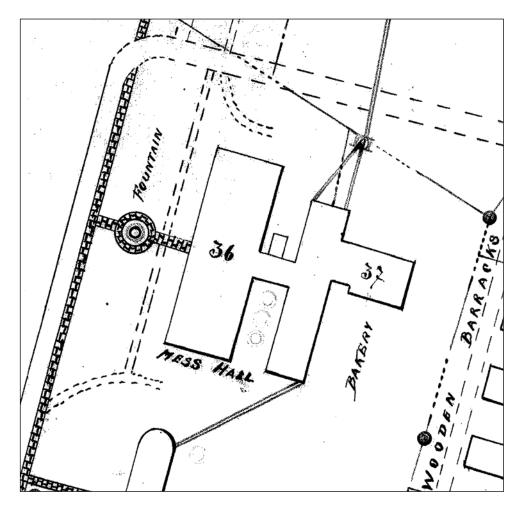
(Page 10)

SITE MAP



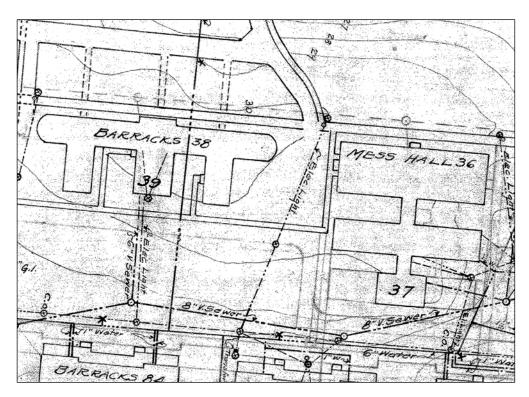
(Page 11)

Figure 1. "Map of Davids Island, New York." May 1893, detail. The Bakery (Building 37) as depicted here preceded the current Post Bakery (Building 65), built in 1940. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 2. "Map of Fort Slocum New York." 1915, detail. The bakery shown as Building 37 preceded the current bakery (Building 65), built in 1940. Top of map is to west. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



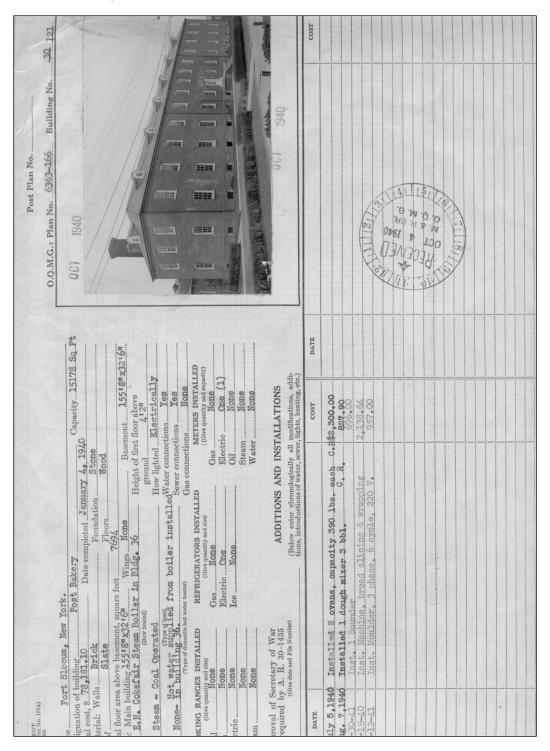
(Page 13)

Figure 3. "General Mess & Barracks, Fort Slocum, N.Y.," detail, ca. 1940, facing south. Real photo postcard produced by unknown publisher. No copyright date or postmark. The original section of the Bakery built in 1909 stands at left. Collection of Christopher L. Borstel, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ.



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Figure 4. Property Record Building 65, October 1940 (front). The reverse of this form records: "Construction began Fiscal Year 1939 (WPA \$46,987.27); completed Fiscal Year 1940 (New York State WPA \$31,193.83) [line 1] 7-24-41 – Number changed from 30 to 121. [line 2]" Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 5. Inventory photograph, October 1940. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 6. Building 65 interior, ca. 1941. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, New York.



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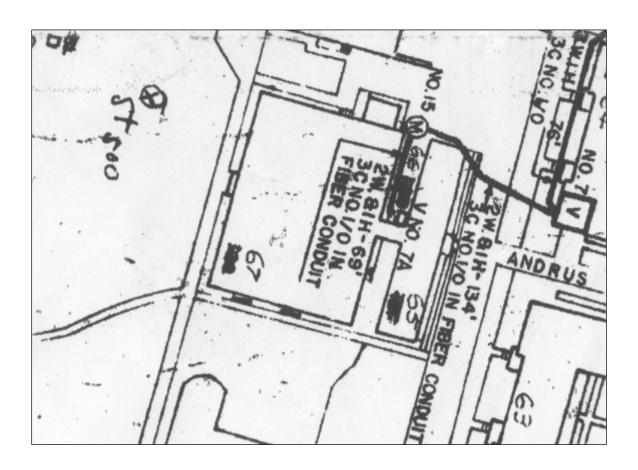
Figure 7. Building 65 interior, ca. 1941. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, New York.



POST BAKERY (BUILDING 65) DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM

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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 Bakery is designated as Building. 65. North is to the top of map. Office of Post Engineer, Fort Slocum. 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

POST BAKERY (BUILDING 65)

Davids Island—Fort Slocum New Rochelle Westchester County New York

Photographers: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, November 2004 (Photos 1, 4, 5, and 6) and December 2005 (Photos 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10).

Christopher L. Borstel, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, February 2008 (Photo 2).

- 1. Eastern façade, facing northwest.
- 2. Mosaic of five photographs showing eastern façade facing west.
- 3. Eastern façade, detail—main entrance facing west.
- 4. Eastern façade, facing southwest.
- 5. Northern end of Building 65 (left), facing south, with kitchen wing of Building 67 at right.
- 6. Northern façade, facing southeast.
- 7. Southern façade, facing northeast.
- 8. Southern courtyard between Building 65 (right) and Building 67 (left).
- 9. Collapsed interior of ca. 1909 center section, facing west.
- 10. Interior of southern 1940 addition, facing northwest.

Photo 1. Eastern façade, facing northwest.



Photo 2. Mosaic of five photographs showing eastern façade facing west.



Photo 3. Eastern façade, detail—main entrance facing west.



Photo 4. Eastern façade, facing southwest.



Photo 5. Northern end of Building 65 (left), facing south, with kitchen wing of Building 67 at right.



Photo 6. Northern façade, facing southeast.

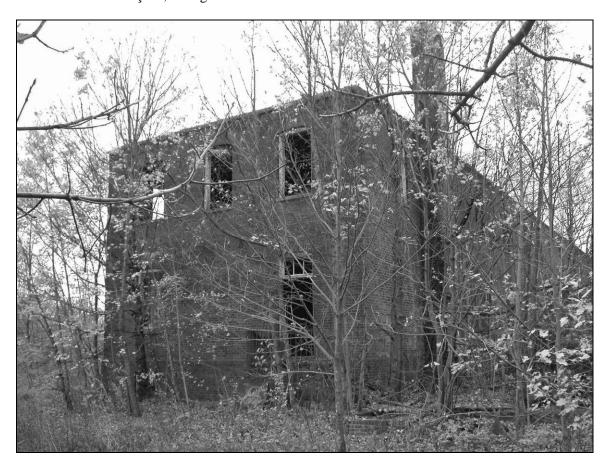


Photo 7. Southern façade, facing northeast.



Photo 8. Southern courtyard between Building 65 (right) and Building 67 (left).

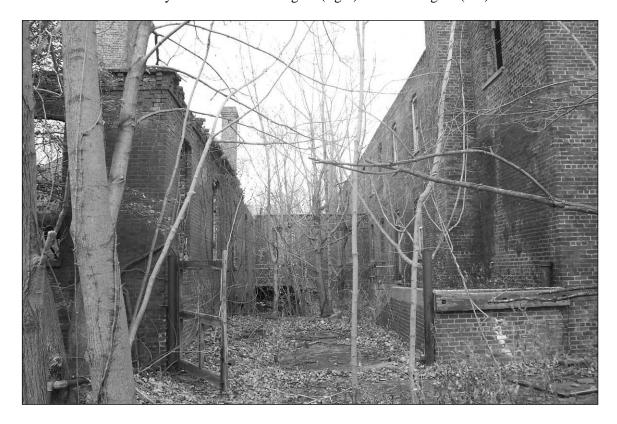


Photo 9. Collapsed interior of ca. 1909 center section, facing west.



Photo 10. Interior of southern 1940 addition, facing northwest.



DAVIDS ISLAND - FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

MESS HALL (BUILDING 67)

Location: Davids Island–Fort Slocum

0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland

USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle

UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603662.4526805

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

<u>Date of Construction:</u> 1886/ca. 1909/ca. 1930

Architect/Engineer: U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps

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

Significance: The Mess Hall (Building 67) is situated in the Barracks Area and

was the principal facility for feeding enlisted personnel in support of Fort Slocum's nineteenth- and twentieth-century military functions. The building was the first general or consolidated mess hall constructed by the U.S. Army when in the 1880s it began experimenting with messing by commands rather than by companies. 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: July 2007 (Revision 1, December 2008)

PART I. DESCRIPTION

The Mess Hall (Building 67) 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 67 stands in the post's Barracks Area on the northeastern edge 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 Mess Hall and connected Bakery (Building 65), a guardhouse, post exchange, and drill hall-gymnasium.

Building 67 is a large one-story brick building with full basement standing on a stone and brick foundation (Photos 1-9; Figures 1-13). It covers an area of approximately 113-128 feet by 155 feet. The long axis of the building runs north-south, and its main façade faces west toward the Parade Ground. The mess hall proper—the dining area—occupies the front (western) two-thirds of the building, while the kitchen section is at the rear. Although the building's original design was Italianate in spirit, later alterations shifted its overall exterior appearance toward the present plain and utilitarian Colonial Revival style characteristic of many early twentieth-century buildings constructed by the Army. It appears that successive alterations sought to harmonize different sections of the building, but these remain distinct even in the current state of the building. The Mess Hall was one of many buildings destroyed in the great fire of April 1982, and it is now a roofless brick shell (Berger 1986; New York Times 1982; Olausen et al. 2005). Its perimeter walls are largely intact, but wood framing, walls, and floors on the interior are gone, and some interior masonry elements have collapsed. Two chimneys, both intact, rise from near the southeastern corner of the ruin. A large, square, free-standing chimney stands in the interior north and a little west of the corner, while a low, small chimney abuts the inside of the building's exterior east of the main chimney. Both have corbelled brickwork at the crown. At the rear of the building, a one-story brick corridor extends east to the adjoining two-story Bakery, which is also in ruins. Trees, shrubs, and vines crowd close around the building, particularly on its western side and in this area appear to include surviving remnants of plantings dating to before the closure of Fort Slocum in 1965. Unlike many of the open ruins at the post, the interior of Building 67 is largely free of encroaching vegetation.

Historic photographs show the building was covered by a roof of compound form. The front dining hall section had a low-pitch hipped roof, while the kitchen wing at the rear was gabled. The building's large interior chimney pierced the ridge of the rear gable, and north of this point, a low monitor capped this section of the roof. A narrow cross gable, which originally covered a central connecting corridor, stretched between the two main roof sections. Areas of flat roof extended north and south on either side of the cross gable. The pitched sections of the roof were clad in slate—an early twentieth-century replacement of the original metal roofing—while the flat sections were apparently covered by rolled asphalt roofing material.

The original exterior walls of the building—that is, all sections of the perimeter except for the parapet walls that fill the ends of the former narrow courtyards between dining hall and kitchen wings—have a narrow band of rectangular machicolations that form a simple cornice of raised brickwork. Except for the simple cornice and a low, narrow water table of brick, the western façade is a flat expanse dominated by a

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row of large, evenly-spaced rectangular windows. These windows have been altered from their original form, in which they were capped by semicircular brick arches, and four of the windows on this façade were originally doors. The brickwork for the arches has been removed, and the tops of the window openings now consist of rows of header bricks supported by steel lintels. The window openings have 24-light steel-frame windows in which two awning-type louvered panels of two by four lights occupy the middle two-thirds of the frame one above the other. The original window openings have gray limestone sills. A line of small windows to light the basement is located beneath the first-story windows. The western façade has a single large entrance at its center, and this too has been altered from an original arched opening to a square one. The entrance is approached by a low flight of four steps of concrete ending in a stoop.

The northern and southern façades of the building are divided into three sections. The western half of each façade continues the fenestration of the main façade. As a result of alterations, there are no longer door openings in this section of either façade. The next quarter to the east of each façade is occupied by a wall section that closes off the bays or courtyards between the original dining hall and kitchen wing sections of the building. These portions of the façades have one-story gabled parapet walls pierced by two brick segmental arch window openings flanking a large rectangular door opening. The entrances are approached by a low flight of concrete steps similar to that in the front of the building. Pairs of small basement windows flank the steps. The fenestration of the eastern quarter of the southern façade and the entire eastern façade probably largely preserves the window and door openings of the original kitchen wing, now more properly regarded as the rear bay of the building. These sections of the building have brick segmental arch window openings with gray limestone sills. A few openings have remnants of sixover-six double-hung wood frame windows. There are also small openings for basement windows. An enclosed brick corridor at the center of the eastern facade connects Building 67 to the neighboring Building 65. Basement entrances are located on eastern side of the building on either side of the connecting corridor and on the southern façade east of the parapet wall section. At the eastern end of the northern façade, a block of three contiguous brick rooms (presumably for storage) has been appended. This dependency does not have exterior entrances, and their window openings have been bricked up. The western bay of this dependency is a bit longer than its neighbors and is the only section to have a gable end. A concrete loading dock wraps around the eastern two-thirds of the dependency and leads to a doorway in the main building.

The interior of the building consists of essentially of four main structural bays. These extend north-south the length of the building, and the eastern section is actually a double bay. That section was the location of the original dining area and comprised a single room with a large clear span. The original arched window openings in what is now the interior wall that divides this bay from the one to the east. Portions of a concrete floor in this section of the building have collapsed into the basement. The middle bay occupies an area originally taken up by a connecting corridor and narrow courtyards that now are closed off by gabled parapet walls. This bay is the only section of the building with steel girders to support the roof. These have been inserted into the former exterior walls of the dining hall and kitchen wings near the tops of the window openings. The eastern bay is the former kitchen wing. A boiler room with the large, square, free-standing brick chimney that rises prominently above the building ruin occupies the eastern end of this bay.

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PART II. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Fort Slocum

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

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

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

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

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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.

Mess Hall (Building 67)

Building 67 is situated in the Barracks Area and faces the northeastern edge of the Parade Ground. The Barracks Area is dominated by buildings designed to house unmarried enlisted personnel, and it contains ten barracks constructed between 1887 and 1939 for this purpose. It also has several other buildings, including the Mess Hall described here, with its attached Post Bakery (the separately numbered Building 65), a 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 became 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. Building 67 was erected during the first episode of masonry construction in this section of the post during the late 1880s, and it was the first brick building constructed in the Barracks Area. The building was one of four designed and built under the direction of the post's innovative quartermaster, Capt. George H. Cook (1846-1889), in consultation with the Army's Quartermaster General, Col. Samuel B. Holabird, the post's commanding officer, Maj. Frederick Mears, and an outside professional architect, Henry Edwards Ficken of New York City (Cavanaugh 2008). In addition to the Mess Hall, this group of buildings included three brick barracks, Buildings 68 (completed in 1887) and 69 (1888) to the south and Building 55 (1889) to the north. The site Cook selected for Building 67 seems to have been largely open when construction began. It was erected a little north of a two-story wood-frame barracks built at the edge of the Parade Ground in 1879 (later the site of Building 68). It occupied an area where a group of wood-frame hospital wards had stood during the Civil War. One of these may still have been standing on the future site of the present Mess Hall when Cook began planning it.

