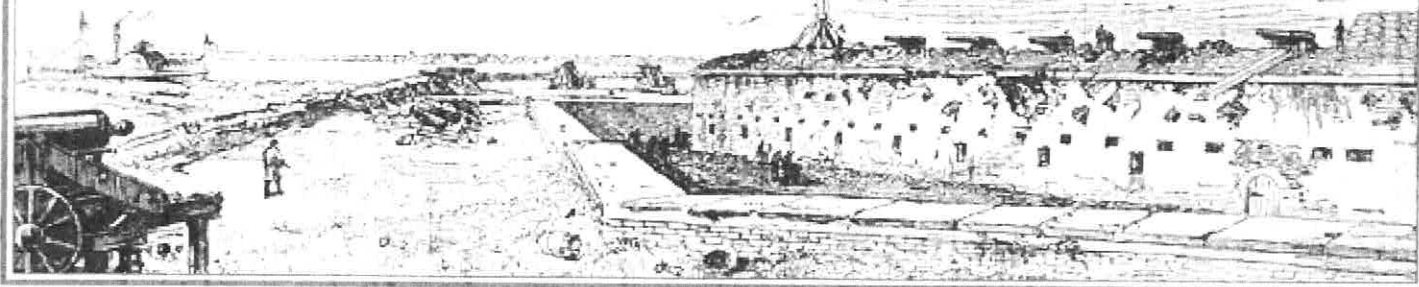


Fort Macon Ramparts

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Introducing the Fort Macon Coastal Education and Visitors Center

April 27, 2008 ground was broken for the new Fort Macon Coastal Education and Visitors Center. Thanks to wonderful weather and a hard-working crew steady progress has been made on construction of the 22,547 square foot building. If construction stays on schedule, the building will be occupied during August or September 2009, and will open to the public that October. The Center will house exhibit space, a teaching auditorium, conference room and administrative offices.

Through planning that began in 1994, the center will provide a comfortable place for visitors to gather and for groups of children and adults to enjoy educational programs and presentations.

Construction funding of more than \$8 million is being provided by the North Carolina Parks and Recreational Trust Fund. Additionally, a grant from Access North Carolina is funding production of a 15-minute film to provide visual access to people with limited abilities enabling them to "visit" the top of the Fort.

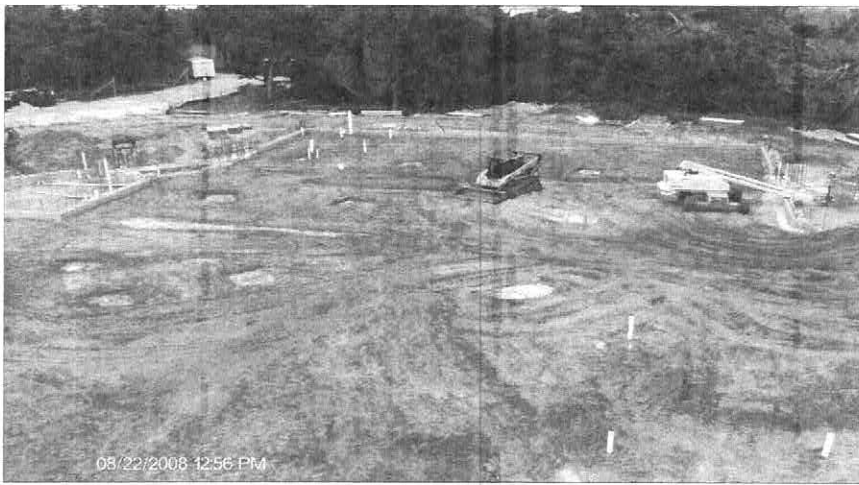
The center was designed by Hobbs Architects, PA from Pittsboro and construction is being carried out by Daniels and Daniels Construction Co., Inc. from Goldsboro. The brick and block design will reflect the appearance of the 182 year-old fort. The design includes special details such as an outline of the fort that will be etched in the archways at the building entrances. In addition to being a beautiful building, the facility is being constructed to withstand 140 mph winds.

The Center will offer 4,000 square feet of exhibit space with coastal ecology being the primary focus. At the groundbreaking Mr. Lewis Ledford, Director of the NC Division of Parks and Recreation, said that the large number of visitors to Fort Macon "presents a tremendous opportunity to teach the natural history of our coast alongside the military history of the fort itself."



THE DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL INDICATES THE MONTH AND YEAR

THAT YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED OR WILL EXPIRE



Work begins on the Center.....

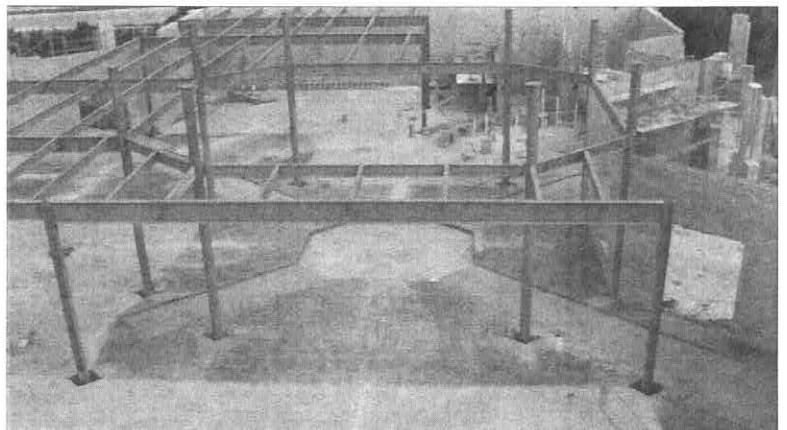
Fill dirt is brought in to raise the floor six feet higher than existing ground level.

Construction of the foundation for the Center. Approximately 1,920 lbs. of concrete were needed.



