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7510 Brookville Road
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November 27, 2009

Mr. Marc B. Loud, Chairman
D C. Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street N W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

**Re: Emory United Methodist Beacon of Light Church,
6100-20 Georgia Ave. N.W., BZA #17964**

Dear Chairman Loud and Honorable Board Members:

I write as a historian of record in Civil War and national security affairs with several published volumes pertinent to the story of the Civil War defenses of Washington and particularly that of Fort Stevens in the Brightwood section of the city. I am currently writing a book, The Day(s) That Lincoln Was Almost Shot; Fort Stevens, D.C., July 11, 12, 1864. While no longer a resident of the District of Columbia, I grew up in the adjacent neighborhood of Manor Park, attended Whittier elementary, Paul Jr. and Coolidge Sr. high schools and, together with my family frequented commercial, public and private facilities in the area. Naturally, I, had great familiarity with and interest in the saga of Fort Stevens, President Abraham Lincoln, its preservation, the evolving area – and still do! For this reason, I am writing in opposition to the Emory United Methodist Beacon of Light Church construction of any edifice (however praiseworthy in intent) that would significantly degrade the historical meaning and sacred ground of what may well be a singularly neglected cultural heritage sites in this city.

Others, like I, appreciate the needs and desires of the private property owners. In this case, however, I would advance the greater public good as the central question. The Church's proposed development would be a travesty to the historical landscape, the memory of the nationally significant men and women who trod the ground and fought and bled to save the nation and future cultural tourism prospects that would benefit a renaissance of the Brightwood commercial and residential environment. Let me explain why. I also attach evidence from one of my publications in substantiation of the local, regional and national importance of the **Fort Stevens (Fort Massachusetts)** site.

First, the first Emory Methodist chapel and adjacent land owned by free-Black woman Elizabeth Thomas are indispensable ingredients of the community legacy so well-encapsulated by the District of Columbia government's Office of Cultural Tourism neighborhood history (walking tour interpretation and pamphlet) projects. The very church site and environs, then, are significant elements in the tapestry for Brightwood residents, past, present and future. This legacy must not be taken lightly and unduly rent

BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
District of Columbia

CASE NO. 17964
EXHIBIT NO. 33

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by continuous desecration through development. Such disregard of the Brightwood heritage has all too often overcome the value of preservation of heritage on that site.

Second, and arguably more important, this particular site vaulted into national prominence due to events of the American Civil War – a conflict directly relevant to most Brightwood residents today – the emancipation and ending of slavery (a) in the District of Columbia in 1862 and (b) subsequently through presidential directive and eventually constitutional amendment. To protect the Nation's Capital in time of domestic insurrection and rebellion, the United States government constructed a ring of fortifications around the city. One of them – **Fort Massachusetts** – was constructed by northern volunteer citizen soldiers on the site of the original Emory chapel (which fell victim to the necessities of war). Within the next two years, this humble fort – the topographical outlines of which can still be discerned adjacent to Georgia Avenue and are now occupied by the modern stone church as well as other facilities – was expanded to the west and re-named **Fort Stevens** in honor of a fallen Union general. The expansion incurred removal of Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas's home and her eviction although she remained in the vicinity anticipating re-occupancy at the end of the struggle. Apparently, she was personally comforted in her hour of need by none other than President Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln personally visited many of the troop encampments of the soldiers stationed in the forts and, as it turned out, made multiple visits to **Fort Stevens (Massachusetts)** which leads to another significant reason for preserving what remains of the integrity of the site at all costs.

Third, **Fort Stevens (Massachusetts)** became the epicenter for the only Civil War battle fought within the District of Columbia on July 11 and 12, 1864. Focal point for Confederate general Jubal Early's famous attack on the city, the events best memorialized here were President Lincoln's visits on those hot July days. Lincoln, accompanied by his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, his Secretary of State William Seward and other dignitaries of cabinet and Congress, entered and walked the premises of both the original **Fort Massachusetts** as well as expanded **Fort Stevens** portions. On both days, the president actually came under Confederate fire, purportedly the only time an American president has actually been under acknowledged enemy fire while in office. We know that bullets came within feet of wounding or killing him with numerous onlookers beseeching him to exit the parapets and other paths and emplacements of **Fort Stevens (Massachusetts)**. My own research suggests the very ground directly affected by the proposed church development certainly witnessed Mr. Lincoln's presence and perhaps his near-brush with eternity some eight months before his April 1865 assassination. At least one witness suggested Lincoln's coming under Confederate sniper fire occurred in the **Fort Massachusetts** portion of the work. We do know that Lincoln walked the **Fort Massachusetts** ramparts as well as the ground now further threatened by the Church's development proposal in addition to the expanded **Fort Stevens** portion.

Fourth, at least one Civil War veteran and witness to the historic events of Lincoln's visit during the battle (Lewis Cass White) thought enough of his experience here to return to the vicinity, build a house at the corner of Piney Branch Road and Georgia Avenue, raise a family there and become a prime mover for preservation of **Fort Stevens**.

(Massachusetts) as federally owned property and a national monument early in the twentieth century. Such survivors of battle revisited **Fort Stevens (Massachusetts)**, held reunions there, trod the ground sacred to their sacrifice (including nearby Battleground National Cemetery) and consequently passed across and around the Emory church property they remembered and now rebuilt to more eloquent style now seen on the site.

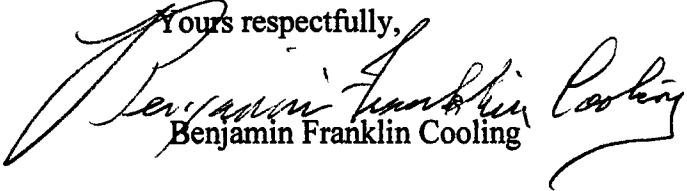
An argument could be made, frankly, that all structures, the paved parking lot etc. (excepting the modern stone church building that connects in legacy with the original chapel) should be appropriately removed and entirely, a more solemn parkland setting link the two portions of the fort and thus bequeathed to posterity. It most certainly seems unconscionable to further degrade the historical site of **Fort Stevens (Massachusetts)**. A five-story new housing "wall" or any further disruption through development and construction would be improper to proper memorialization and interpretation of the significant historical landscape of which the church property forms an integral and indispensable part. Proper appreciation and utilization by the Brightwood community (as well as the city as a whole) of its "moment" in history for cultural tourism and the upcoming sesquicentennial of the Civil War would be further lost forever through development. The proposed intrusion and disruption to adjacent **Fort Stevens** government-owned and interpreted parkland (administered by the National Park Service) next door would incur a loss to the national public. The travesty to (a) the memory of Elizabeth Thomas and the heritage of Black Americans, (b) the memory of the Sixteenth President who nearly lost his life at the spot, or the distinct possibility that but for the 1864 battle at **Fort Stevens (Massachusetts)** *the Nation's capital would have been captured, the Lincoln administration dispersed or even ousted from office and that the emancipation would not have transferred to a postwar existence of two nations that accompanied Confederate victory* (c) the memory of America's veterans who shed blood here and (d) the interim generations of Washingtonians who built a thriving Brightwood neighborhood – seems palpable!

Even with appreciation of the Church's desires, I very respectfully ask that the BZA disallow the proposed development. Interference physically and aesthetically with the **Fort Stevens (Massachusetts)** national, city and neighborhood treasure should command attention for alternatives and solutions that would benefit all parties.

Thank you for your consideration. If I may be of further help, do not hesitate to call upon me.

Enclosures:

- A. Cooling credentials
- B. Historical material from
Mr. Lincoln's Forts

Yours respectfully,

Benjamin Franklin Cooling

Dr. B. Franklin Cooling is a well-known historian of military and naval history who has specialized in the Civil War, authoring numerous publications including;

(*) STUDIES OF THE CIVIL WAR IN TENNESSEE AND KENTUCKY

- * Forts Henry and Donelson; Key to the Confederate Heartland
- * Fort Donelson's Legacy; War and Society in Kentucky and Tennessee, 1862-

1863

- * He is presently completing To Franklin, Nashville and Beyond; Stabilization and Reconstruction in Tennessee and Kentucky, 1864-1866

(*) STUDIES OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION DURING THE CIVIL WAR

- * Symbol, Sword and Shield; Defending Washington During the Civil War
- * Mr Lincoln's Forts – co-authored with Walton Owen
- * Jubal Early's Raid on Washington, 1864
- * Monocacy; The Battle that Saved Washington
- * Counter Thrust; From the Peninsula to the Antietam
- * He is presently working on "The Day(s) Mr Lincoln was almost Shot; Fort Stevens D.C., July 11 and 12, 1864"

(*) STUDIES IN NAVAL HISTORY

- * Benjamin Franklin Tracy; Father of the Modern American Fighting Navy

- * Gray Steel and Blue Water Navy, The Formative Years of America's Military-Industrial Complex 1881-1917
- * USS Olympia; Herald of Empire

(*) STUDIES ON THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

- * War, Business, and American Society; Historical Perspectives on the Military-Industrial Complex
- * War, Business and World Military-Industrial Complexes
- * He is currently working on a definitive study of the evolution of America's military-industrial complex to today's national security state

(*) A native of Washington and graduate of Calvin Coolidge High School, he holds a B.A. from Rutgers University and M A and Ph.D degrees from the University of Pennsylvania.

(*) A veteran of various government history programs, he served as Chief Historian, Department of Energy and Associate Dean and now is a Professor of National Security Studies, Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University in Washington.

MR. LINCOLN'S FORTS



A Guide to the

**Civil War Defense
of Washington**
New Edition

Mr. Lincoln's Forts

A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington

New Edition

Benjamin Franklin Cooling III
Walton H. Owen II

Foreword by Edwin C. Bearss



THE SCARECROW PRESS, INC.
Lanham • Toronto • Plymouth, UK
2010

posed of barracks, stables, tools, timber, brick, nails, hinges, roofing material, and other commodities from local engineer camps nearby. Eventual incorporation of this section of the Defenses into Rock Creek Park ensured some measure of preservation as the city itself expanded into the vicinity.¹⁰