The new mess hall was experimental when it opened—the first of its kind in the regular Army (Chattey et al. 1997:261-262). By long tradition, soldiers in the Army cooked and took their meals by companies (around 100 men), both when at a fixed post and in the field. Each company designated a man as cook and had its own kitchen and mess with the necessary equipment for preparing and serving meals. The cook drew the company's rations from regimental stores, and the men of the company often pooled resources to provide supplementary supplies. While this system fostered the self-sufficiency of each basic fighting unit and was an active embodiment of the company as the soldier's essential military family, the quality and variety of meals depended greatly on the skill and diligence of the company cook

¹ This reference to the company as a soldier's "military family" appears in the annual report of 1893 of the Army's Inspector General (Breckinridge 1893:19), and it reflects a widespread conception of the role of the company.

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and his assistants and on the company's enterprise and funds to supplement the basic ration. Forward-thinking officers argued that messing by companies made inefficient use of manpower and supplies and became a source of friction and complaint among the men, especially if the cook were unskilled or poorly supervised. They acknowledged the necessity of independence and self-sufficiency for companies in the field, but observed that field cookery was different from cooking on post, where most units spent the majority of their time. Capt. Cook of Davids Island, for example, is reported to have remarked during one discussion of this question that he "did not believe in preparing for war by paying no attention to the wants of the soldier in time of peace" (New York Times 1886). Moreover, supporters argued there was a particularly strong case to be made for general messes at recruit depots like the one at Davids Island:

The garrison of these depots is composed entirely of recruits, who, during their comparatively short stay at the depot, cannot be expected to be perfected in their training—being, as it were, in a preparatory school—and it is not necessary that all should receive a perfunctory education in cooking and messing while there are so many other important duties to be learned (Drum 1885:385).

Supporters could also point to the garrison mess at the New York National Guard summer encampment in Peekskill, New York (later Camp Smith), which was established in 1882. Indeed, some press reports of the period attribute Peekskill mess system as the immediate model for that introduced to the regular Army through the Mess Hall built at Davids Island (New York Times 1890a, 1892). The relative proximity of the National Guard facility to Davids Island—a mere 30 miles at the extreme ends of the same county—lends credibility to this assertion.

As built, the exterior of the Mess Hall had simple Italianate stylistic elements, reflecting the dominance of this architectural style in Army buildings designed from the 1850s into the early 1880s. The main or front section of the building, on the west, contained the dining hall. It was a one-story hipped-roof structure with tall arched windows. It had 11 entrances spaced around the four sides of its perimeter, each of which was hung with double-leaf paneled doors. The kitchen was in a separate wing of the building, also of one story, and was attached to the dining hall by an enclosed corridor. The kitchen wing had a gabled roof, with a cross gable over the connecting corridor. Fenestration of this section was plainer, with rectangular windows and single-leaf paneled doors. Attic spaces over both the main hall and the kitchen wing were originally ventilated by small louvered dormers, later replaced by cylindrical ventilators on the roof ridge. A large square interior chimney, reminiscent of a bell tower as depicted in an 1885 design drawing, rose from the boiler room and punctuated the roof of the kitchen wing (Figures 1-4).

Inside, the dining hall was a large room measuring with a clear span of 50 x 152 feet and a 16-foot ceiling. The room had wood floors and a pressed tin ceiling. Daylight streamed through the many large windows, and gaslights—which must have run off an air-gas machine either in the building or elsewhere on the post—provided artificial illumination (Figure 5). The room could seat around 600 men at trestle tables and benches, so in the 1880s and 1890s the hall could accommodate the entire garrison for a meal at once. Food was delivered to the dining room on a large cart with flanged steel wheels, like those for a railroad car. The mess hall staff rolled the cart in from the kitchen on rails set flush in the floor. A turntable in the center of the dining hall allowed the cart to be turned and rolled along rails running the length of the room (Figure 3). This equipment received repeated comment. In a January 1888 report, the post surgeon, J.V. Middleton, said, "The railroad from the kitchen running through the hall in each direction is labor saving and of great convenience" (Moore 1888:719). Several years later, a history of New York City and its suburbs mentioned the "novel system of railroad tracks and cars for conveying cooked food from the kitchen to the mess-tables with the least trouble and a minimum loss of heat" at the Davids Island Mess Hall (Rodenbough 1893:53).

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With a floor area of about 30 x 133 feet, the kitchen wing was shorter and narrower than the dining hall, and it was offset to the south relative to the rest of the building. This wing included a kitchen, boiler room, storerooms, and "Cook's rooms"—bedroom-sitting rooms and/or dormitory rooms for those employed in or assigned to the kitchen. The kitchen was reportedly well equipped, and it only took around a dozen men to prepare and serve the meals (Moore 1888:719).

The quality of the food produced by the kitchen seems to have varied considerably. An early official report described the food as "admirably cooked" (Moore 1888:719). "The men are ... supplied ... with abundant well-cook food served in a neat, inviting manner, leading to cheerfulness, health, and contentment..." (Holabird 1888:296). In a newspaper account, however, an unidentified officer acknowledged that "occasionally... certain articles have been spoiled in the cooking or so served as to be distasteful" (New York Times 1889). Some enlisted men went much further, and in one of the great traditions of soldiers everywhere, claimed the food was uniformly terrible. As one remarked, "at the very best the food was such as only a very hungry man would care to eat" (New York Times 1890b). Critics and supporters of the consolidated mess system pointed out several reasons why the quality of food prepared in the large mess kitchens might be poor: the use of steam rather than oven roasting for cooking meat; the lack of training and experience among the cooks; the lack of supervision of the cooks by an experienced chief; and the tendency of the food to cool between the kitchen and the table (e.g., Breckinridge 1893:311; Moore 1888:719; Sutherland 1891:66, 1892:84-85; Sternberg 1893:136, 1894:72; also Cavanaugh 2008).

Despite such problems, within a year of opening Army officials regarded the consolidated mess at Davids Island as "satisfactory" and "a success." In his 1888 annual report, the Secretary of War explicitly acknowledged the Army's indebtedness to Capt. Cook for his "skill and intelligence" in constructing and setting up the new consolidated mess at Davids Island. After reviewing reports and conducting a personal inspection of the Mess Hall, the secretary embraced the new system and directed that certain future posts should be planned to allow "messing the troops by commands rather than by companies" (Eindcott 1888:21). Soon after the consolidated mess opened at Davids Island, one was established at Columbus Barracks, Ohio. Others followed, and by mid-1893, consolidated messes were in operation at 15 posts, including ten where new mess halls had been constructed to accommodate the new system (Batchelder 1893:218-219). Resistance to the new system among officers and men persisted for some years, and in the succeeding decades, the Army fluctuated between consolidated and company messes. In the end, however, the technological, organizational, and institutional kinks were worked out in favor of larger, general messing arrangements now in use today, whose first trial in the U.S. Army occurred at the Mess Hall on Davids Island (Cavanaugh 2008).

After it was built, Building 67 had many exterior and interior alterations. These remain to be documented systematically. Examination of historic photographs, aerial photographs, and maps reveals the following as some of the changes to the building:²

- Kitchen wing extended to match length of dining hall (ca. 1909).
- Monitor roof added to kitchen wing (possibly ca. 1909; certainly before 1917).

² Key sources used to document the alterations listed here included photographs in a working document on Fort Slocum's history assembled by Michael A. Cavanaugh (2007); Italia Art Card Co. (ca. 1917); several aerial photographs dating between the early 1920s and 1940 (see Sources, below); and maps including Summerhayes (1894-95), Hodges (1906)/Murray (1907), Murray (1909), Smith (1915), and Williams (1943).

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- Louvered dormers replaced with cylindrical ventilators (before 1917).
- Standing seam (metal) roof replaced by slate roof (before 1917).
- Connecting corridor between dining hall and kitchen wings expanded north and south to full width of building, ending at each end in parapetted façades (1926-1932).
- Shed roofs over secondary entrances on main (western) removed—door openings probably abandoned as entrances (1936-1940).
- Entrance porches at secondary entrances at northern and southern ends of dining hall removed—door openings probably abandoned as entrances (1936-1940).
- Three-room dependency (presumably for storage) added to northern end of former kitchen wing (1936-1940).
- Dining hall fenestration on northern, western, and southern façades altered by bricking up semicircular arches in windows, converting disused doorways to windows, and replacing original double-hung wood-frame windows with awning-type steel-frame windows (1940-1955).

In addition to these alterations, the Bakery (Building 65), attached to the rear of the Mess Hall by a corridor and originally constructed in ca. 1890, was replaced in ca. 1909 and expanded in 1940. This building is described separately in Volume 4 of the *Documentation of Contributing Elements: Fort Slocum Historic and Archeological District*. Little information is currently available about changes to the building's interior fabric and layout, though undoubtedly many of the changes to the exterior reflect interior renovations as well. By the early 1960s, the railcar was long gone, the dining area had probably been expanded, cafeteria service had replaced table service, four-person tables had replaced the 16-to-20-man tables, linoleum tiles covered the floors, and florescent lighting was in use (Cavanaugh 2007).

As noted, the original design of the Mess Hall was developed specifically for Fort Slocum and apparently does not reflect a standardized plan produced by the Quartermaster Corps. Smith (1915) attributes the kitchen wing to standard plan No. 2-831. This number does not appear in Chattey et al.'s (1997) partial inventory of Quartermaster Corps standardized plans, and it seems somewhat anomalous in the context of the building.

Soon after completion, the Mess Hall, comprising the dining or mess hall proper and the kitchen wing, was designated as Building 24. It was renumbered as Building 36 in 1893 and as Building 120 in 1941. It acquired its present designation, Building 67, in the final post-wide renumbering of buildings in 1957. It was variously referred to as the Mess Hall, Mess Hall and Kitchen, General Mess, and Consolidated Mess. Other names used by officers and soldiers for facilities of this type include garrison mess, post mess, and common mess, but none of these terms is known to have been used formally for Fort Slocum's Building 67.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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(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.)

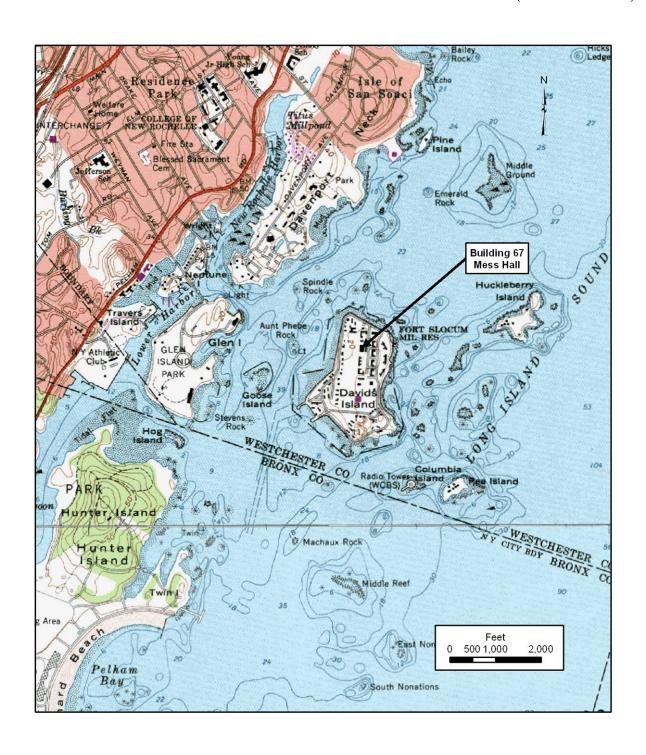
- 1924: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island showing area between Mortar Battery and Raymond Hall (Building 57). View east. September 4.
- 1924: Vertical aerial photograph of Davids Island. September 4.
- 1932: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 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.

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LOCATION MAP (USGS Mount Vernon, NY)

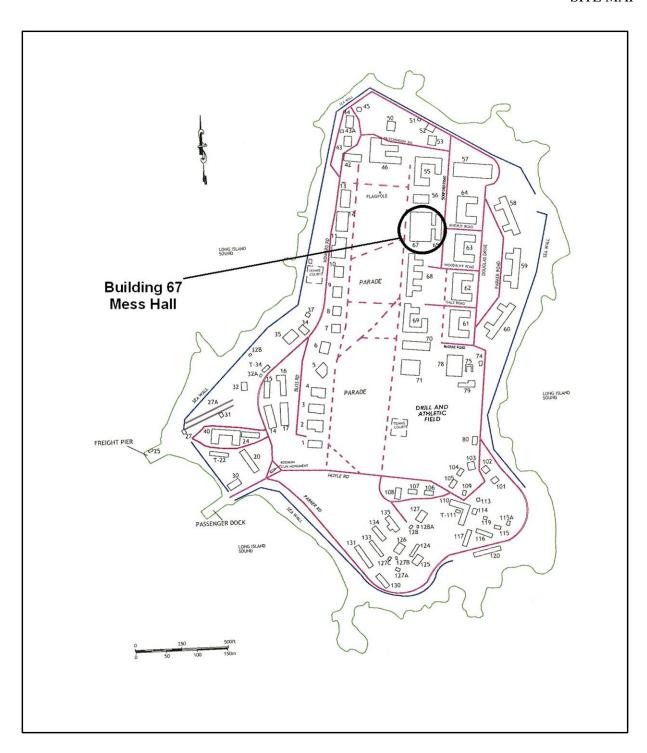
Scale: 1:24,000

1966 (Photorevised 1979)



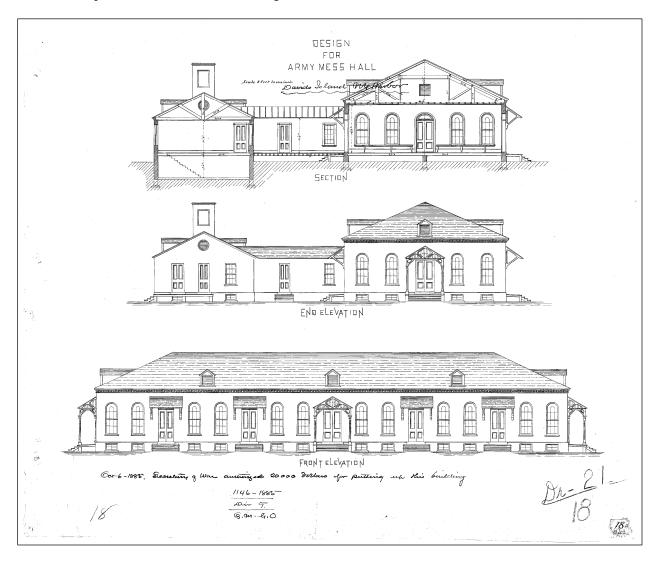
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SITE MAP



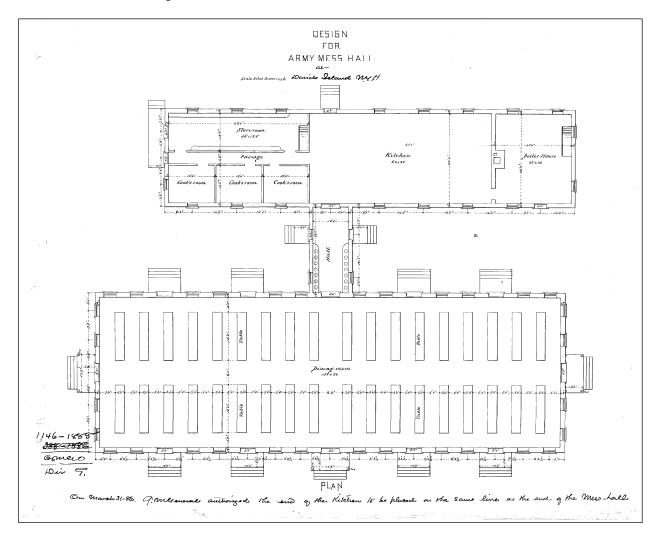
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Figure 1. "Design for Army Mess Hall, Davids Island, NY Harbor (Section and Elevations)," 1885. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



