

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

*VLK 12/5/7
NRHP 4/16/08*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fort Huger

other names/site number VDHR File 046-0037, Sites 44IW0065 and 44IW0204

2. Location

street & number Talcott Terrace not for publication N/A
city or town Smithfield vicinity ✓
state Virginia code VA county Isle of Wight code 093 zip code 23430

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ✓ nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ✓ meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally ✓ statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] _____ *3/3/08* _____
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
| <u> 0 </u> | <u> 0 </u> | buildings |
| <u> 2 </u> | <u> 0 </u> | sites |
| <u> 1 </u> | <u> 0 </u> | structures |
| <u> 0 </u> | <u> 0 </u> | objects |
| <u> 3 </u> | <u> 0 </u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cat: <u> Defense </u> | Sub: <u> Fortification </u> |
| <u> </u> | <u> Military Facility </u> |
| <u> </u> | <u> Battle Site </u> |

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Cat: <u> Recreation and Culture </u> | Sub: <u> Outdoor Recreation </u> |
| <u> </u> | <u> Monument/Marker </u> |
| <u> Landscape </u> | <u> Parking Lot </u> |
| <u> </u> | <u> Park (city/county) </u> |

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 No Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| foundation | <u> N/A </u> |
| roof | <u> N/A </u> |
| walls | <u> N/A </u> |
| other | <u> N/A </u> |

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Military; Archaeology; Historic Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance 1861-1862

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation Euro-American

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources; Isle of Wight County

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 22 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|
| 18 | 352718 | 4108233 | 18 | 352739 | 4108135 | 18 | 352728 | 4107934 | 18 | 352566 | 4107970 |

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen M. Brady, Vice President and R. Taft Kiser, Project Archaeologist
 organization Cultural Resources, Inc. date 9/20/2007
 street & number 2200 Colonial Ave, Suite 26 telephone 757-626-0558
 city or town Norfolk state Va zip code 23517

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Isle of Wight County (Douglas R. Caskey, County Administrator)
 street & number PO Box 80 telephone 757-365-6204
 city or town Isle of Wight state Va zip code 23397

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Section 7 Page 1

**Fort Huger
Isle of Wight, VA**

Summary Description

The site described herein as Fort Huger (today pronounced “hew-jee” but its eponym pronounced his surname “hew-zhay”) includes the three designations described below. Fort Huger was initially identified as an archaeological site in 1977, however its location was mismapped. Because the mapped location was incorrect, the assumption was that the fort had been lost to the expanding James River. Investigations beginning in 2004 for the Lawnes Point tract resulted in the “rediscovery” of the fort (O’Neal and Reid 2004). The developers of the Lawnes Point tract, recognizing the significance of the fort in local and even national history, deeded the land on which the fort sits to Isle of Wight County so that its preservation could be ensured (O’Neal and Reid 2004).

Today, the fort still stands on Hardy’s Bluff facing the James River. It is well-preserved and most of the fort’s features are still discernable. The fort offers an excellent opportunity to educate the public on Civil War engineering, military strategies, and the hardships faced by those who fought. The proposed boundary for Fort Huger includes the three elements described below as they are all integral to the Fort Huger site.

Detailed Description

Fort Huger is an abandoned Civil War fort on the south side of the James River across from Ft. Eustis/Mulberry Point. The fort is on a bluff overlooking the river with wetlands abutting its western flank. Lieutenant Watters, commander of the *USS Minnesota*, went ashore to survey the works on the south shore of the James in May 1862. He reported:

“This fort is an earthwork of recent construction, the rear being not quite finished. It is a bastioned work, of 500 feet front and about 300 feet depth. The front commands the river, presenting an indented or *crémaillère* line, composed of long and short lines alternately, thus giving a cross fire for barbette guns, and the longest lines commanding the approach up the river. The left is a lunette. The right has two bastions, the line of defense of one looking toward the river and the other covering a ravine which skirts the right and rear. The rear of the work is a redan, in which is found the entrance to the fort and also the bridge over the ditch, which is reinforced by a small redan commanding the bridge.

In the center are parade ground and space for quarters and bombproof magazine. The front, at intervals between the guns, has bombproof traverses, some of which are store rooms; they are neatly finished with sods, and the parapets all round are faced with revetment of sods on the interior slope.

The work is surrounded with deep ditch and occupies a commanding position on the bluff, with a steep bank almost perpendicular between it and the level of the river, giving it a command from crest of parapet to the level of the river of about 30 feet. Its right is flanked by a ravine, which also covers part of the rear, from which the timber has been cleared and burned, leaving an open

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view extending back nearly a mile. The retiring enemy had burned the quarters and dismounted the guns, burning the carriages and blowing up the magazine, but left their flag flying. This must have been done very recently, for some of the gun carriages were yet smoldering. There was also the debris of a furnace for heating shot. The fort mounted twelve guns, one 32 commanding the entrance at the rear; three of the heaviest caliber mounted on circle-traversing carriages at the angles in barbette, and eight guns on the front, five of which were mounted in embrasure, which took away considerably from their efficiency, as they had only a limited range of fire; but being navy 32-pounders, mounted on navy truck carriages, fitted with breeching and tackles, and worked on platforms built of wood over the thread of the banquettes, they could not be mounted higher without exposing the men over the parapet.”

(A bastion is a projection from a fortification, usually at the intersection of two walls, which permits a wider range of fire than just flat walls would. A redan is a small fortification formed by two walls placed to form a sharp angle, or salient. A lunette is a somewhat crescent-shaped fortification formed by a redan with flank walls. The parapet is the platform level behind the main curtain wall, or rampart, of the fortification, usually seven feet high, with protected areas, or traverses, at the salients and entry points. On the parapet were banquettes, or steps of earth, that allowed defenders to fire over the parapet, and barbettes, or platforms or mounds of earth, which were used to mount large guns. The inner parapet slopes were protected from erosion or other damage that might undermine the wall by a revetment, or facing. An embrasure is a small opening in the curtain wall used for firing out. The shot furnace was used to heat cannonballs to a high enough temperature that they could set a wooden ship on fire, an important consideration at forts, such as Fort Huger, that were designed to protect waterways.)

Since the time the fort was abandoned, light vegetation and trees have grown up in and around the area. Some of this vegetation has been cleared to prepare for the fort area to be used as a local county-owned interpretive park. The shot furnace remains are evident, and the shaft appears to have good integrity. The site is currently being prepared for public access and historical interpretation, to include a parking area, access pathway into the fort itself, which will be interpreted with signage and replica cannons, etc. Once open for public use, the fort will continue to be utilized for ongoing archaeological work and restoration, as well as small living history reenactments. Since obtained by the County, Isle of Wight County has been working with the Tidewater Regional Office of the Department of Historic Resources regarding long term preservation options associated with the fort.

Site 44IW0065

Site 44IW0065 is the state-assigned archaeological site number associated with Fort Huger. The fort was originally documented as an archaeological site in 1977 by staff of the Virginia Research Center for Archaeology (now the VDHR). As noted on the site form, the boundary was determined by historic map projection and surface observation and was projected to be approximately 24 acres in size. The site was revisited, though not systematically shovel tested during investigations associated with Lawnes Point between

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2003 and 2005. Recently, archaeological investigations have been conducted on two distinct elements of the Fort Huger archaeological site; the hot shot tower and the location of the flagpole.

The James River Institute for Archaeology (JRIA) is in the process of excavating a three foot by twenty foot test trench across the site of the hot shot tower. Part of an intact brick foundation has been found approximately one foot below modern grade. The intact brickwork currently is thought to be part of the foundation for the structure, rather than for the firebox. Regardless, it indicates that there is very good preservation of the footprint of the hot shot tower. The testing indicates that apparently some bricks were salvaged from the foundation and the firebox, but the brick salvaging was confined to the above ground brickwork, and that there is good subsurface integrity of the hot shot tower (JRIA 2007).

