

FORT HANCOCK, BACHELOR OFFICERS' QUARTERS
(Fort Hancock, Building No. 171)
Corner of Bragg Drive and Ford Road,
at the Fort Hancock Proving Ground
Fort Hancock
Monmouth County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-1209-A

HABS
NJ
13-FOHAN,
1A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia, Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, P.A. 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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Location: Corner of Bragg Drive and Ford Road, at the Fort Hancock Proving Ground,
Fort Hancock, Monmouth County, New Jersey

USGS Sandy Hook, NJ-NY Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
18 585550 4479950

Significance: This World War II era wood frame structure has been identified as a contributing structure to the Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District because of the role that Fort Hancock played during World War II as the headquarters for the harbor defenses of New York and the New York Subsector. During 1945 and 1946 Fort Hancock served the nation as a primary reception center for troops returning from European theater of operations, before being demobilized and discharged. Between 1943 and 1948 the Sandy Hook batteries, because of development of the atomic bomb and missiles and the successful application of new principals of amphibious warfare, were phased out and disarmed. This building was typical of the temporary wood frame bachelor officers' quarters built throughout the United States during World War II.

Description: This building is one of five almost identical structures built in the same general area; Structures 164, 165, 166, 167 and 171. Structures numbered 164 through 167 were located in file from north to south along Kilpatrick Road between Canfield Road and Ford Road, with long axis in the east-west direction. Structure 165 occupied the northernmost position. To the east of these structures, with its long axis also in the east-west direction along Ford Road, sits Structure 171. All structures measured 19 - 6 x 130, with an area of 7,670 square feet. All but Structure 171 were demolished in June of 1985. Building 171 remained relatively unaltered through its use by the National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration.

Exterior:

This structure is rectangular in plan, two stories in height, and of wood frame construction. Its foundation is concrete piers supporting 3-1 1/2 x 9 beams around the building perimeter. The foundation is solid under the toilet rooms at the west end of the north side. Floor supports are 2 x 8s at 20" o.c. with metal cross bridging at mid-span covered 2 x 6 diagonal subflooring.

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The structure exterior is covered with wood novelty siding painted white. A gable roof crowns the top floor and a small pent roof of the same construction surrounds the building at the second floor level. These are covered with prepared roofing paper, and there are no gutters. A single exterior detached chimney stands at the north side toward the west end.

Windows are wood double-hung sash with 8 over 8 lights.

Interior: Access to the interior is gained from either end, or from the middle of the south wall. Exterior access to the second floor is by a built-in wood ladder at the short elevations. A central hall running north-south is flanked by rows of rooms with doors opening into it.

At the east end is a large day room. Two rows of 6 x 6 columns begin in the day room and continue west, being contained in the room partitions. Two toilet rooms with toilets, sinks, and showers are located at the north side of the hall near the west end.

Stairs to the upper level are located centrally at the north wall. They are of wood construction. The second floor is arranged basically the same as the first floor without the day room. Flooring is wood.

History:

The permanent post of Fort Hancock consisted primarily of yellow brick structures built from 1896 to 1939 to house the army units assigned to the Sandy Hook Coastal Batteries defending New York harbor. With the advent of World War II the post was greatly expanded to accommodate the increased demands of the expanding army.

With the construction of temporary wood frame structures based on standard Office of the Quartermaster General plans, building No.171 was built in 1941 to provide quarters for the expanded military post.

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After World War II this structure was used as storage by the army and after the closing of the fort in 1972 by National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). For the past several years the building has been abandoned.