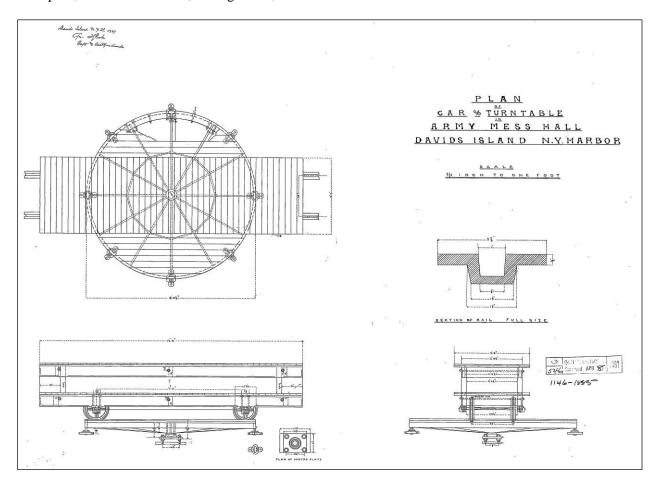
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Figure 2. "Design for Army Mess Hall, Davids Island, NY Harbor (Plan)," 1885. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



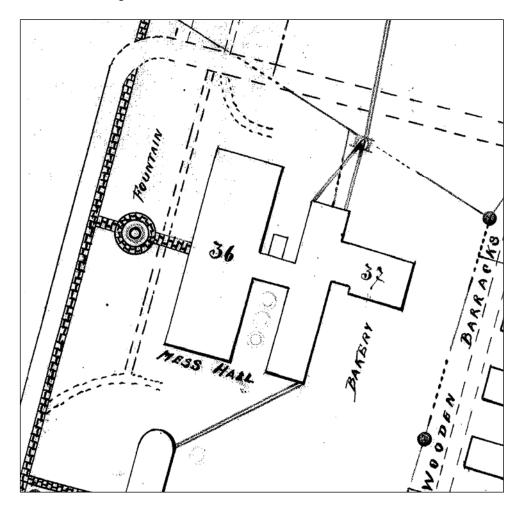
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Figure 3. "Plan of Car & Turntable in Army Mess Hall, Davids Island, N.Y. Harbor," 1885. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 4. "Map of Davids Island, New York." 1893, detail. The Mess Hall is labeled Building 36, reflecting a previous numbering system in use at Fort Slocum. North is to the top of map. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



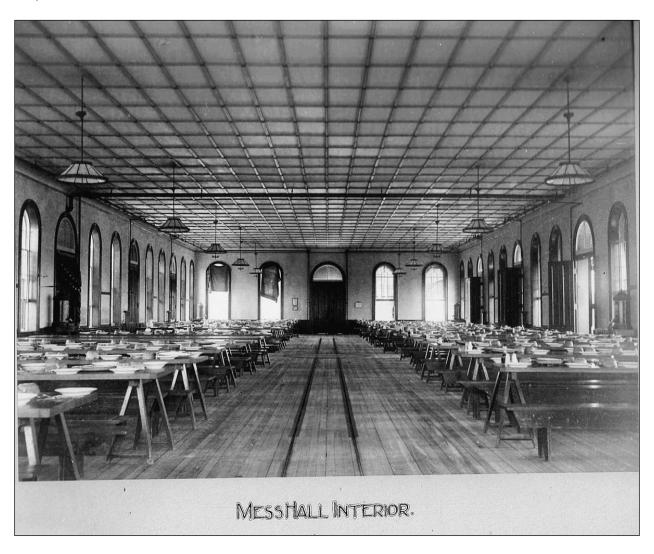
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Figure 5. "Mess Hall," ca. 1893. View east. Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



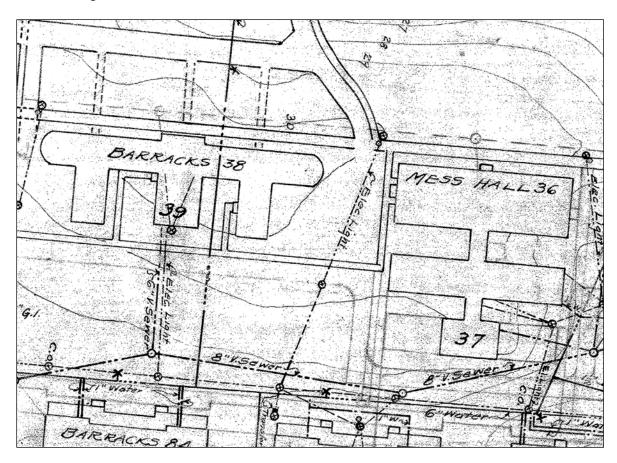
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Figure 6. "Mess Hall Interior," ca. 1893. View south. Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



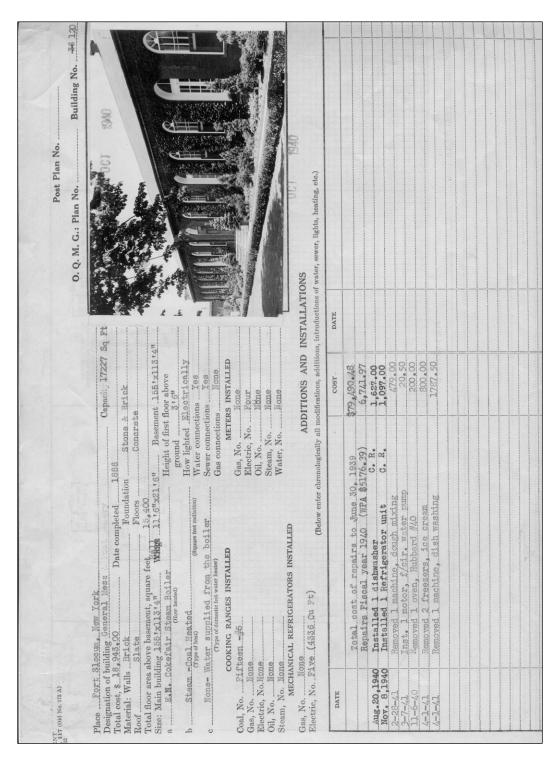
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Figure 7. "Map of Fort Slocum New York." 1915, detail. The Mess Hall is designated as Building 36, reflecting a previous building numbering system. Top of map is to west. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 8. Property Record Building 67, October 1940. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



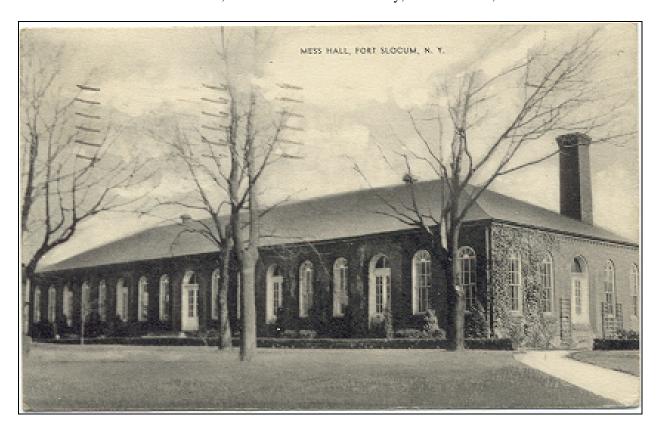
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Figure 9. Mess Hall interior, ca. 1940. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



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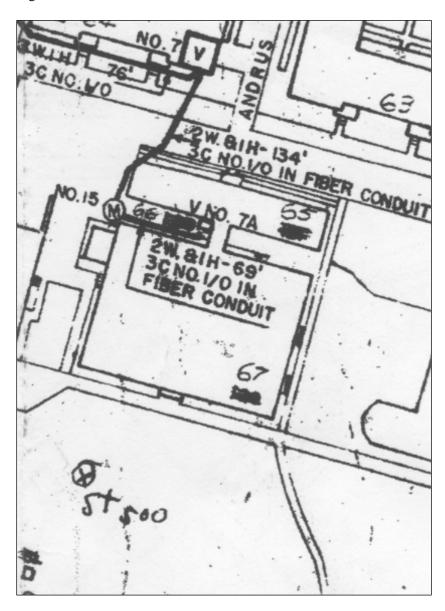
Figure 10. "Mess Hall, Fort Slocum, N.Y.," ca. 1940-1955. Postcard view, looking northeast. Publisher unknown. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



MESS HALL (BUILDING 67) DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM

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Figure 11. "Fort Slocum New Rochelle, N.Y. Electric Distribution System Primary Lines." May 1949, revised through November 1957, detail. The Mess Hall is labeled building "67," with the attached Bakery designated "65." Top of map is to east. Office of Post Engineer, Fort Slocum. Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



MESS HALL (BUILDING 67) DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM

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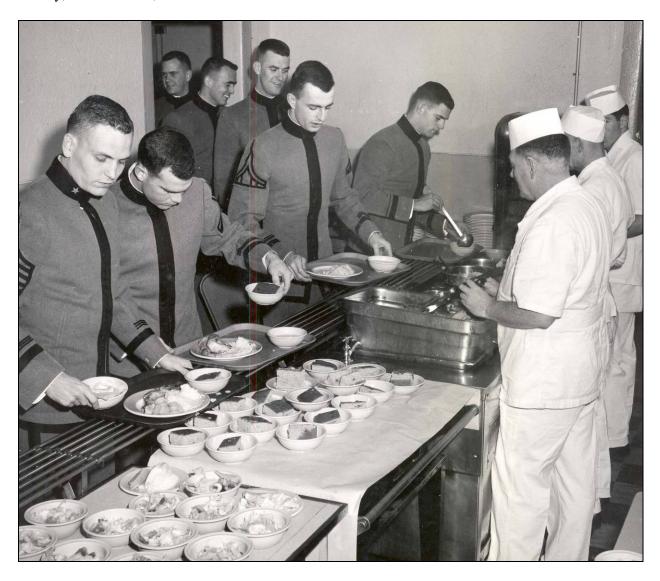
Figure 12. Building 67 dining area, ca. 1960. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



MESS HALL (BUILDING 67) DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM

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Figure 13. West Point Cadets at the Mess Hall, ca. 1960. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

MESS HALL (BUILDING 67)

Davids Island—Fort Slocum New Rochelle Westchester County New York

Photographer: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, November 2004 (Photos 3, 5, and 8) and December 2005 (Photos 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, and 9).

- 1. Southwestern corner of building, facing northeast.
- 2. Western façade, detail showing entrance and windows, facing east.
- 3. Southern façade, detail of gabled parapet and adjoining sections, facing north.
- 4. Courtyard between Building 67 (left) and Building 65 (right), looking north.
- 5. Eastern façade at southeastern corner, showing chimneys. View northwest.
- 6. Northeastern side of Building 67 (right) and adjoining Building 65 (left) looking southwest.
- 7. Interior—original dining hall section, looking northeast.
- 8. Interior—former courtyard between dining hall and kitchen wings, looking south-southwest.
- 9. Interior—boiler room, looking north-northwest.

Photo 1. Southwestern corner of building, facing northeast.



Photo 2. Western façade, detail showing entrance and windows, facing east.



Photo 3. Southern façade, detail of gabled parapet and adjoining sections, facing north.



Photo 4. Courtyard between Building 67 (left) and Building 65 (right), looking north.

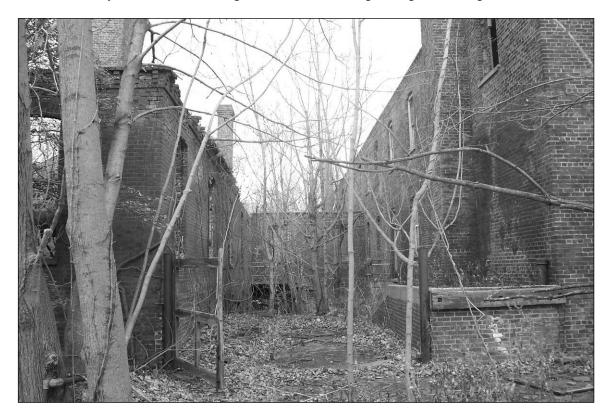


Photo 5. Eastern façade at southeastern corner, showing chimneys. View northwest.



Photo 6. Northeastern side of Building 67 (right) and adjoining Building 65 (left) looking southwest.



Photo 7. Interior—original dining hall section, looking northeast.



Photo 8. Interior—former courtyard between dining hall and kitchen wings, looking south-southwest.



Photo 9. Interior—boiler room, looking north-northwest.



DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

BARRACKS (BUILDING 68)

Location: Davids Island–Fort Slocum

0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland

USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle

UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603647.4526722

<u>Present Owner(s):</u> City of New Rochelle, NY

Date of Construction: 1887

Architect/Engineer: U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps

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

Significance: The Barracks (Building 68) is situated in the Barracks Area, and it

originally provided housing for enlisted personnel in support of Fort Slocum's nineteenth- and twentieth-century military functions. In the early 1950s it was converted into classroom and broadcast studio space for the Army Information School (located at Fort Slocum 1951-1965), so it also embodies the Army's adaptive reuse of existing facilities in response to the installation's changing mission. 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: July 2007 (Revision 1, December 2008)

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PART I. DESCRIPTION

Building 68 is one of three 1880s-era masonry barracks 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 68 is situated in the post's Barracks Area on the northeastern edge of the Parade Ground. The Barracks Area contains ten brick buildings originally designed to house soldiers and other enlisted personnel, along with a mess hall, gymnasium-drill hall, and guardhouse. Several of the barracks were later assigned to other purposes, as was the case with Building 68, which was used by the Army Information School for classrooms and broadcast studios in the 1950s and 1960s.

Building 68 is a ruined structure, one of many buildings destroyed by an extensive fire on the island in April 1982 (Cavanaugh 2007; Louis Berger and Associates 1986; New York Times 1982). The roof and interior walls and floors are gone, having collapsed into the interior (Photos 1-14). Portions of some exterior brick walls have crumbled, but much of the building remains as an open shell, with fenestration represented by empty window and door openings. (In some instances, these were bricked up during alterations to the building in the 1950s.) A single chimney rises above the ruin at the rear (eastern side) of the building's center tower.

When extant, Building 68 was a predominantly one-story, Romanesque Revival-style brick structure laid out in a modified E-plan (Figures 1-13). The building had a brick structural system set on a brick foundation, with wood framing for the roof, floors, and interior walls. At the center of the building was a squat, two-and-a-half-story square tower, which was flanked by long one-story wings extending north and south. The main façade of the building faced west onto the Parade Ground. Projecting east off the rear of the building were three one-story dependencies—a dormitory annex off each wing and a layatory block off the center tower—all of which were constructed a few years after the original building was completed. The center tower had a steeply-pitched pyramidal roof pierced by a tiny gabled dormer on each face. Gabled roofs covered the wings and joined the center block at about the mid-height of the second story walls. The wings terminated at the north and south ends of the building in an apse, so the gabled roofs over the wings had half-conical ends. Cross-hipped roofs projecting from the main gables over the wings covered the two dormitory annexes, while the lavatory block was covered by a hipped roof extending from the east wall of the tower at the second floor level. Historical photographs show that originally the building had a standing seam (metal) roof system with monitor roofs over the wings. This system was later replaced by slate roofing and cylindrical metal ventilators. All walls of the building had simple cornices in raised brickwork. On the tower and over the entrances to the wings, the cornice was a blind arcade, or Lombard band, above a single stringcourse. Elsewhere, the cornice was a narrow band of rectangular machicolations above a pair of stringcourses

The window and door openings in the ruined walls preserve patterns of the building's fenestration, which can also be seen in historical photographs and elevation drawings of it. The windows and doorways of the main north wing have been bricked over, probably during a renovation in the early 1950s when broadcast studios for the use of the Army Information School were installed. Originally, brick semicircular arched openings with gray limestone sills were used throughout the building on the first and

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second floors. In most places, the windows were tall, but in a few locations, such as on the apsidal ends and on the north and south sides of the center tower where wing roofs attached, half-height windows were employed. Also, at the back end of the lavatory block, short, closely-spaced semi-circular arched openings were employed. Typically, windows in these openings were double-hung four-over-four wood-frame windows surmounted by two-light wood-frame arched transoms. The entrances on the building's main façade had double-leaf wood-paneled doors surmounted by arched multi-pane transoms. The main entrance in the center tower also had multi-pane sidelights inside the arched opening adjoining the doors. The entrance is accented by a raised surround of three rows of header bricks springing from engaged terra cotta dwarf columns. This entrance is also marked by a terracotta panel with date of the building's construction, 1888, embedded in the wall between the entrance and the second-story windows. Entrances in other façades are not well documented by historical photographs. The building had a narrow brick water table, and the foundation was punctuated by regularly-spaced rectangular windows to light the cellars and basement.

