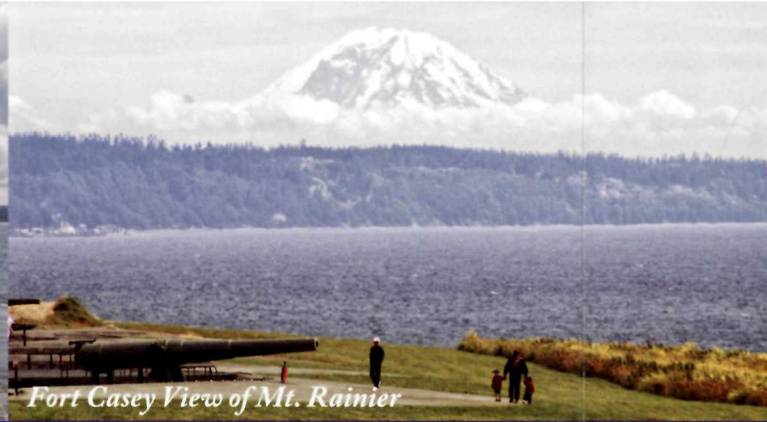


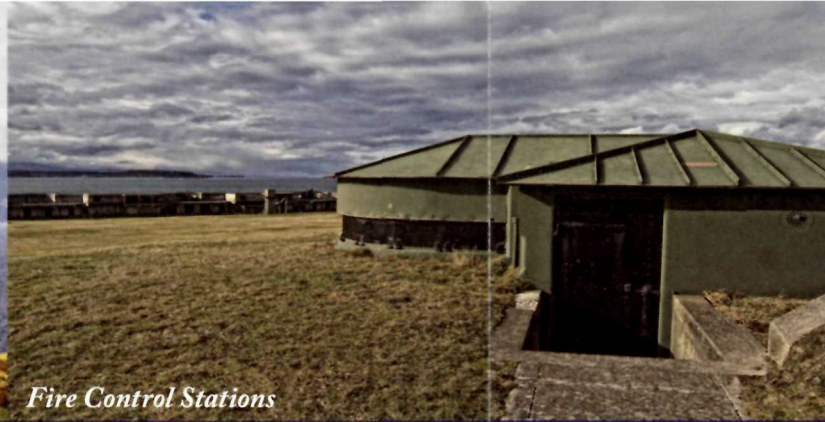
TAKE IN THE VIEWS



Coupeville Ferry



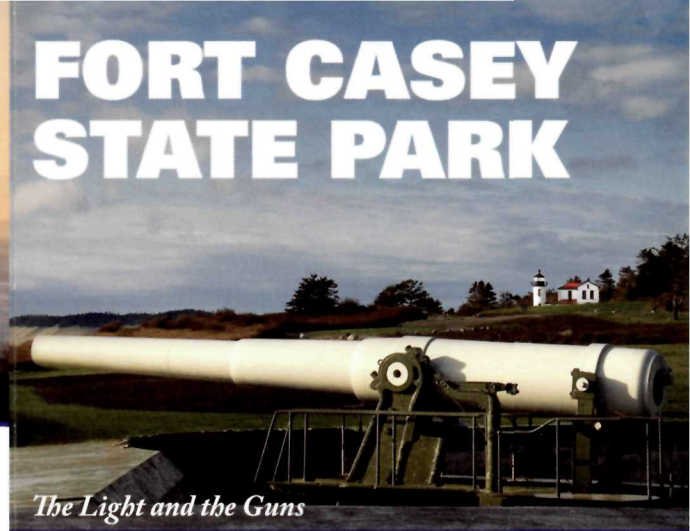
Fort Casey View of Mt. Rainier



Fire Control Stations



Taking in the views
Fort Casey



The Light and the Guns

A UNIQUE, SCENIC AND HISTORIC PARK ON WHIDBEY ISLAND'S WEST COAST



Battery Trevor

Fort Casey State Park is a Model Stewardship State Park

Park Office: 360-678-4519



WELCOME TO FORT CASEY STATE PARK

Fort Casey State Park sits atop Admiralty Head, once known as Red Bluffs. The Park offers sweeping views of Admiralty Inlet, the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Olympic Mountains. It is located 3 miles from the historic town of Coupeville, next to the Coupeville Ferry Terminal and is in the Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve. In addition to its historic features, the park offers camping, hiking, beach combing, SCUBA diving and boating. The fort was named for General Thomas Lincoln Casey, chief of the Army Corps of Engineers from 1888-1895

