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THE FORT McHENRY TATTOO CEREMONY

Presented by the United States Marine Corps



A Military Pageant
performed at
Baltimore's Fort McHenry National Monument

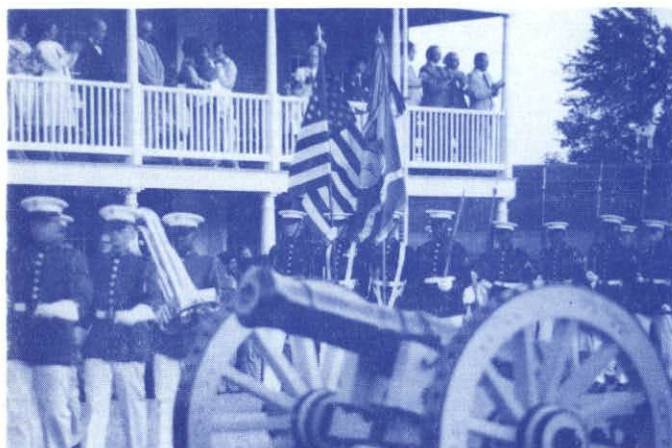
Birthplace of The Star-Spangled Banner

AUTHENTIC! PATRIOTIC! COLORFUL!

Unique Drill Movements ☆☆☆☆ Stirring Field Music

ADMISSION and PARKING FREE

*For further information, contact
Fort McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine
Baltimore, Maryland 21230
Telephone (301) 962-4290*



THE FORT McHENRY GUARD

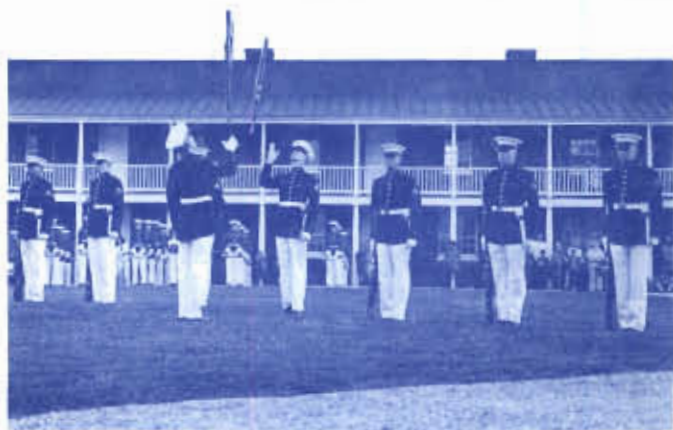
The Marines you are about to see and hear, are from an organization older than Fort McHenry itself . . . the United States Marine Corps, from which today's Fort McHenry Guard is proudly detailed.

The Marine Corps was established on November 10th, 1775, and of the four regular military forces that fought at Fort McHenry in 1814, only the Corps remains virtually unchanged.

Those other fine old organizations: the gray and green clad riflemen of the U. S. Light Infantry; the white belted and blue coated musketeers of the U. S. Infantry of the Line; and the cannoneer "Red Legs" of the Regiment of Artillerists and Engineers were long ago renamed, reorganized, or disbanded. But the Marine Corps remains the same as it was in 1814, with the same mission, bearing the same name.

The uniform worn by the contemporary Marines of the Fort McHenry Guard is actually a modern version of the uniform worn by Marines during Fort McHenry's finest hour. It is still a blue coat, now with a modern cut, but traditionally trimmed with the proud scarlet of cannoneers—earned by almost two centuries of serving shipboard guns. The belts are still white, indicative of their long and hard service as infantry, both light and of the line. In fact, the uniform is a living symbol of Marine service in that engagement. In that battle, full advantage was taken of all their military abilities. They were assigned individually as gunners, riflemen, and musketeers in the defense of Baltimore.

The Fort McHenry Guard is composed of the Color Guard, Silent Drill Team, and the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, "The Commandant's Own," from historic Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C.



Precision drill and exciting musical arrangements are combined in this 40-minute presentation by the Marines of Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C.

Featured in this unique display of military pageantry are the Marine Corps Color Guard, the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, and the Marine Corps Silent Drill Team.

The ceremony opens with a march on by the three units and a fifteen minute drill and concert by the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, "The Commandant's Own." This concert-in-motion will include both martial and popular music oriented to the entire family.

The Marine Corps Silent Drill Team will then take the spotlight with a ten minute drill routine during which no verbal commands will be given. The drill climaxes with single and double rifle inspections with the 10-pound M-1 rifles traditionally carried by this unique unit. In the Nation's Capital, members of the Silent Drill Team represent the Marine Corps in joint Armed Forces "full honors" ceremonies for visiting dignitaries of State, often appearing at the White House in this capacity.

Once the Silent Drill Team completes its presentation, the Color Guard of the Marine Corps marches on the field bearing the National Color and the Marine Corps Battle Color. The Battle Color streamers represent those honors bestowed upon Marine units as well as all wars and campaigns in which the Marine Corps has participated. Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C., by virtue of it's position as the "Oldest Post of the Corps," (established in 1801) retains custody of the official Battle Color.

The ceremony is completed with a traditional pass in review by the formation and the playing of the Marines Hymn.



THE MUSIC

The music played by the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps is as unique as the organization itself. This musical unit today serves as an example of excellence for many similar organizations throughout the nation, and being the Corps' senior field music unit, has come to be known as "The Commandant's Own."

Nationally famous for its intricate marching and outstanding musical capabilities, the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps was formed in 1934 to augment the United States Marine Band (also stationed at Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C.) and to perform independently at parades and other ceremonies.

The present unit is comprised of 55 Marines recruited from civilian drum and bugle corps as well as other Field Music units in the Marine Corps. The bugle instrumentation includes soprano, mellophone, bass baritone and the contra bass. The percussion section includes snare drum, triple tenor tympani, bass drum, cymbals and marching xylophone and orchestra bells, all of which provide a rousing military cadence or percussion solos.

The term "field music" applies to the music as well as to the Marines who play it. Field Music was actually a means of signaling, not just in garrison, but on the field of battle as well.

The Marine Drum and Bugle Corps also displays equal proficiency and versatility as a marching unit performing intricate military movements to stirring march, patriotic or popular music.

Always in great demand, the Marine Drum and Bugle Corps has performed at a variety of civil affairs, historical celebrations, sports events, reunions, and other local, national and international events and ceremonies. Members rehearse and drill extensively to maintain the precision and musical excellence which has won them wide acclaim and the title, "The Commandant's Own."

THE TATTOO CEREMONY

In the American armed forces of today, Tattoo is a bugle call. It occurs at exactly fifteen minutes prior to lights out in barracks and on ships of war. It is the longest and liveliest call of the day — it is a tradition.

In the early 18th Century when military signals were the prime concern of buglers and drummers — — Tattoo was not just a tradition, it was a very practical signal. It began as "Tap Toe", "Tap" meaning the ale taps of the taverns, and "Toe" meaning to shut or close. Eventually the term Tap Toe was slurred in soldier slang to Tattoo. At a designated time the field musics would march around to the local taverns, playing to signal the approach of Tattoo. When the field musics completed their rounds, they would return to the fort where the sergeant major would command them to sound Tattoo. On that signal, the sergeant in charge would march the troops back to the garrison.



Unlike standard parades, the formation itself followed no definite set of rules. Instead, each regiment developed its own ceremony. The Tattoo was a good gauge of a unit's personality. For some units the Tattoo was a simple muster, for others, an almost theatrical performance, even featuring fireworks. The Tattoo was developed to fit its surroundings, but the basic elements remained the same — — the muster; the publication of orders and instructions; an exercise of certain drills to prove the troops fit for their duties; a salute to the colonel, if that gentleman happened to look in on the formation, and finally a march in review.

The Fort McHenry Tattoo contains all of these elements. In addition, a special tribute is paid to the Star-Spangled Banner that flies over the Fort. And, each Tattoo honors a distinguished person, bestowing upon that honored guest the title of "Honorary Colonel of the Fort McHenry Guard".

FORT McHENRY NATIONAL MONUMENT AND HISTORIC SHRINE



Fort McHenry is famous because it was the birthplace of "The Star-Spangled Banner" during the War of 1812.

The star-shaped fort's strategic location on Whetstone Point, now known as Locust Point, on the Patapsco River tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, protected Baltimore from naval attack. Planning to capture the city, a British fleet of 16 warships on September 13, 1814 commenced an unrelenting 25-hour bombardment of Fort McHenry. A small but courageous garrison withstood the siege. Convinced the fort could not be taken, the enemy withdrew its forces and Baltimore was saved.

"By the dawn's early light," Francis Scott Key, a Maryland lawyer who had gone to the fleet to seek release of a friend, saw at the conclusion of the battle that "our flag was still there." Swelled with pride, he penned those stirring lines which later became our national anthem.

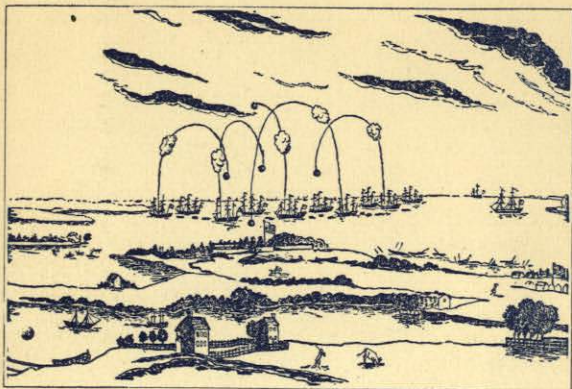
Today, historical documents and military memorabilia are displayed in the preserved fort buildings. Fort McHenry is administered by the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior.



Sponsored by
The National Park Service



READING LIST



The Bombardment of Fort McHenry

*For The Understanding
Of The Story Of*

FORT McHENRY

*And The Defense Of Baltimore
1814 - 1928*



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READING LIST on FORT McHENRY

AND THE DEFENSE OF THE CITY IN
SEPTEMBER 1814

The ruthless enemy and his sudden descent upon our shores; the little band of rallying patriots; the violent attack upon the island fortress, and its victorious repulse; - all this reads like some great saga of old, and its glorious spirit is made our priceless heritage by the noble memory of Francis Scott Key. The people of Baltimore who possess this national shrine should know its history well. Following are the best known books and articles on the subject.

ARMSTRONG, JOHN

Notices of the War of 1812. 2 vols. 1840.

In volume two is an account of the predatory warfare of the British on the shores and inlets of the Chesapeake, culminating in the bombardment of Fort McHenry, the Battle of North Point, and the defeat of the enemy.

BRACKENRIDGE, HENRY M.

History of the late war between the United States and Great Britain. 1839.

Gives a full account of the Battle of North Point, with the exact position of the American troops, and describes in detail the attack on Fort McHenry with the officers in command under Major Armistead.

CULLUM, GEORGE W.

Campaigns of the War of 1812-15, against Great Britain. 1879.

A vivid account of the bombardment of Fort McHenry, showing the intrepid spirit of the defenders under Armistead and their eagerness to return the fire of the British when they ventured within range. A stirring account reflecting in few words the spirit of the times, and the courage of our untrained troops against the British regulars.

HALL, CLAYTON C., ed.

Baltimore; its history and its people. 3 vols. 1912.

In volume one is a detailed and interesting account of the Battle of North Point and the bombardment of Fort McHenry, with the story of the national anthem, by R. M. Bibbins.

HAMMOND, JOHN MARTIN

Quaint and historic forts of North America. 1915.

Contains a good description of Fort McHenry with notes on its construction. An account of the bombardment from the modern viewpoint, emphasizing especially the great importance in the history of the country of the defense of Fort McHenry and of the engagement at North Point. Excellent illustrations.

HEADLEY, JOEL T.

The second war with England. 2 vols. 1853.

Paints a word-picture of the bombardment of Fort McHenry, the red glare of the rockets, the guns heavy detonations, and the terror of the city's inhabitants. Also gives a striking account of Key's experience in the enemy's lines and of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner.

