

Architectural and Technological Highlights

BUILDING 5 INFORMATION CENTER



Constructed during the War of 1812, this Federal-style building served as the yard's storehouse. From the 1930s until 1974 it housed the officer's club, mess, and unmarried officer's quarters. Today, the building serves as an information center and temporary exhibit gallery. Here, National Park Service rangers are on staff to give you information about ranger-led walks of the navy yard, tours of the World War II destroyer, USS *Cassin Young*, or show you a ten-minute slide program on the history of the Charlestown Navy Yard.

DRY DOCK I COMPLEX

Dry Dock I, engineered by Loammi Baldwin and built of local granite, served the largest warships then built by the U.S. Navy. USS *Constitution* was the first vessel to use this dry dock after its completion in 1833. The dock revolutionized ship repair for the American Navy by allowing warships' hulls to be maintained and repaired quickly. The adjacent structure, Building 22, now the USS *Constitution* Museum, housed the steam-powered pumps which drained the dry dock.



MARINE BARRACKS



The Marine Barracks housed the marines, the land force of the U.S. Navy, assigned to protect the navy yard. Begun in 1810, the structure was raised to its present height of four stories by 1902. The building's interior has been altered over the years adding a galley, mess hall, barber shop, and a pistol range in the basement.

COMMANDANT'S HOUSE

The oldest building in the yard, this elegant mansion, completed in 1805, was the home of commandants of the navy yard and the First Naval District. It served as both a private home and a place for official entertainment. Dinners and receptions for dignitaries included 19th century galas for two presidents, emphasizing the high social status of the commandant. Open seasonally, ask at the Visitor Information Center for tour information. Free.





MUSTER HOUSE

This unique octagonal brick building designed and constructed in the Georgian Revival style was built by Joseph Billings. Finished in 1854 the space was used for draftsmen and clerks and as a place for taking roll of employees. In 1890 the first navy yard telephone switchboard was located here.

ROPEWALK

This 1/4-mile-long building housed the Navy's ropewalk which was established to ensure consistently high quality rope for America's warships. Designed by Alexander Parris, and constructed between 1834 and 1837, this factory used the latest steam-powered machinery which largely replaced manual ropemaking techniques.



THE FORGE SHOP

Completed in 1905 this brick-veneer on steel frame building housed the navy yard blacksmith and forge shop where laborers worked iron and steel used for ship repair and construction. In the 1920s and 1930s, forge shop workers invented and perfected the manufacture of die-lock chain, the strongest chain ever produced.

THE NAVY YARD TODAY

When the Charlestown Navy Yard closed in 1974 after nearly 175 years of serving the fleet, 30 acres became part of Boston National Historical Park. The yard is the permanent berthing place for two historic naval vessels, USS *Constitution* and USS *Cassin Young*. National Park rangers and volunteers offer guided tours of the yard. The former Paint Shop, Building 125, houses exhibits on the yard's history. For opening hours and tour schedules, please check with the Visitor Information Center, Building 5, or call (617) 242-5601.

