



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Gateway National Recreation Area
210 New York Ave., Staten Island, N.Y. 10305

SAHO Buildings 119 and 120

History/Significance

- Contributing resources in the Fort Hancock and Sandy Hook Proving Ground National Historic Landmark District
- Building 119 and 120 are WWII temporary barrack buildings constructed in 1941.
- They were part of the U.S. Army's 700 series of temporary wooden buildings developed in response to the massive mobilization of World War II
- The interiors of 119 and 120 were gutted to provide NPS seasonal housing and retain little to no integrity.
- Exterior's generally retain some degree of integrity, though the exterior vestibules, fire exit stairs, ramps and flush metal entry doors are later additions.

Buildings 119 and 120 are but a small fraction of the hundreds of temporary structures that populated the Fort Hancock landscape during World War II, and the tens of thousands that were built across the country. These structures were well-documented in the Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program's historic context, *World War II and the US Army Mobilization Program: A History of 700 and 800 Series Cantonment Construction*.

On their own, 119 and 120 do not well represent the ubiquity of these structures that gave them their significance or the significance of Fort Hancock during WWII.

DOD entered into a PMOA (programmatic memorandum of agreement) with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and National Conference of SHPOs in 1986 to demolish WWII temporary structures noting that "they were not constructed to be permanent facilities and were in fact constructed to be demolished" (Pa6). An amendment (Pa7) was drafted in 1990 which modified the documentation requirements outlined in the previous agreement; HABS was included as a signatory on this amendment.

Building 41 located adjacent to the SAHO Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters is also a WWII temporary barrack; unlike 119 and 120 it is one story. It also has little to no integrity on the interior. Building 41 is not impacted by this project and will remain.

Both buildings are listed as contributing resources to the NHL District; none are individually listed as NHLs.

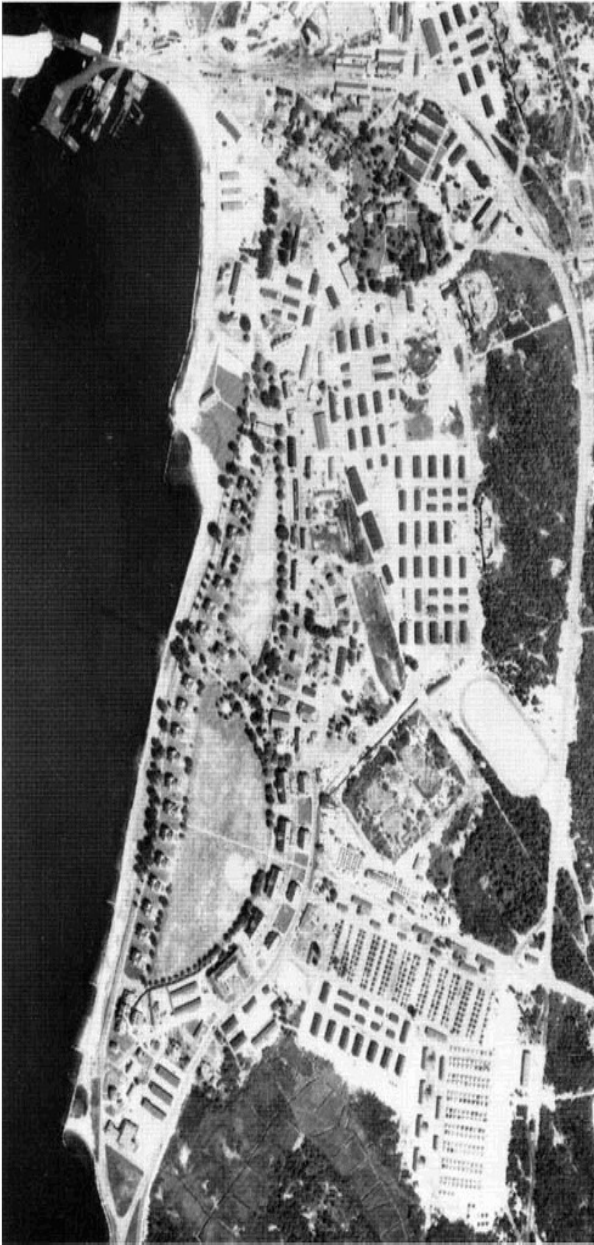


Figure 6. A 1943 aerial photograph, Fort Hancock, New Jersey. Notice the scores of World War II structures in the center of the image (NPS/GATE Museum Collection).

