



Fort Mott was designed after the American Civil War as part of a three-fort coastal defense system for the Delaware River. The fortifications, consisting of five groupments or batteries of large and small caliber weapons and the support structures, were not built until the late 1890s. The fort was considered obsolete after World War I; its guns were never fired in battle.

Using this guide and the interpretive signage, wander through and explore the fortifications around this old army post. An easy trail from Fort Mott provides access to Finn's Point National Cemetery a half mile away. The park's museum houses exhibits on Fort Mott's place in history and the guns used in defending the river.

1 Battery Gregg

Battery Gregg, completed in December 1900, contained two 5-inch rapid fire guns on barbette pedestal mounts with shields. After the guns were removed in 1913, an observation station for Battery Harker's commander was installed in the gun emplacement on the right.

2 Battery Harker Service Area

Battery Harker had three 10-inch guns mounted on disappearing carriages. The lower level consists of separate gunpowder and shell rooms and a hoist to raise the projectiles and powder to the upper level.

3 Battery Harker Gun Platform

Battery Harker's 10-inch guns were mounted on disappearing carriages. The remains of the bolts to secure the carriage can be seen at the bottom of the gun pit around the counterweight well. From this level, the large guns were loaded and fired. An ammunition hoist raised projectiles and powder to the right of the guns.

4 The Parapet

This massive concrete wall, as much as 35 feet thick in places, was designed to conceal and protect the guns and ammunition storage magazines from the flat trajectory fire of enemy warships. This defensive wall was itself protected by an additional 60 feet of earth in front of the concrete.

5 Battery Arnold

Sharing the parapet with Battery Harker, the three 12-inch guns of Battery Arnold were the most powerful armament at Fort Mott. One of these could accurately fire a 1,000-pound projectile 8 miles down the river. The magazines located beneath the gun platform could hold over 200 rounds of ammunition.

6 1870s Gun Emplacements

As part of a post-Civil War defense project, the area where Fort Mott is currently located was to have a line of muzzle-loading guns and magazines built along the river to help protect against enemy vessels. These large smoothbore cannons were designed to be loaded with a projectile and propellant from the front or muzzle of the gun. Only a few emplacements and magazines were completed by the time the project was abandoned. The tops of two completed brick gun emplacements are still visible in the grass between Battery Arnold and Battery Krayenbuhl.

7 Cable Hut

This small subterranean structure consists of a single room where the telephone communication systems of Fort Mott, Fort Delaware and Fort DuPont connected to each other via a submarine cable.



Enlisted Barracks at Fort Mott, 1910.

8 1870s Magazines

These two mounds are part of the original fortifications designed in the 1870s but left incomplete when funding for the project was cut. Each mound served as gun powder storage. The one closest to Battery Krayenbuhl was later modified with a concrete structure on top as part of the fire control system for Battery Edwards' guns.

9 Western Fire Control Tower

Built in 1902, this tower was used by soldiers as a primary observation station to watch for and identify vessels travelling in the Delaware River. This tower was assigned to provide fire control data to the guns of Battery Arnold.

10 Peace Magazine

High levels of moisture due to poor ventilation in each of the gun emplacement gun powder magazines was a constant issue. This storage magazine was built in 1904 to eliminate the moisture problem. Windows at the top of the building and vents in the floor allowed maximum ventilation which helped to keep the gun powder as dry as possible.

11 Postern Tunnel and Battery Lane

This tunnel was built through the parados and allowed the extension of the narrow gauge railway behind the batteries to service the Peace Magazine. The road leading behind the main gun emplacements is known as Battery Lane.

Cover: (top to bottom)
 Battery Harker Emplacement 2, 1907.
 Fort Mott Baseball Team, 1912.
 Officer Housing on Cemetery Road, 1905.

FORT MOTT HISTORY TRAIL



NEXT!

"NEXT!" Always time for a shave, 1914.

