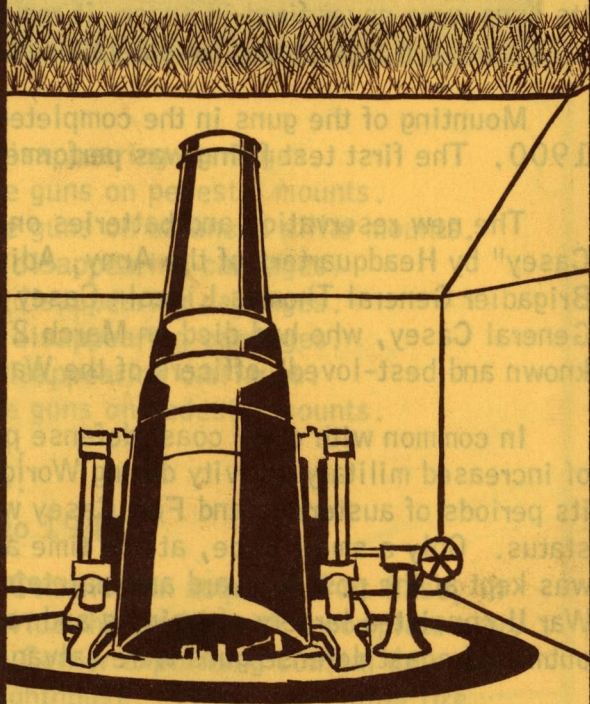


FORT CASEY

COASTAL DEFENSE
HERITAGE SITE



WASHINGTON
STATE PARKS AND
RECREATION
COMMISSION



FORT CASEY

An Example of Coast Artillery

Fort Casey was one of the coast artillery posts established during the late 1890's for the defense of Puget Sound. Together with the heavy batteries of Fort Worden and Fort Flagler, its guns guarded the entrance to Admiralty Inlet, the key point in the fortification system designed to prevent a hostile fleet from reaching such prime targets as the Bremerton Navy Yard and the cities of Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia, and Everett.

A small detail of troops arrived on the reservation shortly after the completion of the gun emplacements. This first garrison numbered thirty men under the command of Lieutenant A. D. Putnam. Fort Casey was officially activated in 1900 and although its guns were never fired in anger, it remained an integral part of U. S. defense until 1921 when it was placed on caretaker status.

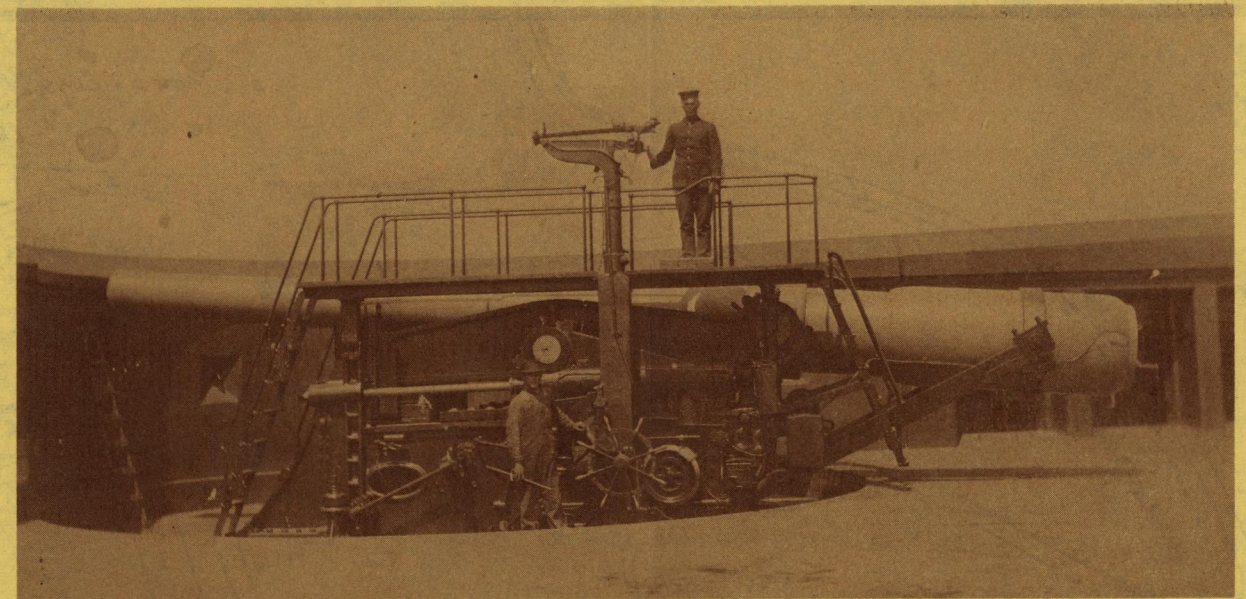
Mounting of the guns in the completed batteries was accomplished by January 26, 1900. The first test firing was performed on September 11, 1901.

The new reservation and batteries on Admiralty Head were officially named "Fort Casey" by Headquarters of the Army, Adjutant General's Office, 1899, in honor of Brigadier General Thomas Lincoln Casey, last Chief of Engineers, United States Army. General Casey, who had died on March 25, 1896, was remembered as one of the "best-known and best-loved" officers of the War Department.

In common with other coast defense posts in the West, Fort Casey was the scene of increased military activity during World War I. After 1921 the Army entered one of its periods of austerity, and Fort Casey was placed upon what amounted to caretaker status. Only a small force, at one time amounting to a single platoon under a sergeant, was kept at the post to guard and maintain the property. Military activity during World War II consisted largely of training and routine garrison duty. A number of the remaining outmoded coast defense guns were salvaged for scrap purposes in 1942 and 1943.

