

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 DuPont Historic District

other names/site number CRS# N-1499

2. Location

street & number East side of Route 9, south of Chesapeake and Delaware Canal
not for publication ☐ city or town Delaware City vicinity X
state Delaware code DE county New Castle code 002 zip code 19706

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the	_____	_____
National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the	_____	_____
National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

_____	_____
Signature of Keeper	Date of Action

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property

☐ private
☐ public-local
☒ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>60</u>	<u>17</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
<u>16</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
<u>2</u>	_____	objects
<u>79</u>	<u>20</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions

Cat: <u>Defense</u>	Sub: <u>arms storage</u>
<u></u>	<u>fortification</u>
<u></u>	<u>military facility</u>
<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>

Current Functions

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single dwelling</u>
<u>Commerce/trade</u>	<u>Business</u>
<u>Commerce/trade</u>	<u>Warehouse</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>Public works</u>
<u>Recreation & culture</u>	<u>Outdoor recreation</u>
<u>Health care</u>	<u>Hospital</u>
<u>Landscape</u>	<u>Park</u>
<u>Unknown</u>	<u></u>
<u>Vacant</u>	<u></u>

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification

Late 19th and 20th century Revivals/
Colonial Revival

Materials

foundation concrete, brick, earth
roof asphalt, metal, slate
walls brick, asphalt, weatherboard

other N/A

Narrative Description

See continuation sheets

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria

- ☒ **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

- ☐ **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 Military

Period of Significance 1865-1945 +/-

Significant Dates 1899

Significant Person N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

See continuation sheets

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See 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: Center for Historic Architecture & Design, University of Delaware; Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 321.6

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>18</u>	<u>449660</u>	<u>4380900</u>	C	<u>18</u>	<u>449280</u> <u>4379980</u>
B	<u>18</u>	<u>449430</u>	<u>4380650</u>	D	<u>18</u>	<u>449540</u> <u>4379580</u>

☒ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Rebecca Siders, Research Associate; Anna Andrzejewski, Graduate
Research Assistant
organization Center for Historic Architecture & Design,
date March 8, 1999

street & number University of Delaware telephone (302) 831-8097
city or town Newark state DE zip code 19716-7360

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Additional Documentation

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Continuation Sheets

- Maps
- USGS quad map
 - Site plan showing tax parcel boundaries and major features
 - Sketch map showing resources and CRS numbers

Photographs

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Property Owner

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See continuation sheet.
name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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The Fort DuPont Historic District consists of 321.6 acres located in New Castle County, just south of Delaware City. The Delaware City branch of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal marks the fort's northwest boundary; the Delaware River forms its northeast property line. Delaware Route 9 and land owned by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and by the Federal Government delineate the fort's southwest boundary. Currently, part of the original fort is owned by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environment Control, while the Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Administrative Services, Department of Public Safety, and the Delaware National Guard own other areas. A small portion of about 3 acres is owned by New Castle County. The district contains a total of 101 resources, including buildings, structures, objects, and sites. Of these, 79 resources contribute to the significance of the district as a military installation, constructed between 1870 and 1945; 20 non-contributing resources reflect additions to the district after 1945; and 2 archaeological sites remain unevaluated or have proven to be unrelated to the military activities.

Fort DuPont contains a planned military landscape of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, consisting of the fort's defensive installations and the post built to support it. While the purpose and function of the fort changed several times between 1870 and 1945, key features of the military landscape survive intact. These include resources such as the batteries, parade ground, and road layout, as well as significant examples of barracks and officers' housing, hospitals, administrative and support resources (offices, garages, gas station, bakery, etc.), and recreational facilities such as the theater, swimming pool, and tennis courts. Thus, while the fort has sustained some significant loss of resources, the landscape and physical features that remain provide an excellent example of a military base from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. (See appended map)

Historic maps, aerial photographs, and the Construction Log indicate that many of the resources that once filled the Fort DuPont landscape have been demolished. Demolition began with the partial dismantling of Twenty Gun Battery in 1899, when a map indicated that standing buildings were "scheduled to be removed." Change was inevitable as fire destroyed a residence in 1906 and some buildings were moved to other forts. The best indicator of building loss comes in a comparison of a 1943 map of the fort during its maximum development and the current inventory of historic resources. This comparison reveals that there were approximately 150 permanent buildings and 135 mobilization type buildings in 1943; today there are a total of 101 resources. Despite this level of loss, the fort still retains physical integrity in the form of its plan and layout, and the physical features of the surviving resources.

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Many of the historic resources at Fort DuPont underwent changes to their original form. The specific modifications made by the military appear in the Construction Log for Fort DuPont. The log itemizes various types of changes, ranging from the installation of new venetian blinds to the construction of an addition to the building. Alterations occurred to many buildings after the state acquired the property. Transformations that took place during the period of significance at the fort must be considered part of the history of the building. Many of those alterations reflect modifications in building functions as the purpose of the fort itself changed. In that sense the changes contribute to our understanding of the changing functions of the fort and do not affect the integrity of the buildings.

The following list describes each of the resources included within the boundaries of the Fort DuPont Historic District and indicates its status as contributing (C) or non-contributing (NC). The buildings appear in a roughly chronological order of construction. The names given to the resources are those obtained from the Construction Log of Fort DuPont and represent the historic names assigned at the time of construction. In some cases the Construction Log indicated the inventory number assigned by the Fort that linked it to archival records, especially maps; where such a number exists it follows the name of the building (e.g., Bakery, #54). If the resource contained more than one part, such as a duplex residence, the title and number sequence will contain the letters A or B to indicate the right or left side of the building. The final number in the title sequence is the cultural resource survey number assigned to the property by the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office. The CRS number for the entire Fort DuPont Historic District is N-1499. Numbers following a decimal point after this initial number indicate a specific building, object, or site within the fort (e.g. Bakery, #54, N-1499.028).

Wingate House Archaeological Site (N-1499.001). The brick and stone Wingate House was built on the south side of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal between 1830 and 1837. From 1853 to 1919, the house was owned by the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company, and was occupied by the Delaware City lock-tender, William M. Wingate, and his son, William J. Wingate, who succeeded him in the position. After the purchase of the canal by the Corps of Engineers in 1919, the house was incorporated into the military landscape of Fort DuPont. It was demolished in 1970. Archaeological test excavations have demonstrated the presence of intact deposits relating to the occupation of the house by the Wingate family, but no deposits relating to the military period were identified.

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Ten Gun Battery (N-1499.002). Constructed in 1864, the Ten Gun Battery served as an ancillary battery to Fort Delaware. The apex of the pentagonally-shaped battery pointed due east and the two adjacent sides consisted of earthen parapets, sloped glacis, and a defensive moat. A wooden stockade and a six-foot deep moat protected the three landward sides of the battery. A bridge on the western-most side of the fort provided access across the defensive works. Several resources occupied the interior of the battery. The most prominent was a centrally-located magazine. Constructed of double layers of timbers and heavily reinforced with mounded earth, this resource stood partially below grade. Other resources within Ten Gun Battery included a kitchen, guard house, privy, and quarters for officers and enlisted men. No details survive as to the architectural characteristics of these buildings. Between 1898 and 1901, new construction of the Mortar Battery obliterated the Ten Gun Battery from the landscape. The battery exists today as an archaeological site, marked by a slight ridge in the wooded area east of the Mortar Battery (N-1499.005). The site has not been tested archaeologically and can only be considered "unevaluated."

Twenty Gun Battery (N-1499.003). Constructed in the 1870s, Twenty Gun Battery replaced the Civil War fortification, Ten Gun Battery (N-1499.002), as the primary artillery emplacement on the Delaware shore. Rectangular in shape with two flanking parapets, the battery appeared in the nineteenth century as a large earthen mound roughly parallel to the river. Initially planned for both large-bore cannon and coastal mortars, the battery never contained more than three guns. Only the southern-most flanking parapet survives.

Emplacement construction utilized alternating layers of brick and large-aggregate concrete. Fill reinforced the east (water) face of the battery. Heavy blocks held ordnance pintles, and wooden frameworks with iron rails provided support for the rear of the gun carriage and allowed traversing of the carriage. To the west, below the gun emplacements, stood two brick powder magazines. The entry and retaining walls were built of cut, dressed stone with an arched opening and a heavy stone lintel. Hardware and pintles consisted of cast iron. A downward sloping, vaulted corridor connected the entry to the main portion of the magazine. This large, groin-vaulted chamber included vents that penetrated its earthen covering to the battery's outer surface. The magazines exhibited similar designs, although the northern magazine now lacks most of its dressed stone details. In addition to the earthenworks and extant magazine, an additional magazine survives to the north. Originally a single magazine identical to those of the battery, this magazine was later enlarged to provide two separate chambers. The addition contained an off-set vaulted entrance, which directly accessed the barrel vaulted chamber. Neither magazine retains its entry. Erosion of the surrounding embankment exposed the concrete cap placed above the magazines. In composition, this concrete resembles that used in the

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emplacements--large aggregate and clear evidence of successive pours. It is likely that the magazines within the battery's embankment were reinforced in a similar fashion. (C)

Batteries Reed and Gibson (N-1499.004). This large concrete structure erected between 1898 and 1901 once held the twelve-inch and eight-inch rifles that comprised the fort's main weaponry. This rectangular structure runs north and south and extends over 350 feet in length. The river side of the battery consists of a sloping earthen parapet; the opposite face, unprotected by fill, is vertical. The structural components of the battery include a steel substructure completely encapsulated by concrete. Vertical surfaces represent a type of slip formed of concrete. This technique creates three separate cavities between the forms. A coarse-aggregate concrete fills the central void, while a finely-grained material makes up the outer two voids. After stripping the forms, the finer material provided a smooth, weather-resistant finish.

A terrepleine and circular mounting hole characterized each of the four gun emplacements. The mounts for the disappearing guns (these eight-inch weapons occupied the two inner emplacements) are stepped well below the terrepleine, while the twelve-inch barbette guns were installed in pits nearly flush with the surrounding surface. Each emplacement contains a sheltered area with storage room (used for munitions carts) and access to the elevator used in transporting rounds from the magazines within the structure. Exterior iron walks and stairs provided access between the individual emplacements and the ground below. Numerous chambers divide the interior of the battery, most of which served as magazines. Each magazine contained an overhead trolley system that moved rounds from the storage chamber to the munitions elevator. Centrally-located within the structure stands a large, tiled room that originally functioned as a boiler and dynamo room. (C)

Mortar Battery (N-1499.005). Constructed between 1898 and 1901, the mortar battery, built of concrete, was almost completely covered with earthen fill. The battery contains four pits, each of which held four mortars. The entrances to the two western pits are accessible from the outside, while those on the east can only be entered from within the protected portions of the battery. Each pit contains a heavily-reinforced observation/firing tower on its northern edge. Iron blast doors separate the individual weapons areas from the corridors which connect it to the battery's underground galleries. Construction of the mortar emplacements presumably follows the same procedures as that of batteries Reed and Gibson. The Emergency Operations Management Center currently uses the northwest pit of the battery. (C)

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Pump House (N-1499.006). This square, concrete building was built circa 1899. Located below grade, the pump house displays a concrete, pyramidal roof with slightly overhanging eaves visible above the surface. A dirt slope provides access to the metal grate door that enters into the building. The interior exhibits a tapered floor, constructed for drainage purposes, and three-phase electrical equipment. (C)

Rapid Fire Gun Emplacement (N-1499.007). This square, concrete structure dates from circa 1900. The open-topped structure rises about four feet above grade. A circular mounting platform for a single gun occupies the center of the floor, which is protected by concrete walls about three feet in height. A recess in the east wall contains a sheet-metal box for the installation of a field telephone. Mounting flanges along the top edge of the wall suggest that some form of removable roof existed when this building was in use. (C)

Battery Elder (N-1499.008). Constructed of concrete and built in a trapezoidal shape, Battery Elder stands on the eastern edge of the fort. This installation contained two Brown, five-inch, rapid-fire guns. Like the mortar and rifle batteries, the river-facing edge consists of an earthen parapet, with depressed emplacements on either side of a concrete transverse. Powder magazines, flanking the central access of the structure, and a communications/fire control room, make up the core of the Battery. Centrally-located stairs provide access to a raised walkway, which leads to the gun emplacements. (C)

Officers' Quarters (Single), #23 (N-1499.009). This one-and-one-half-story, single-pile, center-passage frame building dates to circa 1898. The five-bay facade fronts the river and the rear elevation faces the street. The main block sits on a brick foundation. Three additions, with parged brick and poured concrete foundations, extend from the rear elevation. Aluminum siding covers the walls of the building, while asphalt shingles protect the gable roof. Two central brick chimneys and several dormers pierce the roof line. A one-story hipped-roof screen porch with brick pier foundation project from the facade. Window sash is a mixture of one-over-one and two-over-two double-hung sash and six-light fixed sash. Wooden casement windows are visible in the dormers. The building is currently used as a dwelling. (C)

Officers' Quarters (Single), #22 (N-1499.010). Constructed in 1900, this frame building displays a one-and-one-half-story main block with a one-and-one-half-story ell on the facade. The facade faces the river, while the rear elevation fronts the street. The asymmetrical dwelling, sheathed with aluminum siding, rests on

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a brick foundation. A shed-roofed, screen porch conceals the front door and window openings. The fenestration and front door are concealed by a shed-roof, screen porch; an open porch is located on the northeast elevation and is adjacent to the screened porch. The gable roofs of the main block and all additions are covered with asphalt shingles. A brick stove flue chimney is located on the street elevation of the main block. The window sash is a mixture of two-over-two double-hung sash and six-light hinged or fixed sash. The building is currently used as a dwelling. (C)

Ordinance Storehouse, # 25 (N-1499.011). This one-story, two-bay, front-gabled frame building dates to 1901, according to standard plan number 128-A. The storehouse rests on a brick pier foundation, and exhibits walls of wood siding over diagonal frame bracing. A slate roof tops the building, and includes a box cornice with internal gutter system and partial returns. Near the facade of the building stands a central interior brick chimney; a second interior chimney is located on the rear elevation. The facade originally contained a door and a window, but the door was altered to create a second window. Six-over-six double-hung sash windows appear throughout the building; iron grates secure some windows. Door openings pierce the southeast and northwest elevations. Plain board fascia surrounds, with drip hoods, trim the windows. The building is currently vacant. (C)

Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Double), #15 A and B (N-1499.012); Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Double), #16 A and B (N-1499.013). Built in 1901 according to standard plan number 82-C, these four-bay, side-gabled frame dwellings stand two stories in height. Both dwellings rest on brick foundations, and contain bulkhead entrances to the basements. Composition shingles cover the roofs of each dwelling. Chimneys project out of the front and rear projecting gables. Overhanging eaves form the buildings' cornices. Aluminum siding sheaths CRS # N-1499.012, while ship-lap vinyl siding covers CRS # 1499.013. Both buildings contain screen front porches with shed roofs that rest on brick piers. They also both display additions that project from the rear elevation; the additions can be seen in circa 1940 photographs. Siding on the buildings conceals the original trim surrounding the eight-over-eight double-hung sash windows. The buildings are currently occupied as dwellings. (C)

Guard House, # 19 (N-1499.014). Built in 1901 according to plan number 30-E, this one-and-one-half-story, hipped-roof frame building exhibits a five-bay facade. Rubble stone makes up the foundation for the

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raised basement on the front elevation, while cut stone forms the base for the remaining elevations. Original wood siding sheaths the building and slate covers the pyramidal roof. A central, gable-roof dormer projects off the front elevation of the building. Plain board fascia trim, sometimes with drip boards, surrounds the six-over-six double-hung sash windows. The door exhibits a five-part raised panel; the trim around the door matches that of the windows. A hipped-roof porch, with tapering square posts and pilasters, projects off the main facade. The building is currently vacant. (C)

Administration Building, #10 (N-1499.015). This two-story, three-bay, double-pile frame Colonial Revival building, constructed according to standard plan number 122, dates to 1901. The building rests on an irregularly-coursed ashlar raised basement foundation. Aluminum siding sheaths the walls, and composition shingles cover the gable roof. The overhanging cornice displays slight returns. Corbelled brick interior-end chimney stand at each of the gable ends. Plain trim surrounds the six-over-six double-hung sash windows, currently flanked by vinyl shutters. Centrally positioned on the front facade, the six-part recessed paneled door is flanked by three-part sidelights. The architrave displays a broken-top pediment with fluted pilasters at the outer edges and narrow fluted trim between the door and sidelights. A small, shed-roofed addition projects off the rear elevation. The building is currently used as an office. (C)

Ordinance Repair Shop, #34 (N-1499.016). Constructed in 1902, this front-gabled building stands one story in height. Wood siding covers the walls of the building, that is topped with a slate roof with overhanging eaves. A corbeled brick chimney pierces the roof near the southeast elevation. Plain board trim surrounds the double-pane, sliding sash windows. A two-part recessed panel double door, constructed of diagonal boards, is located in the gable end of the building, that currently functions as a stable. (C)

Flagstaff, # 56 (N-1499.017). This concrete pad foundation with iron pole was built in 1906 according to standard plan number 47-A. The original pole stood approximately one hundred feet high and had a configuration that consisted of two poles, one bolted next to the other roughly half-way up the pole. The current pole was installed in 1937. (C)

Fire Apparatus Building, #40 (N-1499.018). This one-story, single-bay frame building was constructed in 1906 according to standard plan number 98-C. The building rests on poured concrete foundation, and

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exhibits composition siding and a slate gable roof. A modern garage door with plain board trim dominates the gable elevation. Two passage doors are present, one on the southeast elevation and another on the southwest elevation. A brick chimney is located near the rear elevation. Siding conceals the original trim surrounding the six-over-six double-hung sash window. The building is well-maintained and appears to be in use. (C)

Quartermaster's Storehouse, #43 (N-1499.019). This one-and-one-half-story brick building was constructed in 1906 according to standard plan number 91-D. The load-bearing masonry building rests on a raised basement. Four windows illuminate the basement, accessible through a bulkhead entrance at each gable end. An overhanging frame cornice is located above the corbeled brick cornice. Composition shingles cover the roof. Interior-end chimneys are centered on each gable end; two other chimneys stand in the center of the building, one in each of the front and rear projecting gable-roof dormers. Segmented arches and plain board trim surrounds the six-over-six double-hung sash windows. One cargo door and three passage doors are located on the facade, where a concrete and brick loading dock extends the full length of the building. Two original cargo doors are located on the rear elevation; the loading docks for these doors are missing. The building continues to be used for storage purposes. (C)

Post Exchange, #36 (N-1499.020). The Post Exchange was built in 1906 according to standard plan number 175. The five-bay, load-bearing masonry building, one-and-one-half stories in height, rests on a raised basement. Asphalt shingles cover the hipped roof, and a box cornice decorates the eaves. Three-light frieze windows are centered over the windows of the double-pile main block. Window openings have an all-header arch and cast concrete sills. The type of window sash for the basement and first floor is concealed. The central door exhibits a three-part recessed panel with sidelights and evidence of a fanlight; the door is part of a gable-roof projecting architrave decorated with quoins and a keystone. The building has a sandstone water table and a brick belt course. A small frame addition of unknown date projects off the northwest elevation.