BEACONS OF THE PAST

The first Admiralty Head Lighthouse, built in 1859, was removed from the bluff when the United States War Department decided to fortify Admiralty Inlet. The new lighthouse was constructed in 1903, and aided safe navigation for shipping until 1922. The original lantern house was removed in 1927 and reinstalled at the New Dungeness Lighthouse at the end of Dungeness Spit. Admiralty Head Lighthouse is now an interpretive center and gift shop.

THE FORTIFICATIONS

Construction of the fort began in 1897 and was completed in 1907—modifications continued until 1918. Fort Casey, along with Fort Worden and Fort Flagler on the other side of Admiralty Inlet, formed a triangle of defense to guard against hostile warships. The forts were built to protect the U.S. Navy shipyard at Bremerton and the cities along the Puget Sound. The military might of Fort Casey alone included seven

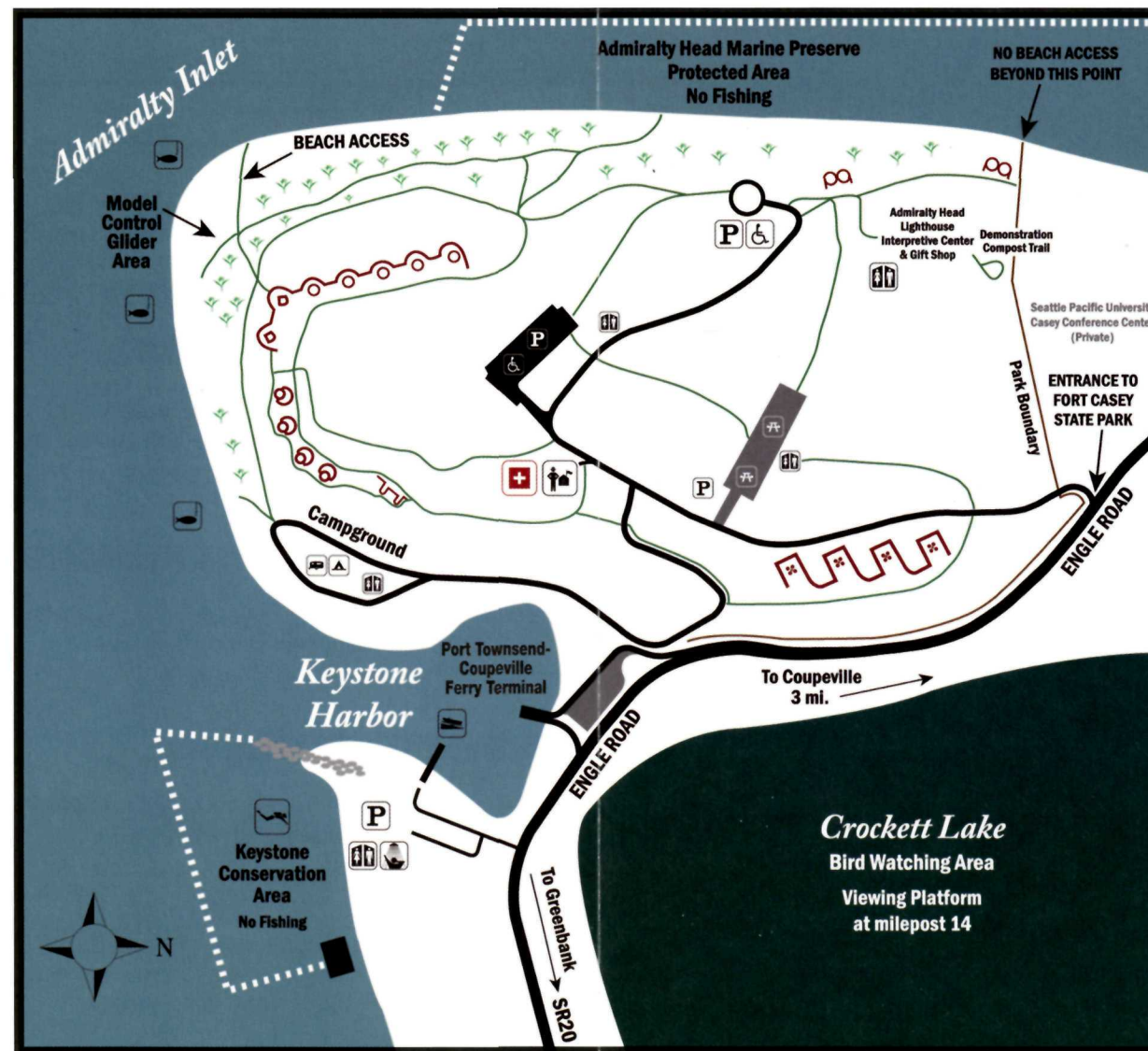
10-inch rifled guns, twelve additional guns of varied size and sixteen 12-inch mortars. This armament was supported by five 60-inch searchlights that could pierce the darkness in search of potential targets.