HICKMAN, NATHANIEL, ed.

The citizen soldiers at North Point and Fort McHenry, September 12 and 13, 1814. n. d.

A small volume containing the muster roll of troops engaged in the defense of Baltimore, with copies of letters and orders issued at that time. In the quaint language of the period, "Never was the mortification of an invader more complete than that of our enemy. . . he went away in the worst possible humor." The attack on Fort McHenry is called "terribly grand and magnificent." Full of picturesque expressions and local touches.

JOHNSON, ROSSITER

A history of the War of 1812-15 between the United States and Great Britain. c.1882.

Contains brief account of the defense of Baltimore at North Point and Fort McHenry, with the story of the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner.

LOSSING, BENSON J.

Pictorial field-book of the War of 1812. 1869.

Includes the bombardment of Fort McHenry, the manning of the works and the spirit of the defenders. Detailed plan of Baltimore's defenses and the story of the Star-Spangled Banner. Illustrated.

MARINE, WILLIAM M.

The British invasion of Maryland 1812-15. 1913.

One of the best detailed descriptions of the Battle of North Point and the bombardment of Fort McHenry. A full account of Key's experience in visiting the fleet, of his emotions, the circumstances of his composing the national anthem, its printing and reception in Baltimore. Gives a roster of Maryland troops in the War of 1812. Edited by Louis H. Dielman.

NATIONAL STAR-SPANGLED BANNER CENTENNIAL COMMISSION.

National Star-Spangled Banner centennial, Baltimore, Maryland, September 6 to 13, 1914. c.1914.

A small volume containing the story of the national anthem, Fort McHenry and North Point, with a sketch of Francis Scott Key, and brief biographies of the prominent defenders of Baltimore. Many clear illustrations.

PASSANO, L. MAGRUDER

History of Maryland. c.1904.

Contains a good concise account of the defense of Baltimore at North Point and Fort McHenry, with the story of the national anthem. Has a number of interesting illustrations.

SCHARF, JOHN THOMAS

History of Baltimore city and county. 1881.

Gives a full and interesting story of the defense of Baltimore in 1814 at North Point and Fort McHenry, with contemporary accounts of the engagements and bombardment of the fort, reflecting the stirring spirit of the time. This is one of the most detailed and comprehensive accounts available.

SCHARF, JOHN THOMAS

Chronicles of Baltimore. 1874.

Contains a valuable contemporary narrative of the Battle of North Point and of the bombardment of Fort McHenry, extracted from "Niles' Register."

THOMSON, JOHN LEWIS

Historical sketches of the late war between the United States and Great Britain. 1818.

Valuable as one of the few contemporary accounts of the campaign in the Chesapeake. Gives a detailed description of the Battle of North Point, with the location and engagements of the various divisions. Also gives a good account of the bombardment of Fort McHenry with the distribution of the forces in the different parts of the fort.

The attack on the city was called by the British, "a demonstration upon Baltimore."

BIOGRAPHIES

BOYLE, EMERALDA

Biographical sketches of distinguished Marylanders.
1877.

Has a good biography of Francis Scott Key with history of the national anthem.

ESSARY, JESSE FREDERICK

Maryland in national politics. c.1915.

Sketch of Major General Samuel Smith, commanding the forces at North Point.

PAULLIN, CHARLES OSCAR

Commodore John Rodgers, captain, commodore, and senior officer of the American navy, 1773-1838. 1910.

Full biography showing important part taken by Rodgers as commander of the seamen and marines defending Baltimore in 1814. Gives a good account of the defenses of the city, both at North Point, Fort McHenry, and the smaller forts.

SMITH, FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

Francis Scott Key, author of the Star-Spangled Banner; what else he was and who. c.1911.

A good concise biography, with portrait and other illustrations. Gives an excellent account of the writing of the national anthem.

PAMPHLETS

ABOUT THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER: its birthplace and its centennial, Baltimore, Maryland, September 6 to 13, 1914.

An attractive pamphlet with an interesting story of the national anthem, Fort McHenry and North Point. Has good illustrations of Francis Scott Key, the original Star-Spangled Banner, and the Fort.

FORT McHENRY: Birthplace of the Star-Spangled Banner. A catechism of the national anthem. Leaflet published by the Baltimore Association of Commerce.

A series of interesting questions and answers covering the history of the Fort, the life of Key, and the story of the national anthem.

SMITH, F. S. KEY

A sketch of Francis Scott Key, with a glimpse of his ancestors. Reprinted from the records of the Columbia Historical Society, Washington, D. C. 1909.

Includes a genealogy of the Key family and a sketch of Key, the lawyer. Has also a well-written story of the Star-Spangled Banner.

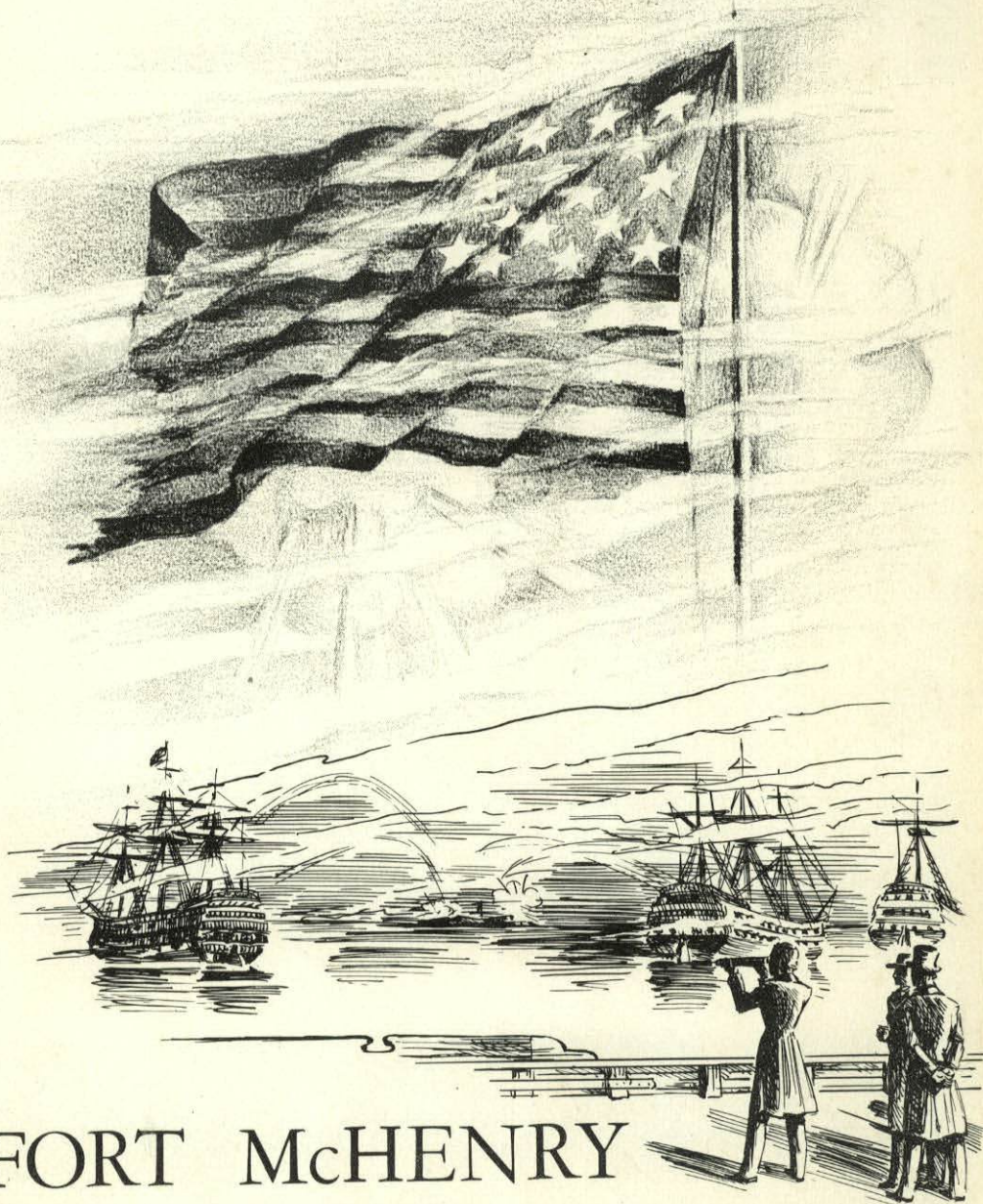
CLIPPINGS

The library also has in its vertical files many interesting clippings, often attractively illustrated, dealing with the episode of Fort McHenry, the writing of the national anthem and other matters relating to the history of that time.

Borrow this material from the
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Baltimore, Maryland

The illustration is redrawn by Nora Russell from an old print

"O'er the land of the free"

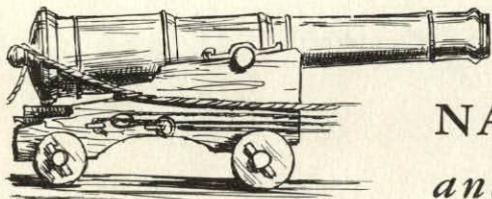


FORT McHENRY

NATIONAL MONUMENT *and* HISTORIC SHRINE

The Birthplace of "The Star-Spangled Banner"

MARYLAND



Fort McHenry

NATIONAL MONUMENT *and* HISTORIC SHRINE

The successful defense of this fort against a British naval attack in 1814 assisted in the defense of Baltimore and inspired the writing of our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner."

IT HAS BEEN SAID that the shrines of American patriotism not only reflect the quality of the Nation's gratitude but are ever refreshing and inspiring. These words are especially applicable to Fort McHenry, for here, amid the "bomb bursting in air," and highlighted by the "rocket's red glare," was composed the great paean of American patriotism. Here, where the Stars and Stripes fly over the historic ramparts day and night, a grateful citizenry can sense the surge of patriotism which inspired Francis Scott Key.

EARLY HISTORY

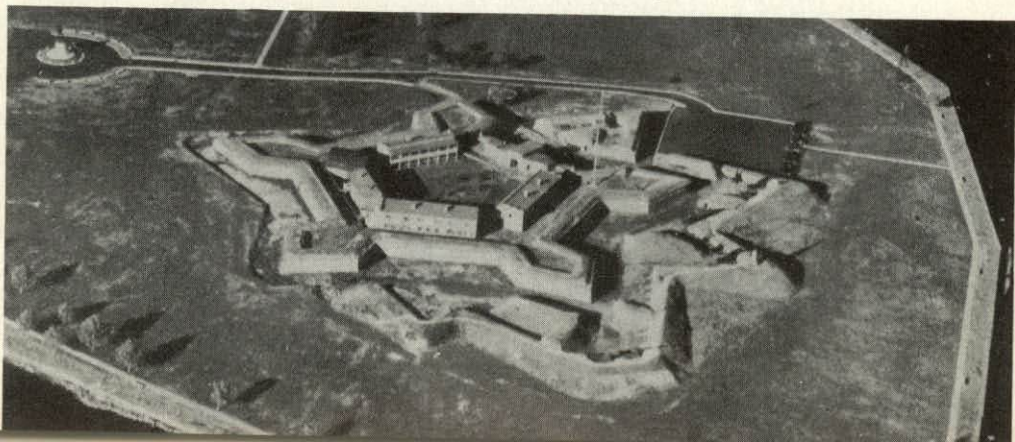
The strategic position of the peninsula, on the tip of which is located Fort McHenry, was recognized as early as the Revolutionary War. In 1776, an 18-gun fort was constructed there for the protection of Baltimore's Harbor. Fort Whetstone, as it was called, never came under enemy fire.