The interior of the building possesses two notable original features: a gymnasium on the first floor and a two-lane bowling alley in the basement. In addition to these areas, several lounge and recreation rooms are located in the main block of the building. The gym is equipped with basketball goals, a scoreboard and gallery seating in the half-story of the southwest end. The bowling alley has two raised lanes constructed of narrow flooring. A wall rack for regular and duck pins is located adjacent to the lanes. The building is currently used for storage. (C)

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Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Double), #46 (N-1499.021). This two-story, six-bay, brick duplex was constructed in 1909 according to standard plan number 82-K. The building rests on a stone foundation. A bulkhead entrance on the rear elevation provides access to the basement. A shed-roof porch supported by masonry piers projects off the facade and a shed-roof frame addition is located on the rear elevation. Two corbeled brick chimneys are located along the dividing axis of the building. The windows are six-over-six double-hung sash, with cast concrete sills and a double row of headers forming an arch for the opening. The doors are four-light over three-part panel; the trim is not visible. Fan lights are located in the gable ends of the attic. (C)

Firemen's Quarters (Double), #47 (N-1499.022). Built in 1909 according to standard plan number 230, this eight-bay brick duplex stands one story in height. Exhibiting bricks laid in an irregular bond, the building rests on a brick foundation with a basement. Two rows of headers that form an arch and a cast concrete sill accentuate the window and door openings. Six-over-one double-hung sash windows pierce the elevation. Doors are eight-light over a single panel. The hipped roof possesses wide, over-hanging eaves with exposed rafter ends that are decoratively carved. Asphalt shingles sheath the roof. Three brick chimneys pierce the roof of the building. A small frame porch supported by brick piers stands off the front of the building. The porch roofs have wide overhanging eaves and decorative rafters that match those of the main block. (C)

Band Barracks, #48 (N-1499.023). This seven-bay, two-story brick building was built in 1909 according to the standard plan number 61-F. The concrete foundation supports walls with a brick bond that is six courses of all-stretcher bond and one course of alternating header/stretcher bond. A belt course is located above the second floor windows. The main block of the building has a side-gable roof, while the original flanking wings are gable-end; a two-story porch is located on the facade between the flanking wings. A box cornice with full returns forms the cornice; a circular form delineated by brick headers decorates the gable end. Modern asphalt shingles now cover the original slate roof. Two-over-two double-hung sash windows pierce the facade; the openings are formed by an arch of bricks and a stone sill. The central double door with a four-light transom has been heavily modified. The two-story porch on the facade has a cast concrete floor supported by brick piers on the first level and a wood floor at the second level. Three covered entrances/porches project off the rear elevation. A modern passage located on the northeast elevation connects the buildings to the adjacent barracks building. The building is currently used as an office. (C)

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Field Officer's Quarters, # 50 (N-1499.024). This two-and-one-half-story, load-bearing masonry building was constructed in 1910 according to standard plan number 235. The building rests on a concrete foundation, and exhibits brick walls with a bond of seven courses of all stretcher and one row of alternating header/stretcher and a stone water table. Asphalt shingles sheath the hipped roof. Wide, overhanging eaves and exposed rafter ends that are notched into the plate form the cornice. The cornices of four original dormers located on the roof match the cornice of the main block. The facade contains paired windows; all of the one-over-one double-hung sash windows have jack arches and stone sills. The modern door, centrally located on the facade, exhibits ten-pane sidelights and retains a jack arch.

The current porch of the building, centered on the facade, rests on a brick foundation. Columns support the hipped roof. A ramp that extends to the northeast elevation provides accessibility for the handicapped. Historical photos and plans depict the building as having a two-story porch decorated with Chinese railing that extended the length of the facade. The building today is used as an office. (C)

Officers Quarters (Double), # 51 A and B (N-1499.025). This two-story, six-bay brick building was constructed in 1910 according to standard plan number 260. The building, which includes a raised basement, rests on a brick foundation. Irregular bond brick makes up the walls of the building. Asphalt shingles cover the gable roof. The box cornice has partial returns. The plan of the building is symmetrical, with a brick bay located at each of the gable ends and two adjoining gable-roof projections on the rear facade. Second floor windows and the facade wall-dormers are six-over-two double-hung sash. First floor windows are two-over-two double-hung sash; all windows except wall dormers are set in an arched opening formed by two rows of headers. The facade porch has a hipped roof covered with standing seam metal and wood columns with cast iron bases. An open porch extends the length of the rear elevation, and two bulkheads provide access to the basement.

The interior of this building has been heavily modified, although the basic layout appears to be original. The basement is relatively undisturbed and is shared by both sides of the house. It contains a series of small rooms that were part of the original construction. The building is currently vacant. (C)

Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Double) # 52 (N-1499.026); Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Double) # 53 (N-1499.027). These two duplexes were constructed in 1910 according to standard plan number 82-N. The two-story, four-bay frame buildings rest on concrete foundations. Bulkheads provide

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entrance to the basement. Vinyl siding sheaths CRS # N-1499.052, while aluminum siding sheaths CRS #N-1499.053. Asphalt shingles protect the gable roofs. Each building contains two brick chimneys. The cornice is formed by wide, overhanging eaves. The buildings have symmetrical fenestration with six-over-six double-hung sash windows; double windows with three-over-three double-hung sash are centrally located on the second floor of each building. Hipped-roof screen porches supported by concrete piers project off the facades; hipped-roof additions are also located on the rear elevations. The buildings are currently used as dwellings. (C)

Bakery, #54 (N-1499.028). This one-story, five-bay, brick building was constructed in 1910 according to standard plan number 217. The building exhibits two frame additions, one on the facade and another on the southwest corner of the main block. The irregular bond brick walls rest on a poured concrete foundation, and support a hipped roof sheathed in slate. A pyramidal-roof cupola with louvered vents is centered on the peak of the roof. Overhanging eaves with carved rafter ends form the cornice. The six-over-six and two-over-two double-hung sash window openings are arched and have cast concrete sills; a belt course located at the base of the arch joins all the windows. Two entrances pierce the facade: a central opening in the frame addition formed by double doors that are four-light over two-part recessed panel; and an arched opening in the main block with three-light transom and five-part recessed panel door.

The interior of the bakery has been modified for use as freezer storage, but the form remains intact. A cooler room with glazed bricks and a system for circulating cold water through metal pipes survives. The building is currently used for storage. (C)

Motor Repair Shop, # 55 (N-1499.029). This one-and-one-half-story, seven-bay brick building was constructed in 1911 according to standard plan number 59-11. The building currently consists of this brick section and a frame building, CRS #N-1499.057, located on the rear elevation and joined to this building with a frame hyphen. Because there are two distinct buildings with separate plans and construction dates, they are being treated as two different buildings.

The Motor Repair Shop has a concrete foundation, five-course common bond walls with a water table, and a gable roof sheathed in slate. A corbeled brick chimney is located at the northwest gable end of the main block. A small, one-story, shed-roof brick boiler room with corbeled chimney is also located at the northwest gable end of the main block. The fenestration of the facade is asymmetrical. There are six-over-six double-hung sash windows set in arched openings; no shutters are present, but there is evidence in the brick of pintles to secure them. Two arched cargo door openings are also located on the facade; a third door on the facade is a

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passage door. A passage door and window on the southeast elevation have been added in the original location of a cargo door. The building is currently used for maintenance. (C)

Quartermaster's Stable, #17 (New) (NC-1499.030). This two-story brick building with nine bays on the side elevation was constructed in 1912 according to standard plan number 54-F. The building rests on a brick foundation, that supports walls constructed in five-course common bond. The gable roof is sheathed in slate and has decoratively-carved rafter ends that are birds-mouthed into the plate. Window openings have an arch formed by two rows of headers and cast concrete sills; the sash is a mixture of six-over-six double-hung and six-light fixed sash. Second floor windows are all six-light fixed sash. A loading dock in the southwest gable end provides access into the interior of the building. A door located on the second floor has the same arch and cast sill as the window openings. The building is currently used for storage. (C)

Service Club (N-1499.031). This one-story, eight-bay frame building was constructed circa 1913. There are numerous additions to the side and rear elevations of the main block. A concrete-block foundations supports the walls, that are protected with ship-lap siding. Composition shingles cover the gable roof, which has exposed rafter ends. The fenestration on the main block of the facade is symmetrical, with eight six-over-six double-hung sash windows trimmed with plain board; a solid wood panel door is located in the facade portion of an addition that is located along the southeast elevation. It appears that the door opening has been modified from a double door to its current appearance as a single door. A frame porch constructed in 1993 is located on the facade; it is supported by masonry posts and has a gable roof.

The interior of the building is divided into one large central room and several smaller office-type rooms. The Fort Delaware Society uses the building as its headquarters. (C)

Coastal Artillery Corps Warehouse (N-1499.032). This one-story, two-bay, rectangular riveted steel building was constructed circa 1913. The concrete foundation supports the steel frame walls, sheathed in corrugated metal. Corrugated metal also covers the gable roof with box cornice and partial returns. Metal shutters protect the six-over-six double-hung sash windows. Two side-hinged, double-cargo doors are located on the facade. Double doors, located on the side elevations, accommodate a rail line which runs through the building and into CRS # N-1499.033. The interior of the building is an open plan with the exception of a small frame room located along the facade between the two cargo doors. Exposed roof trusses are visible throughout

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the building. The building is bisected along the gable by thirteen riveted steel posts that help to support two cranes located on either side of the building. The building is currently used for storage. (C)

Coastal Artillery Corps Warehouse (N-1499.033). This one-story, two-bay, rectangular building was constructed circa 1913. The building, that rests on a concrete foundation, exhibits walls covered with corrugated metal. The gable roof, covered in composition shingles, has a box cornice with partial returns. A five-part recessed panel door and a six-over-six double-hung sash window pierce the facade. Symmetrically-arranged window and door openings characterize the side and rear elevations. Metal shutters conceal most of the six-over-six double-hung sash windows. Double doors are located on the side elevations to accommodate the rail line that runs through this building and the adjacent building, CRS # N-1499.032. The interior is divided into two spaces: an office that is adjacent to the facade; and a large open room that makes up the remainder of the building. Roof trusses are exposed and wood shelving lines portions of the walls in the large room. Delaware Conservation Corps currently uses the building as a base of operations. (C)

Water Storage Tank (N-1499.034). This round, one-story, reinforced concrete structure was built circa 1913. A ladder on the north side leads to the conical roof. (C)

Tool House, # 61 (N-1499.035). This one-story, two-bay rectangular frame building was constructed in 1916 according to standard plan number 53. The building rests on a concrete foundation. Aluminum siding protects the exterior walls, while asphalt shingles cover the gable roof. The cornice is formed by overhanging eaves. A brick chimney stands on the former southwest exterior wall. A shed-roof addition is located along the full length of this elevation. Asymmetrical fenestration, mostly with six-over-six double-hung sash windows, characterizes the facade. The double doors each exhibit six lights over a two-part recessed panel and plain board trim. The building appears to be used as an office. (C)

Carpenters' Quarters, # 122 (N-1499.036). This one-story, four-bay frame building was constructed in 1913 according to standard plan number 122. Frame walls covered with aluminum siding rest on a concrete foundation. Asphalt shingles cover the gable roof. The fenestration is window-door-door-window, suggesting the possibility of this building's use as a double house. Plain board trim surrounds the six-over-six double-hung sash windows. A frame porch is centered on the facade. Three wings project off the building: a shed roof

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addition extending the full length of the rear elevation, a half-story shed roof addition on the northwest gable end, and a full-story shed-roof addition on the northwest end. All wings appear in a circa 1940 photograph. (C)

Water Pumping Plant, # 55 (N-1499.037). This one-story, three-bay masonry building was constructed in 1923 according to standard plan number 6172-111. The reinforced concrete building rests on a concrete foundation. Asphalt shingles sheath the hipped roof. Exposed rafter ends are visible beneath the eaves. An interior brick chimney stands near the northeast elevation. The windows are six-over-six double-hung sash with plain board trim. The centrally-located double doors are four light over two-part panel. An addition projects off the rear elevation. The building appears to retain its original purpose of water pumping. Research indicates that the building at one time included living quarters--a bedroom, bath and office. (C)

Quartermaster's Warehouse, #135 (N-1499.038). This one-story frame building was constructed in 1926 according to standard plan number 1. The frame building, sheathed in corrugated metal, rests on round concrete piers. Corrugated metal covers the gable roof. The fenestration, consisting of six-light fixed-sash windows, is asymmetrical. A five-part recessed panel door and a set of sliding sash double doors provide entrance into the building. The building appears to be vacant. (C)

Field Officers Quarters, # 6 (New) (N-1499.039). This two-story, four-bay frame building was built in 1905 at Fort Mott, New Jersey and moved to Fort DuPont in 1932 (the designation as a "new" building six indicates that it is not the original building six, which was likely destroyed by fire). The building now rests on a poured concrete foundation, and includes a raised basement. Aluminum siding sheaths the walls, that support a gable roof, covered with composition shingles, with two projecting gables. The cornice is formed by overhanging eaves. Three interior brick chimneys pierce the roof line. The windows vary between two-over-two double-hung sash, four-light fixed sash and two-light modern fixed sash; a three-part Palladian window is located in the forward-projecting gable and two arched windows are located in the rear gable. A modern poured concrete porch with ramp leading to the southeast elevation stands off the front facade. The building is currently used as an office. (C)

Swimming Pool (Officers) (N-1499.040). This concrete structure was built in 1932. The pool's depth ranges from two to eight feet deep. Concrete stairs exist in the shallow end, while a metal ladder survives in the

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deep end. A diving board is also present. A concrete pad surrounds the pool. A small frame pump house with wood siding and an asphalt-covered gable roof is located northwest of the pool. The pool is no longer used. (C)

Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Double); #90 A and B (N-1499.041); Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Double) #91 A and B (N-1499.042); Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Double) #92 A and B (N-1499.043); Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Double) #93 A and B (N-1499.044). These two-story, four-bay brick buildings were constructed in 1933 according to standard plan number 625-2510/16. The quarters all maintain their original exterior form and differ only in the color of paint used in the trim. The five-course common-bond brick walls rest on brick foundations. Double-bulkhead entrances, on the rear elevation, provides access to the basements. The gable roof is sheathed in slate and has overhanging eaves. An interior brick chimney is located in each gable end of the main block. A one-story, flat roof enclosed sun porch is located at each of the gable ends. The fenestration is symmetrical with a two-bay central entrance and tripartite windows consisting of a principal opening that is six-over-six double hung sash which is flanked by two-over-two double hung sash sidelights. The window openings have jack arches, cast concrete sills and plain board trim. A modified hipped, copper-roof entryway is centered on the facade. The principal passage door is located perpendicular to the house in the side elevation of the porch. The openings on the facade are doors equipped with screens and a metal railing on the exterior. A frame porch is centrally located on the rear elevation. The buildings are currently used as dwellings. (C)

Officer's Quarters (Double), # 81 A and B (N-1499.045). This two-and-one-half-story, four-bay frame quarter was constructed at Fort Mott, New Jersey and moved to Fort DuPont in 1933; the date of construction is unknown. The building displays a rectangular-shaped main block with a projecting gable on the facade and wings projecting off the rear elevation to form a U-shaped plan. The foundation is primarily concrete, with some brick in the rear enclosed porches. Aluminum siding covers the building. The gable roof is sheathed with composition shingles. An overhanging box cornice with partial returns is located at the eaves; an eyebrow dormer/vent is located on the rear elevation of the main block. A center brick chimney stands in the main block and two other brick stacks are located in the gable ends of the rear wings. The two-over-two double-hung sash windows with plain board trim are symmetrically spaced. A single light over three-part raised panel door is located in each half of the main block; door trim matches that of the windows. A frame porch on brick piers spans the facade. Unfluted columns with cast iron bases and turned capitals support a fully developed cornice; the hipped roof is sheathed in standing seam metal. A hipped roof enclosed porch is located

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at the gable end of each wing. The building is currently used for offices and meetings. (C)

War Department Theater, # 29 (N-1499.046). This two-story, three-bay brick theater was constructed in 1933 according to standard plan number 608-220-251 from the Office of the Quartermaster General. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation. The building exhibits a Flemish-bond facade, with four brick engaged pilasters and gable roof sheathed in parapets at the end. The cornice is formed by heavy moldings and has a partial return. A chimney is located on the rear elevation of the main two-story block; a one-story shed roof wing extends from the rear elevation.

The fenestration of the facade consists of four symmetrically arranged doors centered around the ticket window. The outer pair of doors are nine-light over two-part recessed panel with trim consisting of a fanlight with faux keystone and engaged pilasters. The inner set of doors are ten-light double doors set in a molded wood frame. There are symmetrically arranged six-over-six double-hung sash windows with jack arches and cast concrete sills on the second floor facade and side elevations. Two emergency exit doors are located on each side elevation. The facade marquee is constructed of wood and has a pressed tin ceiling; a row of exposed lights illuminates the perimeter; the overhang is anchored to the building by two heavy metal chains.

The interior of the building is divided into a two-story service area located near the facade entrance and the auditorium, which forms the remainder of the building. The first floor of the service area includes a central hall flanked by equal-sized rooms, possibly an office and a snack bar. Stairs in the southeast room lead to the second floor, where there are four rooms. An unfinished storage area is located at the top of the stairs, beneath the eaves; an "office" and storage/equipment room are illuminated by the facade windows. The projection room is located northeast of the office and contains two Simplex projectors. This room is constructed to be fire-proof with a metal door and metal baseboard trim.

The first floor central hall leads to an intersecting hall with rest-room facilities and "arcade" with passage ways and curtained openings to the theater. The theater has a proscenium arch and the seating area slopes toward the stage and screen. There is a central aisle and two flanking aisles along the exterior walls; a bisecting aisle is located midway in the seating configuration. The building is currently vacant. (C)

Gasoline Filling Station, #79 (N-1499.047). This one-story open-frame building, which rests on a concrete foundation, was built in 1934; the standard plan number is not known. The resource consists of a shelter with exposed framing that supports a gable roof and an adjacent shed-roof frame building. The single-

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bay building displays a centrally-located four-light-over-three-part-panel door. Each of the side elevations contains a window that has been boarded over and has a metal grate. Two gas pumps with underground tanks sit next to the building. The building is no longer used. (C)

Garage (N-1499.048). This one-story, two-bay frame building with one-story wing was built in 1936 according to standard plan number T-137. The building rests on concrete posts. Ship-lap wood siding sheaths the walls, and asphalt paper covers the shed roof. No windows pierce the walls. Two sets of double doors, constructed of vertical beaded boards and hinged at the side, appear on the facade. (C)

Truck Scale, # 62 (N-1499.049). This structure was developed in 1937 as a truck weigh station in the coal storage area. The rectangular scale is built of concrete with metal trim, and stands approximately three feet above grade. (C)

Garage (N-1499.050). This one-story, two-bay frame building was constructed in 1939 according to standard plan number T-77. Concrete piers support the walls covered with ship-lap siding. Asphalt paper covers the gable roof, that has exposed rafter ends. A shed-roof frame addition projects off the southwest elevation. The building is currently used as a stable. (C)

Storm Water Pump House, #57 (N-1499.051). This one-story, single-bay square brick building was constructed in 1939 according to standard plan number 6172-130. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation. Walls display five-course common bond brick, with some glazed headers located in the bond. Slate sheaths the hipped roof, that includes a box cornice. There is a metal two-part panel door with a jack arch on the northeast elevation. Six-light fixed sash over six-light casement windows with jack arches are located on the southeast and southwest elevations. The building appears to retain its use as a pump house. (C)

Barracks, #49 (N-1499.052). This two-story, twenty-bay brick rectangular building with projecting side-elevation wings was constructed in 1939. The building rests on a poured and molded concrete foundation. Six-course common-bond brick makes up the walls of the building, and includes a water table. Asphalt shingles protect the gable roof. A box cornice with partial returns and plain frieze exists at the eaves. Brick chimneys are located on the rear elevation in the main block and in the gable ends of the wings. In-filled windows and

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added doors have changed the piercing patterns; however, the original, central double door, with decorative patterned transom, survives, which is flanked by six-over-six double-hung sash windows. Original windows contain jack arches and cast concrete sills.