The first detachment of artillery troops arrived September 8, 1898. This small contingent grew so that at its peak between 1907 and 1917, there were approximately 400 soldiers assigned to the fort. These troops were highly trained to use and maintain state-of-the-art equipment to locate, aim and fire at moving targets. The guns were exercised in training often, but never had to fire on an invading enemy.

The coast defense forts had the upper hand until advancement in naval artillery during World War I gave ships greater range and effectiveness. These more powerful ships along with rapidly developing airplane technology, brought about new military strategy rendering the forts obsolete. The fort was placed in caretaker status after the war in 1919, but was reactivated in 1940 and once again fully manned by the start of WWII. By 1942, most of the guns at Fort Casey were rendered obsolete, scrapped and melted down. The fort was briefly used for training purposes by an amphibious tank unit until the Korean Conflict.

Fort Casey was again placed in caretaker status in 1950. It would never again be used in an active military capacity after 50 years of service.

In 1956, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission acquired most of the fortifications and began its stewardship of one of the best examples of late 19th century coastal fortifications in the nation.



Please visit the kiosk located by the fort parking lot to view a large scale of this map.



CASEY'S GUNS

BATTERY THOMAS PARKER
BATTERY ISAAC VAN HORNE
BATTERY REUBEN TURMAN
BATTERY WILLIAM WORTH

TWO 6-INCH
TWO 3-INCH
TWO 5-INCH
TWO 10-INCH

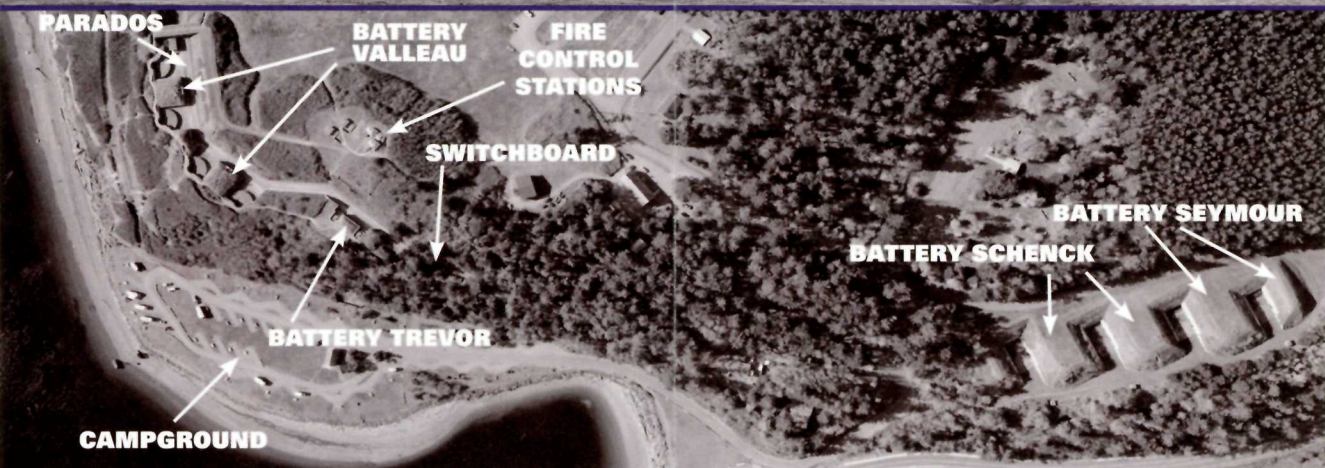
BATTERY JAMES MOORE
BATTERY HENRY KINGSBURY
BATTERY JOHN VALLEAU
BATTERY JOHN TREVOR