Fort Stevens, "The Battle," and Battleground National Cemetery

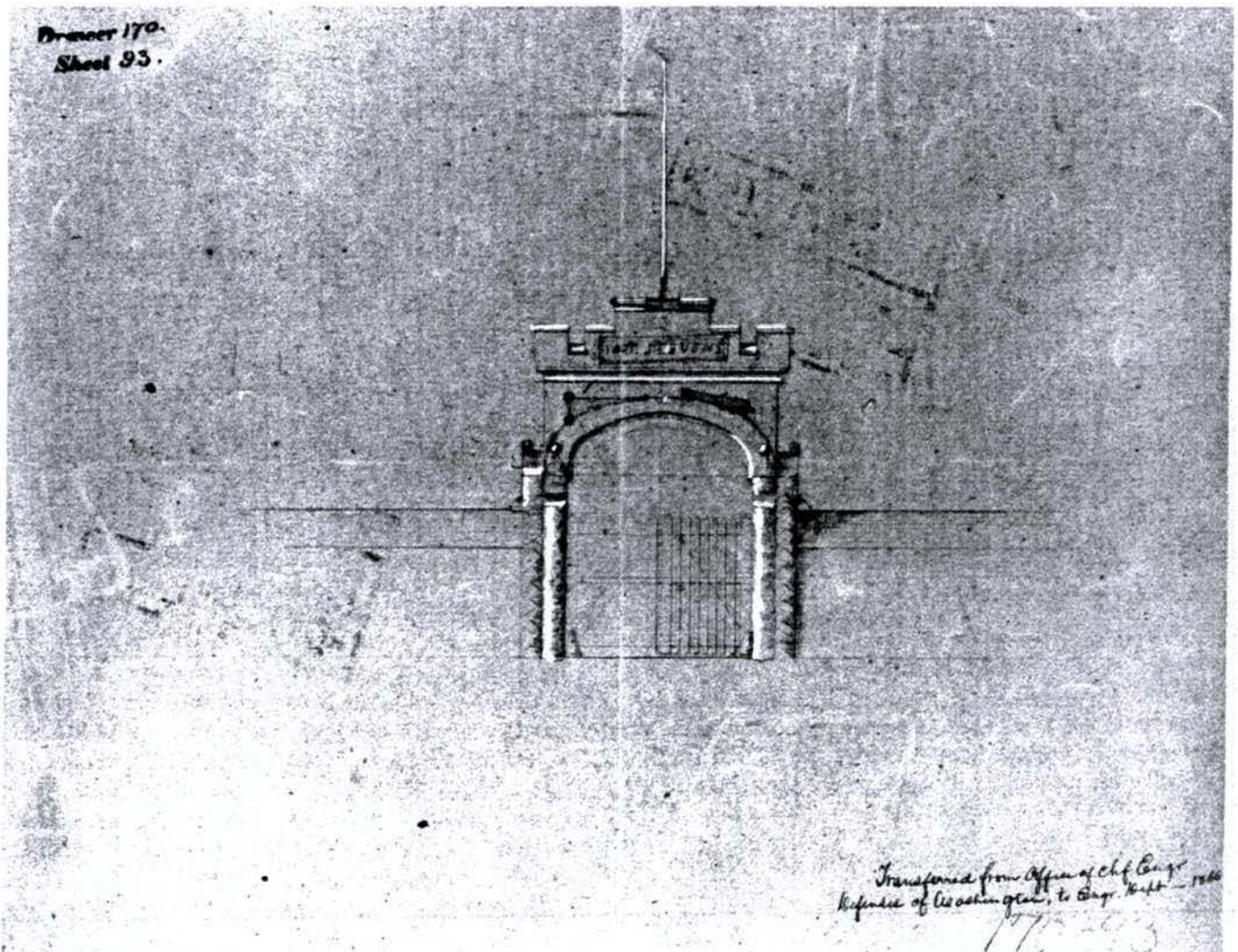
Location

From the park police station on Beach Drive, turn around, following Morrow Drive out of the park; Morrow Drive becomes Kennedy Street NW. Continue on Kennedy Street east to 13th Street (traffic light). Turn left on 13th Street to Fort Stevens in the park at 13th and Quakenbos streets. On-street parking and pedestrian visitation are available at the restored fort. Auxiliary batteries existed at approximately Rock Creek

Ford Road between 14th and 16th streets, Quakenbos and 7th streets, and in the block bounded by Peabody, Oglethorpe, 7th, and 8th streets NW. Rifle pits to the west of Fort Stevens ran approximately through the modern parkland between 13th Street/Piney Branch Road and Military Road.

Visible Remains

A portion of the parapet and one magazine of Fort Stevens were restored by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s. A generic Defenses of Washington sign, a wayside sign, and two interpretive bar relief markers can be found at the fort. Battleground National Cemetery on Georgia Avenue contains unit monuments and grave sites but no interpretive markers—all administered by National Park Service. The District of Columbia Office of Cultural Tourism and the Brightwood Neighborhood Association have de-



Gate to Fort Stevens—Engineer Drawing. National Archives

veloped a walking trail of the area with interpretive signs relevant to the fort, the battle, and local history

Description

The main battlefield of Fort Stevens encompassed an area roughly bounded by Walter Reed Army Medical Center (north), eastward beyond Piney Branch Road, Oregon Avenue beyond Rock Creek Park on the west, and south to Military Road/Missouri Avenue (behind Union lines). Skirmishing took place across the northern lines from west and north of Tennytown to Rockville and east to the rail and turnpike to Baltimore at Fort Lincoln. Artillery impact areas reached to the modern Bethesda Naval Medical Center on Wisconsin Avenue and Confederate wagon parks on modern Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring. The epicenter of the action on the afternoon of July 12, affecting President Abraham Lincoln's presence at the battle, was probably in the high ground vicinity of 13th Street and Van Buren Street north of Fort Stevens and south of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, now largely residential but with a District of Columbia recreational area (park) and terrain clearly discernible eastward beyond Battleground National Cemetery and Piney Branch Road.

Fort Stevens was an expansion of Fort Massachusetts, originally constructed on the eastern portion of the site, now occupied by church and other buildings. Constructed by men of Darius B. Couch's brigade from that state, the work was subsequently expanded and renamed in honor of Brigadier General Isaac I. Stevens, who was killed at Chantilly, Virginia, on September 1, 1862. It was constructed near a crossroads called "Brighton" (later "Brightwood") marked by Moreland tavern, a nearby free-black community "Vinegar Hill," abundant springs, and verdant countryside.

Commenced in the wake of the defeat at the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) in July 1861, Fort Massachusetts had a perimeter of about 168 yards, ten cannon, and a 200-man garrison. Expansion took place after the Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) in September 1862, when the size grew to 375 perimeter yards, and the name was changed to Fort Stevens. The expanded work was a lunette with a stockaded gorge or rear face, and nineteen guns and mortars were mounted in this fort. They included two eight-inch siege howitzers (en embraiture), six 24-pounder siege guns (en embraiture), four 24-pounder seacoast guns (evenly split between embraiture and barbette fire), five 30-pounder Parrott rifles (en embraiture), and one ten-inch and one 24-pounder Coehorn mortar. Like virtually all forts in the system, the armament seems to have changed during the war. In May 1864, Fort Stevens ostensibly mounted four 24-pounder seacoast cannon (en barbette), six

24-pounder siege guns (en embraiture), two eight-inch siege howitzers (en embraiture), and five 30-pounder Parrott rifles (en embraiture).

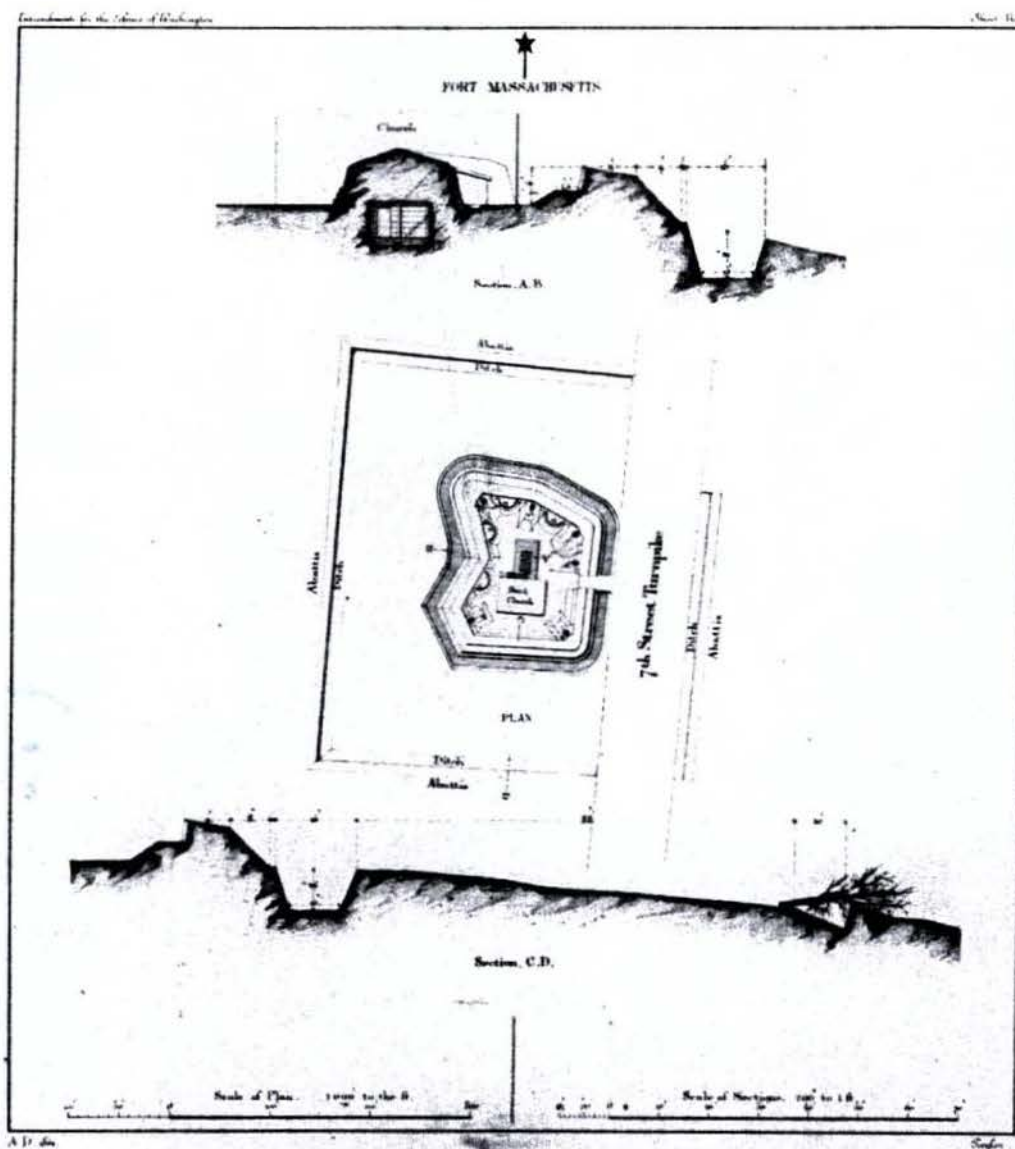
Fort Stevens was described in 1864 as a "large enclosed work, situated on high ground" overlooking the terrain to its front for several miles. It commanded the vital Seventh Street Turnpike (renamed Seventh Street Road in 1871) artery leading directly into Washington from Silver Spring. It was enclosed by abatis, and behind the fort lies a hollow that could mask large bodies of troops from enemy artillery fire. The fort contained two magazines (one in the original section, one in the expanded part of the fort) and a bombproof for a garrison now calculated at 423 officers and men. Inspectors merely gave the fort a "fair" combat readiness rating.

Fort Stevens was located 5.2 miles from the Capitol and stood 321 feet above sea level.

Notes/Anecdotes

As at Fort Reno, the vicinity of Fort Stevens (Massachusetts) became a favorite campsite for various regiments such as the 7th and 10th Massachusetts, 2d Rhode Island, and 36th New York. "Camp Brightwood" was the name applied to camping areas familiar to such units as Elisha Hunt Rhodes's 2d Rhode Island and today continues as the title for this particular neighborhood in the city. Camp Stetson (1st Maine Heavy Artillery) and Camp Doubleday (76th New York) were also associated with the area, and an invalid camp existed here for soldiers ravaged by malaria contracted during McClellan's Peninsula campaign of 1862. Less formal encampments were those of the 112th and 117th New York on Rock Creek Ford Road, the 136th and 137th Pennsylvania Infantry, and the 2d Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery. The nearby Brightwood Hotel served as a command post during the Battle of Fort Stevens in July 1864, while the palatial summer home of prominent builder and local militia leader Matthew Gault Emery located on higher ground southeast of the fort served as a signal station and headquarters during the war and can be identified in period sketches of Camp Brightwood.