The interior layout of the building is recorded in three floor plans, dating to 1885 (proposed), 1895, and 1940 (Figures 1, 5, 6, and 10). During this period, the wings, including the dependencies were devoted primarily to common dormitories. The center tower originally had a day room on the first floor and offices on the second floor. By 1940, the first floor had offices and the second floor contained additional dormitory space. There was a boiler room to provide heat and hot water in the basement of the center tower, but the areas beneath the main floor of the wings and dependencies were apparently shallow, unfinished cellars.

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.

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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 68)

Along with Buildings 55 and 69, Building 68 was one of three permanent brick barracks constructed in the late 1880s to house enlisted men at Fort Slocum (Figures 1 to 13). Before these buildings were erected, recruits and soldiers stationed at the post lived in one- or two-story wood-frame buildings situated in various places, but primarily in the northeastern quadrant of Davids Island. The Army considered the earlier wood-frame buildings to be temporary structures, so the new brick barracks were a considerable improvement in comfort and fire-resistance. Although the exigencies of the vast expansions of the Army during the First and Second World Wars would see large numbers of soldiers housed in later generations of temporary wooden barracks, the brick barracks of the 1880s at Fort Slocum were built at the beginning of a period when the Army committed itself to making the post a permanent installation for troop recruitment, training, and harbor defense.

Providing facilities to house and feed as many as six companies (up to 600 men), Building 68, its companion barracks to the north and south (Buildings 55 and 69, respectively), and the associated enlisted men's mess (Building 67) comprised the earliest functionally-coherent group of buildings constructed in brick at Fort Slocum. The six buildings anchored the northeastern corner of the Parade Ground and stood

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diagonally across from the kernel of Officers' Row, which was developing northwards from Buildings 2 through 4, a trio of wood-frame quarters erected in the late 1870s. The garrison's flagstaff then stood in the middle of the Parade Ground, where it provided unifying focus for the post and connected these two separate residential areas.

Although the Army's Quartermaster General had introduced standardized plans for wood barracks in the 1870s, little development of such plans for brick barracks had taken place at the time Buildings 55, 68, and 69 were authorized (Chattey et al. 1997; Hoagland 2004). Responsibility for planning for the three barracks and the mess hall thus fell to Capt. George H. Cook, the post's quartermaster. Consequently, the designs of these four buildings are unique to Fort Slocum. In consultation with others, including the Quartermaster General, Col. Samuel Holabird, the commanding officer at Davids Island, Maj. Frederick Mears, and a civilian professional architect, Henry Edwards Ficken of New York City, Cook developed a design that included two L-shaped barracks (Buildings 55 and 69) that bracketed two structures with linear facades (Buildings 67 and 68) (Cavanaugh 2007, 2008).

The barracks show the strong influence of the Romanesque Revival movement, which was a popular style for public buildings during the 1870s to 1890s. The robust, blocky massing and decorative allusions to military fortification characteristic of the style made it particularly appealing for Army use. In civilian construction, Romanesque Revival buildings characteristically made extensive use of large, quarry-faced stone blocks, but the buildings in this style at Fort Slocum are almost entirely of brick. In addition to Buildings 55, 68, and 69, Building 1 is another example of Romanesque Revival architecture at Fort Slocum.

Building 68 originally consisted of two wings (north and south) extending from a square central entrance block. Three dependencies were added to the rear of the building by 1895. One of these, a latrine, was constructed in two phases. In the first phase, completed around 1891, a small brick building providing flush toilets was constructed to the rear (east) of the barracks. Four years later, in 1895, a connecting room with baths was added to the intervening space to complete the latrine annex. Around the same time the second phase of the latrine was completed, dependencies were built off the rear of each wing to provide additional dormitory space.

Building 68 served primarily as a barracks until the Second World War. During much of this war it housed the Atlantic Coast Transportation Corps Officers' Training School (ACTCOTS), where specialists in shipping and related fields learned the basics of Army life before being assigned to military railroad, maritime, trucking, and other transportation operations. At the end of the war, after ACTCOTS closed, Fort Slocum became a rehabilitation center for court-martialed soldiers, and Building 68 housed men who were being retrained in lieu of serving time in a military prison (Casual News 1943, 1945). Later, during the 1950s, the building was used for classrooms and the broadcast studios 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) during the years it was at Fort Slocum. The school trained personnel in public affairs and in troop education and information. According to Michael Cavanaugh (2007), who is writing a history of Fort Slocum, the bricked-up windows of the building's north wing mark the area once occupied by the 1950s-era television studios. Since the building has been gutted by fire, no traces of the interior rooms, such as the studios, remain today.

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Until 1893, the main section of the building was designated as Building 25, and the detached latrine was Building 64. From 1893 until 1941, the main section was designated Building 38, while the latrine retained its separate designation as Building 39. Once the two buildings were joined, this separate designation must have become largely nominal, and the entire building was generally identified as Building 38. During the 1941 post-wide renumbering of facilities, the full building was given a single designation, Building 52. It retained this number until 1957, when it was assigned its current designation, Building 68.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Published Materials

Casual News [Fort Slocum's post newspaper in the Second World War-era]

"To the Students of the Third Transportation School: You'll Find Our Six Weeks Charmy, But Remember, Brother, This Is the Army!" [photo spread]. February 1:5.

1945 "Slocum....... An Institution of Learning" [photo spread]. March 7:4.

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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

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.

(Page 7)

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

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.

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

July 1888 "Map of Davids Island, New York Harbor." Prepared under the direction of George H. Cook, Capt. & Asstg Q.M. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

February 1893 "Davids Island, New York Harbor. Prepared under direction of J.W. Summerhayes, Capt. & A.Q.M., U.S. Army. O.W. Degin [? illeg.], C.E. & Arch't." Shows buildings with revised numbering system of 1893 (at the date of the map not yet officially adopted), roads, paths, buildings, and structures, including the mortar battery. On file at National 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.

(Page 8)

March 1895 "Davids Island—N.Y.H.: Plans Showing Additions and Alterations in Barrack No. 35." Inscribed "Q.M.G.O. [Quartermaster General's Office]... E.S.E. [draftsman]." Two sheets. 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.

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.)

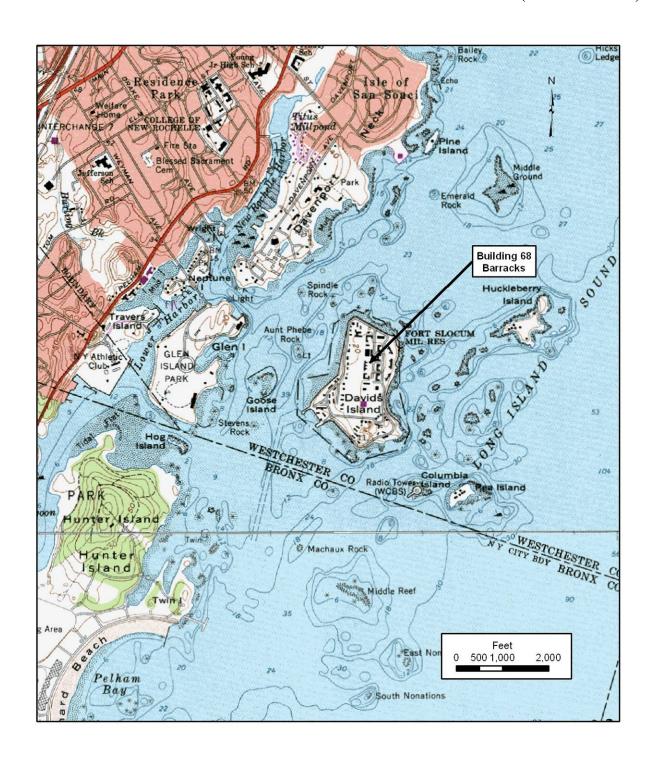
- ca. 1922: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View southeast. Winter.
- 1926: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View west. August 10.
- 1932: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 11.
- 1936: High angle oblique aerial photograph 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)

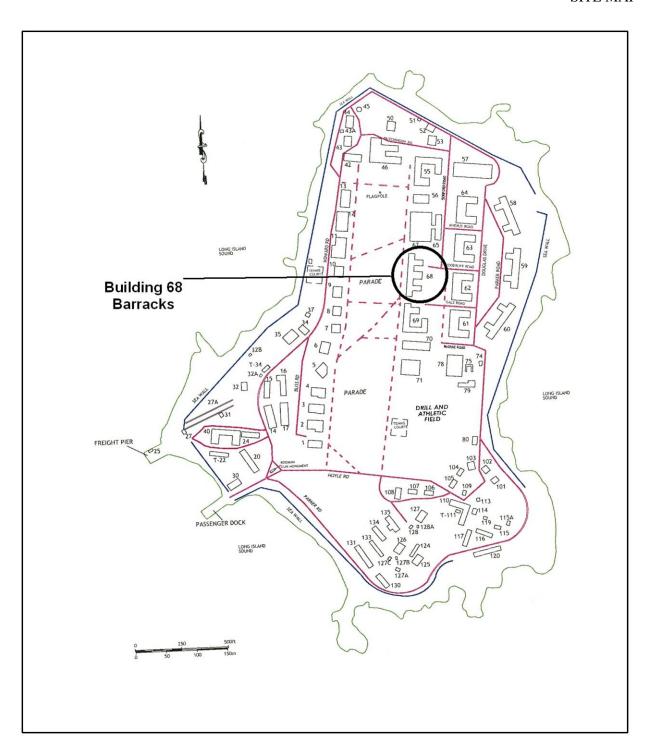
Scale: 1:24,000

1966 (Photorevised 1979)



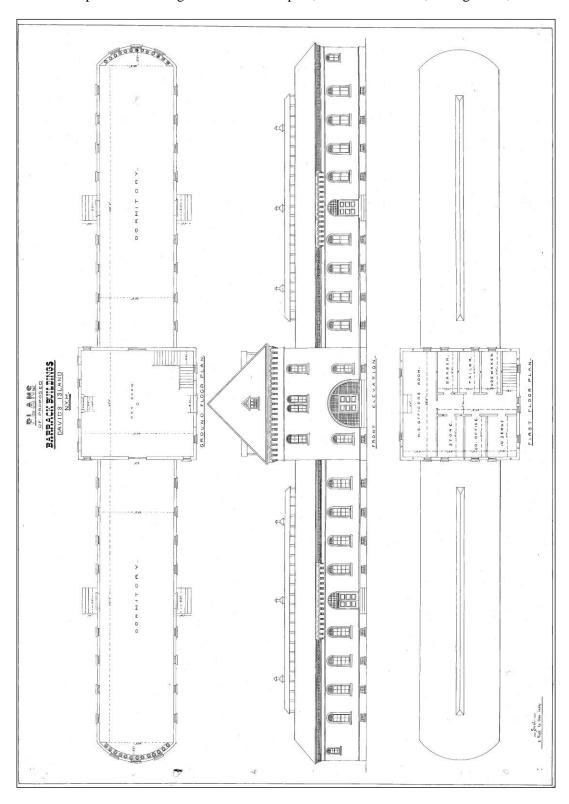
(Page 10)

SITE MAP



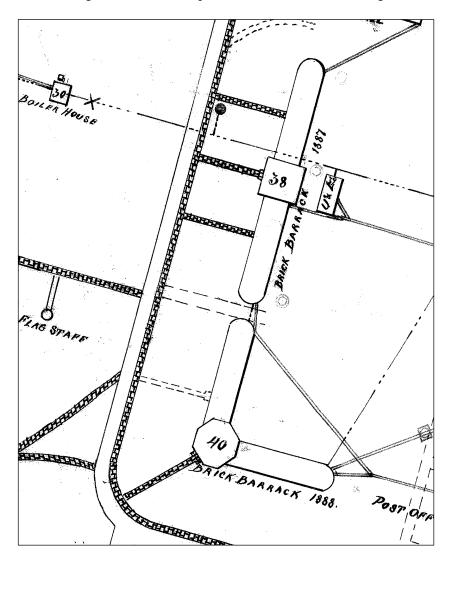
(Page 11)

Figure 1. "Plans of Proposed Barrack Buildings Davids Island, N.Y.H.," ca. 1885: sheet depicting proposed elevation and floor plan for Building 68. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



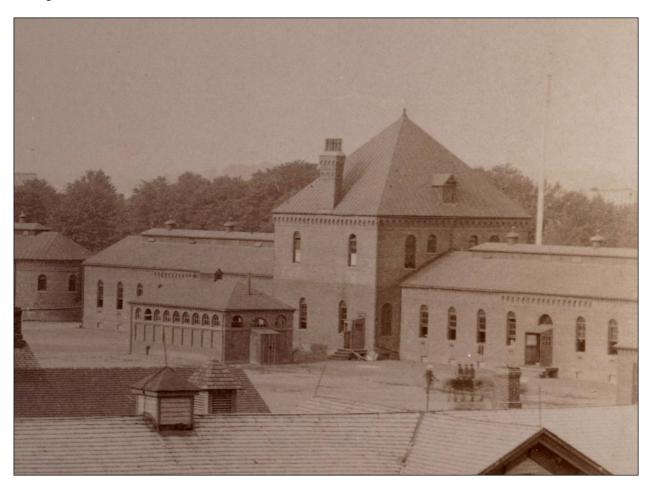
(Page 12)

Figure 2. "Map of Davids Island, New York." February 1893, detail. Building 68 is depicted in an earlier numbering system as Building 38. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



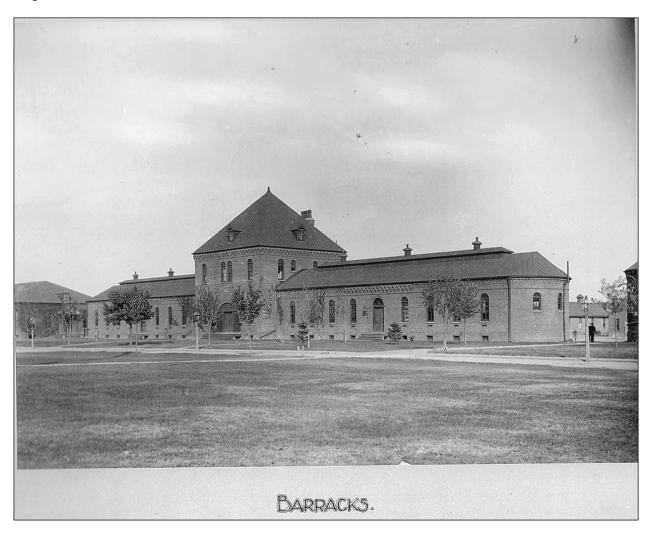
(Page 13)

Figure 3. Barracks area view south, ca. 1892. Detail showing rear of Building 68 with separate latrine building to rear of center tower section, looking south-southwest. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



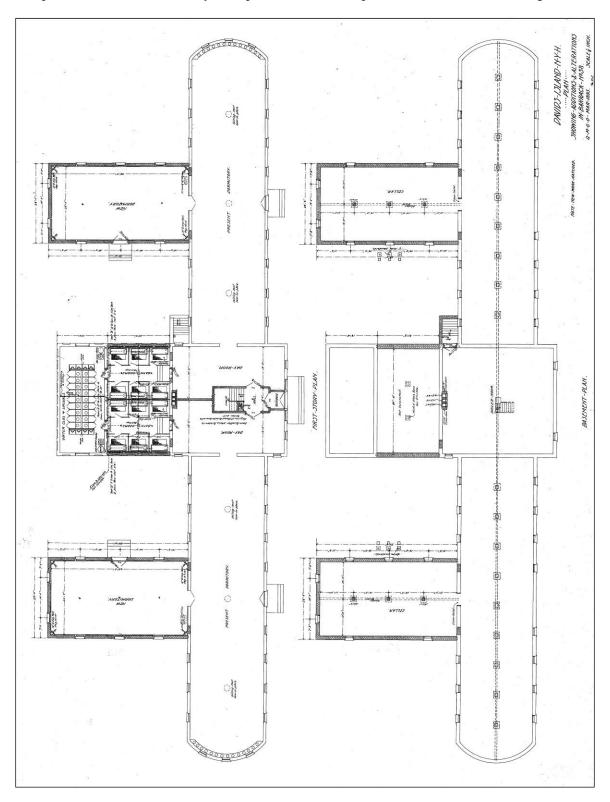
(Page 14)