In addition to the investigations at the hot shot tower location, Archaeological and Cultural Solutions, Inc (ACS) has conducted archaeological testing in the vicinity of the Fort Huger flagpole. The one day investigation consisted of the excavation of a five foot by five foot unit (Unit 1) in the center of an earthen mound situated in the approximate center of the fort, the most likely location for a flagpole. The mound is in the open, flat interior of the fort, between the remains of the powder magazine and an artillery position overlooking the James River. This investigation indicated that, surrounding the mound, topsoil and 1.5 feet of subsoil had been removed during the construction of the surrounding fort to provide soil for the earthwork. Since the fort is surrounded by marshland, it is logical that the fort walls were built out from a center point on the upland where it was sited. Therefore, the mound preserves the original grade, predating the fort's construction.

This method of construction is consistent with the recent findings by archaeologists at Jamestown seeking the remains of James Fort, built in 1607. There, a Confederate fort of the same period as Fort Huger was found to be partially overlying the earlier fort. The stratigraphy of the Civil War fort indicated that its interior had been similarly scraped for soil, which resulted in the incorporation of seventeenth century artifacts in the earthwork (Outlaw 2007).

Site 44IW0204

Site 44IW0204 was initially identified by Archaeological Consultants of the Carolinas, Inc. (ACC) in December 2003 (Reid et al 2004) during the Phase I survey of the Lawnes Point tract in Isle of Wight County. Site 44IW0204 is located in an upland area across the marsh from Fort Huger. Two old road beds run through portions of the site and maybe related to logging activities in the area. The site contains a minimum of 12 debris piles containing dense brick. A small section of a brick wall also remains intact on the site (Reid et al 2004).

In January 2007 ACC conducted limited data recovery of a small portion of the site that will be impacted by the construction of a parking lot for visitors to Fort Huger. The area to be impacted is approximately 130 feet by 33 feet, and contained three debris piles and two depressions (O'Neal and Reid 2007). A trench was laid within the impact area and five features (Features 601 through 605) were partially excavated within this trench. Based on

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the Confederate Army standard plan for the layout of encampments it is postulated that the features excavated within the trench may be the officers' quarters. Additional testing of huts and debris piles outside of the impact area would need to be investigated to be able to compare artifacts to fully expound this idea. It is also postulated based on the mapped debris piles and standard spacing of huts that huts at the Fort Huger encampment were 50 feet apart and approximately 40 huts housing over 150 men may be present at site 44IW0204 (O'Neil and Reid 2007). Artifacts recovered from 44IW0204 include melted glass, olive green, light blue and blue-green bottle glass, historic ceramics, cut nails, and bone. Artifact density was relatively high in the Phase I shovel testing along with the mapped debris piles and depressions indicating that the site appears to have minimal disturbance and huts and camp layout is relatively intact (O'Neil and Reid 2007). Based on the number of burned brick and ceramics recovered it appears that the Confederate Army burned the encampment upon retreat. Subsurface integrity exists across the site, however, investigations were limited to the area to be impacted by the proposed parking lot.

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Statement of Significance

The Fort Huger site and the associated encampment are recommended as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for the site's importance and association with the Civil War in Virginia and Criterion D for its potential to provide important archaeological data relating both to the fort and the lives of Civil War soldiers residing there in 1861-1862. This fort is unique in that it is largely intact and has been unaffected by modern development. Fort Huger was an integral part of the James River defenses in late summer 1861 through spring 1862. The fort, named for Major General Benjamin Huger, commander of Confederate defenses in southeastern Virginia, was constructed as the right (south) riverine flank strongpoint of Confederate General John Bankhead Magruder's defense line facing Federal forces using Fort Monroe at Old Point Comfort as their base of operations. The fort was constructed under the direction of State Engineer, Andrew Talcott, and was likely completed in August, 1861. Although the fortification was completed in 1861, it was not likely armed until February 1862. Documents indicate that troops spent the winter of 1861 in an encampment at Fort Huger, now represented by archaeological site 44IW0204.

The interior of the fort has been largely untouched since its creation in 1861. It appears that the fort was actually constructed with soil from its interior as it is surrounded by marshland. It appears likely that the earthen walls were created by scraping dirt from the interior of the fort and pushing it up to create the earthworks (Outlaw 2007). Therefore it is unlikely that archaeological information predating the Civil War would be recovered in intact contexts. However, the site may produce archaeologically significant information about the buildings and structures that would have been present during the Civil War inside the fort's walls. Archaeological investigations to date have indicated that the remains of the shot furnace are intact indicating that similar building remains may also be present. Additionally, included in this nomination is site 44IW0204, the site of the winter encampment. Archaeological investigations at this site have concluded that it retains subsurface integrity and could provide valuable information regarding the lives of the soldiers wintering at the camp as well as the layout and structures utilized within the camp.

It is recommended that the Fort Huger site is eligible at a state-wide level for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and D for its significance during the early part of the Civil War and for its archaeological potential to produce significant information concerning this period and the lives of the soldiers encamped at the site.

Historical Background

Fort Huger had been planned by July 16th, 1861, but did not yet exist. On October 8, 1861, Confederate General John B. Magruder believed Fort Huger had guns mounted. His status report of February 1, 1862 appears to amend that, recommending: "placing guns in the embrasures of the battery already prepared at Harden's Bluff." He added: "I request that I may be allowed to take without delay the heavy guns from Jamestown Island and mount them at Harden's Bluff and Mulberry Point"(O.R.A. 1, 2:979; 1, 4:676; 1, 9:40-41).

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On December 20, 1860, after years of deteriorating relationships between the North and the South, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the United States. The Union, however, maintained control of Fort Sumter, in the Charleston harbor. This angered the South Carolinians and other secessionists. Confederate Brigadier General P.G.T. Beauregard repeatedly demanded over the next several months that the Union surrender the fort. A few hours after Major Robert Anderson, commander of Fort Sumter, had agreed to surrender the undermanned and undersupplied fort, at 4:30 a.m. on April 12th, 1861, a signal shell trailed fire across the sky and exploded above Fort Sumter. The Confederate army bombarded Fort Sumter throughout the day. On April 13th, Major Anderson surrendered. The next day, President Lincoln asked for 75,000 men. Virginia had already voted for peace, but faced with an anti-slavery president asking for men to fight slave states, the secessionists turned the tide. On April 17th the Virginia convention polled 88 to 55 to leave the Union – less than 17 men made the difference. Thus Virginians officially regarded the United States troops at Fort Monroe and the various naval installations at and near Norfolk as an occupying force and the troops suddenly found themselves in hostile territory. Soon after Virginia seceded, Tennessee, Arkansas, and North Carolina also joined the Confederacy (Jordan 1996:11; Mosocco 1995:1, 10-14).

Very few people understood what had just happened, or what was to come. Suddenly, the ships and fighting men in Hampton Roads were the enemy, and Virginia had to create a line of fortifications. Some Southerners had dreamed of the moment for years, and had their plans. In early 1861, the Governor of Virginia had appointed Andrew Talcott as the State Engineer. One of Talcott's priorities was to establish fortifications along the James River. Up to five miles wide as it approached its juncture with the Hampton Roads, the James River was a crucial route for transportation and commerce. It also led to many of Virginia's towns, including the capital, Richmond. Since English settlement in 1607, the James and Hampton Roads have been the site of military installations, with naval shipyards at Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Newport News, and forts at Norfolk, Old Point Comfort, Jamestown, and more. With a deep channel in the Hampton Roads, which continues several miles up the James, large ships are able to navigate past Newport News today, and the naval ships of the 1860s, with smaller draws, were able to get much farther upstream.

Talcott, born in 1797, was an 1818 graduate of West Point. In the Army, his assistants included Robert E. Lee, a fellow engineer and graduate of West Point. In the 1830s, Talcott had helped Lee work out his family genealogy. After a long Army career, Talcott went into railroads. In the 1850s, he began working in Mexico, and continued this association after the Confederate government took over his work on the Virginia fortifications. Many of his personal papers are in the Virginia Historical Society, including his pocket diary for 1861. Approximately half of the entries are illegible, due to a poor quality ink, but his entry for Tuesday, April 16, 1861, indicates that the vote for secession, on Wednesday April 17th, came as no surprise. "Heard Gov-r Letcher," his spare notes read. "My program for defense to 'go ahead'" (Talcott 1861a).

