

# Fort Wadsworth

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Gateway National Recreation Area  
Staten Island Unit



## WALKING TOUR



Battery Weed, NPS Photo

### The History

Fort Wadsworth is one of the oldest military installations in the nation. The site occupies 226 acres on the northeastern shore of Staten Island, on the Narrows of New York Harbor. Rich in history and natural beauty, Fort Wadsworth affords you the opportunity to observe an important part of our nation's history, while offering magnificent views of New York Harbor.

### Logistics

**Access:** The route follows paved roads but watch for uneven surfaces. There is a steep hill down to Battery Weed and up to Mont Sec Avenue.

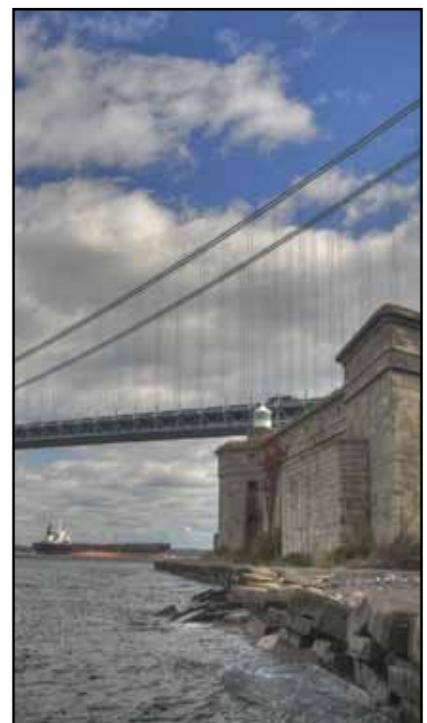
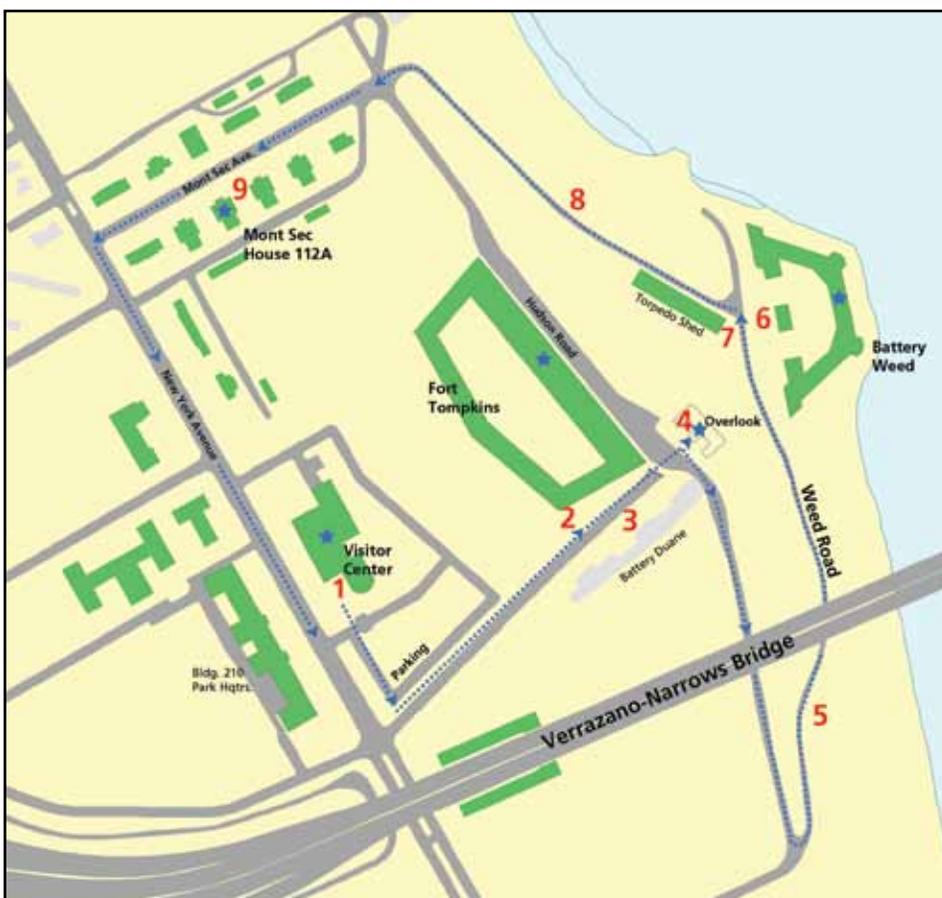
**Safety:** Please stay on the streets and walkways and off the wall at the Overlook so that you may have a safe and enjoyable tour.

