

FINAL CONCEPT DESIGN — FORT WARD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, VA



APRIL 23, 2019

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PHASE IV: FINAL CONCEPT DESIGN



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PURPOSE AND NEXT STEPS

This Final Concept Design package presents the final iteration of the Fort Ward Interpretive Plan, as it has been guided and shaped by staff commentary and stakeholder feedback. This represents the final deliverable under this contract in the design of new interpretive products at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site in Alexandria, Virginia.

This package includes the elements outlined in the Scope of Work and previously discussed, which together will create a new visitor experience at Fort Ward. Please note that a companion Draft Text document contains a more detailed breakdown of interpretive text to be included within the updated museum exhibit, orientation stations, site markers, waysides, site brochure, and the facilitated dialogue.

Our goal with this presentation is to provide sufficient visualization of three-dimensional elements and graphics standards so that the City and stakeholders will be able to move forward in fabricating new interpretive elements for Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site.

At the same time, we recognize that the brochure, of which we will be responsible for the first print run, may require interim discussion. As such, we have allowed a space for commentary within the companion text document.

FORT WARD: A BROADER STORY

This design presents a unified story about Fort Ward, before, during, and after the Civil War. We commend the project team and stakeholders for working together to develop a theme statement, “Bastions of Freedom,” that roots visitors in an overarching narrative.

This passage from prior directives is worth retaining, as we think the ongoing planning makes good on the goals from the 2015 Management Plan:

“... the importance of the ongoing efforts to preserve the Civil War fortification, as described in the FWAG chapter report on Civil War Resources, can be further amplified and emphasized by linking that piece of the story to the broader story of its aftermath. With the limitations of space and staffing identified in the FWAG Draft Chapter on “Cultural Resources—The Museum, its Collections and Programs”—the idea of extending the interpretation outdoors and using the park’s historic landscapes and remaining historic features to help tell the complete story must be a critical component of any future interpretive and educational efforts.”

– Management Plan, January 2015

A variety of design elements are arrayed around the site, including a new exhibit and film inside the Museum. Note that a digital element, a brochure, and an educational program will also be part of the new interpretive scheme.

- 1

Museum Enhancements
Updated site-wide, story-wide film and new site overview exhibit.
- 2

Orientation Station
Multi-surface including site orientation, map, and interpretive introduction. Scale tactile model of the site.
- 3

Orientation Station Duplicate
Propose to duplicate the exhibit located at #2. Depending on budget, may be able to include additional tactiles as a nod to the younger audience at the playground.
- 4

Historic Home Footprint
Metal frame outline of the footprint of an original home to give a glimpse of “The Fort” community that once existed here. Proposed at the school/church/residence site.
- 5

Community Gateway
Structure marking an entrance to the African American Community Trail, bookending the military fort gate with a community signpost.
- 6

Commemoration Space
Contemplative space with seating and light interpretation to encourage visitors to reflect on the site’s history.
- 7

NOT SHOWN: Existing and New Wayside Panels (see page 12)
Existing interpretive panels on site (“The Fort” community, quantity 6), updated panels (Fort Ward, quantity 9), and new waysides (“The Fort” community, quantity 5).
- 8

NOT SHOWN: Site Markers (see page 32)
Low-profile markers indicate key historic features that are no longer visible without impeding the historic atmosphere of the site. Works in tandem with brochure and AV.



NOTE: All locations marked on this map are approximate. Exact locations will be determined during installation.

MUSEUM ENHANCEMENTS: FILM & EXHIBIT

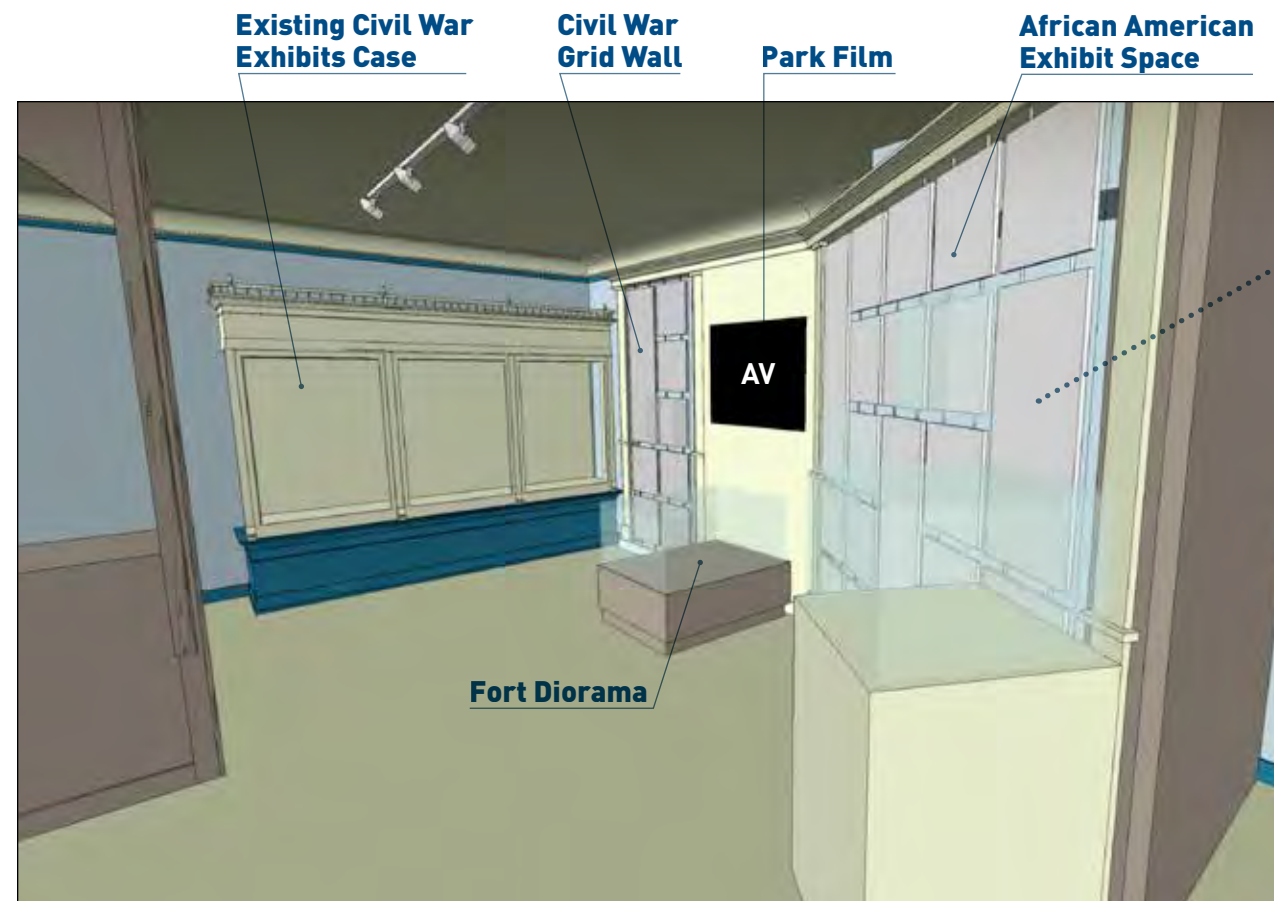
Updates within the Museum building ensure that this visitor experience reflects the holistic story and experience of Fort Ward, revealing its role in defending the nation and building a community.

Park Film

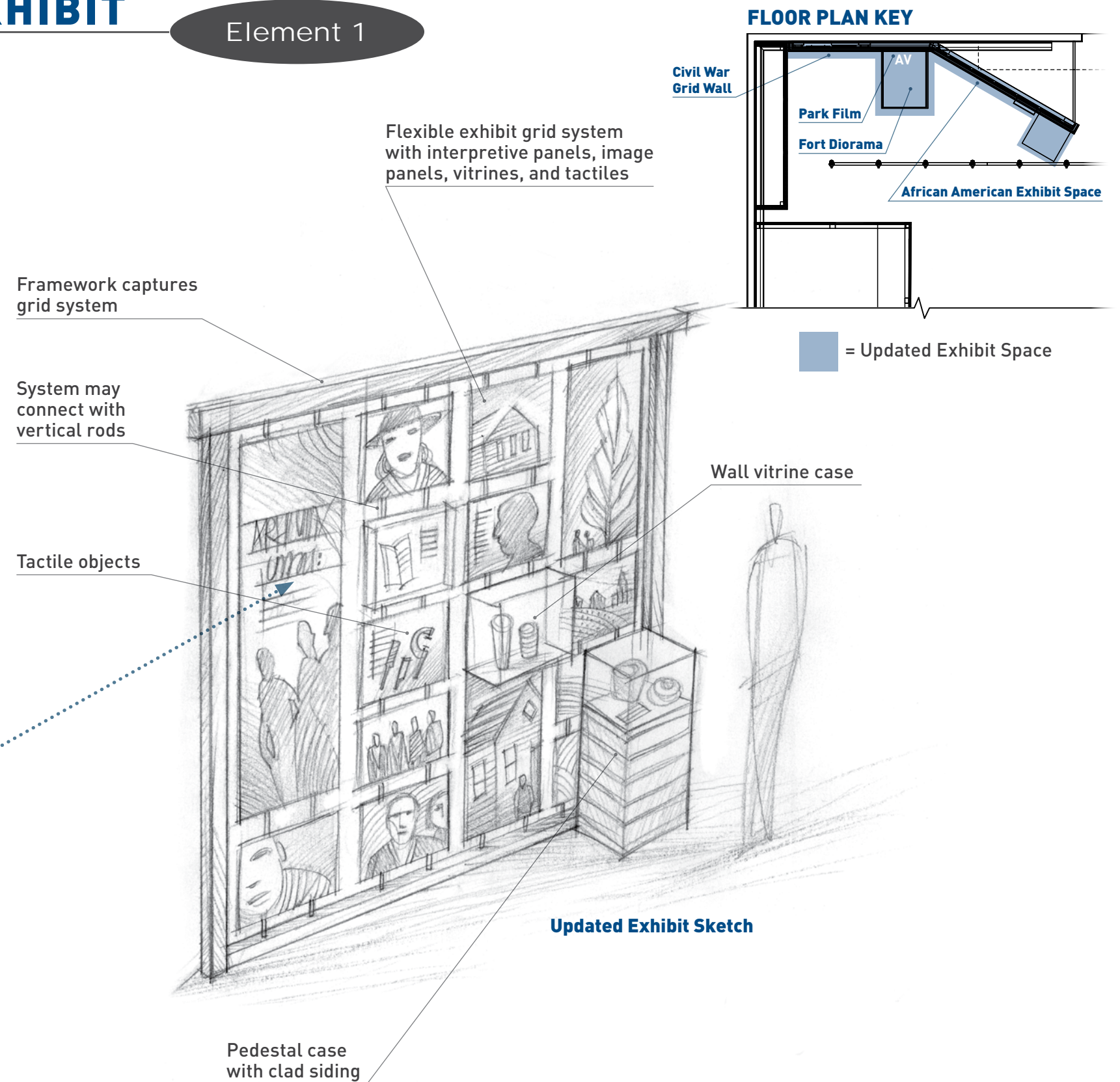
An updated park film ties site-wide themes and stories into one cohesive storyline. This serves as an overall introduction to the story and the site, launching visitors into a fuller understanding and appreciation of the meaning and relevance of the grounds.

Updated Exhibits

Within the designated space, currently displayed Civil War era history, including the site diorama, will shift to the far left as noted in the rendering below. This will leave the remainder of the space open to incorporate the new Park Film and new exhibits detailing the history of “The Fort” community. Shifting this content will allow the history to be presented as a chronological overview, providing visitors with a comprehensive introduction to the site’s entire history.



Element 1



MUSEUM ENHANCEMENTS: EXHIBIT

Element 1



1 Elevation - African American Exhibit
Scale: 3/4" = 1'-0"

0 1 2 3 4 FT

CASE LAYOUTS FOR PLACEMENT ONLY

These stations provide a robust overview orientation and include a tactile site map to initiate the visitor experience at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site. Located at the parking lot behind the Museum (we propose replacing the existing kiosk, integrating key information into this new component) and near the new playground location, these duplicate exhibits aim to provide basic site orientation and overview interpretation for all visitors, whether or not they choose to enter the Museum.

Introduce Design Vocabulary

The design concept reflects without exactly mimicking the recent City standards shared with the team. The distinctive flowing bar at the upper edge of the upright also introduces the look of the new wayside designs.

Exterior Tactile Orientation Map

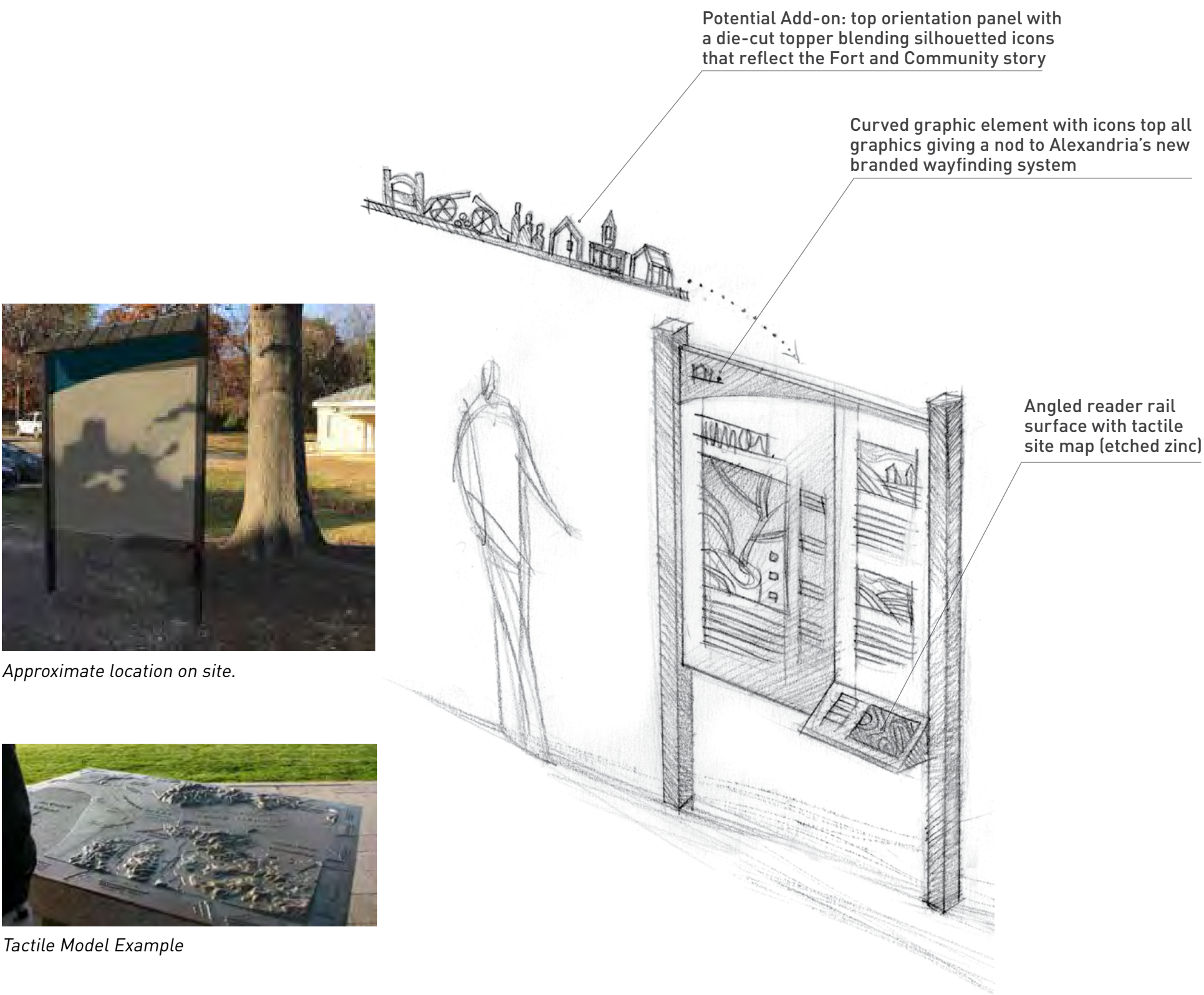
This tactile map lays out the site and its many resources—seen and no longer visible—from the years 1860 to 1965. It allows visitors to orient themselves to the site in a manner unique from the Site Tour Brochure, as well as providing an accessible portal to the site and story to visitors who are blind or who have limited vision.

Interpretive Introduction

The expanded Orientation Kiosk provides an interpretive overview introduction to the site. The current design envisions integrating the illustrated map—which includes trails and locations of key interpretive areas—along with images highlighting Fort Ward, “The Fort” community, and the Museum.

Incorporate Existing Regulations Signage

Perhaps the rear side of the Orientation panel element could include the current regulations information.



A life-size frame outline of a home provides a stunning and powerful impression of “The Fort” community. We are modeling this footprint after the school/church/residence, based off recommendations from the park. Note that the floorplan drawn here is a best guess as needed to identify the actual outline of the home. The archaeological reports and oral histories that we have consulted describe interior layout, and—to our knowledge—there is one existing sketch of the school/church/residence building.

Moving forward, descendants, community members, and OHA’s archaeological team should be consulted to determine the appropriate location, and appropriate base materials to rest on the ground.



Reference sketch of school/church/residence building layout (OHA)



Footprint of school/church/residence based on image, archaeological data, and oral histories.

Inlaid stone marks the perimeter of the structure, potentially including some room divider lines

Site marker

RECREATED HOME FOOTPRINT

Element 4

- Building was approximately 25 x 50, according to the scale included in a historic sketch.
- The building was originally a school, and was converted to a church before becoming a residence for Sgt. Lee Thomas Young and his family.
- Porch along the front of the house and small extended room at the rear.

