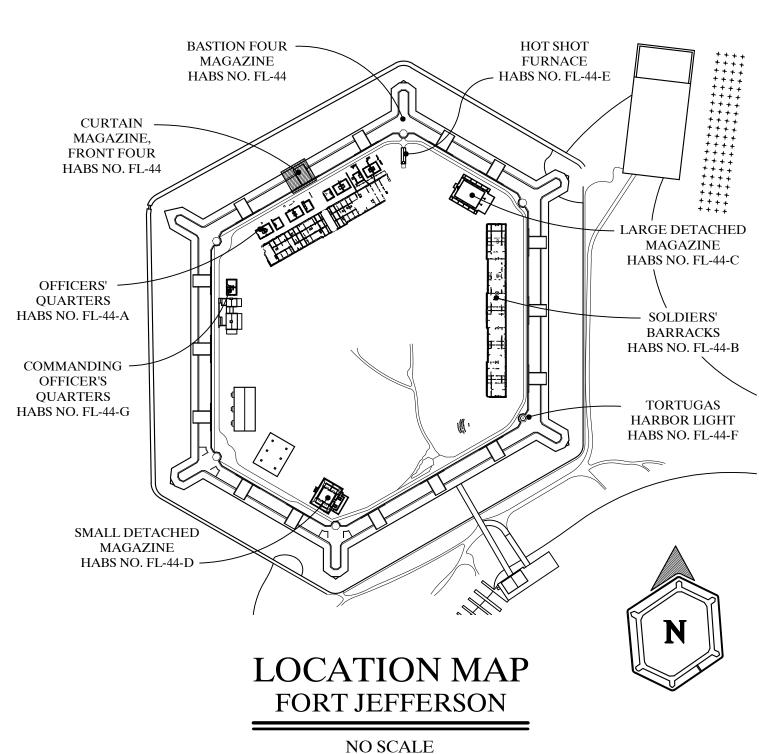
CURTAIN MACHINE MACHINE FRONT FOUR

As initially designed by Chief Engineer of the U.S. Army General Joseph Totten, Fort Jefferson was to have independent or free-standing powder magazines on the Parade Ground, with small, readily accessible magazines occupying two casemates of each long curtain wall and in each tower bastion. Totten's plans for the fort were approved by the Secretary of War on November 16, 1846. However, the final plans for the Large and Small magazines that were to serve as the main and secondary powder storage facilities were not developed until 1861, and their construction not begun until 1865. Throughout the Civil War, when Fort Jefferson served as a coastal blockade for Union naval forces and a military prison, the curtain and tower bastion magazines provided the only viable powder storage. In 1872-73 new, larger caliber guns were mounted, necessitating changes to the barbette tier and the strengthening of the four Curtain Magazines. Despite the armament upgrades, advancements in weaponry made Fort Jefferson obsolete, and the military abandoned it in 1876.



Documentation of the Front Four Curtain 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.

