

## History

Built between 1834 and 1860 of massive blocks of Quincy granite, Fort Warren achieved national prominence during the Civil War as a prison for captured Confederates. For over a century it served as the key to the defense of Boston, deploying both long-range rifles and explosive underwater mines. Fort Warren now serves as the entrance to the Boston Harbor Islands State Park.

## General Information

George's Island is a pleasant ferry ride only 45 minutes away from Long Wharf, Boston or Hewitt's Cove, Hingham. There are also a limited number of docking slips for private boats. The island is open daily from 9:00 am to sunset, May through October.

Visitor Services such as First Aid, Snack Bar, and Restrooms are available in the brick Administration Building.

Information is available at the booth located to the left of the Administration Building.

Water Taxi to the other islands in the Boston Harbor Island State Park leaves regularly from the pier.

Fort Tours and history programs are offered free of charge throughout the summer.

Please join us!

## Regulations

FOR YOUR PROTECTION AND ENJOYMENT, THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED ON GEORGES ISLAND:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Pets
- Fires, except at picnic grills
- Swimming
- Destruction, injury, or removal of vegetation or structures
- Docking, except where posted
- Camping
- Amplified sound

## A Commitment to Open Space and the Environment

In 1892, Charles Eliot proposed the creation of a Metropolitan Parks System. Eliot was a member of the Frederick Law Olmsted Landscape Architectural Firm, the first landscape architect to work on development of the parks system. Eliot believed that particularly in a crowded urban area, people needed easy access to and contact with nature and open space in order to relax, unwind and escape the daily pressure of city life. To that end Eliot developed a plan that would provide the growing city and its suburbs with scenery, parks and reservations to be held in perpetuity for the public's use and enjoyment.

Eliot's idea was to set aside beachfront along the bay, land along the Charles, Mystic and Neponset Rivers and high ground throughout the Metropolitan area, and to turn this property into regional parks. He envisioned the creation of a series of parkways and roads built and maintained with aesthetics in mind, to make travel between the parks easy and attractive. By 1893 Eliot's design had begun to take shape as the state created the Metropolitan Parks Commission and placed with it 9,177 acres of reservation, 13 miles of ocean frontage, 56 miles of riverbank and seven parkways. Since then, the system has grown. The Commission acquired and preserved thousands of additional acres of parkland that fit into Eliot's original design. It also built new parks, skating rinks, swimming pools, athletic fields, band shells and other recreational outlets. Even today, more property is being preserved; more historical sites are being restored; more ways to make the regional parks system safe and accessible and attractive are being devised.

We can only maintain this great park system with public support and cooperation. Please do your part by respecting each property and complying with all rules and regulations. Thank you.

Metropolitan District Commission  
Harbor Region  
98 Taylor St., Dorchester, Ma 02122  
Telephone (617) 727-5290