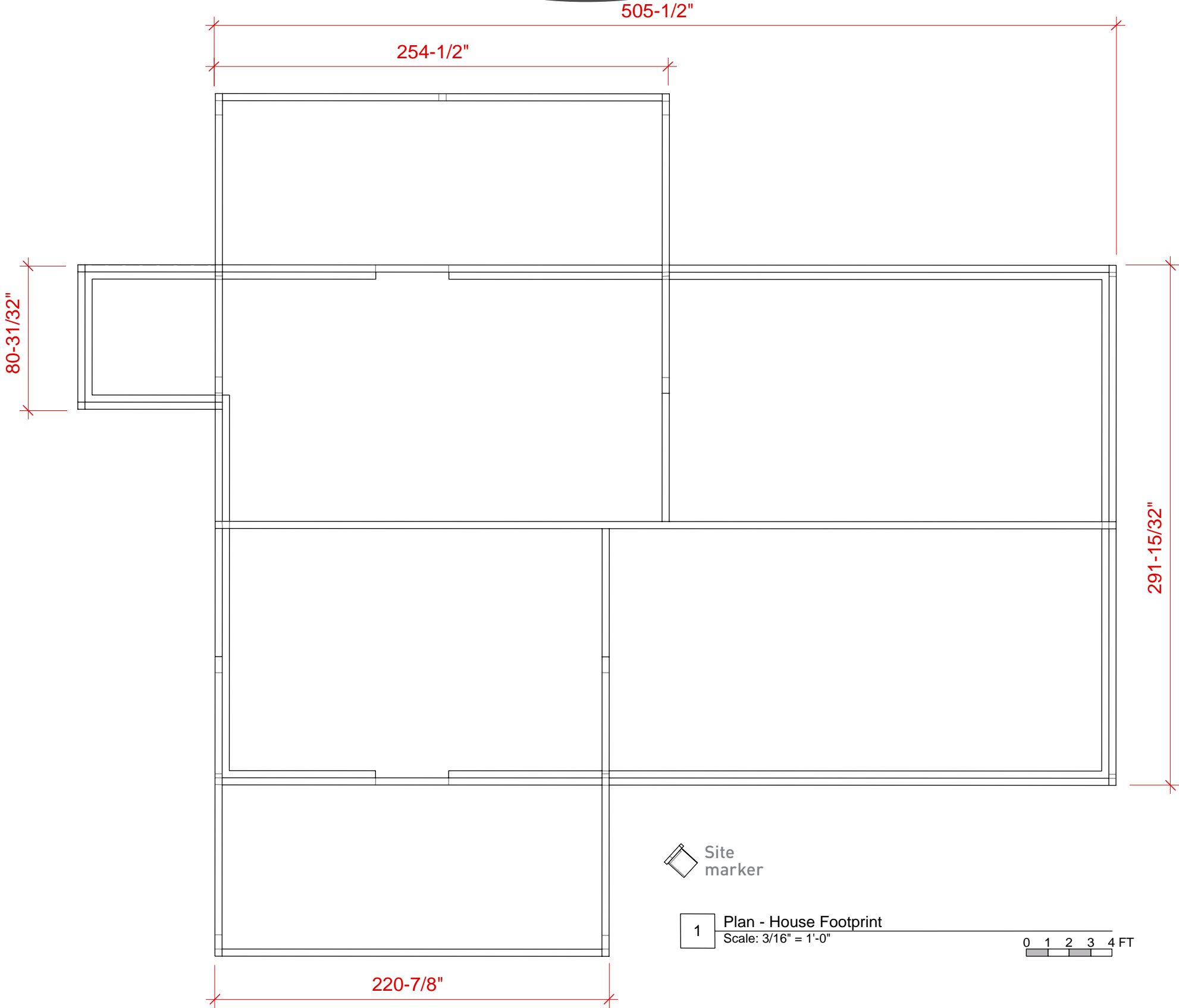
Sources:

Oral History, Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, Nov. 1996.

Oral History, Sgt. Lee Thomas Young, March 2009.

“Finding the Fort: A History of an African American Neighborhood in Northern Virginia, 1860s - 1960s,” Krystyn R. Moon, September 2014.

“Making Sense of the Fort; Civically-Engaged Sensory Archaeology at Fort Ward and Defenses of Washington,” Mary Furlong Minkoff, 2015.



PROJECT:

Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site

PHASE:

Phase IV: Final Concept Design
April 23, 2019

SCALE:

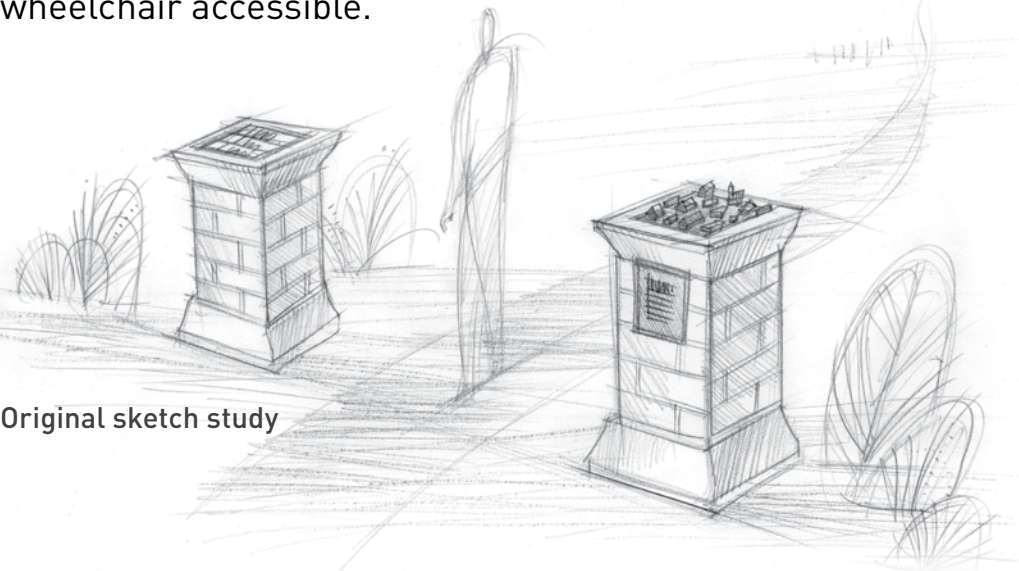
Scale = As Noted

DRAWINGS:

Recreated Home Footprint

These entry markers demonstrate Fort Ward’s dedication to telling how “The Fort” community developed and thrived on the site beginning near the end of the Civil War. Drawing visitors down the new community pathway (much as the recreated Gate does for the military fort), this feature provides an interpretive introduction to exploring the site’s post-Civil War heritage.

The rendering shown at right envisions two pillars, each topped by interpretation of “The Fort.” This scheme posits a tactile site map on the right-hand pillar, and perhaps dimensional tiles with family names on the left-hand structure. The pathway will extend around all sides of the pillars, so that any tactile elements are wheelchair accessible.



Original sketch study



Bronze plaque honoring “The Fort” tops pillar

Dimensional tactile site map tops pillar

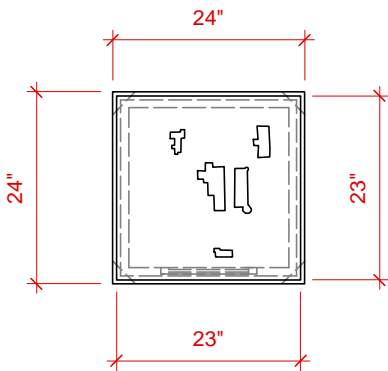
Short brick and stone pillar / angled edges compliment the Fort gate trim work

Plaque with dimensional title type

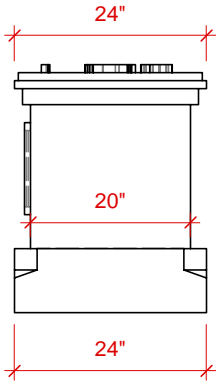
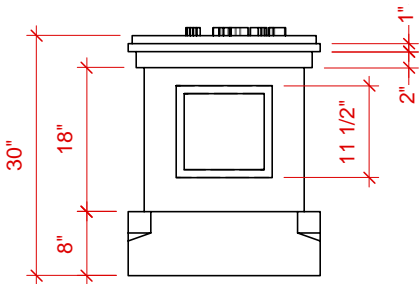
Path made with Dark Brown Flexi-Pave material



Alternate variation with white-washed brick



Pillar detail



1 Plan - Gateway Pedestal
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

2 Front - Gateway Pedestal
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

3 Side Elevation - Gateway Pedestal
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0"

COMMEMORATION SPACE

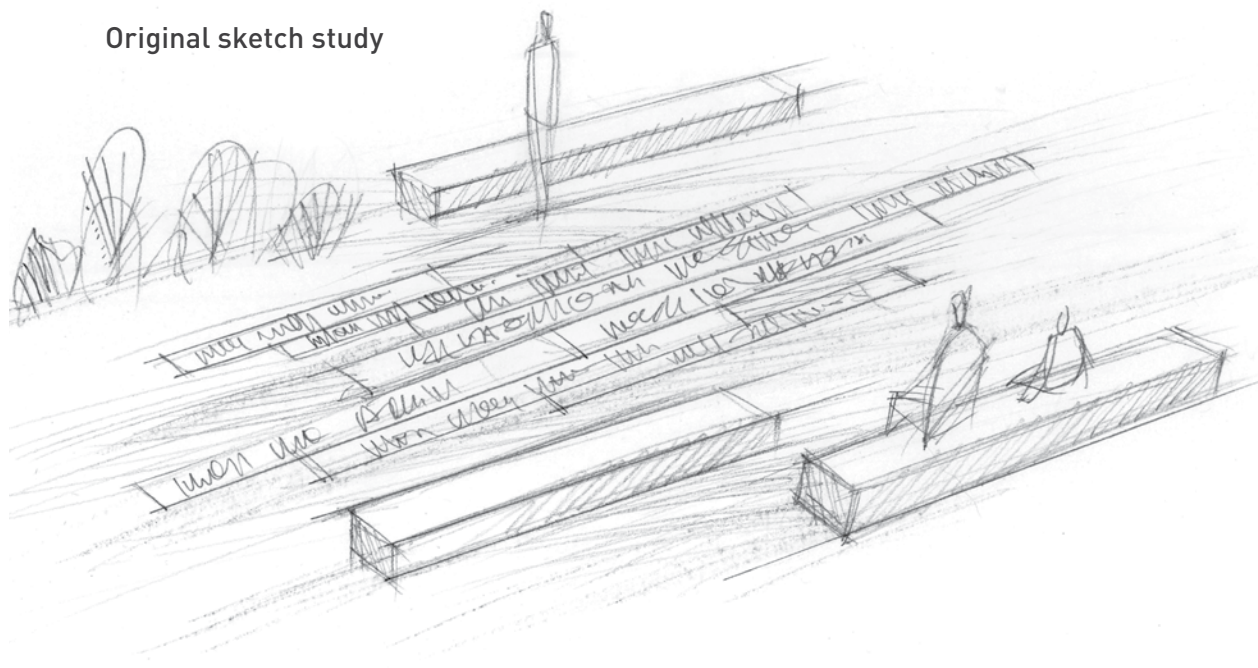
Element 6

Planning and consultation for Fort Ward in previous years has emphasized the importance of “commemoration” to the site. Fort Ward offers a unique place in the United States to remember the sacrifice and struggle of soldiers and civilians alike during the Civil War—and at the same time to consider the struggles, triumphs, and losses of African Americans who built a community in the shadow of this United States fort.

The rendering currently depicts Black Gum and Red Horsechestnut trees, as per a report on common shade trees in Alexandria by the Urban Forestry Management Unit of the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities. Moving forward, OHA should consult this office regarding the best type of tree to be planted in this space, as well as consider the cost of moving these trees within the installation budget.

Ornamental shade trees will be planted to provide more shade to the space as they grow

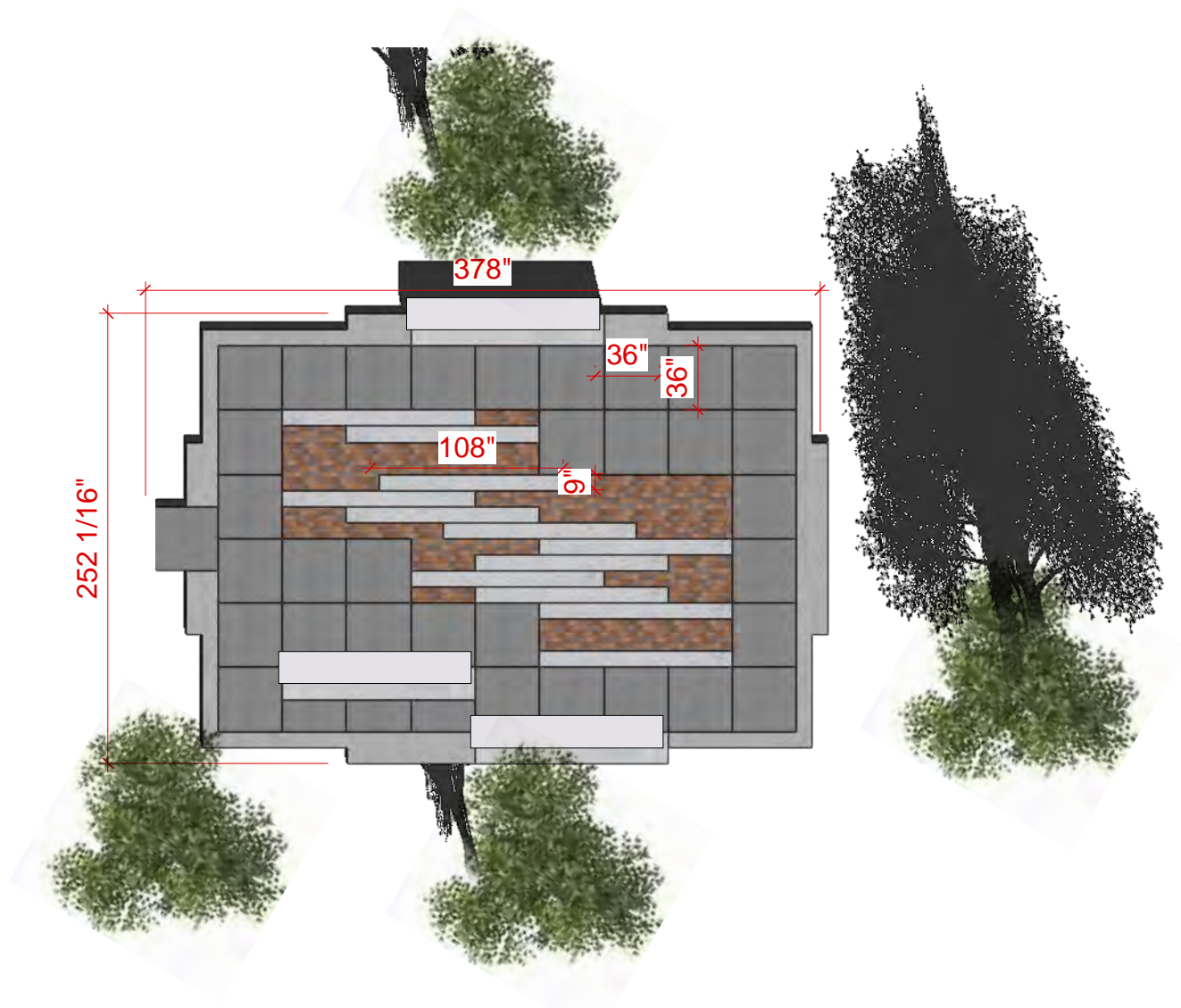
Original sketch study



At center of space, long plank-like stones with inscribed quotes or names / embedded in ground

Simple, long bench forms for rest and reflection surround space and mimic 'planks' in length

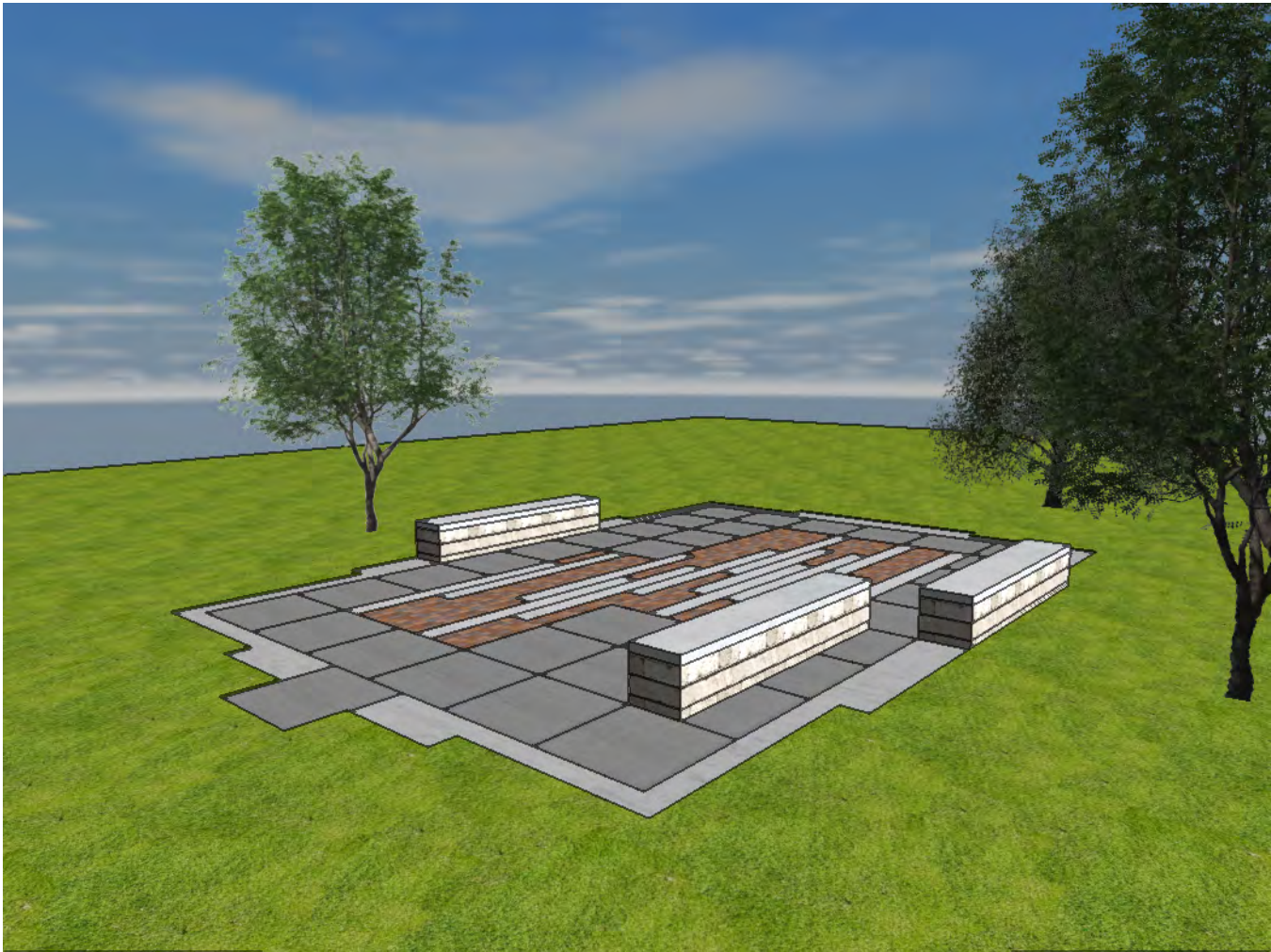
Perimeter of the defined space is suggestive of a floorplan of a community home



1 Plan - Commemoration Space
Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0" 0 1 2 3 4 FT



2 Elevation - Commemoration Space
Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0" 0 1 2 3 4 FT



3 Isometric - Commemoration Space

WAYSIDES—NEW, UPDATED, AND EXISTING

Element 7

NOTE: Locations for new waysides (7.16-7.20) are approximate and will be determined during installation.