THREE 10-INCH
TWO 10-INCH
FOUR 6-INCH
TWO 3-INCH

CASEY'S MORTARS

BATTERY ALEXANDER SCHENCK
BATTERY TRUMAN SEYMOUR

EIGHT 12-INCH
EIGHT 12-INCH



BATTERY WORTH (TWO 10-INCH GUNS)

In 1968, the park acquired the two 10-inch guns and carriages from Fort Wint in the Philippines. These guns bear the scars of battle from WWII. The guns are mounted on one end of a pair of swiveling arms which were counter weighted. After loading, the catch was released and the falling counterweights would raise the gun to firing position. The recoil energy from firing the gun would push the gun back to the loading position where it was invisible from the sea. This afforded the soldiers excellent protection.

elevator that raised shells and powder to the upper loading platform. The 617 pound shells were raised to the delivery table where they would then be placed on carts and rolled into place when loading the gun.

BATTERY COMMANDER'S STATION

The Battery Commander was responsible for the training, administration, and discipline of the battery. A telescope was mounted on the pillar inside the station.

BATTERY MOORE (THREE 10-INCH GUNS)

Many features in this area provide clues to the past. Large iron rings were used with ropes and pulleys to

install the 33-ton barrels. What appear to be pipes in the walls are speaking tubes that allow different rooms to communicate. The black arched poles rising above the railings are cranes used to hoist ammunition if the elevators failed. The black metal hoods on the railings are reflective shields for lights.

BATTERY KINGSBURY (TWO 10-INCH GUNS)

Do these emplacements look odd to you? The battery was modified in 1943 for 3-inch anti-aircraft guns.

BATTERY VALLEAU (FOUR 6-INCH DISAPPEARING GUNS)

These 6-inch disappearing rifles defended Admiralty Bay. It is a single story because no hoists were needed to move the lighter ammunition.

BATTERY TREVOR (TWO 3-INCH GUNS)

These guns guarded Admiralty Bay from fast moving shallow draft boats and landing parties.

THE SWITCHBOARD

This was the main communications center. Built underground, the door opens to a long hallway that leads to the interior room which is surrounded

by a larger room, creating a space that would allow ventilation in order to keep the sensitive equipment dry.

FIRE CONTROL STATIONS (GUNS)

These four structures had special telescopes that helped guide the aiming of the 10-inch gun batteries. The top two were built several years prior to the bottom cement-roofed stations.

FIRE CONTROL STATIONS (MORTARS)

This multiple-level structure (the foundation is across from the lighthouse) provided fire control for the mortar batteries. Each of the pillars supported an observation telescope.

BATTERIES SCHENCK & SEYMOUR (SIXTEEN 12-INCH MORTARS)

Mortars fired at high angles. The plunging fire penetrated the decks and exploded deep within the ship.

PARADOS (BRIDGE)

The parados is the high bank of earth ending in what appears to be a bridge or tunnel. It was designed to protect Battery Valleau.



The Switchboard

Guarding The Entrance To Puget Sound The Coast Artillery Corps



Loading a 10-inch gun



Fire Control Station

Loading a 10-inch gun, and Schenck 12-inch mortars, are original images from the Fort archives. Aerial photograph courtesy of Washington State Parks and Recreation. All other images by Barbara Lyter.



Schenck 12-inch mortars