

NORFOLK (CITY)

10/25/76 - RESUBMITTED TO

Form No. 10-300

(Rev. 10-74)

VLR-12/16/75 NRHP-10/29/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

NATIONAL REGISTER

RECEIVED

MAY 3

1976

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Fort Norfolk *wh*

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 803 Front Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Ctn. TOWN

Norfolk

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second (G. William Whitehurst)

STATE

Virginia

VICINITY OF

CODE

51

COUNTY

(In City)

CODE

710

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES; RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES; UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

United States Government (U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers)

STREET & NUMBER

803 Front Street

CITY, TOWN

Norfolk

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 23510

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

United States Government (U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers)

STREET & NUMBER

803 Front Street

CITY, TOWN

Norfolk

STATE

Virginia 23510

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1958

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Norfolk contains approximately 10 acres of land on the shore of the Elizabeth River. The original brick walls, magazine, quarters, and mess are in good condition. The original buildings, plus a number of later structures, serve as the district office for the U. S. Army Engineer District, Norfolk.

From a "Report of the State Quarters, Buildings, Etc. at Fort Norfolk Harbour of Norfolk, Virginia on 7th Sept. 1824:"

"Buildings in general - all of brick and well coated with a yellow paint."

Building No. 1 - "a substantial two story house for officers quarters containing four ground and four upper rooms with cellars and outhouses."

Building No. 2 - soldiers' barracks, 1½ stories "containing three ground and three upper rooms - at one end a bake house - in good order."

Building No. 3 - 1½ story soldiers barracks with 3 ground and 3 upper rooms "in indifferent order."

Building No. 4 - 2 story, "containing two ground rooms for carpenter's shop and one upper for a store room" - in good order.

Building No. 5 - a guard house - in good order.

Building No. 6 - a magazine - in good order.

Building No. 7 - "a shot Furnace."

Building No. 8 - "a Black hole."

Building No. 9 - an outhouse.

A visitor to Norfolk in the second decade of the nineteenth century described the fort as "a strong fortification with a brick wall, in the shape of a half-moon." (See Wertenbaker & Schlegel, "Norfolk, Historic Southern Port," page 142.)

Local historian William S. Forrest described the fort in 1853:

"This is a circular brick fort, on the north side of the river, and about a mile from the western limits of the city. It has been long neglected, and is fast falling into ruins. Fort Norfolk is situated nearly opposite the U. S. Naval Hospital, the site of old Fort Nelson. These forts were, of course, intended to guard the entrance to the inner harbour. During the war (1812), an immense chain was extended across the river from these two points."

See woodcut of "Interior of Old Fort Norfolk in 1853" in Benson Lossing's "Field Book of the War of 1812," page 668.

(see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1, Item 7, p.1

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Norfolk (City of)	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Described by local historian Reverend W. H. T. Squires in 1936:

"The rounded front of the fort facing the river rises 12 feet or more from the lawn. Beneath the velvet green of the lawn, solid brick work, 20 feet thick lies behind the front of the bastion.

Behind and below the bastion the magazine was built, approximately 100 feet long and half as wide. The walls of this building are of brick four feet thick capped with hewn stone, and constructed in bays, supported by huge Roman arches for greater resistance and protection. The roof rests upon hand-carved pillars of stone.

Behind the magazine are two smaller buildings called 'shells.' We suppose the shells were for the storage of other commodities than powder. Near one shell an old-fashioned refrigerator, large enough to preserve meat for a small army, is built into and under the artificial mound that continues the bastion, swinging eastward to face the approach by land. Even to this day, long unused, the stout oaken door on handwrought hinges is in excellent repair.

Steps lead up the bastion beside the great gate. A little frame house crowns the top. The custodian, Maj. H. R. Cole, Acting D. E., invited me within, opened a trap, and pointed to an immense cistern filled with rain water, a reservoir which would insure any garrison a copious supply.

In the center of the lawn, which extends from the perpendicular front of the bastion to the bulkhead by the water's edge, the national flag floats in the breeze. A mile directly south one catches a glimpse of the Stars and Stripes on the grounds of the Naval Hospital, once Fort Nelson.

The residence which had housed many officers and their families and which in later years was used for offices by the Engineers of the United States Army, is now tenantless. Its broad porches, fine old fireplaces, with mantels above them, the halls, rooms and even the kitchens and cellars are intact."