B. W. Sulfrin provided insight into the minds of the soldiery at Camp Brightwood when he wrote his wife and son on October 4, 1861, how "we are not treated half as well as any slave out here" and predicted that "if we was all at home that we could not get five out of a Regiment and to volunteer again, they would have to draft the next time." Still, he would "fight for the Union and the stars and stripes, the Union and my dear family is all I am laboring for, it can't last forever." He was true to his country, so let the authorities "do as they please with us but if at last we can come



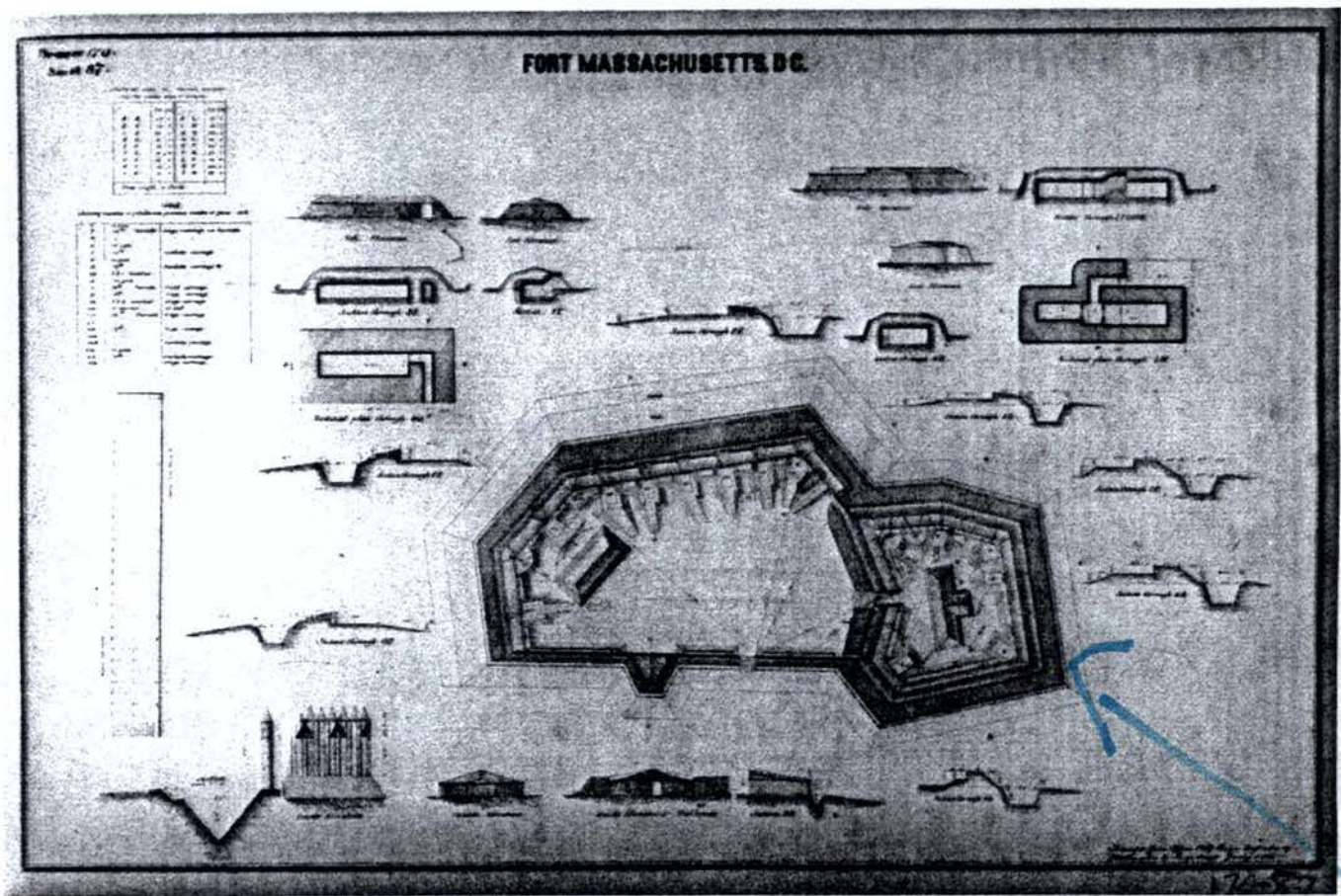
Fort Massachusetts—Engineer Drawing, National Archives

out victorious and come home to our dear families it is all I ask. . . . I think I can stand it as long as the rest."

The 2d Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery took particular pride in its role of expanding Fort Massachusetts into Fort Stevens. Companies D and K were stationed here from May through November 1862. The regimental historian declared, "Historians will not likely condescend to give credit to this regiment's part in the defense against Early's advance." But, he contended, "had Fort Massachusetts and Slocum remained as they were in 1862, Gen. Early would have had no difficulty in reaching Washington City by route of the Seventh Street Road."

This expansion of Fort Massachusetts may have contributed another vignette to *Lincolniana* and the history of Fort Stevens. One of the fort's magazines

(that in the original portion) had been constructed from the cellar of the old brick Emory Methodist chapel on the site (ironically where the modern church of that name stands today). When the Pennsylvanians expanded the fort westward, they tore into the house of a free black woman, Mrs. Elizabeth Proctor "Aunt Betty" Thomas, who owned the land in the vicinity, to build a second magazine. She and her husband James farmed the eleven acres that this free black woman owned in the area. Aunt Betty recalled after the war that she could not understand the German speech of the officers and men when they arrived to enlarge the Union fort. They began removing her furniture out of her house and then demolished the structure. That evening, as she sat under a nearby sycamore tree, her only shelter, with her six-month-old baby in her



Fort Stevens (Fort Massachusetts Expanded)—Engineer Drawing, *National Archives*

arms, a tall slender man, dressed in black, came up and said to her, "It is hard, but you shall reap a great reward." She claimed that it was President Lincoln. She concluded her tale that she was still waiting for that reward, commenting wryly that if the sixteenth president had lived, she knew her claim would have been honored. Aunt Betty died in 1917 at age ninety-six, the darling of veterans' reunions that gathered at the fort site on her property.

Apocryphal or not, Lincoln returned with his wife and other officials at the height of the battle of July 11–12, 1864, at Fort Stevens. Arguably, he became the only president to actually come under enemy fire while in office. At some point, he mounted the parapet, swept by Confederate sharpshooters' fire. Only when a surgeon was cut down nearby could the president be induced to retire from the exposed perch. The president and First Lady also visited the fort's hospital. All of this so unnerved Mrs. Lincoln that she swooned, prompting Lincoln's laconic comment that she would never make a good soldier if she fainted at the sight of blood.

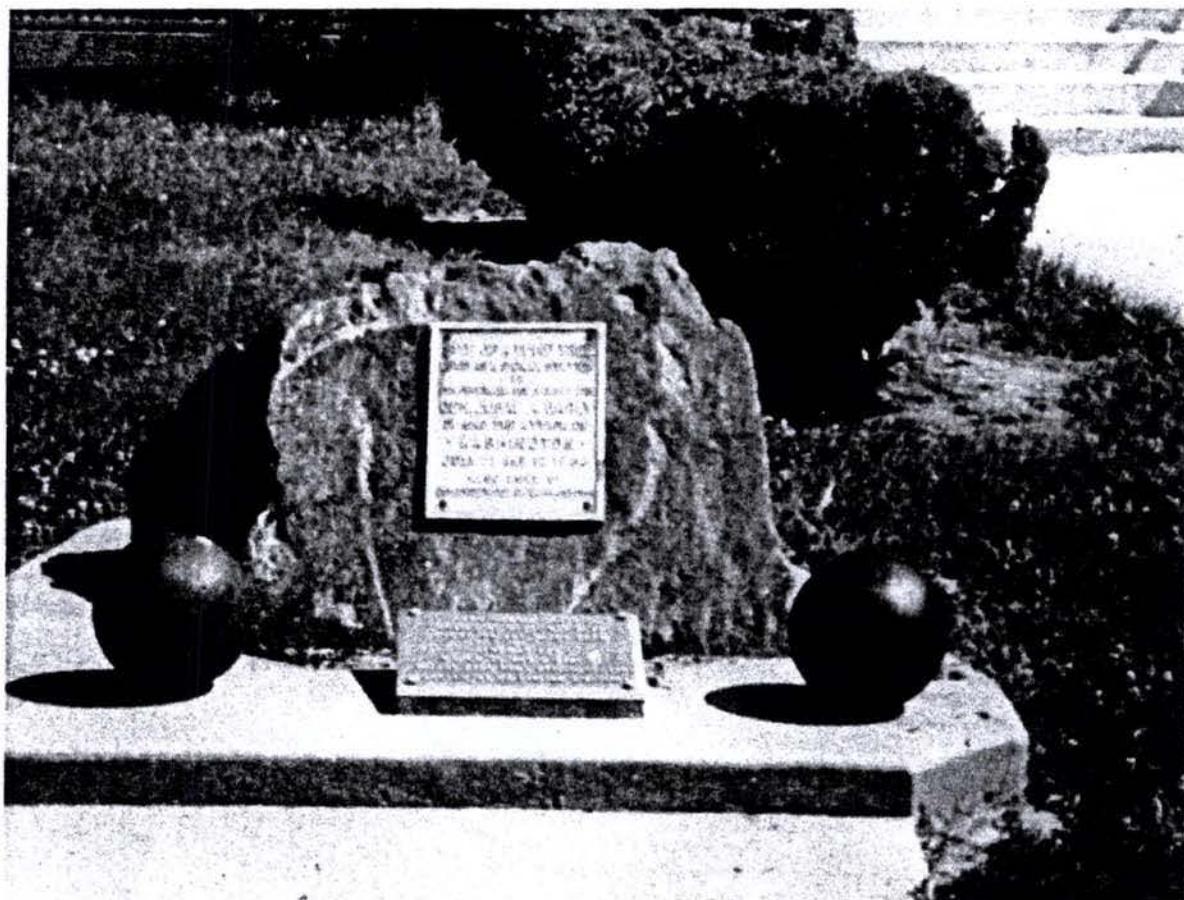
Postbattle analysis led Major General Christopher Augur, commanding the Department of Washington,

to recommend that "in case of threatened attack there should be two field batteries here (twelve pieces), one of them to be a mounted battery. These pieces are to arm the batteries between Rock Creek and Piney Branch, including Battery Sill."

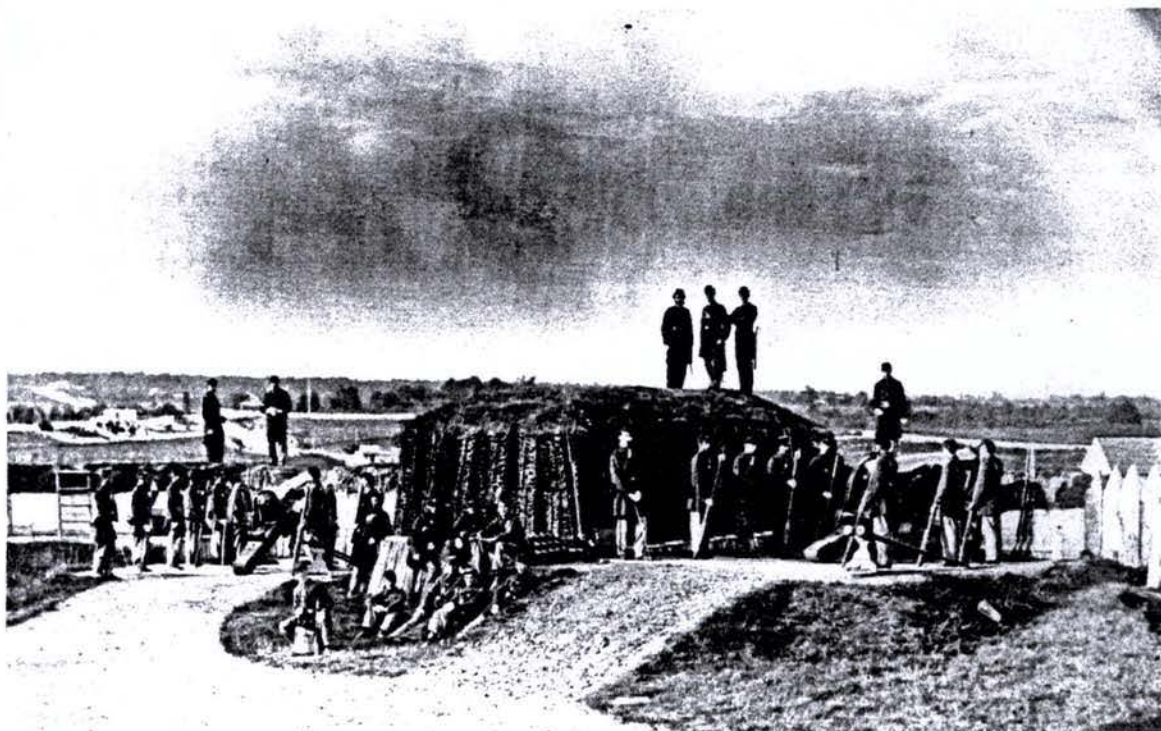
Identifiable units relating to garrisoning Fort Stevens during the postbattle period included the following:

- 150th Ohio National Guard, Cos. B, K, July 1864
- 1st New Hampshire Heavy Artillery, Co. D, September 1864
- 1st New Hampshire Heavy Artillery, Co. L, October–November 1864
- 3d Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, Co. D, November 1864–March 1865
- 3d Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, Co. K, March–June 1865
- 3d Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, Co. F, June 1865

Generally, life at Fort Stevens aptly reflected one soldier's contention on January 30, 1864, that "here it's the same thing over and over everyday, we have to drill and go on inspection every fair day and that is all there is to it." They would periodically march over