After Virginia voted for war on April 17, the United States began consolidating around Hampton Roads. Fort Monroe and the adjacent area would be held, but the United States abandoned the south side of the James. The Gosport Navy Yard, near Norfolk, was fired on Saturday April 20th. Talcott's diary, muted by the bad ink, reappears on Sunday, April 21st. "By order of Genl. Taliaferro visited Navy Yard and reported condition. Laid

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out work and organized a working party at Fort Nelson and Fort Norfolk. In the morning went to Craney Isd and (illeg.) (illeg.) (illeg.).” Taliaferro’s report on the capture of the Navy Yard describes the assistance of “Col. Talcott,” but the post-war editors of the Official Records mistook Andrew Talcott for his much more famous son, and assigned the entry to Thomas Mann Randolph Talcott, of R.E. Lee’s staff. (Talcott 1861a; ORA 1, 4:309).

On April 20th, 1861, the U.S. wrecking crews failed to do a thorough job. The ruins of Gosport provided the Confederacy with much of its heavy artillery – almost 1,200 guns - and a small fleet of scuttled ships (Coski 1996:7). The services that really mattered that week were those of a partially-crippled, fading warrior named Winfield Scott, born in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, in 1786. The commander of the United States Army, “Old Fuss and Feathers” had first marched towards the sound of the guns in the War of 1812. By April 1861, he was too old for campaigning against the Confederates, but Scott had perhaps the best overall grasp of the situation. He too, had been planning for war, and anticipated a long, drawn-out conflict, a view which some thought timid and too conservative. The 75-year-old general was soon replaced by 35-year-old George McClellan, but Scott’s “Anaconda Plan” - to seal up the South and strangle it – remained the basic blueprint, leading to the victory of the United States in 1865. One of the first steps of the Anaconda Plan was to seal off the James River, and this took place on Wednesday, May 1st, 1861 (Coski 1996:7).

Because Richmond, the Confederate capital from May 29, 1861 to April 2, 1865, is at the highest navigable point along the James River, at the fall line, it was not a major port city at this time, as most transport ships were unladen at Norfolk for transport elsewhere in Virginia and North Carolina by smaller ships and boats, by rail, or by road. This made Richmond far less vulnerable to naval attack than Norfolk, since the narrowing width of the river and rising adjacent terrain made ships less useful in defensive or offensive maneuvers. The capital of Virginia was, in fact, moved from Williamsburg to Richmond in 1780 because Richmond would be less vulnerable to attack during the Revolutionary War. Richmond was, however, a major Southern industrial center—the reason for it being selected as the Confederate capital—and in the heart of a diversified agricultural belt. In the decades before the Civil War Richmond firms and entrepreneurs focused their business interests on western and central Virginia, rather than on Atlantic coast and European trade (Parramore et al. 1994: 161, 172-175).

Before the end of April, someone had decided that a battery had to be built in Burwells Bay. At the end of the month, Talcott was sent out with Catesby ap Roger Jones to select a location (“ap” is Welsh for “son of” and is traditionally written in lower case). Jones was to build the work and command it. They settled on Jamestown Island, where the landowner had already begun to build a battery (O.R.A. 1, 6:697,699-700).

Talcott was responsible for all of the defenses of Virginia, not just on the James River. His charge included the defenses of Richmond, and on May 15th, he had out three topographic parties. He assured R.E. Lee that it would be relatively easy to protect the city. This work apparently got under way quickly, as Talcott noted on Saturday, June 8th “Viewed work in progress near Richmond.” While Talcott worked on the land, the Confederate Navy was trying to build a fleet on the river. One of the first actions was to confiscate the *Yorktown*, a side-wheel

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passenger steamer making the New York to Virginia run. She was sent to Richmond, and sheets of iron were mounted to protect her boilers. Renamed the *C.S.S. Patrick Henry*, she was the most powerful Confederate ship in Virginia until the appearance of the rebuilt *Merrimac*, the ironclad *Virginia*, on March 8th, 1862 (Coski 1996:8-9).

In Andrew Talcott's largely illegible diary, the first clear mention of Fort Huger was written on Friday, August 9, 1861: "At Day's Point, Harding Bluff, and Mulberry Island. Returned in Tug (illeg.) D.P. with lighter for ammunition." The next day, August 10th, he noted: "Visited Day's Point Battery with Ran [Thomas Mann Randolph Talcott, his son]. (illeg.) (illeg.) (illeg.) for Rock Wharf at 3:30 p.m. with lighter of ammunition and (illeg.) (illeg.) with their lighter (illeg.) (illeg.). Sunday, August 11th, he recorded: "Boatman 50 cents. Fort Boykin conveyed us to the wharf (illeg.) came up in the [steamer] *Northampton*. Stopped at Jamestown and made P.H. around 9 ½ p.m. in Richmond and slept at home." His expenses included 50 cents for a boatman, a dollar for a steward, and \$2.50 for a hack. Three days later, Talcott was off again, arriving "at Stone House" at 6 p.m. The next day he toured the works of Colonel Rives and then went to Yorktown. With General Magruder, he walked "over the land on the west side." He visited Gloucester Point, then passed through Williamsburg on the way to Jamestown. On Sunday morning, August 18th, Talcott went to church in Smithfield. The next day he left Rock Wharf about 6:30 a.m. and reached Richmond by 1:30 p.m. (Talcott 1861a).

As Talcott struggled to build his line of fortifications, the war entered a new phase. The drain of resources and manpower began to show. The willing sacrifices of April now cut to the bone. On August 26th, John Tyler and his neighbor Hill Carter – father of Robert Randolph Carter - wrote the Confederate Secretary of War:

"Six weeks ago General Magruder... made a requisition on the slaveholders of the counties of Charles City and New Kent for one-half of their farm operatives, to throw up entrenchments at Williamsburg. The requisition was promptly complied with. The much longer detention of the slaves, which has delayed the thrashing of the wheat crop, has engendered some little feeling of discontent among some of our people, who begin to question the legal authority of the proceeding; nor has this disquietude been allayed by the fact that many of the slaves have not returned to their masters, which has been followed by a hope to recover the fugitives. To ally all discontent, we ask to be informed... of your opinion of the legality of this proceeding on the part of the general, your opinion being entirely sufficient to quiet all further uneasiness" (ORA I, 4:636).

On the same day, in Richmond, Talcott wrote his son at Days Point:

"A letter had [sic] been addressed to the Adjt and Inspector Genl requesting that Officers of the Engineer Department should through a general order be furnished with the countersign of the port at which they are on duty and also requesting the assistance of the mounted men in apprehending runaway negroes. A requisition has been made for two balls and chains for the use of your work – they will be forwarded by the *Northampton* tomorrow. When free negroes under a contract to

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labor for any given period of time have been enrolled in the service of the State, payment for services rendered during the time covered by the contract will be made by the State to the person who was by contract entitled to the benefit of said services on his proving said contract to the disbursing officer” (Talcott 1861j) (See attached list).

As the Confederates worried about slaves on August 26th, Major Gen. B.F. Butler was sailing away from Fort Monroe at the head of a U.S. armada. Two days later, his men charged ashore at Cape Hatteras Inlet. Southerners judged it to be a battle for newspaper headlines. Unable to win an open field fight, Lincoln had resorted to crushing tiny Confederate outposts. As Butler’s men waited on the transports, General Magruder issued orders for Catesby ap Roger Jones to take charge of several canal boats filled with rock and sand, sent down to block the swash channel—a narrow channel of water located in a sandbank or between a sandbank and the shore—discovered by Robert Randolph Carter, which made Fort Huger more vulnerable to close naval attack. The first boats scuttled had failed to block the side channel between Mulberry Island and Fort Huger, and Jones was ordered to complete the job with the remainder of the group. More rock-filled canal boats were coming down from Richmond, and Jones was ordered to hold the second group (O.R.N. 1, 6:717).