Still standing are the officers' quarters, powder magazine, gatehouse, and brick bastion.

The Norfolk Engineer District with its headquarters, or District Office, at Norfolk, Virginia, was established in 1879, with Captain Charles B. Phillips as District Engineer.

For about 20 years previous to 1923 the Norfolk District Office occupied quarters in the U. S. Custom House, Norfolk, Virginia. In June 1923, the office was removed to Fort Norfolk. The District Engineer and office personnel, consisting of 27 persons, occupied the residence, an old, two story brick building, four other buildings within the reservation being occupied by storehouse, space for blueprint machinery, garage, etc. In 1935 the District Engineer and office personnel vacated the Fort Norfolk Reservation, with exception of the wharf and the buildings at the north end of the reservation and

(see continuation sheet #2)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2, Item 7, p.2

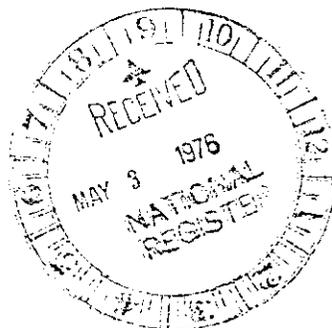
STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Norfolk (City of)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

outside the Fort proper, and moved to the Federal Building in Norfolk. On 1 June 1942 the District Engineer and greatly expanded office personnel removed to the Fort Norfolk Reservation. The new quarters included five new two-story frame office buildings and the renovated original brick structures, besides garage and docks.

Historic structures remaining today are the powder-storage magazine, enlisted men's quarters, officers' mess, officers' quarters, and, of course the brick wall."

(see continuation sheet # 4)



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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COUNTY	Norfolk (City of)
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(Continuation Sheet) # 3, Item 8, p. 1
Item 11

(Number all entries)

8. "Nevertheless, the Army stubbornly held on to Fort Norfolk," asserts Dr. Squires. "After a year of quarreling, General B. F. Butler removed the Army's prisoners and stores and transferred Fort Norfolk to the United States Navy in March of 1863."

The Navy retained Fort Norfolk for many decades, though the Corps of Engineers made use of it at various times. The Norfolk District first occupied Fort Norfolk in 1923 and has used part or all of the facilities since that time.

(see continuation sheet #6)

11. Form Prepared By

- (1) Karl Kuhlmann, Recreation Resource Specialist
Norfolk District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
803 Front Street
Norfolk, Virginia 23510
phone: 804-625-8201 ext. 262



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) late 1700s to present

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | | <u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Fort was started by the citizens of Norfolk during the Revolutionary War. It was built on private property, so the Second Congress appropriated funds to purchase the Fort. It was transferred to federal ownership on 21 May 1795.

The Fort was manned during the threatened war with England in 1807 and again during the War of 1812. On 22 June 1813 the complement of Fort Norfolk joined with other forces in defeating the British at the Battle of Craney Island.

"During the Civil War, steps were taken to fortify Norfolk: Earthworks were erected at Hospital Point (Fort Nelson), a battery set up at Fort Norfolk, the works at Craney Island repaired and a battery placed on Sewells Point. It was on the last-named place that the first encounter with the Federal Navy took place."

Fort Wool, then known as Fort Calhoun, located on a man-made island lying at the entrance to Hampton Roads was a strategic point. An accounting for Fort Wool's present foundations, at least in part, may be found in "an ineffectual barge loaded with stone, which General William Booth Taliaferro, organizer of the Confederate forces in the Norfolk Area, sunk across the channel to prevent the escape of the U. S. S. PAWNEE in April of 1861," Dr. Squires relates, and continues:

"The city was lost to the Confederacy by the capture and control of the surrounding area. When, therefore, General John E. Wool landed at Willoughby and advanced he found the city ready to surrender.

Immediately upon General Wool's entry into Norfolk, the Federal Navy demanded control of the city, the Navy Yard, Hospital, and Fort Norfolk. General Wool, in possession, declined to turn his conquest over to the Navy. He did, after the initial refusal, surrender the Navy Yard to the naval authorities, on 24 May 1862, and the Navy also gained possession of the Hospital, and the temporary hospital at Fort Norfolk was closed. Major Morrell, the owner of the latter premises, asked \$1,000 compensation for the use of his property, and suit was brought 1 October 1862." (This large, ancient brick dwelling stood inside the present gate of Fort Norfolk until the year 1942, when it was razed to make way for new construction of office buildings for the District personnel.)