Interpretive waysides are critical for interpreting the historic site. Under this plan, existing waysides interpreting the military fortifications are updated to meet the new graphic standards proposed for the site. Existing Community waysides remain, and “The Fort” story is augmented by new structures.

7.1 Entrance Gate + Officer’s Quarters (*)
Text, site plan, elevations, and photograph.

7.2 Southwest Bastion (*)
Text, site plan, and illustrations.

7.3 Fort Ward (*)
Text, plan, and map of defenses.

7.4 Bombproof
Text, site plan, raised line, and illustrations.

7.5 Powder Magazine
Text, site plan, and raised line sketch.

7.6 Northwest Bastion (*)
Text, site plan, sketches, and range chart.

7.7 Profile of Fort
Text, site plan, and raised line tactile profile.

7.8 Rifle Trench
Text and raised line site plan.

7.9 Outlying Gun Battery
Text and raised line site plan.

***Existing large panel**

7.10 From Civil War to Civil Rights
Overview Interpretation, timeline.

7.11 African Americans and the Civil War
Interpretive text and images.

7.12 The Oakland Baptist Church
Interpretive text and images.

7.13 Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery
Interpretive text and images.

7.14 Within Its Walls
Interpretive text and images.

7.15 Jackson Cemetery
Interpretive text and images.

7.16 We Are Still Here
Interpretive text and images.

7.17 Faith and the Community
Interpretive text and images.

7.18 Education at Fort Ward
Interpretive text and images.

7.19 A Community at Fort Ward
Interpretive text and images.

7.20 From Fort to Community
Interpretive text and images.



- Existing Wayside Base with Updated Graphics (Fort Ward)
- Existing Wayside (“The Fort”)
- New Wayside (“The Fort”)

NOTE: Design inspirations are developed under the understanding that Fort Ward's interpretive elements may take a unique style, not bound to City standards.

Headlines

Subheads

Body Text

References

Clarendon

Trade Gothic

Trade Gothic

New Baskerville

FORT WARD

ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz 0123456789

Gatlin Bold

Clifford Eight

American Scribe

Historical Fell

French News

Gipsiero

1865

1865 CIVIL US

0123456789

0123456789

Onyx

PMS Warm Gray 1c (40%)
C=15, M=14, Y=17, K=0 (40%)

PMS 7610c
C=38, M=79, Y=70, K=44

PMS 7599c
C=20, M=89, Y=100, K=10

PMS 5445c
C=28, M=14, Y=11, K=0

PMS 5415c
C=69, M=43, Y=30, K=4

PMS 653c
C=88, M=64, Y=18, K=3

PMS 534c
C=98, M=85, Y=36, K=27

PMS 465c
C=26, M=40, Y=73, K=3

PMS 7527c
C=16, M=13, Y=21, K=0

PMS 7560c
C=42, M=53, Y=93, K=26

Civil War Soldier's Cartridge Box

1865

Fort Ward

READ AND CONSIDER

Civil War Soldier's Cartridge Box

1865

Fort Ward

READ AND CONSIDER

NOTE: Design inspirations are developed under the understanding that Fort Ward’s interpretive elements may take a unique style, not bound to City standards.



MAIN FORT ICON



MAIN COMMUNITY ICON

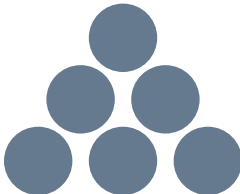
OTHER FORT ICONS



Fort Plan



Military Stars



Cannon Balls



Corps of Engineers Icon

Other Fort Gate Elements

OTHER ICONS



Community / Nature / Park Today



Indigenous Sites



Archaeology



OTHER EMBELLISHMENTS / BORDERS



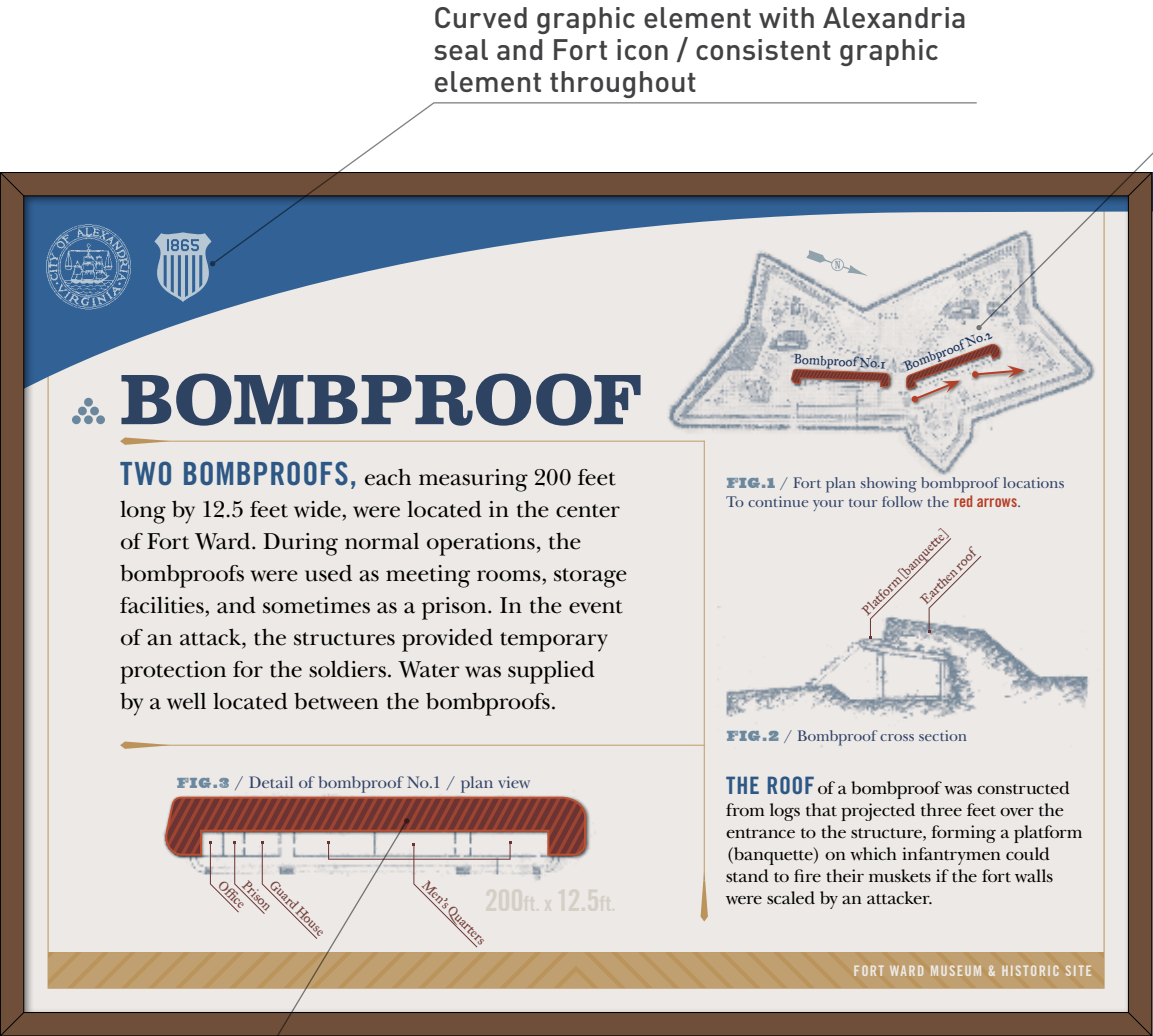
Vintage-Inspired Borders



Museum Building Trim



Earthworks / Landscape



Curved graphic element with Alexandria seal and Fort icon / consistent graphic element throughout

Raised tactile element made from etched zinc

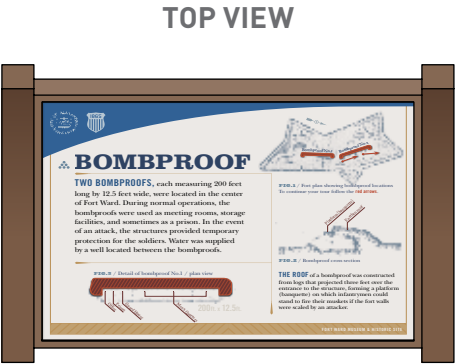
Raised tactile element made from etched zinc



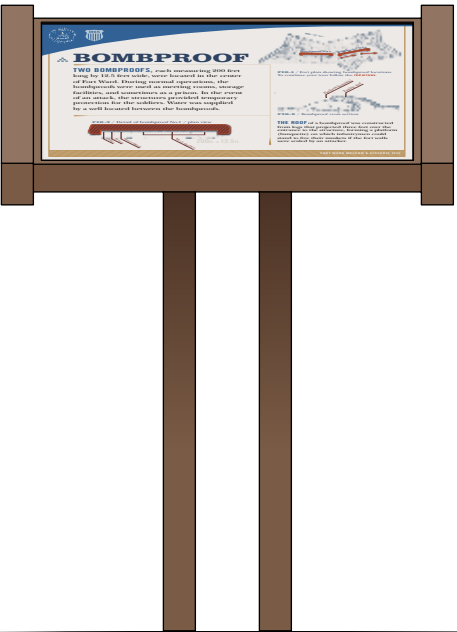
FORT ICON
(Shield from Gate)



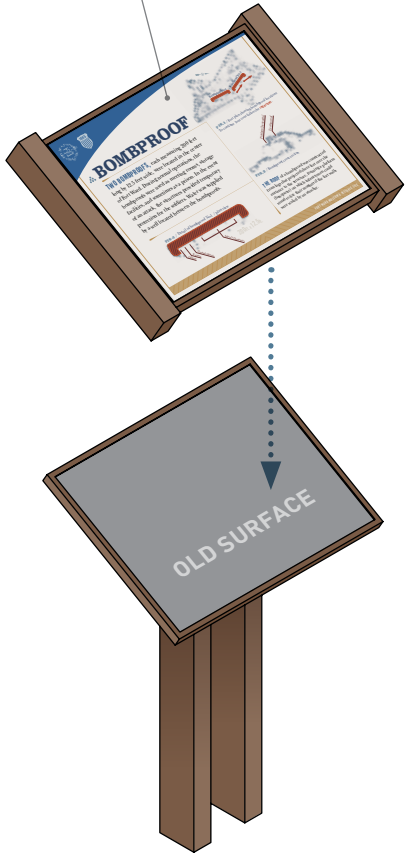
EXISTING GRAPHIC



TOP VIEW



FRONT VIEW



ISOMETRIC VIEW



New graphic framework with end bars mounts to old graphic surface

ENTRANCE GATE TO FORT WARD

THE FORT WARD ENTRANCE GATE, COMPLETED IN MAY 1865, provided the only access to the interior of the fort. The gate's decorative details include stands of cannonballs and the insignia (castle) of the Army Corps of Engineers which designed and supervised the construction of the Defenses of Washington. The present gate is a reconstruction based on the original Corps of Engineers drawing below.

A ditch, or dry moat, surrounded the entire fort. The fort's earthen walls reached a height of approximately 20 feet from the bottom of the ditch to the arch of the gate. The walls were 12–14 feet thick and could absorb the impact of artillery fire.

FIG.1 / Army Corps of Engineers' drawing of the entrance gate

FIG.2 / Plan of Fort Ward

★ TO CONTINUE YOUR TOUR, proceed along the exterior rear wall of the Fort to the stairway ahead.

FIG.3 / This photograph, taken at Fort Ward in 1863, shows the quarters of Capt. Theodore H. Rockwood.

OFFICERS' HUT

THE OFFICERS' HUTS, soldiers' barracks and mess hall were located outside the fort, near the present Museum, which is patterned after a Union army headquarters building. These structures were built in a typical board-and-batten style. The above photograph, taken at Fort Ward in 1863, shows the quarters of Capt. Theodore H. Rockwood (seated), of Co. E., First Connecticut Heavy Artillery.

Throughout the war, Fort Ward was manned by companies of the First Connecticut Heavy Artillery, as well as units from New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. The fort could accommodate a garrison of approximately 1,200 soldiers, although records indicate that only 300–400 men were stationed here at one time.

FORT WARD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE

Potential raised tactile elements for stars, arrows, and map outline

Large updated wayside (36" w x 24" h)

Framework



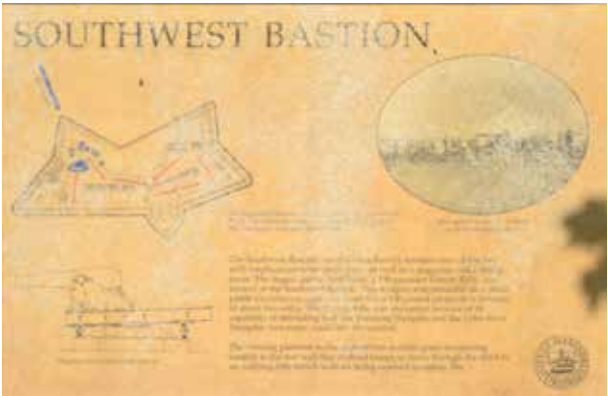
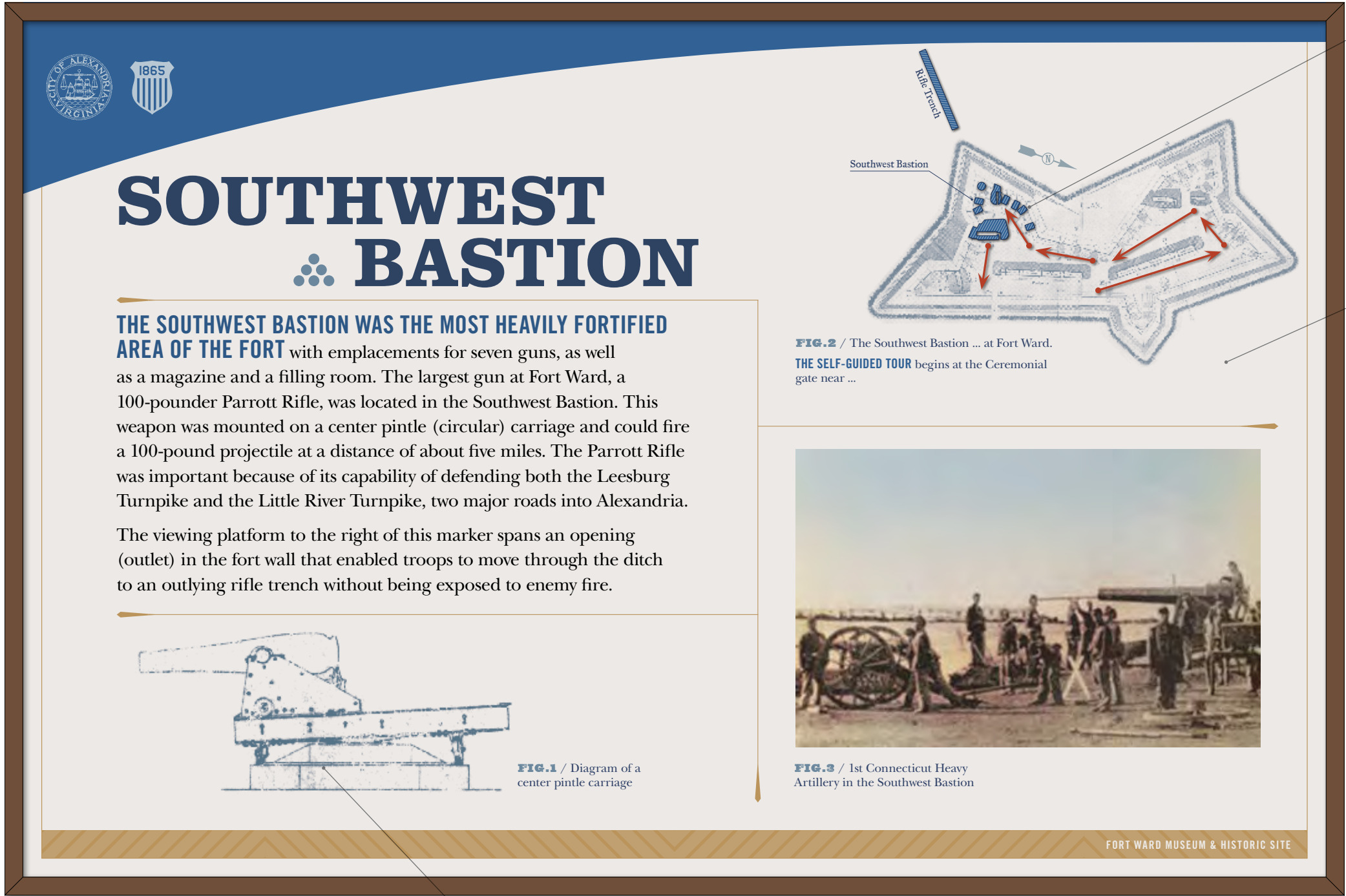
EXISTING GRAPHIC

7.1

Potential raised tactile element for gate line drawings

Potential raised tactile elements for Southwest Bastion structures, rifle trench, arrows, and map outline

Large updated wayside (36" w x 24" h)