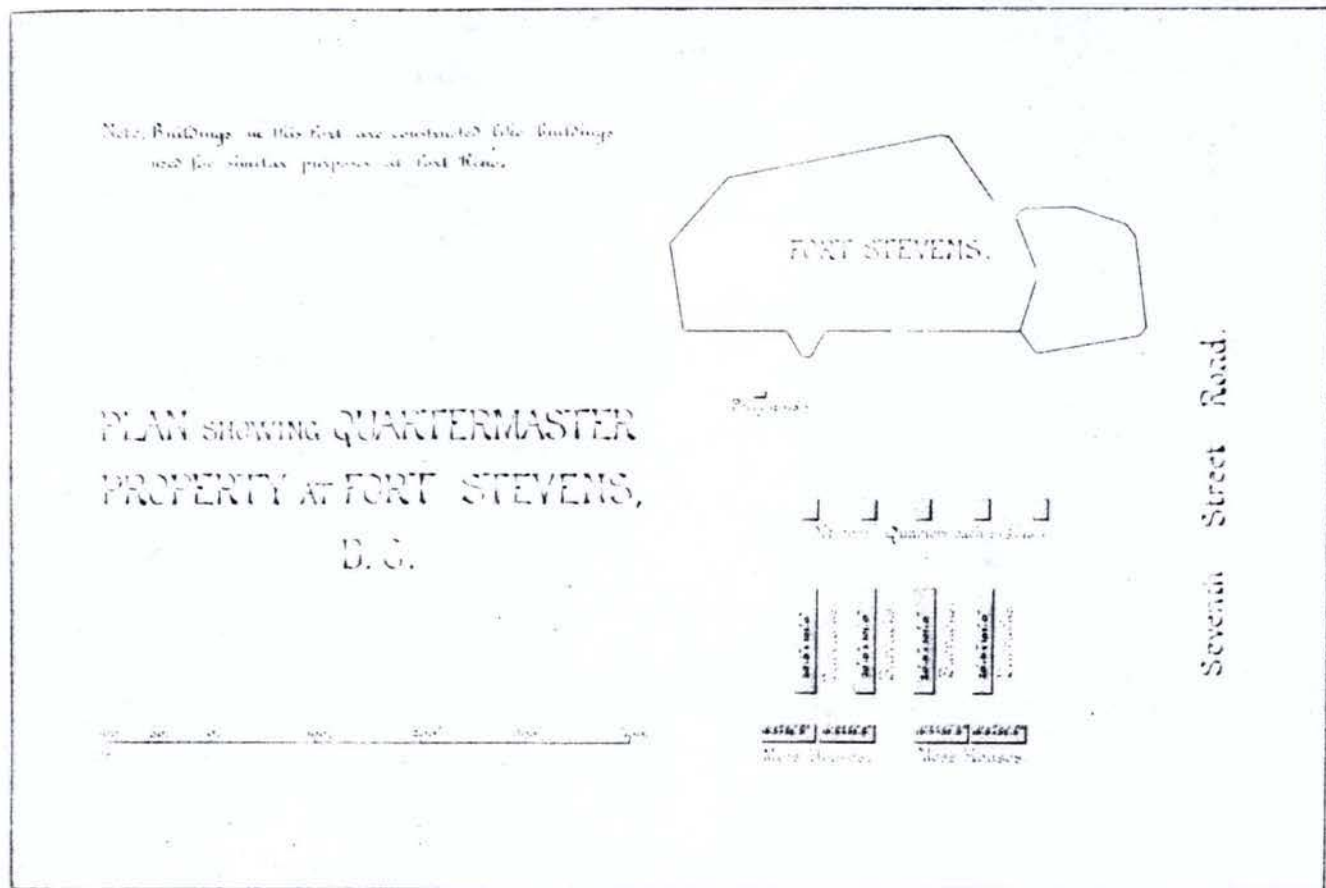


Plaque Commemorating Sharpshooter's Tree at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. *Authors' Collection*



Co. F, 3rd Massachusetts Heavy Artillery in Fort Stevens—Battlefield in Distance. *Library of Congress*

GENERAL PLAN-FORT STEVENS.



Plan of Quartermaster Property at Fort Stevens. National Archives

to Fort Slocum "and pass in review then have dress parade, then come home again and with all the travel." He admitted to being "considerable tired." Happily promoted to sergeant, however, he then endured hours of studying artillery and infantry tactics before appearing before the captain three times a week for testing and tutoring. Interestingly, such educational activities at Fort Stevens eventually slipped over into a different dimension for the bored Union garrison.

Building on Brightwood's free-black community that preceded even formal District of Columbia emancipation in 1862, Fort Stevens and the numerous army camps attracted freed people looking for protection and work. By 1864 and 1865, garrison soldiers set up a school for African American children in a frame government building, the antecedent to the later Military Road School (an Italian Renaissance-style structure now housing a Latin American Montessori bilingual public charter school).

Like other Washington forts, Fort Stevens was abandoned during the summer following Appomattox. Both the fort and the battlefield remained neglected during the postwar years until returning veterans like Lewis Cass White, who had fought in the battle with the 102d Pennsylvania Infantry, became distressed with the situation. White purchased land between the Toll Gate at Piney Branch Road and the Seventh Street Road (the high-water mark of Early's advance on the capital) and what later became Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Leading a movement for a "Fort Stevens Lincoln Memorial Association," White located prominent landmarks, such as the parapet where Lincoln stood under fire and a famous tulip tree, which served as "the sharpshooters' tree." The site is now marked by a plaque about 100 yards inside the old Georgia Avenue entrance to Walter Reed. By 1900, the association had organized and during the next decade raised funds to erect a

table and boulder marking the site of "Lincoln under Fire." Dignitaries unveiled the boulder and plaque depicting Lincoln's action on November 7, 1911. The work (which stands atop the parapet today), done by Tennessee veteran Richard Seek, vied for audience attention with a speech by Early's old artillery commander and later Louisiana congressman Floyd King, who eulogized Lincoln as one of the staunchest friends of the South and proclaimed that he, King, was happy that the Confederate attack had failed.

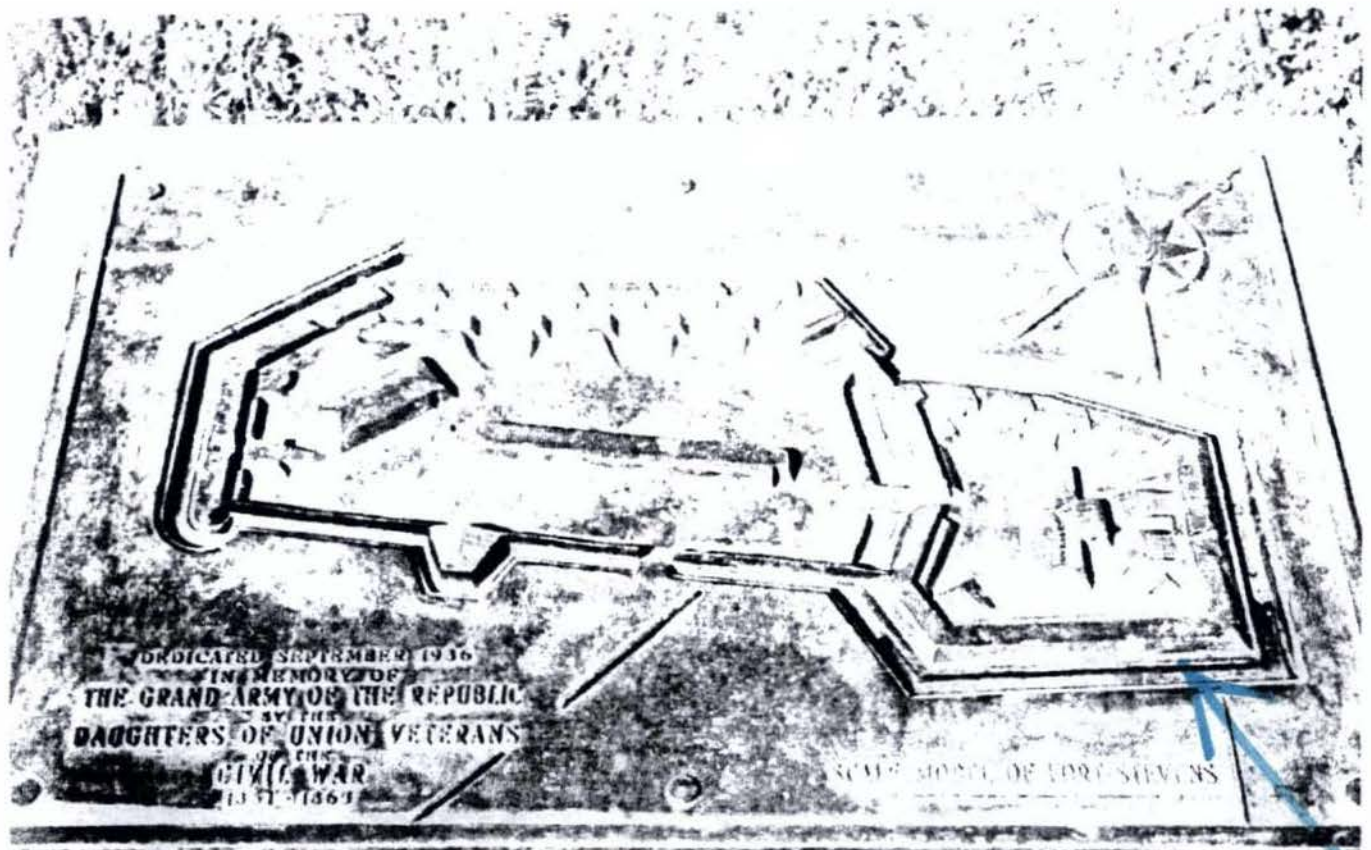
The Associated Survivors of the VI Corps dedicated a bronze bas-relief that depicted Lincoln under fire at Fort Stevens. It was sculpted by J. Otto Schwizer.

The western portion of Fort Stevens's parapet was restored in 1937–1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, substituting concrete for wooden revetments, embrasures, gun platforms, and a stockaded gorge trace. The western magazine likewise was recon-

structed, but gone were the bombproofs, the older part of Fort Massachusetts, and the full rear stockade. The Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War provided a bas-relief map of the fort. Each year, the National Park Service holds a commemorative service at the fort on the anniversary of the battle. Here, the visitor will find replica cannon, the Lincoln stone, and bas-relief map of the fort. But it is difficult to envision a rural battlefield panorama amid the urban sprawl of today's Washington. A visitor center is conspicuously absent at a site that has such a rich, colorful, and compelling history that should be shared with the public. There is an unrealized opportunity for the National Park Service to tell the full story of the Defenses of Washington and to provide context for the "fort" system of pocket parks and green-space rights-of-way that exist today at the sites where the forts once stood.¹¹



Schwizer's Bas-Relief Depicting Lincoln under Fire at Fort Stevens. Authors' Collection



Bas-Relief Map of Fort Stevens. Authors' Collection



Unrestored Fort Stevens in 1911. National Archives

The Fort Stevens Battlefield and Battleground National Cemetery

Location

The now-urbanized battlefield site embraces Walter Reed on the north, Oregon Avenue west of Rock Creek Park on the west, Military Road/Missouri Avenue on the south, and beyond Georgia Avenue/Piney Branch Road on the east. The epicenter lies in the vicinity of 13th Street and Van Buren Street NW to east of Battleground National Cemetery, all drivable on city streets.

Visible Remains

Marginal, although basic terrain remains identifiable, especially that area encompassed by the Walter Reed Army Medical Center grounds.

Description

The Battle of Fort Stevens lasted either thirty-three hours or five, depending on one's perspective. Skir-

mishing in the Brightwood section of Northwest D.C. began shortly after noon on July 11, 1864, and lasted until late evening of the next day. Heavy stand-up fighting occupied the latter part of the July 12, commencing around mid-afternoon or 4:00, varying on witness accounts, and did not cease until after dark, or about 9:00 P.M. The battle crossed the full spectrum, from sharpshooter fire to light skirmishing to heavy artillery barrage to crisp firefight, with Union attack and Confederate push-back late on the July 12. Most notably, the president of the United States came under enemy fire possibly for the only time while in office; a former vice president may have witnessed the affair from the other side. The Confederate force comprised hardened veteran "professionals," and their opponents included counterpart seasoned Army of the Potomac personnel as well as hastily recruited government clerks, hospital convalescents, dismounted cavalymen, and Ohio limited-service men, many of whom were veterans. Preservation/restoration of the ramparts of Fort Stevens directly traces to the actual fighting that threatened Lincoln's life and capture of the nation's capital.