(see continuation sheet #3)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forrest, William s. Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Norfolk and Vicinity.
 Philadelphia: Lindsay and Blakiston, 1853.
Historical Sketch of Fort Norfolk and Norfolk District. Compiled by U. S. Army
 Engineer District, Norfolk.
 Wertebaker - Norfolk, Historic Southern Port.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1 8	3 1 8 1 3 5 1 2 1 0	4 1 0 7 9 5 1 8 1 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(see continuation sheet #6)

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 / TITLE

(2) (1) Karl B. Kuhlmann, Recreation Resource Specialist
 (see Continuation Sheet #3)

(2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

December 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

221 Governor Street

804-786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Richmond

Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE DEC 16 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

7. DESCRIPTION (Cont'd)

State: Virginia
 County: Norfolk (City of)
 Entry Number _____ Date _____

Revision/Update 9/28/76

Original submission Form 10-306 NPS 8 June 1973

OLD FORT NORFOLK, HISTORIC AND CONTEMPORARY BUILDINGS

(See attached, colored-up map FORT NORFOLK RESERVATION, August 1940)

Hist. No.	No. Today	Description
1	-	Demolished about September 1942
2	4	Soldier's barracks. Now office; 2-story 31'3"x30'6"x18' (10'6" high porch included). Brick foundation, brick construction, asphalt shingle roof; wood and concrete floor.
3	2	1-1/2-story soldier's barracks. Now office building; 2-story, 86'4"x24'9"x23'2". Brick foundation, brick construction, asphalt shingle roof; wood and concrete floor.
4	3	2-story carpenter's shop. Now cafeteria; 1-story, 63'8"x22'3"x12'5". Brick foundation, brick structure, asphalt shingle roof, 6" concrete floor; has 20'6"x37'x12'5" dining room addition of wood construction, wood and aluminum siding, asphalt shingle roof, wood floor. Has storage room 55'8"x8'7"x7'6"; concrete foundation, brick and wood construction, asphalt shingle roof, concrete floor.
5	5	Guard house. Now telephone exchange; 1-story, 17'3"x24'5"x9'; brick foundation, brick construction, asphalt shingle roof, wood floor.
6	1	A magazine. Now reproduction, map files; 1-story, 152'9"x55'4"x14'6". Stone foundation, stone construction, asphalt shingle roof, wood floor.

(see continuation sheet #5)

Incl 1

7. DESCRIPTION (Cont'd)

Hist. No.	No. Today	Description
7	-	Demolished probably prior to 1900
8	-	Dungeon ("a black hole")
9	-	Demolished probably prior to 1900
-	6	Storage building atop historic cistern; 16'2"x10'x7'. Concrete foundation, brick construction, slate roof, wood floor.
-	7	Office; 2-story, 100'x30'x16'6". Concrete foundation, wood frame construction, aluminum siding, rubberoid shingle roof, wood floor.
-	8	Office; same as Building 7.
-	9	Office; 2-story, 168'x29'6"x16'6" with furnace room 9'8"x13'4"x8'2"; concrete foundation, wood frame construction, aluminum siding, rubberoid shingle roof, wood floor.
-	10	Office; 2-story, 108'x44'x17'8"; concrete foundation, wood frame construction, aluminum siding, rubberoid shingle roof, wood floor.
-	11	Office; 2-story, 103'x29'6"x17'8"; concrete foundation, wood frame construction, aluminum siding, rubberoid shingle roof, wood floor.
-	12	Garage (10-car with small lab and shop); 162'x20'x10'8"; concrete foundation, steel construction, brick structure, corrugated asbestos roof, 6" concrete floor.
-	20	Guard house; 1-story, 24'6"x12'3"x8'; concrete foundation, wood frame construction, wood siding, rubberoid shingle roof, wood and tile floor.
-	13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21-36	These buildings have either been removed or are inconsequential to the historic aspects of the nomination.

Continuation Sheet # 6, Item 8, Item 10

8. SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd)
SIGNIFICANCE OF EDUCATION

In the original submission, Block 8 Significance, check of areas, delete "Education".

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Cont'd)
DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

The inclosed blue-line map shows the area of the Fort Norfolk Reservation. Within the reservation, the area outlined in black is the historic submission. The black line is the old brick wall. It was constructed in 1809.

