## SOLDIERS' BARRACKS




When Fort Jefferson was established in 1846, priority was given to the onstruction of permanent officers' quarters, enlisted men's barracks, and associated kitchens. The original specification for Fort Jefferson included a barrack for ten companies, measuring $338^{\prime}-5{ }^{\prime \prime} \times 35^{\prime}-6$ " and three stories in height, with detached kitchens, one for each company. As with the Officers Quarters, a section of the entire barracks building, about 67 ' in length, was first erected. This would provide housing for two full companies, which wa hought to "suffice at least for the first year to afford lodging \& messing room the same time. The design was undertaken by Chief Engineer of the U.S Army General Totten and drawings prepared by Lieutenant Montgomery C Army General Totten and drawings prepared by Lieutenant Montgomery C
Meigs. Work began in 1847, although construction dragged on for decades due to issues of funding, the lack of an able workforce, epidemics, and extreme weather conditions. During the Civil War, a part of the unfinished barrack was used as a hospital, but it was reported in 1866 that it was then "in such a state of incompletion as to be unfit for use at all."


The Soldiers' Barracks were not considered complete until about 1874. They burned in 1912 when a fire started in a privy back of the lighthouse keeper cottage. The above grade remains were demolished in 1962.
Documentation of the Soldiers' Barracks was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Heritage Documentation Programs (HDP) of the Nationa Park Service (Catherine C. Lavoie, Chief, HABS; Richard O'Connor, Chief, HDP) in ter 2016. The project was undertaken by HABS in cooperation win Npecialist) and (Glenn Simpson, Park Manager; Kelly Clark, Cutural Resources Project Architect). The HABS documentation of the Fort Jefferson Parade Ground Structures was funded with a grant from the HTR Foundation. Field recording and measured drawings were completed by Paul Davidson and Daniel De Sousa, HABS Architects. The large-format photography was undertaken by Todd Croteau, HAER Architect.