**Route:** Follow the blue arrows and numeric points on the map located below, which correspond numerically with the points of interest on the reverse side of the brochure.

**Signage:** Wayside exhibits will help you find your way and provide additional information about the many points of interest on your tour.

**Length:** The tour covers ten stops along a 1.5 mile loop and takes approximately 45 minutes to complete.

### Map of Fort Wadsworth



Battery Weed, NPS Photo

Check out our seasonal program guide for special events, new programs and additional tours at <http://www.nps.gov/gate>

## Points of Interest



1



2



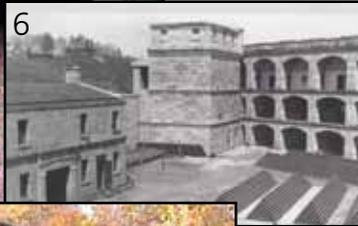
3



4



5



6



7



8



9



### National Park Service Gateway National Recreation Area

Staten Island Unit  
210 New York Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10305

Phone: 718-354-4530  
Website: [www.nps.gov/gate](http://www.nps.gov/gate)

**1. Training Mortar** - Manufactured in 1914, mortars were used to fire conical shaped shells at high trajectory or angle, enabling the shell to then fall straight down and pierce a ship's deck armor. While this gun was not used at Fort Wadsworth, a similar type of mortar saw service at Sandy Hook's Fort Hancock.

**2. Fort Tompkins** - Protecting Battery Weed and the Narrows from a land attack, Fort Tompkins was constructed between 1859 and 1876. The fort also served as a barracks. The site also was a redoubt built by Continental soldiers in 1776, and a War of 1812-era fort later visited by author Herman Melville and described in "Redburn: His First Voyage."

**3. Battery Duane** - One of twelve Endicott Era batteries located in Fort Wadsworth, Battery Duane, completed in 1896, was one of the first counter-weighted "disappearing" gun batteries in the United States. A disappearing gun lowers itself after firing in order to be less visible to the enemy.

**4. Six Pounder** - A ceremonial Naval trophy gun used to decorate the grounds of Fort Wadsworth during its days as an active Naval post. Other ceremonial guns can be seen around Governors Island and Fort Hamilton.

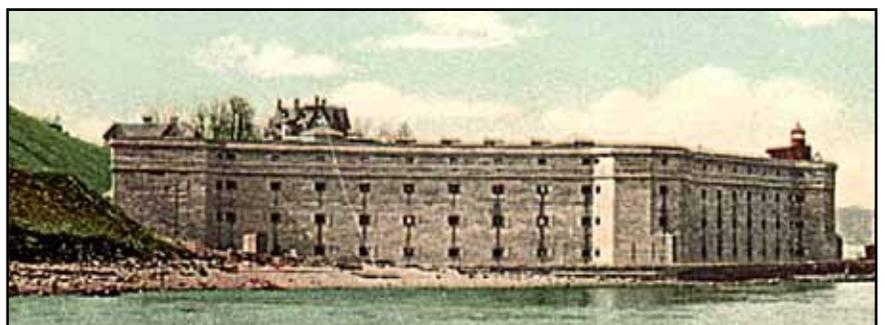
**5. South Cliff Battery: Battery Barbour, Battery Turnbull, Battery Bacon** - South Cliff Battery housed nine 15 inch Rodman guns that were mounted on iron barbette tier carriages. Work on South Cliff Battery was completed in 1866.

**6. Battery Weed** - The imposing granite structure was constructed between 1847 and 1862 and could have fired over 116 cannonballs into the Narrows at an approaching enemy warship. Formerly called "Fort Richmond," it was built on the site of an earlier fort built just before the War of 1812.

**7. Torpedo Shed/Wharf** - Destroyed by fire in the 1980s, the Torpedo Shed was originally used to store underwater mines deployed across the Narrows.

**8. North Cliff Battery: Battery Catlin** - In 1867, North Cliff Battery's defensive gun emplacements housed 23 15-inch Rodman guns. No foreign navy ever attempted to pass these imposing defenses.

**9. Mont Sec House (112 A)** - Built in 1889, the interior has been restored to how it would have appeared in the 1890s. Officers and their families often had long careers which took them to far-flung posts along the American frontier, and the quarters at Fort Wadsworth offered a comforting break from the sparse conditions of western living. Live-in servants from Ireland, China, and the Deep South, made Mont Sec Avenue a small but diverse neighborhood.



Battery Weed, 1903, NPS Photo