In the 1790's, when it appeared likely that the young nation might become involved in a war with either England or France, it was decided that Baltimore was sufficiently important to merit a permanent harbor defense. Funds were contributed by both the Federal Government and the citizens of Baltimore. Maj. J. J. Ulrich Rivardi designed the fort and supervised its construction on a site in the rear of old Fort Whetstone. It was named Fort McHenry in honor of James McHenry, of Maryland, secretary to George Washington during the Revolution and Secretary of War from 1796 to 1800. The period of construction was from 1794 to 1805.

THE BALTIMORE CAMPAIGN

The inadequacy of American military preparations became evident in 1813, when overwhelming English naval superiority practically converted Chesapeake Bay into a British lake. In 1814, the fleet was joined by a large contingent of troops,

Aerial view of Fort McHenry.





Old Barracks building, now used as museum.

including many of "Wellington's Invincibles," victorious veterans of the Napoleonic Wars. Brushing aside American resistance at Bladensburg, the British captured Washington. Baltimore, larger and more important commercially, was selected as the next objective. The phenomenal success of the Baltimore privateers—small, lightly armed vessels which eluded the enemy blockade to raid British commerce—had infuriated the Royal Navy.

The British plan envisaged a joint land and naval attack on the city. On September 12, a force of about 5,000 disembarked at North Point and moved rapidly toward Baltimore despite the death of their commander, Maj. Gen. Robert Ross. On the North Point Road, they encountered the Americans under Gen. John Stricker. After a brief, but furious, battle, the Americans retired to previously prepared positions in order to avoid encirclement by the British. On the following morning, the British moved to within 2 miles of the city, and there, deterred by the strong defenses, awaited the arrival of the fleet before attempting to storm the city.

At dawn, on September 13, 16 enemy warships dropped anchor beyond the range of Fort McHenry's guns and for 25 hours subjected the fort to a barrage of 1,500 to 1,800 bombs, rockets, and shells. Maj. George Armistead and his garrison of 1,000 men could do little but hope for the enemy to move within range. The critical

hour came shortly after midnight on the 14th, when 1,200 British sailors penetrated the Ferry Branch in an effort to land in the rear of the fort. They were detected, however, and driven off. Admiral Alexander Cochrane notified the Army that he could not enter the North West Branch without suffering excessive losses, and, deprived of naval support, Col. Arthur Brooke, who had succeeded General Ross, did not attempt to storm the city, but led his troops back to their transports. Thus, by frustrating the British plan, the fort contributed materially to the successful defense of Baltimore.

The casualty list at the fort was small—4 men killed, 24 injured. Two of the buildings were damaged.

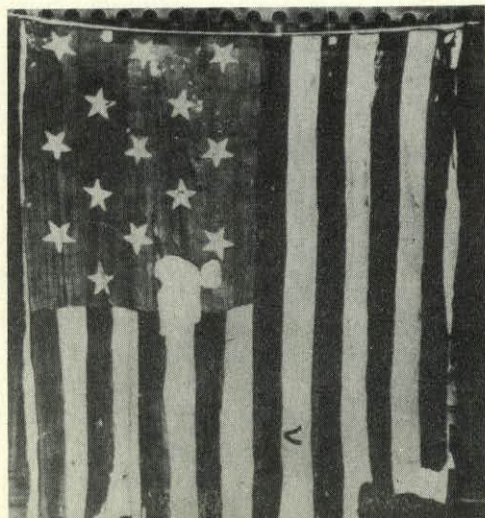
"THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"

The Star-Spangled Banner is actually an account of the emotions experienced by Francis Scott Key as he witnessed the attack on Fort McHenry. With John Skinner, Federal agent for the exchange of prisoners, he had sailed from Baltimore on a small vessel, and in the bay they met the British fleet. Key's mission, for which he had volunteered, was to secure the liberation of Dr. William Beanes, whom the British had seized. The Americans persuaded the British to release the doctor, but Admiral Cochrane informed them that for reasons of security they would be detained until Baltimore was occupied. Conse-

quently, during the attack, the Americans were placed on their own vessel at the rear of the British fleet, but in a position where they could witness the progress of the assault.

Key remained on deck during the entire 25-hour attack. In the daytime, he was assured by the sight of the flag waving defiantly over the ramparts. At night, he could no longer see the flag, but as long as the British continued to fire he knew that the fort resisted. Shortly after midnight the firing ceased, leaving Key puzzled and alarmed. He was unaware that the bombardment was halted to enable the landing force to approach the fort. For Key it was a period of suspense and anxiety. Finally, at dawn, he again saw the flag. The inspired moment had arrived. On the back of a letter he began his immortal lines. When Admiral Cochrane abandoned the attack, he permitted the Americans to return to Baltimore. As he came up the river, Key completed a rough draft of his poem. At the inn that evening he made certain revisions, and on the following day the revised copy was printed in handbill form.

This flag, known as "The Star-Spangled Banner," was flown over Fort McHenry during the bombardment in September 1814. In this flag were 15 stars and 15 stripes. It is now in the United States National Museum in Washington, D. C. (Courtesy, U. S. National Museum.)



Soon the poem was sung to the music of a popular English song, "To Anacreon in Heaven." With the passage of time the song increased in popularity, and in 1931 President Hoover signed a bill making The Star-Spangled Banner our official national anthem.

FORT McHENRY AFTER 1814

Although the strategic importance of Fort McHenry decreased after 1814, it continued to play a part in each of the Nation's emergencies. During the Mexican War, the Maryland Volunteer Artillery was mobilized at Fort McHenry. The fort served as a prisoner-of-war camp in the Civil War. Many prominent residents of Baltimore suspected of being Southern sympathizers were detained there. The officers of Fort McHenry inducted the Maryland National Guard into service at the beginning of the Spanish-American War.

During the First World War, United States Army General Hospital No. 2 occupied the area and at the close of the war it was converted into a convalescent hospital. Restoration of the fort to its original appearance was begun by the Army in 1925. In 1933, Fort McHenry came under the administration of the National Park Service. During the Second World War,

Portrait of Francis Scott Key by Charles Willson Peale. (Courtesy, Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.)





'Tis The Star-Spangled Banner, original painting by George Gray, now in museum at Fort McHenry.

the Navy and the Coast Guard utilized part of the area for training purposes.

THE MONUMENT

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine includes the 5-pointed brick fort and a surrounding area of 47 acres. First established in 1925 as a national park, an act of Congress in 1939 redesignated the area as a national monument and historic shrine. The British units which participated in the Baltimore campaign also were engaged in the Battle of New Orleans, commemorated by Chalmette National Historical Park at New Orleans, La.

HOW TO REACH THE FORT

Fort McHenry is situated in Baltimore, about 3 miles from the center of the city, and is readily accessible, East Fort Avenue leading to it.

SERVICE TO THE PUBLIC

The area is open to the public every day except Christmas and New Year's. The museum hours are from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. EST. The buildings within the old "Star Fort," formerly barracks for enlisted men and officers, now serve as museums. They contain relics and exhibits pertaining to the War of 1812 and

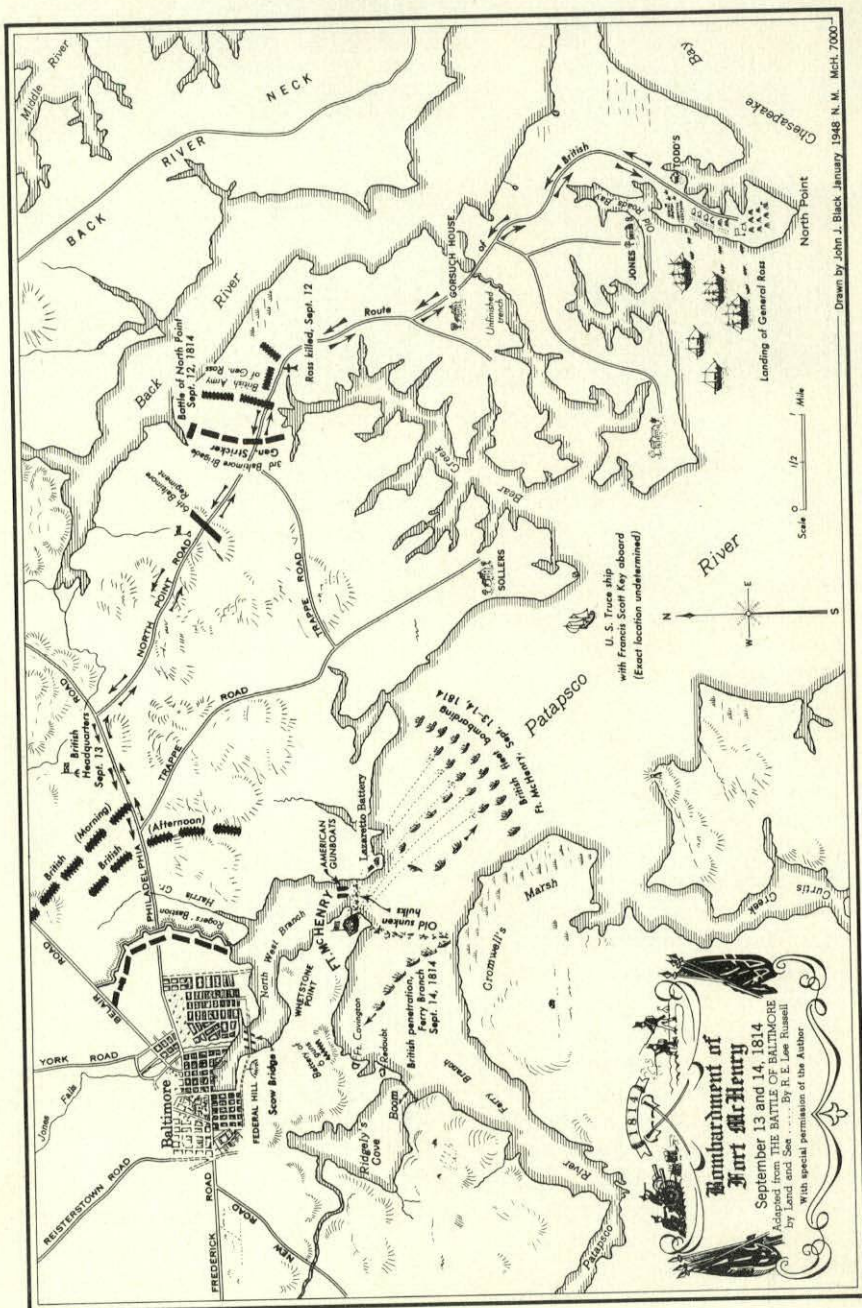
the story of The Star-Spangled Banner. Some of the distinctive exhibits are the E. Berkley Bowie Collection of Firearms; the painting 'Tis The Star-Spangled Banner, presented by the citizens of Baltimore; and The Star-Spangled Banner Room, which houses a collection of original flags.

There is a small admission charge, which is waived for children and educational groups. Organizations or groups are given special service if arrangements are made in advance with the superintendent.

In addition to this free folder, a 38-page historical handbook on Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine may be purchased at the area or from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 20 cents a copy.

ADMINISTRATION

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine is part of the National Park System owned by the people of the United States and administered for them by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. Communications should be addressed to the Superintendent, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Baltimore 30, Md.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 Oscar L. Chapman, *Secretary*
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • Conrad L. Wirth, *Director*
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Bombardment of Fort M'Henry
 September 13 and 14, 1814
 As seen from the BATTLE OF BALTIMORE
 by Land and Sea . . . By R. E. Low Russell
 With special permission of the Author



For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office
 Washington 25, D. C. - Price \$3.75 per 100 copies



FORT MCHENRY

NATIONAL MONUMENT AND HISTORIC SHRINE

Maryland

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THE COVER

This composite photograph shows the flag of 1814, which differed in several respects from the flag of today. In 1775 the Continental Congress adopted the stripes as part of the design of the flag, and in 1777 added 13 stars. In 1794, with the admission of two new States—Vermont and Kentucky—into the Union, two additional stars and two additional stripes were added.