Talcott wrote a second letter to his son that same day, on August 26th, “I have contracted with Mr. Kelly to put a slate roof on the shot furnace at Days Point for \$10.00 per square (100 feet). He will leave in the steamer Northampton for that purpose tomorrow and may be obligated to go to Williamsburg for slate” (Talcott 1861k).

With his son at Fort Boykin on Days Point, Talcott’s letters and directions tended to go there, and there are few direct mentions of Fort Huger. Given the amount of control exercised by Talcott, for example, specifying double sash windows with six 10 by 12 inch lights, it seems likely that Fort Huger bore a strong resemblance to Fort Boykin. They would have used the same shot furnace blueprints, and the substitutions mentioned for Fort Boykin probably held true at Fort Huger.

Although there are very few direct references to Fort Huger, most of the earthwork had probably been done by this time, late August 1861. The fort did not exist on July 16th. It was thought to have had guns mounted by October 8, 1861, but this may not actually have occurred until February 1862. Despite its size, with the large work crews available to the military, earthworks like Fort Huger could be thrown up in as little as a week (O.R.A. 1, 2:979; 1, 4:676).

Tools were a problem, and a lack of axes was later given as the reason the forest was not cleared back from the position. This is probably also the reason the walls did not have wooden revetments, but instead were faced with strips of sod – a reversion to the 17th-century “Old Netherlands System of Fortification.” Iron axes required steel, iron, and a smith, but shovels and barrows are the most basic of tools, often composed entirely of wood. There were also complaints about a lack of shovels and barrows, but Talcott was quick to substitute, accomplishing what he could, with what he had. Piling up sandy dirt was easy, and most of the earthwork had probably been done by August 1861. Talcott’s biggest problems came from specialized structures, like gun carriages, shot furnaces and wharves.

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The earliest clear reference to Fort Huger as a fortified position with mounted guns—perhaps—was addressed to Andrew Talcott and written by General Magruder on October 8th, 1861:

“It is a matter of great moment that the defenses at Harden’s Bluff and Mulberry Point should be as strong as possible. The work at Mulberry Point can contain two more guns; that at Harden’s Bluff I have not seen, but Captain Myer, the engineer in charge, informs me that several more guns could be mounted there to great advantage. The river is better commanded at that point than at any other below Jamestown; and if it can be rendered safe there, troops as well as field guns could be used below. I therefore respectfully invite your attention to it as having a bearing on my operations below. I think, however, that the attack will probably be made at this place, as the greater depth and expanse of water here will enable the enemy to attack with ships of any size and of any number, his fire being concentrated at a great distance upon any one of our batteries at a time” (O.R.A. 1, 4:676).

Magruder states: “Harden’s Bluff I have not seen, but Captain Myer, the engineer in charge, informs me that several more guns could be mounted there.” Eleven weeks later, February 1, 1862, Magruder recommended: “placing guns in the embrasures of the battery already prepared at Harden’s Bluff.” This reads as if the earthwork had been built, but was not armed until after February 1st, 1862 (O.R.A. 1, 2:979; 1, 4:676; 1, 9:40-41).

During the winter of 1861, Talcott’s struggle on the defense lines continued. His last diary entry for Fort Huger came on Wednesday October 23d, when he wrote: “Boat from Boykin to Mulberry Island and thence to Hardy’s Wharf and Stone House Wharf 75 cents.” It was probably the last time he walked the ground. Nine days later, on November 2nd, his letter to Fort Boykin was addressed to Lieutenant W. G. Turpin. The Confederate States had assumed charge of the defense line. Talcott wanted an accounting of tools and materials on hand, but the problems had “hereafter devolved upon the Engineer Bureau” (Talcott 1861n; ORA 4, 2:448).

As 1861 closed out on the James, the men still hung between war and peace. Boredom and disease made life unpleasant on the defense line, excuses and leave were easy to come by, and only skeleton crews of militiamen remained. Then, just before Christmas, rumors of an attack flashed upriver. The men rushed downriver, and waited, but the attack never came. This type of panic began to reappear about every month, springing from stories of warships gathering in Hampton Roads.

The men in the James River defenses had come to recognize the importance of Fort Huger, and “Prince John” Magruder wrote another summary of the defenses on February 1, 1862. Although it appeared, by his wording, that Fort Huger was armed in October 1861, his new report recommended: “placing guns in the embrasures of the battery already prepared at Harden’s Bluff.” “The lower defenses on James River are exceedingly weak,” he wrote, asking for permission to move the heavy guns at Jamestown to Mulberry Island and Fort Huger. “The narrow channel of the river at Jamestown Island does not require guns of such heavy caliber as the channel below, at Harden’s Bluff” (O.R.A. 1, 2:979; 1, 4:676; 1, 9:40-41). Magruder’s views had apparently been

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circulating for a few weeks. Prior to Magruder's report, the commander of Jamestown, Hill Carter, recorded a plea for his command:

“After a respectful consideration of Major-General Magruder's views, I beg leave to offer the following suggestions: I do not think it sound policy to underrate the importance of the defenses at Jamestown Island.... In my humble judgement it would be bad policy to abandon the defenses of Jamestown and concentrate upon the one point at Mulberry Island, although if there be not guns enough for all the batteries, I admit the policy of giving the preference to Mulberry Point and Hardin's Bluff. I hope the President will give General Magruder both more men and more guns to repel so important an advance upon the capital of the State and of the Confederacy. I consider Virginia as the great battlefield, and if her capital be lost, Virginia would fall, and with her the whole Confederacy” (O.R. I, 51, 2:445-446).

The earlier plan to block the channel returned. Apparently Jones was successful in closing the newly defined swash channel across the oxbow. In late February, 1862, the Confederate Navy's Captain Tucker described the type of obstructions that should be placed below Harden's Bluff, noting that Mulberry Island and Jamestown were not good sites for such works. The structure consisted of bundles of heavy piles, connected by chains and anchored to the bottom, with a sixty-foot-wide opening for river traffic. Derelict ships with masts, of about 300 tons, were to be loaded with stone and kept available to scuttle across the opening. These ships were to have plugged holes, pre-drilled to eight or ten inches, to insure easy scuttling. Tucker also recommended placing “several of Maury's submarine batteries beyond the barrier” at the place where the U.S. ships would stop. Called “torpedoes,” these were early naval mines. As planned, this barrier would have stopped any attacking force at point blank range in front of Fort Huger's guns, and held them in an area planted with mines. Tucker's concept was about half a century ahead of its time, and exactly anticipates the type of killing zone typically placed in front of crew-served weapons today. Tucker states: “So soon as the piling opposite Fort Boykin shall have been completed, it is our opinion that a similar line of piling should be placed below Fort Huger, and under its guns, distance not to exceed one half mile” Tucker might have been saying that such a barrier was under construction at Fort Boykin, but more likely he meant that Fort Boykin should get first priority. There is no indication this barrier was built at Fort Huger, but Tucker's letter does explain the torpedoes found inside the fort after its capture (O.R.N. 1, 6:775).

At the end of February, the Confederate Congress called for a report on the defenses of Richmond. Acting Chief Engineer Alfred Rives submitted a report on March 12, 1862, “Fort Huger, Hardy's Bluff, mounting thirteen guns, one 10-inch, columbiad pattern, rifled, in barbette; four 9-inch Dahlgrens, rifled, in barbette; two 8-inch, columbiads, rifled, in barbette; six hot-shot 32-pounders on ship carriages” (O.R.A. 1, 51,II:509).

Rives added:

“The James River defenses, which are rapidly improving, afford already a good protection against wooden fleets, but not against ironclad vessels. From recent developments it is evident that

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nothing but the very heaviest ordnance can contend successfully with this latter class. It is to such means we are resorting on the James River. In positions similar to those of Fort Huger, Yorktown, and Mulberry Island Point, the only course left to pursue seems to be to mount the guns on bluffs, where they are not liable to be struck, on in well-constructed casemates, to contend with wooden ships, keeping sand-bags ready filled to protect them against iron-clad vessels. This class is so excessively expensive and confined as to be ill adapted to the transportation of troops in large numbers” (O.R.A. 1, 51,II: 509).