Modern View of Ramparts of Fort Stevens. Authors' Collection

Relatively little of the actual battlefield remains. Existing are Fort Stevens and adjacent Federal line traces as well as the Battleground National Cemetery, all owned and managed by the National Park Service, and the outer reaches of Confederate sharpshooter tree site, bivouac and staging, and counterattack departure areas, all on the Walter Reed Army Medical Center grounds (subject to installation rules for access). The expansion of suburban Washington through the Brightwood, Takoma, and Shepherd Park subdivisions and the transition of adjacent areas of Silver Spring, Maryland, in the first half of the twentieth century doomed the battle area and Confederate positions around the Francis Preston and Montgomery Blair mansions along with most other surviving farms and structures from the 1864 scene. Modern Georgia Avenue and Piney Branch Road retain the original Seventh Street Road/Turnpike and Piney Branch Road configurations of the era.

Battleground National Cemetery

Location

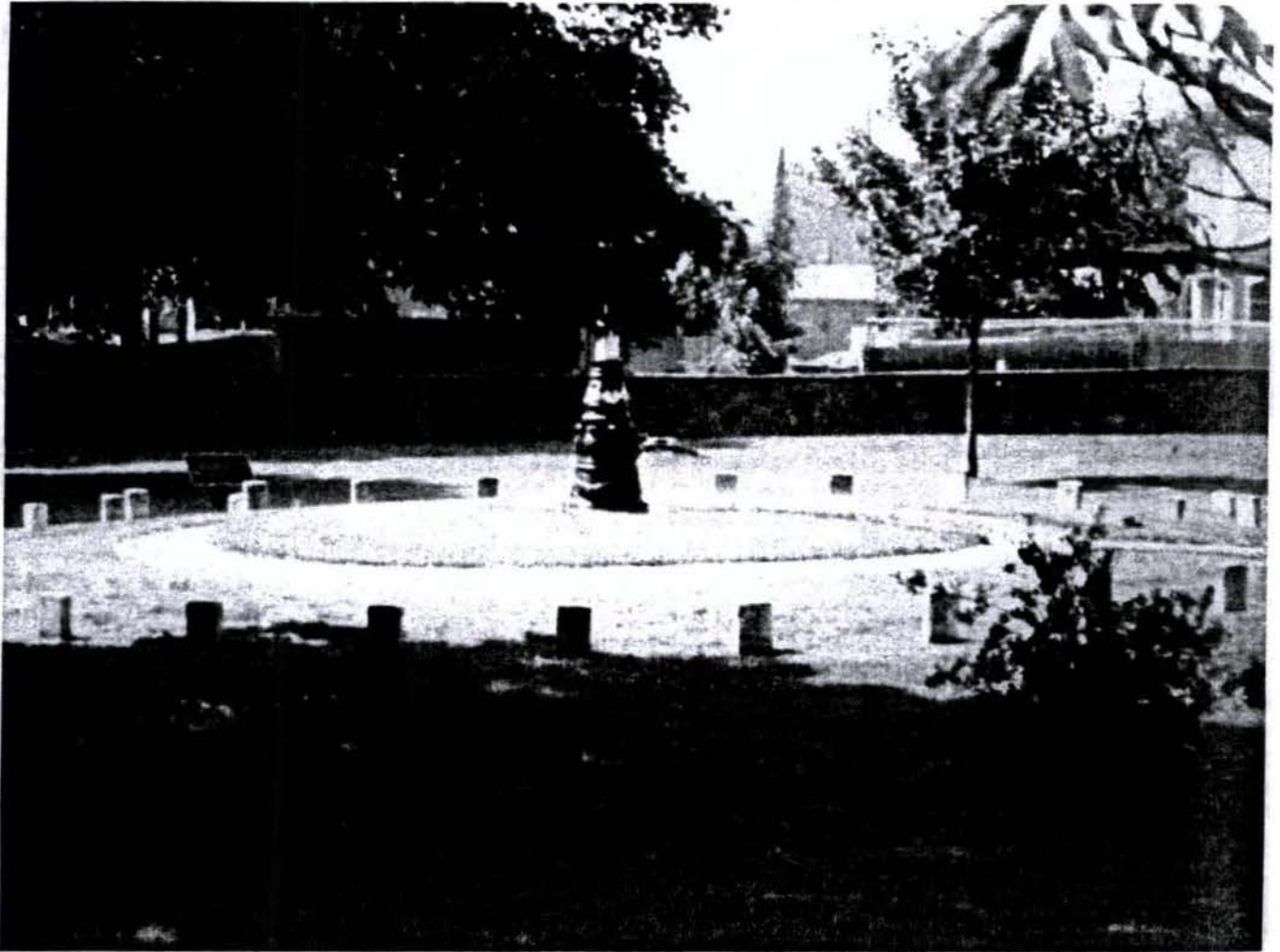
From Fort Stevens, proceed north on Georgia Avenue to the cemetery entrance at 6625 Georgia Avenue, NW.

Visible Remains

A well-kept national cemetery containing forty-one grave sites, a cemetery lodge (erected in 1871), a Doric-style rostrum on the east side of the cemetery (erected in 1920–1921), and a flagstaff can be seen. Four granite commemorative monuments to units participating in the battle and twin-cannon entry guards are also notable. The monuments are to Company K, 150th Ohio National Guard (erected in 1907); 122d New York Infantry (erected in 1903); 98th Pennsylvania Infantry (erected in 1891), and 25th New York Cavalry (erected in 1914). Note colorful wayside sign and site restoration.



Modern Entrance to Battleground National Cemetery. *Authors' Collection*



Modern View of Soldier Graves, Battleground National Cemetery. Authors' Collection

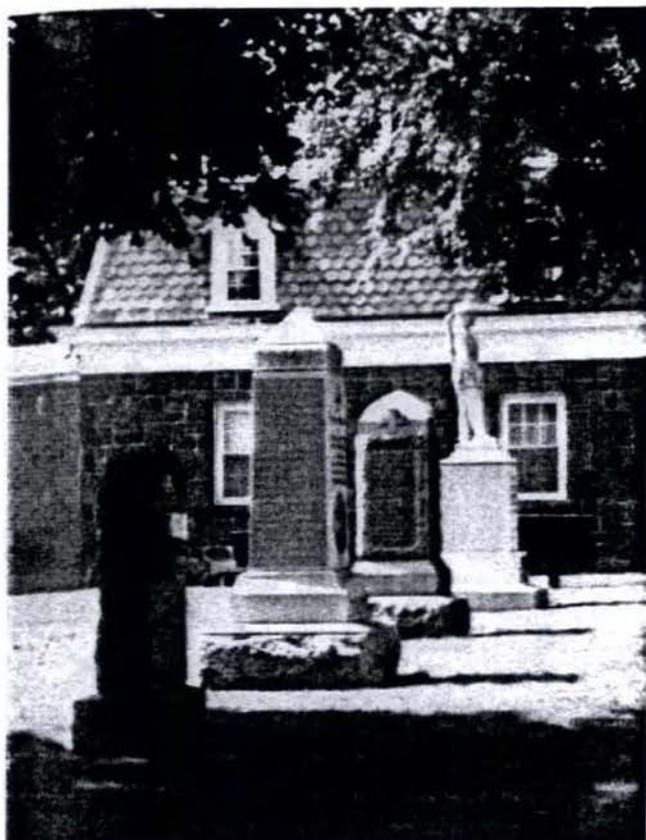
Description

The cemetery marks the site of the Battle of Fort Stevens, July 11–12, 1864. It contains forty of the fifty-nine dead and 145 wounded Federal casualties suffered in the battle. Barely an acre in size, Battleground National Cemetery is one of the nation's smallest national cemeteries and preserves some of the only surviving ground of Washington's only battlefield. Memorials to units participating in the battle and two 6-pounder artillery pieces can be found near the entrance. The sandstone superintendent's house also provides a monument to battle participant and soldier engineer/architect Quartermaster General Major General Montgomery C. Meigs, who designed the structure as well as the Pension Building (now the National Building Museum) and supervised the Washington Aqueduct and Capitol building completion.

Notes/Anecdotes

The significance of the site may be found in the roll of honor listing burials at Battleground National Cemetery. The last veteran of the Battle of Fort Stevens, E. R. Campbell, was buried there in 1936. Memorial Day ceremonies were long a feature of the community, and in the early twentieth century, surviving veterans of the encounter would gather on the porch of one of their comrades, Lewis Cass White, who had resettled to the neighborhood after the war to eat lunch and swap war stories of their experiences.

President Lincoln, for whom the afternoon battle on July 12 had been conducted and who had witnessed the ultimate sacrifice of the Union casualties in that action, spoke at the cemetery's dedication. Other than Battleground National Cemetery, the only other



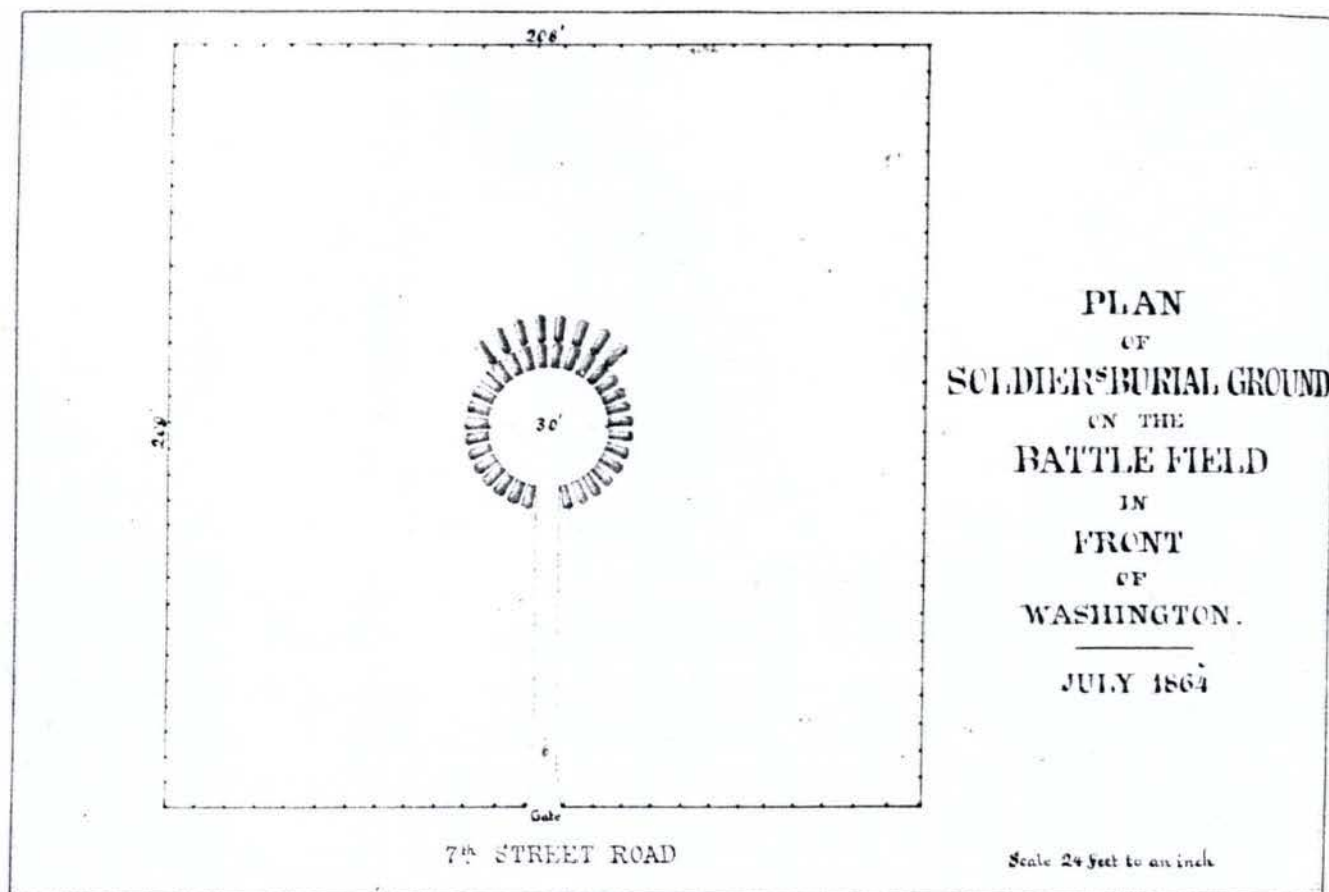
Modern View of Unit Monuments in Battleground National Cemetery. Authors' Collection

national cemetery so honored was Soldiers National Cemetery at Gettysburg.