The flag flying over Fort McHenry on September 14, 1814, when Key wrote the words to The Star Spangled Banner, had 15 stripes and 15 stars.

It was only in 1818 that Congress passed an Act providing that the flag should be composed of 13 stripes, representing the original 13 States, and that new stars should be added on the July 4 following the admission of additional States.



1940

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

HAROLD L. ICKES, *Secretary*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE · NEWTON B. DRURY, *Director*

FORT McHENRY

NATIONAL MONUMENT AND HISTORIC SHRINE

FORT McHENRY National Monument and Historic Shrine, 47 acres in area, is located about 3 miles from the center of the city of Baltimore and is within its corporate limits. The central feature of the area is the Star Fort, or Fort McHenry proper, with its five bastions forming a five-pointed star. Within the fort are museum exhibits pertaining to its history, events of the War of 1812, and The Star Spangled Banner. Also on exhibit are pieces from the Bowie collection of weapons, showing the development of firearms from the seventeenth century to the World War of 1914-18.

The composition of The Star Spangled Banner and the successful defense of Fort McHenry against the British bombardment of September 13-14, 1814, which inspired Francis Scott Key to write the poem, are the historic events commemorated by this shrine, events which take high place in American tradition.

By Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1925, Fort McHenry was set aside as a "national park and perpetual national memorial shrine as the birthplace of the immortal Star Spangled Banner," to be administered under the custody of the Secretary of War. This Act provided for the restoration of Fort McHenry as nearly as practicable to its appearance during the War of 1812. The restoration was undertaken by the War Department; many new buildings and structures erected during the World War were removed, and others were altered to conform approximately to

their appearance in 1814. Fort McHenry was under the administration of the War Department until 1933 when, with many other historic sites in Federal ownership, it was transferred by Presidential proclamation to the Department of the Interior for administration by the National Park Service.

By Act of Congress, approved August 11, 1939, the designation of the Fort McHenry area was changed to "Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine."

WHETSTONE POINT AND FORT McHENRY,
1775-1814

FORT McHENRY is on the tip of a peninsula formed by the Northwest and Ferry branches of the Patapsco River, which constitutes Baltimore's harbors. Whetstone Point, the first name known to have been given to the site, was early recognized for its military importance. From the first years of the American Revolution, the point, commanding the two narrow channels (500 and 1,500 yards wide) through which it was necessary for ships to pass to reach Baltimore, was looked upon as a natural position for defense. Early in the Revolutionary War, the provincial convention of Maryland ordered the construction of fortifications, and they were begun in 1775. The following year,

The Armistead statue looks out over Baltimore Harbor from Fort McHenry.





Two visitors about to go through the sally port, the only entrance to the Star Fort, Fort McHenry. The cannon at left is of the type used in the War of 1812

when British vessels threatened the city, a small 18-gun fort was constructed there by the little town for the protection of its 5,000 inhabitants. Fort Whetstone, as it was named, was never called into action.

Baltimore grew rapidly to be a city of importance during the early years of the Republic. In 1794 it was listed among 17 other ports for harbor fortifications to be constructed by the Federal Government, already preparing to defend its long coast line. In that year the initial appropriation was made for the erection of a fort. Meanwhile, the citizens of Baltimore, at their own expense, began the erection of a new star fort of masonry in the rear of old Fort Whetstone and about 400 or 500 feet back from the water's edge, on ground which belonged to private citizens and to the State of Maryland. The design of the fort was drawn and its construction supervised by Maj. J. J. Ulrich Rivardi, a French army officer.

By authority of an Act of Congress of March 20, 1794, the Legislature of Maryland having given its consent, the incompleated fort passed under the control of the Federal Government. The works were completed in 1805, but the Government continued to make various improvements at Fort McHenry up to and through the War of 1812. The formal cession of the fort and adjacent land to the United States by the Maryland Legislature did not take place, however, until 1816.

Before 1800 the fort had already been named McHenry, in honor of James McHenry, of Maryland, a native of County Antrim in Northern Ireland.

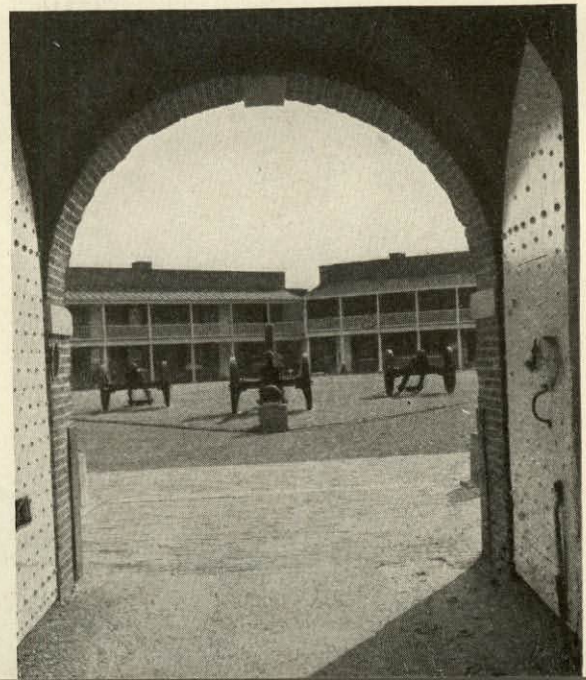
He was born about 1753, and as a youth emigrated to America, where he studied medicine under Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia. An ardent patriot, he enlisted in the American forces in 1775, serving first as army surgeon and later as secretary to General Washington. After the Revolution he was prominent in the Federalist party of Maryland. In January 1796 Washington made him Secretary of War, a position he held until 1800.

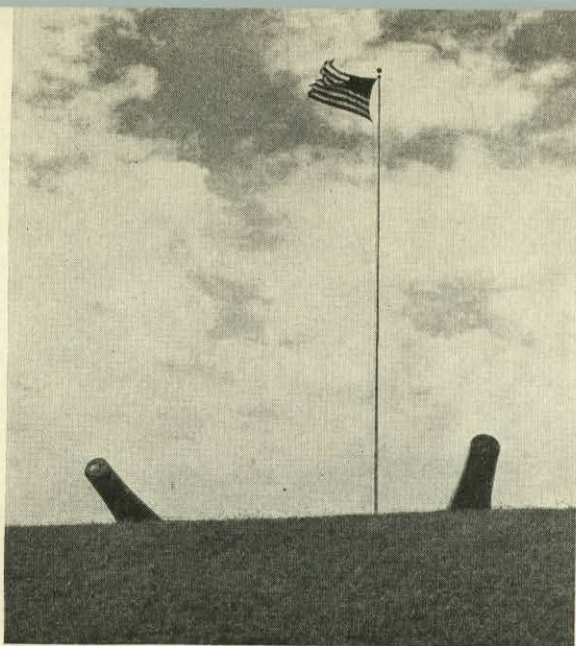
THE BOMBARDMENT OF FORT MCHENRY

SOON after the beginning of the War of 1812, the British blockaded Chesapeake Bay, a strategy adopted largely because of the activity of privateers sailing from Baltimore Harbor and the inconvenience to the United States of having a leading exporting and importing center closed. It was not until 2 years later, however, after the blockading fleet had been greatly reinforced, that the British attempted, in what has become known as the Chesapeake Bay Campaign, to capture Washington and Baltimore.

The movement against Washington in August 1814 was successful, and the Capitol and White House were burned. The city's untrained militia proved no match for the veteran British troops when they met at Bladensburg, Md., just east of Washington, on August 24, 1814.

Looking through sally port toward interior of Star Fort. Mounted cannon of the War of 1812 type. Barracks buildings in the background.





The muzzles of two guns flank the Stars and Stripes as seen from the outer walls of Fort McHenry.

The attack against Baltimore 3 weeks later was the conflict in which Fort McHenry took a prominent part, and for which it is remembered today.

The British fleet and the infantry troops which executed the movements against the two cities were commanded, respectively, by Adm. Alexander Cochrane and Gen. Robert Ross. At the time of the attack against Baltimore the defense forces in and around the city numbered approximately 12,000 men, assembled from various parts of Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, and commanded by Gen. Samuel Smith.

The British threat to the Chesapeake region in 1814 caused considerable excitement in Baltimore. As there was no money available from the Federal Government for local defense, the City Council mobilized every able-bodied citizen with his slaves and any equipment he might own to help in the construction of earthworks and gun emplacements. The works at Fort McHenry were strengthened, ship hulks were sunk in the river channels leading to the city, as an obstruction to enemy vessels, and fortifications were thrown up on the outskirts of the town to protect it against land attacks. West of the fort, two redoubts named Forts Covington and Babcock were erected 500 yards apart to guard the middle of the Patapsco River against the landing of troops operating to assault Fort McHenry from the rear. On the high ground behind these redoubts was the "Circular Battery."

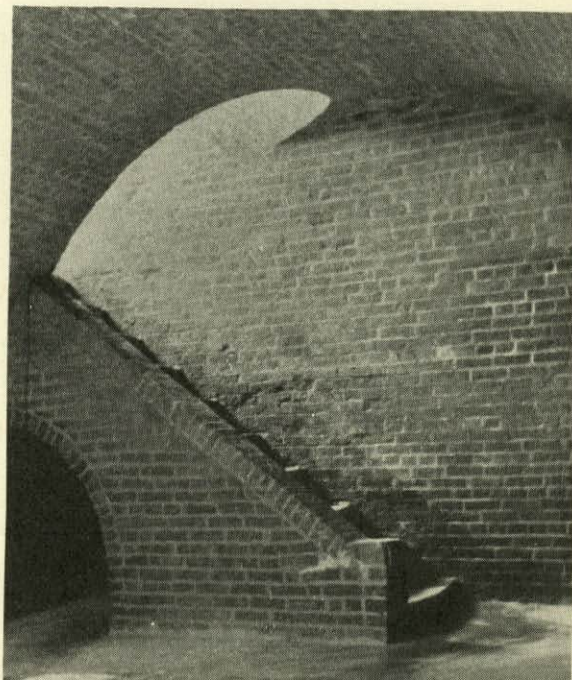
A long line of platforms for guns was erected in front of the fort; it constituted the water battery. In addition, a number of 42-pounders were borrowed from a French frigate in the harbor and mounted in the water battery. These were the heaviest guns in the fort.