On April 17, 1950 the Army announced that Fort Casey was once again being placed in caretaker status. Shortly thereafter it was placed in the custody of the District Engineer, Seattle District, Corps of Engineers.

Large rifles mounted on disappearing carriages were a characteristic feature of early coastal forts. Rifles of this type were withdrawn behind a thick concrete parapet after each round was fired.



Following is a list of batteries and armament:

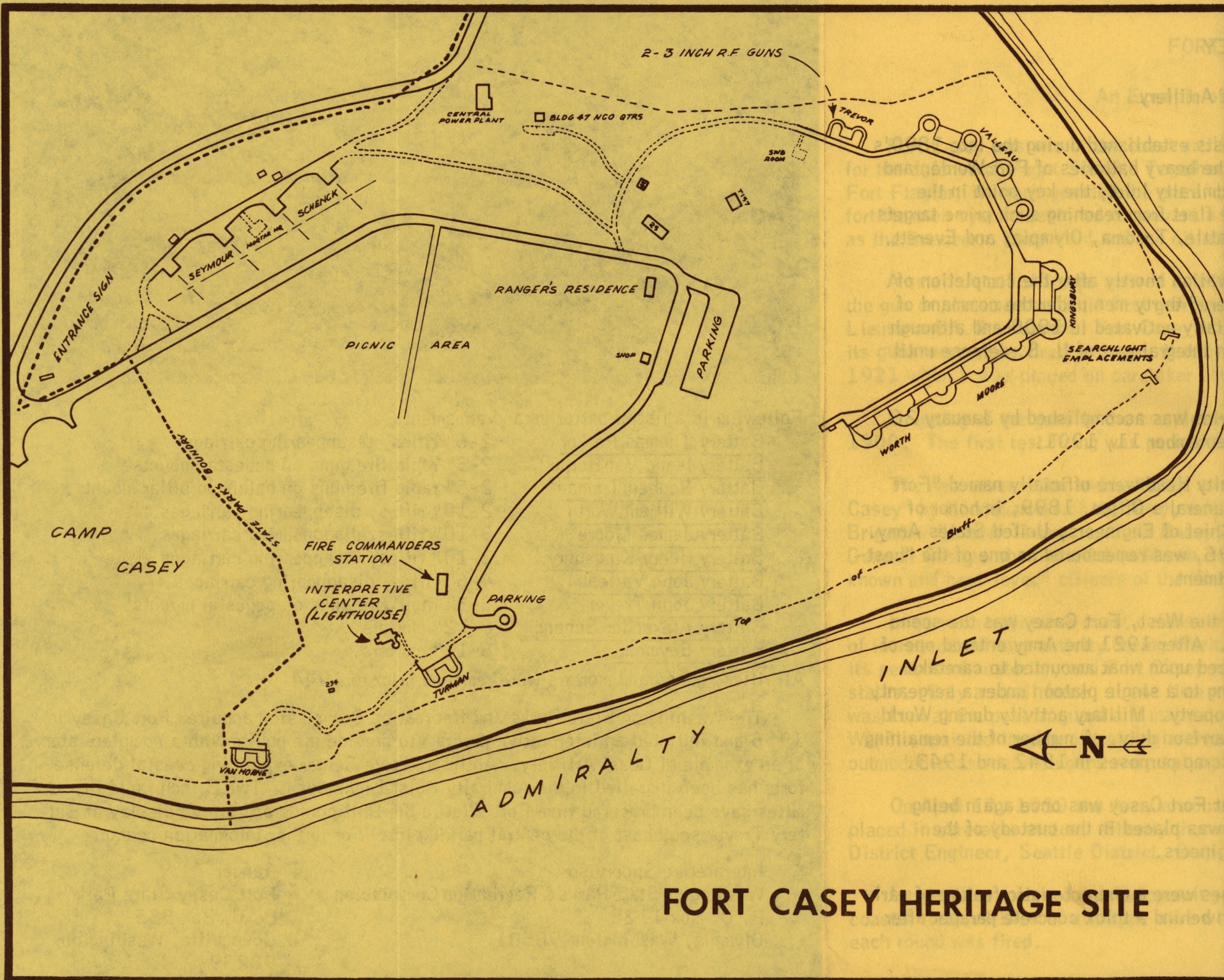
<u>Battery Thomas Parker</u>	2-6" rifles, disappearing carriages.
<u>Battery Isaac VanHorne</u>	2-3" rapid fire guns on pedestal mounts.
<u>Battery Reuben Turman</u>	2-5" rapid fire guns on balanced pillar mounts.
<u>Battery William Worth</u>	2-10" rifles, disappearing carriages.
<u>Battery James Moore</u>	3-10" rifles, disappearing carriages.
<u>Battery Henry Kingsbury</u>	2-10" rifles, disappearing carriages.
<u>Battery John Valleau</u>	4-6" rifles, disappearing carriages.
<u>Battery John Trevor</u>	2-3" rapid fire guns on pedestal mounts.
<u>Battery Alexander Schenck</u>	8-12" mortars.
<u>Battery Seymour</u>	8-12" mortars.

All rifles, guns, and mortars were removed prior to 1944.

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission acquired Fort Casey in 1956 and initiated an interpretive program to provide the public with a complete story of an example of Coast Artillery. An Interpretive Center explaining coastal defense forts has been installed in the Admiralty Point Lighthouse. Two 3 inch rapid fire rifles have been procured from Fort Wint in the Philippines and are on display at Battery Trevor southeast of the central parking lot. For further information contact:

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