Source: National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form
Fort Hancock and the Sandy Hook Proving Ground Historic District
Dr. Harry Butowsky, NPS
Dated: June 20, 1982

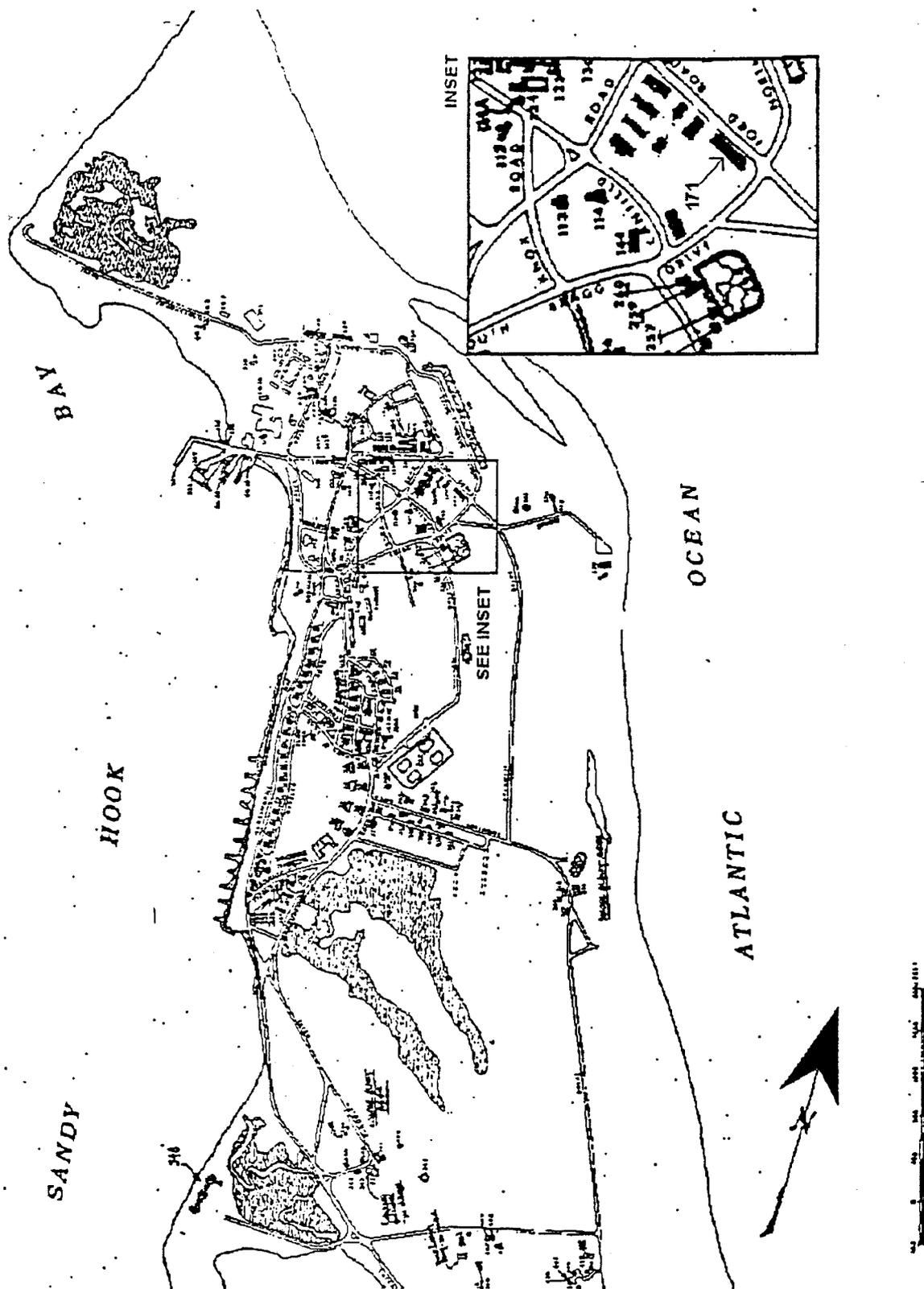
Draft Historic Structures Report, Architectural Data Section (Volume III)
Fort Hancock Structures, 1918-1978 Sandy Hook Unit, Gateway National
Recreation Area, New Jersey
Denver Service Center, National Park Service
U.S. Department of The Interior, August 25, 1988