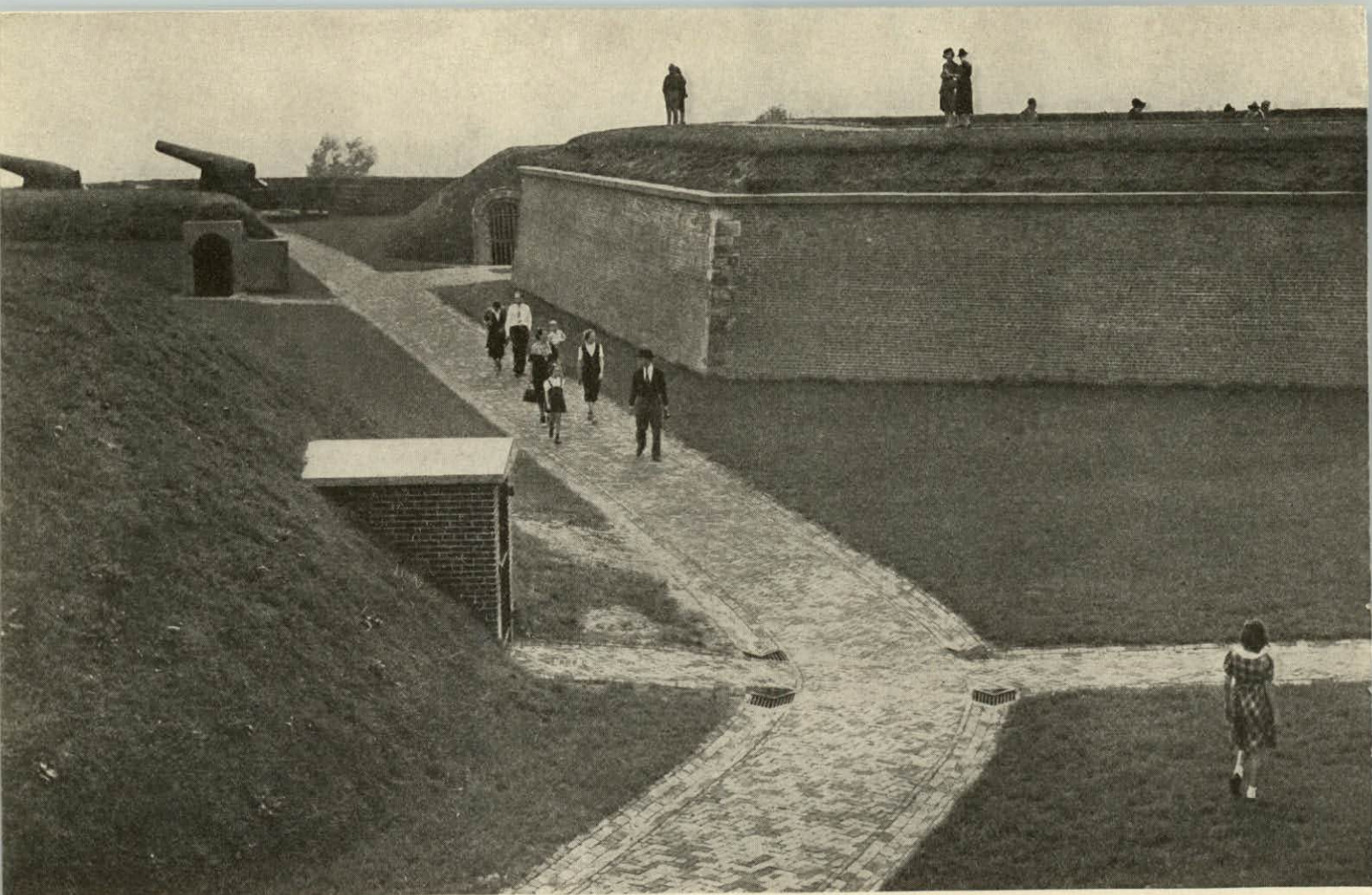
A report, dated December 1, 1813, on the state of the fortifications in the harbor of Baltimore, contains the statement that "Fort McHenry has now mounted 21 guns: 24s, 18s, and 12-pounders. The water batteries contiguous contain 36 guns, 15 of which are of the largest calibre, the rest 24- and 18s." These, with such guns as were temporarily placed just before the bombardment, undoubtedly constituted the battery at the fort on September 13-14, 1814.

On September 11 the enemy fleet arrived at the mouth of the Patapsco River, a few miles by water from Fort McHenry. Here, at North Point, the British landed between 4,000 and 5,000 men the next day. They were ordered to advance northwest against Baltimore's land fortifications in coordination with a movement to be made by the fleet up the Patapsco against the harbor defense position. The cooperating units, moving parallel by land and water, planned to enter the city at the same time.

Soon after the land forces began their march toward Baltimore, General Ross, their commander, was fired upon from ambush and mortally wounded. Under the command of Col. Arthur Brooks the advance was continued, and at a point about 5 miles from the city the British

Stairway, arch, and walls of one of the magazines at Fort McHenry.





A general view of Fort McHenry showing one of the five bastions of the fort and a section of the outer works.

were met by the Maryland brigade commanded by Gen. John Stricker.

The short engagement which ensued during the early afternoon is called the Battle of North Point. It was little more than an attempt to retard the British advance, for Stricker's forces were hardly sufficient to defeat the more experienced soldiers whom they opposed. About an hour and a quarter after the opening shots were fired the American troops retreated to their main defense line around the city, followed by the British infantry. Facing the Baltimore defenders, not more than 2 miles from the city limits, the British army awaited the outcome of the naval attack.

During the evening and night of September 12, 16 British vessels moved up the Patapsco, and by morning of the 13th were in position about 2 miles from Fort McHenry at a point sufficiently close for the English guns to reach their objective, and yet beyond the range of the smaller guns of the

fort. The Patapsco had not yet been dredged, and shallow water would have been a menace to the larger ships if a closer approach had been attempted.

Maj. George Armistead, in command of the garrison of 1,000 regulars, militiamen, and sailors at the fort, placed his own artillery, with one company of volunteers, in position inside the fort. The remainder of the artillery and infantry was stationed in the outer works along the waterfront.

The bombardment of Fort McHenry began about daylight on September 13 and lasted until about 7 a. m. of the following day. According to British accounts, well over a thousand shells and bombs were fired. The shorter range artillery in the fort did little more than fire sufficiently to indicate that the position had not fallen. According to eyewitnesses, only four bombs actually burst within the fort. One of these fell in the southwest bastion during the afternoon, killing a lieutenant and wounding several men. In all, only four men were killed and about 24 wounded at Fort McHenry during the bombardment; the buildings apparently were but slightly damaged.

On the night of the 13th, when it became obvious that the position could not be taken by bombardment, Admiral Cochrane sent forward by way of the main branch of the Patapsco River a force of approximately 1,200 men, hoping to take the fort by land. After midnight, under cover of darkness, the landing party was able to reach the channel behind the fort, but was soon afterward observed and identified by pickets. A galling fire was at once opened from the fort and the smaller Fort Covington and other battery positions in the rear, causing the British to abandon the projected maneuver before the party had reached land.

At about 7 o'clock on the morning of September 14, the bombardment ceased. By 9 the fleet had begun to withdraw down the river. Colonel Brooke, in command of the land force, was notified of the failure to reach Baltimore by water, and his troops were ordered back to North Point. There, joined by the fleet, the infantry reembarked and Admiral Cochrane directed his fleet out of the Chesapeake Bay, part proceeding to the base at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and the rest going to the West Indies, where the expedition against New Orleans was being assembled.

The successful repulse of so strongly organized an attack had a tremendous effect upon the spirit of the American people, discouraged by the disaster at Bladensburg and the capture of Washington only 3 weeks before.

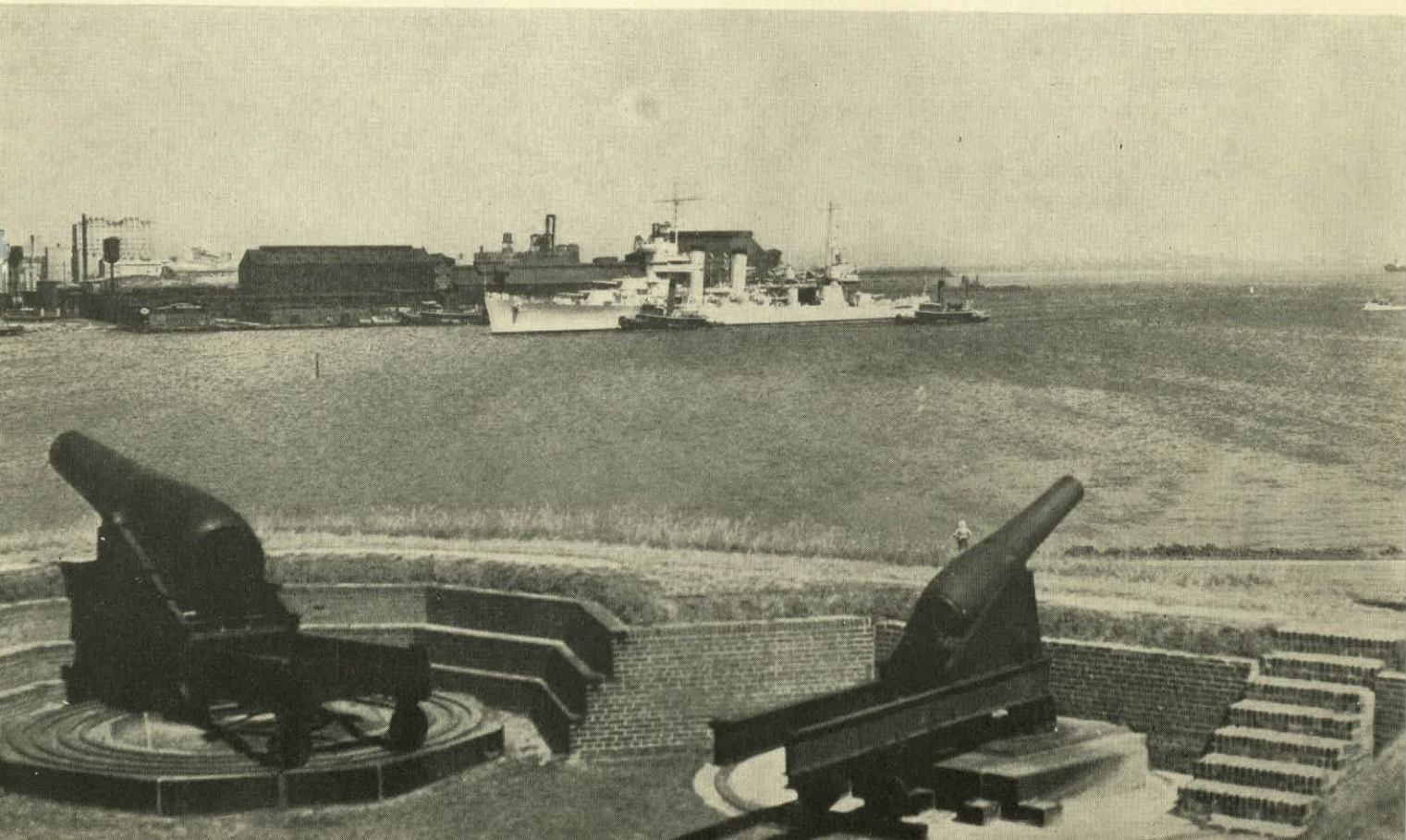
THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

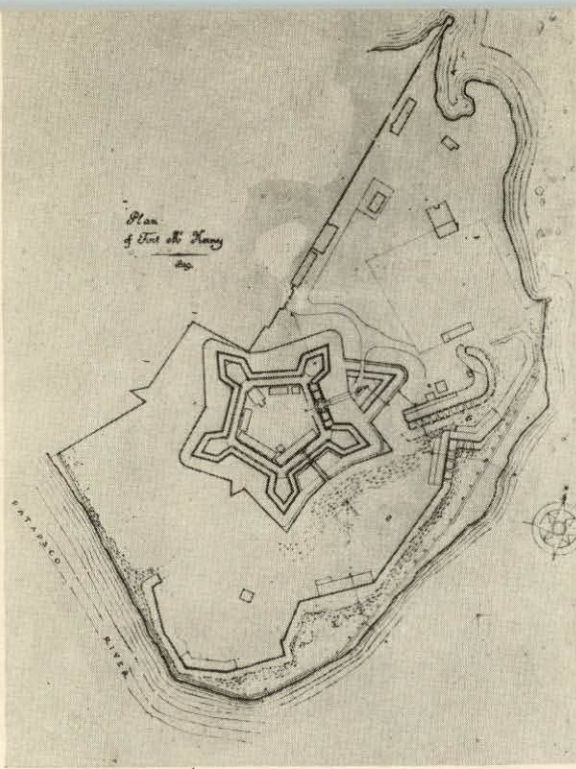
THE CIRCUMSTANCES that led to the writing of The Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key have their origin in the events which followed the British attack on the Capital. The enemy fleet had anchored in the Patuxent River, and the attacking force had proceeded overland to Washington. Following the burning of the Federal buildings in Washington, the British returned to their base on the Patuxent, while raiding parties and stragglers roamed the nearby countryside.

The appearance of returning British troops at Upper Marlboro, a Maryland town about 15 miles east of Washington, led to speculation by some of the inhabitants on the result of the expedition.