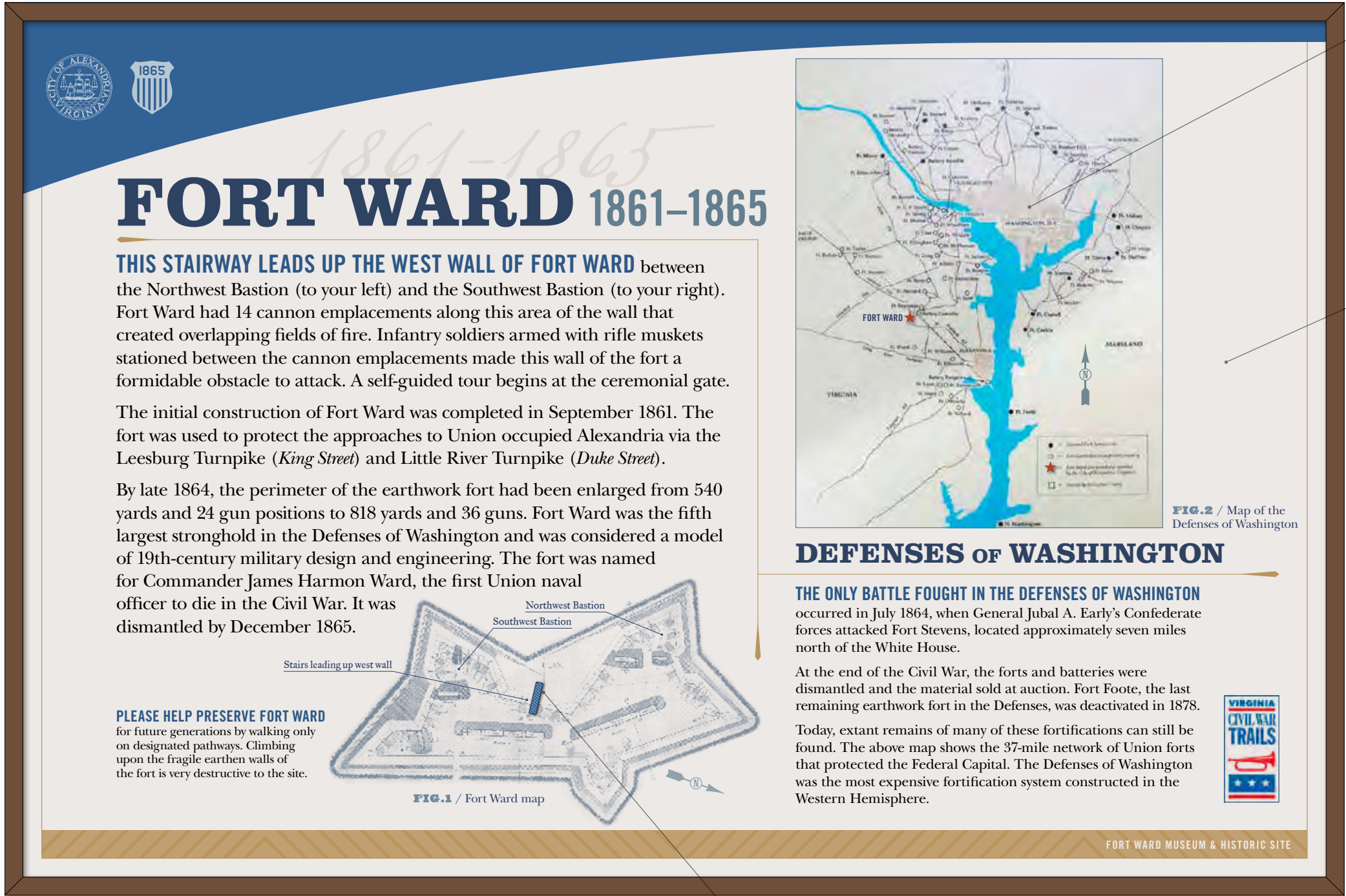
EXISTING GRAPHIC

7.2

Potential raised tactile element for gun line drawing

Potential raised tactile elements for map lines, Defenses of Washington fort locations including star for Fort Ward

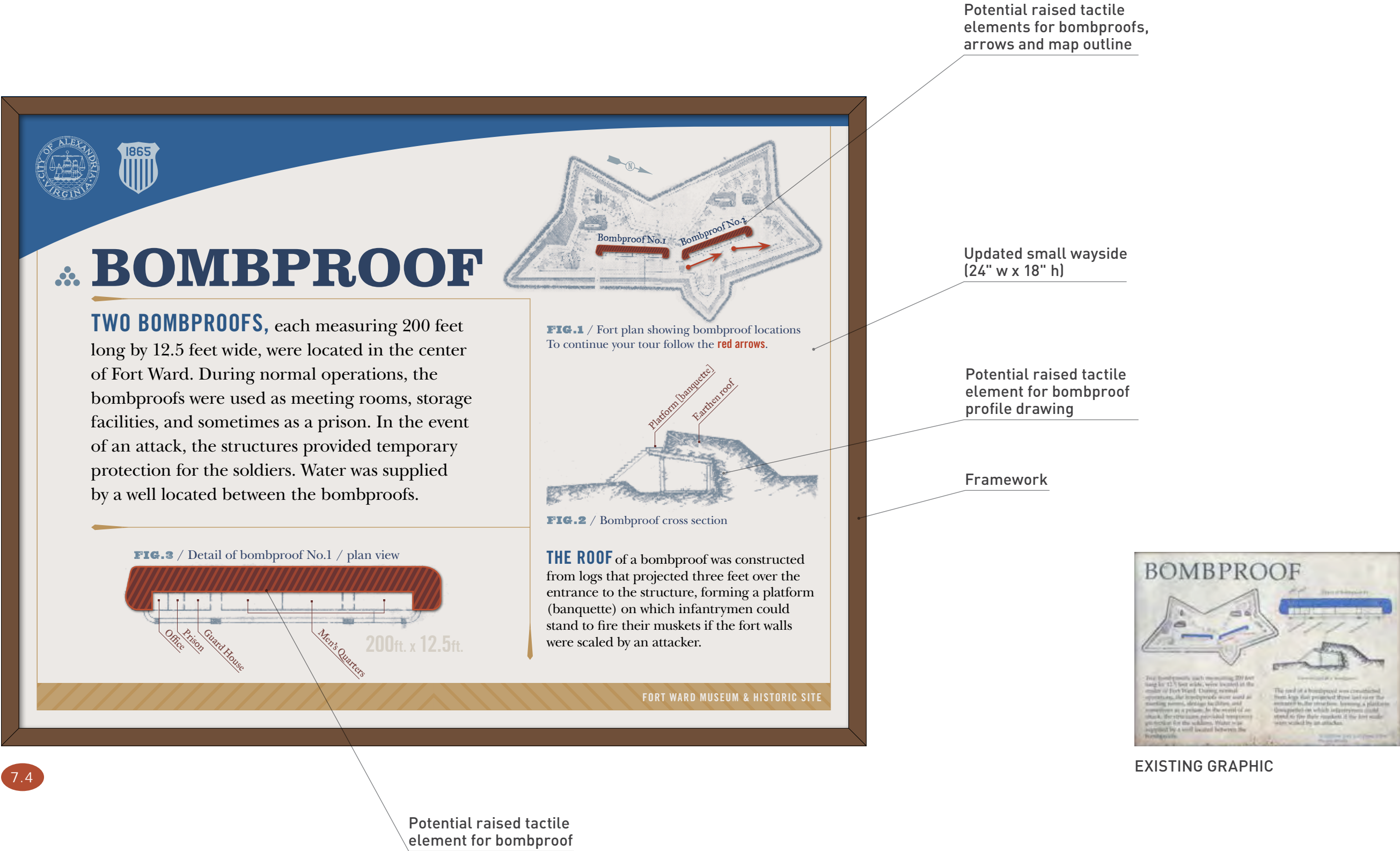
Large updated wayside (36" w x 24" h)



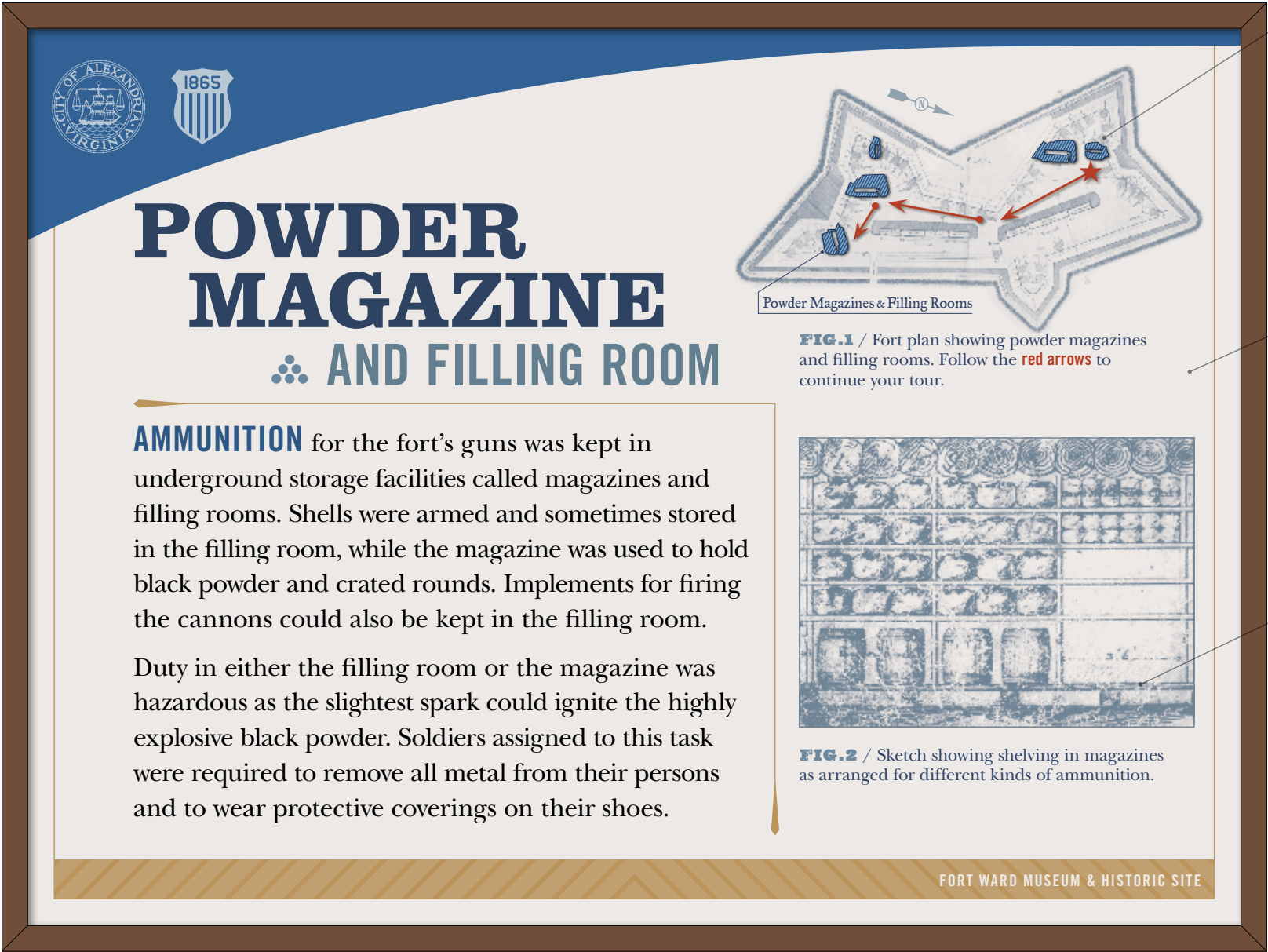
EXISTING GRAPHIC

7.3

Potential raised tactile elements for stairs and map outline



EXISTING GRAPHIC



Potential raised tactile elements for powder magazines, filling rooms, arrows, star, and map outline

Updated small wayside (24" w x 18" h)

Potential raised tactile element for magazine drawing





EXISTING GRAPHIC

7.5

Potential raised tactile elements for Northwest Bastion structures, rifle trench, and map outline

Large updated wayside (36" w x 24" h)

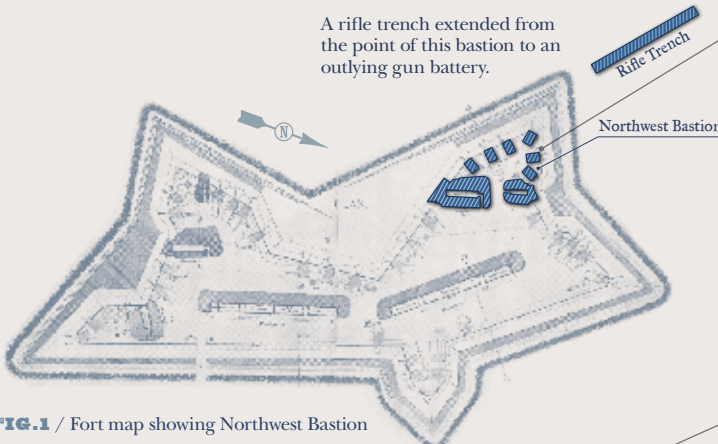
NORTHWEST BASTION

THE PLAN OF FORT WARD CONSISTED OF FIVE BASTIONS

with positions for 36 guns. The Northwest Bastion illustrates how the entire stronghold appeared in 1864. This bastion is armed with six reproduction weapons based on Fort Ward’s original table of armament: three 4.5" Rodman rifled guns (No. 14, 16, 17), two 24-pounder smoothbore Howitzers (No. 13, 15), and one 6-pounder James Rifle (No. 12).

The cannons worked in concert to sweep the field toward Little River Turnpike (*Duke Street*) to the south, and Leesburg Turnpike (*King Street*) to the north. Artillery crews in teams of 5–7 men were assigned to each gun position. Infantrymen were stationed along the ledge (Banquette) between the gun platforms.

The Northwest Bastion was restored by the City of Alexandria, 1961–64.



A rifle trench extended from the point of this bastion to an outlying gun battery.

Rifle Trench

Northwest Bastion

FIG.1 / Fort map showing Northwest Bastion

RANGE OF FIRE AT MAXIMUM ELEVATION

GUN TYPE	WEIGHT OF PROJECTILE	POWDER CHARGE	WEIGHT OF TUBE	RANGE (approx.)
4.5" RODMAN	25–30 lbs.	3.25 lbs.	9,700 lbs.	1.75 miles
24-POUNDER HOWITZER	24 lbs.	2.00 lbs.	1,380 lbs.	0.75 miles
6-POUNDER JAMES	6 lbs.	1.25 lbs.	884 lbs.	1.00 miles

THE PRECISE ART OF FIRING A CANNON

was the result of a skilled team effort. A well-drilled gun crew, consisting of seven men plus a gunner, could fire a field cannon 2–3 rounds per minute.

LOAD!

6 & 7 cut fuses and distribute rounds to 5 who carries them to 2. 1 sponges barrel. 2 puts round in gun. 1 rams round into barrel while 3 closes vent with thumbstall.

READY!

1 & 2 step clear. 3 pricks cartridge with priming wire. 4 hooks lanyard to primer, puts primer in vent and move to the rear.

FIRE!

3 steps clear. 4 pulls lanyard and fires gun.

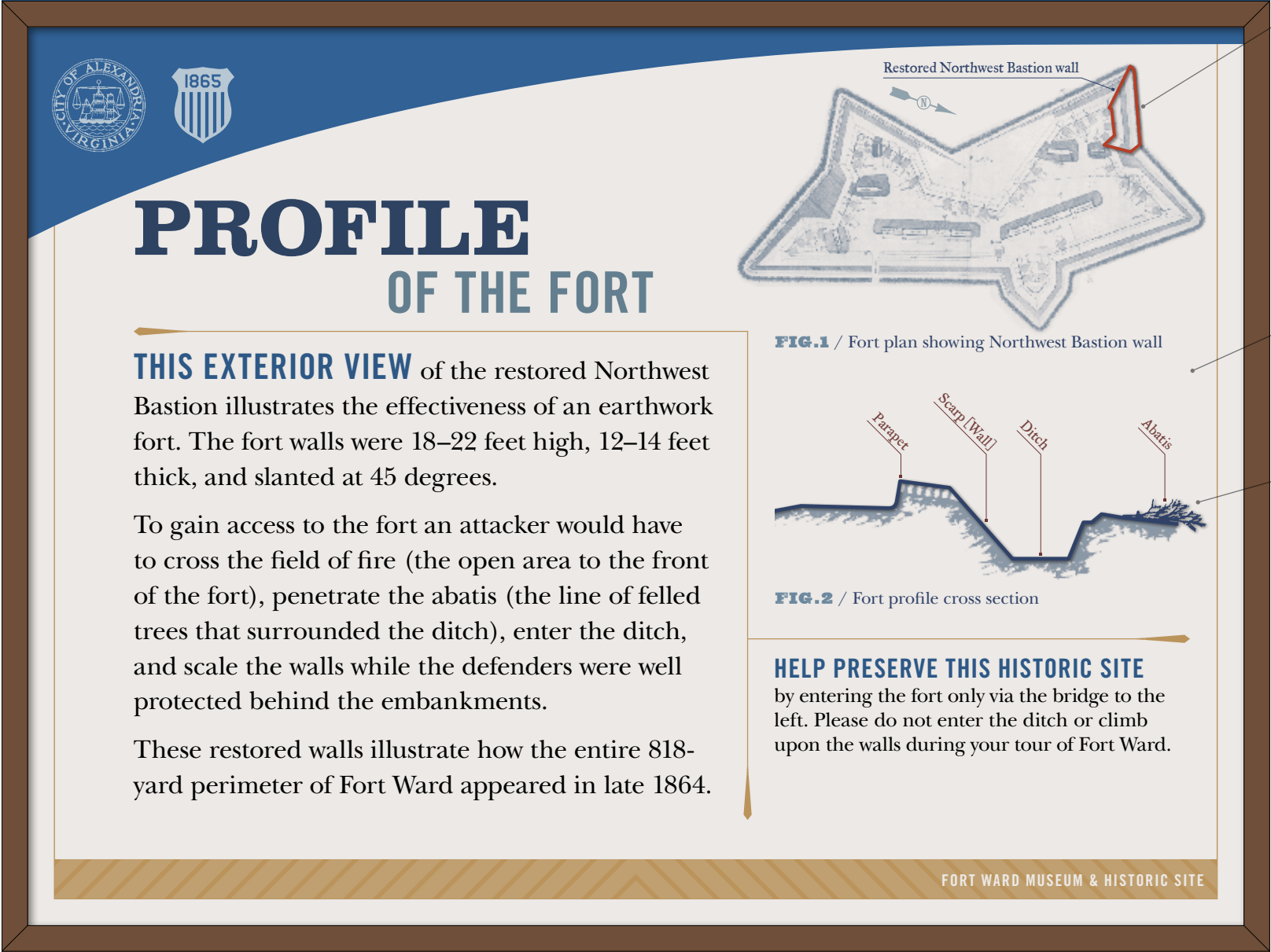
FORT WARD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE



EXISTING GRAPHIC

7.6

Potential raised tactile elements for “Firing a Cannon” drawings



Potential raised tactile elements for Bastion wall outline and map outline

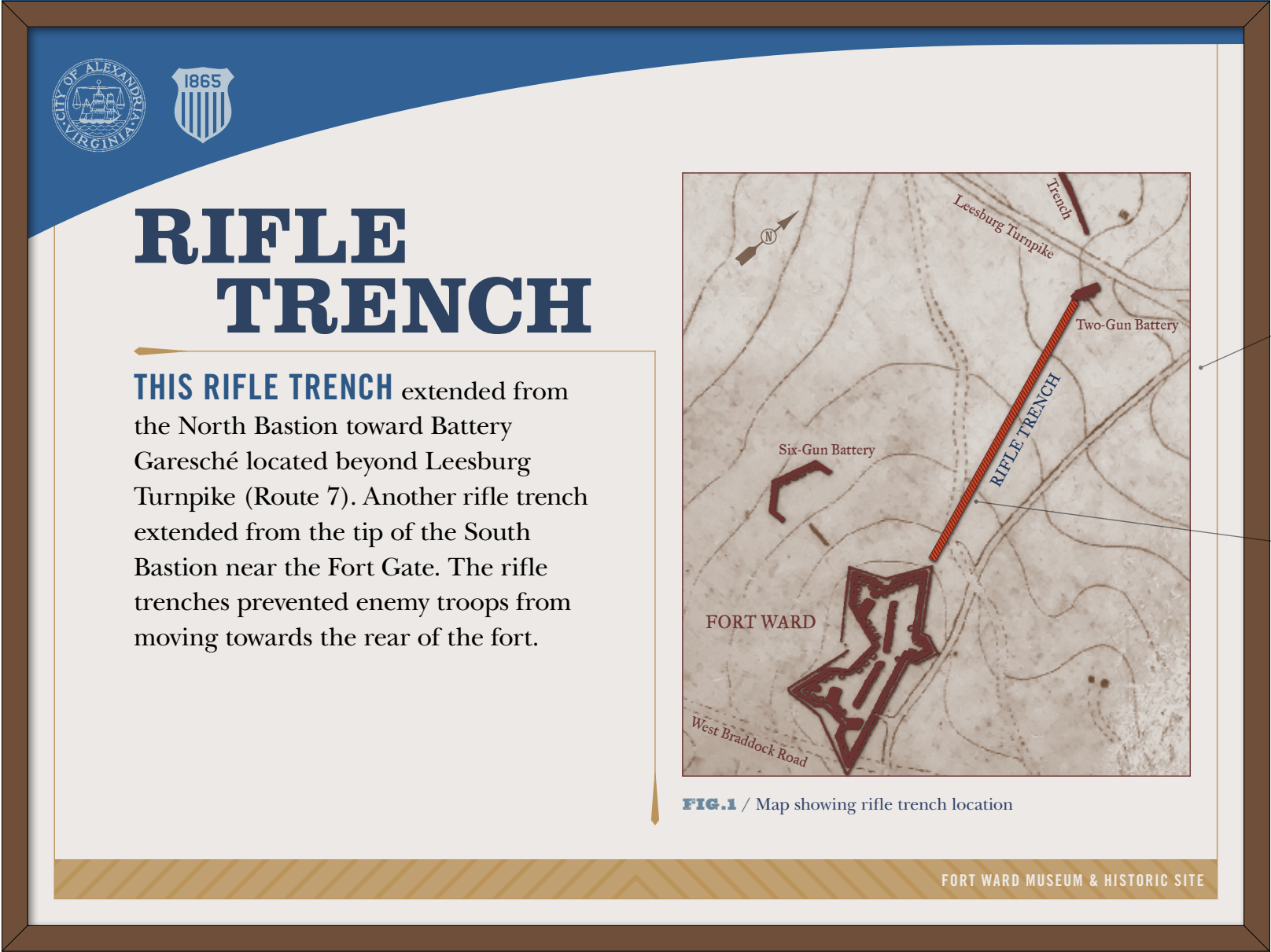
Updated small wayside (24" w x 18" h)

Potential raised tactile element for Fort wall profile



EXISTING GRAPHIC

7.7



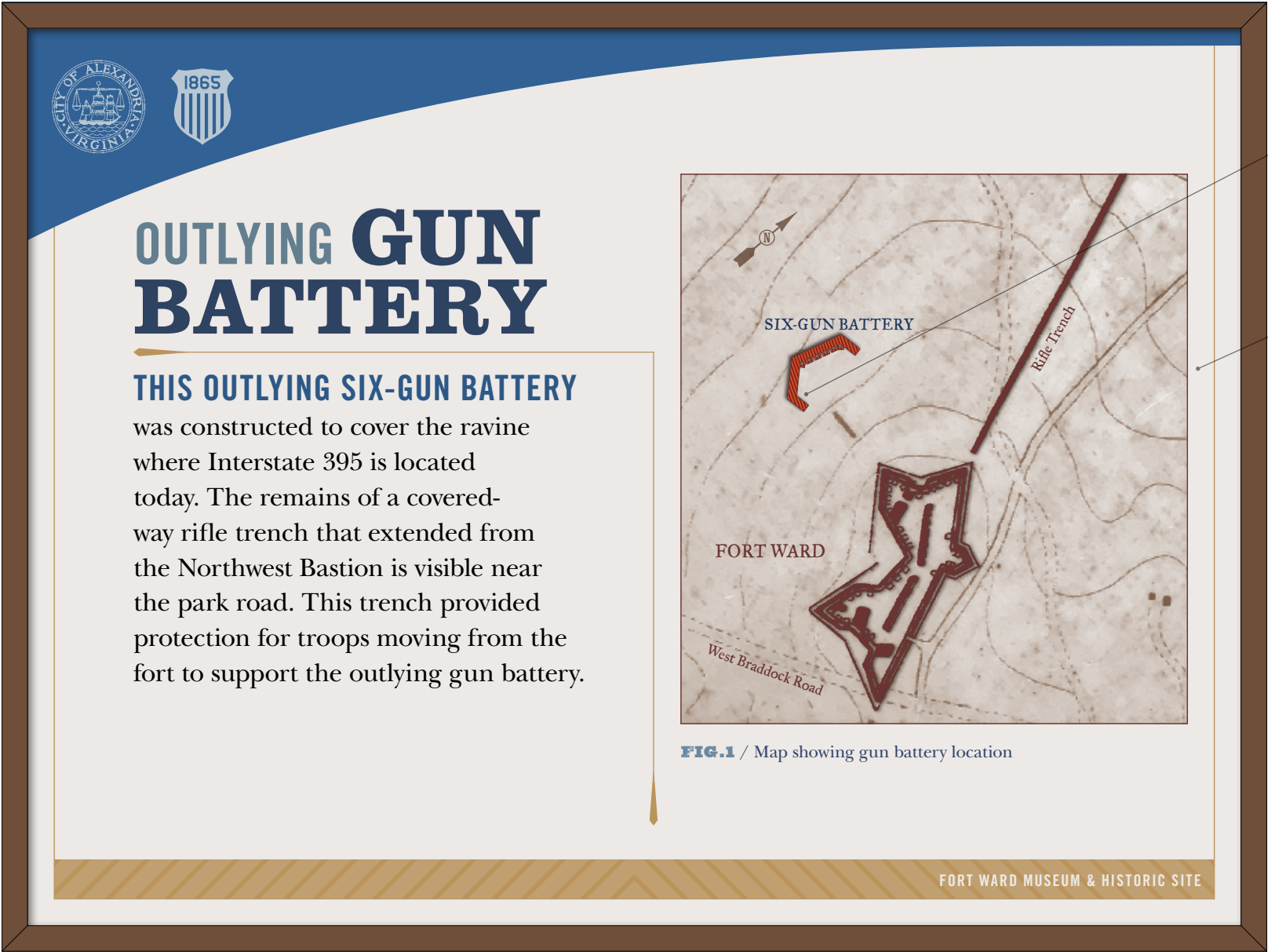
Updated small wayside (24" w x 18" h)

Potential raised tactile elements for rifle trench, Fort outline, and other map elements



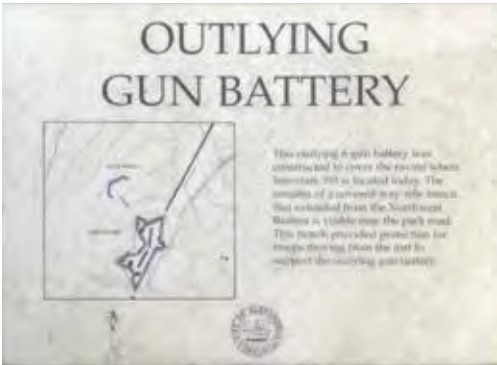
EXISTING GRAPHIC

7.8



Potential raised tactile elements for gun battery, Fort outline, and other map elements

Updated small wayside (24" w x 18" h)



EXISTING GRAPHIC

7.9

NOTE: Locations for new waysides (7.16-7.20) are approximate and will be determined during installation.

New waysides representing “The Fort” community will be added to provide additional interpretation beyond the existing, relatively new, waysides. The new panels will incorporate the same base for a uniform look.

7.16 We Are Still Here
Provides an overview of the African American descendants of “The Fort” and Seminary communities today.

7.17 Faith and the Community
Based at the Oakland Baptist Cemetery. Interprets the churches and cemeteries at Fort Ward—why and how they were founded.

7.18 Education at “The Fort”
Overlooks the original location of the Seminary School and interprets the role of education in the Fort Ward African American community—something that many residents traveled at great length to achieve, in addition to the schoolhouse set up here.


7.19 A Community at “The Fort”
Looking out across the homesites, interprets families and neighborhood leaders like the Adams, McKnights, Caseys, and Belks, and traces how families grew and changed their community through decades of ongoing inequality.

7.20 From Fort to Community
Connects both the Outlying Gun Bastion and Jackson homesite as an opportunity to trace the evolution of Fort Ward from military installation to homesite to municipal park. May also be appropriate at the site of the McKnight property, inside the fort.



- 1 Recreated Home Footprint
- 2 Clara Adams’ Burial Site
- 3 Community Gateway

Curved graphic element with Alexandria seal and community icon / consistent graphic element throughout




EDUCATION AT "THE FORT"

IN 1898, CLARA SHORTS ADAMS AND ROBERT ADAMS donated a quarter-acre of land to the Falls Church School District to build a school for African American children. At the time, schools in Virginia were segregated by race. Until this donation, "The Fort" and "Seminary" communities did not have equal access to educational resources. After the community took education into their own hands, the one-room "Colored School Building at Seminary" opened as the first public schoolhouse for African American children in the area and remained until 1925.


"They (residents of "The Fort") were mostly educated people, and they all went to school, though most of them went to school together in the little one-room schoolhouse..."

/ BARBARA ASHBY GORDON / 1994



1932 / GRADUATING CLASS OF 1932


Levin Douglas
Arlie Cossy
Beatrice Tomlin
Elizabeth Henry
Allen Warner
Gertrude Stevenson
Rebecca Rose



/ ORIGINAL SEMINARY SCHOOL

FIG.1 / These five students and their teachers make up the Seminary School's graduating class of 1932.

FIG.2 / This photograph shows the original Seminary School building, which offered first through seventh grade classes for the community's children. The land is now occupied by T.C. Williams High School.



COMMUNITY MAP

SCHOOL SITE

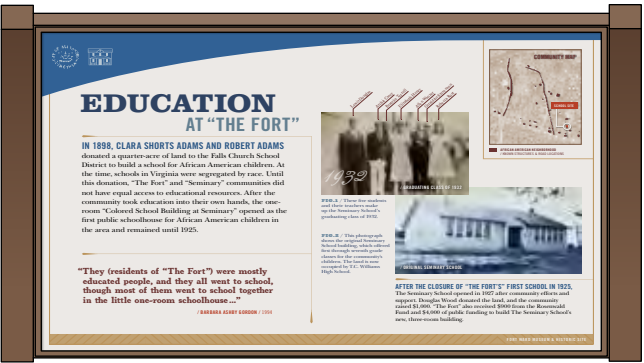
AFRICAN AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD / KNOWN STRUCTURES & ROAD LOCATIONS

AFTER THE CLOSURE OF "THE FORT'S" FIRST SCHOOL IN 1925, The Seminary School opened in 1927 after community efforts and support. Douglas Wood donated the land, and the community raised \$1,000. "The Fort" also received \$900 from the Rosenwald Fund and \$4,000 of public funding to build The Seminary School's new, three-room building.

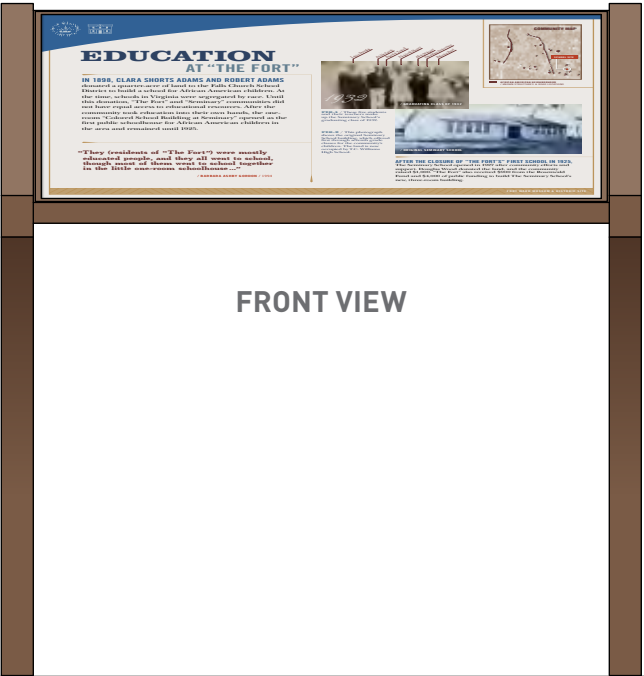
FORT WARD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE



TOP VIEW



FRONT VIEW



ISOMETRIC VIEW



COMMUNITY ICON
(Home Structure)



WE ARE STILL HERE

ALTHOUGH THE PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF “THE FORT” ceased to exist after the City of Alexandria reclaimed the land in the 1960s, those who lived in the community and their descendants have not forgotten. The Fort Ward and Seminary African American Descendants Society has a long history of fighting to “preserve and promote the history and cultural heritage of communities in the geographic proximity of Fort Ward.” Beginning in 2008, the group made their voices heard by advocating for the importance of including the community’s story within the Fort Ward Park and Historic Site experience.

“Alexandria should have preserved some of that area as a salute, if nothing else, to the former slaves who once lived there ... and we [residents of “The Fort”] all came from slavery.”

/ BARBARA ASHBY GORDON

2015



/ REUNION MEETING

FIG.1 & FIG.2 / 2015 Reunion Meetings of the Fort Ward and Seminary Descendants Groups.



/ REUNION MEETING

IN THE 1990s, archaeologists began conducting a series of interviews with former members of “The Fort” community in order to draw attention to their story as well. Since, historians and the Descendants Society have worked to continuously remind the Fort they are still here—and their story deserves to be heard equally. As you explore the site, think about how your Fort Ward experience might have differed without mention of “The Fort” community.

COMMUNITY MAP



AFRICAN AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD / KNOWN STRUCTURES & ROAD LOCATIONS



FORT WARD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE

Potential raised tactile map highlighting community structures

Large wayside (36" w x 24" h)

Framework

7.16





FAITH AND THE COMMUNITY

ORGANIZED RELIGION was an important aspect of daily life for community residents, and had been an integral part of African American culture even before the Civil War. There were many churches in Alexandria for residents to attend, and by 1882, they had established their own church: St. Cyprian's Episcopal Chapel. Residents gathered at St. Cyprian's for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and Sunday School. As Baptist Christianity grew in popularity, members of the community established a second place of worship, the Oakland Baptist Church, in the 1890s.


"Going to Oakland Baptist cemetery. Amen. It was all woods then, you know, but you could stumble all over the graves. Amen.... Only way they could get to the cemetery was through a lane here, and that looked like the same old lane."

/ SGT. LEE THOMAS YOUNG / 2009



/ OAKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

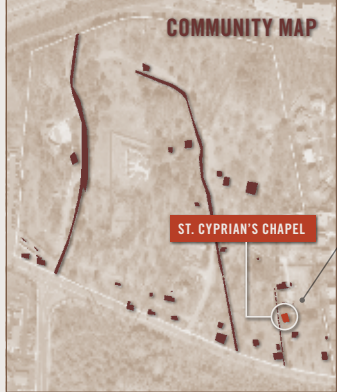
FIG.1 / The Oakland Baptist church, pictured here after its 1999 restoration, continues to serve the African American community of Alexandria today. The church is another reminder of the lasting impact of "The Fort" community.



/ SUNDAY SCHOOL

FIG.2 / An Oakland Baptist Church Sunday School class, photographed mid-1960s. Children from across "The Fort," and other communities attended Sunday School at Oakland and St. Cyprian's through the early twentieth century.

SEVERAL PROMINENT COMMUNITY MEMBERS, including Clara Adams, John Casey, John Terrell, and Harriet Shorts, were considered to be founding members of the Oakland Baptist Church and Cemetery. In 1929, the Javins family deeded more land to the church to expand the original cemetery, known as the "Old Grave Yard." Members of the Javins and McKnight families are buried at Oakland Baptist.



COMMUNITY MAP

ST. CYPRIAN'S CHAPEL

AFRICAN AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD / KNOWN STRUCTURES & ROAD LOCATIONS

Potential raised tactile map highlighting community structures

Large wayside (36" w x 24" h)

FORT WARD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE

7.17

EDUCATION AT "THE FORT"

IN 1898, CLARA SHORTS ADAMS AND ROBERT ADAMS donated a quarter-acre of land to the Falls Church School District to build a school for African American children. At the time, schools in Virginia were segregated by race. Until this donation, "The Fort" and "Seminary" communities did not have equal access to educational resources. After the community took education into their own hands, the one-room "Colored School Building at Seminary" opened as the first public schoolhouse for African American children in the area and remained until 1925.

"They (residents of "The Fort") were mostly educated people, and they all went to school, though most of them went to school together in the little one-room schoolhouse..."

/ BARBARA ASHBY GORDON / 1994

1932 / GRADUATING CLASS OF 1932

FIG.1 / These five students and their teachers make up the Seminary School's graduating class of 1932.

/ ORIGINAL SEMINARY SCHOOL

FIG.2 / This photograph shows the original Seminary School building, which offered first through seventh grade classes for the community's children. The land is now occupied by T.C. Williams High School.

AFTER THE CLOSURE OF "THE FORT'S" FIRST SCHOOL IN 1925, The Seminary School opened in 1927 after community efforts and support. Douglas Wood donated the land, and the community raised \$1,000. "The Fort" also received \$900 from the Rosenwald Fund and \$4,000 of public funding to build The Seminary School's new, three-room building.

COMMUNITY MAP

SCHOOL SITE



AFRICAN AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD / KNOWN STRUCTURES & ROAD LOCATIONS

Potential raised tactile map highlighting community structures

Large wayside (36" w x 24" h)

FORT WARD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE

7.18

A COMMUNITY AT "THE FORT"

THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY'S EXISTENCE, residents of "The Fort" were subject to discrimination and segregation within the broader Northern Virginia area. Residents were forced to build their own churches, and the original Seminary School was constructed after no local schools would accept African American children who lived at "The Fort." Despite the discrimination, community leaders, including the Adams, McKnights, Caseys, and Belks, were able to facilitate a strong neighborhood bond amongst families within "The Fort." The result was a strong, thriving, predominately African American community within the midst of a segregated Alexandria.