A two-story inset porch projects off the facade, formed by the forward projecting wings. Brick columns with cast concrete bases and capitals support the second floor. A decorative metal railing is located between the columns. Portions of the porch have been in-filled with modern materials to create interior rooms. An addition to the facade at the basement level forms the building's main entrance.

The rear elevation displays eight gable-roof dormers located symmetrically across the main block and wings. Four later additions can also be found. A two-story, small brick addition has been made to each of the gable ends of the wings. Each interior side of the wing has a shed-roof addition. The building is currently used as a medical facility. (C)

Barracks, #24 (New) (N-1499.053). This two-story, approximately fifteen-bay brick building was constructed in 1940. The rectangular barrack, with side elevation projecting wings, rests on a concrete foundation with a raised basement. The walls display six-course common bond. Slate shingles cover the gable roof. Three gable roof dormers with fluted pilaster trim project off the rear elevation. A box cornice with partial returns and a frieze adorns the eaves. Lunettes are located in the gable ends of the projecting wings and a copper gutter system is in place. Six-over-six double-hung sash windows with jack arches and cast concrete sills flank a centrally-located double door. One window has been modified to create two small windows. The doors display six-light over two-part panel with a decoratively patterned transom light and cast concrete architrave. Eighteen-light metal casement windows pierce the walls of the raised basement.

A two-story inset porch is located on the facade, formed by the forward projecting wings. Brick columns with cast concrete bases and capitals support the second floor, made of concrete slab. A shed-roof frame addition of unknown date extends from the southwest projecting wing of the rear elevation.

The interior appears to have maintained its original form. A series of small rooms exist in the main block, and large bunk rooms divide space in the wings. Some rooms have been modified for sanitary facilities. The building is currently being used for storage. (C)

Recreation Building, # E-308 (N-1499.054). This two-story rectangular frame building was constructed in 1941 according to standard plan number 700-310. The building rests on a concrete pier foundation. Ship-lap siding covers the walls, while asphalt paper protects the gable roof. The overhanging

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eaves shelter roof framing that projects from the building. A detached chimney, located on the northwest elevation, heats the building. The building displays symmetrical fenestration. Six-over-six double-hung sash windows with plain board trim have shed roof projections on the southeast elevation. The doors display three-light over three-part recessed panel with plain board trim. A stage exists at the northeast end of the building. The building is currently used for storage. (C)

Chapel, # E-215 (N-1499.055). This one-story, three-bay frame building was built in 1941 according to standard plan number 700-1800. The rectangular chapel, with a one-story shed roof addition, sits on a poured concrete foundation. Ship-lap wood siding protects the walls, and asphalt shingles sheath the gable roof. Overhanging eaves form the cornice of the building. A brick chimney is located on the rear elevation of the main block and a bell tower with steeple is centered on the gable of the facade. Symmetrically-placed sixteen-over-sixteen double-hung sash windows with plain board trim pierce the facade. The central double doors display three-part panels. (C)

Warehouse, # E-212 (N-1499.056). This one-story, three-bay, frame warehouse was built in 1941 according to the standard plan number 700-325, CQM 53. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation, and contains walls protected by standing-seam metal over ship-lap wood siding. Corrugated metal over asphalt sheaths the gable roof. The cornice is formed by overhanging eaves. No windows or chimneys exist. Three sliding track garage doors, accessed by loading docks constructed of poured concrete and concrete block, pierce the facade. Each of the doors has a small pent roof above it. The building is currently used for storage and maintenance. (C)

Motor Repair Shop, # 129 (N-1499.057). This one-story, twelve-bay frame building was built in 1941 and is attached to the brick Motor Repair Shop, # 55, CRS # N-1499.029. The walls, covered with ship-lap siding, rest on a concrete foundation. Asphalt shingles cover the gable roof. Overhanging eaves form the cornice of the building. Asymmetrical fenestration characterizes the shop: six-over-six double-hung sash windows pierce the southeast elevation, while six-light fixed-sash windows pierce the walls of the gable end, where there are also two cargo doors. Window trim consists of plain board and includes drip hoods. The doors are side-hinge garage doors, some of which have windows in them. A modern door opens into the southeast elevation, made of a single light over a wood panel. The building is currently used for maintenance. (C)

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Carpenters' Stores (N-1499.058). This one-story frame building was constructed circa 1913. The concrete pier foundation supports frame walls sheathed in corrugated metal. Asphalt shingles protect the gable roof with exposed rafter ends. The asymmetrical fenestration displays six-light fixed or sliding sash windows trimmed with plain board. A central, sliding, metal cargo door pierces the facade. Mortises in the sill located on the facade suggest that a loading dock was located beneath the cargo door. (C)

Hospital Mess Hall (N-1499.059). This one-story, rectangular frame building was constructed in 1941 according to standard plan number 700-1251. The ship-lap wood siding walls rest on a foundation that is concealed, but recorded to be concrete posts. Asphalt shingles sheath the gable roof, that has exposed rafter ends at the cornice. Six-over-six double-hung sash windows with plain board trim make up the symmetrically-aligned fenestration pattern. A loading dock, constructed of wood and concrete, projects off the southeast elevation; it consists of a sliding door on a metal track. The building is connected with CRS # N-1499.078 via a gable-roofed walkway with a concrete foundation. The interior of the building is oriented around an open plan, with some room dividers located in the east end of the building. There is extensive built-in shelving and bins for sorting mail. The building is currently vacant. (C)

Tent Pads (3) (N-1499.60). These fourteen-feet, six-inch, square concrete pads, located ten feet apart, were constructed prior to 1941. The pad served as the bases on which inhabitants of the fort would pitch canvas tents. These three pads are the only surviving examples from an area that once included approximately one-hundred-and-thirty pads. (C)

Office (N-1499.061). This one-story, two-bay frame building was constructed prior to 1941. Two frame shed-roof additions extend from the rear elevation of the main block. The walls, covered with wood siding, rest on concrete pilings at the corners of the building; dirt fills in the space between the pilings. Asphalt paper sheaths the gable roof. The windows are four-over-four double-hung sash with plain board and drip hood trim; they pierce the facade and the southeast elevation. The door is five part panel and has a pent-roof overhang. (C)

Pole Shed, # E-341 (N-1499.062). This one-story, three-bay frame building was constructed prior to 1941 according to standard plan number 800-900. The ship-lap wood siding walls rest on a concrete foundation

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and support a gable roof sheathed with asphalt paper. The cornice is formed by plain, flush verge board. Two beaded vertical board cargo doors on a sliding metal track pierce the northeast elevation. The passage door consists of a modern single panel wood door. The interior includes four cargo bays and the side passage area, divided into two rooms. A small room located near the southwest elevation probably functioned as a bathroom. Evidence of window framing exists on the interior of the southeast elevation. The building is currently used for storage. Photographic and archival information on the building indicates that it has been moved from another location at the fort. However, a 1943 map shows the building in its current position. (C)

Tennis Courts, # T-112 (N-1499.063). This resource consists of two rectangular courts, built prior to 1941, resting on concrete foundations. An eight-foot high chain link fence surrounds the courts. Back-stops and center fence also consists of chain link fences, that stand twelve feet in height. (C)

Coastal Artillery Corps Radio Tower/ POW Guard Tower (N-1499.064). This square, steel and concrete structure was built prior to 1941. The tower consists of four steel beams bolted into four concrete pads. A fifth concrete pad with metal posts is centrally located between the steel beams and appears to be an elevator shaft. A stair and ladder combination with trap door accesses the room at the top of the tower. The steel frame room, covered with concrete, has a pyramidal roof. Four metal casement windows pierce each of the side elevations. (C)

Coastal Artillery Corps Radio Shelter (N-1499.065). This one-story, one-bay masonry building was built prior to 1941. Concrete is used for the foundation, walls, and shed roof. A door opening with a wooden lintel is located on the northwest elevation and concealed by plywood. A pipe projects from the roof near the center of the building. (C)

Pontoon Repair Shed (N-1499.066). This one-story, one-bay, brick building was constructed prior to 1941. The seven-course common-bond walls rest on a concrete foundation and support a gable roof covered with corrugated metal. A side-hinged garage door is located on the facade. Three in-filled windows with cast concrete sills pierce each of the side elevations. The shed is reportedly being used as a freezer. (C)

Pontoon Shed (N-1499.067). This one-story, two-bay frame building was constructed prior to 1941.

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The frame shed, with walls sheathed in corrugated metal, sits on a concrete foundation. Flush verge-board adorns the gable roof, covered with composition shingles. A cargo door opens in each of the gable ends and a passage door is also located in the southwest gable end. No windows pierce the walls of the building. The building is currently being used for storage. (C)

Warehouse (N-1499.068). This one-story, three-bay frame building was constructed prior to 1941. The poured concrete foundation has vertical board skirting. Board and batten wood siding and asphalt cover the walls. Corrugated metal covers the gable roof with exposed rafter ends. The windows on the rear elevation have been boarded over, but have plain board trim with drip hoods. Three cargo doors and one passage door break up the facade. A loading dock, built of concrete block and poured concrete, stands at the southwest end of the facade. The building is currently being used for storage. (C)

Incinerator (N-1499.069). This brick building was built prior to 1941. The resource consists of a one-story rectangular building, containing five ovens and an adjacent chimney stack. Much of the building stands below grade. A sliding door with ten lights over a three-part recessed panel exists on the southeast elevation. The building has a flat concrete "roof" with hoist mechanism centered on top; it appears that another building probably rested on top of this roof. A concrete stair in the east corner provides access to the roof. The large chimney is located on the northeast elevation. (C)

Cistern (N-1499.070). This round, brick and concrete structure was built prior to 1941. The cistern is below grade and has a flat concrete lid covering it. A rectangular brick base with a wooden cap is located adjacent to the circle on the west side. (C)

Coastal Artillery Corps Radio Tower Foundation (N-1499.071). The square configuration of concrete pads was built prior to 1941. None of the original metal tower survives. (C)

Quartermaster's Office (N-1499.072). This one-story, three-bay frame building was constructed prior to 1941. The foundation includes a combination of concrete piers and brick that has been heavily parged with concrete. Wood siding, some of which is ship-lap, covers the walls. Composition shingles protect the gable roof with exposed rafter ends. A brick chimney is located at the former exterior end of the main block. Two

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frame additions project from the building; one stands directly adjacent to the northeast gable end of the main block and the second extends off the southeast elevation. Window openings are symmetrical with six-over-six double-hung sash. Plain-board trim surrounds all of the windows; those windows that are not protected by the eaves also have drip hoods. The central front door contains a single pane of glass over a two-part recessed panel. A five-part recessed-panel door pierces the rear elevation. The building is currently being used for educational purposes. (C)

Pumping Station (N-1499.073). This one-story, two-bay frame building was built in 1942; there is no standard plan number available. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation. Wood siding protects the walls, and asphalt shingles sheath the gable roof. Overhanging eaves form the cornice. The fenestration is symmetrical. Three-over-one "awning" sash windows have plain board trim with drip hoods. The building appears to serve its original use as a pumping station. (C)

Engineering Building (N-1499.074). This one-story, one-bay frame building was constructed in 1942. The building sits on a poured concrete foundation, and is covered with ship-lap wood siding. Asphalt paper sheets sheath the gable roof. Overhanging eaves form the cornice. No chimney exists in the building, but a stove pipe projects from the roof. Plain board trim surrounds the six-over-six double-hung sash windows. The door opening, located in the gable end, is concealed. The door opening has plain board trim with a drip hood; a gable roof overhang projects above the door. The building is used for storage. (C)

Post Engineering Supply (N-1499.075). This one-story, four-bay frame building was constructed circa 1942. The concrete foundation supports frame walls sheathed with corrugated metal. The shed roof is also covered with corrugated metal and has wide overhanging eaves. Four cargo bays, with modern garage doors, pierce the facade. Windows pierce the wall directly above the cargo bays, but the sash is not visible. Siding covers the window openings on the rear elevation, but some six-over-six double-hung sash windows with plain board trim appear on the interior. Exposed framing and an open-plan design characterize the interior. The building is currently used for maintenance. (C)

Well House #1 (N-1499.076). This one-story, one-bay frame building, resting on a concrete foundation, was built circa 1942. Ship-lap wood siding and composition board sheaths the roof. Asphalt sheets cover the

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gable roof that has exposed rafter ends. No windows pierce the building. Plain board trim surrounds a centrally-located five-part recessed panel door on the southwest elevation. The building continues in use as a well house. (C)

Garage (N-1499.077). This one-story, five-bay frame building was built circa 1941. Corrugated metals sheaths the frame walls, that rest on a poured concrete foundation. The gable roof with exposed rafter ends is covered with corrugated metal. Originally, the fenestration on the facade was originally symmetrical, with five evenly-spaced cargo doors. However, one of those doors now forms a passage, flanked by two windows. Two raised windows and a door located on the northeast elevation have been boarded up. A cargo door and an in-filled window pierce the southeast (rear) elevation. A brick chimney is located near the southeast corner of the building. (C)

Transformer House (N-1499.078). This one-story, one-bay brick building was built in 1939 according to plan number CQM-19. The foundation supports brick walls laid in an irregular bond. Slate protects the roof. (C)

Ruins of Hospital Barracks (N-1499.079). These two buildings were part of the Hospital Area defined on the 1941 map. They appear to be constructed in a manner similar to CRS # N-1499.059 and N-1499.082, which were also part of the Hospital Area. One building is entirely collapsed and the other is partially collapsed. (C)

Storage Building (N-1499.080). This one-story frame building was constructed after 1943. The walls, protected with ship-lap siding, rest on a concrete foundation, and support a shed roof with exposed rafter ends. Asymmetrical fenestration characterizes the building, with two windows located on the southwest elevation and three passage doors located on the northeast elevation. A large door pierces the northwest end, and evidence for a matching door that has been in-filled can be seen in the southeast end. A small shed-roof frame addition extends from the northeast elevation. The building is currently being used for storage. (C)

Fourteen Stall Garage (N-1499.081). This one-story, six-bay building was constructed in 1941. The building rests on a concrete foundation, and includes stepped-gable masonry ends constructed of brick and

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concrete. Plain and ship-lap wood siding covers the side walls, and asphalt paper protects the roof. There are five cargo doors, one passage door, and no windows. (C)

Hospital Barracks (N-1499.082). This one-story, rectangular frame building was constructed in 1941. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation. Ship-lap wooden siding cover the frame walls, and asphalt shingles and sheets sheath the roof, which has exposed rafter ends. Plain board trim surrounds the six-over-six double-hung sash windows that are symmetrically-aligned. A loading dock, constructed of wood and concrete, projects off the northwest elevation. A vertical board sliding door on a metal track makes up the loading dock. The building is connected with CRS # N-1499.059 via a gable-roofed walkway with a concrete foundation. The building is currently vacant. (C)

Bath House (N-1499.082). This one-story, two-bay, rectangular, concrete-block building was constructed circa 1950. It rests on a poured concrete foundation, and displays a gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. Overhanging eaves form the cornice. Modern, wood panel passage doors with plain trim stand in the gable ends. Nine symmetrically-spaced openings, located beneath the eaves, have plain trim and evidence of screens. (NC)

Sewage Treatment Plant (N-1499.083). This one-story, three-bay, load-bearing masonry building was constructed circa 1960. It sits on a concrete foundation, and consists of walls of all-stretcher bond brick. The roof is flat, which prevents ascertaining the roofing material. (NC)

Water Tank (N-1499.084). This one-story reinforced-concrete structure was built circa 1960. It displays exposed, unpainted concrete walls and a flat roof. (NC)

Well House, #2 (N-1499.085). This one-story, one-bay, shed-roof frame building was built circa 1970 on the location of a previous well house that is visible on a 1943 map. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation. Plywood covers the walls, and the shed-roof consists of flush verge board. There are no windows, and the central door is of modern wood construction. (NC)

National Guard Armory (N-1499.086). This two-story, nine-bay, load-bearing masonry building was

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constructed circa 1970. It rests on a poured concrete foundation. Walls laid with all-stretcher bond brick support the flat roof. Fenestration is asymmetrical, consisting of one-over-one casement windows and four metal doors with large sidelights. A one-story wing extends from the front elevation. (NC)

Gate House (N-1499.087). This one-story, one-bay, rectangular load-bearing masonry building was constructed circa 1970. It rests on a concrete foundation and displays brick walls laid in all-stretcher bond. The flat roof has copper flashing at the stepped cornice. The fenestration is symmetrical, with two louvered glass in metal frame doors on the facade and a plate glass window with louvered sections on each of the side elevations. (NC)

Main Pod (N-1499.088). This one-story, multi-bay, rectangular load-bearing masonry building was constructed circa 1970. The building rests on a concrete foundation and has brick walls laid in all-stretcher bond brick. The roof is flat. Fenestration is asymmetrical, with single pane windows located at some of the corners. Bricks in the form of pilasters frame the windows. The double doors consist of modern metal, and include a small rectangular light. (NC)

Residential Pods (N-1499.089-.098). These one-story, multi-bay load-bearing masonry buildings were constructed circa 1970. The buildings rest on concrete foundations, and have walls laid in all-stretcher bond brick. The flat roofs have concrete pavers at the juncture of wall and roof. The fenestration patterns are asymmetrical; there are single light windows and modern metal doors trimmed brick in the form of pilasters. (NC)

Warehouse, Division of Purchasing (N-1499.099). This one-story, five-bay metal building was constructed circa 1980. The building rests on a raised concrete pad. Vertical metal siding sheaths the walls. Four modern cargo doors and one metal passage door pierce the southeast elevation. (NC)

Office Building, Division of Purchasing (N-1499.100). This one-story, nine-bay frame building was built circa 1980 by Nanticoke Homes, Inc. The building contains a rectangular main block, and two projecting gable roof wings. The concrete block foundation supports walls sheathed in vinyl siding; the gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has overhanging eaves. The fenestration of the facade is symmetrical, with

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modern louvered shutters flanking the six-over-six aluminum sash windows. A centrally-located six-part-panel metal door with three part sidelights pierces the facade. A porch with round synthetic material columns is inset on the facade, formed by the projecting wings. Windows on the side and rear elevations appear symmetrically placed. (NC)

Emergency Management Facility (N-1499.101). This one-story, gable-roof building was constructed circa 1980. The construction material for the walls and roof is unknown, but both are sheathed in a polyvinyl or composite material. A door pierces each of the gable ends and each elevation contains a sliding-sash window. (NC)

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Fort DuPont and its resources represent significant national trends in federal coastal defense policy, military landscape and post planning, and standardized military architecture, making it eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, for their association with broad patterns in the nation's military history, Criterion B for their association with World War I and II, and Criterion C for their architectural significance. Under Criterion A, the fort embodies the policy of national coastal defense strategy of the United States Military, as it evolved from the Permanent Defense System in the early-nineteenth century through the Endicott Period forts in the late-nineteenth century. Fort DuPont's accommodation of the latest in artillery technology and military engineering also associates it with major military events. The design of the fort also lends to the fort's significance since it serves as an early example of a well-ordered, functioning military reservation, designed around an open plan. Under Criterion B, the fort is significant for the role it played in both coastal defense and as a prisoner-of-war camp during the first and second World Wars. Under Criterion C, the fort serves as an excellent representative of coastal defense fortification of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The buildings that support the fortifications represent significant examples of buildings constructed from standard Army plans.