Four days before Rives submitted his report, while he was gathering his data, a revolution had occurred. After Catesby Jones discovered that one-inch plate was inadequate, Richmond’s Tredegar yard had successfully retooled to produce two-inch plate. The ironclad *Virginia* became a reality (Stern 1992:51).

On March 8th, 1862, Franklin Buchanan eased the *Virginia* away from her pier. Almost everyone assumed they were going for a test run, because she had never used her engines or fired her guns. Instead, Buchanan was heading out to change the world. His objective was the destruction of the *USS Cumberland*. She was a small sailing ship without an engine, but rumored to be mounting new rifled guns, “the only ones in their whole fleet we have cause to fear” (Quarstein 1999:58).

Both the *Monitor* and the *Virginia* had plenty of flaws, and the next day, March 9, 1862, they fought to a draw. The battle ended after the *Monitor’s* captain, John Worden, swung the *Monitor* around and tried to ram the *Virginia’s* exposed propeller. Just before he made contact, the *Monitor’s* steering gear gave way and she missed. As she passed, John Taylor Wood slammed a seven-inch shell into Worden’s pilothouse, blinding Worden. The *Monitor* ran out into shallow water to regroup, and the two ships never closed again (Quarstein 1999:90). Knowing that the *Monitor* could stand up to the *Virginia*, the U.S. ship became too valuable to fight. The U.S. Navy pulled back to the mouth of Hampton Roads and kept the *Monitor* under the guns of Fort Monroe. Washington telegraphed: “*Monitor* shall take no risk excepting with the *Virginia*.” Over the next seven weeks, the *Virginia* entered Hampton Roads twice, looking for a fight, but the *Monitor* was held back. One of her officers wrote: “We are moored in precisely the same position as which we have been ever since the combat... chained fast by the bonds of red tape and old fogysm” (Mindell 2000:91, 93). With combat approaching, the Confederates practiced on each other. The South had very few trained artillerymen, and even less men capable of handling heavy guns. This latter group was almost always made of naval officers. Field guns had to move down bad roads, and even the largest piece of land artillery was usually no bigger than the smallest of naval guns. The big guns on the James had come from the Navy Yard, and they were navy guns. As a result, Navy officers were usually detailed to the forts, which fell under the jurisdiction of the Army. No one liked the arrangement. On March 16, 1862, Gen. Magruder wrote R.E. Lee:

“I inclose [sic] you a communication from Colonel Cabell in relation to Harden’s Bluff. I applied more than three months ago to have this work transferred to my department, and sent Colonel Randolph and Mr. St. John, the engineer then in charge of the works of this Peninsula, to Richmond to press this subject upon the consideration of the War Department, but could get no

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answer. It is too late now probably to affect anything, but I am willing to do what can be done. The battery has been a naval battery, and is now commanded by Captain De Lagnel (late of the Navy but now temporarily a captain in the Confederate Army). I recommend that the whole be placed under the command of the commanding officer, whoever he may be – at present Colonel Archer – while the guns and the men who serve them should be under the immediate command of Captain De Lagnel, who, however, I believe, is junior to the captains of artillery serving the guns; and, if so, ought to be made a major, as has been done in many similar cases, and as his services at this time cannot be spared” (O.R.A. 1, 9:69).

Magruder’s enclosure, Cabell’s report of March 13th, reads:

“As directed by Major-General Magruder, I proceeded to-day to Harden’s Bluff. Seven of the largest guns have been placed *en barbette*, having previously been placed in embrasure. There are six other guns to be placed *en barbette*. The position I think singularly strong, if further assisted by art. The guns should be immediately placed in position. Traverses should be immediately thrown up. The fort is small, and this could be completed in a very short time. The woods come up immediately to the fort and surround it on all sides, except on the river front. They afford perfect shelter for an attacking force. The forest should be cleared with the utmost possible dispatch. In the woods a very short distance from the fort is a marsh, which nearly surrounds the fort. Over this marsh a road passes leading to the camp of Lieutenant-Colonel Archer. The road can be completely commanded by the fort, but the guns for this purpose are not yet in position. There are several wooden buildings recently erected inside the fort. I think they should be removed at once, with the exception, perhaps, of the one for commissary stores. Of this last I am doubtful. This should be removed as soon as a store-house can be erected in another position. The two artillery companies should be placed under the immediate command of the commander of the fort, and required to occupy their position either in the fort or immediately adjacent thereto. They should be drilled immediately at their pieces. The drill for some time has been suspended.... I also recommend that bomb-proofs be erected and the batteries casemated with the utmost possible dispatch” (O.R.A. 1, 9:70).

The wooden buildings Cabell wanted taken out of the fort were probably the quarters that T.M.R. Talcott built in the late summer of 1861. The bomb-proofs between the guns, which do not appear on the fort plan, were probably built as a response to Cabell’s recommendation. These would have existed for little more than a month, before being abandoned.

Within two days of Magruder’s letter written Sunday, March 16th, R.E. Lee had composed a response:

“General: It has been represented to me that the work at Harden’s Bluff, Fort Huger, is not in good defensive condition. The items of fault are reported to be as follows:

1. Want of proper traverses

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2. Want of bomb proofs
3. Existence of wooden buildings inside the work
4. The six 32-pounders for hot shot are not on barbette carriages and there are no guns mounted for land defense.
5. The woods are left standing close to the work on the outside.
6. The men have not been drilled at their guns for some time past.
7. A want of harmony and zealous co-operation among some of the officers, resulting from questions of rank (it is said Captain de Lagnel, who was sent to command the battery of heavy guns, is junior to the captain of one of the companies serving at the battery, and that this is one cause of trouble; and that Colonel Archer and Captain de Lagnel do not accord entirely.

Captain Rives, in charge of the engineer office here, reports in regard to the items of complaint as follows:

1. Traverses are now in progress of construction
2. Bomb proofs are being made as rapidly as possible.
3. The six 32-pounders have not been mounted *en barbette* because he has not been able to procure the carriages, and for the same reason no guns have been placed for the land defense. He thinks, however, that he can procure at least two barbette carriages on which to mount a like number of guns looking to the land, and will send them to Fort Huger at once, with as many more as can be obtained, and will do the same in regard to the other carriages and guns so soon as they can be procured.
4. The engineer in charge of Fort Huger has long since been instructed to have the woods felled. A want of axes may have prevented the execution of the order. He will, however, be directed to have this work done at once to the extent of his means.

I have stated both sides of the question as presented to me. You will know what importance to attach to the several complaints. I think the wooden buildings in the fort, if that cause of complaint be real, should be removed as soon as practicable. If they are used as quarters, cannot tents be substituted for them? If for store-houses, some portions of the bomb proofs might be arranged to supply their places, which latter I am told is being done. The clearing of the woods near the battery is of course necessary, and I am surprised the commanding officer of the fort has not had this work done by the troops. If the engineering force has more important work to do, axes sufficient could probably be procured from the neighbors, if they cannot be supplied in any other way. The drill has probably been interrupted by the change in the guns, but should be resumed.

The last item of complaint, 'Want of harmony among the officers,' is the most important. The senior officer present should command all, but the immediate command of the guns and the men serving them should be with Captain de Lagnel, as he was assigned to his present position because of his supposed capabilities as an artillery officer. This is not a time to squabble about

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rank; every one must work, and do what he can to promote the cause. To save time I have assumed that the statements made to me to be true, which is most likely not the case; and my suggestions on this supposition are intended mainly as explanatory” (O.R.A.1,11,III: 384-385).

This letter not only provides a great deal of information on the fort, it also illuminates R.E. Lee’s procedures. The most striking sentence is his last: “To save time I have assumed that the statements made to me to be true, which is most likely not the case; and my suggestions on this supposition are intended mainly as explanatory.”