Dr. William Beanes and a group of his friends were enjoying a social hour when three British stragglers appeared. After an argument between the soldiers and Dr. Beanes and his companions, the stragglers were arrested on charges of disturbing the peace and placed in the local jail. One of them escaped and reached a scouting party of British cavalry which immediately marched to

View from Star Fort looking over the outer ramparts and guns to Patapsco River and part of Baltimore Harbor. British ships bombarding the fort in 1814 were stationed in the harbor at extreme right of picture, about 2 miles distant.





Plan of Fort McHenry made in 1819, showing the fort substantially as it must have been in 1814.

Upper Marlboro, captured Dr. Beanes and took him to the British base on the Patuxent, where he was turned over to Admiral Cochrane.

Francis Scott Key, a prominent attorney of Georgetown (now part of the Capital) and a close friend of Dr. Beanes, undertook to effect his release. Obtaining President Madison's permission, Key and Col. J. S. Skinner, of Baltimore, agent for the exchange of prisoners, proceeded on a packet boat from Baltimore under a flag of truce and met the British fleet which was preparing to attack the city. Admiral Cochrane agreed to release Dr. Beanes, but refused to permit any of the Americans to return to the mainland until the movement against Baltimore had been carried out, since he did not want them to convey information of his plans to attack the city.

Taken aboard the Admiral's flagship, the *Surprise*, Key and his companions were compelled to accompany the British up the Patapsco River toward Baltimore.

Under a guard of marines, the Americans were transferred to their own boat in the rear of the fleet as the British ships took their positions to bombard Fort McHenry. It was from this vantage point that Key witnessed the bombardment of the fort throughout the day of September 13 and the following night.

At dawn he saw that the American flag, the Stars and Stripes, was still flying over Fort McHenry and that the fortress and the city had not fallen to the British. That morning the attack was abandoned, and the British moved downstream toward the bay. Key and his friends were then released and allowed to make their way to Baltimore.

There are many versions of the story concerning the writing of The Star Spangled Banner, but perhaps the most reliable is that given in a preface to the 1857 edition of Key's poems by Roger B. Taney, Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, who had married Key's only sister.

Taney states that the verses were written on an envelope as Key and his companions came ashore on the morning of September 14 and were rewritten in a hotel that night. The next morning Key showed the verses to Judge Joseph H. Nicholson, of Baltimore, his wife's brother-in-law. The judge was greatly impressed by the stirring quality of the poem, and his wife took the manuscript to the printing shop of Capt. Benjamin Edes on the corner of Baltimore and Gay Streets and had the poem run off in handbill form. Edes, it seems, was away at the time on duty with his regiment, and The Star Spangled Banner was set up and printed by a 12-year-old apprentice, Samuel Sands. On September 20 the poem was published in the *Baltimore Patriot*, and in a short time it was being sung in taverns throughout the land as an expression of American patriotism.

The Star Spangled Banner was first sung publicly by Ferdinand Durang, an actor, in Baltimore, to the old English tune of "To Anacreon in Heaven." This melody had previously been used in America for a song called "Adams and Liberty," of the Revolutionary War period. Key probably had the tune in mind when he composed The Star Spangled Banner.

Although the song was widely accepted at an early date as our national anthem, it was not until March 3, 1931, that Congress passed the necessary legislation formally recognizing this.

Francis Scott Key, a native of Frederick County, Maryland, was born on August 1, 1779, and was 35 years old when he composed the words that have made his name immortal. He died on January 11, 1843, and was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Frederick. Monuments to him have been erected at Fort McHenry, at Eutaw Place in Baltimore, and at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.

FORT MCHENRY, 1815-1925

AFTER THE WAR of 1812 the Government made a reconnaissance of the entire Atlantic coast. Included in the material submitted with the report on the Baltimore area was a detailed drawing of Fort McHenry which shows it approximately as it was in 1814. This map, drawn in 1819, is the best available for a study of the fort at the time of the British attack.

Although Fort McHenry continued to be used by the army from the close of the War of 1812 until 1912, the conflict of September 13-14, 1814, was the only occasion on which it came under enemy fire. During the succeeding American conflicts of the nineteenth century, however, it was used for military purposes; although no enemy moved against it. By midcentury Fort Carroll was being erected as the principal defense of Baltimore Harbor.

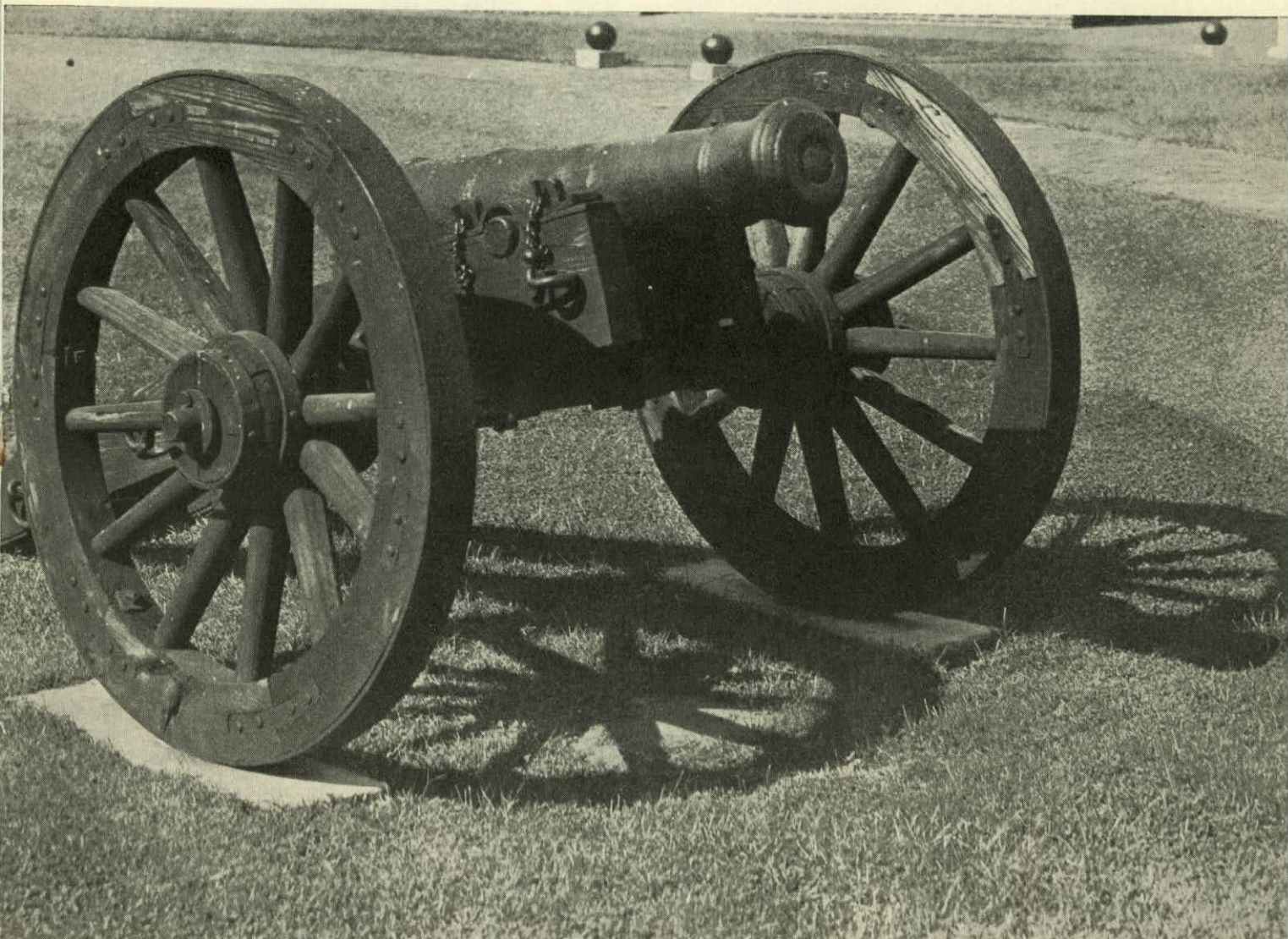
In the war with Mexico, Maryland troops were trained at Fort McHenry, and throughout the War between the States it was used as a prison

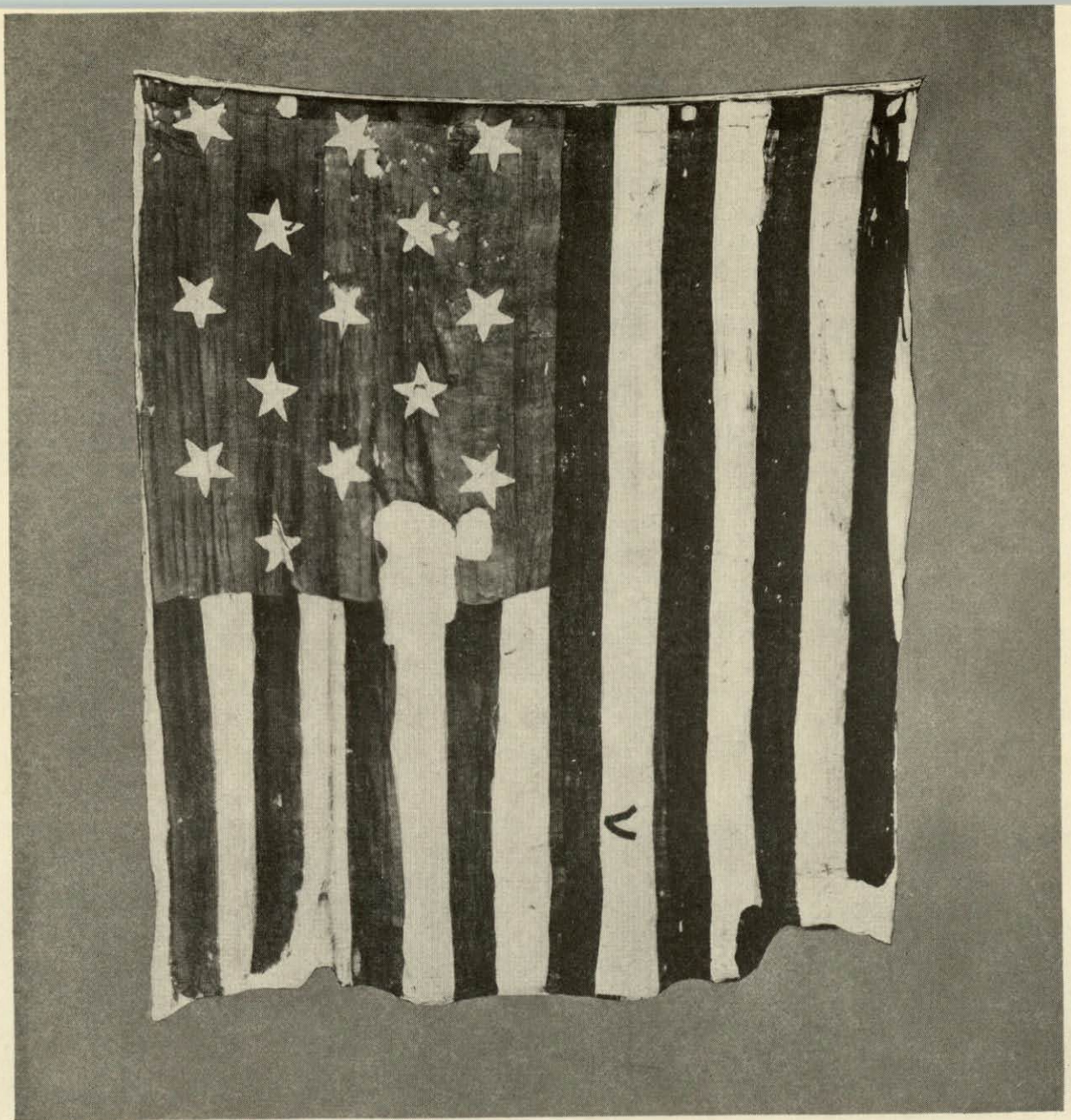
camp and as headquarters of the military district. At times there were several hundred Confederate prisoners in the confines of the reservation.