The following Union soldiers, killed in action July 11 and 12, 1864, at the Battle of Fort Stevens, Brightwood, District of Columbia, are buried in Battleground National Cemetery. The updated and corrected list is attributable to a nine-year research project finished in 2008 by Ron Harvey of the National Park Service:

Ashbaugh, Andrew (Pvt.), 61st Pennsylvania Infantry, grave 26
 Barrett, Edward (Edwin) C. (Corp.), 43d New York Infantry, grave 30
 Bentley, John (Pvt.), 122d New York Infantry, grave 4
 Bowen, Philip (Pvt.), 61st Pennsylvania Infantry, grave 14
 Bavett, E. S. (civilian), Quartermaster Department, grave 9
 Castle, Richard [Mark Stoneham] (Sgt./1st Lt.), 43d New York Infantry, grave 2
 Chandler, Harvey P. B. (Pvt.), 122d New York Infantry, grave 37
 Christ, C. S. (Pvt.), 2d U.S. Artillery, grave 5

Davidson, John (Pvt.), 43d New York Infantry, grave 3
 De Graff, Matthew J. (Pvt.), 43d New York Infantry, grave 1
 Dolan, Andrew J. (Pvt.), 2d Massachusetts Cavalry, grave 27
 Dowen, Andrew J. (Pvt.), 77th New York Infantry, grave 31
 Ellis, John (Pvt.), 61st Pennsylvania Infantry, grave 36
 Farrar, George W. (Corp.), 43d New York Infantry, grave 8
 Frei, Wilhelm [William Tray or Gray] (Pvt.), 25th New York Cavalry, grave 19
 Garvin, George (Corp.), 61st Pennsylvania Infantry, grave 11
 Gillette, William H. (Pvt.), 49th New York Infantry, grave 39
 Gorton, George W. (Corp.), 1st Rhode Island Infantry, grave 6
 Hoerle, Bernard (Pvt.), 98th Pennsylvania Infantry, grave 23
 Hogeboom, David L. (Pvt.), 122d New York Infantry, grave 16
 Holtzman, William (Pvt.), 93d Pennsylvania Infantry, grave 20
 Hufletin, Elijah (Pvt.), 25th New York Cavalry, grave 17
 Kennedy, John (Pvt.), 122d New York Infantry, grave 13
 Laughlin, William (2d Lt.), 61st Pennsylvania Infantry, grave 28
 Lovett, Patrick (Pvt.), 37th Massachusetts Infantry, grave 12
 Maloney, Jeremiah (Pvt.), 25th New York Cavalry, grave 34
 Manning, Andrew (Pvt.), 77th New York Infantry, grave 29
 Marquet, George (Sgt.), 98th Pennsylvania Infantry, grave 7
 Matott, Ambrose (Corp.), 77th New York Infantry, grave 25
 McIntire, H. [Thomas Morrison] (Pvt.), 61st Pennsylvania Infantry, grave 15
 Mosier, Alanson (Pvt.), 122d New York Infantry, grave 32
 Mowry, Alvarado (Pvt.), 77th New York Infantry, grave 18
 Pockett, John (Pvt.), 7th Maine Infantry, grave 8
 Richards, John Milton (Sgt.), 139th Pennsylvania Infantry, grave 40
 Richardson, Thomas (Sgt.), 25th New York Cavalry, grave 35
 Ruhle, William (Corp.), 49th New York Infantry, grave 22



Battleground National Cemetery Plan. *National Archives*

Seahouse, Charles (Pvt.), 98th Pennsylvania Infantry, grave 24
 Starbird, Alfred C. (Sgt.), 25th New York Cavalry, grave 33
 Stevens, Russell L. (Pvt.), 3d Vermont Infantry, grave 21
 Walther, Frederick (Pvt.), 98th Pennsylvania Infantry, grave 10

The last veteran of the battle, Edward R. Campbell, 2d Vermont Infantry (who rose to the rank of major in the postwar U.S. Army), was buried in grave 41 on March 12, 1936, aged ninety-two. Three other graves contain the wife and three children, members of the family of Augustus Ambrecht, loyal cemetery caretaker after the Civil War. They are buried behind graves 28 and 29.

Confederate Monument

Location

To reach the burial site for seventeen Confederate dead from the battle, continue north on Georgia Avenue from the District of Columbia through Silver Spring

to corner of Georgia Avenue and Grace Church Road where, on the right, can be found the simple granite Confederate memorial shaft near the church.

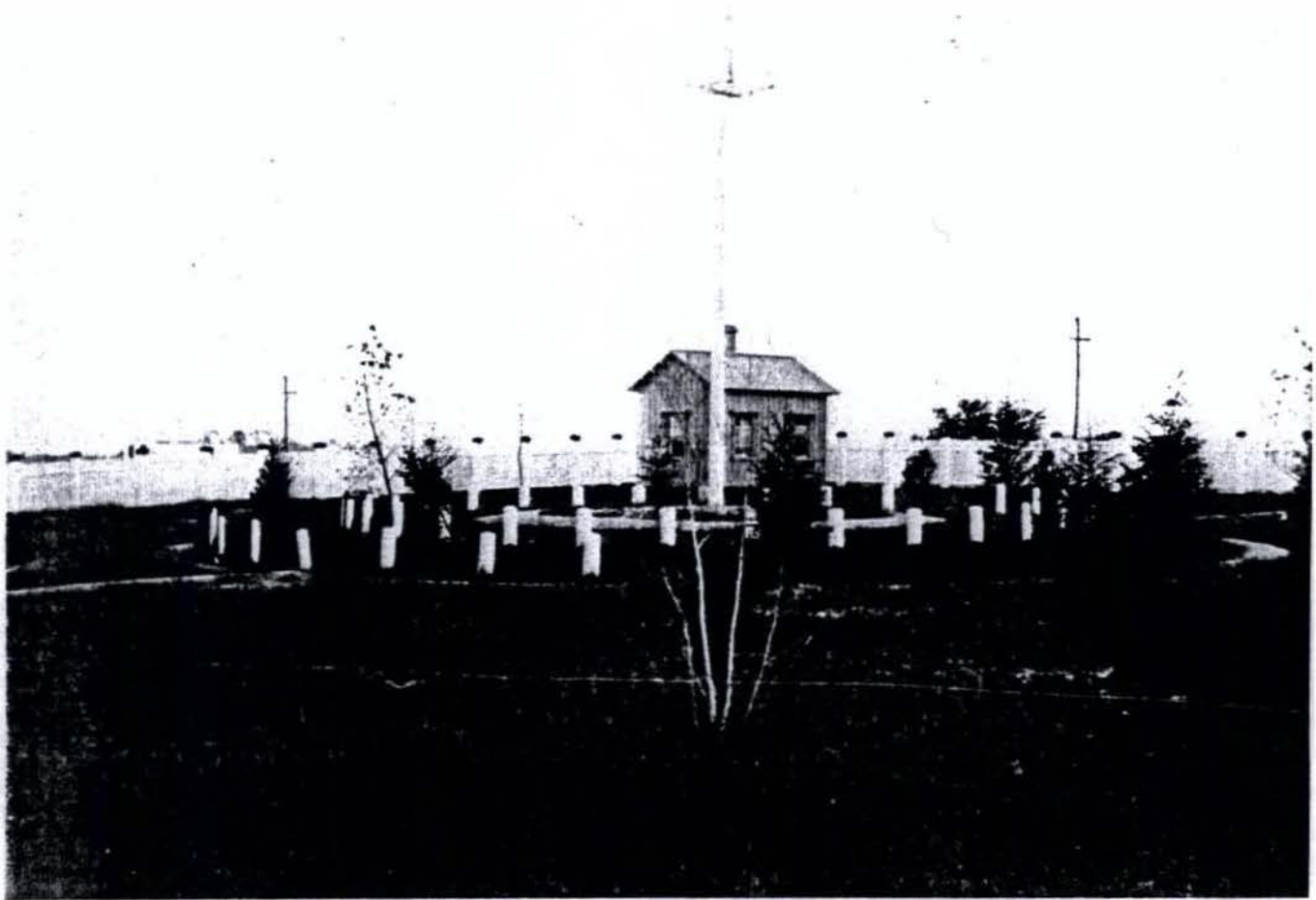
Description

The Confederate memorial shaft was erected in the memory of seventeen unknown Confederate dead who fell in front of Washington, D.C., on July 12, 1864.

Notes/Anecdotes

One amusing epitaph to Early's raid was discovered soon after the battle by Federal troops. It supposedly appeared on the flyleaf of one of Lord Byron's works that had been "liberated" from a ransacked local mansion by Early's troops:

Now, Uncle Abe, you had better be quiet the balance of your administration. We only came near your town this time to show you what we could do, but if you go on in your mad career we will come again soon, and then you had better stand from under. Yours respectfully,
 The Worst Rebel You ever Saw.



Battleground National Cemetery, ca. August 1865. *U.S. Army Military History Institute*

Fort Slocum—Companion to Fort Stevens

Location

From the Confederate burial site, return via Georgia Avenue NW past Battleground National Cemetery and Fort Stevens to Missouri Avenue (traffic light). Turn left on Missouri Avenue to 3d Street. Turn left on 3d Street to Madison Street and then turn right (an unarmed battery and a connecting trench remain in the park at Madison Street and 2d Place). Continue on Madison Street to Kansas Avenue. Turn left and continue to the top of the hill at Nicholson Street NW. Note the National Park Service generic Defenses of Washington sign on the left side of Kansas Avenue. Fort Slocum occupied the high ground roughly encompassed by Kansas Avenue, Blair Road, Nicholson Street, and Milmorson Place NW.

Visible Remains

The National Park Service preserves the badly eroded field gun battery and rifle pits in the park, labeled

"Fort Slocum Park." There is also an interpretive sign on Kansas Avenue.

Description

Fort Slocum was constructed by the 2d Rhode Island Infantry and named for its commanding officer, Colonel John S. Slocum, who was killed at the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas).

The fort was a strong work with a perimeter of 653 yards. It provided auxiliary fire for Fort Stevens on the Seventh Street Road to the west, and it covered the left and right forks of Rock Creek Church Road (modern Blair Road and New Hampshire Avenue) as they entered the District of Columbia.

Its armament consisted of twenty-five guns and mortars with fifteen platforms for field and siege pieces. Among the heavy ordnance were one eight-inch siege howitzer (en embasure), two 24-pounder siege guns (en embasure), two 24-pounder seacoast guns (en embasure), four 24-pounder howitzers (en embasure), seven four-and-a-half-inch rifles (en em-

an important confrontation, a nasty bloodletting, and a wise decision. There was, in one sense, a victor, but no one was truly vanquished. Dusk ended what fighting there had been, and Early began his retreat to Virginia. The Defenses of Washington had held. Washington's defenders, overjoyed with the accomplishment of saving the city, engaged in no immediate pursuit. For the 100-day soldiers whose terms of service would soon be ending, it was an adventure of a lifetime.

Thus, the Confederate threat to Mr. Lincoln's city ended. Grant continued his relentless pressure at Petersburg. Jubal Early stayed in the lower Shenandoah Valley for the rest of the summer, threatening once more to move north of the Potomac. But Washington and the North had been scared: faith in the Union cause was shaken by the audacity of such a raid and its near success. The *Times* of London of July 25, 1864, concluded, "The Confederacy is more formidable an enemy than ever." One modern observer has con-

cluded, "That so splendid a ruse had been achieved is perhaps the finest tribute to Jubal's raid."³⁹ Lincoln survived to win reelection in November and enjoy another nine months in the White House. But it had been a close-run thing.

