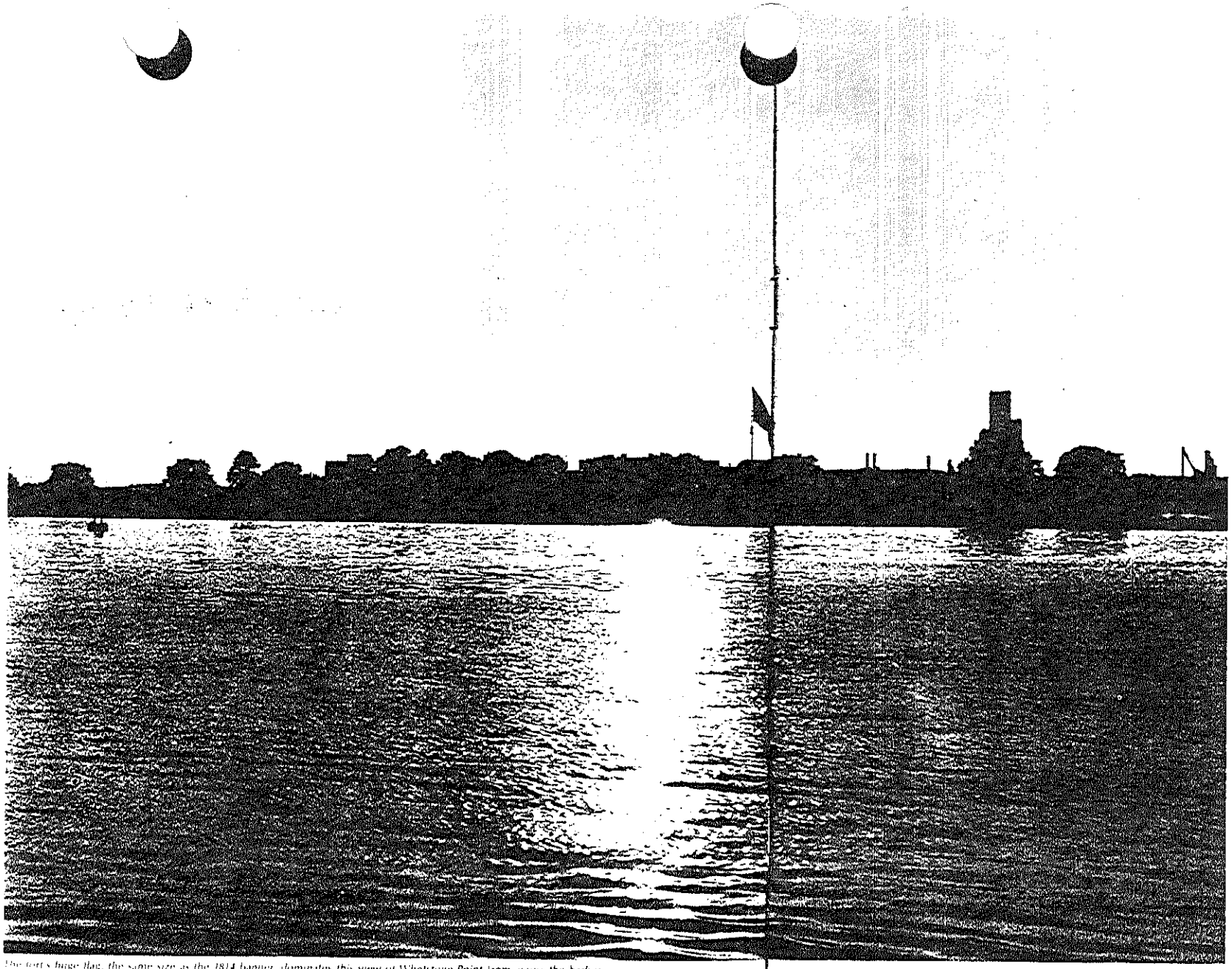
A
MASTER PLAN
FOR

FORT McHENRY NATIONAL MONUMENT & HISTORIC SHRINE

1969
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service



The fort's huge flag, the same size as the 1814 banner, dominates this view of Wheatstone Point from across the harbor.

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INTRODUCTION

Fort McHenry, the low masonry citadel overlooking the entrance to Baltimore harbor, recalls a moment of crisis in the early years of the Republic. It commemorates both the stubborn American defense of the city on September 12-14, 1814, against a British land and naval assault and the song, composed by a young Washington lawyer, which celebrated that defense. After Francis Scott Key caught sight of the fort's flag, still flying after a day and a night of bombardment, he began writing the lines which were eventually adopted as our National Anthem. The ship on which Key drafted his first words, the hotel where he later revised the song, and the shop that printed it as a handbill the day after the battle have all long since disappeared. But the fort still stands as a reminder of the men and events that gave the country a classic expression of American patriotism.

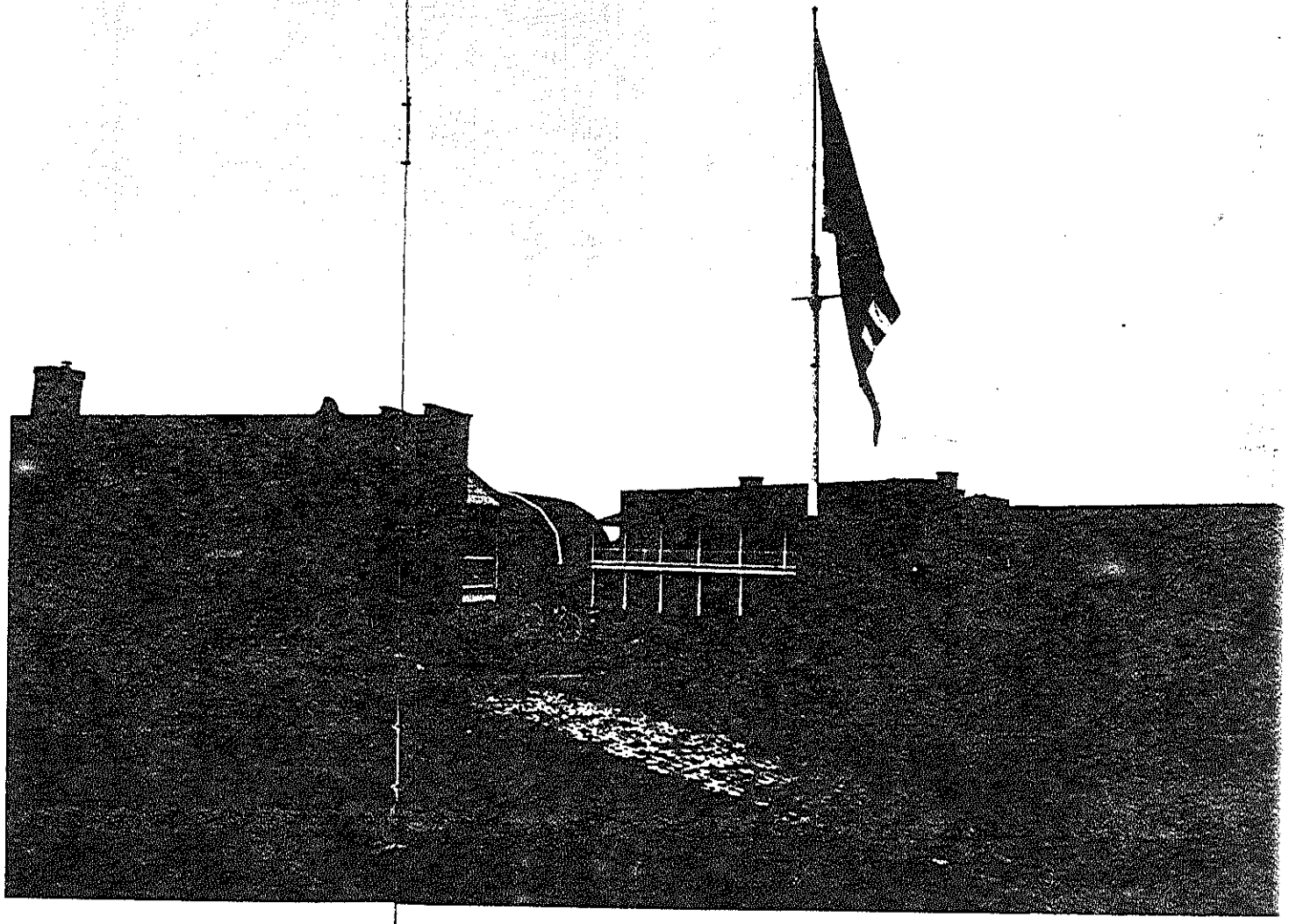
For nearly a century after the battle, the fort continued in active service, though it never fired another shot in anger and the changing technology of war condemned it to obsolescence. Since 1912 the fort and its 43 acres have been set aside for historical purposes.