Fort DuPont possesses a significant concentration, linkage, and continuity of sites, buildings, structures and objects united by a plan and qualifies for the National Register as a planned military landscape and historic district, presenting the distinctive characteristics of a coastal fortification of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The Fort DuPont Historic District possesses significance on a state level as the example of turn-of-the-century military encampment within the borders of the state of Delaware. The period of significance extends from 1864, the date of the construction of the earliest fortification of the property (Ten Gun Battery) through 1945, when the fort ceased to function as a military facility. Although there has been some loss of buildings and structures from various points in the fort's development, the resources that remain within the boundaries of the district reflect a high level of physical integrity, particularly for a fort of the Endicott Period.

Areas of Significance

The significance of Fort DuPont lies in three specific areas, all related to the National Register area of significance, "Military": coastal defense policy, military landscape and post planning, and the standardized architecture of the United States Military. The federal policy of coastal defense developed after the War of 1812 promoted the construction of a chain of fortresses along the American coast from 1820 through the 1850s. Fort

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Delaware, built in the early-nineteenth century on Pea Patch Island, was one of these strategically-located fortresses; by 1900, Fort DuPont succeeded Fort Delaware as the principal fort on the Delaware River. Fort DuPont was built under the recommendations of the Endicott Board, established in 1885 to modernize United States defensive fortifications. Further, Fort DuPont's construction is closely related to the development of a modern artillery system. In part, it replaced Fort Delaware because it accommodated this new technology more readily. Fort DuPont developed as a result of this new technology, and represents the culmination of a century-long federal coastal defense strategy.

A second area of significance involves Fort DuPont's appearance as a planned military landscape. Fort DuPont as a planned landscape represents the accretion of land over a period of some sixty years. The development of Fort DuPont followed a fairly clear military plan after the fort was commissioned in 1898, reflecting the national trend in military construction that saw the development and implementation of standardized layouts, building plans, and architectural styles during the late-nineteenth century.

A third and final area of significance lies with the standardized military architecture of the fort itself. Fort DuPont's architecture is the product of standardized building design that began in the 1860s and continued through the completion of construction at Fort DuPont. Colonial Revival style marks most of the buildings constructed in the early-twentieth century. Differences occurred in level of finish and scale of buildings, gradations that mirrored the hierarchy of the military generally.

Overall, Fort DuPont reflects the theme of national coastal defense policy of the United States during the nineteenth century, culminating in the forts of the Endicott Period, as well as illustrates the culmination of nineteenth-century trends in fort planning and military architecture.

Fort DuPont and Federal Coastal Defense Strategy, 1800-1900

As a maritime nation with extensive shorelines, the United States relied on its Navy for its first line of defense and upon a system of coastal fortifications for its second line of defense from the 1790s through the 1930s. During that time, the United States government built eight different generations of coastal fortifications and armaments. Fort DuPont, commissioned in 1898, represented part of the fifth generation of coastal fortifications, known as Endicott Period Forts. From then until the early 1920s, Fort DuPont served as the

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headquarters and station of the "Coast Defenses of the Delaware River of the Middle Atlantic Coast Artillery District" of the United States Army. The building of Fort DuPont represented the last stage in a century-long coastal defense policy, that saw the construction and demolition of numerous posts along the Delaware River.

The British invasion during the War of 1812 heightened Americans' fear of a war fought on home soil, and demonstrated the inadequacy of earlier systems of defense.¹ In the wake of the war, the United States government developed a policy of Coastal Defense known as the "Permanent System of National Defense" or "Third System." Sea power represented the major instrument of war against the United States in the early nineteenth century as well as the country's primary defense. Therefore, the masonry fortifications constructed under the new policy were positioned to meet several goals. One set of fortresses denied a foreign fleet access to naval depots, harbors of rendezvous, or points of refuge along the American coast from which they could launch attacks. A second set strengthened coastal cities against attack. Military engineers placed these fortifications as far downstream as possible from the cities they defended, forcing an enemy to land troops at a significant distance from the city. Sited on strong defensive positions in marshes or rocky areas, the fortresses of the "Third System" used natural barriers to protect their landward approaches.

Fort Delaware, Fort DuPont's predecessor on the Delaware River, was one of the forts built under the Permanent System. When completed in 1859, Fort Delaware represented the largest masonry fort in the United States. But only three years later, on April 11, 1862, Fort Delaware and the other masonry forts of the Third System were rendered virtually obsolete when Union artillery from rifled cannon breached the walls of Fort Pulaski in Georgia. Considered the most impregnable of the large forts, Fort Pulaski fell in just a day and a half. According to a foreign engineer who served with the Confederacy in Mobile, Alabama, masonry forts could not withstand the firing power of modern artillery and would prove inadequate for coastal defense if an attack came in the form of a large Fleet armed with the new technology.²

The forts constructed in the wake of the Civil War took needed to address this new coastal artillery

¹Ames, David, et al., Fort DuPont, Delaware: An Architectural Survey and Evaluation, 14-16.

²Robinson, American Forts, 131.

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technology, and many were built to accommodate it. Developments in this technology during the late-nineteenth century included the introduction of the rifled barrel, the first large-scale use of steel for guns, and the introduction of propellants more powerful than gunpowder. Taken together, these were the greatest advances in artillery since its invention in the fourteenth century.³

A major technological advance in the design of cannons occurred in the 1850s with the introduction of the rifled barrel. Rifled barrels contained long spirals on their interior surfaces that imparted a spin on projectiles, providing a flatter trajectory, greater range, and higher muzzle velocity, all of which contributed to the accuracy of the weapon.⁴ A second development involved the building materials used in cannon. Cast iron, the material used earlier, proved too brittle if it cooled too slowly or quickly after casting and proved inadequate even with new improvements in the casting technique.⁵ The answer lay in the use of steel. Although steel existed as early as the eighteenth century, the ability to produce large quantities of this high-grade material, and then work it into usable components, eluded armament manufacturers until the later part of the nineteenth century. With an ample supply of pure steel and a collection of the most massive machinery ever created, after 1850 or so, armories could produce gun tubes weighing more than 100,000 pounds.⁶

With rifled, steel barrels, the "perfect" weapon lay within reach of the military. The third and final development involved developing a powder, or propellant, to cast projectiles distances of several miles. Black powder, composed of saltpeter, charcoal, and sulfur, served as the propellant throughout most of the nineteenth

³Lewis, Seacoast Fortifications, 75.

⁴The *muzzle velocity* is the speed, measured in feet-per-second, of the projectile as it leaves the barrel.

⁵To combat this problem, U.S. Ordnance Lieutenant (later Major) Thomas J. Rodman developed an improved casting technique using a water-cooled core, as opposed to a core of packed sand, that allowed for the careful regulation of the cooling rate of the fresh casting. Assuring that the molten metal cooled evenly resulted in a barrel of great strength. Initially issued circa 1861, Rodman's manufacturing process earned him limited notoriety as the inventor of the "Rodman-Type Columbiad."

⁶Ames, David, et al., Fort DuPont: An Architectural Survey and Evaluation, 25-27.

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century, yet provided the needed force through deflagration rather than by a true explosion.⁷ To propel the increasingly large projectiles of nineteenth-century weapons, a propellant that generated immense pressure was needed.⁸ As early as 1846, the first step in obtaining this appeared in the form of guncotton or cellulose nitrate, which allowed material to burn much more quickly and produce higher pressures. While this propellant exceeded the performance of black powder, the development of cordite near the turn of the century gave military engineers the product they sought. Cordite used guncotton as its base product, but enhanced its characteristics through the addition of nitro-glycerin and petroleum distillates. Cordite was an extremely powerful propellant that detonated in the chamber of the weapon with immense force. By 1900, new technology provided the Army with the metals, propellants, and designs with which to enter the twentieth century.

After the Civil War, changes in the design of coastal fortifications occurred rapidly, incorporating many of these advances in artillery technology into the new facilities. "All new batteries built for our seacoast defenses had earthen exterior slopes, and no additional masonry [fortifications] were built. Later, concrete emplacements were added to protect the increasingly heavy guns needed for seacoast defense."⁹ These recommendations were quickly put into effect along the Delaware River. The first military installation on the land that became Fort DuPont that took some of this new technology into account was the fortification built in 1864. Built to support the chief fort on the Delaware on Pea Patch Island, known as Fort Delaware, Ten Gun Battery (N-1499.002) consisted of heavy earthenworks on its front with a trench and palisade on its three landward sides. Almost 250 feet in width, Ten Gun Battery contained a heavily reinforced magazine, parade ground, kitchen, and quarters for both officers and enlisted men. The battery's design called for the installation

⁷Deflagration is a type of rapid combustion that creates pressure by the presence of heated, expanding gases.

⁸A propellant that created pressure through *detonation*, or the generation of intense heat and pressure through the nearly instantaneous conversion of a solid to a gas.

⁹Snyder and Guss, The District, 127.

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of six ten-inch Rodman-type-Columbiads and four fifteen-inch guns of similar design.¹⁰ The massive rifled guns, weighing nearly 50,000 pounds and stretching almost sixteen feet in length, launched a 300-pound projectile over two and a half miles. The military importance of Ten Gun Battery declined with the surrender of the Confederacy, and the installation, despite its incorporation of some of the new technology, was abandoned by 1870.

Fort Delaware was modernized between 1871 and 1873 with concrete magazines and platforms for planned fifteen-inch guns. On the New Jersey and Delaware shores opposite Fort Delaware, construction began on two new forts as a part of the modernization of coastal defenses for the Delaware Valley. On the New Jersey side, a ten gun earthen battery with emplacements for two fifteen-inch guns was erected, called Fort Mott. On the Delaware side, at the site of Ten Gun Battery, construction began in 1870 on a new fortification. Known first as "The Fort Opposite Fort Delaware," this battery, called Twenty Gun Battery (N-1499.003) later became part of the Fort DuPont site. Designed according to the new principles governing the construction of coastal defense installations, its plan consisted of "an earthen battery to mount twenty guns, wharves and emplacements for two fifteen-inch Rodman guns," reflecting the revolution that had occurred in artillery technology.¹¹

By the 1880s, in spite of improved coastal defenses, such as those at Fort Delaware and the supplemental batteries at the sites of Fort DuPont and Fort Mott, many civilian and military leaders in the United States considered important urban areas virtually defenseless because of rapid developments in the power of artillery, especially that of the new steel hulled warships.¹² In response to these concerns, the President appointed the Endicott Board in 1885 to assist the Corps of Engineers with the design and implementation of a

¹⁰The Columbiad designation of artillery refers to the weaponry used in seacoast defense. Introduced in 1811, Columbiads went through several improvements culminating in the Rodman-type introduced just prior to the Civil War. Developed and named for U.S. Ordnance Lieutenant (later Major) Thomas J. Rodman, Rodman's cannon represented a new method of manufacture resulting in a stronger, more powerful weapon (Dean S. Thomas, Cannons: An Introduction to Civil War Artillery (Gettysburg, PA: Thomas Publications, 1986), 55)).

¹¹Snyder and Guss, The District, 130.

¹²Robinson, American Forts, 131.

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new system of defense. The program presented by the Endicott Board in 1886 called for a large number of "fortifications which included armaments of the heaviest rifles mounted on disappearing carriages...all of which were to be protected by massive works of reinforced concrete."¹³ Congress passed legislation based on these recommendations that authorized the construction of the fifth generation of forts, known as Endicott Period Forts (1886-1905); Fort DuPont, officially commissioned in 1898, was one example of these forts.

Realizing the urgent need for a system of coastal defenses that matched the firepower of the world's navies, the Board proposed a system of seacoast fortifications that utilized the latest in weapons technology as well as the most advanced civil engineering of the time. Steel guns of eight- and twelve-inch bores mounted on disappearing carriages and installed in concrete structures offered the greatest chance of defending the nation's coast from attack.¹⁴ The concrete structures of these batteries served a dual purpose. First, they offered protection to the gun's crew and to the ammunition stored in reinforced magazines. More importantly, the immense weight of the rifles and the intense backward force, or recoil, of these weapons when fired required a substantial mounting platform. To provide additional protection from naval assault, earth or sand served as fill. While these large rifles proved effective against vessels at long range, other weapons could be brought to bear in the event a fleet managed to successfully steam upstream. Rapid-fire rifles and mortars were an integral part of the Endicott period fortifications.¹⁵

In the closing years of the nineteenth century military engineers undertook the most ambitious building project yet for the protection of the Delaware River. In preparation for the building of a modern masonry

¹³Robinson, American Forts, 130.

¹⁴A *disappearing carriage* is a rifle mount that retracts below the level of the parapet for loading, but then rises above the defensive works for firing. The recoil of the weapon forces it back to the terrepleine where it is reloaded.

¹⁵*Rapid-fire rifles* are guns that can be loaded, fired, and reloaded in a short time. Large rifles such as twelve-inch disappearing guns take several minutes to go through the cycle. *Mortars* are large-bore guns, usually in excess of twelve inches, that can be pointed steeply upward and used to lob shells in a high arc through the decks of ships. Both types of weapons are effective only at short distances.

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fortification to replace Ten Gun and Twenty Gun Batteries in 1897, the outmoded guns were removed. In 1898 the site was formally commissioned as Fort DuPont; in 1899, construction began on the new fortifications, which were completed in 1902.¹⁶ It was one of the few Army installations named in honor of a naval officer, Admiral Samuel Francis DuPont, a Delaware hero of Civil War fame. When construction of the fortifications was completed in 1902, there were two eight-inch and twelve-inch breech-loading rifles and sixteen twelve-inch breech loading motors.¹⁷ The completion of the concrete gun and mortar emplacements with their armaments installed was only the first step in the completion of Fort DuPont as a coastal fort of the Endicott period. Unlike the self-contained stone fortresses of the earlier era, the gun and mortar emplacements of the Endicott forts were part of and supported by a larger traditionally laid out military reservation. Remaining after 1902 was the acquisition of additional land, the laying out of a land plan and construction of permanent buildings and supporting facilities. The physical fabric of Fort DuPont was largely completed by 1915. Additional improvements to Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island consisted of the installation of three twelve-inch disappearing guns. Fort Mott, near Finn's Point on the New Jersey shore, also became a major battery with three twelve-inch disappearing guns of its own.

The forts of the Endicott Period reflected the greatest development of coastal defense on American soil. For about twenty-five years, from the turn of the century until the early 1920s, these facilities housed the largest land-based weapons in existence. Ironically, few of the weapons ever fired a single volley, and in many cases the rifles were removed from the batteries to protect them from the elements. In the early 1920s, new technology allowed for the construction of larger, more accurate rifles. With the ability to accurately hit targets on the open sea, defensive installations moved even further downriver to the mouths of major estuaries. Although the ultimate fate of the Endicott bases varied, the various buildings and structures that survive at Fort DuPont reflect the culmination of over a century of changing United States coastal defense policy.

¹⁶Robert B. Roberts, Encyclopedia of Historic Forts: The Military, Pioneer and Trading Posts of the United States (New York: MacMillan and Company, 1988), 130.

¹⁷Roberts, Encyclopedia of Historic Forts, 130.

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Planning the Military Landscape and Post of Fort DuPont

Fort plans prior to the Civil War typically followed a pentagonal design; masonry walls, frequently armed with cannons, encircled all of the supportive buildings, such as barracks and kitchens. These plans were known as "closed plans." The next phase of fortification design after the Civil War saw the emergence of "open plans," such as that of Fort DuPont. The bases constructed under the auspices of the Endicott Board occupied extensive tracts of land. The size and complexity of the weaponry present in Endicott fortifications also required large numbers of men. While a ten-inch Columbiad needed a crew of only five men, a twelve-inch mortar needed a dozen and a twelve-inch rifle required thirty. In addition to the men needed to operate the guns, a growing number of support personnel became a necessity in the operation of an installation. Personnel from the signal corp maintained communications between adjoining batteries. Engineers and observers coordinated fire. Quartermasters and ordnance personnel serviced the weapons. A simple barracks, privy, and small kitchen no longer served the needs of a growing complement. Orderly arrangements of streets provided movement while the fort's structures were clustered by function (e.g. residential) or hierarchically (e.g., the separation of enlisted men from officers). Ancillary structures occupied the open space surrounding the batteries, while barracks, guard houses, kitchens, and storehouses flanked the installation's roads.

Perhaps due to a reduced threat of lengthy sieges or landward assault, coastal defensive installations began to break away from the bastioned form reminiscent of the Middle Ages. Open-plan forts were characterized by defensive works only on those exposures most open to attack or to protect artillery batteries. For coastal locations, this meant that defensive works faced the water and shielded the seacoast weaponry. A road system comprised of two main arteries meeting near the center of the reservation, combined with numerous secondary streets, provided the template on which the functional organization of the base was constructed. Specific areas within the complex served as locations for residential, administrative, and service buildings. In many cases, a single fort served as the regional headquarters for several batteries. These facilities also accommodated regional command functions. Fort DuPont's significance in part lies in its appearance as a planned military landscape, that appeared in Forts built under the recommendations of the Endicott Board.

The site at Fort DuPont demonstrates the shift away from bastioned "closed" plans, culminating in 1899 with the construction of an open-plan, fully functional fort, equipped with batteries as well as ancillary structures, all laid out according to an orderly, planned arrangement. Ten Gun Battery, begun in 1864,

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originally consisted of the fortification alone; the site served as a support structure, rather than a fully-functional military reservation. Its replacement, Twenty Gun Battery, begun in 1870, included several quarters and storehouses in addition to the fortifications. The construction of Twenty Gun Battery shows the beginnings of a trend toward open-plan design, and a more ordered military base. Despite this attempt to build support structures between 1870 and 1900 the site only included 66 acres, most of which was occupied by the fortifications. Support buildings and residences were positioned close to the batteries, on a narrow strip of land running parallel with them, and thus the site hardly classified as a well-ordered or planned landscape.

When Fort DuPont was officially commissioned under recommendations of the Endicott Board in 1899, the open plan design of a well-ordered military landscape became a reality. Typical of open-plan forts, batteries only existed on the side of the fort susceptible to military bombardment, the river (east) side. The expansion in size of the fort in the first decade of the twentieth century to 321 acres also allowed for the construction for a full-scale military base. Following the Board's recommendations, new construction included residences, schools, barracks, and other support structures. Roads began delineating space within the reservation, providing routes of movement. A hierarchy of space emerged as well; batteries and support buildings occupied the eastern quadrant of the reservation, enlisted men's barracks and non-commissioned officers' quarters stood adjacent to these, and administration buildings, officer's homes, and medical facilities took up the western part of the fort's grounds. Between the buildings on the west and those on the east stood a vast expanse of open ground which was used as a parade ground. This parade ground later became the focal point of the fort, serving as the site for the commemorative flag pole which confirmed this space as the base's core. By 1902, the major elements were in place, and Fort DuPont assumed a configuration easily recognized today as a planned military reservation.

When the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers purchased the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal the canal-side lane and lock-keeper's house were incorporated into the planned landscape of the fort. The Wingate House, which is no longer standing, became part of the officers' residential area, and the lane was joined to the fort's road system.

Expansion continued on the fort through 1945, with the construction of additional roads and buildings. This process re-affirmed the segregation of function established earlier; utilitarian structures occupied the land to the south and west, residential structures lay to the north and west, and recreational and community structures stood to the north and east. An increasingly complex system of roads, many of which were paved between 1906

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and 1922, allowed movement throughout the base. While buildings, many temporary, continued to be erected through World War II, the planned landscape that emerged by 1902 remained intact.