"I felt secure because of being loved. The neighbors loved me and the people took care of the children. When somebody worked at home, they watched out for the children ... we were poor and we didn't have much, but I felt secure and loved."

/ SHIRLEY STEELE / 2008




FIG.1 / The Ashby family home was known for its wide front porch, two-story structure, and well-maintained appearance. This photograph was taken during the 1950s.


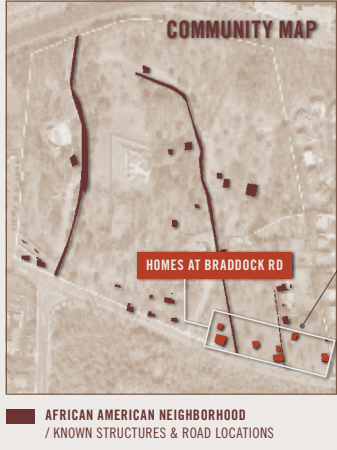


FIG.2 / Clara Adams and unknown child (possibly Charles McKnight) and her husband, Robert, were integral figures in establishing and maintaining "The Fort."

SAMUEL ASHBY, his wife, and their seven children moved to "The Fort" in 1898. Their home, a well-built, two-story structure, faced West Braddock Road and caught the eye of anyone who passed. Much like other families, the Ashby family stayed at "The Fort" long term, passing down their home through generations until 1961, when it was sold to the City of Alexandria.






COMMUNITY MAP
 HOMES AT BRADDOCK RD
 AFRICAN AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD / KNOWN STRUCTURES & ROAD LOCATIONS

FORT WARD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE

Potential raised tactile map highlighting community structures

Large wayside (36" w x 24" h)

7.19






FROM FORT TO COMMUNITY

THE LAYERED HISTORICAL LANDSCAPE of Fort Ward Park is reflected by this location in the center of the Union fort where a post-Civil War structure once stood that was part of the African American community called “The Fort.” Although many of the former homes within “The Fort” community were located on the east side of the Park, others were situated on top of the Civil War features and to the west of the historic fort. Cassius and Rachel McKnight purchased land at “The Fort” in 1890. They built their home within the earthwork remains of Fort Ward, on the site of one of the fort’s bombproof shelters, and continued to live here until Cassius’s death in 1924.

“I’ll tell you about Fort Ward. They call it Fort Ward now, but it was “[The] Fort,” [to us]”

/ ELIZABETH DOUGLAS / 1992



COMMUNITY MAP
 MCKNIGHT PROPERTY
 AFRICAN AMERICAN NEIGHBORHOOD / KNOWN STRUCTURES & ROAD LOCATIONS




FIG.1 / Jim Jackson (right), Fred Rust (center), and Simon Reed (left), dug graves at the Jackson Cemetery, occasionally referred to as the “Fort Ward Cemetery.”

/ JACKSON CEMETERY




FIG.2 / James Jackson (left), his wife Kittie, and friends photographed on their property at “The Fort,” ca. 1941.

/ JACKSON FAMILY

IN ADDITION TO THE MCKNIGHTS, other families settled on the western side of the present-day Park. James Jackson purchased two large lots on what is now much of the western sector of Fort Ward Park, where his home and a community cemetery were located. His property occupied areas that today include part of the fort’s restored Northwest bastion and glacis, the man-made earthen slope surrounding the fort, adding to the layered history of Fort Ward.

FORT WARD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE

Potential raised tactile map highlighting community structures

Large wayside (36" w x 24" h)

7.20

A series of low-profile graphics mark out key sites and locations throughout the built and natural landscape, many of which are no longer visible or are not otherwise interpreted. These locations help visitors appreciate the enormity of Fort Ward’s story and shine a light on the efforts of archaeologists and community members to record these features. The panels will also feature historic imagery. The site markers will also include a link to the mobile digital feature, which will provide additional information regarding the historic locations.

Ten such markers are currently budgeted.

Potential Sites to Mark

- 1 Changes in the Land
- 2 Craven Home
- 3 Fort’s Well
- 4 Schoolhouse Lane
- 5 Clara Adams’ Burial Site
- 6 Peters Home
- 7 Javins Home
- 8 School / Church / Residence Site
- 9 Shorts Home
- 10 The Homes at West Braddock Road

NOTE: Locations for all site markers are approximate and will be determined during installation.



Curved graphic element with Alexandria seal and community icon / consistent graphic element throughout

Additional icon and label used to signify archaeological sites




ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

SCHOOL / CHURCH / RESIDENCE SITE

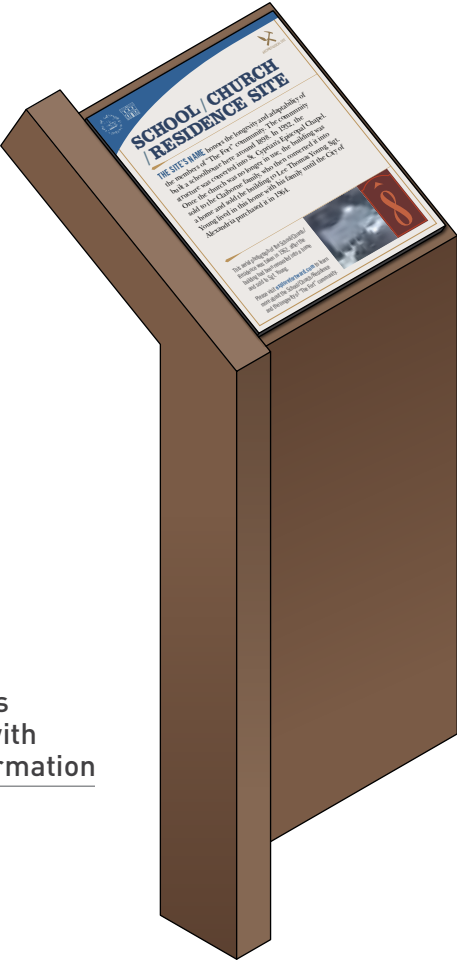
THE SITE'S NAME honors the longevity and adaptability of the members of “The Fort” community. The community built a schoolhouse here around 1898. In 1932, the structure was converted into St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Chapel. Once the church was no longer in use, the building was sold to the Claiborne family, who then converted it into a home and sold the building to Lee Thomas Young. Sgt. Young lived in this home with his family until the City of Alexandria purchased it in 1964.

This aerial photograph of the School/Church/Residence was taken in 1962, after the building had been renovated into a home and sold to Sgt. Young.

Please visit explorefortward.com to learn more about the School/Church/Residence and the longevity of “The Fort” community.



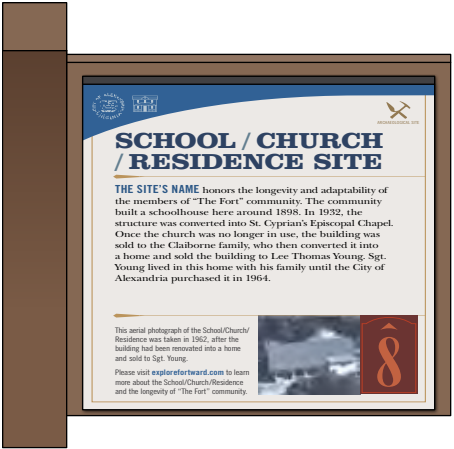
Site numbers associated with website information



ISOMETRIC VIEW






FRONT VIEW



TOP VIEW

Site marker panel
(11.5" w x 13" h)




CHANGES IN THE LAND


THE BOUNDARY LINES around Fort Ward Park enclose a piece of land with a long and varied history. Archaeological excavations have uncovered Native American artifacts, providing a glimpse into the early years of the land’s occupation. Before the Civil War, the land was divided into two plantations, and farmed by enslaved people. During the Civil War, the U.S. Army built Fort Ward to defend Washington, D.C. By the time the fort was constructed, the land itself had been reduced to rocky soil, unable to support farming. After the war, formerly enslaved African Americans established “The Fort,” a thriving community, on this land. As you explore the Park today, can you discover the remaining evidence of these earlier eras?


The excavation of Fort Ward’s Northwest Bastion, which was conducted by the City of Alexandra in 1961.

Please visit explorefortward.com in order to learn more about the excavations that occurred at Fort Ward Park.



1



CRAVEN HOME

THE CRAVEN FAMILY arrived at “The Fort” around 1910 to pursue employment opportunities during WWI. They owned one of the largest plots of land within the community. Of the homes that have since been excavated, the Craven/Hogan family home is one of only 5 surviving foundations to be uncovered. At this home site, archaeologists found pieces of pottery, fragments of Glefand’s Mayonnaise jars, and toothbrushes. What does this tell you about the daily lives of those who lived in “The Fort” community?

Image & caption to be determined.

Please visit explorefortward.com in order to learn more about the Craven family, their home, and “The Fort” community.

IMAGE T.B.D.

2

Site number changes per site and is associated with additional information on website





FORT’S WELL


DURING THE CIVIL WAR, soldiers stationed at Fort Ward relied on this well, as during a siege it would be their only source of fresh water. Residents of the post-Civil War “Fort” community used this well, and others, for their water, too. Before indoor plumbing and modern refrigerators became standardized, “The Fort” community relied on wells for water and to keep food cool. For the soldiers, access to this well was essential to survival. For the community, the wells also reflected their ingenuity and self-sufficiency. For both the soldiers and the community, the wells were symbols of endurance against outside opposition.

Image & caption to be determined.

Please visit explorefortward.com to learn more about the Fort’s Well and it’s significance to Civil War Soldiers and the community.

3





SCHOOLHOUSE LANE



SCHOOLHOUSE LANE functioned as a main entry point into the community. The small lane extended directly off West Braddock Road, and connected the community and the original Seminary School building. This site is an example of how the community changed the landscape of this area from a defensive fortification to a place where people lived, worked, played, and attended school. Today, although the road itself is now gone, large trees still loosely mark the outline of the original path to the school house.


Image & caption to be determined.

Please visit explorefortward.com in order to learn more about Schoolhouse Lane and the landscape of the community.

4




ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

CLARA ADAMS' BURIAL SITE

CLARA ADAMS was an integral figure in the founding of "The Fort" community and Oakland Baptist Church. In 1898 she sold a piece of her land to the Falls Church School Board to establish the first school within "The Fort" community. In 1943, Adams also donated land to the Oakland Baptist Church, to expand the local cemetery. Her home, located just south of her gravesite, remained in her family from the community's founding until 1964, when the City of Alexandria purchased the property.

Clara Adams' Burial Site can visited for those who wish to pay their respects.

Please visit explorefortward.com in order to learn more about Clara Adams, her burial site, and other cemeteries used by "The Fort."



5

5






ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

PETERS HOME

FROM ITS FOUNDING, members of "The Fort" community engaged with and worked in the broader Alexandria community. Male members of the Peters family — who lived near this site — worked as a janitor, a chauffeur, a general handyman, and at Fairfax Seminary. Women typically worked as laundresses or domestic servants. During both World Wars, members of the Peters family, and many others, joined the military or took jobs supporting the war efforts. This was especially true during World War II, when large numbers of African Americans took wartime jobs in an attempt to gain social, political, and economic standing during the era of segregation.

Arthur Peters, grandson of James M. Peters, taken during his service in World War II.

Please visit explorefortward.com in order to learn more about the Peters family, their home, and "The Fort" community.



6

6





JAVINS HOME

AFTER THE INITIAL RESIDENTS SETTLED AT “THE FORT,” a second wave of families bought property in the late nineteenth century. One of these families was the Javins, who arrived in the 1880s. By the 1920s, community members were using Samuel Javins’ property as a local burial site for their loved ones. In 1929, Javins deeded a portion of his land to the Oakland Baptist Church, establishing the Oakland Baptist Cemetery. The Javins, along with the Cravens and Garnett Ashby, sold their property in 1934 to George Garrett and Robert Dye, white men interested in developing a residential community on Fort land.

Image & caption to be determined.

Please visit explorefortward.com to learn more about the Javins’ family, their home, and “The Fort” community.

IMAGE T.B.D.



7





SCHOOL / CHURCH / RESIDENCE SITE

THE SITE’S NAME honors the longevity and adaptability of the members of “The Fort” community. The community built a schoolhouse here around 1898. In 1932, the structure was converted into St. Cyprian’s Episcopal Chapel. Once the church was no longer in use, the building was sold to the Claiborne family, who then converted it into a home and sold the building to Lee Thomas Young. Sgt. Young lived in this home with his family until the City of Alexandria purchased it in 1964.

This aerial photograph of the School/Church/Residence was taken in 1962, after the building had been renovated into a home and sold to Sgt. Young.

Please visit explorefortward.com to learn more about the School/Church/Residence and the longevity of “The Fort” community.





8





SHORTS HOME




BURR SHORTS and his family were one of the first to purchase land at Fort Ward ca. 1870. Like the other families who joined them, they were searching for employment opportunities and a permanent place to build a home. The community continued to grow through the 1870s as more families began purchasing land in the area surrounding Fairfax Seminary and the abandoned Fort Ward. As the decades wore on, the land continued to be passed down, change hands, and be divided to accommodate more families. The families’ original ownership of the land allowed the community to continue through several generations.

Image & caption to be determined.

Please visit explorefortward.com to learn more about the Shorts’ family, their home, and “The Fort” community.




9







THE HOMES AT WEST BRADDOCK ROAD

“THE FORT” COMMUNITY contained a small cluster of homes near West Braddock Road. These homes, which included the Ashby family house and the School/Church/Residence building, served as a central point within the community, as members gathered at the nearby church, school building, and cemetery. The Craven/Hogan family home was the first to be built close enough to the road that it could be seen by a person traveling down West Braddock. These homes provided a glimpse into the lives of those who lived in “The Fort,” as they housed a variety of families and significant community gathering points.

A historic aerial view of Fort Ward, focusing on West Braddock Road (right) and the homes within “The Fort,” that stood nearby.

Please visit explorefortward.com to learn more about the group of homes that stood along West Braddock Road and the broader community.

10

The client team determined following the last presentation that the City has the ability to use an existing mobile platform, and that resources should not be devoted to developing a stand alone mobile app. This direction led the design team to consider how best to present additional content to users via their smart phones/mobile devices.

Redmon Group prepared a document presenting initial wireframes and content layouts for the mobile web element. That document includes more detailed information related to the proposed design and functionality of the element. This page includes images that also appear in the accompanying document.

Note also that the mobile web site could also work in conjunction with other interpretive elements. The budget includes approximately 10 sites, based on the level of content depicted in this example. The final deliverable under this contract will include one working model, which will be found at www.explorefortward.com.

To view a working Mobile Prototype, click on any of the wireframe images to the right, or visit the following web address: <https://xd.adobe.com/view/d082bd14-d01f-4233-7b36-8e725d35a34e-a6b3/?hints=off>

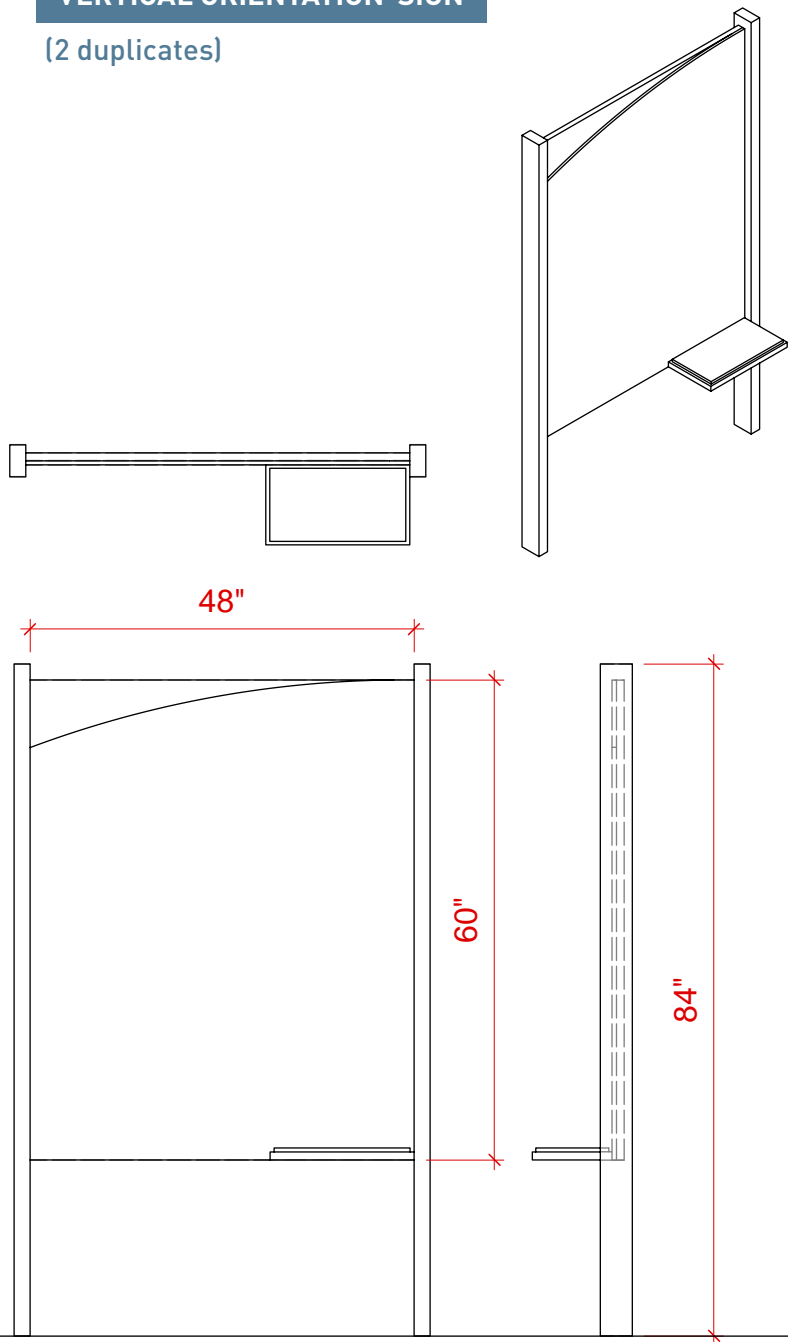


STRUCTURES: ORIENTATION, WAYSIDES AND SITE MARKERS

Various Elements

VERTICAL ORIENTATION SIGN

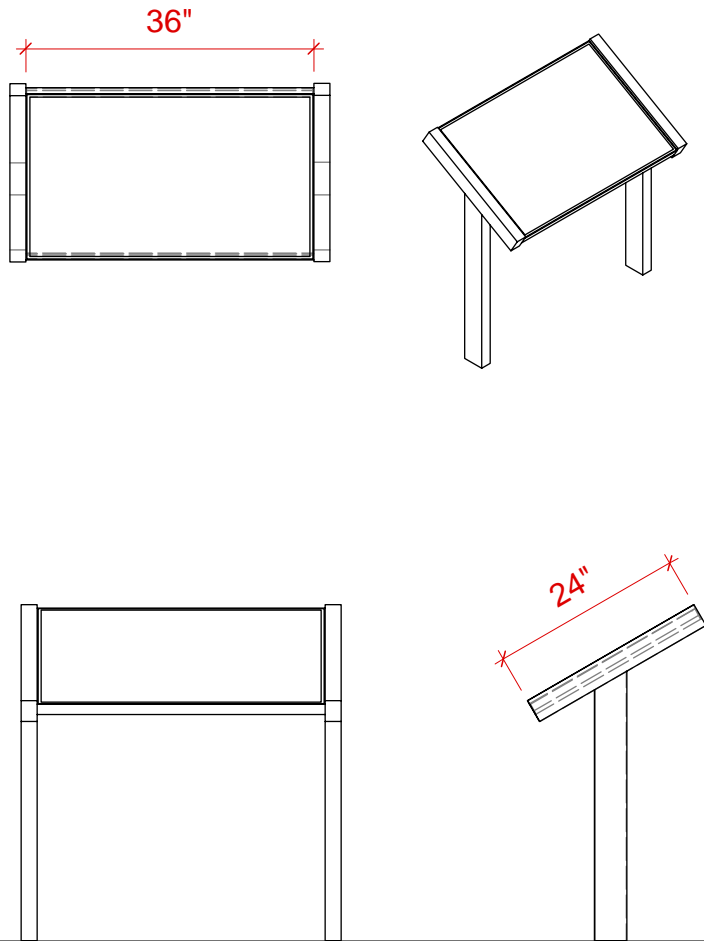
(2 duplicates)