Two days after Lee’s response to Magruder, on Thursday March 20th, Jefferson Davis used information from Rives for a report on the James River defenses, as requested by the Confederate Congress on February 24th. Concerning Fort Huger, Davis said:

“The next position above, defended by the works at Hardy’s Bluff and Mulberry Island, possesses great importance from being the right flank of General Magruder’s chosen defensive line on the Peninsula, and the lowest point which gives the hope of a successful protection of the river against the wooden fleets of the enemy. Ironclad vessels, of which we have not had sufficient experience to form a correct judgment, can pass these works, as the channel is too wide and deep for obstructions, unless wrought iron bolts now being prepared for trial against the Ericsson Battery (*USS Monitor*) and others of the same class prove more effective than can be reasonable hoped for” (O.R.N. II, 2:170).

Inside Fort Huger, in April 1862, the squabbling continued. A new artillery commander, J.M. Maury, had apparently replaced De Lagnel. On April 26th, Maury wrote a long complaint to George Wythe Randolph. Maury’s letter of complaint contained a copy of another letter Lt. Colonel Archer, commander of the troops at Fort Huger, in which Maury explained why it was best to have the Secretary of War settle the command issues at Fort Huger. Maury’s comments to Randolph included:

“As I am held responsible for the defense of this fort, I do not think it right that the senior officer of the battalion outside should have a right to withdraw my garrison without my consent.... It may and probably will be necessary and proper to hold the fort longer than the infantry companies can hold their position, and if it became necessary to withdraw the infantry, the commanding officer could and probably would withdraw the garrison as forming part of his battalion; or, if he should think proper to withdraw into the fort, he would be commanding officer of the garrison, and of course of the fort” (O.R.A. 1, 11, III: 466).

Maury inadvertently illuminated himself, Fort Huger and the Confederate government. A key paragraph comes at the end of the first letter, to Randolph, “In strict propriety this communication should have been addressed to General Lee, but I knew the many delays it might have been subject to before reaching him, and I thought it important that it should be acted on immediately. So I have presumed on old acquaintanceship to address it to

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you unofficially, with the belief that you would take the proper steps to have it brought to his early attention” (O.R.A. 1, 11, III: 467).

Maury was a son or kinsman of Matthew Fontaine Maury, arguably the most famous man in the Confederate Navy, and arguably one of the most difficult. Largely because of his strong nature, Matthew Maury was sent to Europe in 1862, after establishing the Submarine Battery Service. He stayed there until the very end of the war.

J.M. Maury, after assignment to Fort Huger, must have clashed with Archer, the infantry commander. Tied to Matthew Maury, J.M. Maury knew and was probably related to George Wythe Randolph, the Confederate Secretary of War. J. M. Maury apparently presumed on his personal ties in his disagreement with Archer, and after flaunting the connection to Archer in his letter, went on to write Randolph. One of the ultimate sins of a military man is the failure to follow the proper chain of command. J.M. Maury’s letters, particularly the concluding paragraph – that Lee was busier than the Secretary of War – almost certainly did not impress Randolph or Lee.

McClellan had planned for some time to rapidly end the war by sailing the Army of the Potomac to the area between the York and James and rapidly march westward to capture Richmond, but his schedule came apart on Saturday, May 3rd, 1862, when Magruder, who had spent a year fortifying the Peninsula, was replaced. As the test of the trenches approached, command of the Confederate forces was assigned to the more senior Gen. Joseph Johnston. Johnston evaluated the situation, and decided it was impossible to hold the Yorktown line. Instead, drawing on his years of experience, Johnston decided to abandon the elaborate works with their engineered man-traps and cleared killing zones. Ordering his men to set fire to their supplies and to blow up their guns, Johnston pulled out into the open and sent his troops backing away through the woods, towards Richmond. His schedule torn to pieces by the increased Confederate military presence in and around Richmond, McClellan began a slow advance up the Peninsula and the war, rather than being rapidly ended, continued for three more years. Within another year, soldiers would know that a farm ditch could be held by a handful of men, and that it was suicide to try a trench that had been occupied for a week.

The James remained a Confederate river, thanks to the *Virginia*, but with McClellan at their back, the batteries on the north shore, like Mulberry Island, had to be evacuated immediately. There were 500 army artillerymen plus heavy guns on Jamestown Island. They shipped off what they could, and tried to destroy the rest. Their colonel reached Richmond on Thursday, May 8th (Riggs 1997:71).

Although McClellan was moving forward on the north side of the James in early May 1862, the Confederates still had the river and the south side. Depending almost entirely on the *Virginia*, they began sending material out by ship and railroad. Another ironclad, finally named the *Richmond*, was under construction in Norfolk. Similar to the *Virginia* in appearance, it had the small size and shallow draft of a river gunboat. While McClellan fought through Williamsburg, the *Patrick Henry* came down and towed the unfinished ship up to Richmond’s Rocketts Yard (Quarstein 1999:106).

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Abraham Lincoln, visiting Fort Monroe, saw the materials disappearing into the Confederacy, and ordered the U.S. Navy to block the James. A second ironclad, the *Galena*, had joined the fleet. The *Galena* resembled a conventional ship clapboarded with overlapping armor plates. On Thursday, May 8th, the *Galena* and gunboats *Aroostook* and *Port Royal* entered Hampton Roads and the James (Quarstein 1999:107).

The little U.S. task force was commanded by John Rodgers, a cousin of both Catesby ap Roger Jones and Robert Randolph Carter. Rodgers had been Carter's commanding officer in the Far East in the 1850s. Rodgers led his ships up the James, shelled Fort Boykin, and then attacked Fort Huger. The *Arroostook* and *Port Royal*, the latter commanded by George Morris of the *Cumberland*, were gunboats without armor. Rodgers, aground off Hog Island, reported:

“We fought two batteries yesterday, each of about a dozen guns. We silenced the first one at Rock Wharf, but finding that we were expending too many shells upon the second at Mother Tynes' Bluff [Fort Huger] I put the *Galena* abeam of it as close as the pilot could take her, in good 5-second range, and disconcerted the aim of the rebels while the *Aroostook* and the *Port Royal* ran by. No one in any of the vessels hurt; vessels not injured. The *Yorktown* and *Jamestown*, lying between these batteries, moved up the river as we approached, and they disappeared” (O.R.N. 1, 7:328-329).

This event at Fort Huger might be the first example of what would become a tactical pattern of the Union Navy ironclads and ships engaging and bypassing Confederate river and harbor fortifications, which if supported from the water at all were supported by smaller ironclads and submarine barriers. By the end of the war, the Confederacy controlled only ports where this tactical pattern would not work.

Lincoln wanted more. The *Monitor* and other U.S. ships attacked Sewell's Point, but retreated as soon as the *Virginia* came sailing out to do battle. John Taylor Wood said: “It was the most cowardly exhibition I have ever seen.” Lincoln continued to push. Commandeering a tug, he examined the southern coastline, found a beach the *Virginia* could not reach, and ordered the Army to move. At dawn on Saturday, May 10th, U.S. troopers waded ashore and began marching for Norfolk (Quarstein 1999:107-109).

As Catesby Jones and John Taylor Wood stumbled away from the James on Sunday May 11th, Rodgers wrote another description of his fight with Fort Huger:

“I have the honor to report that on 8th instant we offered battle to two batteries of about ten guns each, some of the guns heavy rifled, and the *Jamestown* and *Yorktown* gunboats. As we approached the batteries which we silenced, the rebel boats lying between them moved up the river. After this vessel had passed and repassed the second battery seven times in all, as closely as the pilot could carry us, the *Galena* laid still, abreast its guns, while the *Aroostook* and *Port Royal* ran by; she was thus able so to disconcert the aim of the rebel artillerists that our boats escaped a shot” (O.R.N. 1, 7:329).