Fort DuPont and Standardized Military Architecture

The architecture of Fort DuPont exemplifies a significant trend in building design and construction by the United States Army. Prior to and during the Civil War, housing for servicemen and their families was not regulated and the conditions of houses were often deplorable. At seacoast fortifications, soldiers did not even have housing, but lived in unsanitary conditions within the casements of the forts."¹⁸ An 1868 ruling by the Secretary of War stated that:

no permanent barracks, quarters, hospitals, storehouses, offices, stables, piers or wharves shall be erected but by order of the Secretary of War . . . These restrictions do not extend to temporary huts . . .; but no contracts shall be entered into, nor purchases of material made, for the erection of such temporary buildings, unless specially authorized by the War Department.¹⁹

Other inhibitors, such as a \$20,000 limitation on permanent structures in 1872 and a \$500 limit on expenditures to any building without approval by the Secretary of War in 1886, made the construction and maintenance of buildings difficult. But the rapid growth of the Army from around 18,000 men just before the Civil War to 43,000 men in 1869 required substantial amounts of adequate housing.

By 1866 the concept of standardized plans for barracks, family housing, mess halls, bakeries, and jails was in place. Within the offices of the Quartermaster General, in charge of construction for the Army, a team of architects and experienced builders developed a stock of plans to fit all the needs of the Army. The plans were developed and distributed to various forts as construction needs arose. The ready availability of plans ensured

¹⁸Bethany C. Grashof, A Study of United States Army Family Housing Standardized Plans, 1866-1940, 11.

¹⁹Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1868. From Grashof, A Study of United States Army Family Housing Standardized Plans 1866-1940, Volume 1, page 7.

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that a post could be developed or expanded quickly and would also meet a certain aesthetic code. When the concept was developed, the Colonial Revival style was chosen as representative of American architecture and became the guideline for most construction plans. By providing plans for all types of buildings in the same style, the Army could assure an homogenous appearance to an entire fort. This can be seen at Fort DuPont, where quarters, warehouses, the bakery, and even a transformer house all reflect the features of the Colonial Revival style.

The social structure of the military was also reflected in and shaped by buildings. Soon after the conception of standard plans, space allocation also became regulated using one of two methods. The first way provided all ranks with the same number of rooms but increased the room size with higher rank. This method was in use by 1870.²⁰ The second method of allocation allowed uniformly sized rooms, but an increased number with a higher rank.²¹ These methods of space allocation are significant because they provide the basis for modern army housing practices. For residential buildings, the Army currently allows "a minimum of 950 square feet per unit with two bedroom for a noncommissioned officer family to a maximum of 2,100 square feet and four bedrooms for generals and their families. For commanding officers, 10 percent additional space is allowed."²²

Virtually all of the permanent structures at Fort DuPont exhibit the Army Colonial Revival style demanded by the military, lending visual coherence to the architectural landscape of the fort. Gradations between the size and level of finish of residential buildings signaled the different rank of the occupants. The commander's imposing house, sited on the northeast edge of the parade ground, contrasted markedly with the barracks of enlisted men.

Although most buildings were constructed according to a standard plan, each fort was allowed to make

²⁰Grashof, Army Standardized Housing, 20.

²¹Grashof, Army Standardized Housing, 21.

²²Constance Werner Ramirez and Katherine Grandine, "Housing the Military," in Housing: Symbol, Structure, Site, edited by Lisa Taylor, 110.

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modifications to the design, according to specialized needs. This information was sometimes recorded in a complete or partial set of new drawings for a building or the change was noted in the construction log for the fort, such as that which still exists for Fort DuPont. Changes to a plan were not necessarily made during initial construction, but sometimes were made when the use of the building changed. For example, the Band Barracks (N-1499.022) was modified in 1930 when the First Engineers Regiment occupied Fort DuPont. The presence of this standard type of construction at Fort DuPont associates it with the national trend in military construction. With almost all of the buildings that still stand as confirmed standard buildings, the historic theme of United States Army architecture is significantly represented.

Historic Development of the Fort and Property Types

Located on the western shore of the Delaware River at a point where it narrows through a bend, the site at Fort DuPont possessed strategic significance as early as the mid-nineteenth century. The earliest armament at the site came in the form of a defensive position constructed in 1864 when "Ten Gun Battery" was built to protect the river's western channel. In the early 1870s, the Army replaced Ten Gun Battery with a larger emplacement planned for twenty guns. Construction began on Fort DuPont itself in 1899 and concluded in 1913. As part of the nation's coastal defense system between 1899 and 1922, Fort DuPont headquartered the Coastal Artillery Corps that commanded the coastal artillery installations defending Wilmington, Philadelphia, and the Delaware Valley from naval attack. Starting in 1922 as its importance to coastal defense declined, the fort served as the headquarters for the First Engineers Regiment. After the engineers moved out in 1939, Fort DuPont served as a training facility, a role that continued until the end of World War II when the State of Delaware acquired the fort.

These changes at Fort DuPont altered not only the purpose of the fort, evolving from coastal defense installation to training facility, but also its physical layout and architectural fabric. The development of the site and its military landscape can be divided into three distinct periods:

- A) Pre-1870: The Site of Fort DuPont as a Strategic Location
- B) 1870-1895: Development of the Twenty-Gun Battery Site
- C) 1895-1945: Fort DuPont Realized

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Construction of most of the existing resources took place between 1899 and 1913, when Fort DuPont functioned as the chief protection for Wilmington and Philadelphia. Evidence remains, however, for buildings constructed during all three periods.

The historic resources that survive communicate their original functions and remain in their original locations, providing a tangible link to the fort's past. Resources at the fort can be divided into several large groups, or property types. These include 1) **batteries**, 2) **administrative resources**, 3) **residential buildings**, 4) **service resources**, and 5) **support resources**. A variety of buildings, structures, and objects fall into each of these categories. A final property type is the **military landscape** itself, comprising the physical layout of the fort.

Batteries are the armament configurations on the post, including both the guns and the earthworks that supported them. **Administrative resources**, such as the flagstaff (N-1499.017), the guard house (N-1499.014), and the fire house (N-1499.018), assisted with the military functions of the fort, specifically command operations, ceremonial representation, and general safety. **Residential buildings** include all housing facilities at the fort. Semi-detached dwellings, or duplexes, housed commissioned officers and non-commissioned officers (N-1499.026 and N-1499.027); detached dwellings were reserved for commissioned officers (N-1499.025); and two barracks housed enlisted men (N-1499.052 and N-1499.053). **Support resources** provided logistical support to the military functions and activities. Support buildings include buildings for the storage and repair of ordnance (N-1499.016), pontoons and motor vehicle (N-1499.066 and N-1499.029), as well as pump houses (N-1499.006 and N-1499.051), water storage facilities (N-1499.034), and buildings used for engineering, electrical supply, and radio communications. Finally, **service resources** supported the needs of the fort's inhabitants: food service and preparation (N-1499.028 and N-1499.059), recreation (N-1499.054), personal vehicle storage (N-1499.077), and religious meeting (N-1499.055).

A. Pre-1870: A Strategic Location

After the War of 1812, President Monroe directed the United States Corps of Engineers to develop a plan for the coastal defense of the United States and its major cities. To defend Philadelphia, the plan called for the construction of fortifications forty miles downstream from the city on the Delaware River near Reedy Point, Delaware. The first generation of defenses consisted of a succession of two brick fortresses, both named Fort

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Delaware, built on Pea Patch Island from the 1820s through 1859. Military strategists realized the importance of the land opposite Pea Patch Island, the future site of Fort DuPont, as early as 1819 when they proposed a massive masonry structure with three tiers of guns for the Delaware shore. This three-tier fortification never materialized, and the Reedy Point site saw no military activity for the next forty-five years. Fort Delaware served as the primary defensive site on the Delaware River through the 1870s.

When the inadequacies of Fort Delaware's coastal artillery became apparent during the Civil War, the military again considered developing fortifications on the Delaware shore. Several fortifications appeared at the future site of Fort DuPont to support Fort Delaware in the early 1860s. In their first incarnation, these fortifications did not occupy a defined military reservation. Sandwiched between the Clement Reeves Farm on the west and swampland to the east, Ten-Gun Battery (N-1499.002) represented a self-contained military island in the midst of orchards and pastures. A single road provided limited access, and virtually all martial activities took place within the confines of the Battery's walls. Although only traces of the Battery survive from this episode in Fort DuPont's history, it remains crucial as the beginning of over eighty years of military presence.

B. 1870 to 1895: Development of the Twenty Gun Battery Site

In 1870, the federal government purchased sixty-six acres from Clement Reeves on the western side of Ten Gun Battery, and a permanent military post on the Delaware shore became a reality. This tract of land housed Twenty Gun Battery (N-1499.003). No substantial building of ancillary structures took place, and it is likely that several of Ten Gun's buildings, now destroyed, served as quarters and storehouses. Some of these buildings survived until the 1890s, and appear as "existing buildings to be removed" on drawings prepared before construction of the heavy works in 1898. Another substantial change took place between 1870 and 1890 when the construction of an earthen or masonry dike along the property's eastern boundary allowed the draining of wetlands adjoining the river's edge.

Twenty Gun Battery, built to replace the one constructed during the Civil War, was planned in the early 1870s. As proposed, Twenty Gun Battery appeared as a long, east-facing earthenwork with angled gun emplacements on the north and south flanks. The northern parapet passed through the remains of Ten Gun Battery. Additional recommendations called for the construction of fortifications to the south, possibly mortar batteries. Although grandiose in scale, Twenty Gun Battery never assumed this configuration, and its firepower

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never exceeded three operable guns. By 1897, Twenty Gun Battery showed serious signs of neglect. While the outline of the entire Battery survived, only the southern third of the structure seemed serviceable. Three ten-inch guns remained in position during construction of later fortifications, but by 1900 even these weapons were removed. The final military reference to Twenty Gun Battery occurred in an armament report of 1901, listing mounts for four fifteen-inch "Rodmans," five ten-inch "Rodmans," and the locations of two additional "pintle stones." No cannon appeared on the report, and the listed installations were deemed unserviceable.

C. 1895-1945: Fort DuPont Realized

In 1898, the United States government, following recommendations of the Endicott Board established in 1885 to modernize defensive fortifications, commissioned the building of Fort DuPont. Named after Admiral Samuel Francis DuPont, a Delaware hero of Civil War fame, the fort evolved through a series of changes that not only altered its physical shape but its very purpose. Coastal defense, once the primary reason for its existence, shifted to secondary importance as the national defense strategy moved to a global theater. But throughout its evolution, Fort DuPont left behind a structural legacy that enables us to visualize its substance. The first part of this section looks at the plan and layout of the fort's landscape as it evolved through time, investigating the street arrangements, parade grounds, different residential and administrative areas and the hierarchy of the design. The second part explores the architectural resources, considering the types of buildings found on the fort's grounds and their condition.

The Military Landscape

Constructed between 1898 and 1901, the batteries were the *raison d'être* of Fort DuPont. The entire fort was designed to support Batteries Reed and Gibson (N-1499.004) and Mortar Battery (N-1499.005). They were designed to be self-sufficient when under attack, containing their own ammunition magazines, electrical generators, boilers, and communications systems. Built under recommendations of the Endicott Board, these fortifications occupied most of the original 66-acre tract, leaving a narrow strip of land for construction of dwellings, storehouses and other buildings. This led to the purchase of an additional 111 acres in 1900, allowing for the development of a full-scale, operational fort that included support buildings, such as dwellings, and service and administrative buildings. Many of these buildings were constructed between 1899 and 1902.

By 1902, Fort DuPont as a military landscape assumed a configuration easily recognizable today. Roads delineated space and provided routes of movement within the reservation. Although wetlands still restricted

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expansion to the north and west, a clearly defined hierarchy of space existed: to the east stood batteries and support buildings; adjacent to this were enlisted mens' barracks and non-commissioned officers' quarters; at the extreme west, bordering the canal and separated from the rest of the base by an expanse of open ground stood administrative buildings, officers' homes, and medical facilities. The space that divided officers' homes from the buildings housing the lower ranks later became the focal point of the fort in the first decade of the twentieth century. Surrounded by barracks, the post exchange, hospital, recreational buildings, headquarters, and the commanding officer's house, this "parade ground" remained undeveloped throughout the history of the fort. In 1906, the installation of the flagpole (N-1499.017) at the eastern edge of the parade ground confirmed the position of this open space as the base's core. As the first official symbol seen on entering the fort, any subsequent construction on the parade ground would have negated this symbol's importance.

Between 1906 and 1922, Fort DuPont experienced a second episode of intense building activity following the acquisition of additional land, which expanded the property to its present size of approximately 321 acres. A large bakery prepared breads for the post's growing number of personnel (N-1499.028). The quartermaster corps housed its horses and mules in an impressive brick stable (N-1499.029), and a new commander's house stood next to the parade ground. Expansion during this period re-affirmed the segregation of function established earlier. Newly-paved roads that once skirted reservation boundaries now created an axial intersection near the fort's center. Utilitarian structures occupied the land to the south and west of this juncture, residential structures lay to the north and west, and recreational and community structures to the north and east. By 1913, Fort DuPont exemplified an efficient, well-ordered military reservation.

With the abandonment of the batteries in 1922, Fort DuPont became a major training facility for the engineering corps. Building activity was far from stagnant between 1923 and 1939. The Works Progress Administration constructed a theater bordering the parade ground (N-1499.046). Additional non-commissioned officers' quarters filled the recently reclaimed wetlands to the north and east of the fort's central axis. Buildings for the storage and repair of bridge pontoons (N-1499.066 and N-1499.067) filled the open fields to the west of the batteries. Fort DuPont experienced a final period of development in direct response to World War II. Scores of temporary or "mobilization type" buildings sprang up throughout the fort. Primarily frame buildings supported by brick or concrete piers, barracks (N-1499.052 and .053), pump houses (N-1499.051 and .073), hospital wards (N-1499.082), recreation buildings (N-1499.054), and even a chapel (N-1499.055) were classified as temporary buildings. As the war progressed these structures continually changed their functions, with

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hospital wards becoming prisoner-of-war barracks and stables becoming laundries. By 1943 Fort DuPont exhibited its greatest degree of development in terms of the total number of buildings, but few of those constructed after 1941 survive. Although few mobilization buildings remain, the system of roads and walks that connected them survives. Scattered throughout the reservation, and completely overgrown, in many cases these corridors represent the only physical artifact left from this period.

The arrangement of the buildings of Fort DuPont constructed between 1899 and 1945 is the product of careful planning. Two major streets intersect at right angles to divide the post into quadrants. Battery Lane, running roughly east and west, provides the north-south division while Maple Boulevard provides the east to west separation. Whereas Battery Lane divides the fort in almost equal halves, Maple Boulevard separates its eastern third from the western two-thirds. Elm Avenue, a second major east-west street, parallels Battery Lane on the north, borders the parade ground, and functions as the entry road to the post. Elm Avenue meets Maple Boulevard at the point where the Boulevard, running north, becomes Officers' Lane. Sometime during the 1930s, a third major east-west street, Colter Road, was constructed along the southern boundary of the parade ground.

Maple Boulevard marked the western boundary of the reservation before 1900 and served as a support road for the artillery batteries in the southeast quadrant. The extension of Battery Lane east of the Boulevard is also an earlier road called Dock Road which provided access from the dock on the Delaware River to the emplacements during their construction. The military railroad also ran along Dock Road before swinging south to run behind the emplacements. The artillery batteries, running along the Delaware River, are located in the southeast quadrant.

North and west of the batteries, the spatial organization for Fort DuPont follows a modified standard axial military plan with land uses hierarchically arranged around the parade ground, the functional and ceremonial center of the post. The parade ground separated officers' residential areas on the north from those of enlisted personnel and non-commissioned officers' on the south and east. Administrative and service areas, including the post headquarters, post exchange, and theater were located on the east end of the parade ground. Almost all of the logistical and support areas, with the exception of the quartermaster's building in the northeast, stand in the southwest quadrant of the post between the enlisted barracks and non-commissioned officers' quarters, and the Delaware River.

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The area of Fort DuPont north of the barracks around the parade ground is the most formal, elaborate, ceremonial, and elite part of the post's military landscape. The large parade ground dominates the view, serving as the ceremonial and symbolic center of the fort. The Colonial Revival brick barracks along the southeastern edge of the parade ground presented a vivid architectural backdrop while emphasizing the parade ground as an enclosure. The flag and flag pole to the east symbolized both the national role of the fort and, in military geography, the location of the commander, drawing attention to the most important and most architecturally elaborate buildings on the post, the post-exchange and theater.

Barracks lining the south side of the parade ground housed enlisted personnel. Except for one structure now demolished, barracks for enlisted personnel were all located in a rectangular east-west block in the northwest quadrant of the post bounded by Maple Boulevard on the east, Colter Road on the west and north, and Battery Lane on the south. The non-commissioned officers with families were housed in a row of duplexes behind the barracks along Battery Lane and in another cluster just east of the barracks on the east side of Maple Boulevard. The officers' residential area--some ten buildings that included the commander's quarters--was located on the northern side of the reservation on Officer's Lane, an extension of Maple Boulevard.

The southwest quadrant, the logistical support area, evidenced more changes in land use than any other sector of the fort. Although some permanent buildings currently flank the south side of Battery Lane, serving functions as storage, the more open area further south contained corrals, stables, and an equitation field prior to 1922, followed by motor pools and garages. Pontoon assembly and storage areas occupied the section further south after the arrival of the First Engineers in 1922. More changes in use occurred during World War II.

The layout and buildings of Fort DuPont signaled gradations in rank and function. In a way, the standardized plans for all types of buildings were the architectural equivalent of military uniforms in which the unity of the Army was reflected in clothes of the same color and style and rank was reflected by the elaboration of detail and badge of rank. To accomplish this, the Army adopted a uniform architectural style through which gradations in importance, whether in administrative buildings or residences, were reflected in the size of the building and elaborateness of architectural detailing. Virtually all of the permanent structures at Fort DuPont were built in the Army Colonial Revival style, lending visual coherence to the architectural landscape of the fort. This visual coherence was reinforced by the placement and siting of buildings, planted vegetation, and planned vistas. Surveillance and oversight of enlisted men by officers was assured by the location of residences

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and barracks. The enlisted men, and to a lesser extent non-commissioned officers, were concentrated in group quarters or barracks on the south side of the parade ground, clearly in sight of the commander's quarters on the north and from officers' row beyond. All of the officers' quarters were single family homes or duplexes on fairly large lots. It was standard practice on military forts to shield the officers' quarters from the view of enlisted personnel with plantings of trees, while placing far fewer plantings around enlisted mens' quarters to allow for an unobstructed view by officers. The surviving trees on Fort DuPont's grounds confirm this practice, even evidenced in the name of the street--Elm Avenue--that bordered the north side of the parade ground and shielded the officers' residential area.

The commander's imposing house was sited on the northeast edge of the parade ground, creating a visual counterpoint to the enlisted men's barracks. Its position at the end of Elm Avenue controlled visual access to officers' row. The house provides lines of sight over all the most important aspects of the fort. Not only did this building function as a dwelling, but it also served as a physical reminder of the commander's power and architecturally symbolized the continuity of command to the rank and file. This area was in marked contrast to, and shielded from, the far more utilitarian southwestern quadrant of the fort. The defensive areas of the fort as represented by the mortar emplacements were also out of view, dug in and hidden by earthen works.