1 Orientation Sign
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0" 0 1 2 FT

LARGE WAYSIDE

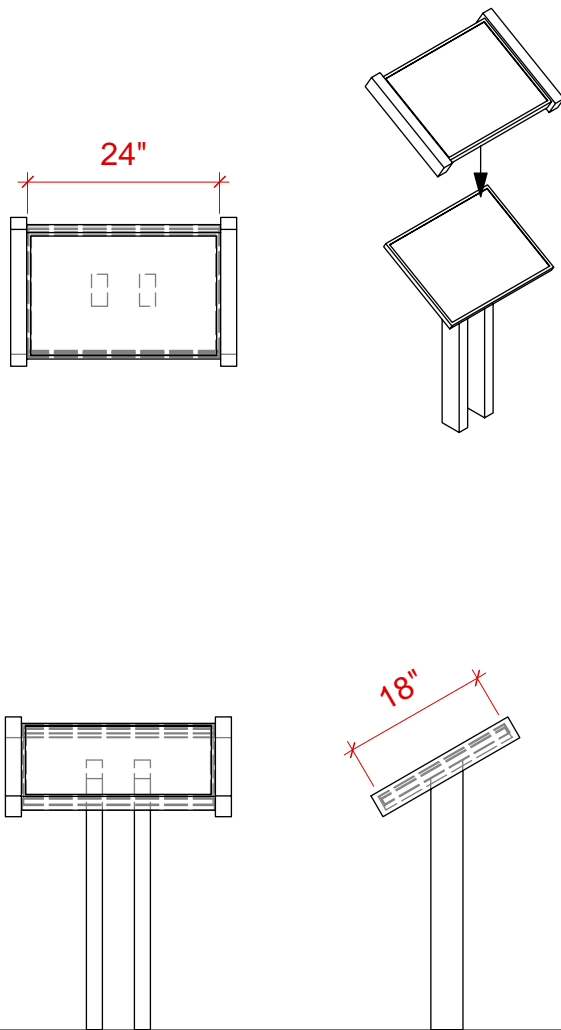
New waysides interpreting "The Fort"
(5 new waysides)



2 Elevation - Existing Large Sign
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0" 0 1 2 FT

SECONDARY WAYSIDE

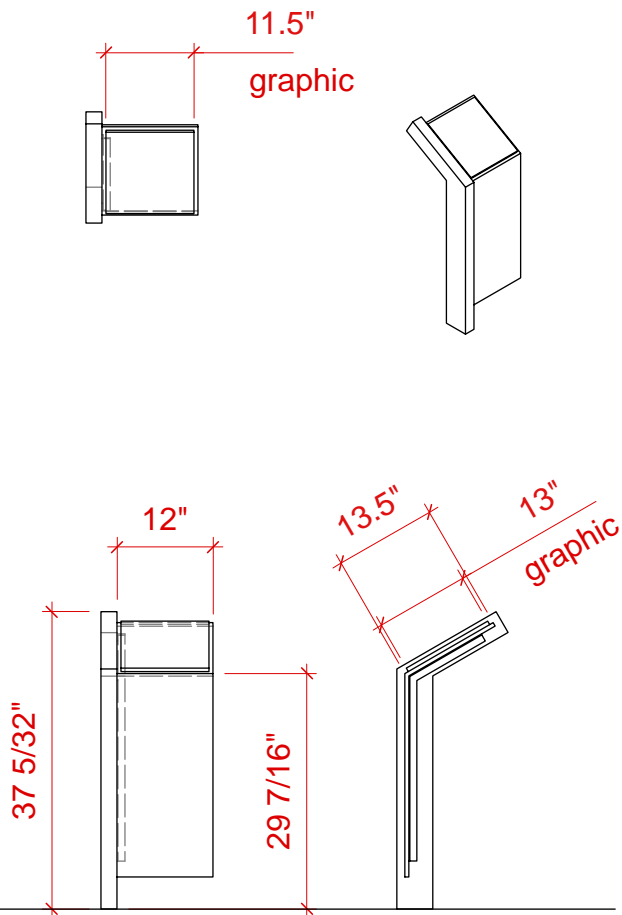
Replaces existing Fort Ward waysides
(4 large, and 5 small panels)



3 Existing Small Sign w/ New Cover Graphic
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0" 0 1 2 FT

SITE MARKER

(10 site markers, linked to mobile)



4 Site Markers
Scale: 1/2" = 1'-0" 0 1 2 FT

MEDIA NOTES: BROCHURE LAYOUT

Development of the Fort Ward brochure is tied closely to the interpretive elements selected for the site. We recommend the following elements be included:

Site Tour

Visitors will use the Brochure as part of a self-guided tour of the Fort Ward site. The Brochure follows the holistic, single story interpreting the site, directing visitors not only through the different and changing spaces of Fort Ward but also its different and changing eras. Visitors will be able to clearly identify major pathways, and the brochure will recommend a clear route for exploring the site.

Tie-Ins to Static Interpretive Elements

Locations featured in the brochure should connect to static interpretive elements—waysides, site features, and commemorative spaces. These highly recognizable features will help visitors find their way around the site and follow aspects of the story that most interest them; hopefully, returning for more exploration.

Using Authentic Voices

Orientation on the brochure will be supplemented with primary source history and imagery. Doing so reminds visitors of the people that inhabited this place, and facilitates closer connections to the story while exploring.



Back Cover



Cover



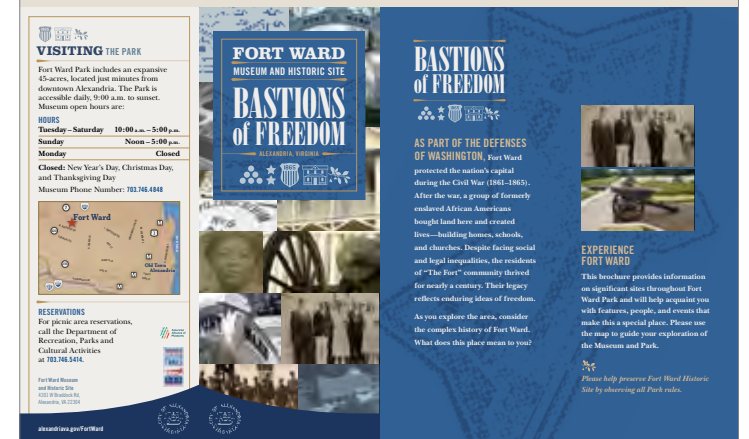
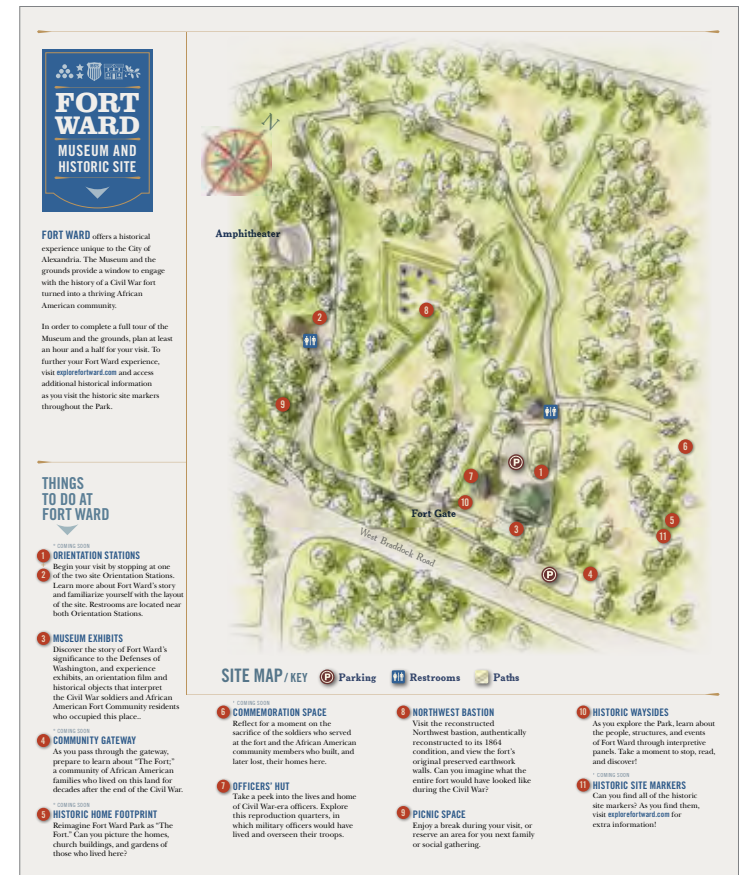
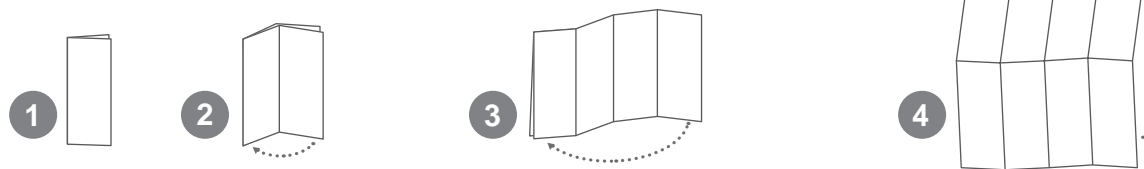
Intro Spread



Secondary Spread

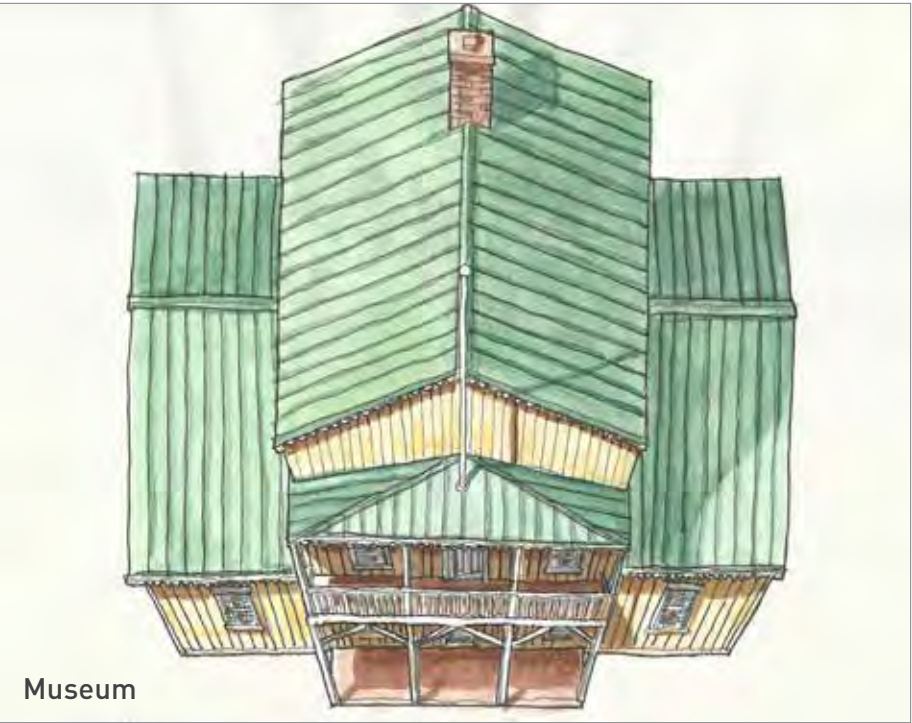
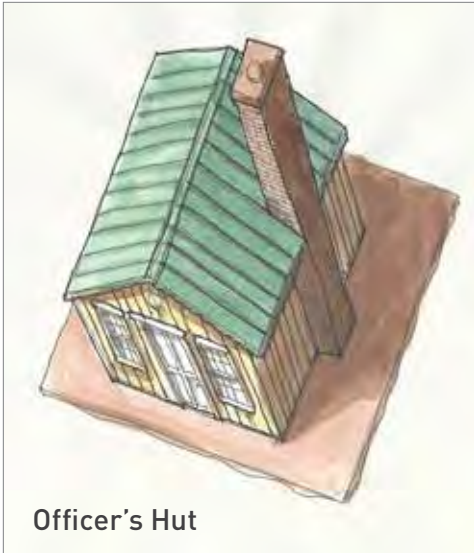
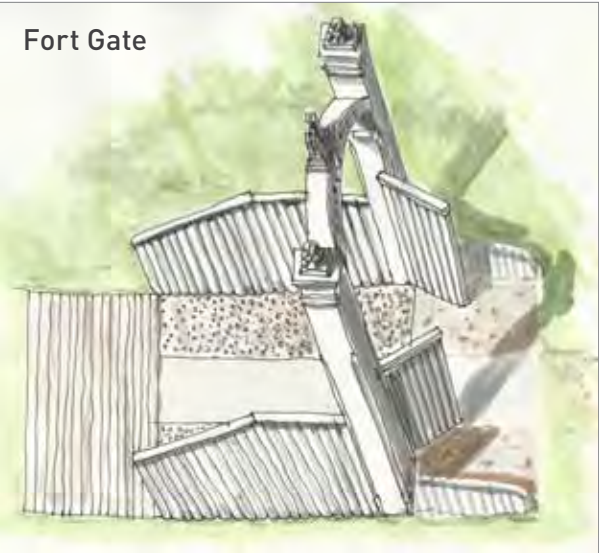


Interior Map Spread



At left and below are drawings for elements of the orientation map to be used in the brochure and on the orientation kiosks. The intended look is a relatively loose, but detailed, watercolor style with a bird's eye perspective.

NOTE: Rendering Designs in Progress



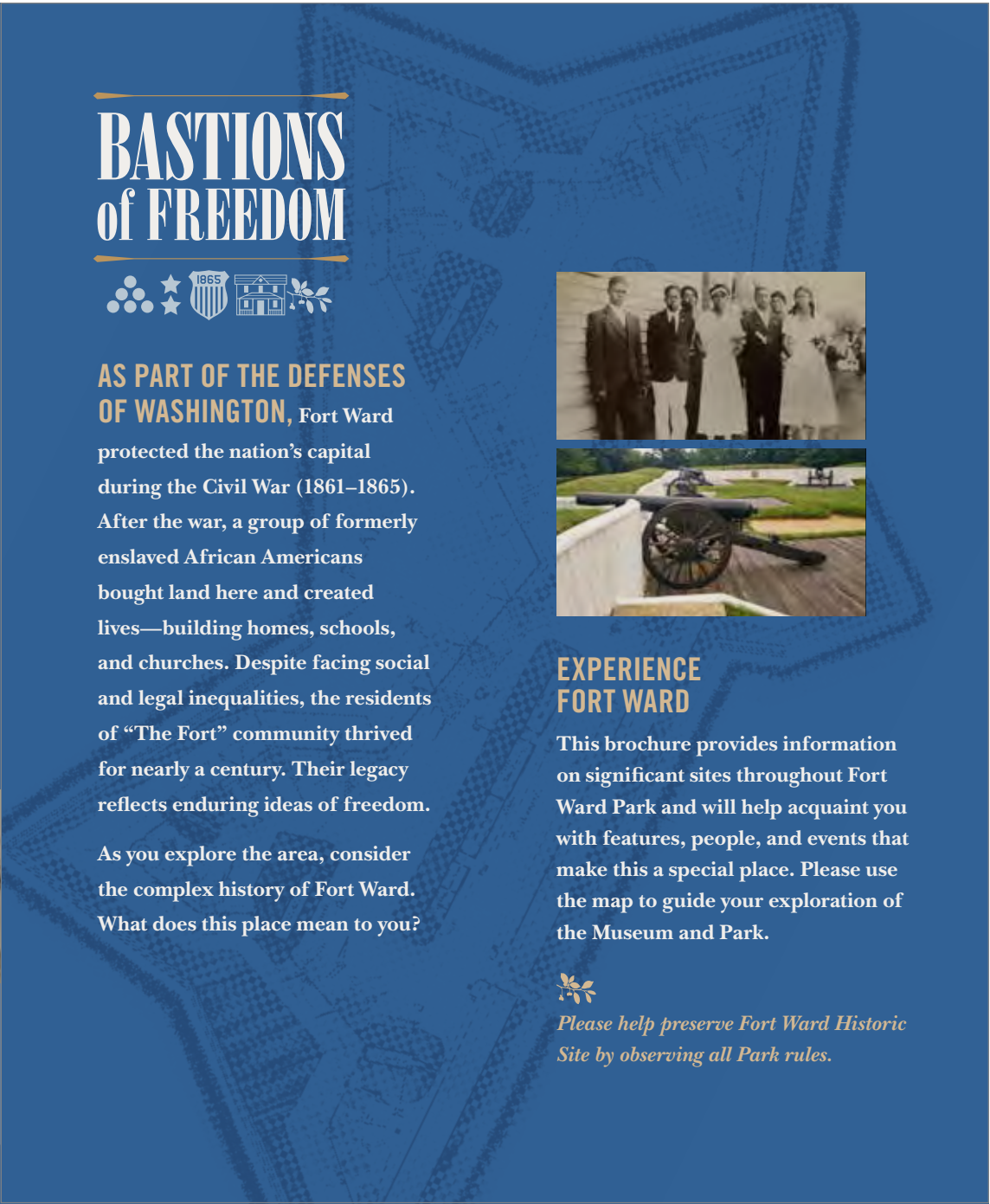
Flat size: 14" w x 17" h; folds to: 3.5" w x 8.5" h



Brochure Back Cover



Brochure Cover



Brochure Intro Spread

THE HISTORY OF FORT WARD

1865





THE DEFENSES OF WASHINGTON

In May of 1861, Federal troops crossed the Potomac River and began building fortifications on the heights overlooking the Union capital. The construction rapidly increased after early Confederate victories at Manassas (Bull Run). By the end of the Civil War, 164 earthwork forts and batteries surrounded Washington, D.C. As the fifth largest fort in the formidable defense system, Fort Ward was considered to be a model of military design and engineering for the time period.