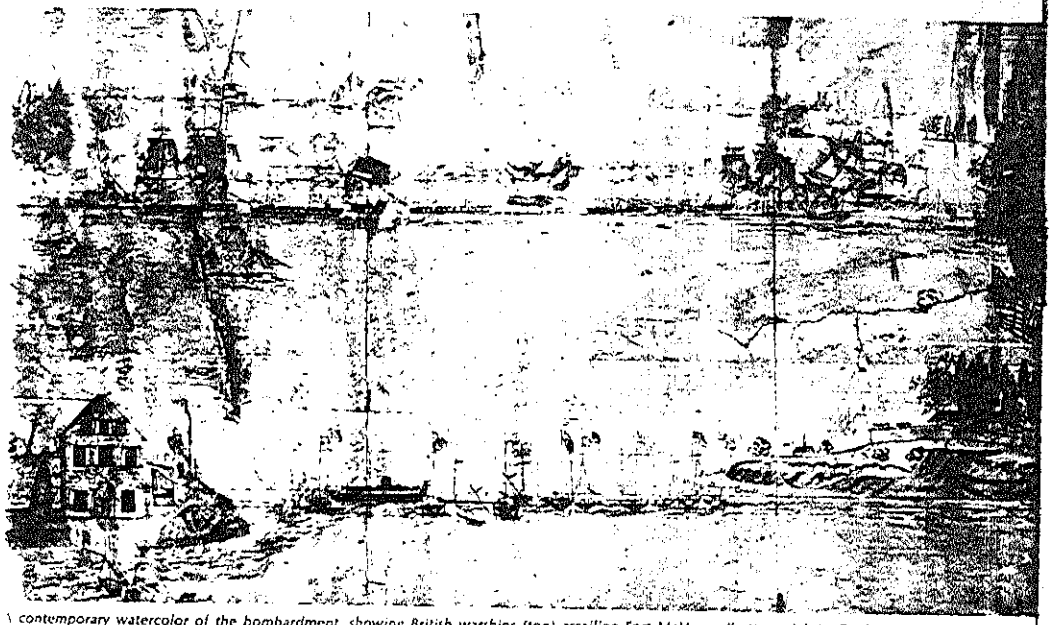
Over the past decade the fort has been the subject of detailed historical and architectural research aimed at producing not only accurate accounts of the battle and the writing of "The Star Spangled Banner" but also a clear picture of the fort's appearance in 1814. Enough information is now on hand to proceed with planning for the final development of the National Monument: the restoration of the Star Fort and much of its grounds. This is also an appropriate time to consider, in cooperation with other interested public and private groups, the larger setting of the monument. The following report is a summary of the main ideas that will guide this work and other aspects of the development of Fort McHenry over the next several years. It outlines policies and objectives for:

those facilities needed by the visiting public and the staff;

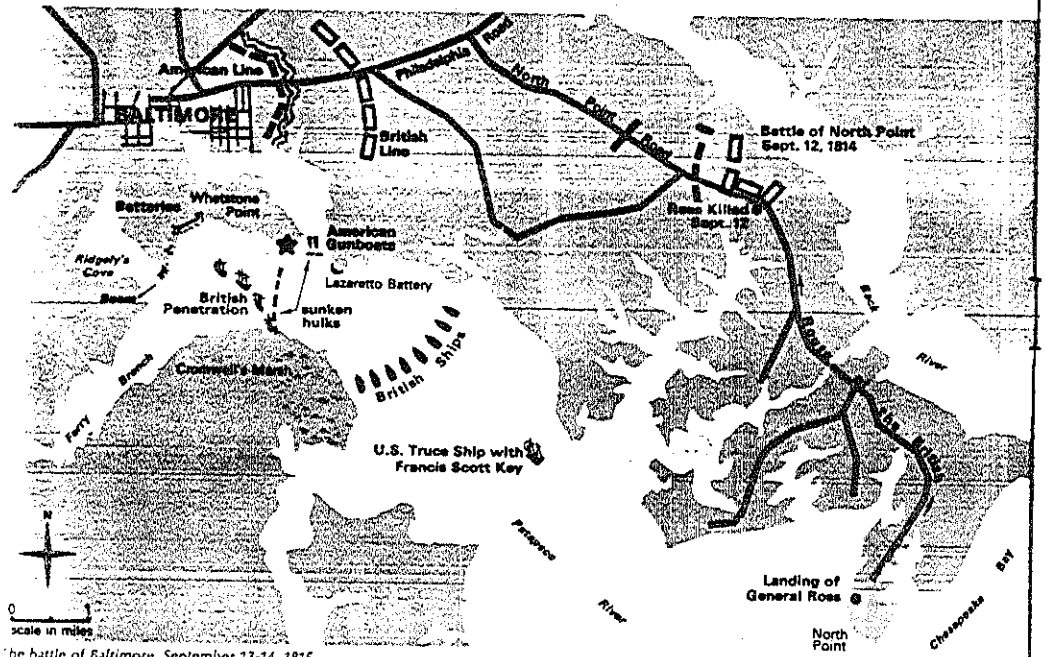
the creation of an appropriate historical setting in and around the National Monument;

a methodical approach to the complicated task of restoring the greater part of the fort and much of its immediate setting to the 1814 appearance.





A contemporary watercolor of the bombardment, showing British warships (top) assailing Fort McHenry (bottom right). Gunboats, hulks, and a chain boom block the harbor entrance, to the left of the fort.



The battle of Baltimore, September 13-14, 1815.

The Battle of Baltimore

In the summer of 1812 England and a sadly unprepared United States went to war for the second time in the life of many Americans. The war grew out of a long chain of events reaching back two decades to the beginnings of the Napoleonic Wars on the Continent. As England struggled to restore the balance of power in Europe upset by Napoleon, the war spread to the high seas and threatened the economic life of a number of neutral nations, among them the United States. Attempts at compromise failed, and a rising nationalistic temper, fueled by the Royal Navy's impressment of American seamen and repeated insult to the flag, finally dragged the United States into the conflict.

It was not until 1814 that England devoted much attention to its campaigns in America. After Napoleon was driven into exile in the spring of that year, several regiments under Gen. Robert Ross were sent to America and placed under Adm. Alexander Cohrane. Cochrane's orders were to blockade the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays and prevent American forces there from reinforcing the northern theatre of war. He saw his task as more than just a holding action. "If troops arrive soon and the point of attack is directed towards Baltimore," he reported to London on July 14, "I have every prospect of success and Washington will be equally accessible. They may be either destroyed or laid under contribution as the occasion may require. . . ."

