Form 10-300 (Rev. 4-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Virginia
COUNTY:	Hampton (Ind. City)
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1 NAME

COMMON: Fort Monroe

AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Monroe

2 LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Old Point Comfort, at northern terminus of U.S. 258, Hampton

CITY OR TOWN:	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Hampton	First (1st)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia 23651	51	Hampton (Ind. City)	650

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☒ District ☐ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☒ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☒ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Department of Army

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Washington	D.C. 20301	11

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Hampton	Virginia	51

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Hampton (Ind. City)
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed	
	(Check One) ☒ Altered ☐ Unaltered	(Check One) ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Monroe was designed by Simon Bernard, former aide to Napoleon I. It covers sixty-three acres of ground and had an armament of 380-412 guns; the fort is seven-sided, following the general plans of the fortifications designed by Marshal Vauban at Toul, France. The walls are ten feet thick at their base and twelve feet high.

Today, Fort Monroe is a dense amalgam of historic and contemporary structures. Significant buildings still standing include: Quarters No. 1, where President Lincoln planned the Union assault on Norfolk; Building No. 17 (Tuilleries), Robert E. Lee's quarters when he took his bride here while serving in the engineers; Building No. 27 (The Old Arsenal), built around 1860 and used first as part of the arsenal, later as part of the Artillery School; Old Point Comfort Lighthouse; built in 1802 and still in operation. The 54-foot high, octagonal stone walls and narrow stone spiral staircase have never needed restoration. It was used by the British in 1812 and extinguished by Union troops in 1861; Engineer Wharf, built by the Corps of Engineers about 1818, was the principal dock at Fort Monroe during the Civil War. The first West Point graduate killed in that war was shipped home from this dock. Lincoln and Jefferson Davis both used it, the latter to begin his captivity; Quarters No. 50, a double set of brick quarters located within the moated fort and built 1834-1839; Battery Irwin, the only battery where guns remain. It was completed in 1903 and mounted four 3-inch guns. During World War II it housed a 3-inch antiaircraft gun; Battery Parrott, the last Endicott battery at Fort Monroe. It mounted two 12-inch "Disappearing Rifles," Battery de Russy, completed in 1904, housed three 12-inch guns. A premature firing killed eleven men here in 1910; Battery Church, begun in 1897, housed two 10-inch guns. It served as a practical "classroom" for West Point cadets and the Coast Artillery's first Officer Candidate Classes in 1941; Battery Anderson/Battery George Ruggles, now crumbling, was once the biggest battery at Fort Monroe. It was completed in 1898 and held sixteen 12-inch mortars in four pits of four mortars each. They were removed as obsolete in 1942.

BOUNDARIES:

The buildings and structures mentioned above are found at various places throughout Old Point Comfort. The landmark site, therefore, must necessarily include all that land on Point Comfort enclosed by its sea wall. The boundaries are described by the red line on the accompanying map A, labelled "Fort Monroe, Hampton, Virginia," and dated May 1, 1974.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century
- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century
- ☐ 18th Century
- ☒ 19th Century
- ☒ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1819-1946

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - ☐ Prehistoric
  - ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☒ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☒ Political
- ☐ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Monroe is the largest fortress ever built in America. Edgar Allen Poe and Robert E. Lee served here as young men; Chief Black Hawk was taken here after the Black Hawk War of 1832. The fort was a haven for escaped slaves throughout the Civil War, and was a base of operations for many land and naval expeditions. Jefferson Davis was imprisoned here from 1865 until 1867.

The army's first service school for instruction in artillery was established at Fort Monroe in 1824. It remained there with temporary closings until 1946. The development of coast artillery and fortifications in this country from 1824 to 1904 is represented by the old Fort Monroe, illustrating the older era, and its detached batteries, representing the newer age of dreadnoughts and big guns.

Fort Monroe was designed by General Simon Barnard, once an aide to Napoleon I. The purpose of the fort was to afford a protected anchorage for the United States Fleet by controlling the channel from Chesapeake Bay into Hampton Roads. The fort would also close the waterway to enemy fleets attempting to attack cities of the Hampton Roads area, such as had occurred during the Revolution and the War of 1812. The batteries would also dominate an approach to Washington by way of Chesapeake Bay as the British had done in 1814. For all these reasons Fort Monroe became the keystone of an entire chain of forts, built under Bernard's direction, extending from Maine to Louisiana. It was constructed between 1819 and 1847, following the general plan of the fortifications designed by Marshall Vauban at Toul, France. No other fort in America was of comparable size and no fort in Europe not enclosing a town was larger. By 1825, Fort Monroe's garrison was the largest in the United States, with one-third of the artillery troops and one-tenth of the entire United States Army within its walls.