Figure 4. "Barracks" [Building 68], ca. 1893. View northeast. Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



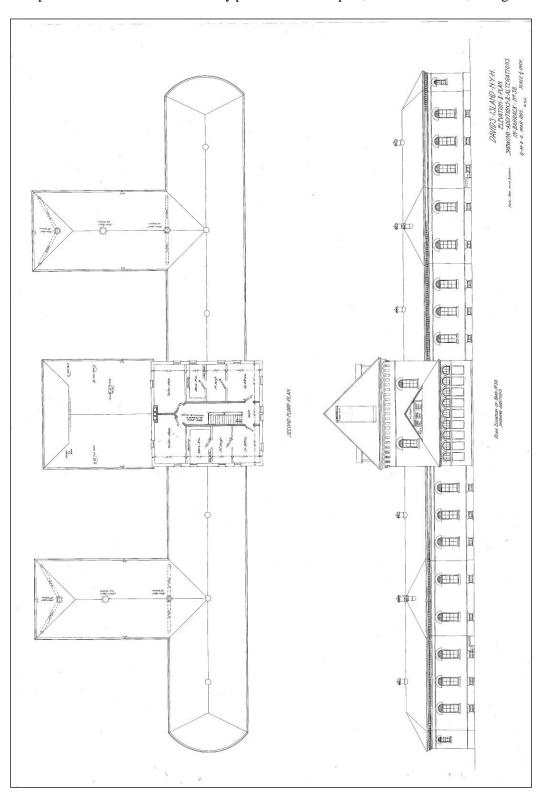
(Page 15)

Figure 5. "Davids Island, N.Y.H.: Plan Showing Additions & Alterations in Barrack No. 38," March 1895. Sheet depicts basement and first-story floor plans. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



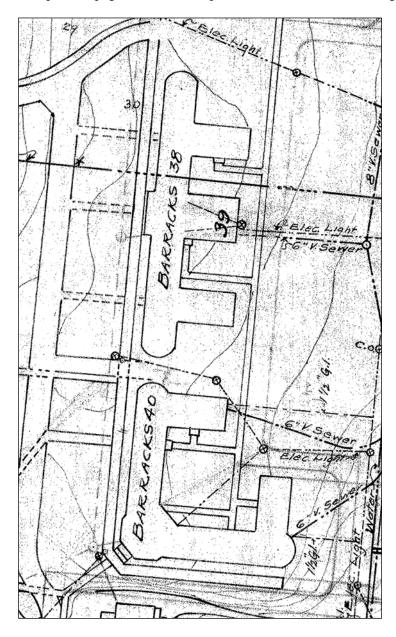
(Page 16)

Figure 6. "Davids Island, N.Y.H.: Elevation & Plan Showing Additions & Alterations in Barrack No. 38," March 1895. Sheet depicts rear elevation and second story plan. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 7. "Map of Fort Slocum New York." 1915, detail. Building 68 is labeled as "Barracks 38" in this drawing. North is to the top of the page. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



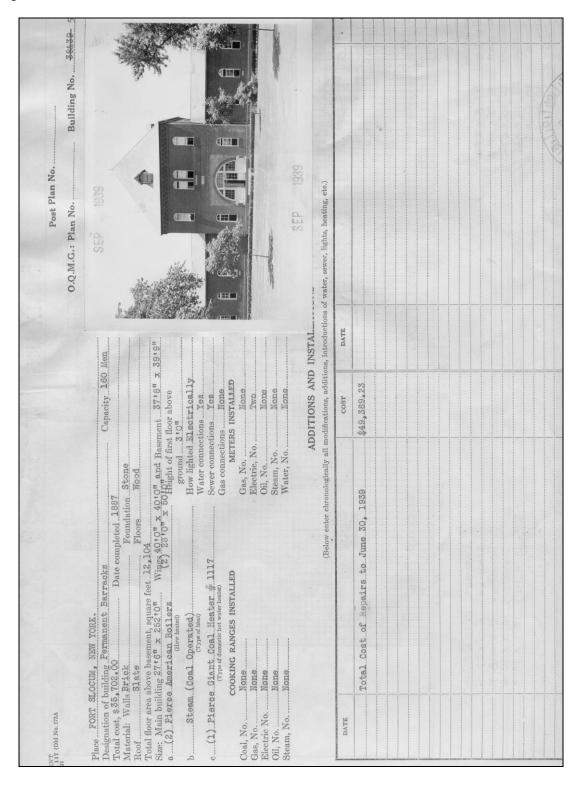
(Page 18)

Figure 8. Vertical aerial photograph, August 1924, detail. The E-plan Building 68 is located in middle of left row of buildings. The Mess Hall and Bakery (Buildings 65 and 67) are above it, while the L-plan Building 69, another barracks, is below. North is to the top of the page. Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



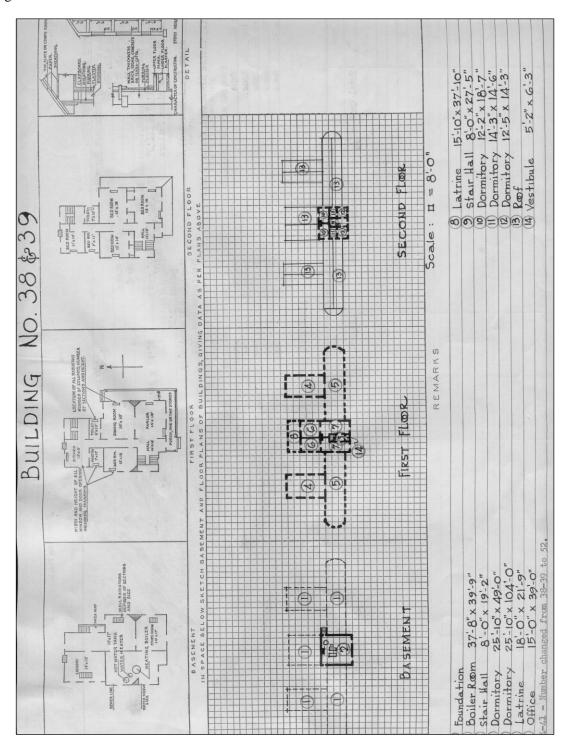
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Figure 9. Property Record (front) Building 68, September 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park MD.



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Figure 10. Property Record (back) Building 68, September 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park MD.



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Figure 11. Description of room dimensions, windows, doors, and heating facilities, Building 68, September 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park MD.

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Building #38-39, Barracks. Fort Slocum, N.Y.
     Basement, size, 37'4"x 39'. Windows, Four, 18"x 30".
     Doors, one, 60"x 80".
  First Floor.
2 Day Rooms. size, 14'4"x 25'6", 14'x 18'8".
Doors, 4, 60"x 80".
                 2, 30"x 80".
     Windows, six, 36"x 72", top, 1/2 circle, 16"x 36".
Heating radiators, six, 12 section, 3 column, 38" high.
  2 Squad Rooms, size, 25'6"x 105'.
      Doors, six, 60"x 88".
      Windows, fourteen, 36"x 72", top, 1/2 circle, 16"x 36".
     minant six, 36"x 36", top, 1/2 circle, 16"x 36". Heating Radiators, sixteen, 12 section, 3 column, 38" high.
                                     two, 16 section, 3 column, 38" high.
  2 Squad Rooms, size, 26'x 49'.
     Doors, four, 60"x 88".
      Windows, fourteen, 36"x 72", top, 1/2 circle, 16"x 36".
     Heating radiators, ten, 12 section, 3 column, 38" high.
  2 Wash Rooms, size, 18'8"x 22'.
     Doors, four, 2'6"x 78".
      Windows, eight, 36"x 36", at half circular tops.
     Heating radiators, 26 wall radiators, 9 square feet each.
  2 Toilet Rooms, size, 18'8"x 15'.
Doors, two, 48"x 80".
                 two, 30"x 78".
     Windows, thirteen, size, 36"x 36".
     Heating Radiators, six, wall, 9 square feet each.
     Hall, size, 8'x 9'.
     Doors, three, 60"x 88".
     Heating radiators, one, 12 section, 3 column, 38" high.
  <u>SECOND FLOOR</u>.
2 N.C.O. Rooms, 12'x 18'8".
     Doors, two, 36"x 80".
     Windows, four, 36"x 72", half circle tops.
     Heating radiators, two, 12 section, 3 column, 38" high.
 2 N.C.O. Rooms, 7'x 14'4".
    Doors, 36"x 78", two.
Windows, four, 36"x 72", half circle tops.
Heating radiators, two, 12 section, 3 column, 38" high.
1 N.C.O. Room, 9'x 14'4".
Doors, one, 36"x 78". Windows, one, 36"x 72", half c
1 N.G.O. Room, 9'x 14'4".

Doors, one, 36"x 78".

Windows, one, 36"x 72", half circle tops.

Heating radiators, one 12 section, 3 column, 38" high.

1 N.G.O. Room, 7'6"x 14'4".

Doors, one, 36"x 78".

Windows, one, 36"x 72 ", half cicle top.

Heating radiator, one, 12 section, 3 column, 38" high.

1 N.G.O. Room, 10'x 14'4".

Radiators, one, 12 section, 2 column, 38" high.

Doors, one, 36"x 78".

Windows, one, 36"x 72", half circle top.

1 N.G.O. Room, 12'x 14' 4".

Radiators, one, 12 section, 3 column, 38" high.

Doors, one, 36"x 78".

Windows, two, 36"x 72", half circle top.

1 Hall, size, 8'x 27'.

Radiators, onel2 section, 3 column, 38" high.
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Figure 12. Lavatory block (right) at rear of Building 68's center tower, ca. 1942. View west-southwest. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



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Figure 13. A retirement ceremony held on the Parade Ground in front of Building 68, March 1963. View southeast. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

BARRACKS (BUILDING 68)

Davids Island—Fort Slocum New Rochelle Westchester County New York

Photographers: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, November 2004 (Photos 7 and 14) and December 2005 (Photos 1-3 and 13).

Caleb Christopher, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, January 2007 (Photos 4-6 and 8-12).

- 1. Western façade, center tower, facing northeast.
- 2. Western façade, center tower, detail—decorative engaged column of terracotta on south side of main entrance.
- 3. Western façade, center tower, detail—terracotta plaque with building date, below which is a signboard with the building's designation in Fort Slocum's numbering system of 1957.
- 4. Western façade, center tower, detail—blind arcade (Lombard band) cornice.
- 5. Western façade, north wing showing bricked-up window openings, facing northeast.
- 6. Western façade, south wing and center tower, facing northeast.
- 7. Apse-like end of south wing, facing east.
- 8. Southern end of south wing (left) with connected south dormitory dependency (right), facing west.
- 9. Southern façade of south dormitory dependency, facing northwest.
- 10. Eastern and southern façades of south dormitory dependency, facing west-northwest.
- 11. South dormitory dependency, eastern wall, detail—brick semicircular arch window opening and brickwork cornice of machicolations.
- 12. Southern façade of rear lavatory block with center tower in background, facing west-northwest.
- 13. Eastern façade of lavatory block with cornice of center tower in background, facing west.
- 14. Eastern façade of center tower, showing chimney and cornice, with lavatory block below, facing southwest.

Photo 1. Western façade, center tower, facing northeast.



Photo 2. Western façade, center tower, detail—decorative engaged column of terracotta on south side of main entrance.



Photo 3. Western façade, center tower, detail—terracotta plaque with building date, below which is a signboard with the building's designation in Fort Slocum's numbering system of 1957.



Photo 4. Western façade, center tower, detail—blind arcade (Lombard band) cornice.



Photo 5. Western façade, north wing showing bricked-up window openings, facing northeast.

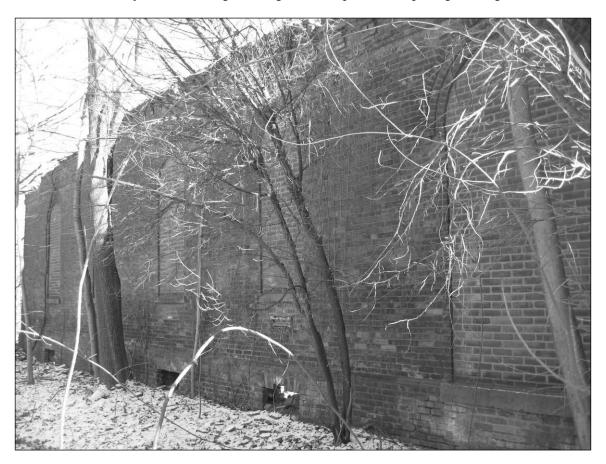


Photo 6. Western façade, south wing and center tower, facing northeast.

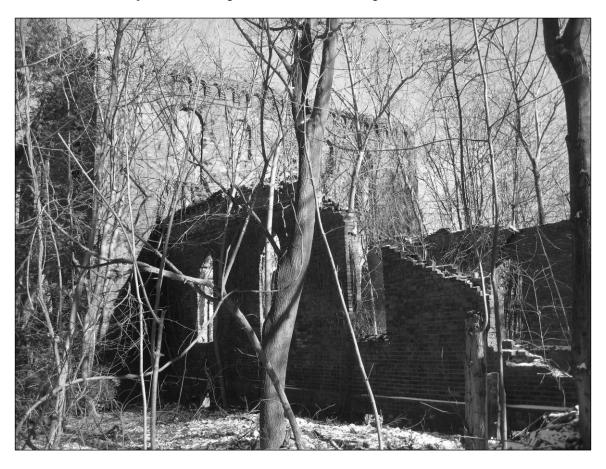


Photo 7. Apse-like end of south wing, facing east.

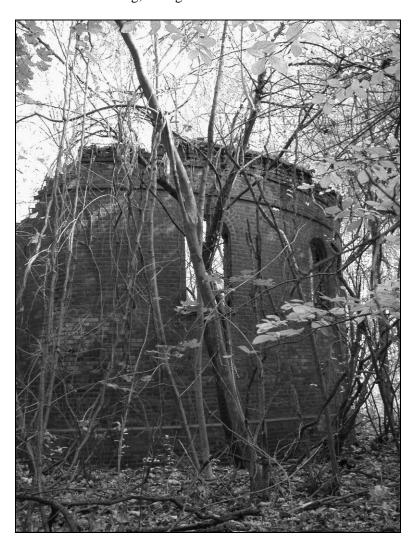


Photo 8. Southern end of south wing (left) with connected south dormitory dependency (right), facing west.



Photo 9. Southern façade of south dormitory dependency, facing northwest.



Photo 10. Eastern and southern façades of south dormitory dependency, facing west-northwest.



Photo 11. South dormitory dependency, eastern wall, detail—brick semicircular arch window opening and brickwork cornice of machicolations.



Photo 12. Southern façade of rear lavatory block with center tower in background, facing west-northwest.



Photo 13. Eastern façade of lavatory block with cornice of center tower in background, facing west.

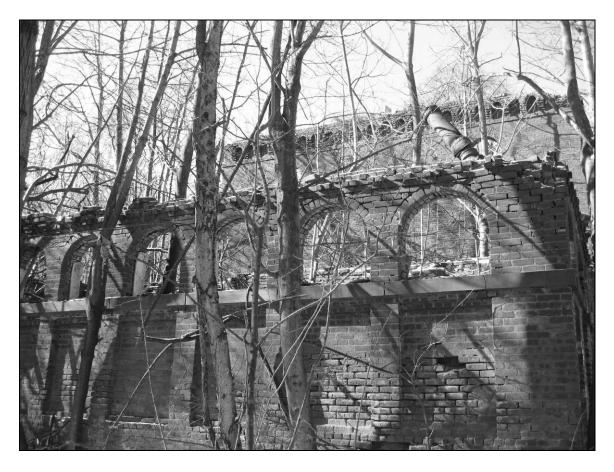


Photo 14. Eastern façade of center tower, showing chimney and cornice, with lavatory block below, facing southwest.