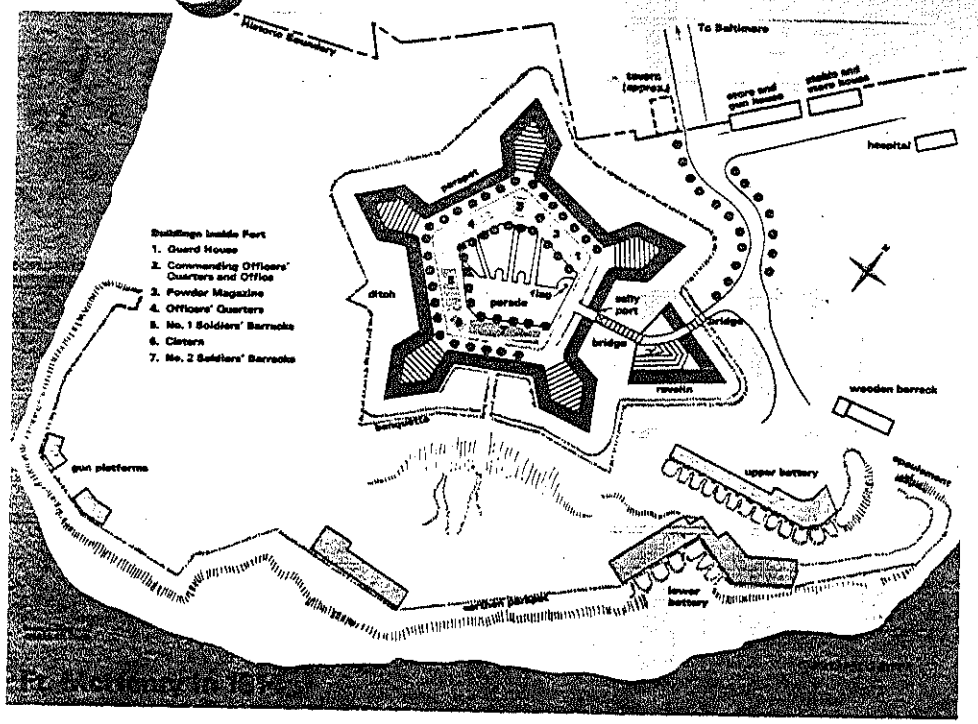
In late July Ross and his troops joined Cochrane in Bermuda, and the expedition sailed for Chesapeake Bay. A few weeks later, the armada anchored off the mouth of the Potomac, 20 warships strong, with a long train of transports and supply vessels. Among the warships were five bombships and a sloop armed with rockets. Ross' army alone numbered over 3,400 men, veterans of Wellington's Spanish campaign.

Operations got underway on August 19. While one squadron made a diversionary attack on Fort Washington, a few miles down the Potomac from the Federal capital, and another went up the Patuxent, Ross landed at Benedict and set out on a leisurely march toward the city. On the 24th the British met and routed some 1,200 inexperienced American militia at Bladensburg, on the outskirts of Washington. That night they seized the city and fired many of the public buildings, including the White House, while the government fled in panic.

As laid out by Adm. George Cockburn, Cochrane's deputy and an old hand at raiding on the Chesapeake, British strategy now called for an overland march on Baltimore's unguarded rear. But Ross, in one of the fateful decisions of the campaign, retraced his steps to Benedi embarked his army, and sail to rejoin the main fleet. He meeting a larger American f fact, none stood between hi Baltimore. On September 1 armada lay off North Point, miles down the Patapsco fr wealthy commercial city of B In British estimation, it was more worthy target.

Baltimore was better prep the invaders than Washingto Gen. Samuel Smith, a local p and veteran of the Revolutic defenses were erected, arms equipment laid in, and militi In all, Smith had about 12,0 mostly Maryland, Pennsylvan Virginia militia and several h sailors. The key to the harb Fort McHenry on Whetstone garrisoned by a thousand m guns and those of two water commanded the channels to the city. A line of sunken across both channels was a f obstacle to entry.

The British intended to tak city by a joint land and nava Early on the morning of Sep 12, their troops began movin at North Point, where the Pa flows into the Chesapeake. A miles inland, they ran into t resistance, an advance party American riflemen. A shot down Ross, and his death s after robbed his army of muc



effectiveness. Pushing on along the North Point Road toward the city, the British encountered the main American line, held by a brigade under Gen John Stricker. Here the outnumbered Americans fought well, but a British flanking movement forced them to withdraw, some perhaps too hastily. The British occupied the battlefield that night. Soon word came from Cochrane that the frigates and bombships would take up their stations at the harbor entrance early the next morning.

At dawn on the 13th the battle resumed. As the British columns picked up their march toward the city, the bombships and the rocket-firing sloop moved to within 2 miles of Fort McHenry and opened fire. To enter the harbor, the fort had to be neutralized, and this the British intended to do by standing out of the effective range of the American fire and reducing the fort with their larger, more destructive cannon.

The bombardment of Fort McHenry lasted for some 25 hours. Maj. George Armistead, the fort commander, estimated later that from 1,500 to 1,800 shells were fired at the fort and that about 400 landed inside. Many others burst overhead, scattering shell fragments over the works and causing most of the casualties.

At first, the Americans fought back (mostly from the outer batteries), but their cannon were outranged by the British 13-inch sea mortars. Only skeleton crews served several of the bastion guns. When a shell fell on the southwest bastion in mid-afternoon, killing the gun's officer and wounding the crew, three ships moved in to take advantage of the confusion. The ships and fort duelled for 30 minutes before the ships backed off.

If it was obvious that the fort must fall before the ships could penetrate the harbor, it was also obvious that shelling by itself would never do it. About midnight the British launched a flanking attack up the Ferry Branch hoping to reach the city through Ridgely's Cove. In the dark, rainy night, the attack went awry: one part of the landing party sailed up the wrong branch, the other was detected in time and driven back by the combined fire of the fort and several smaller batteries down the peninsula. With the failure of this sortie, the British hopes of capturing Baltimore collapsed. Over on the other side of the city, 3,600 British troops faced some 15,000 Americans across cleared fields. Stymied by the tenacious defense of the fort, the fleet could not effectively support the army. About 1:30 a.m. the British commander ashore received word to break off the attack.

The bombships continued the bombardment until 7 a.m. of the 14th, then withdrew down the river. Only when the armada sailed away on September 17 did American fears of another attack vanish. This was the last British expedition to menace the Atlantic coast. After rendezvousing in Jamaica with another British army, Cochrane's fleet sailed off to invade Louisiana. There on January 8, 1815, outside New Orleans, a superb British army was soundly trounced by a frontier army led by Andrew Jackson in the last important battle of the War of 1812.

"The Star-Spangled Banner"

The battle of Baltimore would be remembered only as one of the few American victories of consequence in the War of 1812 had not Francis Scott Key so effectively dramatized the bombardment, the flag, and much of the feeling of the day in verse.

A week before the battle, Key set out with Colonel John S. Skinner to try to persuade the British to release a friend, Dr. William Beanes, arrested for allegedly violating a pledge of good conduct after the battle of Bladensburg. They reached the fleet on September 7, and in a few days of negotiations arranged for Beanes to go free. But because they had learned about the British plans for attack, they were held aboard ship until after the assault. From the deck of their own vessel, anchored at the rear of the British fleet, both men witnessed the long bombardment. Key later described how he felt when he saw McHenry's flag still waving at dawn on the 14th:

"Through the clouds of the war the stars of that banner still shone in my view, and I saw the discomfitted host of its assailants driven back in ignominy to their ships. Then, in that hour of deliverance and joyful triumph, my heart spoke; and 'Does not such a country and such defenders of their country deserve a song?' was its question."

Key jotted down notes aboard the ship, and finished the poem that night after he returned to Baltimore. The next morning, the 15th, it was printed as a handbill, with a short description of how it came to be written. The tune to which the words were adapted is from an old Irish drinking song, "To Anacreon in Heaven", fairly popular in that day. Through the years the song gradually increased in popularity. In 1931 Congress designated "The Star-Spangled Banner" as the National Anthem.

The Historical Fort

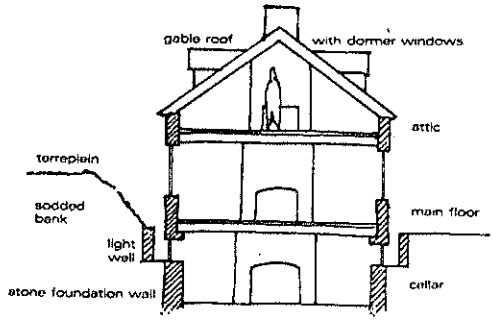
In 1814 Fort McHenry consisted of the following structures: the Star Fort, with a ravelin, a dry moat, and various inside buildings; an Upper Battery and a Lower Battery, near the water's edge; and several outbuildings, among them a barracks, store houses, and a hospital. According to the fort's commander during the bombardment, only two buildings (neither was identified, but one is known to have been the powder magazine) were seriously damaged by the shelling. As late as 1818, a visitor commented that "the old walls still exhibit the scars of the attack."