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**Fort Huger
Isle of Wight, VA**

Commander Rodgers requested the aid of the *Monitor* and a supply of ammunition to “silence the battery at Harden’s Bluff.” The ironclad *U.S.S. Monitor* fired on the fort on May 12th. According to a report written by Commander Rodgers of the *Galena*, “The *Galena* and *Monitor* can, with a supply of ammunition, silence the battery at Harden’s Bluff” (ORN 1862). A more substantial Union fleet that included the *U.S.S. Galena* and the *U.S.S. Monitor* attacked the fort again four days later. Following this attack, Union forces report the Confederate abandonment of Fort Huger. In a report to U.S. Navy operations command, from Flag-officer Goldsborough of the *U.S.S. Susquehanna* dated May 18, 1862, it was noted that “...at Harden’s Bluff the guns were spiked, carriages burned and magazines blown up, but a little below it a solitary gun remained intact, and this we put out of use” (ORN 1:7) (O’Neal and Reid 2006).

By May 17th, 1862, Fort Huger’s military life was over. Lieutenant Watters, commander of the *USS Minnesota*, went ashore to survey the works on the south shore of the James. He reported:

“This fort is an earthwork of recent construction, the rear being not quite finished. It is a bastioned work, of 500 feet front and about 300 depth. The front commands the river, presenting an indented or *crémaillère* line, composed of long and short lines alternately, thus giving a cross fire for barbette guns, and the longest lines commanding the approach up the river. The left is a lunette. The right has two bastions, the line of defense of one looking toward the river and the other covering a ravine which skirts the right and rear. The rear of the work is a redan, in which is found the entrance to the fort and also the bridge over the ditch, which is reinforced by a small redan commanding the bridge. In the center are parade ground and space for quarters and bombproof magazine. The front, at intervals between the guns, has bombproof traverses, some of which are store rooms; they are neatly finished with sods, and the parapets all round are faced with revetment of sods on the interior slope.

The work is surrounded with deep ditch and occupies a commanding position on the bluff, with a steep bank almost perpendicular between it and the level of the river, giving it a command from crest of parapet to the level of the river of about 30 feet. Its right is flanked by a ravine, which also covers part of the rear, from which the timber has been cleared and burned, leaving an open view extending back nearly a mile. The retiring enemy had burned the quarters and dismounted the guns, burning the carriages and blowing up the magazine, but left their flag flying. This must have been done very recently, for some of the gun carriages were yet smoldering. There was also the debris of a furnace for heating shot. The fort mounted twelve guns, one 32 commanding the entrance at the rear; three of the heaviest caliber mounted on circle-traversing carriages at the angles in barbette, and eight guns on the front, five of which were mounted in embrasure, which took away considerably from their efficiency, as they had only a limited range of fire; but being navy 32-pounders, mounted on navy truck carriages, fitted with breeching and tackles, and worked on platforms built of wood over the thread of the banquette, they could not be mounted higher without exposing the men over the parapet. The following summary of the guns will show their character:

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One 7-inch army columbiad, rifled bore; gun spiked
Two 8-inch army columbiads, smoothbore; guns spiked
Three 9-inch navy Dahlgren guns, smoothbore; guns spiked
Six double-fortified navy 32s, smoothbore, 57 cwt; guns spiked.
Total, twelve.

Two of the 9-inch Dahlgren guns are burst to atoms.

In some of the bombproof storage rooms a few shells and grape were remaining, and in one of them discovered two iron-cased torpedoes, which an attempt had been made to blow up by attaching a slow match to the fuze; it also appeared to have a trigger set” (O.R.N. 1, 7:387-389).

While the torpedoes may have been related to planned obstructions in front of the fort, the more immediate connection is the artillery officer, J.M. Maury, and his connection to Matthew Maury. By August 1862, J.M. Maury commanded the artillery covering the minefield in front of Chaffin’s Bluff, and stayed at that post to the end of the war (O.R.A. 1, 51, II:612).

Despite the damage at Fort Huger, the U.S. naval officers operating up the James River were concerned about forts being re-occupied. On July 1st, 1862, Admiral Goldsborough sent the *Dacotah* and the *Wachusett* to Fort Huger to destroy the guns. On July 11th, he provided a list of the guns at Fort Huger, consisting of: one VIII-inch rifled columbiad (15,800 lbs); two IX-inch shell guns; two VI-inch rifled columbiads; and six 32-pounders (heavy). The number of guns inside the fort varies from report to report – Goldsborough’s list totals eleven – but the wrecking crew from the *Wachusett* reported thirteen destroyed at Fort Huger. It took almost three days of work, and consisted of blowing off the cascabels and trunnions “and otherwise rendering them useless” (O.R.N. 1, 7:532, 566, 735).

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Isle of Wight, VA**

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Isle of Wight, VA**

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1861c Andrew Talcott from Robert E. Lee, April 30, 1861. The Virginia Historical Society, Richmond.

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1861e Andrew Talcott to Thomas Mann Randolph Talcott, July 1, 1861. The Virginia Historical Society, Richmond.

1861f Andrew Talcott to Thomas Mann Randolph Talcott, July [10th?], 1861. The Virginia Historical Society, Richmond.

1861g Andrew Talcott to Thomas Mann Randolph Talcott, July [18th?], 1861. The Virginia Historical Society, Richmond.

1861h Andrew Talcott to Thomas Mann Randolph Talcott, August [8th?], 1861. The Virginia Historical Society, Richmond.

1861i Andrew Talcott to Thomas Mann Randolph Talcott, August 24, 1861. The Virginia Historical Society, Richmond.

1861j Andrew Talcott to Thomas Mann Randolph Talcott, August 26, 1861. The Virginia Historical Society, Richmond.

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**Fort Huger
Isle of Wight, VA**

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Section 10 Page 24

**Fort Huger
Isle of Wight, VA**

Geographical Data

UTM References (continued)

| Zone Easting Northing | Zone Easting Northing | Zone Easting Northing | Zone Easting Northing |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>5 18 352490 4108076</u> | <u>6 18 352264 4108208</u> | <u>7 18 352277 4108263</u> | <u>8 18 352355 4108277</u> |

| |
|----------------------------|
| <u>9 18 352508 4108191</u> |
|----------------------------|

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the fort site is determined by the exact UTM points as provided

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>1 18 352718E 4108233N</u> | <u>2 18 352739E 4108135N</u> | <u>3 18 352728E 4107934N</u> | <u>4 18 352566E 4107970N</u> |
| <u>5 18 352490E 4108076N</u> | <u>6 18 352264E 4108208N</u> | <u>7 18 352277E 4108263N</u> | <u>8 18 352355E 4108277N</u> |
| <u>9 18 352508E 4108191N</u> | | | |

Boundary Justification

The proposed Fort Huger NRHP boundary includes the site of the Fort as well as the marshland surrounding it and the site of the 1861 Winter encampment. Historically there appears to have been a road connecting the location of the winter encampment to the fort therefore it is proposed that this entire parcel be included with NRHP site. Please see the attached maps and Isle of Wight County Tax Parcel 03-01-001. The actual fort is bordered by the James River on the east, marshland on the north and west, and private property to the south. Also to the south, the land tapers and slopes downward off the bluff, marking the edge of the proposed site.

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Section Additional Material Page 25

**Fort Huger
Isle of Wight, VA**

Additional Information

List of Slaves and Freed Slaves Employed for the Construction of Fort Huger Compiled from Records at the Virginia Historical Society by T. Finderson, Resident of Isle of Wight County, Virginia.