In 1828 Edgar Allen Poe served as a private at the fort; in 1831, Robert E. Lee arrived as a lieutenant of engineers to supervise construction of a moat and shore batteries. In 1833, Chief Black Hawk of the Sac and Fox tribes was taken to Fort Monroe following the Black Hawk War of 1832.

Fort Monroe remained in Union hands throughout the Civil War. On May 23, 1861, General Benjamin F. Butler declared three escaped slaves "contraband of war." An immediate stampede of slaves engulfed Fort Monroe, which was

9. DESCRIPTION

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arthur, Robert, History of Fort Monroe (Fort Monroe, 1930.)
Boone Publications, Fort Monroe: Freedom's Fortress (Midland, Texas 1973.)
Winget, Kingston M., letter to Stephen Lissandrello, NPS (Unpublished, 1974.)
Work Projects Administration, Virginia: A Guide to the Old Dominion (New York 1940)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
UTM				Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
D NW	18.383100.4098250			°	'	"	°	'	"
A NE	18.384860.4098250								
B SE	18.384230.4095470								
C SW	18.382520.4095470								

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 400

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Review Project

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service
DATE: 2/15/75

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street, NW.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: D.C.
CODE: 11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/12/76

ATTEST:

Keeper of the National Register

Date 12/16/76

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

to become a haven for escaped slaves.

On March 9, 1862, hundreds of soldiers and visitors lined the ramparts to witness the first battle of iron-clad vessels, fought between the USS Monitor and CSS Merrimack in Hampton Roads.

Throughout the war, Fort Monroe served as a springboard for many land and naval expeditions. The largest and most ambitious was McClellan's Peninsular Campaign of 1862, which ended at the Battle of Seven Days around Richmond.

On the night of February 2, 1865, a steamer from Washington anchored in Hampton Roads, bringing President Lincoln for an informal peace conference with Confederate commissioners. The Southerners offered to emancipate their slaves in exchange for independence, but were rejected.

After the Confederate states had surrendered in April 1865, their President, Jefferson Davis, fled southward. He was captured and imprisoned at Fort Monroe in one of the casemates (a chamber in the wall of the fort) in May 1865. He was released two years later.

Fort Monroe is also significant for the development of artillery carried on here for more than a century. In 1824 the Army's first service school was established at Fort Monroe for instruction in Artillery. It was disestablished in 1834, re-established in 1856, and closed once more in 1860. It was re-opened in 1867 and remained at Fort Monroe until 1898. It was then temporarily closed during the Spanish-American War, but was re-opened as the Coast Artillery School in 1900. It remained until 1946, at which time it was moved to California.

Ideas on fortification, types of guns and gun emplacements changed drastically in the period 1880-1890. These changes were prompted by developments in heavy ordnance, the use of shells for guns, the perfection of breech-loading techniques and the use of more effective propellants. Masonry and brick strongholds such as Fort Monroe could not withstand a modern naval bombardment.

To counter the advances in naval weaponry, a board of experts under Secretary of War William Endicott proposed, in 1886, the construction of several thousand massive earth and concrete gun emplacements along America's seacoast. These new works were to blend in with the landscape and form a system of mutually supporting batteries detached from the main fortification. The armament consisted of 8-, 10-, and 12-inch caliber guns mounted on an ingenius "disappearing" carriage. This carriage utilized the energy of its own recoils to lower the gun within the emplacement, where it could be loaded under cover for the next round. Another weapon used was the 12-inch mortar. Clustered in groups of four within a square, pit-like emplacement, the howitzers were capable of a more plunging trajectory against enemy ships than were the more accurate coastal guns.