Thus the military landscape and individual resources of the Fort DuPont Historic District retain integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling. In terms of **location**, the Fort remains where it was originally constructed and the boundaries of the district encompass the full extent of the historic reach of the military post. The **setting** of the fort is preserved by the natural features that defined the original boundaries (the Delaware River, the C & D Canal, and Route 9), as well as the fact that the layout of the fort has not been significantly altered by later use. Both the overall plan of the military landscape as well as many of the individual resources retain integrity of **design** and **materials** through the preservation of the road system, parade ground, and exterior appearance of the individual resources. Similarly, due to the lack of extensive changes in the plans of the army buildings, they retain integrity of **workmanship** in the form of their reflection of the U.S. Army's standardized plans. The fort retains integrity of **association** through the visual, or physical, demonstration of the appearance of an Endicott Period military base. The retention of integrity in all of these areas contribute to the **feeling** of Fort DuPont.

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Collection 1, Record Group 1325: Delaware in WWII Photograph Collection, 1938-1961.

Collection 5, Record Group 1325: Department of State/Public Archive Commission Photograph Collection.

Collection 10, Harold T. Purnell Photograph Collection ca. 1860-1963, Record Group 9027: Private Collection Photographs.

Post Card Collection, Record Group 1325: Department of State (Delaware City.)

National Archives Cartographic and Architectural Branch, College Park, Maryland.

Record Group 92: Records of the Construction Division of the War Department and Predecessors.

Record Group 77: Records of the Office of Chief of Engineers.

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UTM Coordinates

E 18 449900 4379270 F 18 450650 4379920

Verbal Boundary Description

Fort DuPont is located on a polygonal-shaped parcel of land containing approximately 305 acres, as shown on the attached site plan. This land includes New Castle County tax parcel numbers 12-023-00-021 and 12-016-00-001; parcel 21 is owned by the State of Delaware and forms the majority of the parcel while parcel 1 is 2.98 acres owned by New Castle County and used as a water treatment facility. The smaller parcel is located in the northeast quadrant of the fort. Parcel number 12-023-00-020, the McConnell Tract, is not included in the nominated property.

The outline of the nominated parcel is shown with a dash-dot-dash line on the accompanying site map. The northeastern boundary of the parcel is formed by the coast of the Delaware River. At Veterans Point, the boundary line turns southwest and follows the southern edge of the Delaware City branch of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Near the eastern edge of Route 9, the boundary line turns southeast and follows an irregular path roughly paralleling Route 9, as shown on the site plan. The southeastern boundary of the parcel is formed by the dividing line between this parcel and the adjoining one owned by the United States Government. This line runs northeast to the edge of the Delaware River.

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundaries include the land historically associated with the fort, during the period of significance. Originally a parcel of 66 acres, the fort expanded to 177 acres in 1900 and after 1906 grew to 321 acres. It remained 321 acres through 1945 when it ceased to function as a military base. The 305 acres nominated here represents the land that remains after right-of-way deductions for Route 9.

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Property Owner

The area encompassed by the Fort DuPont Historic District is primarily owned by the State of Delaware but different agencies within the state control different sections of the property. All of the concerned agencies are listed below. In addition, a small parcel of about three acres is owned by New Castle County.

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
89 Kings Highway
Dover, Delaware 19901

Delaware Department of Health and Social Services
1901 North Dupont Highway
New Castle, Delaware 19720

Delaware Department of Administrative Services
O'Neill Building
P.O. Box 1401
Dover, Delaware 19901

Delaware Department of Public Safety
Public Safety Building
Route 113
Dover, Delaware 19901

Delaware National Guard
First Regiment Road
Wilmington, Delaware

New Castle County Department of Special Services
New Castle County Government
187A Old Churchmans Road
New Castle, Delaware 19720

Fort DuPont Historic District (CRS # N-1499)
East side of Route 9, south of Delaware City
Delaware City vicinity
St. Georges Hundred
New Castle County, Delaware

Photographer: Caroline Fisher

Date of Photographs: July 1993

Location of original negatives: Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

- 1 Batteries Reed and Gibson (N-1499.004), perspective of west side of battery looking east
- 2 Mortar Battery (N-1499.005), view of corner of battery looking west
- 3 Battery Elder (N-1499.008), view of west side of battery looking east
- 4 Officers' Quarters (Single) #23 (N-1499.009), perspective of west side and south front looking east
- 5 Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (Double) #16 A and B (N-1499.013), perspective of southeast front and southwest side looking northwest
- 6 Administration Building (N-1499.015), perspective of southwest and southeast exterior facing north
- 7 Post Exchange #36 (N-1499.020), perspective of southeast front and southwest side looking northeast
- 8 Band Barracks #48 (N-1499.023), view of southeast elevation facing northwest
- 9 Officers' Quarters (Double) #51 A & B (N-1499.025), perspective of northwest and northeast walls facing southeast
- 10 Bakery #54 (N-1499.028), perspective of northwest front and northeast side looking south
- 11 Quartermaster's Stable #17 (new) (N-1499.030), perspective of southwest front and northwest side looking east
- 12 Service Club (N-1499.031), perspective of southwest front and southeast side looking northeast

- 13 Field Officers' Quarters #6 (new) (N-1499.039), view of northeast front looking southwest
- 14 War Department Theater #29 (N-1499.046), view of southwest front looking northeast
- 15 War Department Theater #29 (N-1499.046), interior view of northeast wall of auditorium looking northeast
- 16 Gasoline Filling Station (N-1499.047), perspective of north and west sides looking east
- 17 Barracks #49 (N-1499.052), perspective of southeast and southwest sides looking northwest
- 18 Barracks #24 (new) (N-1499.053), perspective of northeast side and northwest front looking south
- 19 Recreation Building #E-308 (N-1499.054), perspective of northeast and northwest sides looking southwest
- 20 Chapel #E-215 (N-1499.055), view of southeast front facing northwest
- 21 Hospital Mess Hall (N-1499.059) and Hospital Barracks (N-1499.082), view of northeast and southeast sides looking northwest
- 22 Coastal Artillery Corps Radio Tower/Prisoner of War Camp Guard Tower (N-1499.064), view of east side of tower looking west
- 23 Pontoon Shed (N-1499.067), perspective of southwest front and southeast side facing north
- 24 Post Engineering Supply (N-1499.074), perspective of southwest front and northwest side looking east

Photographer: Rebecca J. Siders

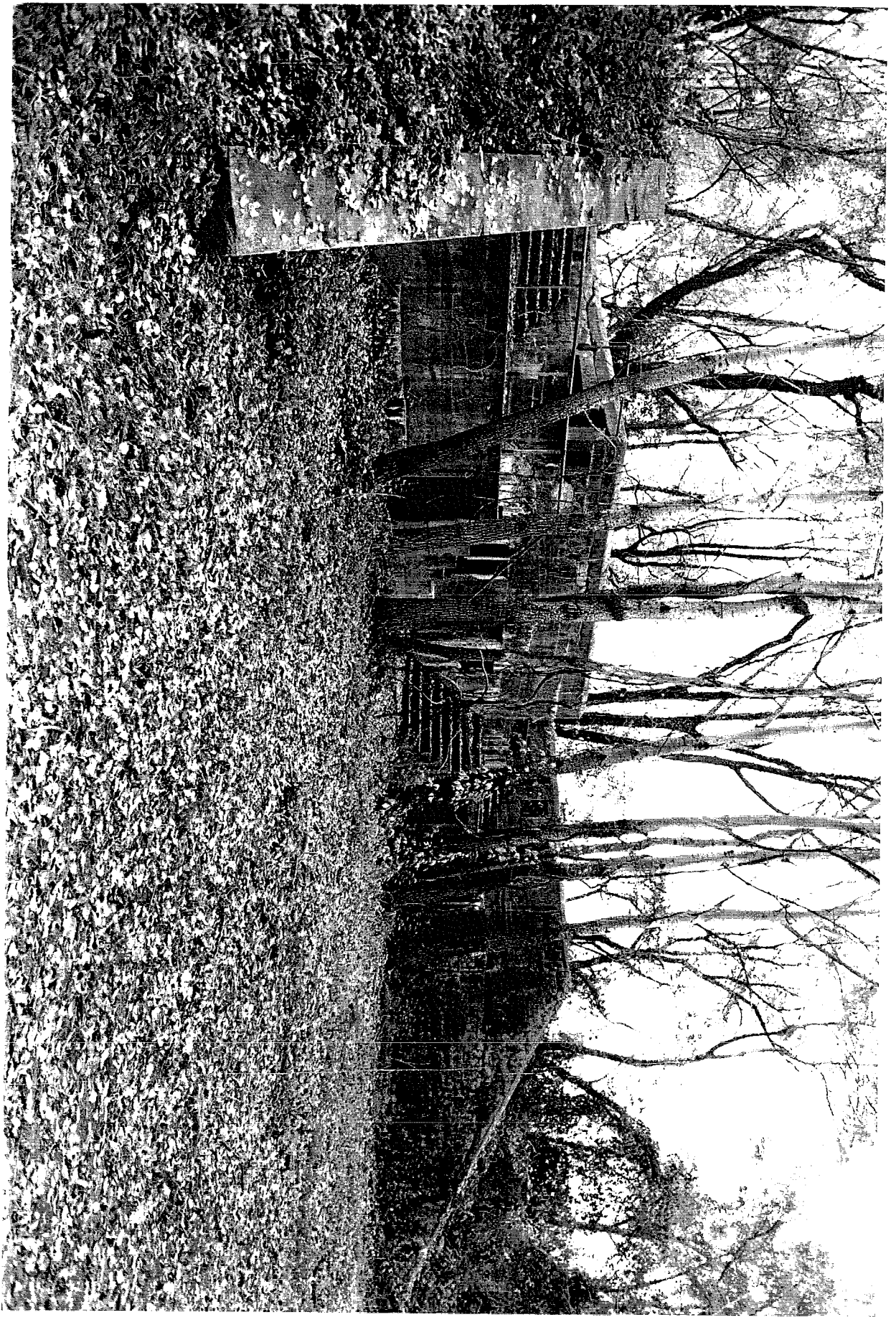
Date of Photographs: August 1998

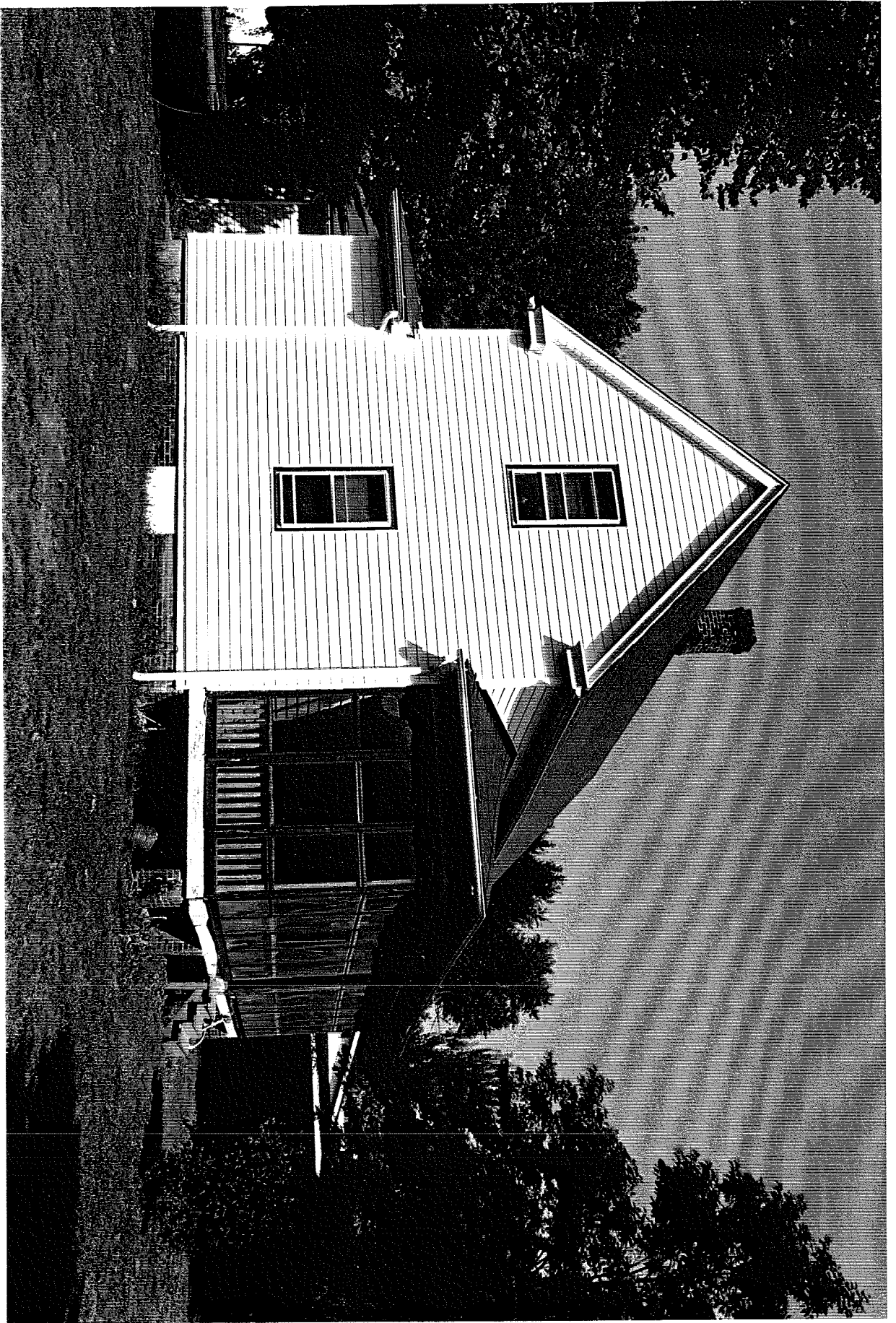
Location of original negatives: Center for Historic Architecture and Design, University of Delaware

- 25 View of Parade Ground and Flagpole looking northeast
- 26 View of Officer's Row looking northwest