Plan files, Gateway National Recreation Area, New Jersey

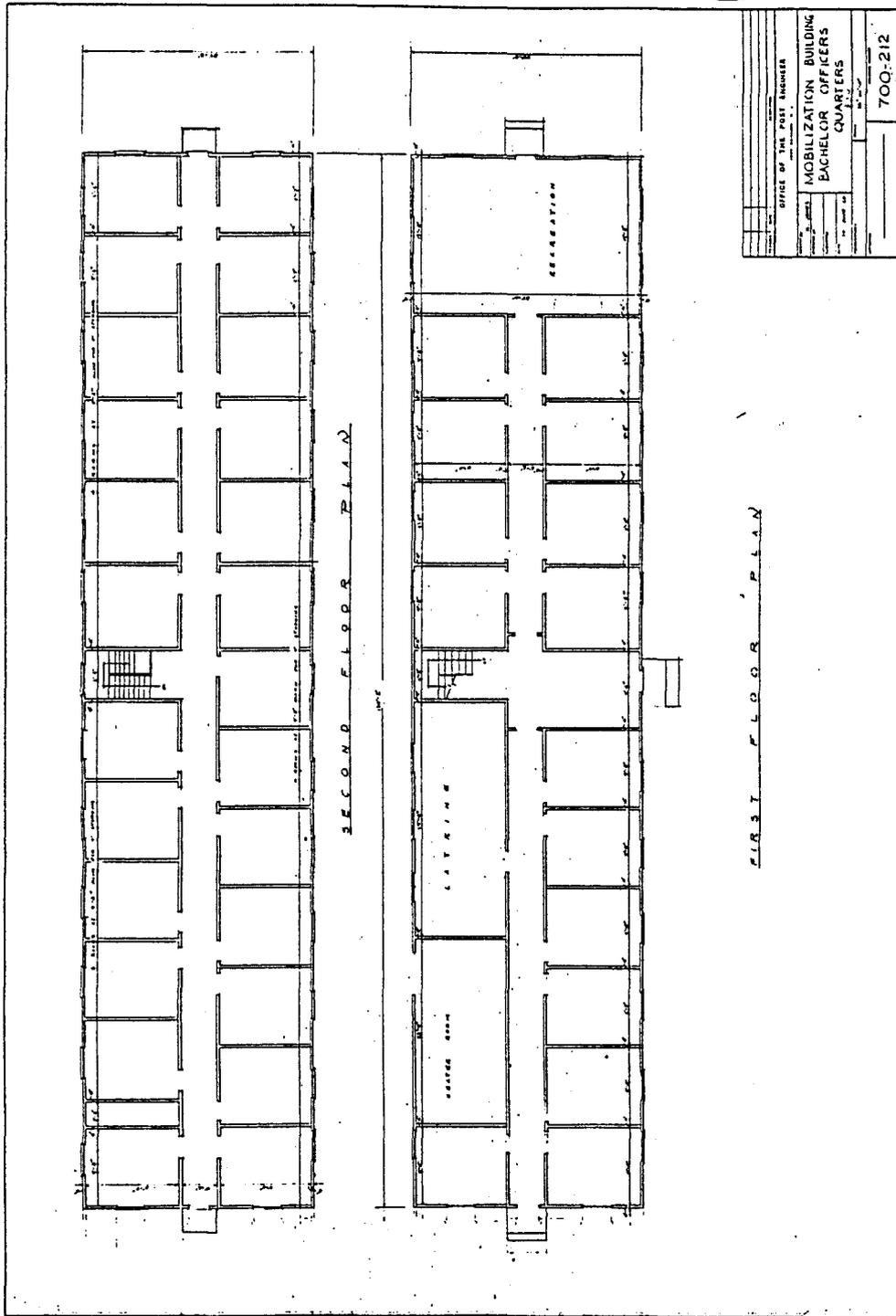
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FLOOR PLANS - DRAWN 1960