DAVIDS ISLAND – FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

BARRACKS (BUILDING 69)

Location: Davids Island–Fort Slocum

0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland

USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle

UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603638.4526642

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

Date of Construction: 1888

Architect/Engineer: U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps

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

Significance: The Barracks (Building 69) is situated in the Barracks Area, and it

originally provided housing for enlisted personnel in support of Fort Slocum's nineteenth- and twentieth-century military functions. In the early 1950s it was converted into a classroom building for the Army Information School (located at Fort Slocum 1951-1965), so it also embodies the Army's adaptive reuse of existing facilities in response to the installation's changing mission. 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 TeamAffiliation:Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJDate:July 2007 (Revision 1, December 2008)

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PART I. DESCRIPTION

Building 69 is one of three 1880s-era masonry barracks 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 69 is situated in the post's Barracks Area on the northeastern edge of the Parade Ground. The Barracks Area contains ten brick buildings originally designed to house soldiers and other enlisted personnel, along with a mess hall, gymnasium-drill hall, and guardhouse. Several of the barracks were later assigned to other purposes, as was the case with Building 69, which was used by the Army Information School as a classroom building in the 1950s and 1960s.

Building 69 is a ruined structure, one of many buildings destroyed by an extensive fire on the island in April 1982 (Cavanaugh 2007; Louis Berger and Associates 1986; New York Times 1982). The roof and interior walls and floors are gone, having collapsed into the interior, and the building's remains consist of a brick shell (Photos 1-15). A single chimney rises above the ruin at the rear (northeastern side) of the building's center tower. The building's fenestration is now represented by empty window and door openings. The top of the foundation is marked by an angular brick water table.

When extant, Building 69 was a large, Romanesque Revival-style brick structure laid out in a C-plan (Figures 1-13). The exterior design and basic floor plan of this building closely resembled Building 55, but reflected over an east-west line of symmetry so the two barracks formed a pair of brackets on the western side of the Barracks Area. Building 69 had a brick structural system set on a brick foundation, with wood framing for the roof, floors, and interior walls. Two perpendicular one-story wings extended to the north and east from a central squat octagonal tower of two-and-a-half stories. Each wing terminated in a curved wall, or apse, and near the apse a small dependency projected from the back side of the wing into the semi-enclosed space on the northeastern side of the building. The building had a cross-hipped roof, whose form closely complemented the structure's footprint. The tower roof was a steeply-pitched (approximately 50 degrees) regular octagonal pyramid capped by a small pointed finial. The faces of the tower alternated in length, with those facing the cardinal directions being about threequarters the length of the ones on the intervening sides. The wider northwestern, southwestern, and southeastern faces of the tower roof each had a small peak-roofed dormer, while at the edge of the roof on the northeastern face a large chimney rose from the tower wall. Medium-pitch roofs covered the remainder of the building, which terminated in half-conical ends over the apses and as true hipped ends over the dependencies. Originally, the building was covered by a standing seam (metal) roof, but after an alteration early in the twentieth century, the roof was clad in slate.

The walls had simple cornices in raised brickwork, which are extensively preserved in the building ruin. On the tower and over entrance areas on the north and east wings, the cornices were blind arcades, or Lombard bands, above a single stringcourse. On the long flank walls of the wings and on the dependencies, the cornices were narrow bands of rectangular machicolations above a pair of stringcourses (Photo 13). Throughout the building, most windows of the first and second stories were uniform round-headed four-over-four double-hung wood sash windows with two-light transoms. Smaller or narrower round-headed windows were used in a few locations, such as at the apses and on the tower faces just

(Page 3)

beside the roofs of the adjoining wings. All windows were set in rectangular openings capped by brick semicircular arches, with gray limestone sills, which are preserved throughout the ruin. The openings were regularly spaced on the flank walls of the wings, the apses, and the dependencies, with arched doorways substituted for a window in certain positions around the façade. The door openings were somewhat wider than those of the windows and had brick semicircular arches embellished by raised surrounds of plain brick. Doorways were framed in wood and had round-headed transoms and single- or double-leaf doors. The doors were paneled wood with multi-light glazing. At certain periods some of these doorways were protected by small shed-roof canopies. In later years, the entrances were reached by short flights of concrete stairs. Rectangular basement windows were set into the foundation directly beneath first-story windows.

The main entrance to the building was located at the southwestern face of the central octagonal tower (Photos 1-3). This face and the narrower adjoining tower faces to the south and west formed the balanced center of the building's long principal (south and west) façade. In this central section of the façade, the arrangement of window openings alternated between the two stories of the tower, with the second story having single, centered windows on the narrow faces and a centered double window on the wider intermediate face, while the first story had centered double windows on the narrow faces. In between, the building's main entrance took up nearly the entire span of the wide southwestern face. The entrance was a semicircular arched opening springing from engaged terra cotta dwarf columns and embellished with a raised surround of plain brick. It had a gray schist or gneiss threshold. Between the sill of the second-story double window and the top of the entrance surround was a terra cotta plaque with the building's construction date, 1889, in raised numerals. A pair of S-shaped tie rod anchors flanked this plaque, and a second pair of S-anchors flanked the entrance at the base of the arch. The main, double-leaf door was recessed within the entrance opening, but no trace of it remains and no detailed historic photographs of it have been found. Historic photographs do, however, appear to show that different wood frame lattice and multi-light panels occupied the arched entrance opening at different times.

Historic floor plans are available for Building 55 from 1895 and 1939 (Figures 5 and 9), and these reflect the building's use as a barracks. The largest spaces are situated in the wings, and comprise two 95-footlong dormitory rooms, each of which had a capacity of approximately 45 men. (The Quartermaster Corps property card indicates the total capacity of the building was 154 men in 1939 [Figure 8].) No floor plan of the building has been located to date from the Second World War or for any later period. During the Second World War, the north wing of the building was converted to a library and chaplain's office (Cavanaugh 2007). Later, the building provided classrooms for the Army Information School.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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Barracks (Building 69)

Along with Buildings 55 and 68, Building 69 was one of three permanent brick barracks constructed in the late 1880s to house enlisted men at Fort Slocum (Figures 1 to 13). Before these buildings were erected, recruits and soldiers stationed at the post lived in one- or two-story wood-frame buildings situated in various places, but primarily in the northeastern quadrant of Davids Island. The Army considered the earlier wood-frame buildings to be temporary structures, so the new brick barracks were a considerable improvement in comfort and fire-resistance. Although the exigencies of the vast expansions of the Army during the First and Second World Wars would see large numbers of soldiers housed in later generations of temporary wooden barracks, the brick barracks of the 1880s at Fort Slocum were built at the beginning of a period when the Army committed itself to making the post a permanent installation for troop recruitment, training, and harbor defense.

Providing facilities to house and feed as many as six companies (up to 600 men), Building 69, its companion barracks to the north (Buildings 55 and 68, respectively), and the associated enlisted men's mess (Building 67) comprised the earliest functionally-coherent group of buildings constructed in brick at Fort Slocum. The six buildings anchored the northeastern corner of the Parade Ground and stood diagonally across from the kernel of Officers' Row, which was developing northwards from Buildings 2 through 4, a trio of wood-frame quarters erected in the late 1870s. The garrison's flagstaff then stood in the middle of the Parade Ground, where it provided unifying focus for the post and connected these two separate residential areas.

Although the Army's Quartermaster General had introduced standardized plans for wood barracks in the 1870s, little development of such plans for brick barracks had taken place at the time Buildings 55, 68, and 69 were authorized (Chattey et al. 1997; Hoagland 2004). Responsibility for planning for the three barracks and the mess hall thus fell to Capt. George H. Cook, the post's quartermaster. Consequently, the designs of these four buildings are unique to Fort Slocum. In consultation with others, including the Quartermaster General, Col. Samuel Holabird, the commanding officer at Davids Island, Maj. Frederick Mears, and a civilian professional architect, Henry Edwards Ficken of New York City, Cook developed a design that included two L-shaped barracks (Buildings 55 and 69) that bracketed two structures with linear facades (Buildings 67 and 68) (Cavanaugh 2007, 2008).

The barracks show the strong influence of the Romanesque Revival movement, which was a popular style for public buildings during the 1870s to 1890s. The robust, blocky massing and decorative allusions to military fortification characteristic of the style made it particularly appealing for Army use. In civilian construction, Romanesque Revival buildings characteristically made extensive use of large, quarry-faced stone blocks, but the buildings in this style at Fort Slocum are almost entirely of brick. In addition to Buildings 55, 68, and 69, Building 1 is another example of Romanesque Revival architecture at Fort Slocum.

Building 69 originally consisted of two wings (north and east) extending from a central octagonal tower in the southwestern corner. In 1895, the building was expanded by the addition of smaller dependencies built off the rear of each wing. Information about subsequent alterations to the building is sketchy. The original standing seam (metal) roof was replaced in the early twentieth century with a slate roof (a change also seen in Buildings 55, 67, and 68). This change also resulted in the removal of the original monitor roofs atop the ridgelines of the wings and their replacement with sheet metal cylindrical ventilators. The date of these alterations is unknown. During the Second World War, the north wing became the post

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library and chaplain's office, but it is unknown whether portions of the building continued to be used as a barracks. During the 1950s and 1960s, the building housed classrooms 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) during the years it was at Fort Slocum. The school trained personnel in public affairs and in troop education and information. Such functional changes certainly required alterations to the building's interior, but these remain to be documented.

Between 1888 and 1893, this barracks was designated as Building 60. From 1893 until 1941, it was known as Building 40. The building was again renumbered in about 1941 as Building 53, a designation it kept until around 1957 when it acquired its present number, Building 69. Until the Second World War, Building 69 was variously identified as Barracks, Permanent Barracks, or Receiving Barracks. In this latter role, it was the place where new recruits were housed while undergoing initial processing until assigned to a specific training company. In the 1950s and 1960s, the structure was a classrooms building.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Published Materials

Casual News [Fort Slocum's post newspaper in the Second World War-era]

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

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Tetra Tech EC, Inc.

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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.

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

July 1888 "Map of Davids Island, New York Harbor." Prepared under the direction of George H. Cook, Capt. & Asstg Q.M. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

February 1893 "Davids Island, New York Harbor. Prepared under direction of J.W. Summerhayes, Capt. & A.Q.M., U.S. Army. O.W. Degin [? illeg.], C.E. & Arch't." Shows buildings with revised numbering system of 1893 (at the date of the map not yet officially adopted), roads, paths, buildings, and structures, including the mortar battery. On file at National 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.

(Page 8)

March 1895 "Davids Island—N.Y.H.: Plans Showing Additions and Alterations in Barrack No. 40." Inscribed "Q.M.G.O. [Quartermaster General's Office]... E.S.E. [draftsman]." 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.

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.)

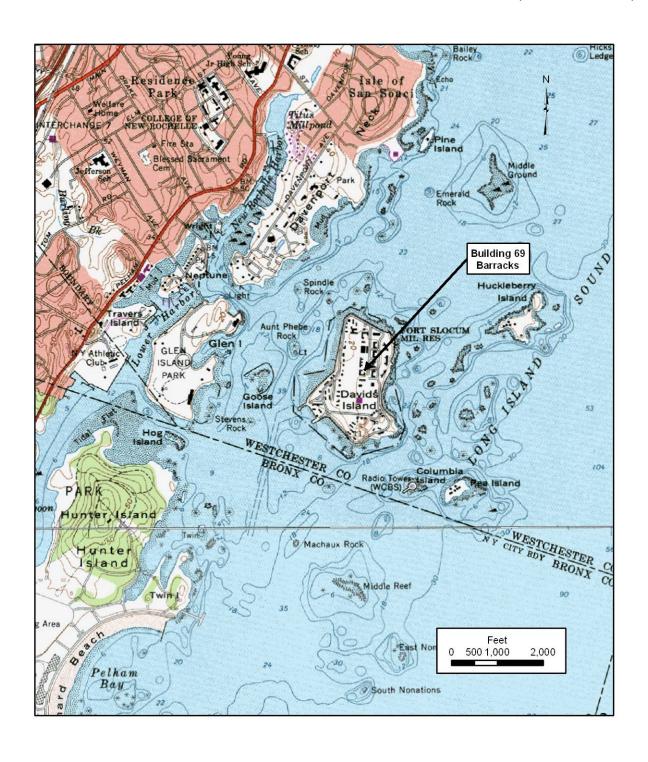
- 1924: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island showing area between Mortar Battery and Raymond Hall (Building 57). View east. September 4.
- 1924: Vertical aerial photograph of Davids Island. September 4.
- 1932: Low angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View south. January 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)

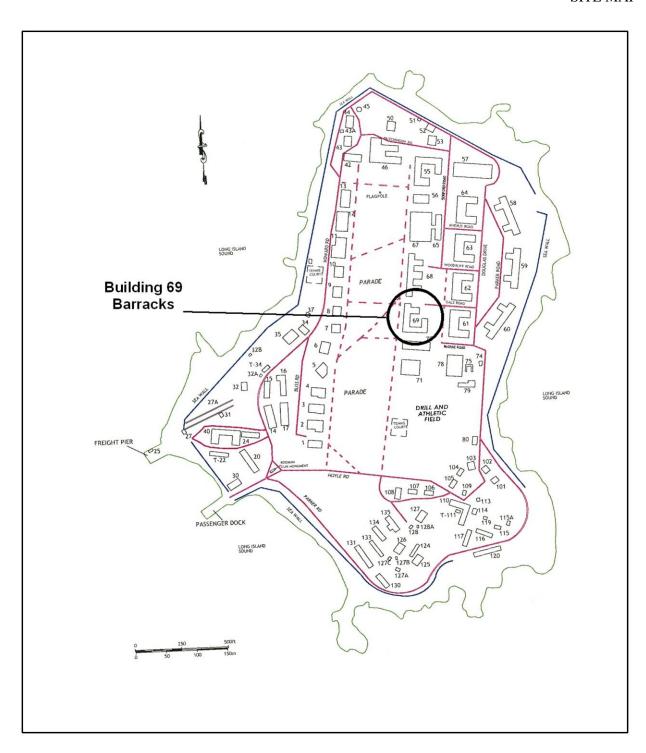
Scale: 1:24,000

1966 (Photorevised 1979)



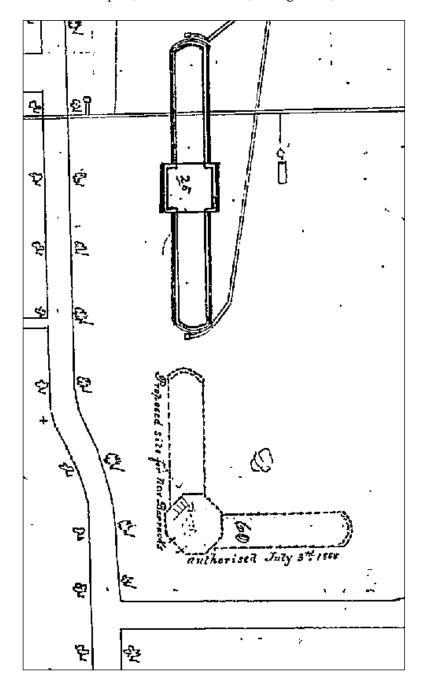
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SITE MAP



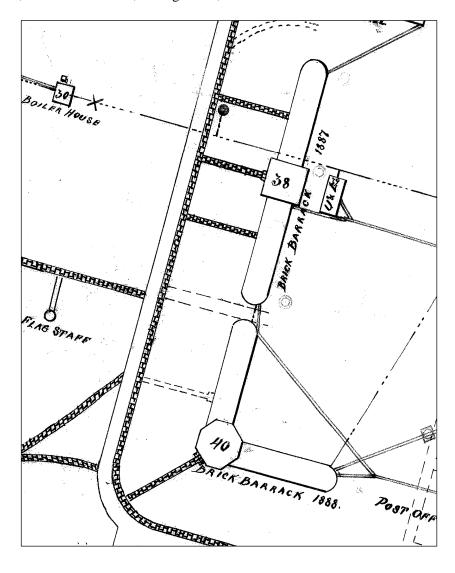
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Figure 1. "Map of Davids Island, New York," July 1888, detail, showing proposed site for Building 69, here labeled as "60." Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 2. "Map of Davids Island, New York." February 1893, detail. Building 69 is labeled "40." Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 3. Barracks area view south, ca. 1892. Detail showing rear of Building 69. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