COMMANDER JAMES HARMON WARD

Fort Ward’s namesake, Commander James H. Ward, became the first Union naval officer killed after the outbreak of the Civil War. An authority on tactics and gunnery, Ward helped establish the U.S. Naval Academy. Due to his extensive qualifications, the newly constructed Fort Ward was named to recognize his contributions to the Union war effort.



THE BEGINNING OF “THE FORT”


Following the Civil War, African American families began to purchase land at the abandoned Fort Ward. The first residents of “The Fort” and nearby “Seminary” community (located around the Virginia Theological Seminary and Episcopal High School) were probably a mixture of individuals already living in the area and migrants from other parts of Virginia, notably Fauquier County. The 1870 U.S. Census records four family names at Fort Ward: the Pages, the Shorts, the Perkins, and the McKnights. A decade later, the number of names grew to twenty. These families, many of which were connected by marriage and kinship, created a thriving neighborhood in the early 20th century by building permanent homes, establishing churches and schools, and acquiring and dividing land plots to expand the community.

DAILY LIFE AT “THE FORT”

The families who lived at “The Fort” created a vibrant community. They forged close kinship ties and friendships with their neighbors, and established schools, churches, and stores within the community. “The Fort” was a proud, self-reliant community.

THE END OF “THE FORT”

As early as the 1950s, the City of Alexandria sought to purchase land from the owners and residents of “The Fort” in order to restore the Civil War fort and establish Fort Ward Park. Some residents sold their properties and relocated. For those who refused to sell, the City condemned the properties claiming they were unsanitary, unsafe, or “substandard,” reasons which the owners strongly opposed. The City eventually prevailed. Some of the former residents and descendants of “The Fort” still remain bitter about being forced off the land, but they also hold dear the memory of the community as a symbol of endurance and freedom.



RESTORING FORT WARD

In 1961, the City of Alexandria began archaeological fieldwork on Fort Ward which uncovered valuable information on the construction of the fort, and led to the authentic reconstruction of the fort’s Northwest bastion as a Civil War Centennial project. The fort, Museum and historic Park opened to the public on May 30, 1964. Since then, continued archaeological investigations and research have revealed more information on the site’s Civil War past, as well as the discovery of homestead foundations, grave sites and artifacts that have helped shed light on the lives of the residents of The Fort community.



Brochure Secondary Spread



Brochure Interior Map Spread

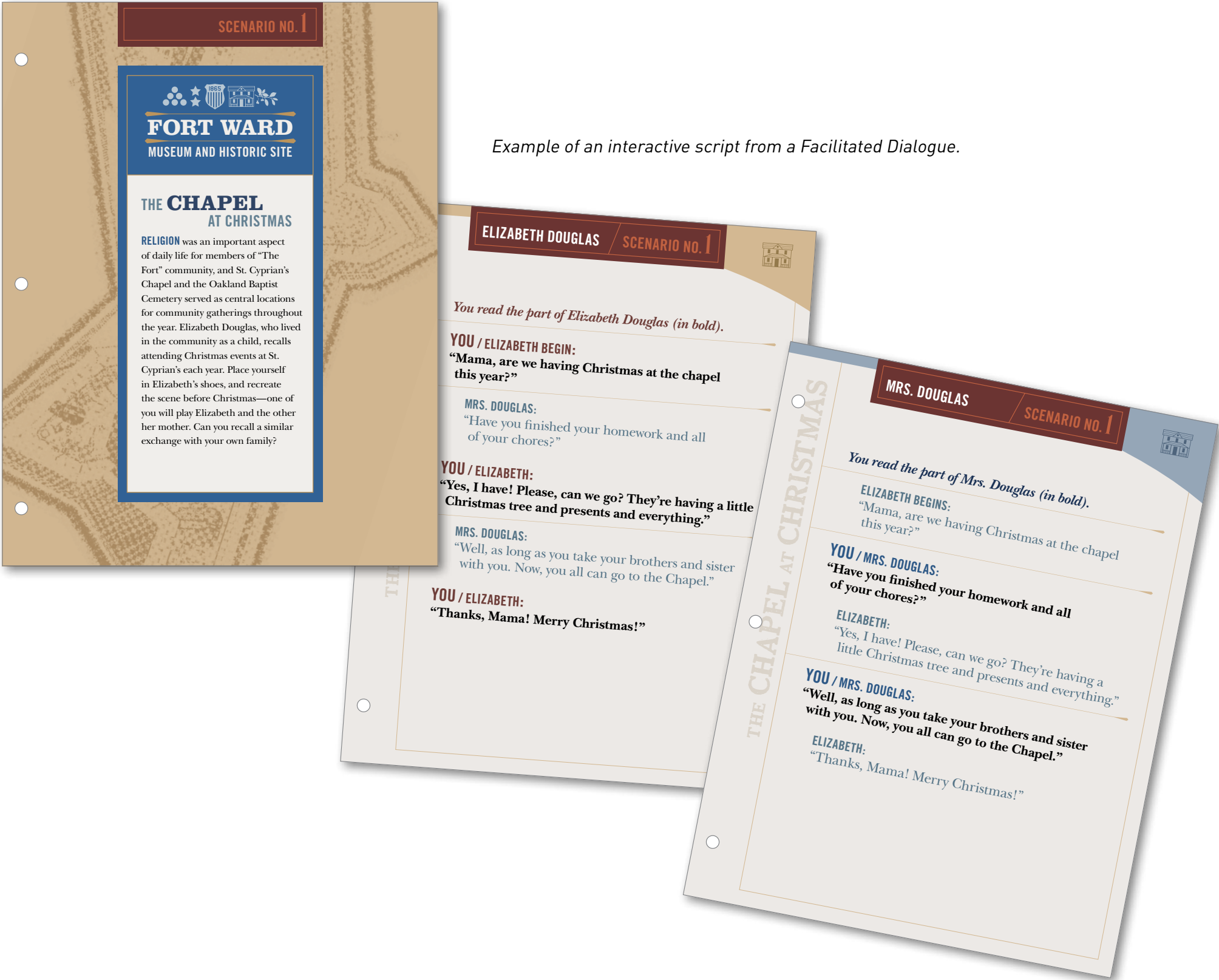
As part of this Interpretive Plan, we have developed a series of Facilitated Dialogue Interactives — an example of an Audience Centered Experience — using the existing Oral History interviews.

The interactive will consist of a series of “scripts,” from which two visitors will read their corresponding lines, and “act out” a scene relevant to the history they learned throughout the rest of the site. In this case, the scripts will be attached to a portable stand, allowing the interactive to be placed in different locations within the museum, or be taken to schools to use during educational programming.

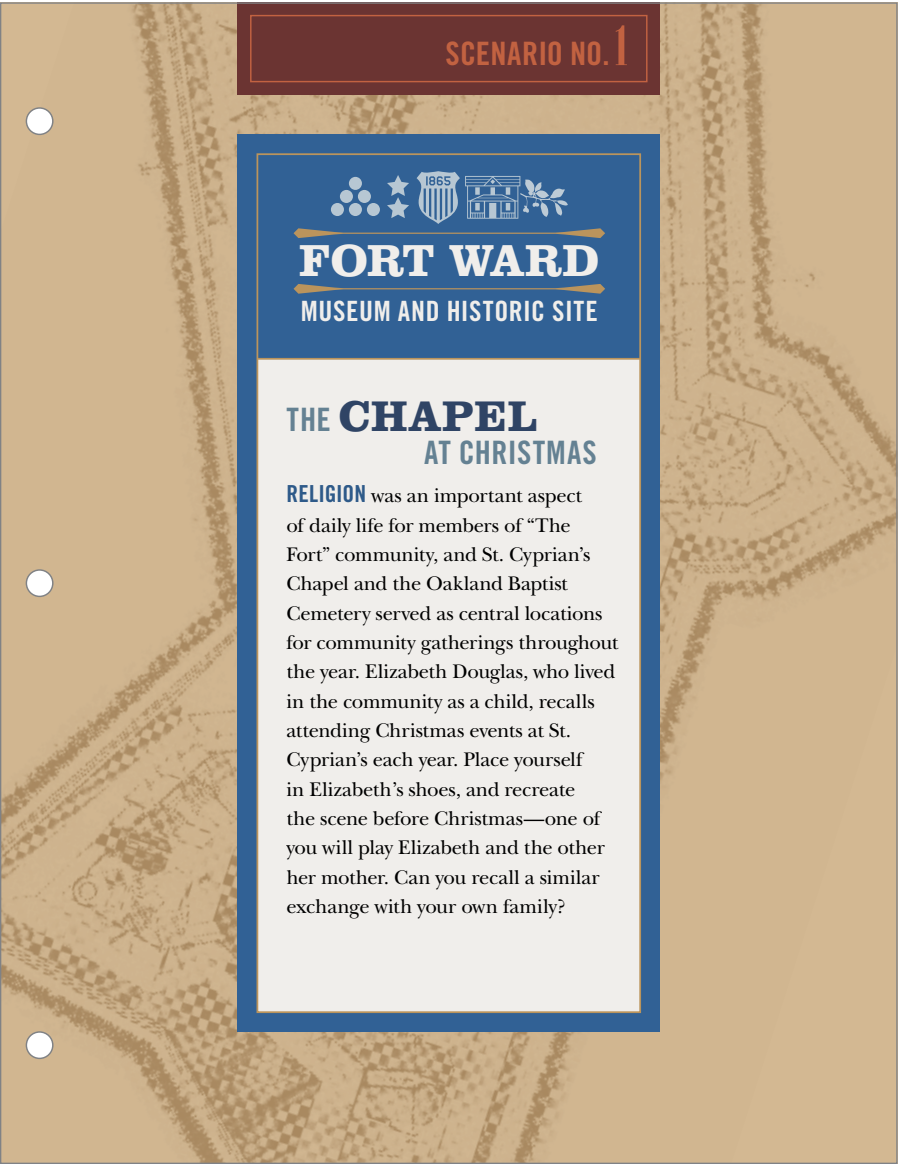
A Facilitated Dialogue interactive allows visitors to place themselves in the position of the historical figures highlighted in the exhibit, making their connection to the material more personal. Within these facilitated dialogues, the scripted scenes are directly based on memories recounted within oral history interviews — in some cases, the lines are even direct quotes.

By including these personal memories within the facilitated dialogues, rather than focusing on “historically significant” events, we are allowing visitors to connect with families who lived at “The Fort,” closing the gap between real, relatable families and distant historical figures.

These facilitated dialogues will not only prompt visitors to think about and remember the material they learned from the site, but also consider what makes their own families similar to those that lived within “The Fort” Community.

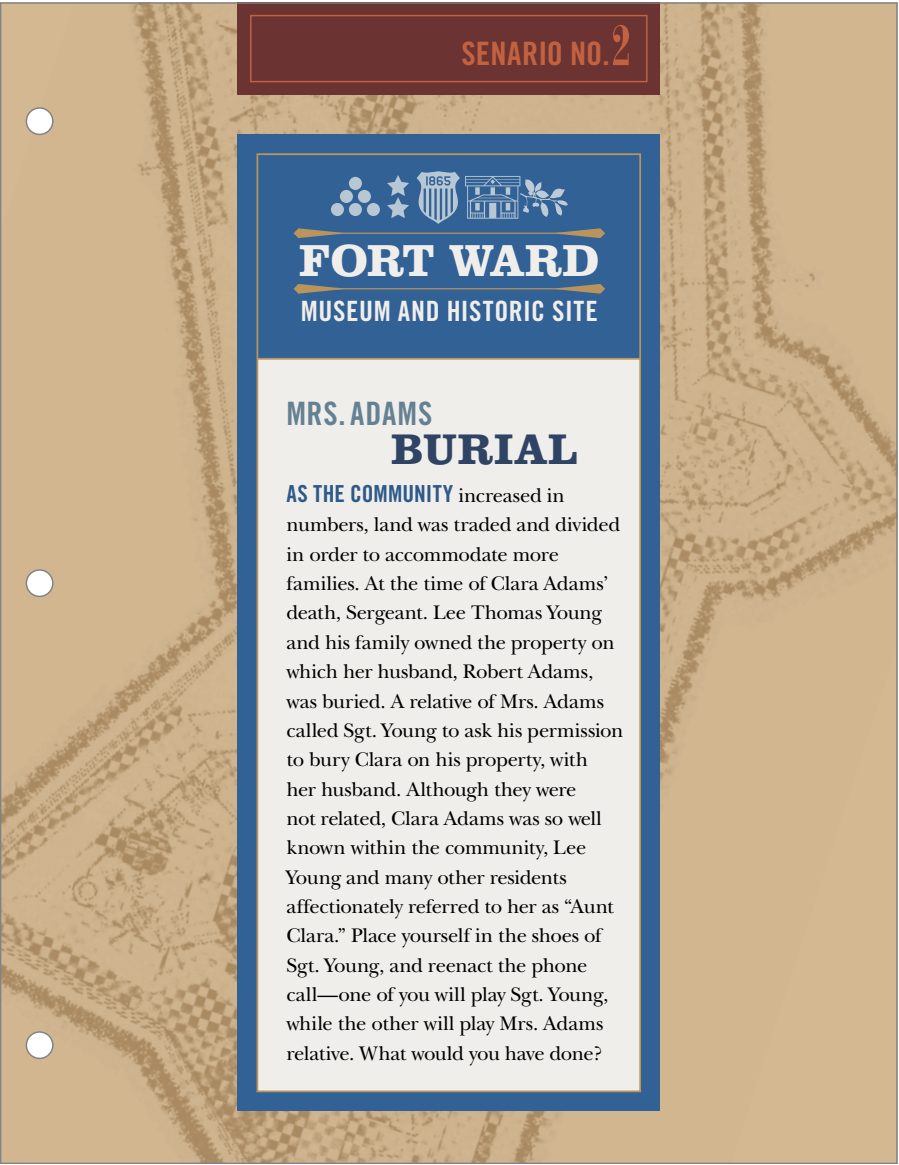


Example of an interactive script from a Facilitated Dialogue.

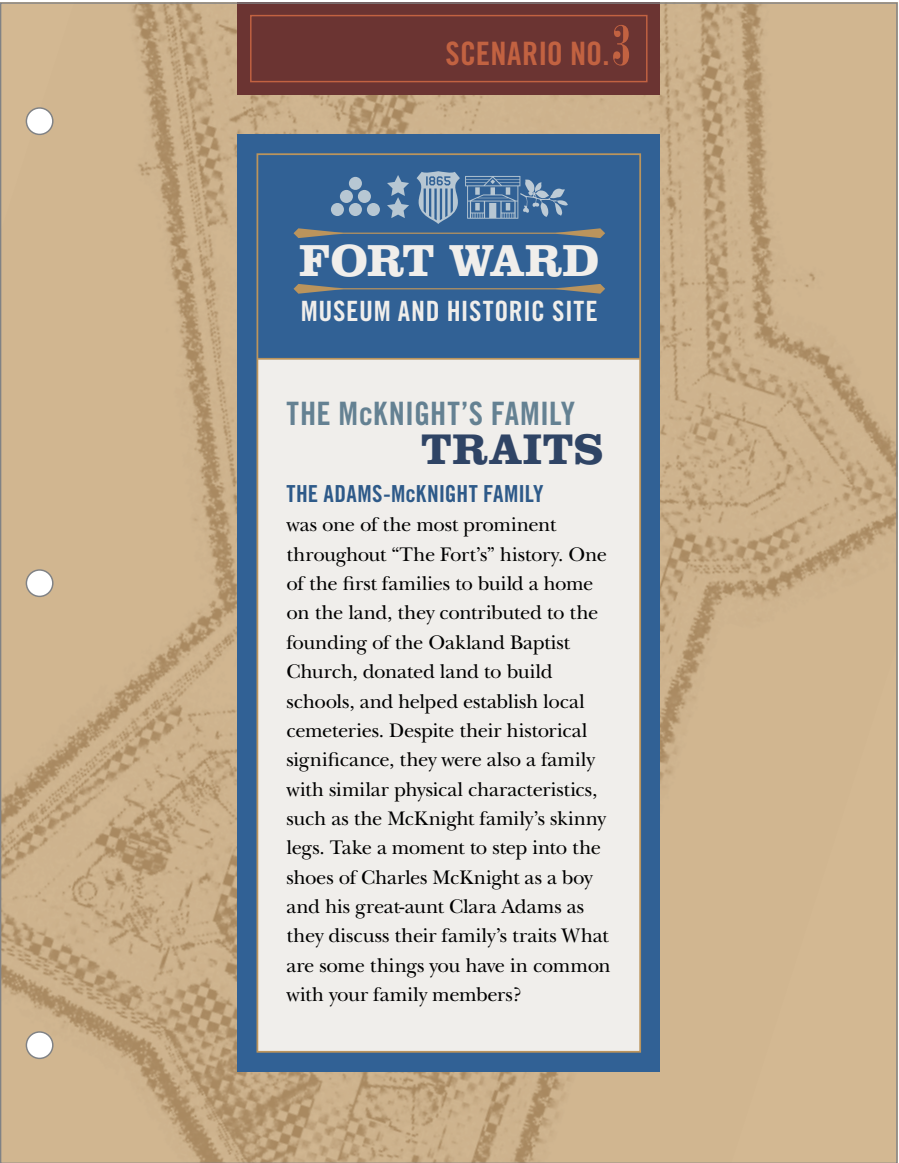


Laminated sheets with die-cut holes for 3-ring binding (8.5" w x 11" h)

Facilitated Dialogue / Scenario 1



Facilitated Dialogue / Scenario 2



Facilitated Dialogue / Scenario 3

APPENDIX A: EXISTING WAYSIDES



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