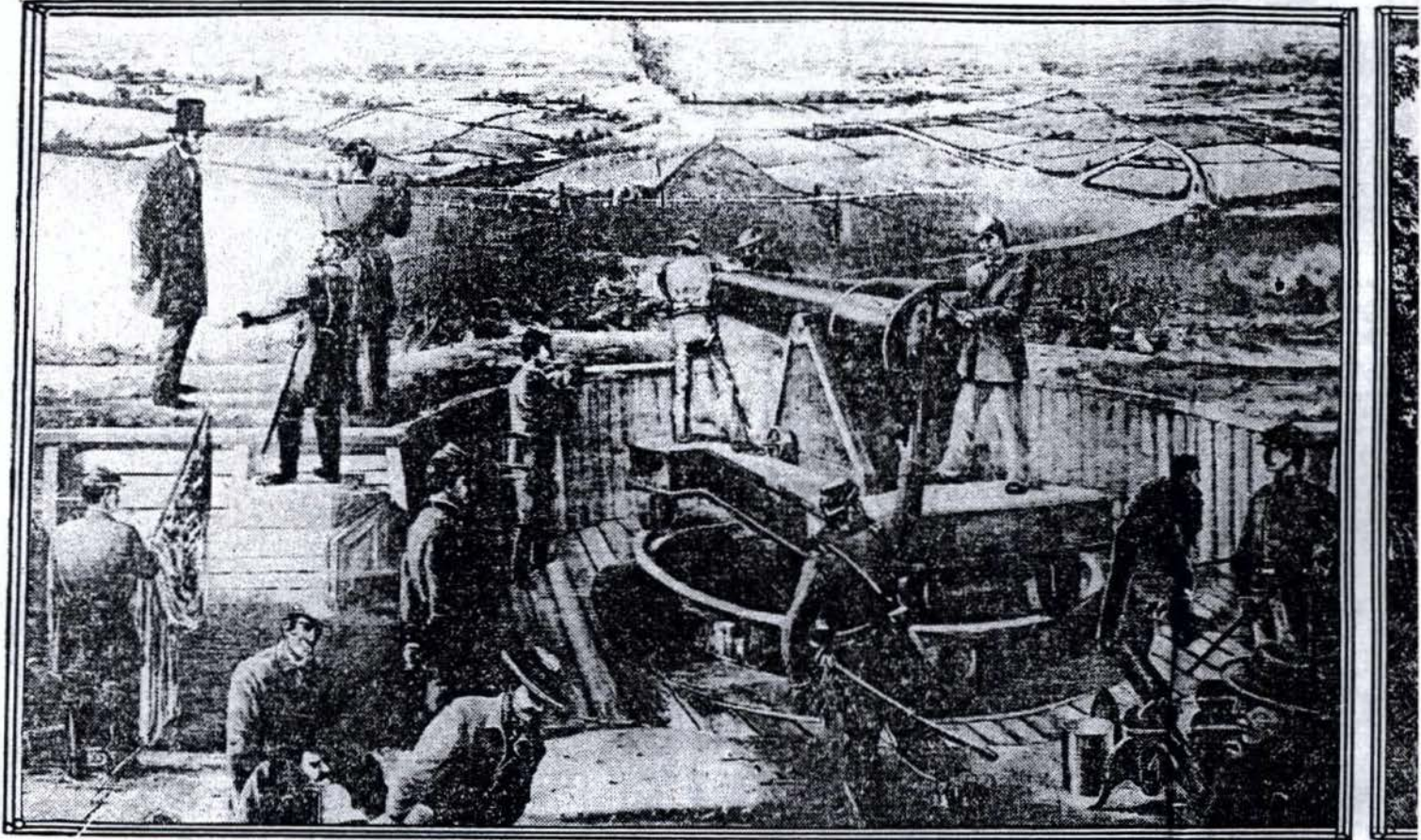
ENDING THE THREAT

Direct threat to the Federal capital decreased sharply after Early's attack. Interest in perfecting the defenses did not—at least not as far as the engineer officers were concerned. Surveys of the fortifications made prior to Early's summer raid had noted many deficiencies and the need for improvements to individual forts. The sodding and repair of parapets, the construction of bombproofs, and the cutting and clearing of undergrowth required many man-hours and occupied several hundred laborers each month once

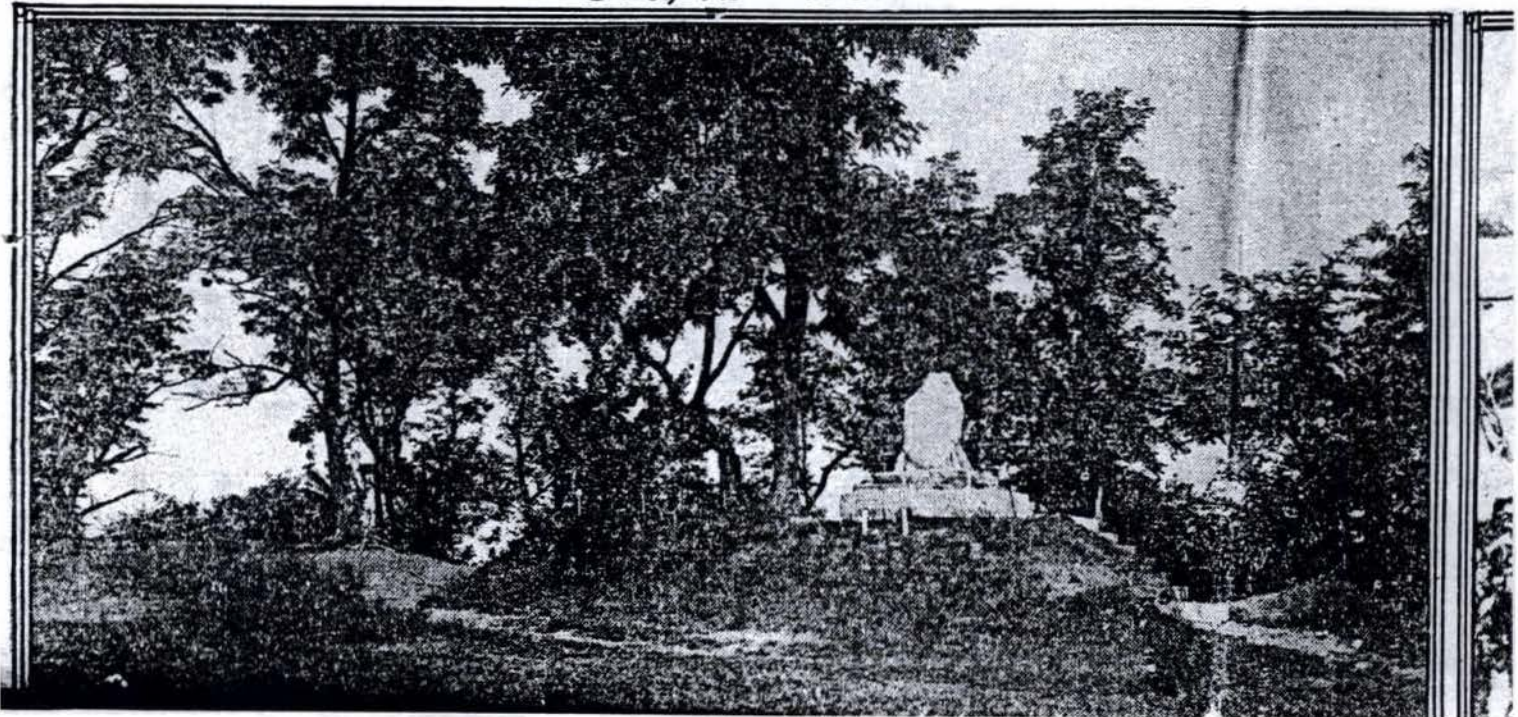


Temporary U.S. Soldier Graves near Fort Stevens' Barracks. Courtesy of Gil Barrett

WHERE THE SIXTH ARMY



PRESIDENT LINCOLN UNDER FIRE AT FORT STEVENS -
~ July 12th. 1864 ~

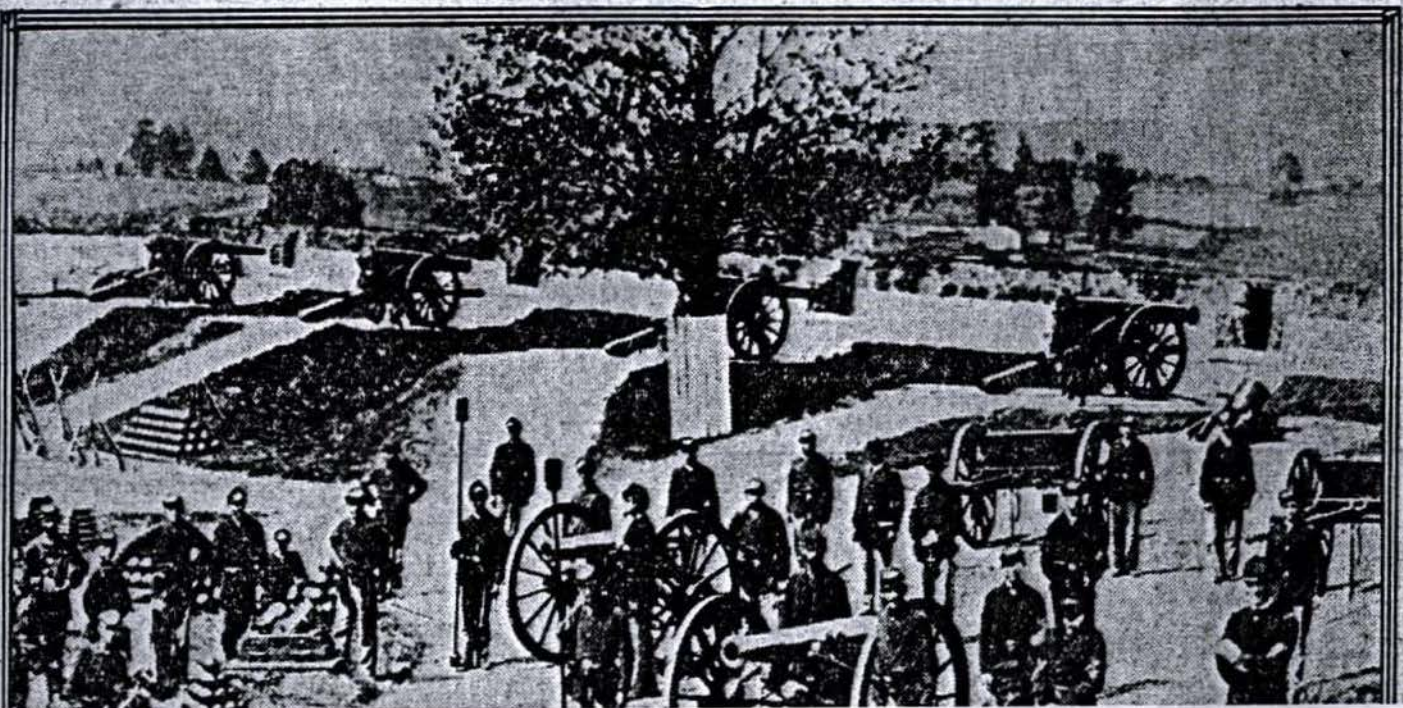


TIMES, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1915.