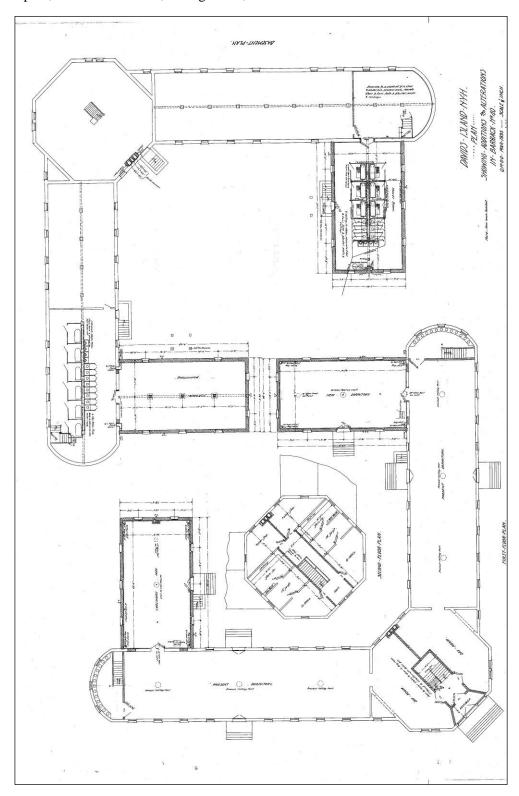
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Figure 4. "Barracks" [Building 69], ca. 1893. View northeast. Original in National Archives, College Park, MD; digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



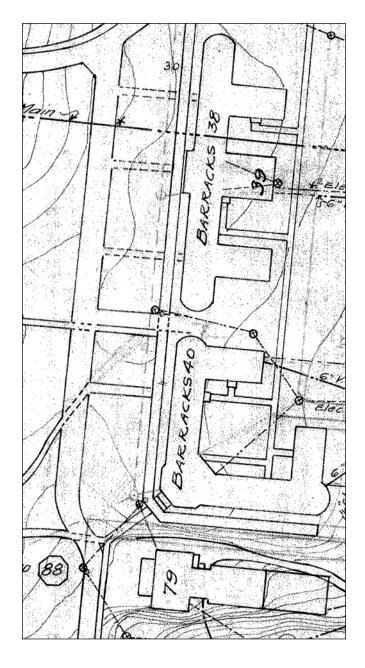
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Figure 5. "Davids Island, N.Y.H.: Plan Showing Additions & Alterations in Barrack No. 40," March 1895. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 6. "Map of Fort Slocum New York." 1909, detail. Building 69 is shown as "Barracks 40," reflecting an earlier building numbering system. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



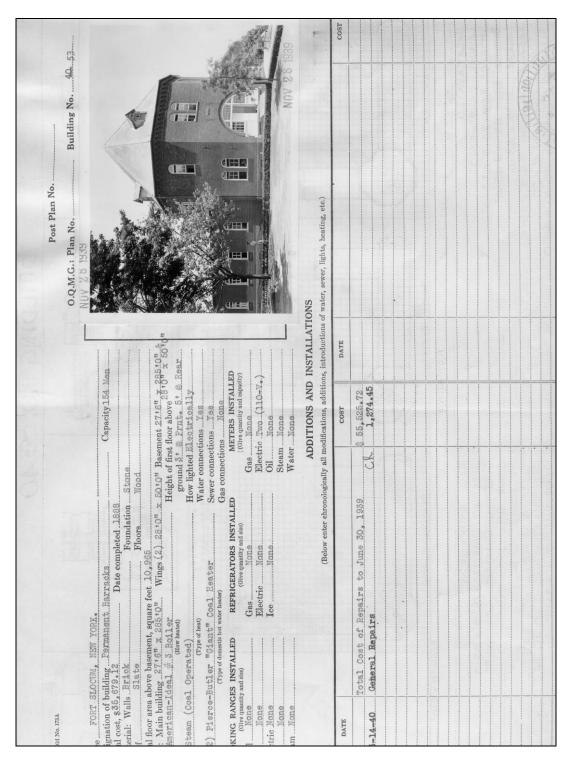
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Figure 7. Building 69, ca 1918. View northeast. Record Group 111, National Archives, College Park, MD.



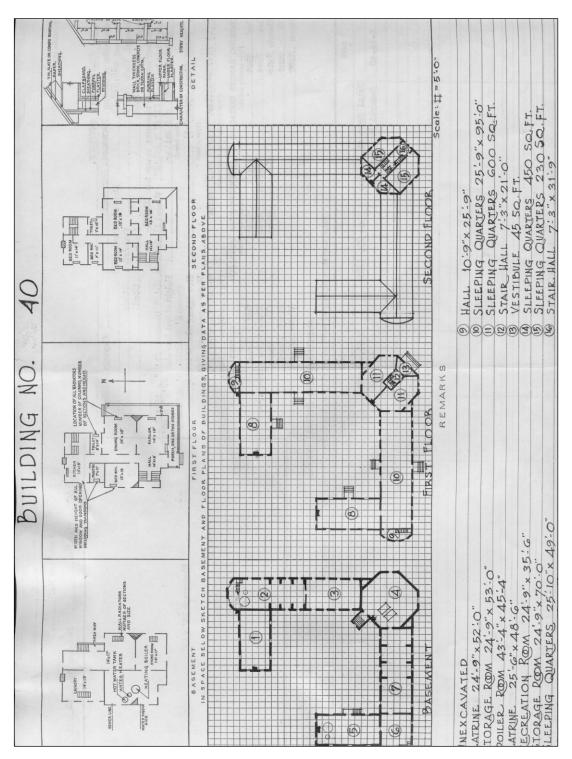
(Page 18)

Figure 8. Property Record (front), November 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park MD.



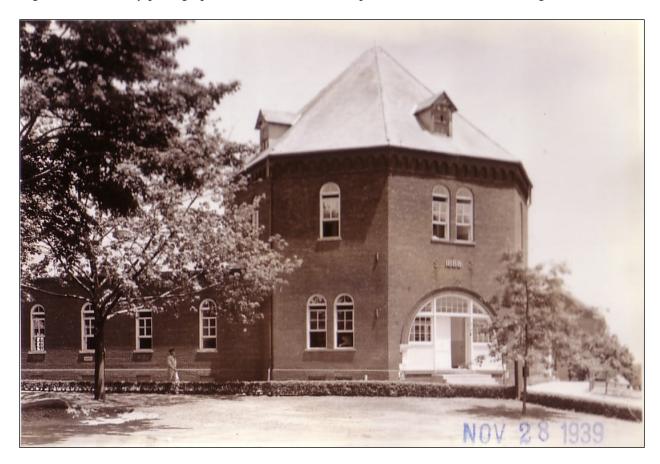
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Figure 9. Property Record (back), November 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park MD.



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Figure 10. Inventory photograph, ca. 1939. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 11. "Library, Fort Slocum, N.Y.," ca. 1940. Postcard view of Building 69, facing south. Real-photo postcard. Unknown publisher and date of publication. Digital copy from Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



BARRACKS (BUILDING 69) DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM

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Figure 12. Post library in Building 69, ca. 1945. Post Chaplain Major Wesley Gebhard is standing, right. The library was located in the north wing of the building. Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



BARRACKS (BUILDING 69) DAVIDS ISLAND-FORT SLOCUM

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Figure 13. Interior, probably library in Building 69, ca. 1945. Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.



HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

BARRACKS (BUILDING 69)

Davids Island—Fort Slocum New Rochelle Westchester County New York

Photographers: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, November 2004 (Photos 4-7) and December 2005 (Photos 1-3).

Caleb Christopher, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, January 2007 (Photos 8-15).

- 1. Southwestern façade of tower, facing northeast.
- 2. Detail of entrance in southwestern façade of center tower, showing engaged dwarf terracotta column.
- 3. Southwestern façade of center tower, detail—terracotta plaque with building date.
- 4. Apse at end of north wing, with north dependency in background, facing southeast.
- 5. Eastern façade of north dependency, facing southwest.
- 6. Courtyard on northeastern side of building, facing southwest.
- 7. Southern façade, facing west.
- 8. Back (northeastern façade) of tower, facing southwest.
- 9. Western façade of east dependency, facing southwest.
- 10. Northern façade of east dependency, facing south.
- 11. Eastern façade of east dependency, facing west.
- 12. Southern façade of east wing, facing west.
- 13. Cornices of southeastern façade of tower (above) and southern façade of east wing (below), facing northwest.
- 14. Western façade of north wing, facing northeast.
- 15. Western façade, showing door and window openings, facing northeast.

Photo 1. Southwestern façade of tower, facing northeast.



Photo 2. Detail of entrance in southwestern façade of center tower, showing engaged dwarf terracotta column.



Photo 3. Southwestern façade of center tower, detail—terracotta plaque with building date.



Photo 4. Apse at end of north wing, with north dependency in background, facing southeast.

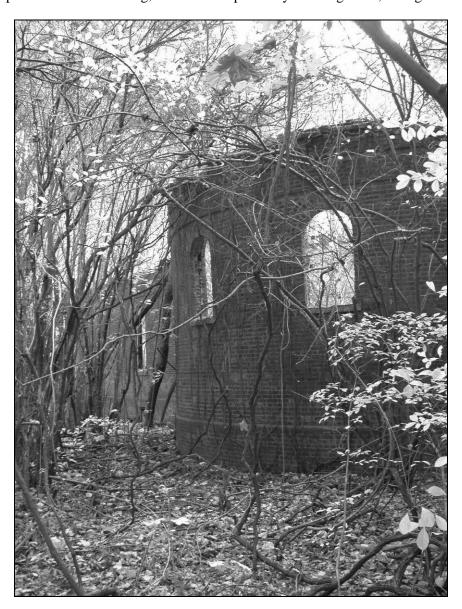


Photo 5. Eastern façade of north dependency, facing southwest.



Photo 6. Courtyard on northeastern side of building, facing southwest.



Photo 7. Southern façade, facing west.



Photo 8. Back (northeastern façade) of tower, facing southwest.

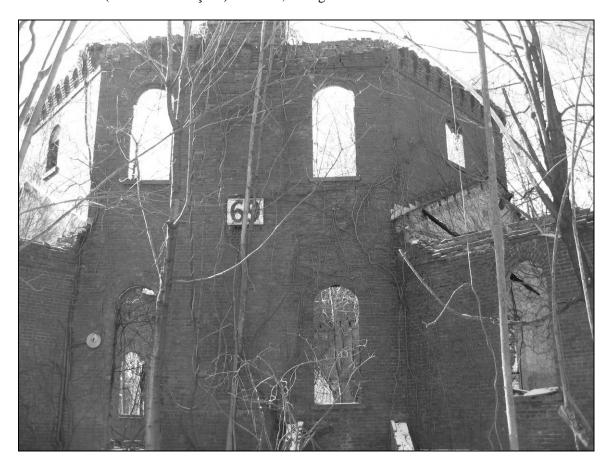


Photo 9. Western façade of east dependency, facing southwest.



Photo 10. Northern façade of east dependency, facing south.



Photo 11. Eastern façade of east dependency, facing west.



Photo 12. Southern façade of east wing, facing west.



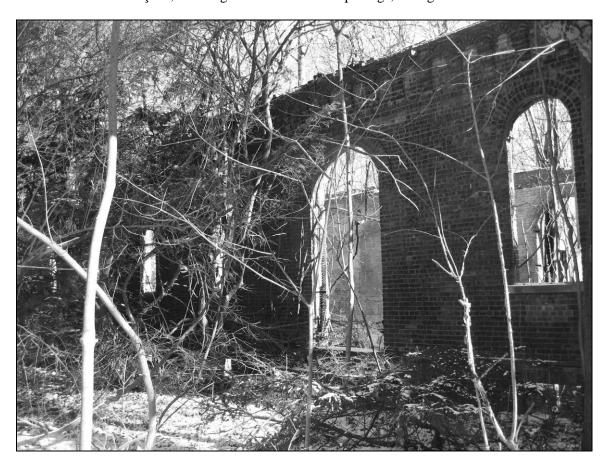
Photo 13. Cornices of southeastern façade of tower (above) and southern façade of east wing (below), facing northwest.



Photo 14. Western façade of north wing, facing northeast.



Photo 15. Western façade, showing door and window openings, facing northeast.



DAVIDS ISLAND - FORT SLOCUM HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

POST EXCHANGE (BUILDING 70)

Location: Davids Island–Fort Slocum

0.6 mi southeast of New Rochelle, New York mainland

USGS Mount Vernon, NY Quadrangle

UTM Coordinate (NAD 1983): 18.603656.4526607

<u>Present Owner(s):</u> City of New Rochelle, NY

Date of Construction: 1905

Architect/Engineer: U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps

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

Significance: The Post Exchange (Building 70) is related to the Barracks Area, and

the provision of retail goods in support of Fort Slocum's nineteenthand 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: July 2007 (Revision 1, December 2008)

PART I. DESCRIPTION

The Post Exchange (Building 70) is situated on the eastern side of the former Parade Ground near the center 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. The island is heavily wooded and contains the ruins of more than 100 buildings and structures associated with now-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. The Post Exchange is located at the southwestern corner of the Barracks Area between a barracks building (Building 69) and the YMCA (Building 71). The Barracks Area contains ten brick buildings originally designed to house soldiers and other enlisted personnel, along with a few other buildings, including the Post Exchange, a mess hall and bakery, guardhouse, and drill hall-gymnasium.

Building 70 is a ruin. The building was destroyed by fire sometime after August 1986, when it was inventoried as intact, but vandalized and deteriorated from weather (Louis Berger and Associates 1986). Its roof, interior partitions, floors, windows, and doors are gone, and an open, partially collapsed brick shell remains. Architectural debris partly fills the basement. The remains indicate that the building was constructed with a brick bearing wall structural system, and wood roof and interior framing. It has a coursed granite block foundation. An interior, brick chimney is located toward the west end of the building. Entrances on the north and west elevations have segmental arch openings. A north elevation entrance to the basement level has an extant concrete block, shed-roofed vestibule. Although window frames are not preserved, historical photographs record that the fenestration of the building consisted of double-hung, wood sash windows; the frames were set in brick segmental arch openings with gray sandstone sills. Many of the windows are protected by sets of vertical iron bars. Ornament on the building includes a corbelled cornice and exposed granite water table on the west end. The basement is extended on the south side of the building beyond the footprint of the first story wall, and this extended section is covered by an earth berm. It has three entrances on this side of the building constructed of concrete. The extension and these entrances may have been used for moving goods from outside the building, or for added shop or storage space.

Historical photographs and postcards of the Post Exchange show it with a Classical Revival portico and detailing, much of which is no longer extant. It was a long rectangular building built into the slope on the eastern side of the Parade Ground. As a result, it appeared to be a one-story building when one looked toward its main (western) façade from the Parade Ground, but it appeared to be two stories high when viewed from the lower ground at the rear. The main (western) entrance, now destroyed by the collapse of the western wall, was marked by a portico supported by four pairs of slender columns on paneled square piers. The cornices were plain. The tympanum was simple, but pierced by a roundel set off by wide masonry frame and four keystone-like elements. The entrance beneath the portico had large double doors, sidelights, and a fanlight set in a semicircular arch. The roof appears to have consisted of two segments, a hipped western section over the wider, entrance portion of the building and a long gabled roof over the rear, eastern section.

A floor plan of the building as it existed in 1940 is available (Figure 4).

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PART II. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Fort Slocum

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

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

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

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

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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.

Post Exchange (Building 70)

Situated at the southwestern corner of the Barracks Area on the eastern edge of the Parade Ground, the Post Exchange (Building 70), or PX, at Fort Slocum was essentially a general merchandise store, whose principal function was to sell everyday goods and consumer items that were not routinely supplied by the Army to personnel and their families. Prices at a post exchange were typically less than or comparable to those charged in shops in neighboring communities, due to government subsidies to offset expenses for transportation and help cover the exchange's overhead costs. In addition, from the 1940s onwards, prices at individual PXs also benefited from centralized, large-volume wholesale purchasing. At remote and overseas posts and in field locations, post exchanges were often the only place where a soldier could purchase familiar foods, toiletries, and small luxuries. At an installation like Fort Slocum, shopping at the post exchange was more convenient and usually cheaper than patronizing off-post stores.