The abandonment of Fort McHenry as a coast defense was suggested in 1820, and although it was used for nearly another century, it is improbable that it was seriously regarded as a military factor after 1877, when partially completed work was abandoned. Improvements in warships and cannon, and the expansion of Baltimore, made Fort McHenry useless as a military post.

The ownership and administration of the reservation changed several times between 1912 and 1933. In 1912 the site was leased by the Federal Government to the city to be used as a municipal park. In 1918 it was reclaimed by the Federal Government and used until 1925 as a general hospital. During the World War the fort and buildings about it constituted one of the largest hospitals in the country.

Field piece of War of 1812 period. The carriage is a reconstruction.





This flag, flown over Fort McHenry during the bombardment by the British fleet, September 13-14, 1814, is known as the "Star Spangled Banner." It is the flag which Francis Scott Key saw from his position about 3 miles out in the harbor on the morning of September 14, 1814, and which inspired him to write the verses that have since become the national anthem of the United States.

The flag eventually was presented to Maj. George Armistead, who commanded Fort McHenry during the bombardment. Later, it became the property of his daughter, Georgianna Armistead, and in 1912 it was presented to the National Museum by her son, Eben Appleton. In addition to its great patriotic value as the source of inspiration for our national anthem, its historical importance is increased because of the fact that it is one of the very few United States flags still in existence having

15 stars and 15 stripes, the standard design from 1794 to 1818.

It is said that several shots tore through the flag during the bombardment of Fort McHenry. Although many holes and tears are visible in the flag today, it is not possible to determine their origin. Several feet have been lost off the fly end of the flag. The remaining part of the "Star Spangled Banner," about 28 feet on hoist and 32 feet on fly, was quilted to a backing of Irish linen in 1914 for permanent preservation. This task was performed by a group of expert needlewomen under the direction of Mrs. Amelia Fowler of Boston, Mass. The flag is now on display in the North Hall of the Arts and Industries Building, National Museum, Washington, D. C., together with other military and naval relics of the War of 1812. Courtesy United States National Museum.

O say can you see ~~through~~ by the dawn's early light,
what so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
whose broad stripes & bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bomb bursting in air,
gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that Star-spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
what is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream,
'Tis the Star-spangled Banner — O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,
That the havoc of war & the battle's confusion
A home & a Country should leave us no more?
— ~~Their~~ Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling & slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,
And the Star-spangled Banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their lov'd home & the war's desolation,
Blest with vict'ry & peace may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the power that hath made & preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto — "In God is our trust."
And the Star-spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free & the home of the brave.

THE
STAR SPANGLED BANNER

A PATRIOTIC SONG.

Baltimore. Printed and Sold at CARBS Music Store 56 Baltimore Street.
Air, Anacron in Honour.

Con Riposte

O! say can you see by the dawn's early light, What so
grantly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming, Whose broad stripes & bright stars thro'
perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watch'd, so gallantly streaming, And the
Brocken's red glare, the Bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our

(Adapted & A. 10. T. C.) (P. 1.)

Facsimile of page one of the first printing of *The Star Spangled Banner* with music.

FORT MCHENRY TODAY

PHYSICALLY, the old fort is a fine example of the military architecture of the eighteenth century. It is laid out on the plan of a regular pentagon with a bastion at each angle, forming in effect a five-pointed star. A barbette work with brick masonry, it is scarp capped with a heavy projecting granite coping, the corners of the bastions being of sandstone.

Each front measures about 290 feet between the points of the bastions. The parade is a regular pentagon of about 150 feet on each side, surrounded by a well-laid granite wall about 5 feet high supporting the ravelin in front of which a brick masonry foundation about 3 feet high, with sandstone coping over sheet zinc, acts as a retaining wall for the curtain of sodded earth extending to the top of the scarped exterior parapet. The level of the parade is about 33 feet and the top of the bank above the scarped walls is about 45 feet above the mean low watermark. A wide ditch, 13 feet below the coping of the masonry wall, surrounds the fort. The ditch was never used as a water moat and, in fact, parts of it were never completed.

The fort is entered through an arched sally port

which is flanked on both sides by bombproofs. Within the fort the buildings now used as museums may be identified as follows (see Plan, page 14): A—quarters for commanding officer and his adjutant or aide, B—the powder magazine with masonry walls and roof 13 feet thick, C—quarters for officers, D and E—barracks for troops.

From the ramparts near the flagstaff one can look down upon the Patapsco River where, in 1814, the British fleet was stationed during the historic bombardment.

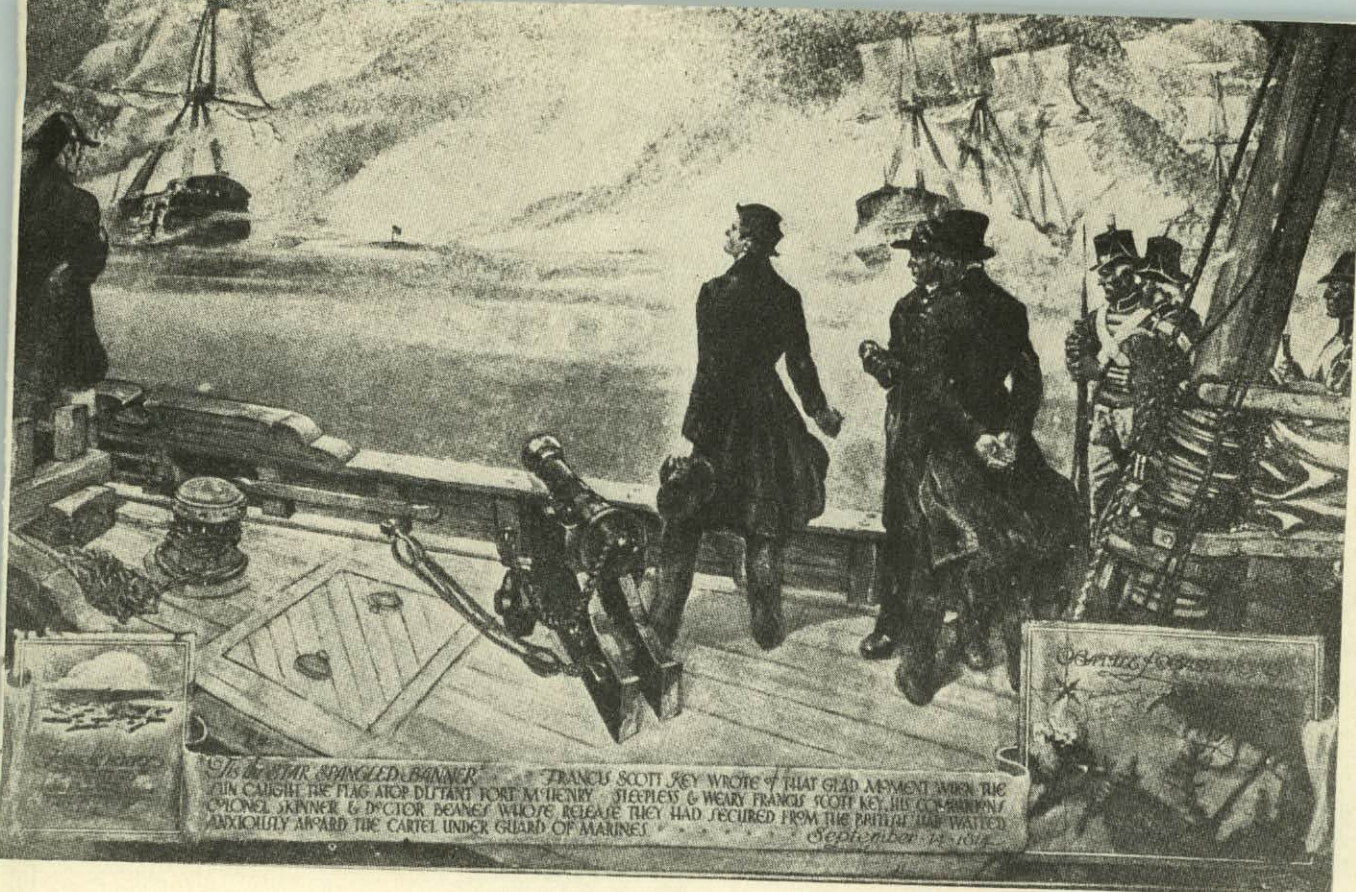
Immediately opposite the sally port on the outside of the Star Fort is a detached triangular bastion of the same general appearance and construction as the main fort. This outer work served as additional protection to the fort entrance. Originally, the fort was entered by a wooden bridge reaching from this bastion to the sally port. Another bridge connected the bastion with the approach roadway. Under the bastion is a bombproof powder magazine.

Commencing near the detached bastion and extending most of the way around the fort is a dry moat. About 1850 a section of the moat on the side of the fort toward the river was converted into outer fortifications. Earthworks were constructed on the shoulder of the moat and coast defense guns were mounted. Underground ammunition magazines were constructed in the outer fortifications at that time.

Among the differences between the fort of 1814 and that of today, which approximates a restoration as far as practicable, the following may be noted: The brick retaining wall on the firing step

*Portrait of Francis Scott Key by Charles Wilson Peale.
Courtesy Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts.*





Painting by George Grey showing Francis Scott Key as he looks toward Fort McHenry on the morning of September 14, 1814, and sees the flag still waving above the ramparts of the fort. This painting was purchased by public-spirited citizens of Baltimore and presented to the United States Government in 1939. It is now on display in the Star Spangled Room in Fort McHenry.

was not present in 1814, the bastions were planked, the moat on the south or outer side was shallow, buildings A and E were not of the same dimensions as today, and buildings in the fort in 1814 were of one and a half stories. About 1830 the full second stories were added.