Norfolk District, Corps of Engineers
Norfolk, Virginia 23510
5 October 1976

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
JAMES L. CALVER, STATE GEOLOGIST

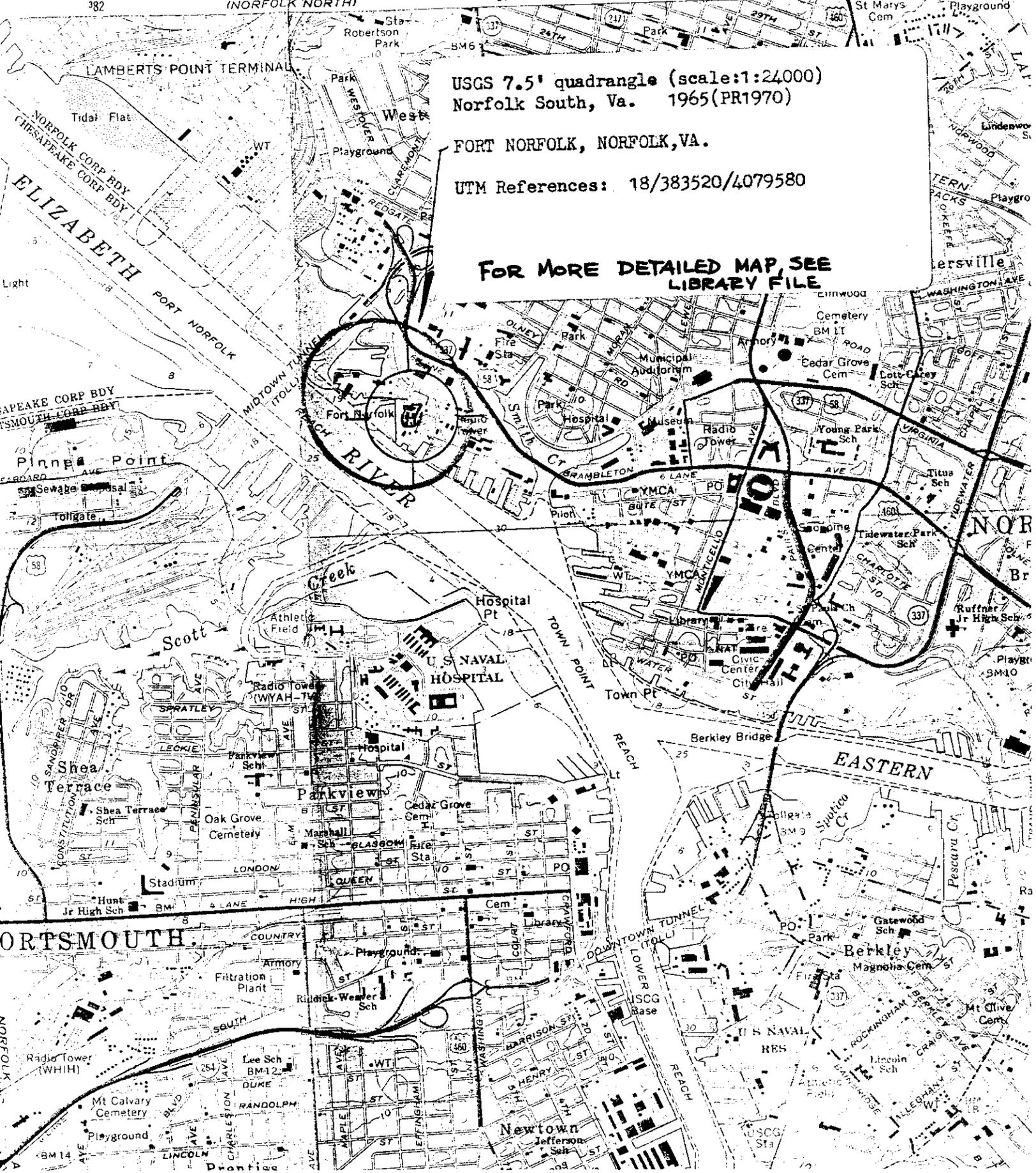
5757 IV NE
(NORFOLK NORTH)

17°30" 385 6 MI. TO U.S. 60

386 2 650 000 FEET

382

384



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Norfolk South, Va. 1965(PR1970)

FORT NORFOLK, NORFOLK, VA.

UTM References: 18/383520/4079580

FOR MORE DETAILED MAP, SEE
LIBRARY FILE