The post-exchange system was formally established in 1895, when the War Department directed commanders to establish exchanges for the sale of small items beyond those provided by the government to soldiers and sailors. Post exchanges grew out of earlier experiments to create combined store-andsocial-halls for enlisted personnel, known as canteens. The U.S. Army's earliest canteen was established in 1880, and the system was formally endorsed by the War Department in 1889 (Chattey et al. 1997). Military control of canteens and post exchanges was intended to end abuses created by earlier systems, in which civilian merchants known as "sutlers" (called "traders" after 1867) received exclusive licenses to sell to the soldiers of a particular command. Among the complaints made about these merchants were excessive prices and profits and the sale of shoddy goods. Canteens and PXs likewise provided an alternative to the grog shops, gambling dens, and houses of ill repute that often grew up just beyond the bounds of military reservations, for canteens not only sold small luxuries, but provided a place for a soldier to get a bite to eat, have a beer, or play a game (Chattey et al. 1997:216-217; Coffman 1986:359-362). Except during the First World War, when the YMCA ran many of the Army's canteens, exchanges operated independently under the supervision of individual commanding officers until 1941. Thereafter, operation became increasingly centralized under the Army Exchange Service (Army and Air Force Exchange Service after 1947).

From the time the Army first occupied Davids Island during the Civil War, the mercantile establishment variously known as the sutler's shop, the post trader, the canteen, or the post exchange was located in the vicinity of the barracks buildings. During the 1880s, several maps show the post trader's shop situated in the area now occupied by the southern wing of present-day Building 61. In the early 1890s, as the transition from post trader to canteen to post exchange was underway, this shop (demolished circa 1908) became Fort Slocum's Post Office and Officer's Club and later served as quarters for Non-Commissioned Officers. Meanwhile, the newly-established Canteen (subsequently called the Post Exchange) occupied a ca.-1880 temporary wooden barracks (also demolished around 1908) that stood about where the northern wing of present-day Building 62 was later constructed.

The present Post Exchange (Building 70) was constructed in 1905. It was situated adjacent to Building 69, one of the three brick barracks built along the Parade Ground in the late 1880s. The building was

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built according to Quartermaster Corps standard plan No. 175. This plan number is not listed in the partial inventory of standard plans assembled by Chattey et al. (1997). Perhaps with an eye toward assuring the soldier-patrons of the exchange that they would be treated more honestly than their predecessors had been by the old sutlers and post traders, the main façade was designed with a Classical Revival portico, more characteristic of a bank or civic building of the period than a store. Originally built with a length of approximately 110 feet (including the portico), the building was lengthened to approximately 170 feet around 1909. Examination of historic aerial photographs seems to indicate that the three basement-level entrances situated in the slope on the south side of the building were constructed ca. 1940. Map evidence indicates that there was another addition on the eastern end of the building sometime in the 1950s.

According to Michael A. Cavanaugh (2007), who is preparing a history of Fort Slocum, the current Post Exchange building originally housed a gymnasium, but this facility was probably phased out after the adjacent YMCA (present-day Building 71) and the Drill Hall and Gymnasium (present-day Building 57) were completed in 1909. A letter from Sgt. A.B. Nolan of the U.S. Army Hospital Corps published by the *New York Times* in 1911 describes the Post Exchange as a "well-supplied store, furnish[ing] such articles as the soldier most desires. There is tobacco, cigars, stationery, novelties of all kinds, a lunch counter, and soda water fountain, all of superior quality and a price below the average retail store in the neighboring towns."

In the 1940s, historian Cavanaugh reports, the Post Exchange included, in addition to its variety store, a restaurant, bar, shoe repair, barber, and butcher shops, and library. In 1944 it became the first home of the Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) Club. Later, in the 1950s and 1960s, it also housed a branch of a New Rochelle bank.

When originally constructed, the Post Exchange was designated as Building 79. After 1941, it was known as Building 76. It acquired its present designation as Building 70 in 1957.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

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March 1872 "Quarter Master Buildings, Davids Island, N.Y. Harbor." Set including map and six detail drawings of individual buildings. Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

September 1884 "Map Showing Lines of Water Pipes of Proposed Water Works at Davids Island N.Y.H." Record Group 77, U.S. National Archives, College Park, MD.

April 1892 "Davids Island, New York Harbor, in Connection with Plans for Sea-Walls Submitted with the Annual Report for 1891." Revision of June 1891 plan. Record Group 77, U.S. National Archives, College Park, MD.

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October 1894 "Map of Davids Island, New York Harbor, U.S. Military Reservation." Record Group 92, National Archives, College Park, MD.

October 1902 "Fort Slocum, New York: Plan Showing Location of Batteries and Fire Control Station." Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

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Panoramic and Aerial Photographs

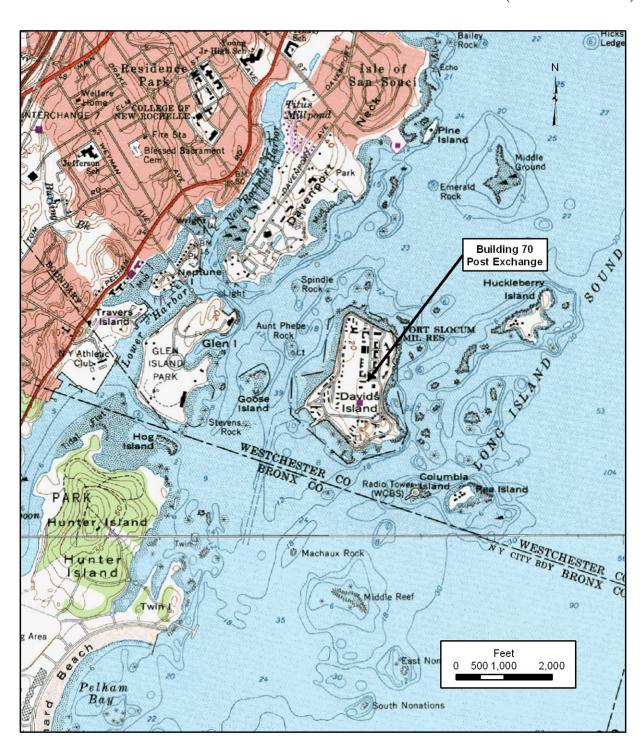
(Except as noted, all photographs are on file at National Archives, College Park, Maryland. Digital copies examined for this research come from the Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection, Michael A. Cavanaugh, Los Angeles, CA, custodian.)

- 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 southeast. June 29.
- ca. 1938: Real-photo postcard showing low-angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. Summer. View north. In Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection. Also published in *New York City's Harbor Defenses* (2003), p. 92, by Leo Polaski and Glen Williford, Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, South Carolina.
- 1940: Vertical aerial photograph of Davids Island. September 4.
- ca. 1942: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island, Columbia Island, and Huckleberry Island. View northeast. U.S. Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base. Digital copy in the Fort Slocum Alumni and Friends Collection.
- 1961: High angle oblique aerial photograph of Davids Island. View north. 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)



SITE MAP

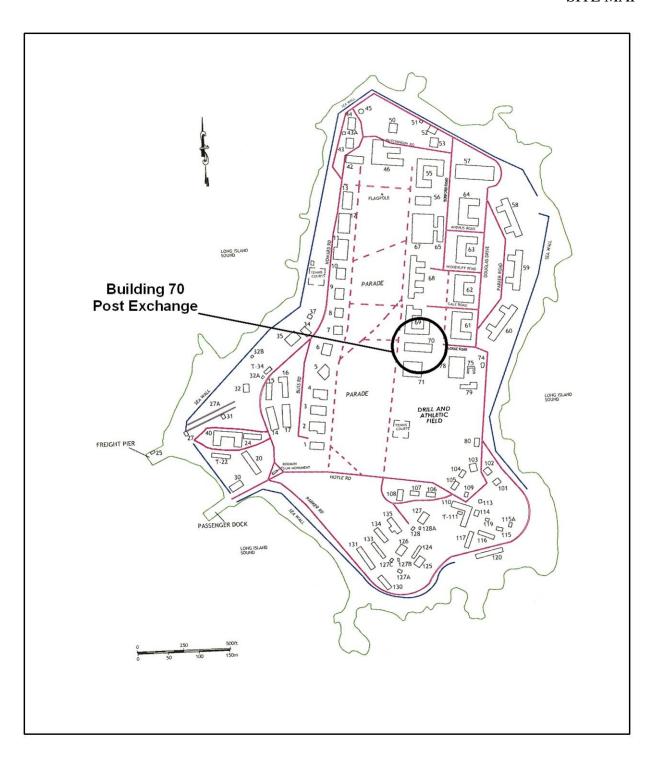
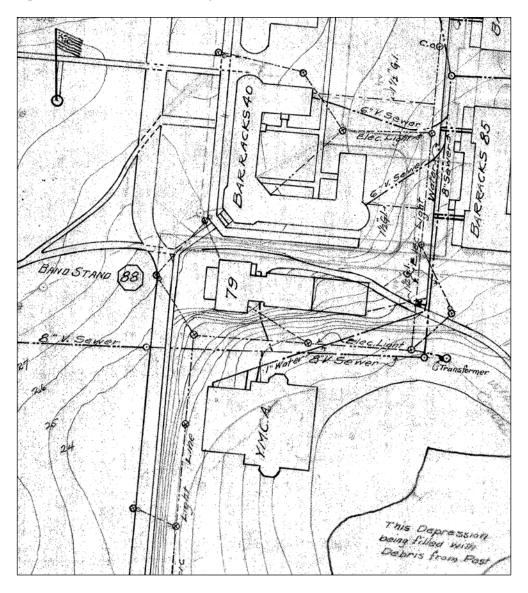


Figure 1. "Map of Fort Slocum, Davids Island, N.Y." 1909, detail. Building 70 is labeled "79," and reflects an earlier building numbering system in use at Fort Slocum. North is to the top of the page. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 2. Undated postcard "Post Exchange, Fort Slocum, N.Y.", circa 1917. View northeast. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.

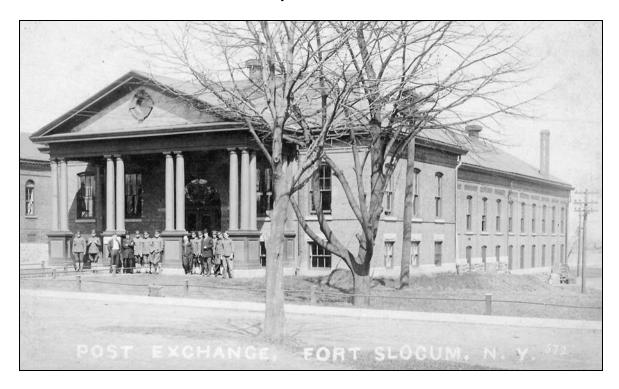


Figure 3. Property Record (front), June 1940. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.

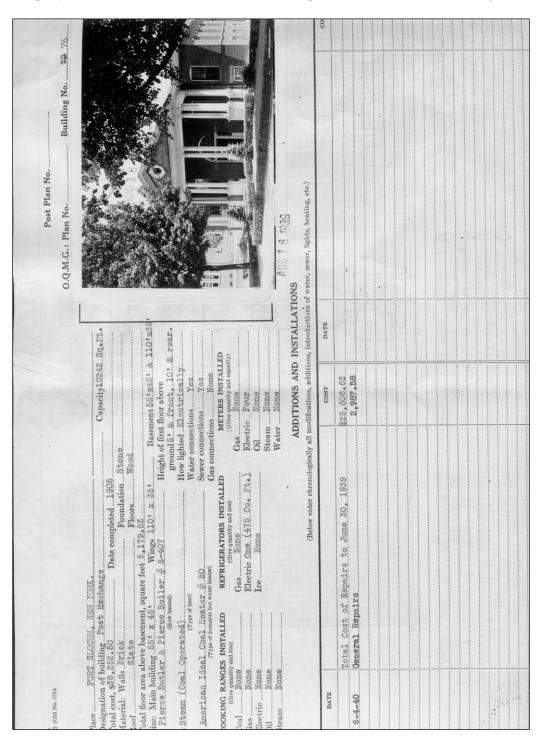
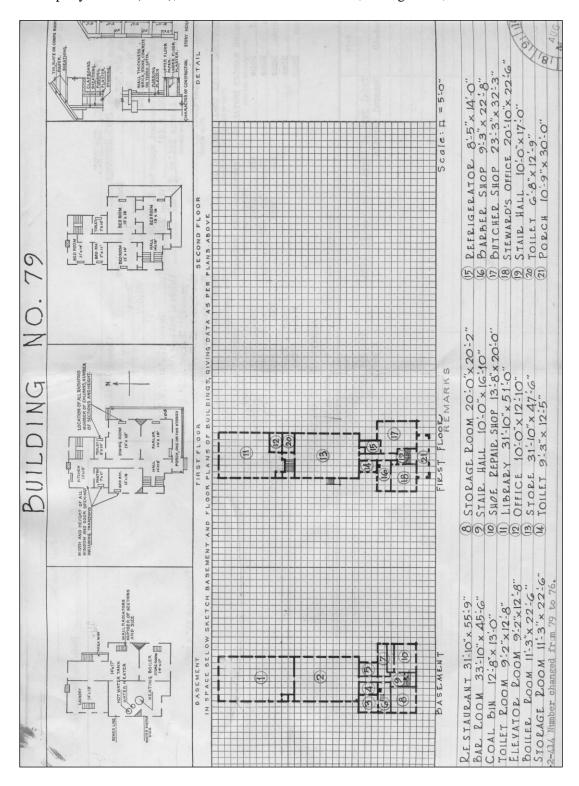


Figure 4. Property Record (back), June 1940. National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 5. Property Record photo, August 1939. View northeast. Record Group 77, National Archives, College Park, MD.



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Figure 6. Postcard of Post Exchange Restaurant, circa 1940. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



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Figure 7. Post Exchange interior, circa 1960. Fort Slocum Collection, New Rochelle Public Library, New Rochelle, NY.



HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

POST EXCHANGE (BUILDING 70)

Davids Island—Fort Slocum New Rochelle Westchester County New York

Photographers: Matt Kierstead, PAL Inc., Pawtucket, RI, November 2004 (Photos 1-5).

Caleb Christopher, Tetra Tech EC, Inc., Morris Plains, NJ, January 2007 (Photos 6-11).

- 1. Northern façade, facing southwest.
- 2. Southern façade, facing north.
- 3. Eastern façade, facing northwest.
- 4. Southern façade, facing north.
- 5. Northern façade, facing southeast.
- 6. Northern façade, detail.
- 7. Northern façade, facing south.
- 8. Northern façade, facing east.
- 9. Southern façade, facing northeast.
- 10. Southern façade, detail.
- 11. Southern façade, facing north.

Photo 1. Northern façade, facing southwest.



Photo 2. Southern façade, facing north.



Photo 3. Eastern façade, facing northwest.



Photo 4. Southern façade, facing north.



Photo 5. Northern façade, facing souththeast.



Photo 6. Northern façade, detail.



Photo 7. Northern façade, facing south.



Photo 8. Northern façade, facing east.

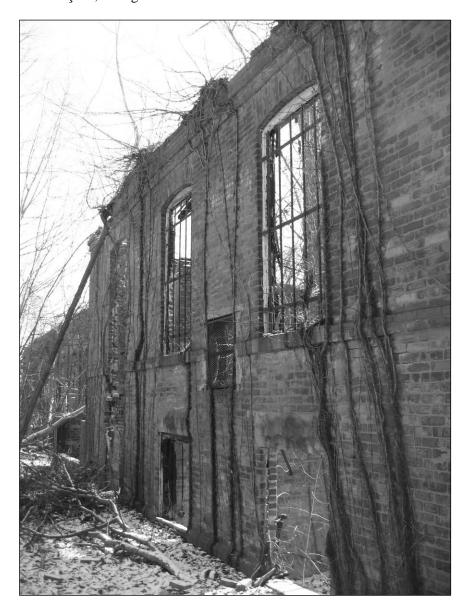


Photo 9. Southern façade, facing northeast.



Photo 10. Southern façade, detail.



Photo 11. Southern façade, facing north.