One research report sums up the differences between the 1814 fort and what we see today:

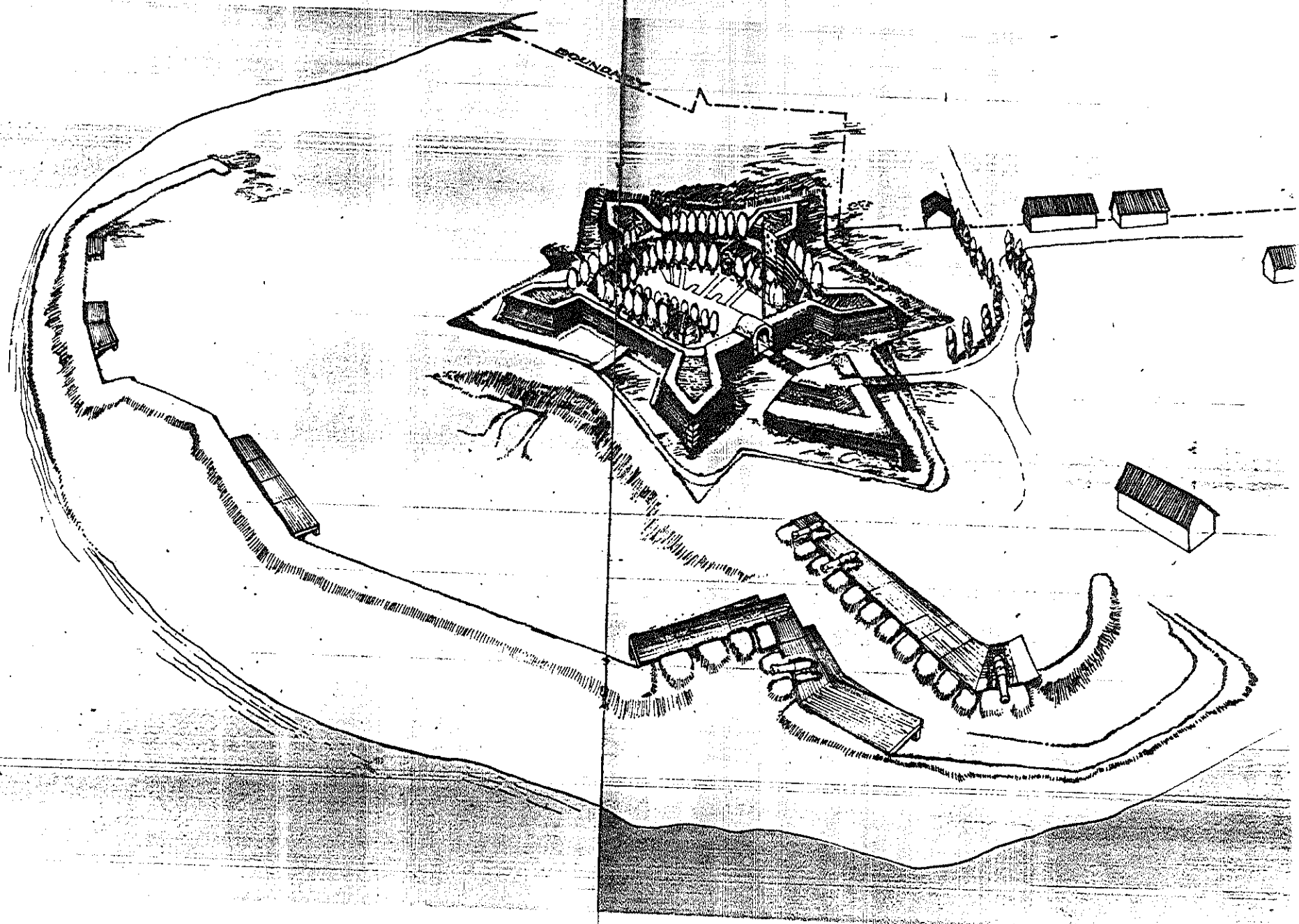
The fort's sally port was not arched . . . the barracks were a story and a half high (with wooden floors and cellars) and two of them were shorter than they are now; the magazine was smaller . . . a cistern and guardhouse inside the fort; and there were on the parade and parapets. and improvements between 1 changed most of the preceed example, barracks were raised stories and piazzas were adde the restoration of Fort McHen the 1920's returned the fort to era. The ditch and ravelin were integral parts of the fort, and time of the bombardment the was 5 feet deep and had a br between the sally port and r which work had a road throu There was no magazine in the as . . . at present.

The most important fortifica in 1814 were the outworks, no which remain. . . . This work (was destroyed in 1831) compr an upper and lower unit, and 30 or 31 gun lower battery lay b a parapet that extended aroun entire point of land east of the The section protecting the For McHenry channel had 20 embr while elsewhere guns were s pointed over the parapet.

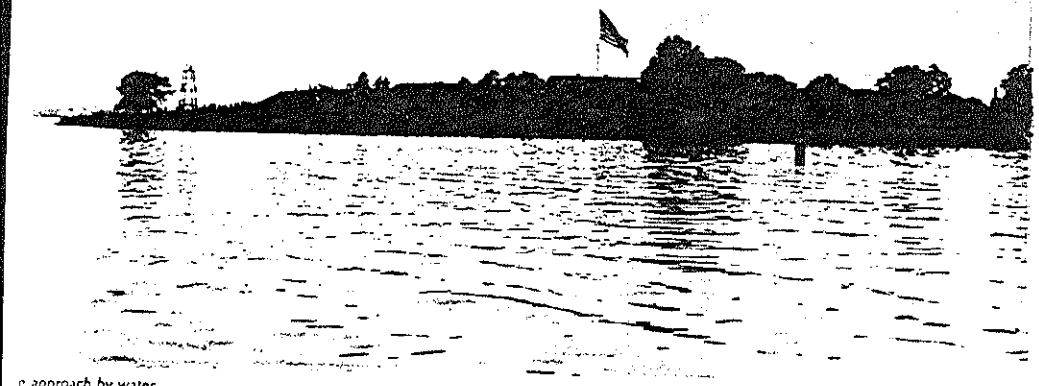
The Star Fort (except for the structed flagpole) and the ravel the only historical structures have survived to the present. represent, however, the fort's 1 period, not the 1814. The only structures within the monument other military periods are the C War powder magazine, an outs battery that dates from the thir quarter of the 19th century, the port, and the 1837 masonry w along the west boundary. A bri building which served as a Civil hospital stands on the nearby C of Engineers reservation.



Cross section of the barracks, 1800-29.

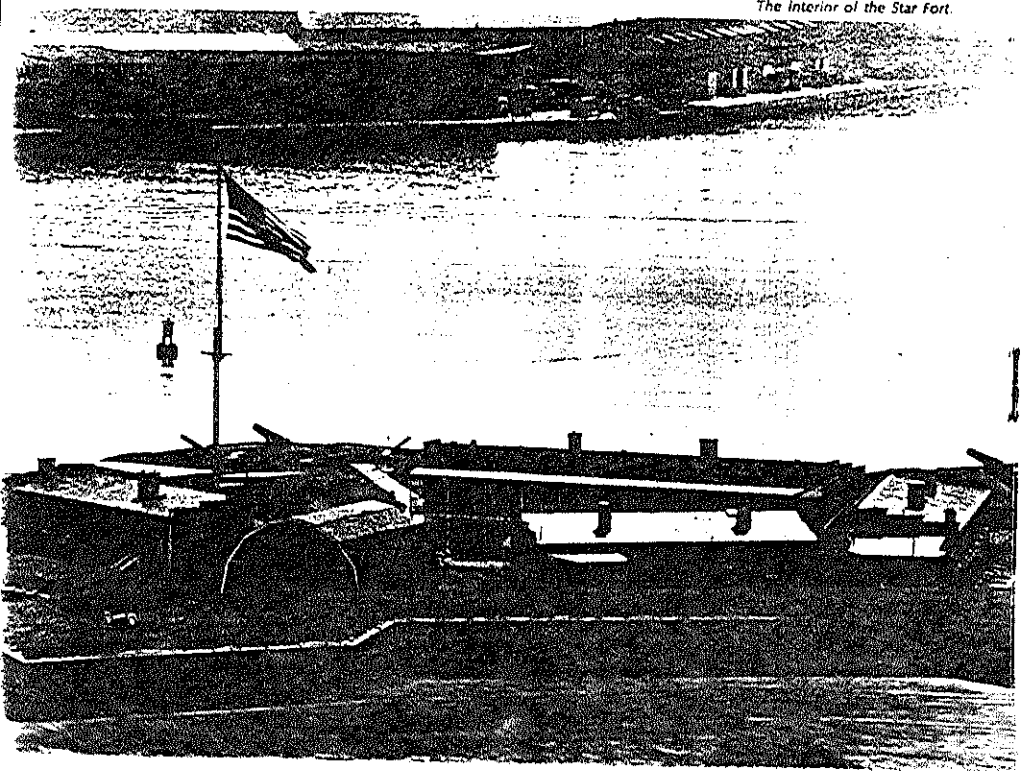


This drawing, based on the best available evidence, shows the fort as it probably appeared in late 1



e approach by water.