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

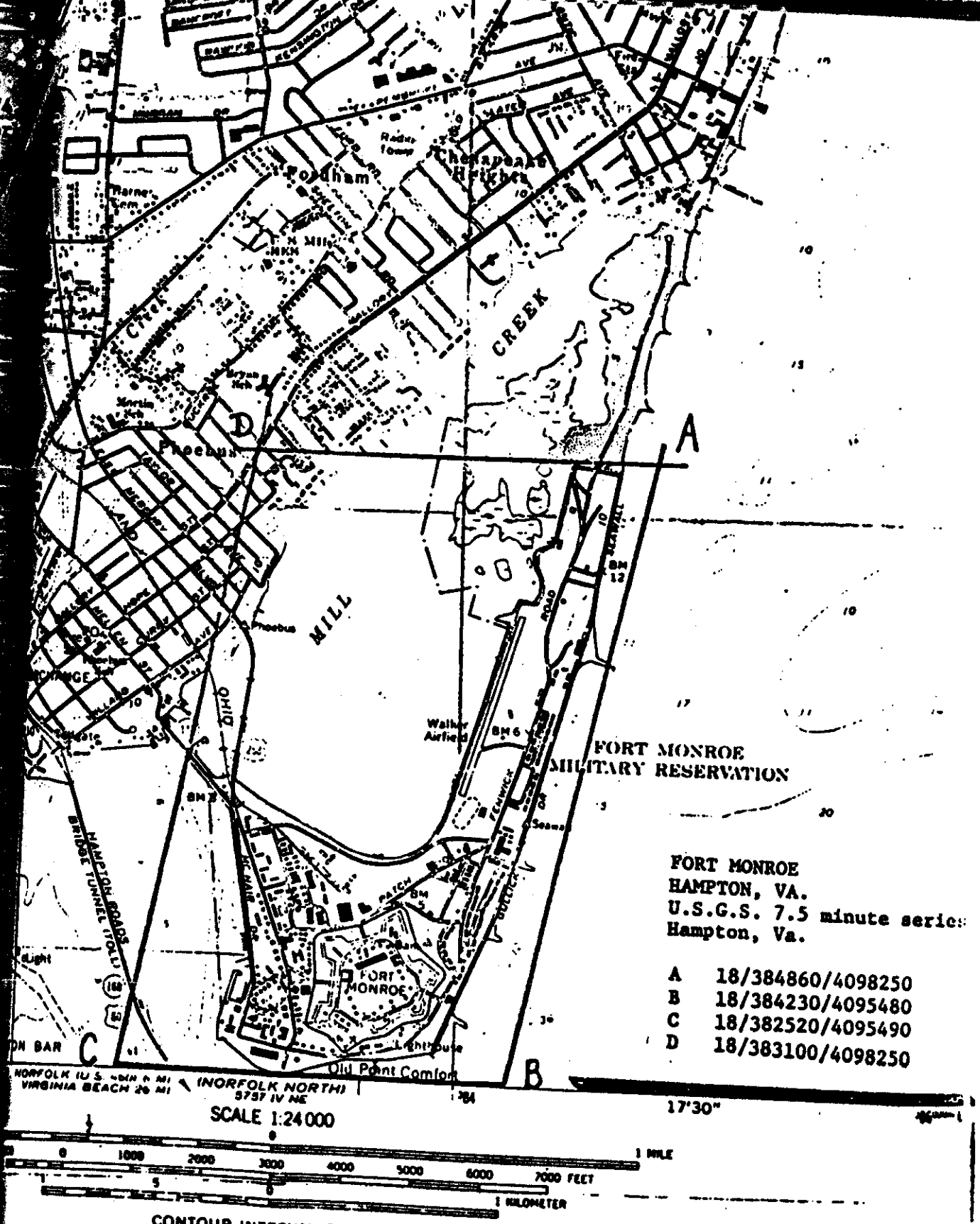
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Hampton (Ind. City)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Fort Monroe

(Number all entries) Statement of Significance Page #3

The Endicott Batteries were built along the waterfront of Fort Monroe between 1892 and 1906. They were in actual use as 90 mm. anti-aircraft batteries throughout World War II. Fort Monroe's remaining batteries represent every type of coastal artillery used by this country during the late nineteenth century. Together, they vividly illustrate the Coast Artillery era in military technological development during the late nineteenth and early twentiety centuries.



FORT MONROE
HAMPTON, VA.
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series
Hampton, Va.

A	18/384860/4098250
B	18/384230/4095480
C	18/382520/4095490
D	18/383100/4098250

NORFOLK 10 MI
VIRGINIA BEACH 20 MI
(NORFOLK NORTH)
5757 IV NE

17'30"

SCALE 1:24000

1 MILE
0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET--DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.5 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242,
VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES

VIRGINIA
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Revisions shown in purple compiled in