Governor-William F. Weld

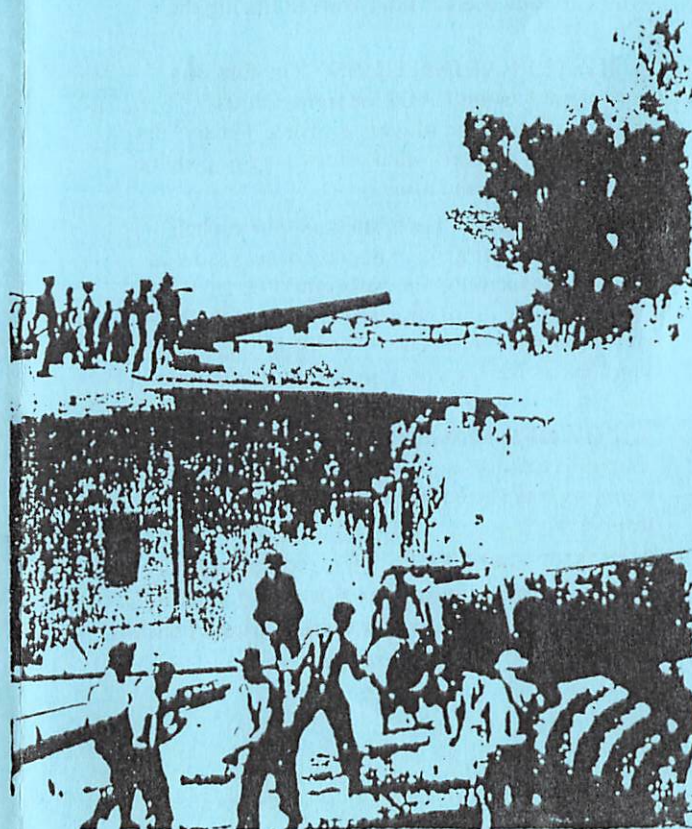
Secretary, EOPA-Trudy Cox

Lt. Governor-A. Paul Cellino



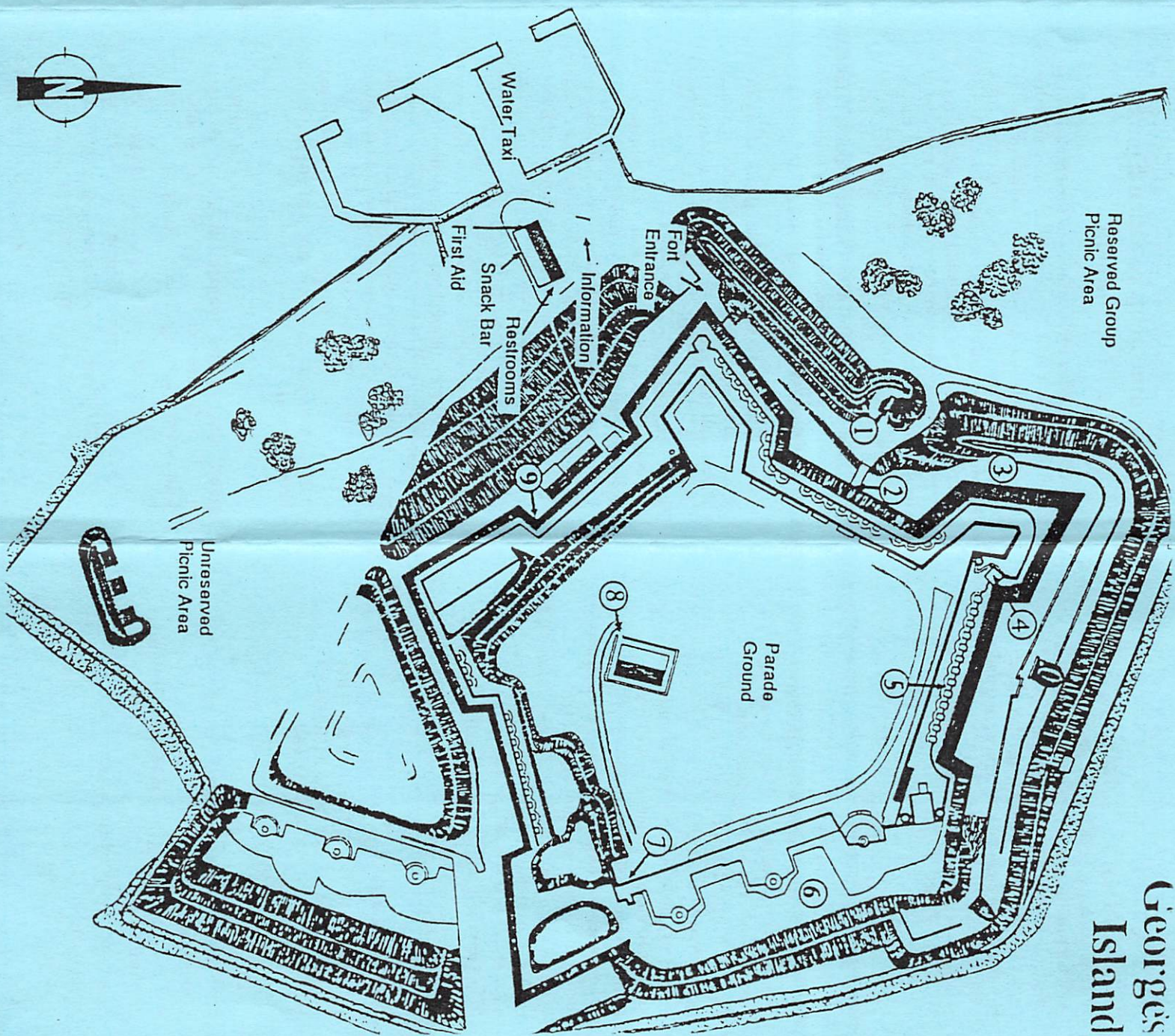
## Georges Island

Boston Harbor Islands



## Fort Information

- 1. DEMI-LUNE** From the French for its "half-moon" shape, this exterior granite building guarded the rear, landward side, of Fort Warren.
- 2. SALLYPORT** The main entrance to the fort interior, the sallyport (French for "leaving gate") is noted for its drawbridge design and massive original oak door.
- 3. COVERFACE AND DITCH** An enemy force landing on Georges Island would have had to first scale the coverface, or outer earthen wall. Reaching the ditch, the attackers would have met heavy cannon fire from the inner walls.
- 4. SIGNAL TOWER** This tower, built near the turn of the century for aiming purposes and semaphore signaling, affords an excellent view of some of the other islands of Boston Harbor.
- 5. RAMPARTS** Here atop the inner fort walls were placed some of the many long-range, cast-iron cannons used at Fort Warren during the Civil War.
- 6. DISAPPEARING GUNS** The fort was redesigned around 1900 for tremendous rifles with a range of over 8 miles. These "disappearing" guns recoiled after firing to protect the crew while reloading.
- 7. BASTION A** Forts such as Warren had five bastions, or arrow-shaped corners, so that an enemy storming the walls could be fired upon at every point. Bastion A, facing the harbor entrance contained two rows of long-range cannons as well, one on the ramparts and one in the interior, or casemate, rooms below.
- 8. POWDER MAGAZINE** For most of Fort Warren's history, gunpowder used for firing cannons was stored inside this building's thick double walls.
- 9. SCARP GALLERY** This section of the fort was used primarily as a "shooting gallery". Men armed with muskets were stationed within to fire at approaching enemy.



Reserved Group  
Picnic Area

Parade  
Ground

Unreserved  
Picnic Area

Georges  
Island