The interior of the Star Fort.



Management Objectives

At Fort McHenry, the National Park Service has three broad objectives:

- ☐ to preserve the historical integrity of the fort and site;
- ☐ to foster within the National Monument and the immediate surroundings an atmosphere conducive to effective public interpretation;
- ☐ to commemorate and interpret the brave defense of the fort on September 13-14, 1814, which inspired Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner."

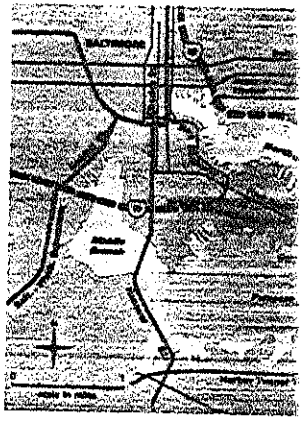
To achieve these objectives, the Park Service has taken several basic positions:

- ☐ that the 1814 events, as represented by the site and certain surviving structures, are the reason for the National Monument's existence and are thus the proper focus of visitor attention;
- ☐ that to best convey the meaning of Fort McHenry, the site, fabric, and artifacts associated with the 1814 events must be preserved or restored;
- ☐ that effective historical interpretation thrives best in a setting not compromised by modern developments—thus within the historical zone of the National Monument none will be allowed;
- ☐ that a small historic site like Fort McHenry is vulnerable to intrusions from its broader environmental setting.

The Approaches

Most visitors would arrive at the National Monument in a better frame of mind if the routes to the fort were more clearly marked and the approach streets, if not landscaped, were at least improved visually. Distinctive signs should be placed at key points on the city's main arteries and the streets that lead from those throughfares to the fort. The Park Service will encourage both public agencies and private landowners to improve the appearance of Fort Avenue from Hanover Street to the monument entrance. This approach should be supplemented by an alternate route over Key Highway and McComas Street. Though it also passes through an industrial section, this broad highway carries less traffic than Fort Avenue and could be easily landscaped. Open space along both routes should, where possible, be converted into parks.

A suitable water approach should also be developed. This plan proposes the inauguration of launch service, operated either by a concessioner or as part of a larger tour-boat program for the entire harbor. Besides offering a novel view of the fort and a chance to sail down the harbor to the approximate site



rom which Key witnessed the bombardment, this service would help reduce vehicular traffic into the monument. Docking space for the boat will have to be found, most likely on the property now administered by the Corps of Engineers.

The Setting

Much of the quality of the visitor's experience will hinge on the appropriateness of the setting. The Park Service will seek either to remove or minimize a number of intrusions and distractions in and around the National Monument.

Control of Use: The present entrance should be enlarged and equipped with a fee collection station. By collecting entrance fees here the booth at the Star Fort can be eliminated. A turnaround lane just inside the entrance will allow persons unwilling to pay the fee to leave without tying up traffic.

Though many public ceremonies could suitably be held at the fort, all such events should be directly related to the historical episode which the monument was established to commemorate.

Control over boating near the sea wall can best be done by establishing with the agreement of the Coast Guard a restricted zone along the harbor, as indicated on the General Development Plan.

Removal of Intrusions: The 30-foot high Orpheus Statue is without doubt the single most distracting element in the entire monument and should be removed. The fort itself, appropriately presented, is the best possible memorial to Francis Scott Key and the fort's defenders. The statue could be more effectively displayed in a formal plaza in downtown Baltimore, perhaps near Lexington Market. Such a move will require Congressional legislation.

The State flags lining the entrance drive are another prominent distraction. Since the monument commemorates the national ensign and at the time of the battle there were only 18 States in the Union, they contribute little to the central historical purposes of the National Monument. Perhaps they too can be relocated in downtown Baltimore.

The high pedestal of the Armistead Statue is more appropriate to a large city square than to the small plaza near the visitor center. The pedestal height should be reduced to 3 or 4 feet to bring the statue into better scale with its surroundings.

The ungainly Coast Guard Range Marker dominates peoples' vision as they walk from the visitor center to the Star Fort and should be removed, if possible.

Environmental Controls: Given time and money, most of the foregoing proposals can be easily accomplished. A more difficult area in which to bring about needed improvements is in the surrounding environment. To minimize the impact of inappropriate developments just outside the monument boundary will depend in large part on the close cooperation and good will of the Baltimore Planning Commission and the several property owners whose interests are directly involved.

As this plan was being prepared, its contents were thoroughly discussed with the planning commission and their urban design consultants. Out of these discussions has come an effective partnership in which the urban planners and the Park Service will pursue largely the same objectives for the land surrounding the fort.

As a minimum course of action the Park Service would seek to minimize the views of heavy industry which seriously overbear the monument on one side. Lombardy poplars (a tree widely planted at the fort in historical times) could effectively screen some of the worst vistas.

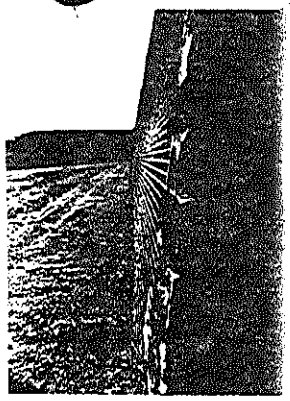
Fort McHenry, however, deserves more than a minimal effort to preserve its environmental integrity. In 1814 the fort stood in lonely isolation amid the open farmland of Whetstone Point. To recapture this setting and to restore a degree of monumentality to the Star Fort, the Park Service will pursue the most promising of the following admittedly long-range proposals:

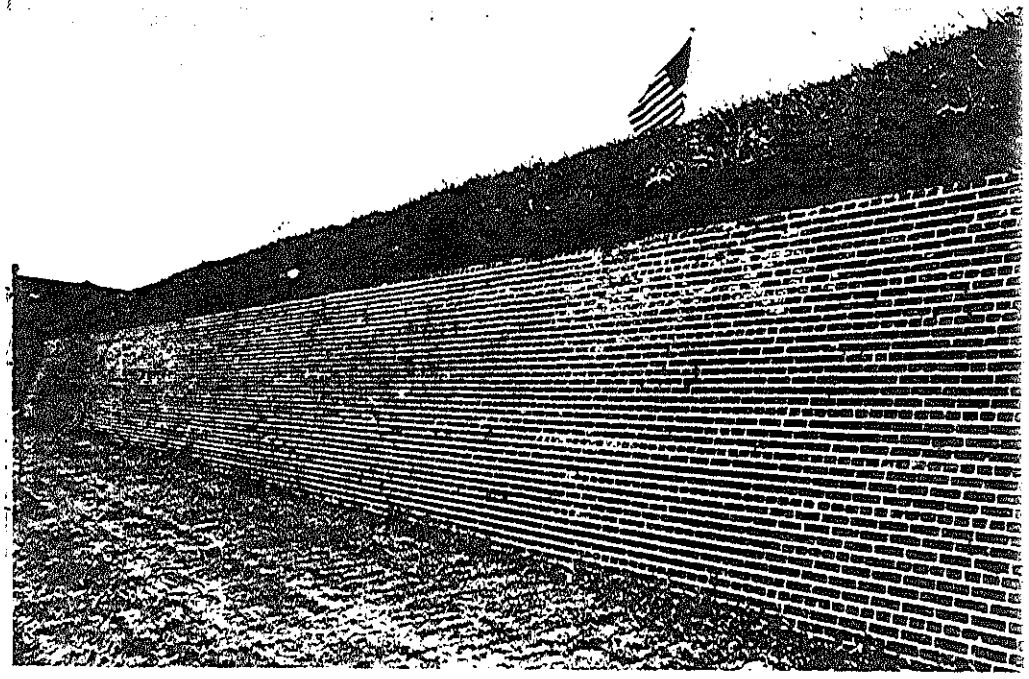
PROPOSAL A: Acquire the U.S. Navy property, clear it, and relocate there all parking facilities. The new entrance road would pass along this property, and the present entrance road could be converted into an historic trace.