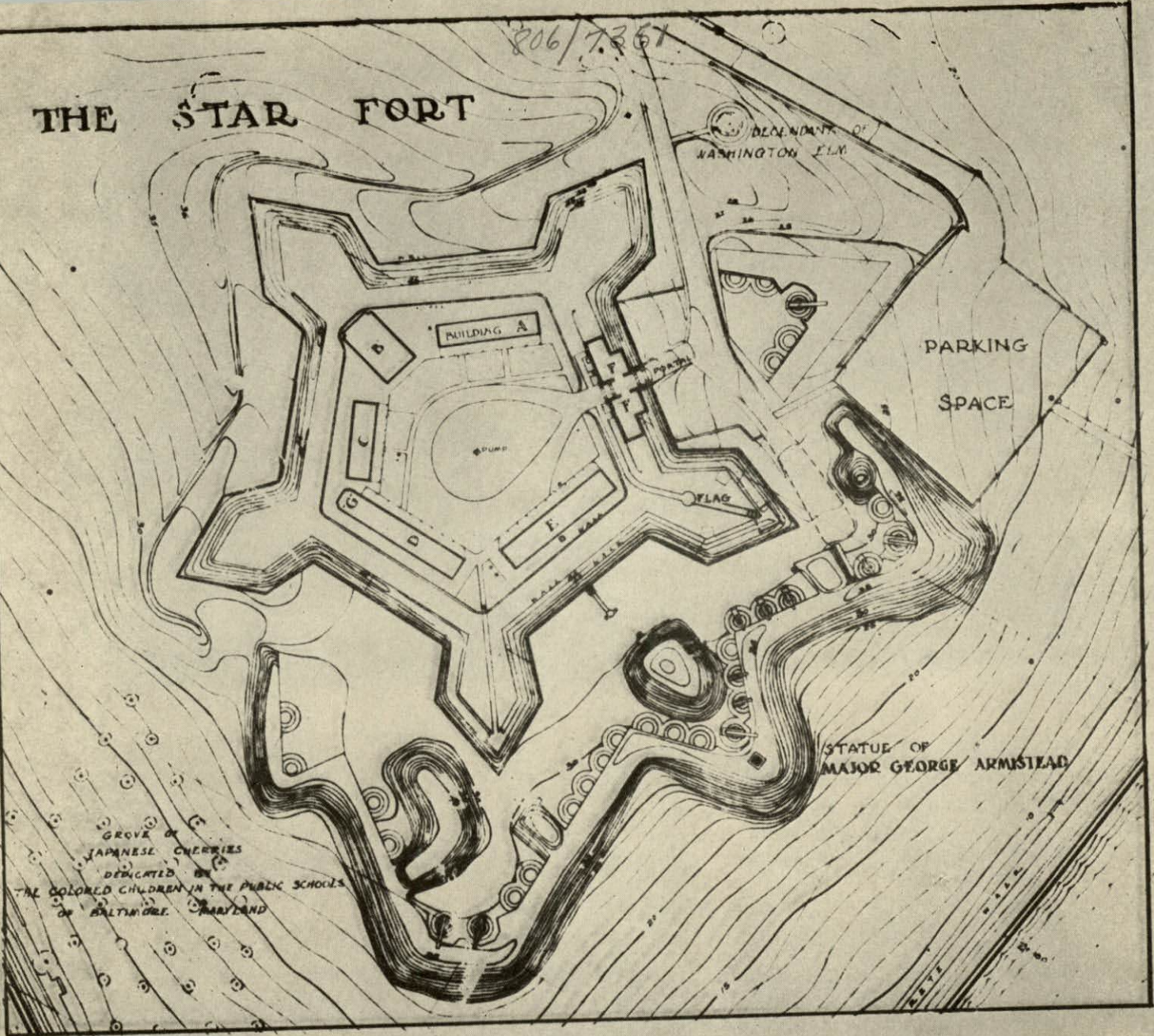
In 1914, the 100th anniversary of the defense of Fort McHenry and of the composition of The Star Spangled Banner, Congress appropriated \$75,000 for the erection of a monument "in memory of Francis Scott Key" and the soldiers and sailors who participated in the battle of North Point and in the defense of Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. In this year also the National Star Spangled Banner Association was given authority to erect a monument in memory of Maj. George Armistead. A monument of Key, an heroic bronze figure of Orpheus, was not completed until 1922 because of the World War. The Armistead monument is a bronze portrait figure standing on the southeast salient of the outer work.

MUSEUMS

THE BUILDINGS in the fort proper are now used principally for museum purposes. They are designated by letters A to E, beginning at the right

of the entrance inside the fort. In 1936, the National Society of the Daughters of 1812 gave a collection of replicas of old furniture such as were probably used in the commanding officer's headquarters. This furniture is on display in Building A, which served as headquarters building during the bombardment of 1814. In 1935, the E. Berkley Bowie collection of weapons, consisting of about 400 pieces, was donated to the fort by the Maryland Society of 1812. The collection is now housed in Building D. In 1939, Mrs. Reuben Ross Holloway and Mr. John W. Farrell, of Baltimore, led a campaign to purchase for the fort the painting "Tis the Star Spangled Banner." Their efforts were successful, and the painting now hangs in Building E, upstairs, where it is the central feature of the Star Spangled Banner Room. Downstairs in the same building is located a large relief map showing the position of the

THE STAR FORT



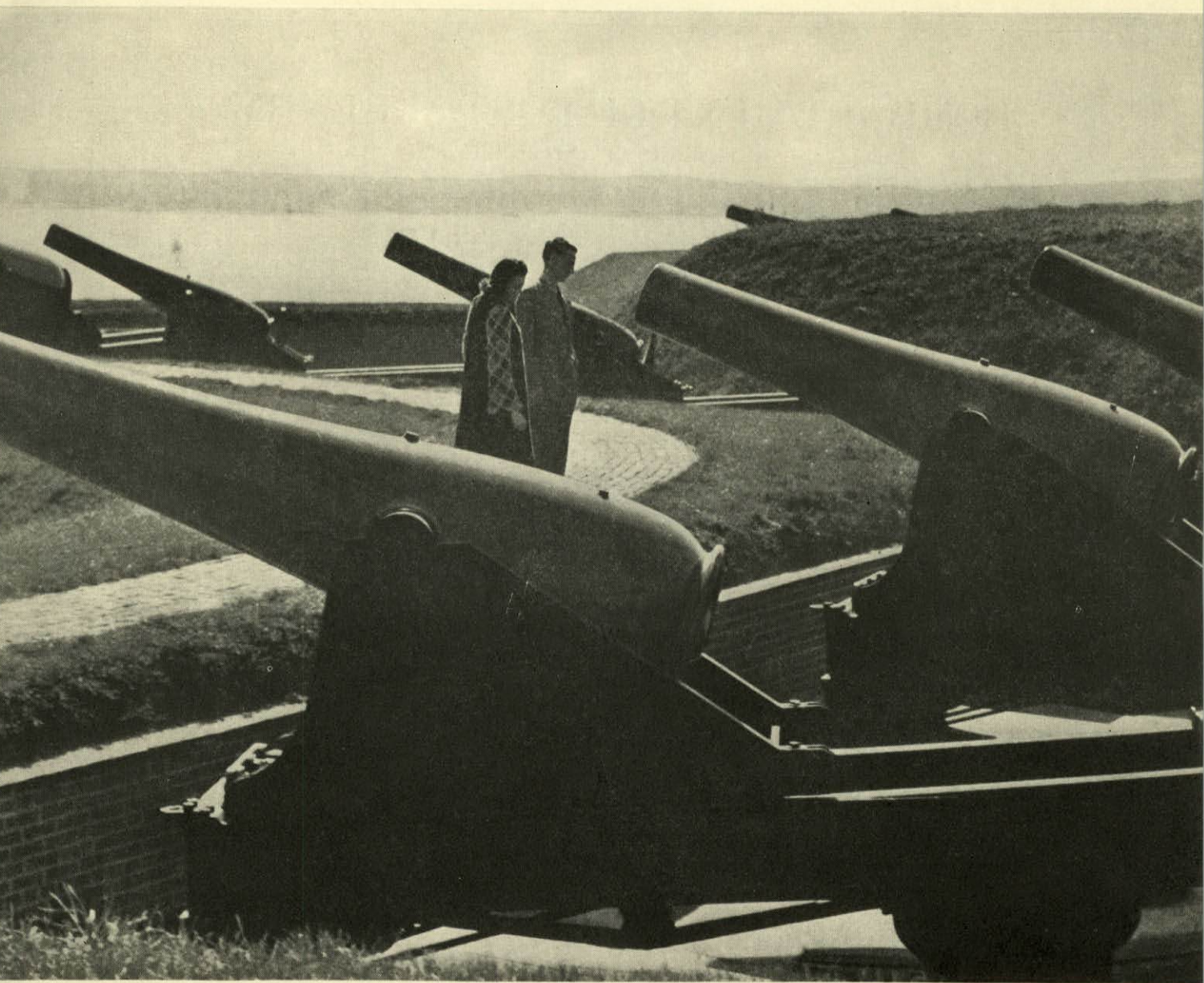
*General plan of the Star Fort and immediate environs,
1939.*

British fleet in relation to Fort McHenry and Baltimore during the bombardment. Other exhibits and relics are located in Buildings D and E.

GENERAL INFORMATION

THE MONUMENT area is easily accessible from Baltimore, East Fort Avenue leading directly to the fort. Fort McHenry is open to the public from 7:30 a. m. to 5:30 p. m., while the museums close

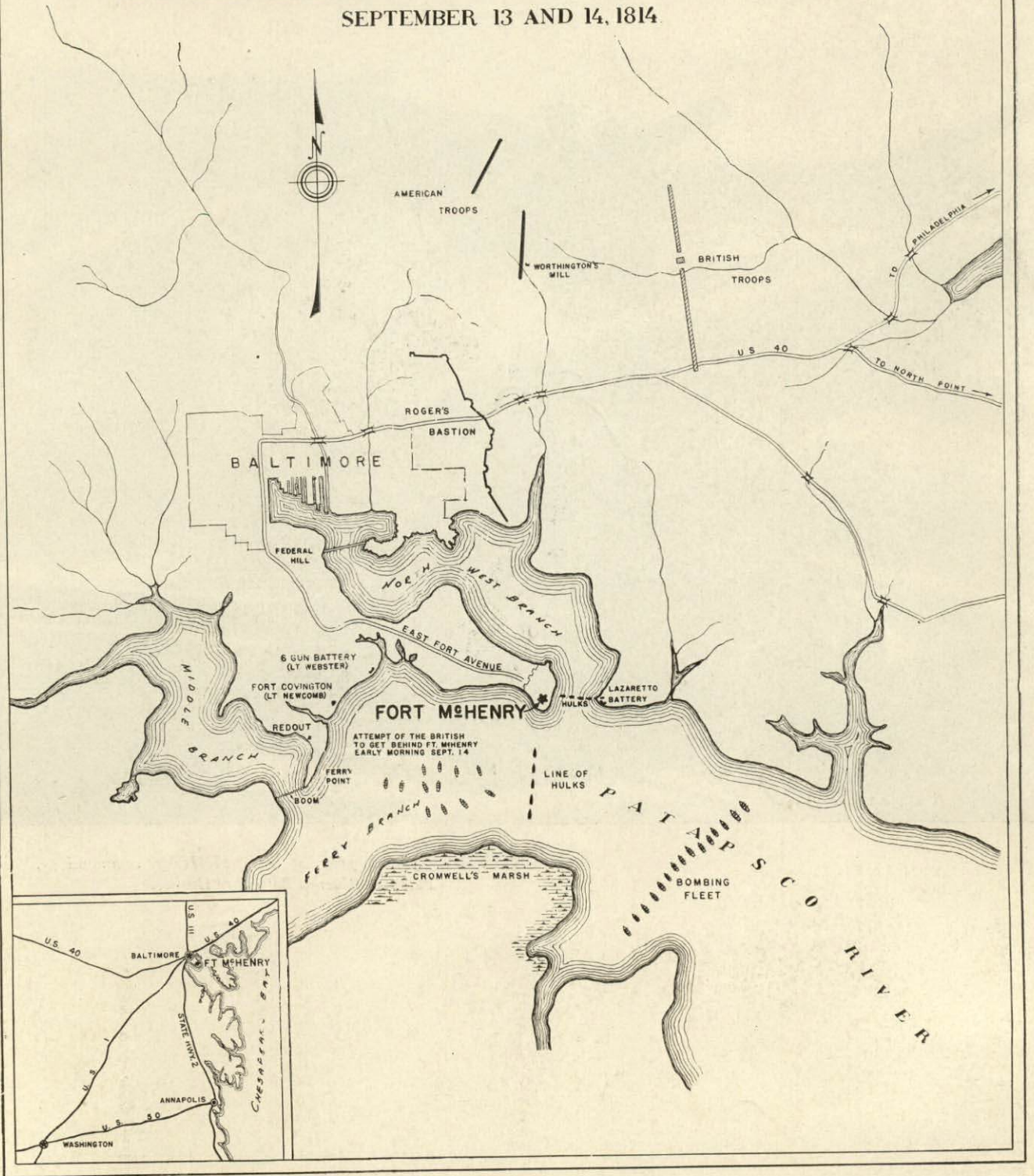
at 5 p. m. A fee of 10 cents for admission to the Star Fort is charged visitors more than 16 years of age, with the exception of members of school groups who are admitted free up to 18 years of age. Free guide service is available to all visitors. Organizations or groups will be given special service if arrangements are made in advance with the superintendent. All communications should be addressed to The Superintendent, Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Baltimore, Md.



*Civil War period guns at Fort McHenry command
Patapsco River at Baltimore Harbor.*

BOMBARDMENT OF FORT M^cHENRY

SEPTEMBER 13 AND 14, 1814.





FORT M'HENRY ★ BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
HOME OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

OUR FLAG SHALL ALWAYS WAVE ★ OVER THE LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE

Christmas 1942



Harry C. Weiskittel Company, Inc.

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