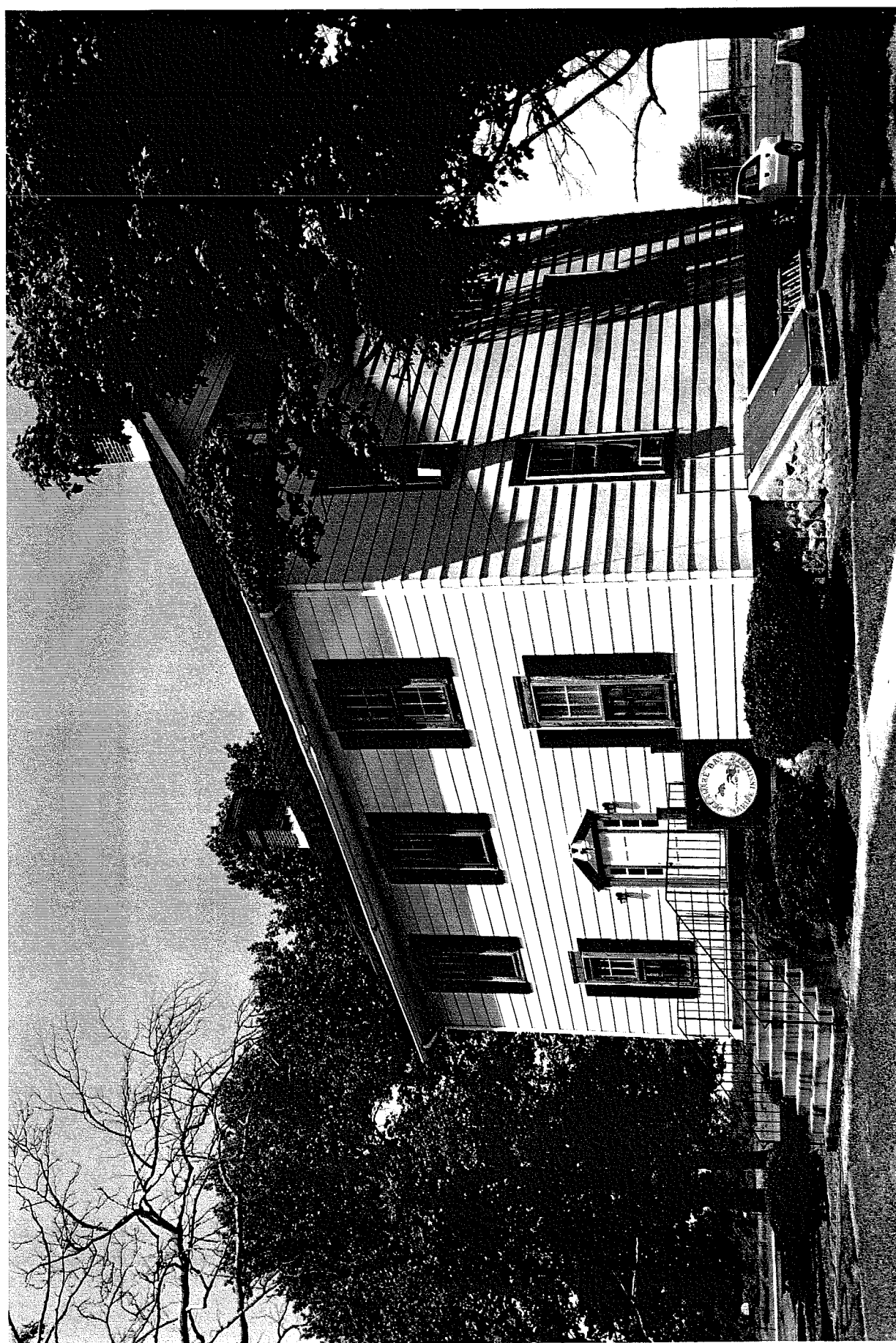








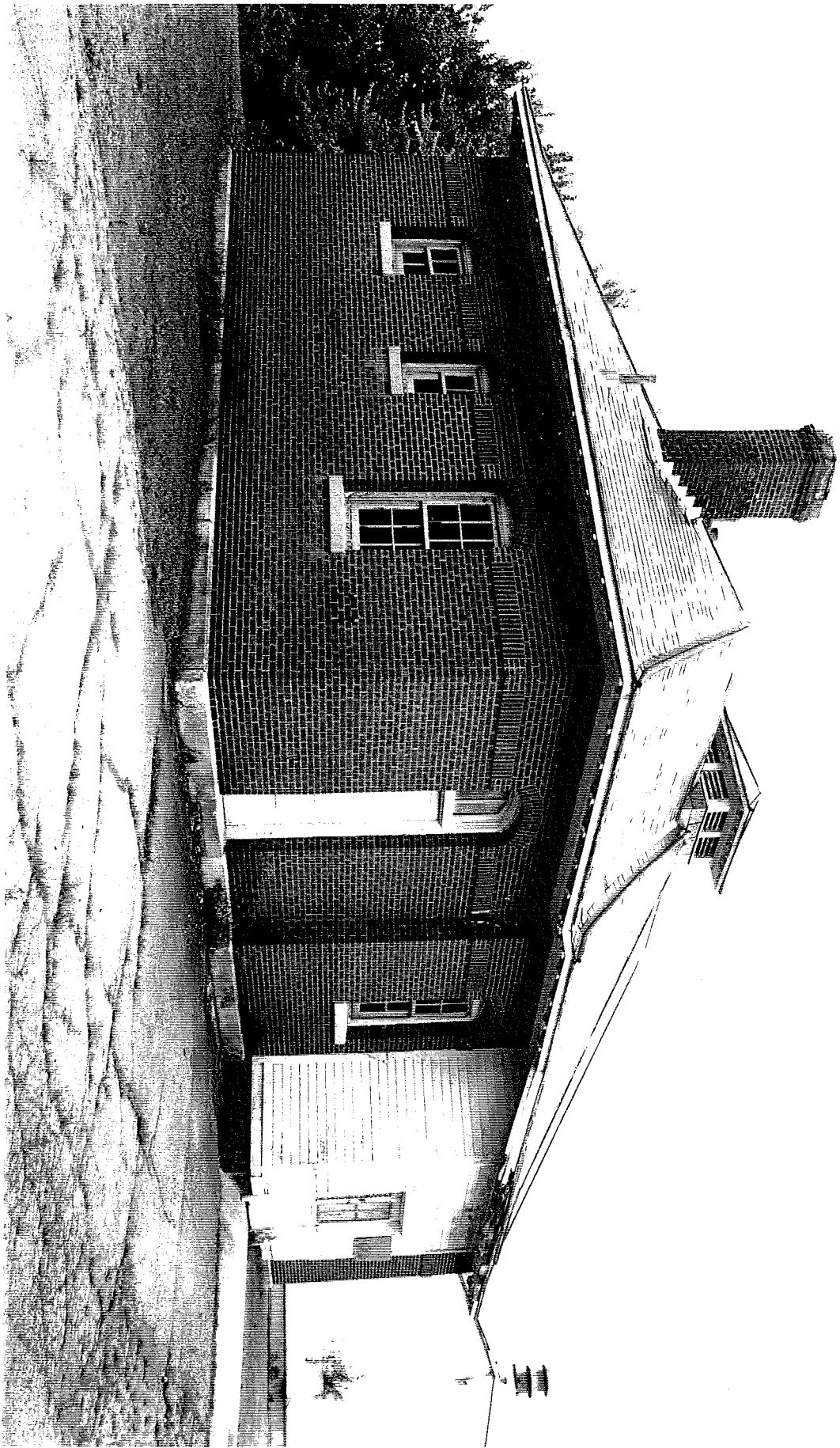


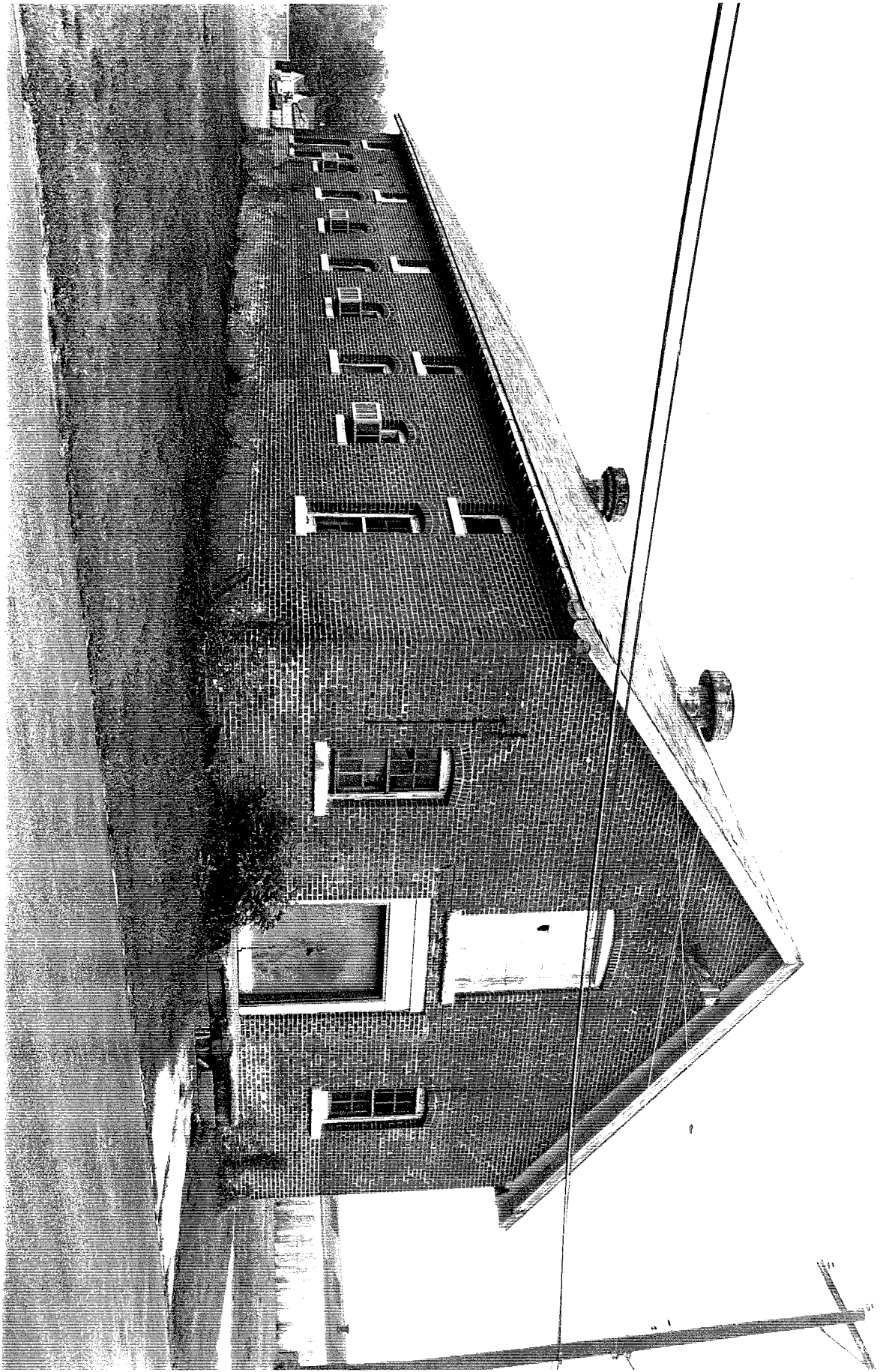


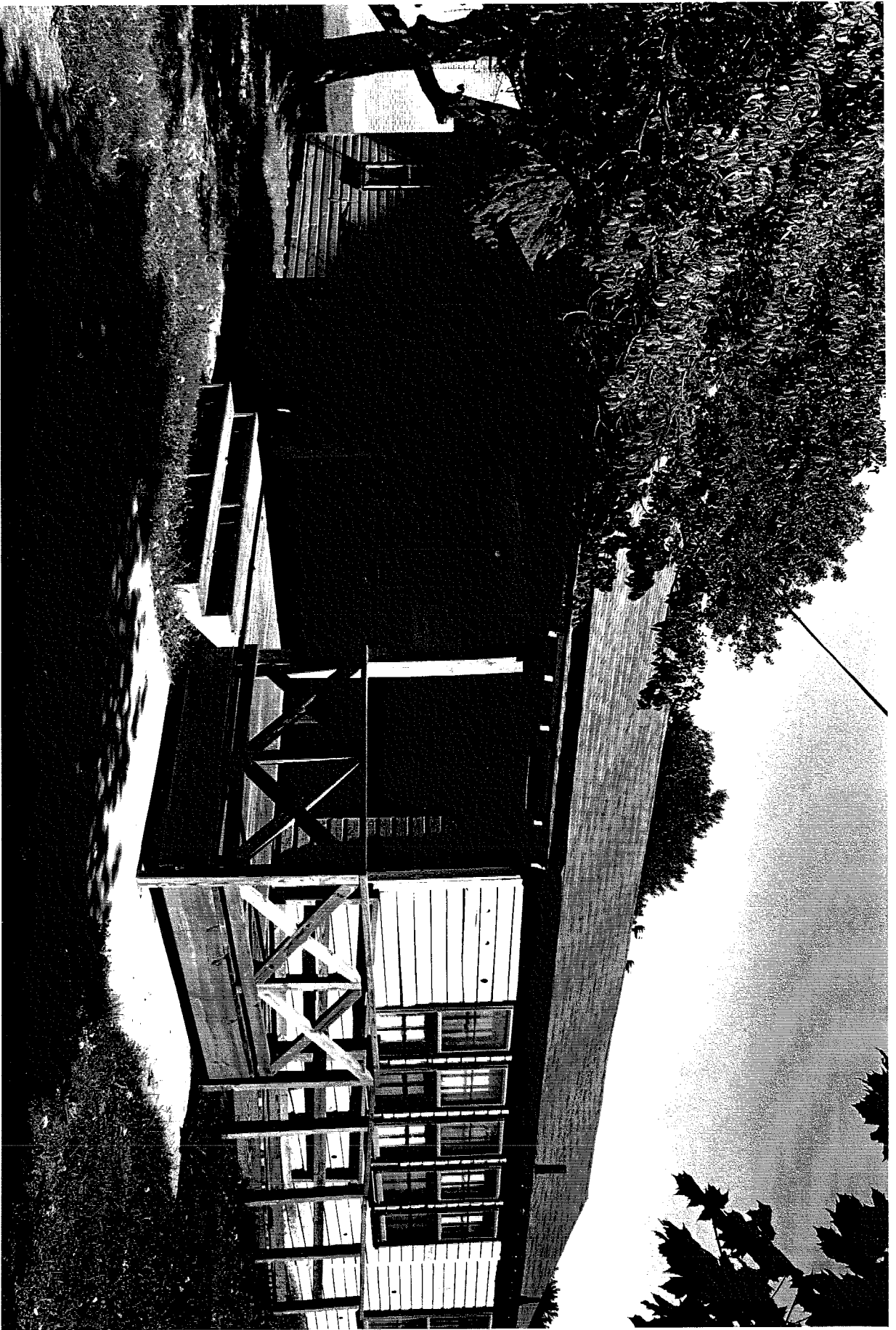




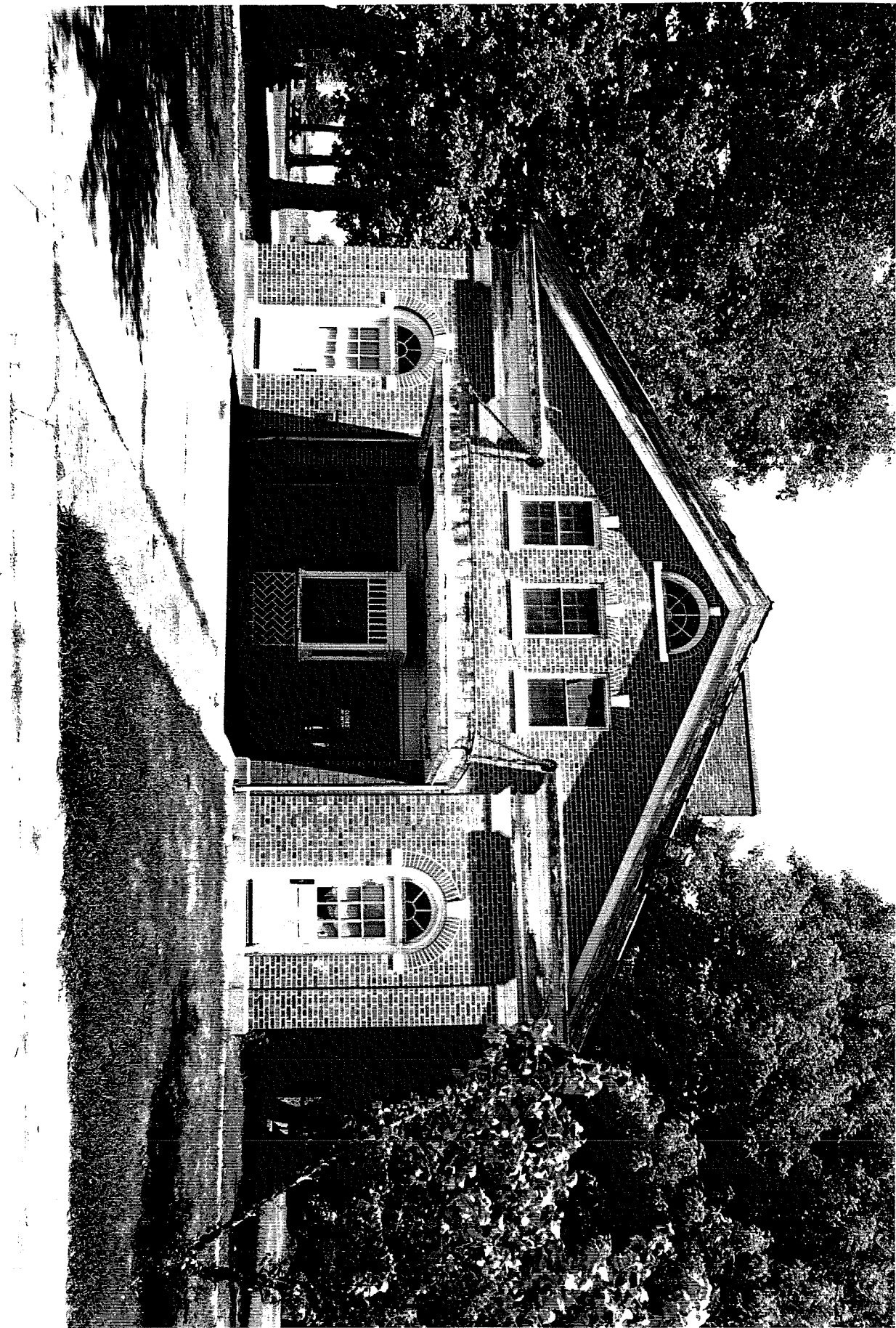




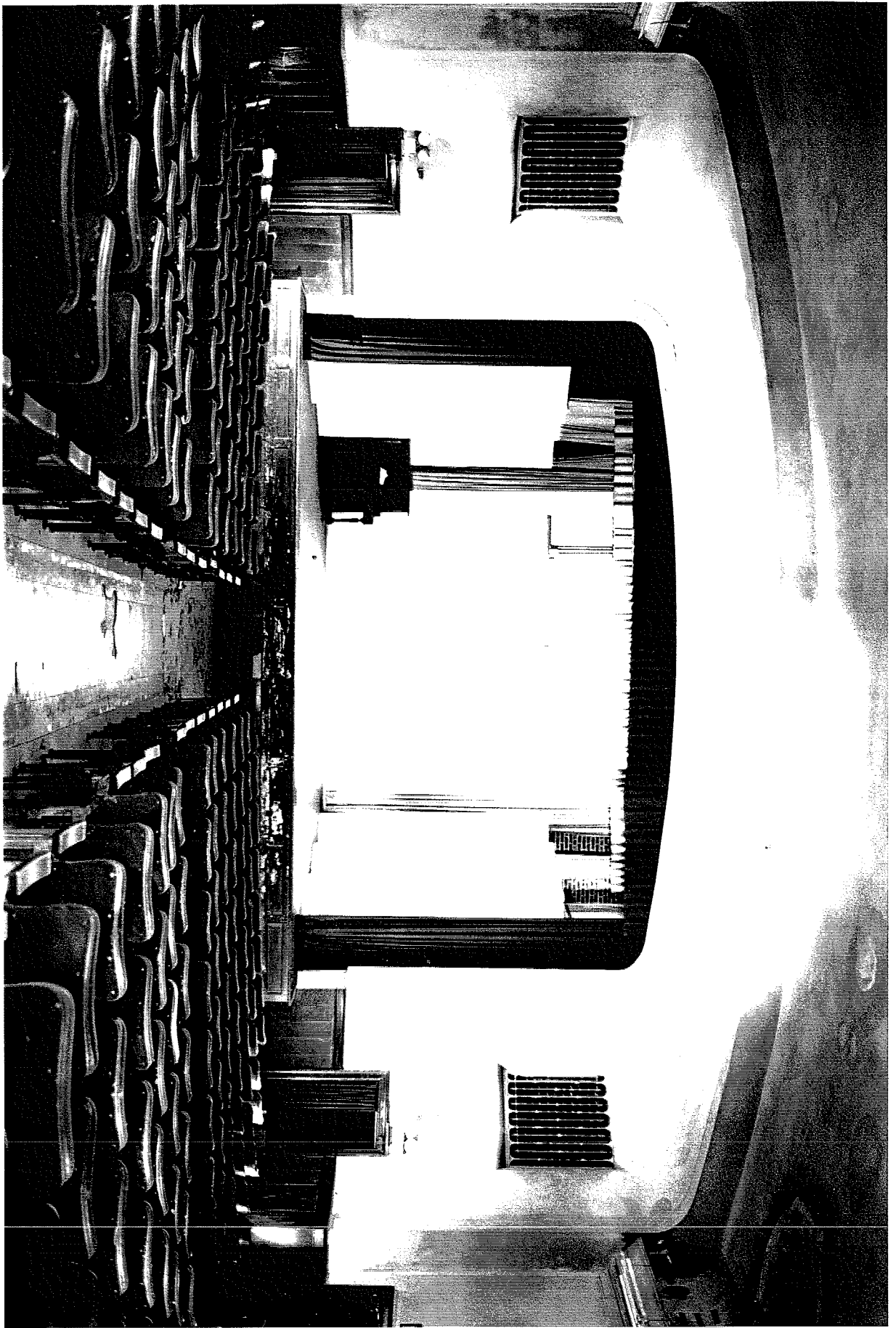




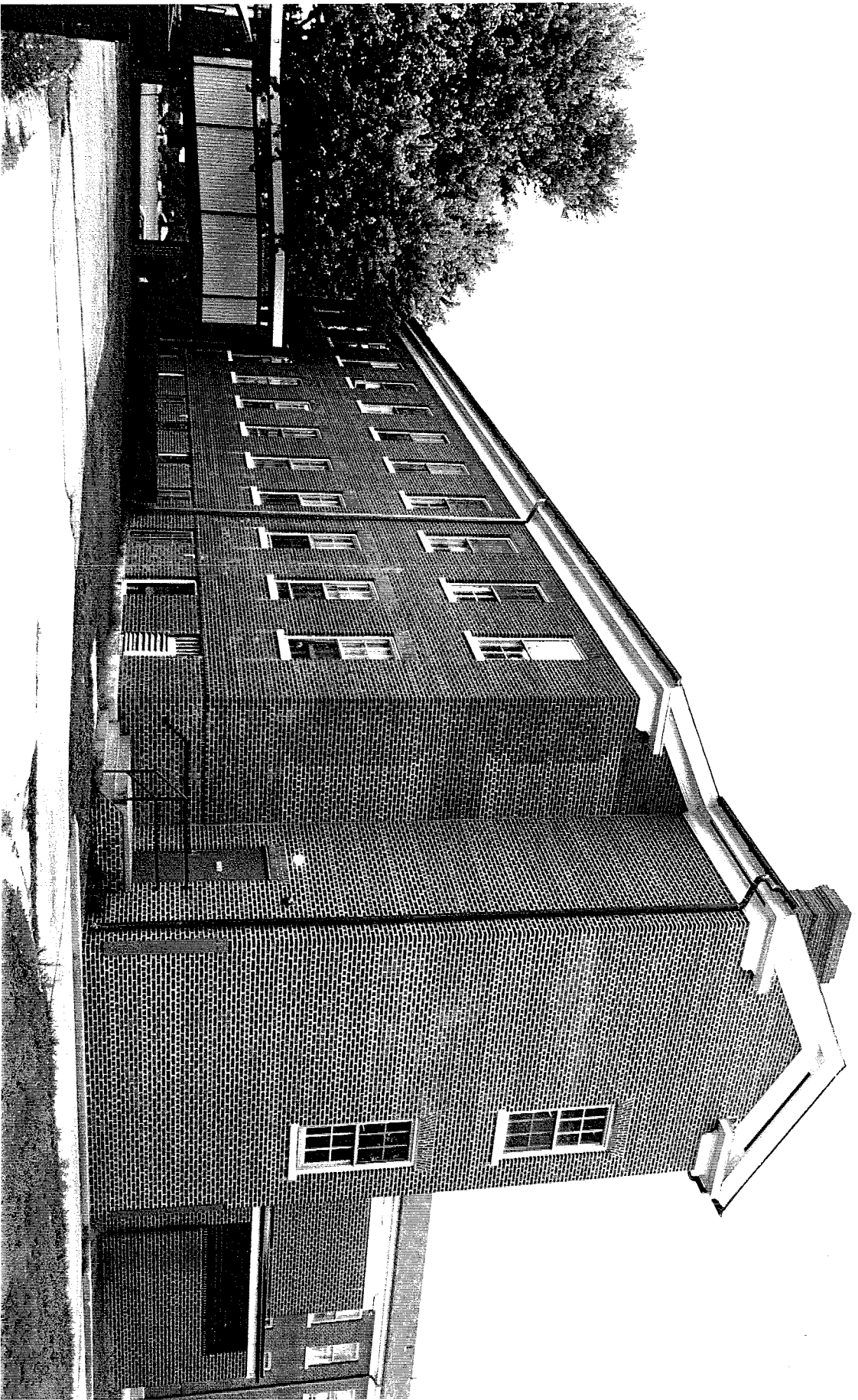




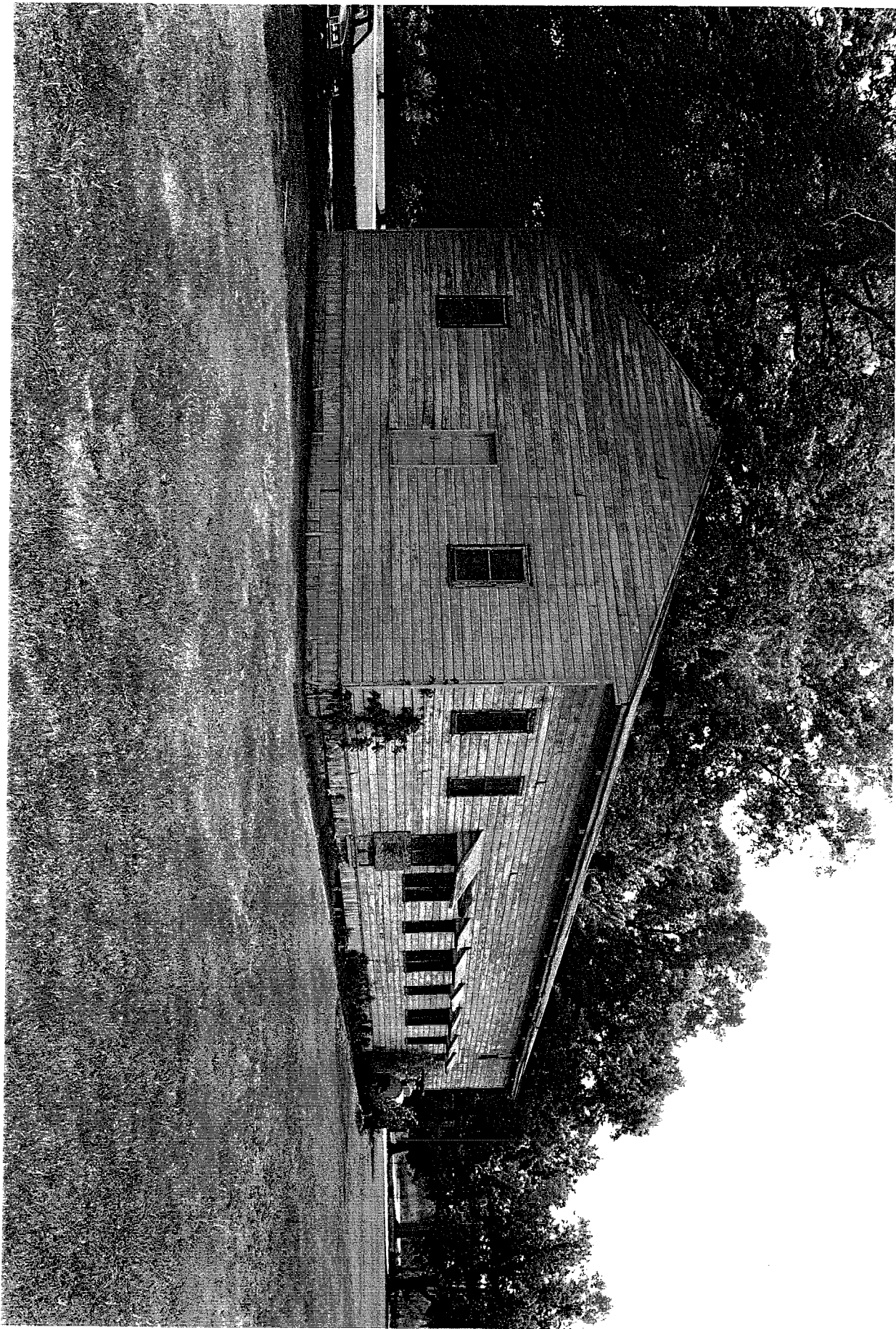
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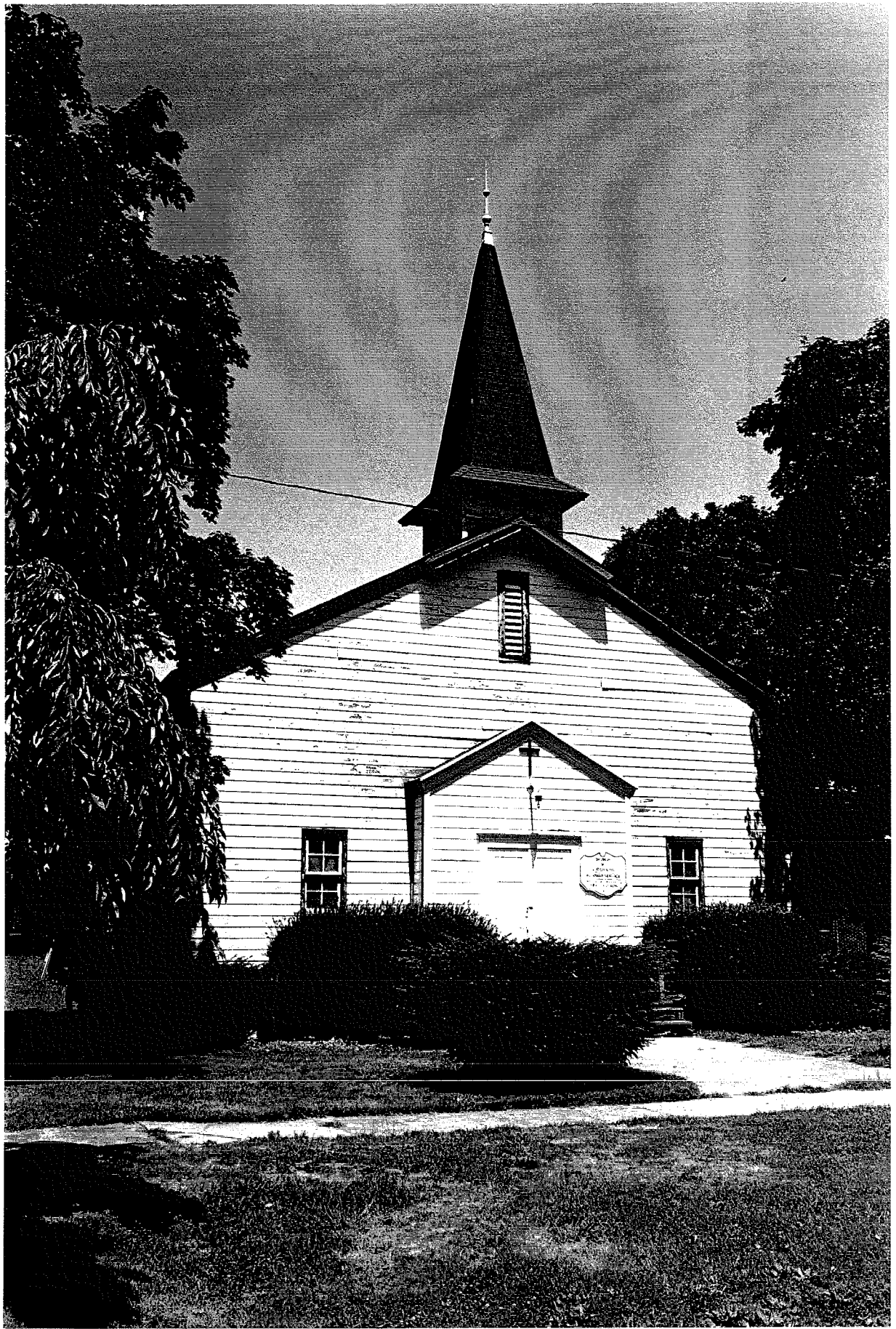