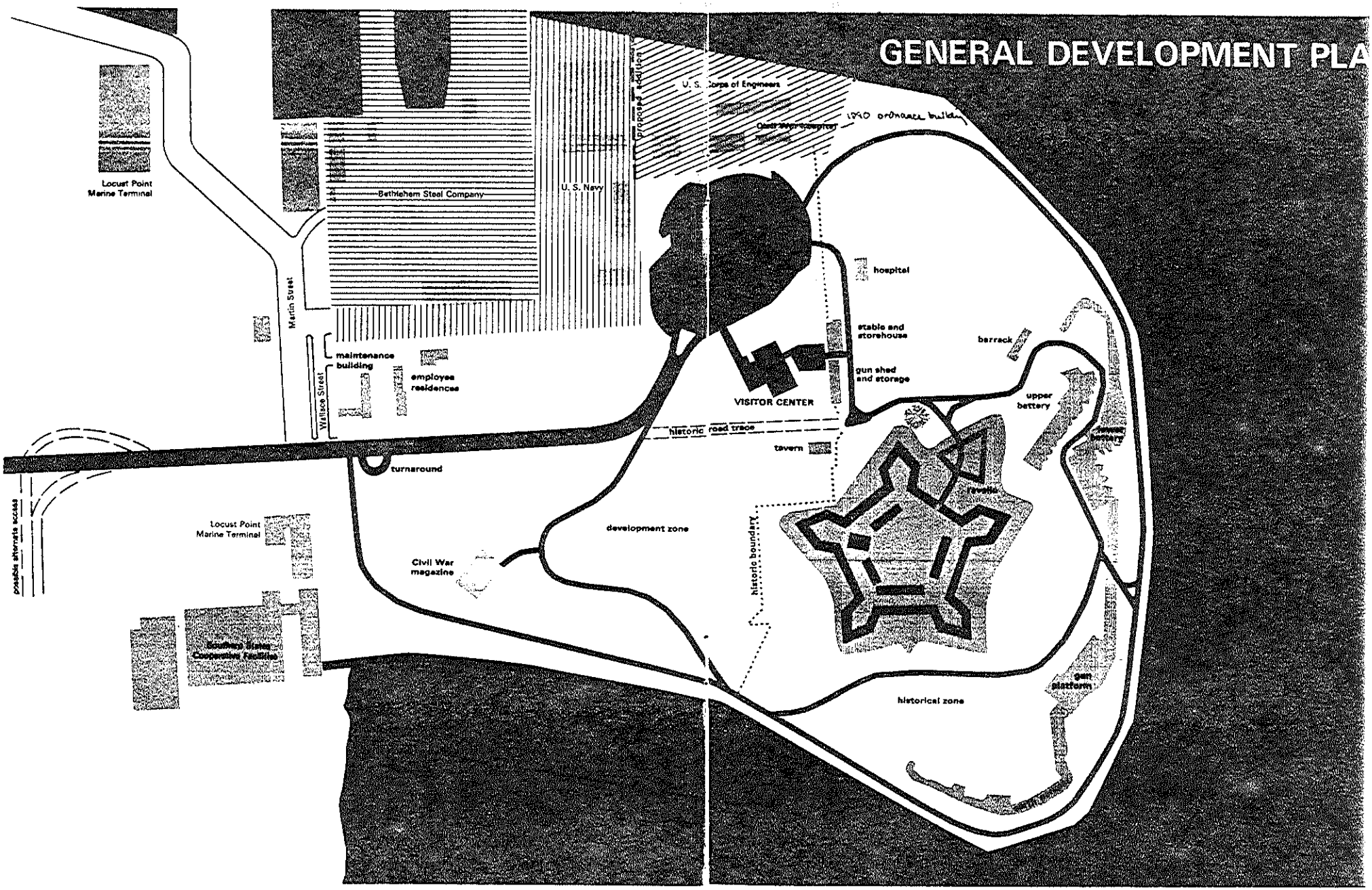
PROPOSAL B: The acquisition of both the U.S. Navy and the Bethleham Steel properties would create an even more open setting for the fort. The Navy property would be cleared and planted, and parking facilities and the visitor center would be relocated to the Bethlehem Steel site. As in the first proposal, the entrance drive would be relocated and the old historic trace re-established.

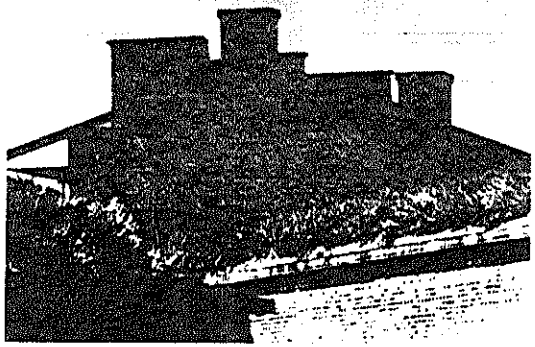
PROPOSAL C: If neither A or B can be accomplished, either now or over a period of years with the help of the city, then one or more of the following actions should be considered:

1. A proposal to the owners that the Bethlehem Steel and the Southern States Cooperative properties be donated to the city for park or recreational use. The Park Service would share the costs of development and maintenance.
2. The purchase by the Park Service of both properties and the sale or leasing of them to the city for park use.
3. The purchase by the Park Service of both properties and the sale or leasing of them to private developers for residential use.
4. The purchase by the Park Service






GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLA
Locust Point
Marine Terminal
Bethlehem Steel Company
U. S. Navy
proposed addition
U. S. Corps of Engineers
1890 ordnance building
Martin Street
Wallace Street
maintenance
building
employee
residences
hospital
stable and
storehouse
gun shed
and storage
barrack
upper
battery
VISITOR CENTER
historic road trace
tavern
turnaround
ravelin
development zone
historic boundary
Locust Point
Marine Terminal
Civil War
magazine
possible alternate access
Southern States
Cooperative Facilities
gun
platform
historical zone



Restoration would considerably alter the roofline of these barracks.

of both properties and the sale or leasing of them to an educational or research institution, with controls on the character of the development.

5. A rezoning agreement with the city.

6. The donation of a scenic easement by future owners to insure compatible use of both properties.

Restoring and Preserving the Fort

The 1814 fort in its 1814 setting—this is the ideal for preservation as well as for interpretation. Indeed, the two cannot be separated. As with the setting, it will not be possible to return every detail of all the historical elements to their original form or condition. But those compromises that must be made (because of lack of knowledge or to avoid long delays in the restoration program) will be either minor or obviously more desirable than complete change. Those few exceptions to this principle will be noted below. Generally, the restoration work proposed in this plan will reproduce exposed features with historical accuracy, but concealed work will be done with modern materials and techniques. Wood flooring, for example, could be placed on a concrete slab instead of wood joists, saving on costs as well as protecting the floor against fire and dampness.

Though much useful research has already been done, there is a need for more detailed architectural information before the restoration work outlined in the rest of this section is started. Besides the obvious sources, the researchers will need to investigate contemporary buildings in Baltimore, similar forts, and U.S. Army records for information about the fort's appearance before the extensive War Department alterations of the 1920's. Archeological excavation should accompany this research.

THE STAR FORT This fort and its interior structures will be restored, except for several minor features noted below, to its appearance in December 1814, a date selected to include several substantial changes to the powder magazine and the sally port after the September bombardment. Here in summary form are the prinicipal changes needed.

Outer walls: The present height will be maintained, and wooden gun platforms will be reconstructed in the bastions.

Terreplein and revetment walls: The present level of these should be maintained too. Although the masonry revetment walls between the parapet and the terreplein and between the terreplein and the parade level were added after the historic period, they serve a practical function. The earthen banks would probably be broken down rapidly by trampling if the walls were removed. Trees should be planted on the terreplein as in the historical period.