Freed Slaves Employed for the Construction of Fort Huger

| | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Aldman, Thomas | Crocker, Allen | James, John | Pritlow, Robert |
| Bailey, W.J.W. | Davis, Joseph | Johnson, James E. | Pope, Henry |
| Bailey, George | Drew, Ben | Johnson, Jar Etta | Read, Madison |
| Bailey, Peyton | Green, Gilbert | Johnson, NatKey | Ricks, Arnold |
| Barber, Henry | Green, Isaac | Jordan, James E. | Ricks, Hyter |
| Bowman, Anson | Gwathney, Henry | Jordan, Parker | Ricks, Jacob |
| Bowser, John | Gwathney, Peter | Jordan, Wm | Scott, John |
| Briggs, Henry | Hill, Isaac | Key, Willis | Sheppard, James |
| Butler, Wm | Hill, James | King, Moses | Steward, John |
| Butler, Mills | Hill, Robt | Lawrence, Henry | Thompson, Charles |
| Butler, David | Hill, Jr Robt | Leander, Roberts | Tines, James |
| Charity, Silas | Holloway, Edica | Maker, Henry | Tines, William |
| Clayton, Beverly | Holloway, Isom | Newby, Harrison | Warren, Jesse |
| Cofer, Wm | Holloway, James | Newby, Harry | Wilkinson, William |
| | Holloway, Robert | Newby, John | Williams, Jeff |
| | | Pritlow, Moses | Wilson, Robert |

Slaves from Isle of Wight that worked on Fort Huger:

Hired from Edwin White: Leroy
Roderick

Hired from William Hall: James
Charles

Hired from John E Thomas
Soloman
James
Henry
Burwell
Reuben
Ben
Mike
Leonard
Edmond
Abraham
Burwin

Hired from E. P. Crenshaw:
Robert

Hired from James Branch:
Israel

Slaves in Surry County that worked on Fort Huger:

Hired from Levy White: Willis
Roderick
Levy

Hired from James Branch: Jim

Hired from E. A. Madera or Madery or Maden:
Isaac
John
Alfred
Moses
Henry
Edmond

Hired from John H. Hankins:
Bob
Levy
Archer
George
Albert
Collyer

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Section Maps, Photographic Data Page 26

**Fort Huger
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Attached Maps

Map 1: USGS Quadrangle Showing Proposed NRHP Boundary of Fort Huger

Map 2: Plan of Fort Huger from Gilmer, 1863.

Map 3: USGS Quadrangle Showing Boundaries of Sites 44IW0204 and 44IW0065

Map 4: Engineer's Drawings Showing Proposed Interpretation Plan and Parcel Boundaries for Fort Huger.

Photographic Log

Project Name: Fort Huger

Photographer: Taft Kiser

Project Number: 1189

Film Type: Digital

Date: 9/10/2007

Stored at: VDHR, Richmond

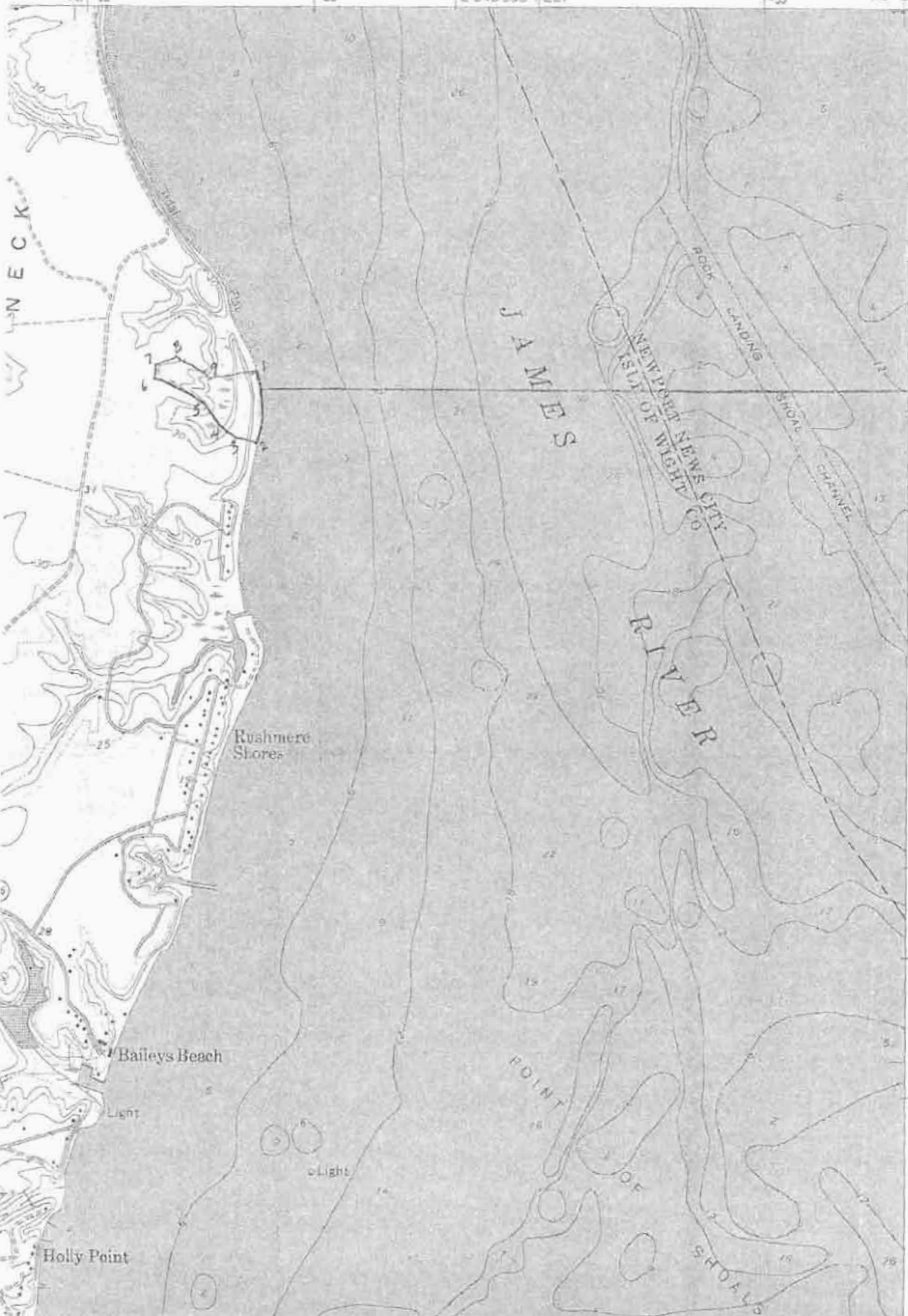
| Photo Number | Digital File Name | Description of Resource |
|--------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | VA_IsleofWightCounty_FortHuger1 | Eastern Bombproof, Facing Southeast |
| 2 | VA_IsleofWightCounty_FortHuger2 | Northwestern Ditch Toward Redan, Facing South |
| 3 | VA_IsleofWightCounty_FortHuger3 | Lunette at Northern Edge, Facing East |
| 4 | VA_IsleofWightCounty_FortHuger4 | Parade Ground Facing East |
| 5 | VA_IsleofWightCounty_FortHuger5 | Northern Edge Toward Sally Port, Facing Southwest |
| 6 | VA_IsleofWightCounty_FortHuger6 | Shot Furnace, Facing South |
| 7 | VA_IsleofWightCounty_FortHuger7 | Southern Bastion, Facing West |
| 8 | VA_IsleofWightCounty_FortHuger8 | Southern Edge Toward Eastern Bastion, Facing Northeast |
| 9 | VA_IsleofWightCounty_FortHuger9 | Northern Wall Toward Bombproof, Facing Northeast |
| 10 | VA_IsleofWightCounty_FortHuger10 | Western Bastion Southern Edge, Facing Northeast |
| 11 | VA_IsleofWightCounty_FortHuger11 | Western Bastion, Western Edge, Facing Southwest |

BACONS CASTLE QUADRANGLE
 VIRGINIA
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

MAP 1

3689 H NE
 (YORKTOWN)

401 352 353 2 540 000 FEET 355 76° 37' 30" 37° 07' 30"



- Fort Huger
 Isle of Wight
 046-0037
 Bacon's Castle, V
1. N 4108233
 E 352718
 2. N 4108135
 E 352739
 3. E 352728
 N 4107934
 4. N 4107970
 E 352566
 5. N 4108076
 E 352490
 6. N 4108208
 E 352264
 7. N 4108263
 E 352277
 8. N 4108277
 E 352355
 9. N 4108191
 E 352508