Flood Level

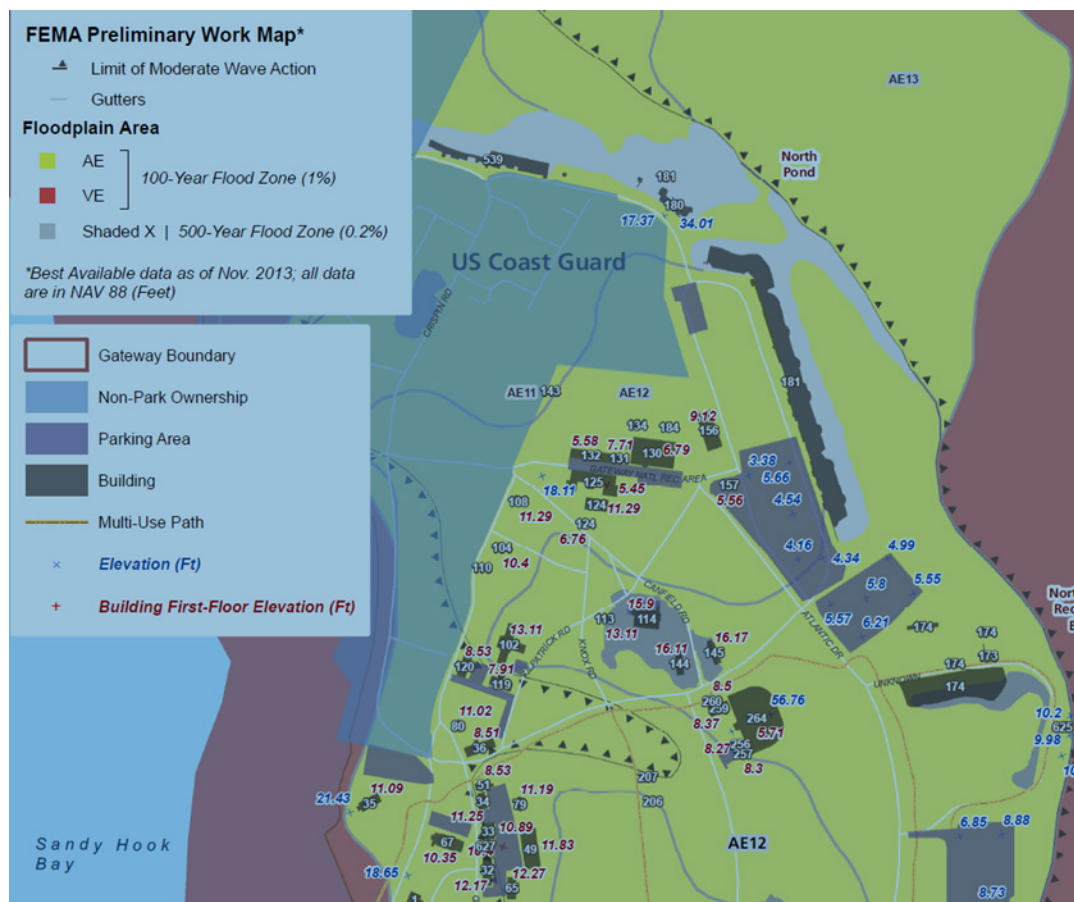
119 and 120 are located in the AE 12 FEMA flood zone and in the moderate wave action zone.

First Floor Elevation 119 is 7.91 feet

First Floor Elevation 120 is 8.53 feet

The first floors of the buildings were flooded and extensively damaged during the storm, with limited exception Sandy Recovery funding guidelines do not permit the expenditure of funds on repairs to such low-lying buildings to prior conditions for occupation.

Immediately following the storm abatement was completed in an effort to minimize mold growth while options for the buildings were considered. Non-historic wet fabric was removed on the interior to a height of about 4'; the exterior sheathing was exposed. The exterior sheathing was found to be gypsum sheathing which also took on and retained water.

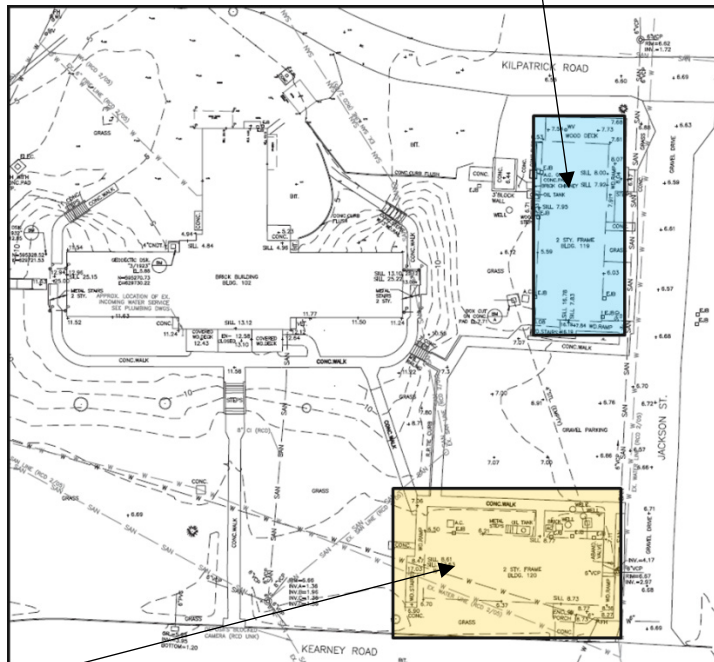


General Management Plan – Prioritization Band

Buildings 119 and 120 are in the “ruin band” in Gateway National Recreation Area, General Management Plan. The banding took into consideration national register status, level of significance, condition (after the storm), use (after the storm – vacant), uniqueness, visibility and climate change vulnerability. 119 and 120 were placed in the ruin band because of their vulnerability to climate change and future storms evidenced by the damage Sandy inflicted.

Proposed Project

Building 119 will be removed, including the building foundations, and underground utility lines. The building site would be graded and surfaced with gravel to provide parking for Building 102 occupants.



Building 120 will be removed, including the building foundations and underground utility lines. The building site would be graded and revegetated with grass.