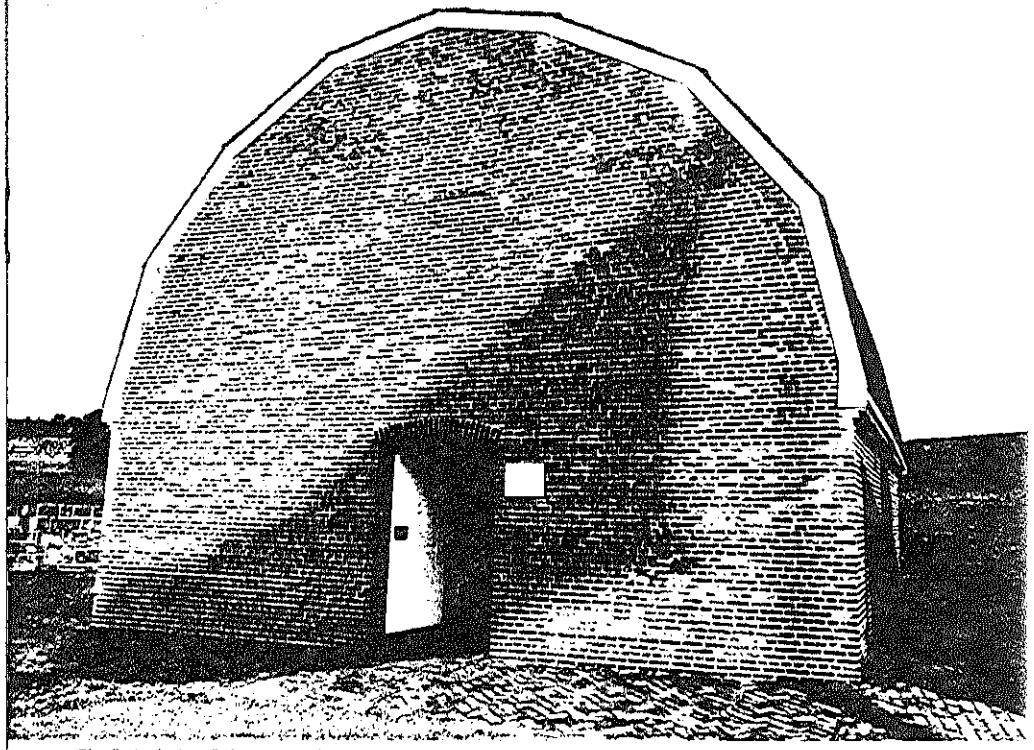
Parade: The historical level of the parade ground should be determined, and if the difference between the present level and the historical level is a foot or more, the original level should be restored, since it would significantly affect the visual relationship between the buildings and the ground. Trees should also be re-established here to complete the historic scene.

Quarters: The four buildings in which the fort garrison lived—the Commanding Officer's Quarters and Office, the Officers Quarters, and the two Barracks—will require drastic alterations to return them to their 1814 appearance. First and second story porches must be removed, the building height reduced to one and a half stories and gabled roofs and dormers added. The No. 1 Soldiers' Barracks must be shortened, and the Commanding Officer's Quarters divided into two buildings, separating the quarters buildings from the Guard House.

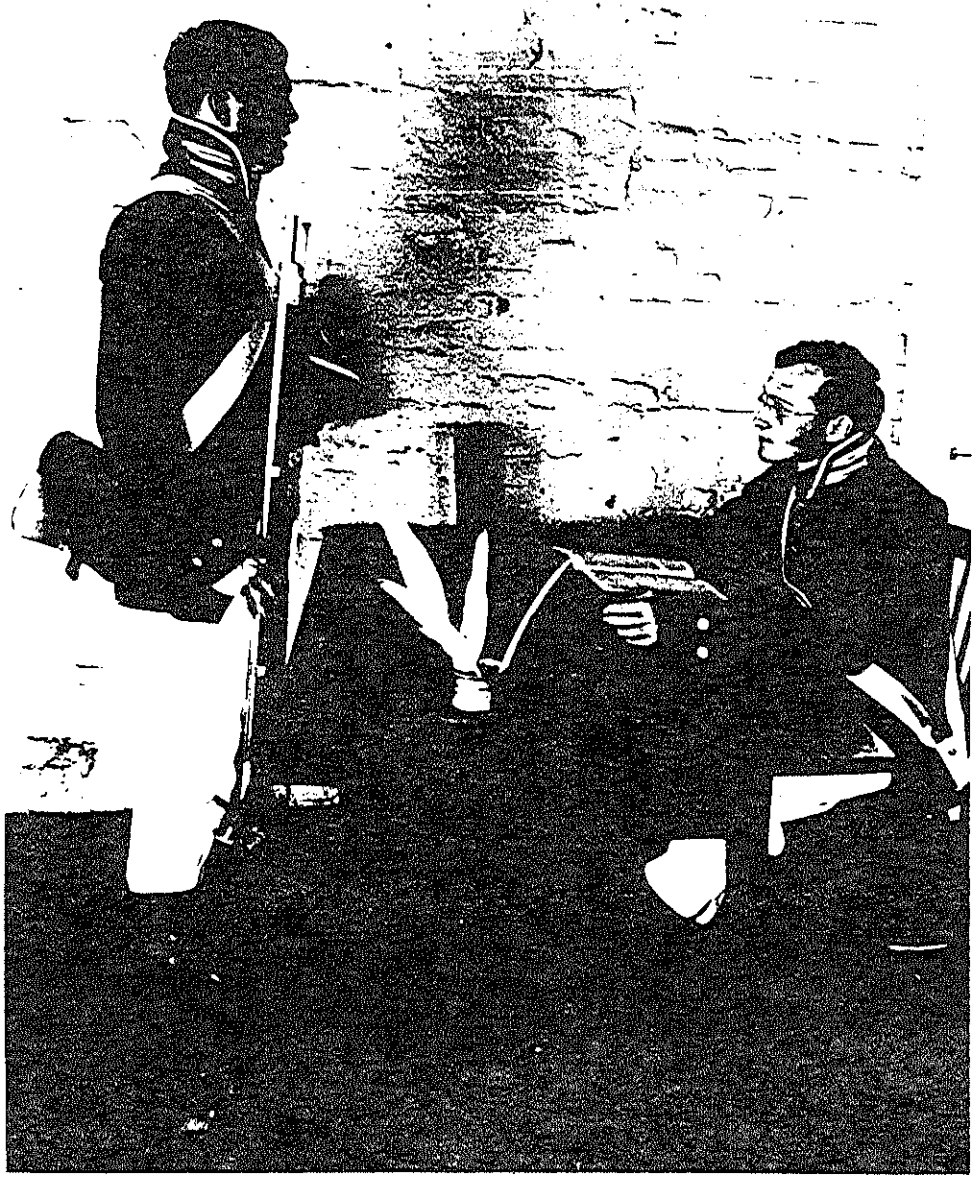
Most door and window openings will not require alterations, but some stairways and fireplaces will.

The cellar of the Commanding Officer's Quarters will be restored on the outside only. The interior will be used by the monument staff. One of the cellars in another building will be restored and exhibited.

Guard House: When separated from the Commanding Officer's Quarters and restored, this structure



The flag's shadow flickers across the powder magazine. Below is an interior view.



Costumed guides are a regular feature of the interpretive program at the fort.

will house the costumed guides.

Powder Magazine: In late September 1814, out of fear of a new British bombardment, this building was greatly altered. The walls were thickened and a heavy barrel vault turned across the top. Some time in 1815 a wooden superstructure and slate roof were added.

This building will be restored to its late September 1814 appearance. The wooden roof will be removed, the vault waterproofed, and the traverse, a brick protective wall in front of the entrance, reconstructed.

Sally Port: This structure and the casemates on each side were built during late 1814 to secure the fort entrance and protect the defenders during a bombardment. The Sally Port was roofed in 1829, the casemates altered and guard rooms added in 1835, and the prisons built in 1857.

The Sally Port and casemates will be restored to their condition in late 1814 and the other structures removed.

Flagpole and Flag: The flag which Key saw flying throughout the bombardment measured 42 by 30 feet. Since a flag this size figures so prominently in the story of the battle, the Park Service will make whatever technical arrangements are necessary to fly a large flag as often as possible.

Cistern: More information is needed on this structure before restoration can begin. If no structure stood above ground, the site at least will be marked.

Wood flooring: The present brick floors date from 1829-39 and should be replaced by the type of wooden flooring existing in September 1814.

Outworks

One outlying work, the ravelin, will be restored, and one, the Upper Battery and Magazine, will be reconstructed. The Upper Battery played a less important role in the fort's

defense than the Lower Battery, but the former's site is expected to yield more data for reconstruction than the latter's.