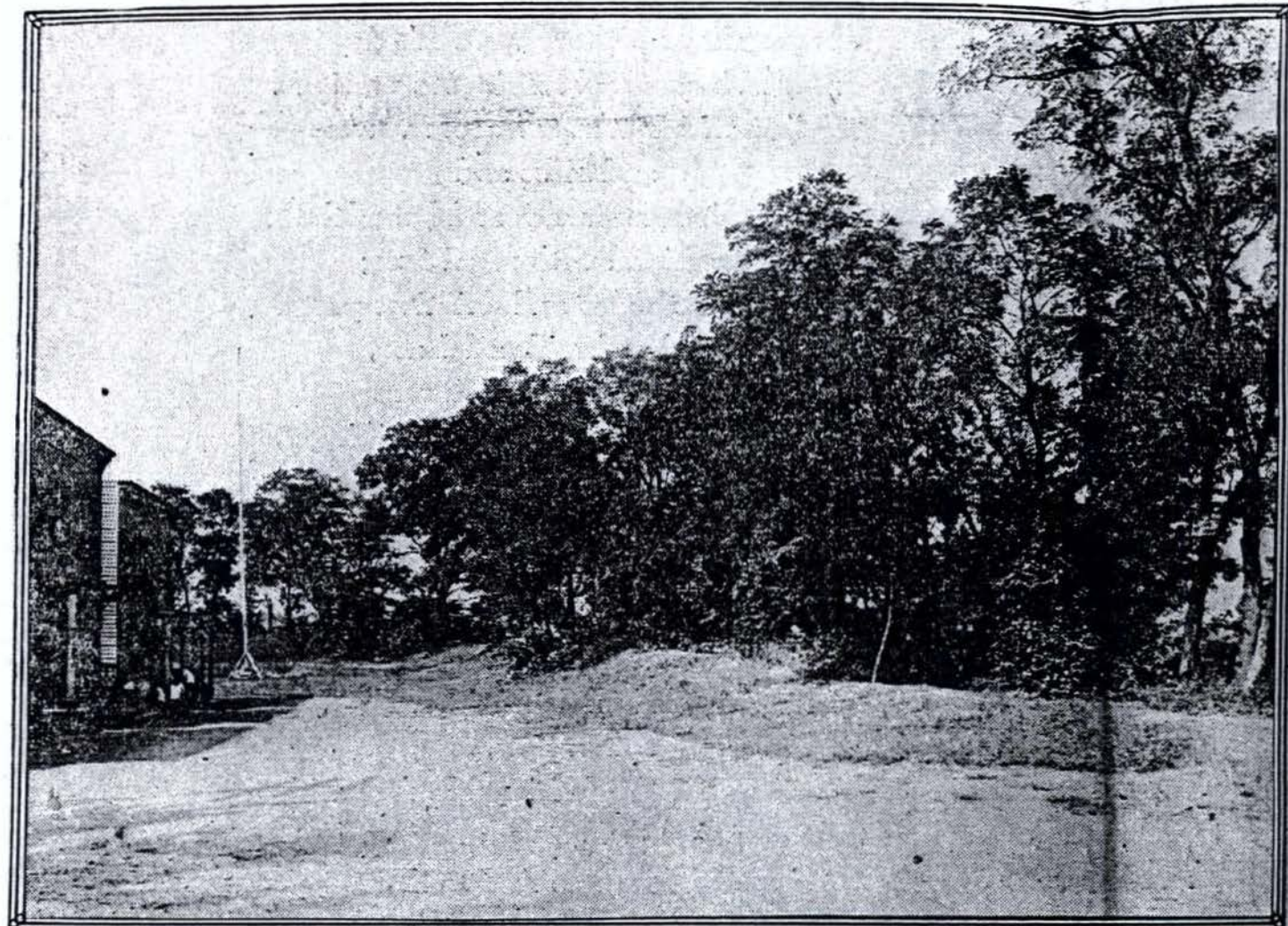
ARMY CORPS MEETS TODAY



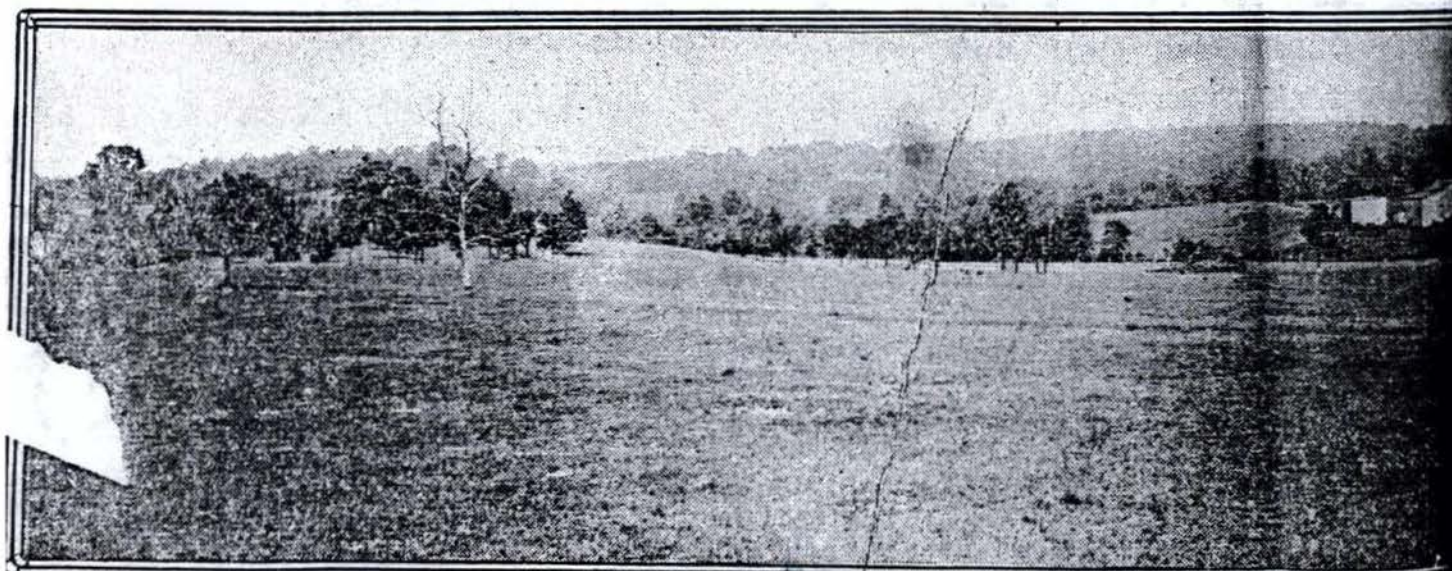
BOULDER SHOWING SPOT WHERE LINCOLN STOOD



GENERAL VIEW OF INTERIOR OF FORT STEVENS TO-DAY



ENTRANCE TO FORT STEVENS AND VIEW OF THE LEFT OF THE WORKS

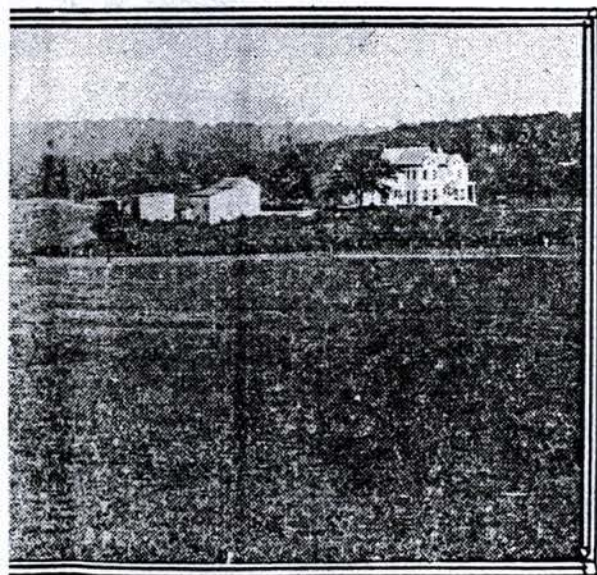


GENERAL VIEW FROM FORT STEVENS, SHOWING BATT

TO-DAY



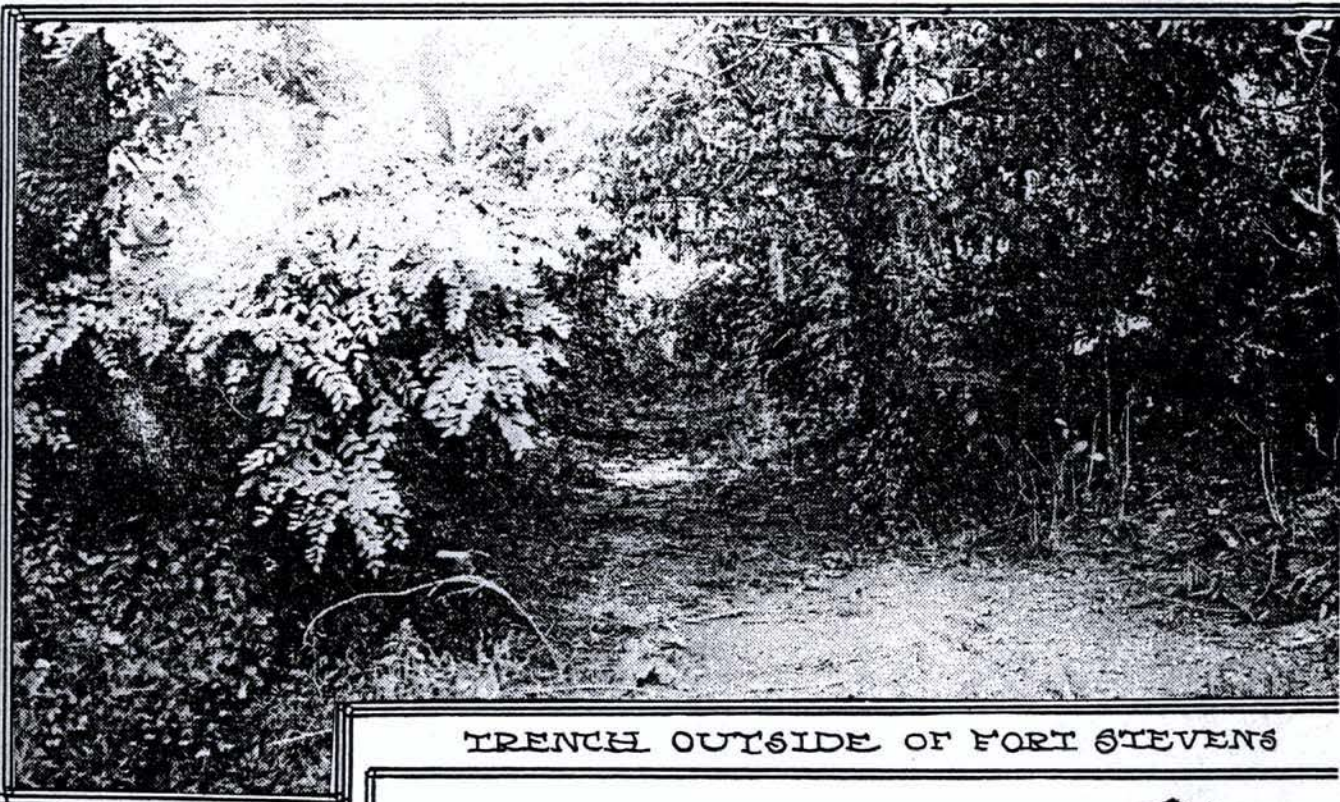
OF THE WORKS



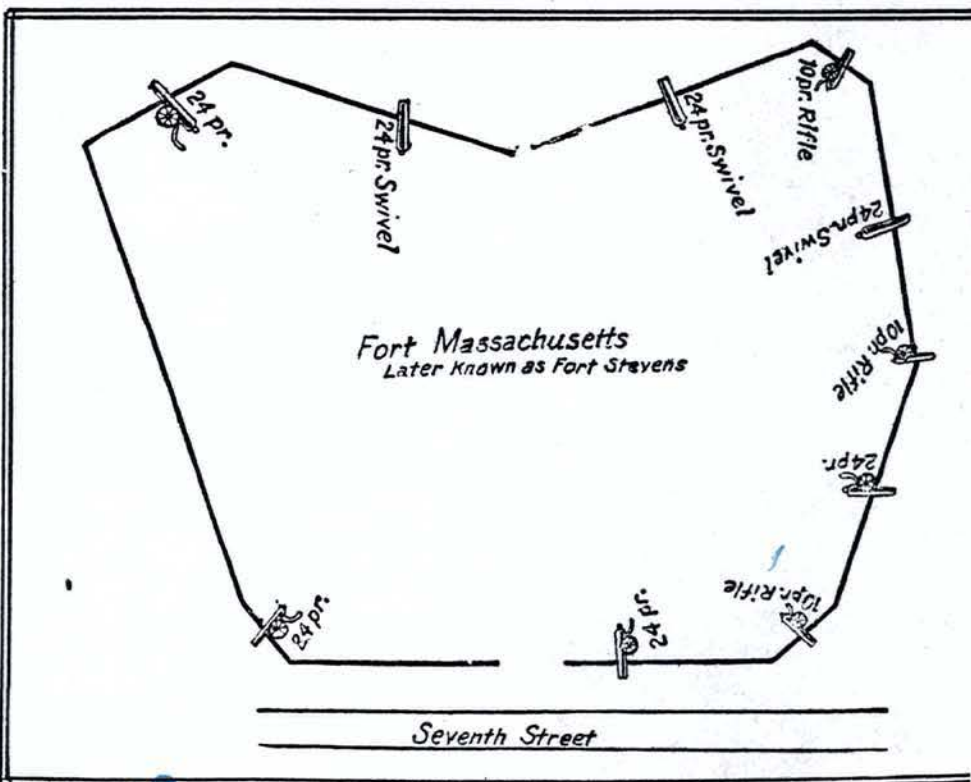
WING BATTLEFIELD



INTERIOR OF FORT STEVENS WHERE EARLY WAS REPULSED



TRENCH OUTSIDE OF FORT STEVENS



MAP OF FORT STEVENS

—Photos by