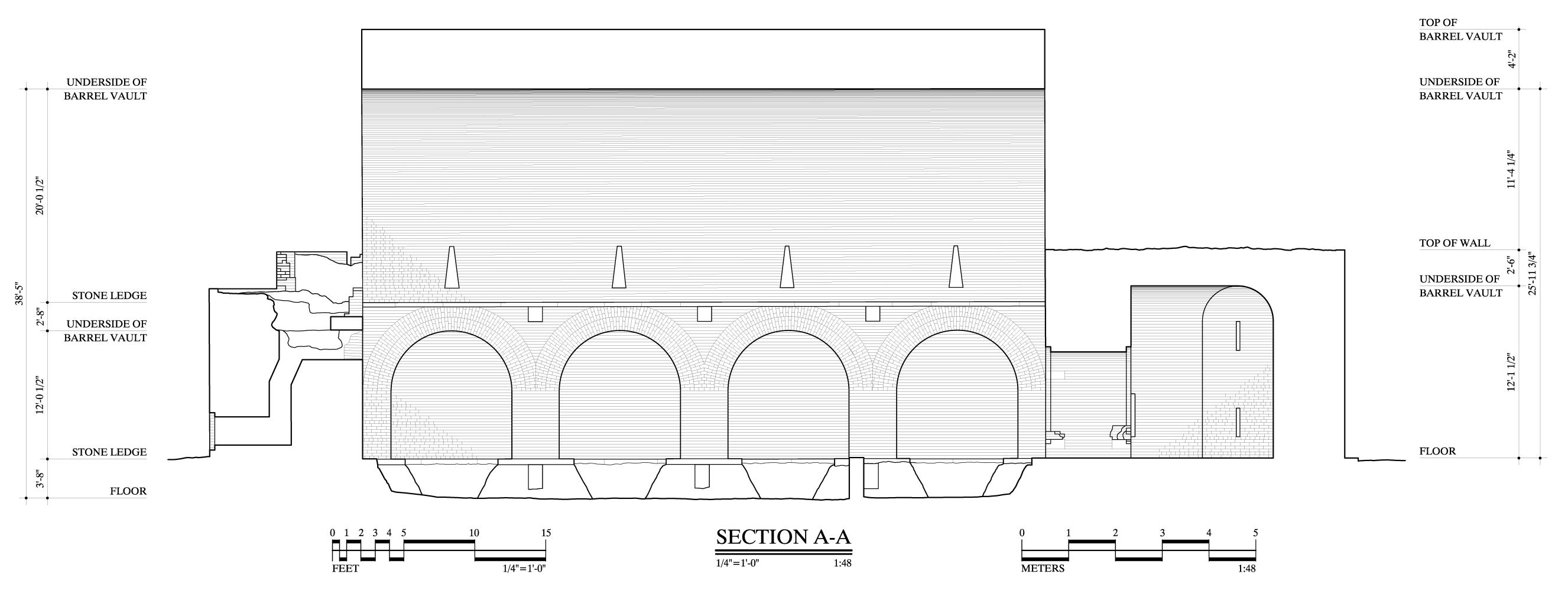
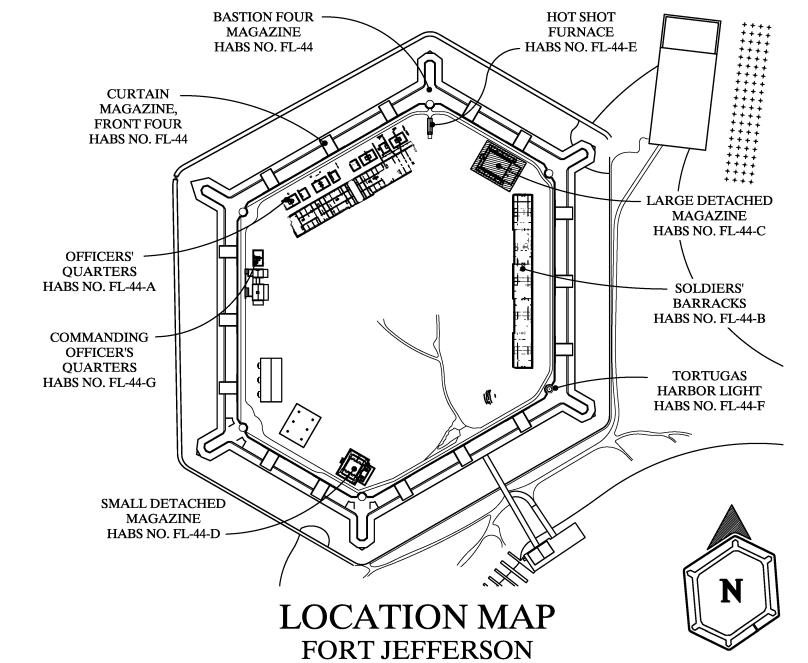
LARGE DETACHED MAGAZINE



Located on the Parade Grounds to support the military functioning of Fort Jefferson were the Large and Small detached magazines, where the gun powder was to be safely stored. The large magazine was intended to serve as the main powder storage facility, supplemented by the Small Magazine and lesser magazines occupying two casemates of each long curtain wall and in each bastion tower. The Large Magazine utilized the innovated, shell-proof, barrel-vaulted brick arch and concrete construction for which its designer, Chief Engineer of the U.S. Army General Joseph Totten, was well known. According to the original specifications for Fort Jefferson, there were to be five independent or free-standing magazines two of which were to measure 48' x 28' and three, 30' x 28'. Instead, Large and Small magazines were built, with the former measuring 52' x 71'. Detailed instructions for the construction of the Large Magazine did not arrive at the fort until December 1861, however, following the start during the previous spring of the Civil War, when the fort witnessed its highest use. While Totten instructed work to begin immediately, the Large Magazine was not begun until after the war. In June 1865 it was reported that the foundation was completed.



NO SCALE

In June of the following year, a small engineering force with the aid of prison labor was able to turn the arch of the large interior magazine, reaching a height of 13'-6". Work continued between 1866 and 1870, although the Large and Small parade magazines were never truly finished. By 1876 they were no longer necessary and by 1891, all the fort's magazines were emptied of powder and munitions. Although structurally sound, the magazines show damage by weaponry fire.

Documentation of the Large Detached Magazine 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.