12 Battery Edwards

Battery Edwards has casemates (enclosed gun emplacements) for rapid fire guns of 3-inch caliber that were constructed within two of the original 1870s powder magazines. Battery Edwards was designed to protect the fort from smaller, high-speed vessels or landing infantry units. Battery Edwards is unique to U.S. coastal fortifications as it is the only place 3-inch guns were casemated by building a protective structure to completely protect the gun from enemy fire.

13 Battery Krayenbuhl

Battery Krayenbuhl had two 5-inch rapid fire guns mounted on balanced-pillar carriages. Interior magazines were built below the gun platforms and electric hoists were used to deliver ammunition. The guns were designed to protect the channel above and below the fort and could fire to the rear of the fort. After the guns were removed in 1917, an observation station for Battery Arnold's commander was installed in the left emplacement.

14 Telephone Switchboard Room

During World War I, major improvements to the fire control system were made at Fort Mott. A switchboard room was built to centralize fire control communication between observers, soldiers in the plotting rooms determining the target's location and gun crews at the three forts. The interior room to the left was the battery room which supplied power to the telephone system.

15 Generator Room

From the time the fortification was built, electrical power was integral to the soldiers at the fort. Originally, power was generated from steam driven generators, it was later updated to the three gasoline driven generators still visible today. All the electrical power for the entire post and fortification was made at this location.

16 Latrine

Two latrines were built into the parados, one for each of the two major gun batteries. A separate room within the latrines was provided for officers. The latrines emptied into the moat located directly behind the parados.

17 Moat and Paradors

The moat, which was originally 15 feet deep, and the earthen mound called the paradors, are part of rear defenses of the main gun emplacements from attack from the rear and from vessels located up river and by an invading army approaching from the land.

18 Eastern Fire Control Tower

Built in 1903, this tower served as a primary observation station to identify vessels traveling in the Delaware River. This tower was assigned to the 10-inch guns of Battery Harker. The tower also originally had a plotting room on the first floor and was the post's meteorological station.

19 Guard House

Built in 1903, this structure was originally constructed to be the post's guard house for five guards and up to 12 prisoners. The jail cells were once located in the space where the restrooms are located today. In 1941, the jail cells were removed and the building was repurposed to be a mess hall and later quarters for an enlisted sergeant.

20 Ordnance Warehouse

The guns of Fort Mott required many spare parts and tools. The loading dock on this building helped expedite the ability to access the parts and get them in and out of the structure quickly when repairs were needed. Currently, this building serves as the park's museum and gift shop.

21 Post Headquarters

This two-story building once housed the post's administration offices. The post commander, post adjutant and battery clerks had offices on the first floor. The second floor had a room for court martials and a reading room.

Battery Harker's 10-inch Projectiles, 1917.



22 Parade Ground

This large field had many uses while Fort Mott was an active army post. Soldiers and officers would practice marching, stand in formation and play baseball and football in this field. Two large barracks, a hospital and officer's row once surrounded the parade ground. Today, only two non-commissioned officers duplexes are left standing.

23 Finns Point Trail

This half-mile walking path will take visitors to Finn's Point National Cemetery. The cemetery holds the remains of 2,436 Confederate prisoners of war and 138 Union soldiers who died while on Pea Patch Island. The cemetery continues to be an active cemetery for veterans and their families.

24 Post Rifle Range

While stationed at Fort Mott, soldiers would be required to practice and qualify with their rifles. This is the location where the soldiers would have fired at the targets hundreds of feet away. Some of the firing positions are still visible.

25 Wharf

The Delaware River was the main lifeline of Fort Mott. When constructed, most of the building materials, guns, and ammunition were delivered from the river. The wharf also provided access to travel between Fort DuPont and Fort Delaware. Today, the wharf continues to provide access to Fort Delaware and Delaware City with seasonal (May-September) ferry service.



Officers Row, Fort Mott, N. J.



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www.njparksandforests.org/parks/fortmott.html



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