The following historic features will be identified:

- the Lower Battery and Magazine;
- the lower earthen parapets and epaulement;
- the gun platforms;
- the barracks;
- the hospital;
- the tavern;
- the gunshed;
- the stable.

More than flat outlines are needed. These features should be represented by three-dimensional structures (not complete restorations) to help visitors visualize the historical scene. The old road trace will also be more strongly defined and eventually extended, when the present entrance road can be relocated.

The Civil War powder magazine, though unrelated to the 1814 events, will be retained and rehabilitated as a secondary interpretive center, perhaps dealing with the post-1814 history of the fort. The Civil War earthworks along the southeastern face of the fort will, however, be demolished. But this should only be done after archeological investigation and as part of the restoration of the Star Fort.

Interpreting the Fort

The interpretive story at Fo McHenry will center on the su ful American defense of the fo which prevented the capture Baltimore and inspired Francis Key to write "The Star Spangle Banner." This episode was par larger military operation—the Mid-Atlantic Campaign—whic be dealt with if visitors are to u stand the context and overall sig cance of the Battle of Baltimor

The interpretive program wil touch on several lesser theme

pre-1814 military activity o Whetstone Point;

the Civil War and Fort McHe

the evolution of the Baltim harbor defenses, including For Armistead, Carroll, Smallwood, Howard.

To tell this story as effectively possible, the grounds of the ment will be divided into zone zone for modern development. an historical zone. The line be the two zones will be the 181 boundary, now marked by th irregular hedge row.

Development Zone: All mo facilities—the parking areas, te collection station, visitor center roads—will be kept outside the boundary. The present visitor should be expanded to meet needs of both visitors and staff. particular, the audiovisual facili already too small, must be enla Since the film program will con to be the principal interpretiv medium, only a small number exhibits will be needed.

Two kinds of interpretive lite about the fort will be available the visitor center. The free fol will serve as a guide to the hist zone. Sales literature and appro souvenirs will be sold by the concessioner.

All the activities in this build

should, by their content and general excellence, help prepare the visitor for his tour of the historical zone. The circulation flow should be directed by artful landscaping, and the view back to the development zone from the historic zone should be screened.

Historical Zone: The principal interpretive feature at the monument is the Star Fort. Though altered numerous times in the past, its basic structure has remained intact. When restored in the manner described in the foregoing section, it will serve as a vivid symbol of the 1814 events.

Visitors on their way to the fort will skirt the sites of the stable and gunshed. Both buildings, and the nearby barracks, hospital, and tavern were standing in 1814 and their sites will be interpreted.

Inside the fort, staff interpreters—dressed in uniforms of the period—will conduct tours, using the Guard House as their headquarters. Gun platforms in the bastions will be restored and a full gun complement will be placed in one battery. Trees will be replanted on the terreplein and parade, as they were in 1814. Some possible uses for the fort's buildings are:

Guard House:
Refurnish the interior and use as headquarters for costumed interpreters.

Commanding Officer's Quarters:
Refurnish the commander's quarters but leave the adjutant's office vacant for circulation.

Powder Magazine:
Refurnish the interior with powder barrels and projectiles.

Officers' Quarters:
Refurnish end rooms as a medical dispensary and officers' quarters. Middle room to be left vacant for circulation.

No. 1 Soldiers' Barracks:
Refurnish end rooms and basement kitchen as enlisted men's quarters. Center room to be left vacant for circulation.

No. 2 Soldiers' Barracks:
Convert into an open space for demonstrations and group programs.

Outside the fort, visitors can tour the water batteries (the upper battery will be reconstructed) before proceeding to the Civil War Magazine and exhibits about the post-1814 fort.

Of all the alterations proposed in this master plan, perhaps none hold more dramatic promise or pose greater technical difficulty than the proposal to fly a flag the same size as the one Key saw. The problem is that when the wind is up, its drag on such a large ensign can easily break the pole. It is hoped that private industry can help provide a solution. The flag is an essential part of the fort's historical atmosphere and should be flown as soon as practical.

Another important interpretive need is some sort of launch service from downtown across the harbor to the fort, as discussed earlier. This would offer visitors an impressive water approach to the fort and help cut down on auto traffic to the monument.

The various historical collections at the fort present certain difficulties. Those objects uncovered during archeological excavations will be preserved and in some instances exhibited. The Civil War ordnance, except for items specifically related to Fort McHenry, will be removed and distributed among appropriate Park Service historical parks. The E. Berkley Bowie gun collection has little relevance to the fort and will either be returned to the donors or distributed among appropriate historical areas. The flag collection will continue to be useful to help illustrate one of the monument's secondary themes.

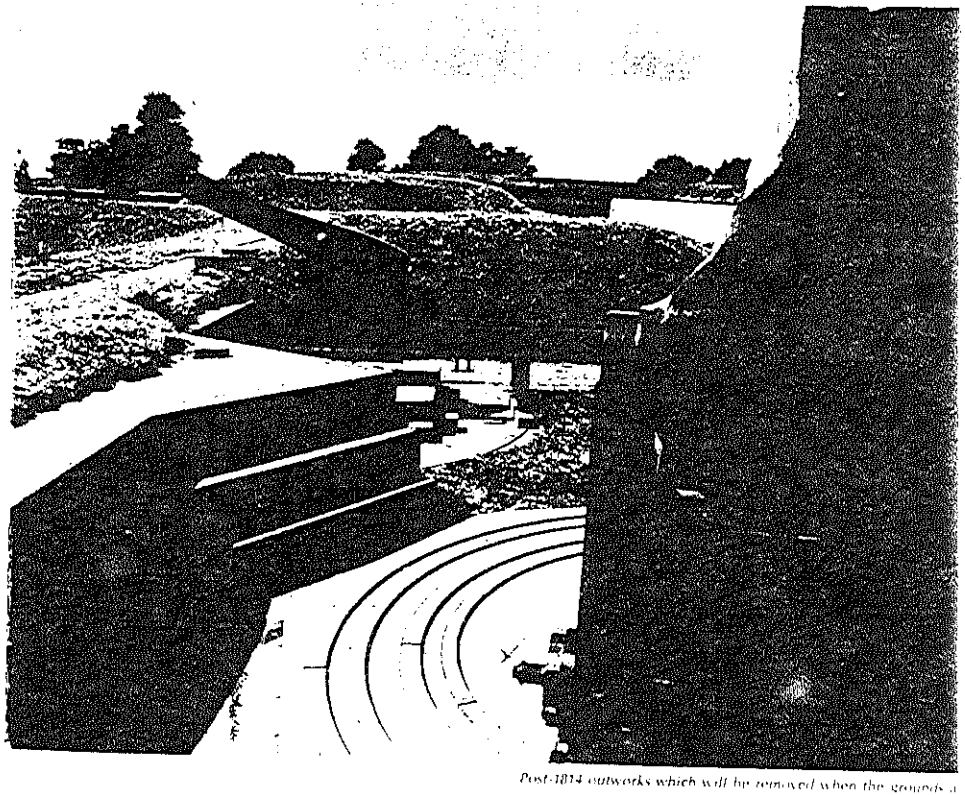
It hardly needs emphasizing that the monument will continue to extend the hand of cooperation to the academic community and other interested civic groups and government agencies. The monument staff will work with local historical groups in identifying important sites in Baltimore associated with the 1814 battle and "The Star Spangled Banner." When rehabilitated, the Civil War powder magazine will be made available to local museums, art groups, and historical organizations for exhibitions on the arts and crafts of the War of 1812 period.

New Facilities

Besides the new entrance way, there is a need for a larger parking area. The underutilized Corps of Engineers property should be acquired for this purpose. This will allow the restoration of present overflow parking area. Other major facilities needed are an expansion of the visitor center for interpretive activities and staff offices, quarters for two more employees for added protection during off-hours, and an addition to the maintenance building.

In general, future construction at the monument, including signs and markers, should be characterized by restraint and inconspicuousness. By keeping all elements low and subdued, the visitor's interest can be properly directed to those parts of the monument which related to history rather than current use.

The re-establishment of the historical ground cover will do much to create an appropriate setting. Unfortunately, this program will probably be modified by the generally poor soil conditions and the need for screen plantings.



Post-1814 outworks which will be removed when the grounds a