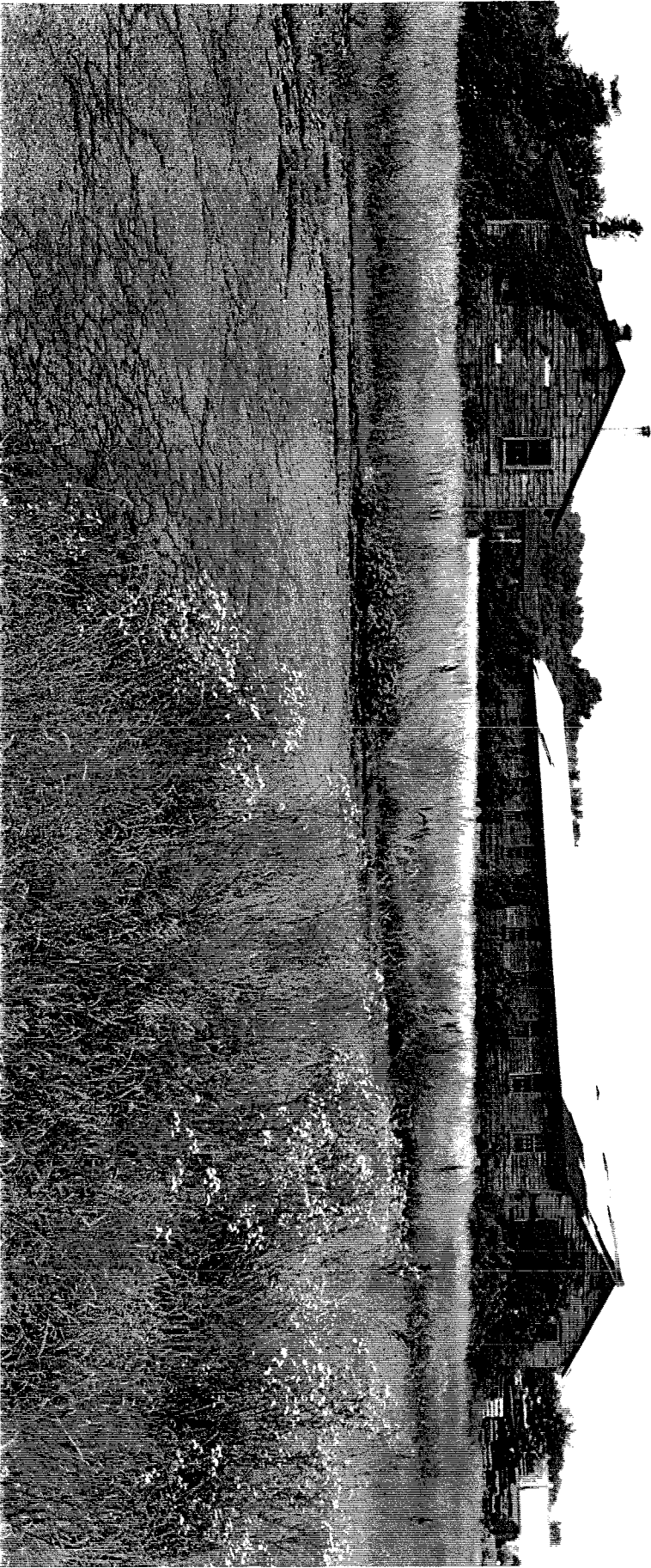




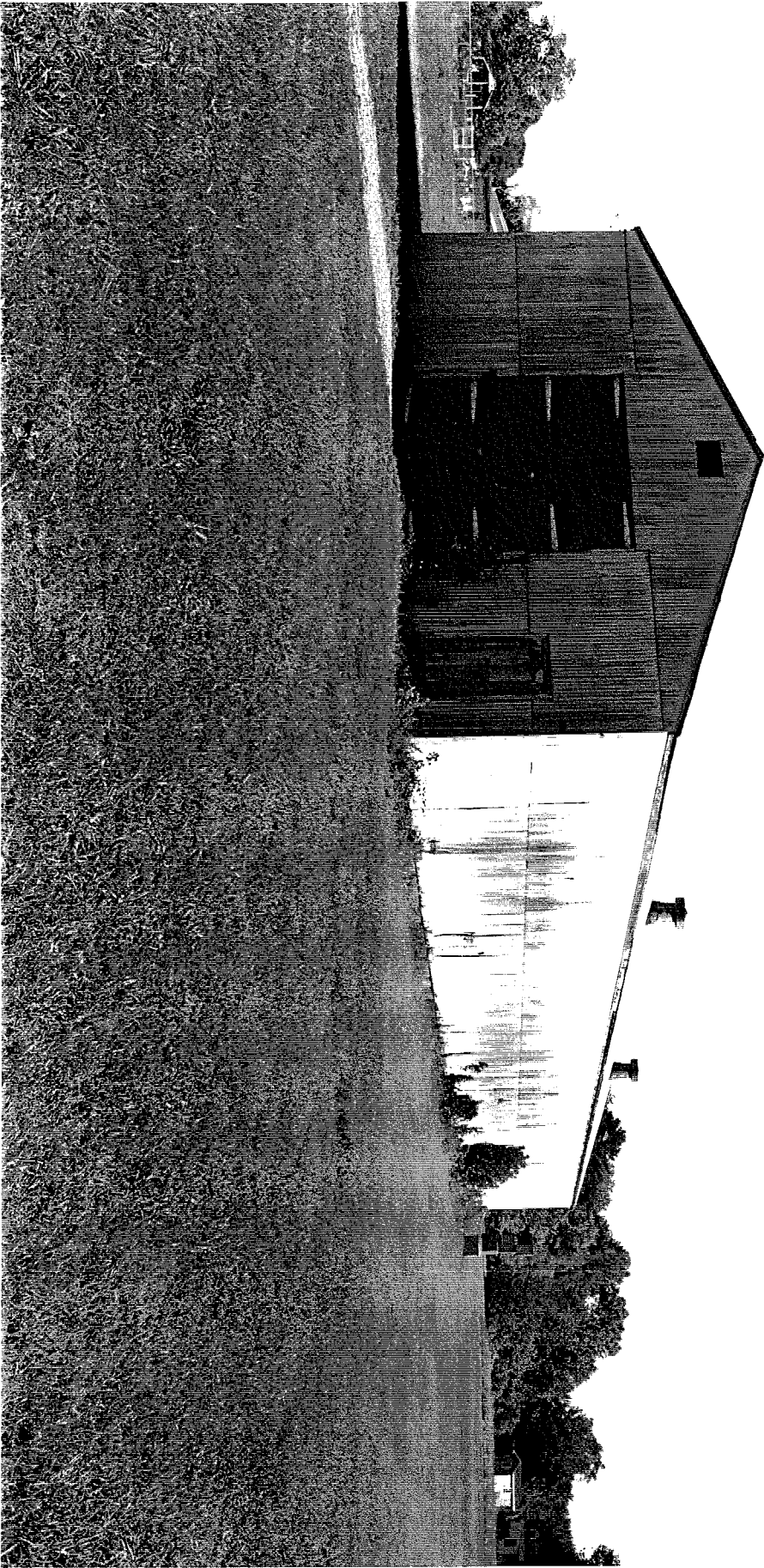


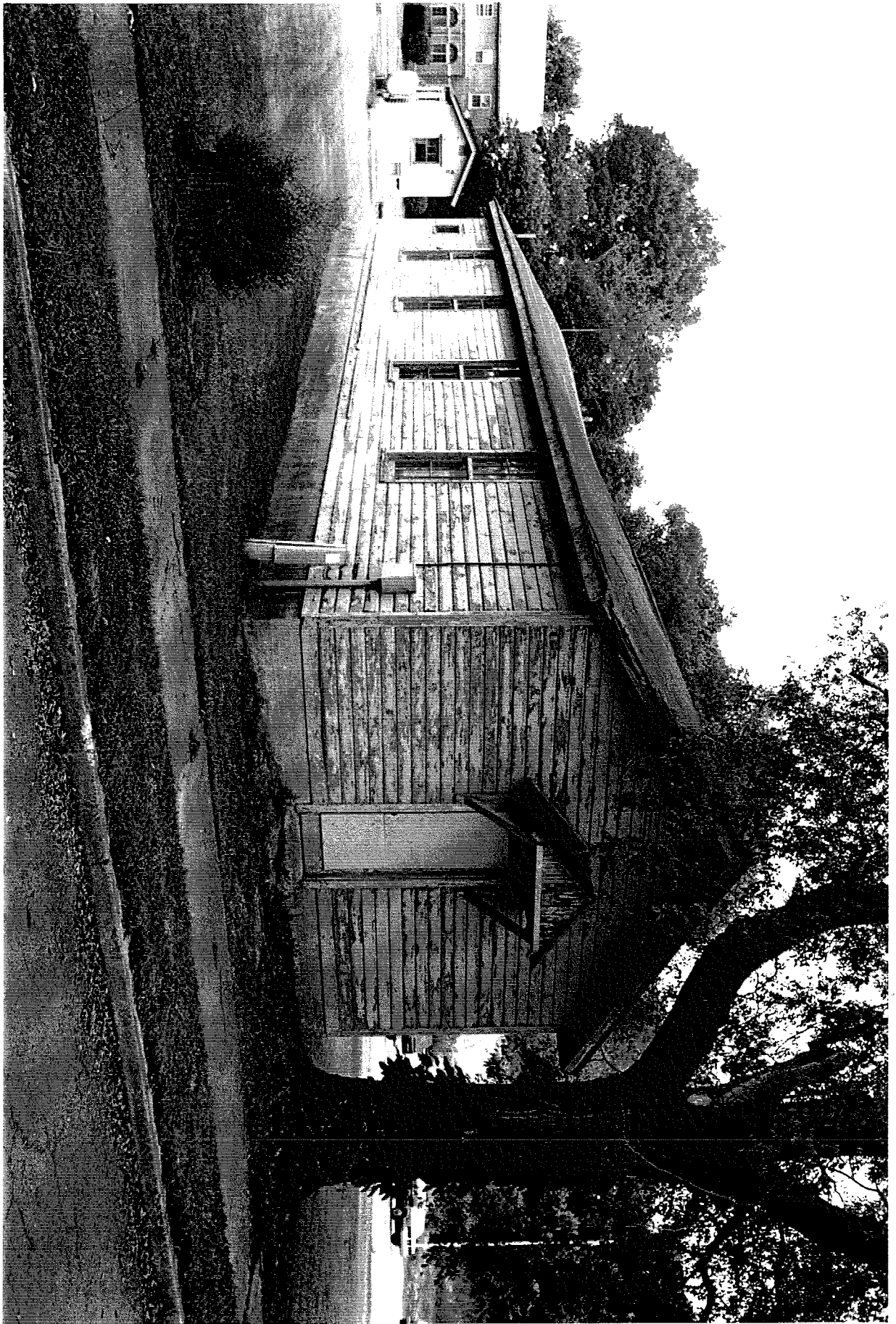












Fort DuPont Historic District
 CRS # N-1499
 East side of Route 9, south of
 Delaware City
 Delaware City vicinity, St.
 Georges Hundred, New Castle
 County, Delaware

Map of Surviving Resources,
 with CRS reference numbers
 Drawn by Dean Doerrfeld, CHAD

