

FOUNDATION PLAN

3/32"=1'-0"

1:128



WEST ELEVATION

NORTH ELEVATION

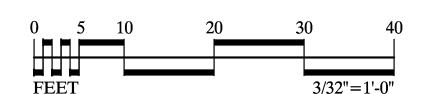
3/32"=1'-0"

1:128

SOUTH ELEVATION

3/32"=1'-0"

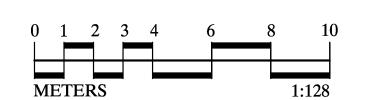
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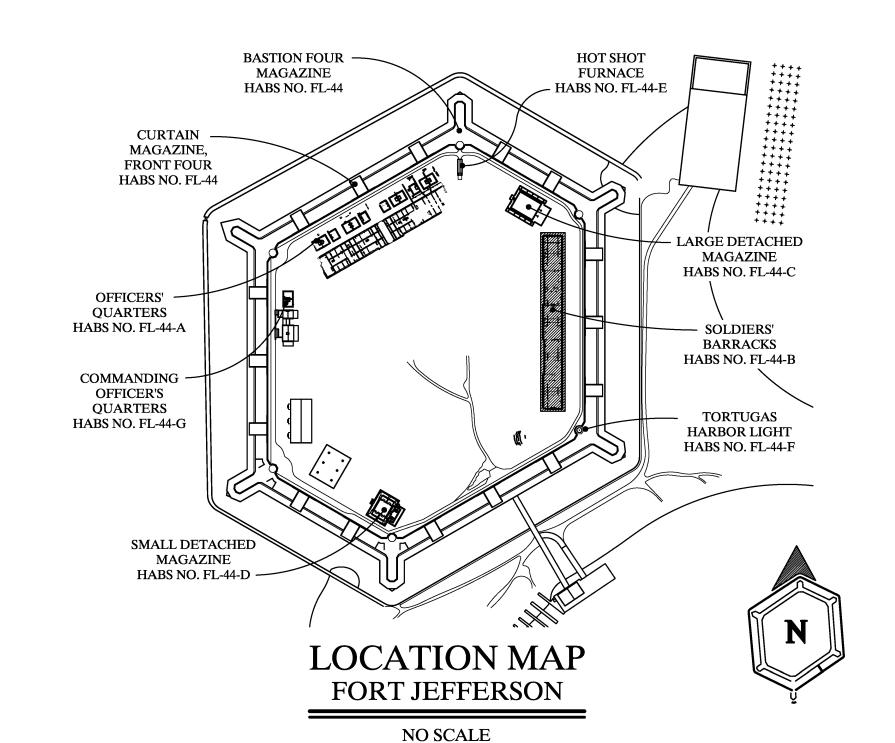
EAST ELEVATION

3/32"=1'-0"

1:128



When Fort Jefferson was established in 1846, priority was given to the construction 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'-5" x 35'-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 was thought to "suffice at least for the first year to afford lodging & messing room for laborers." The kitchen belonging to this section of barracks was erected at the same time. The design was undertaken by Chief Engineer of the U.S. 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's 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 National Park Service (Catherine C. Lavoie, Chief, HABS; Richard O'Connor, Chief, HDP) in Winter 2016. The project was undertaken by HABS in cooperation with Dry Tortugas National Park (Glenn Simpson, Park Manager; Kelly Clark, Cultural Resources Specialist) and Lord Aeck Sargent (Rob Yallop, Senior Associate; Kelly Gawinek, 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.

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FORT JEFFERSON DOCUMENTATION PROJECT, 2015