Columns that will support arches at the entrance to the Center.

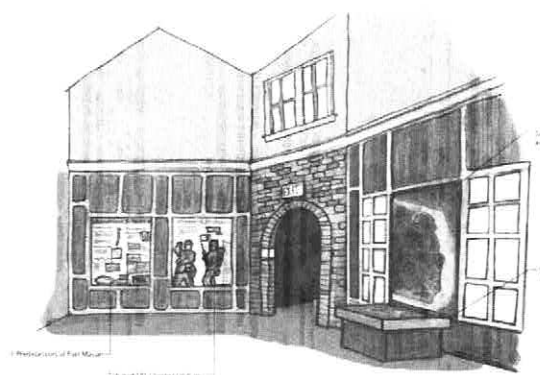
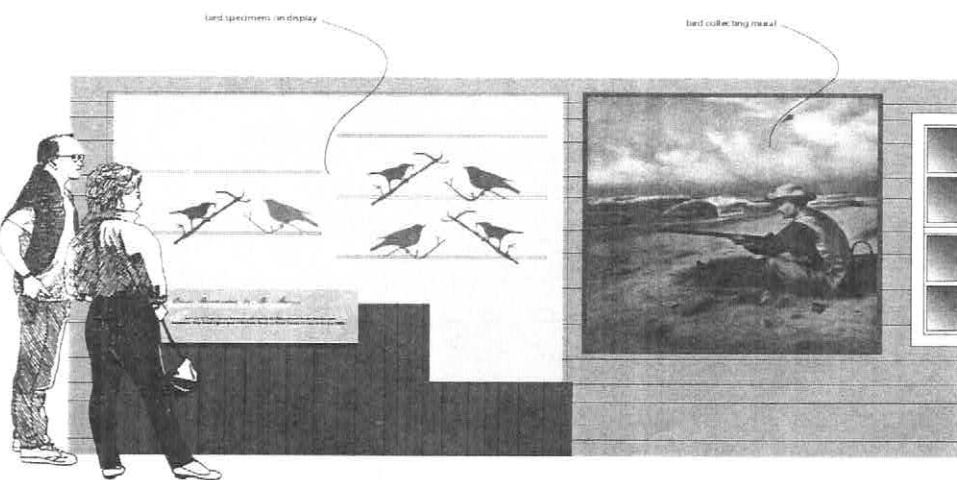
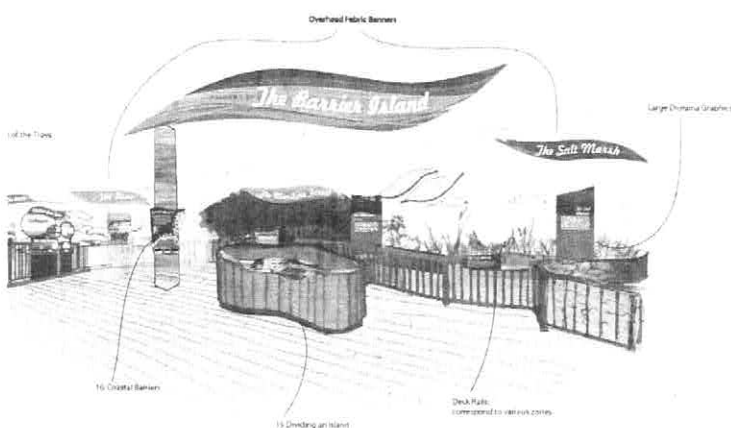
Concrete floor and brick walls in place.



A wide array of exciting exhibits (examples are shown on this page) are being developed by Design Dimension, Inc of Raleigh. The exhibits will showcase coastal habitats and the effects of pollution on our fragile coastal ecology. The work of Dr. Elliott Coues, a noted surgeon and naturalist in the 1800's, will be featured prominently. Dr. Coues wrote his famous *Key to North American Birds* while stationed at the Fort from 1869-1870.

While exhibits on the history of the fort will continue to be located in the fort itself, new exhibits at the Center will tell about earlier forts that were built to defend Beaufort Inlet.

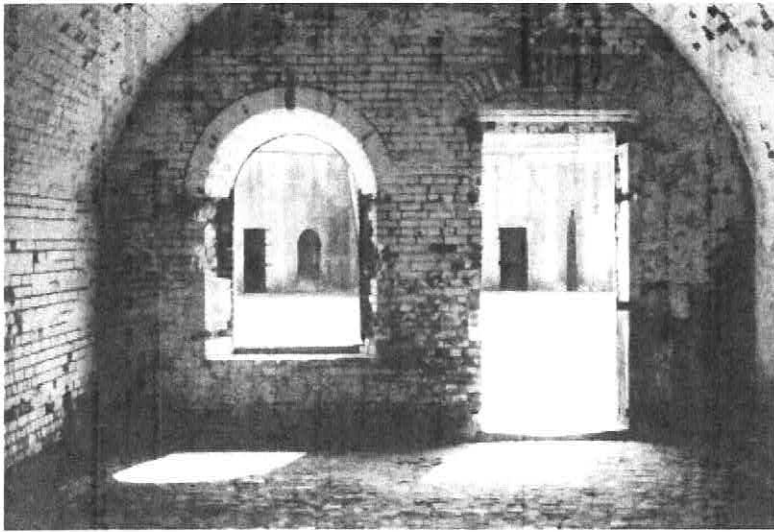
In keeping with its environmental theme, the center was designed to meet sustainability standards of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental



Design (LEED) program of the United States Green Building Council. It will include features such as rainwater collection and low-flow water systems, recycled construction materials and preferred parking for alternative fuel vehicles. Several exhibits will describe efforts undertaken to meet LEED criteria. Across the state efforts are underway for all State park buildings to be LEED certified.

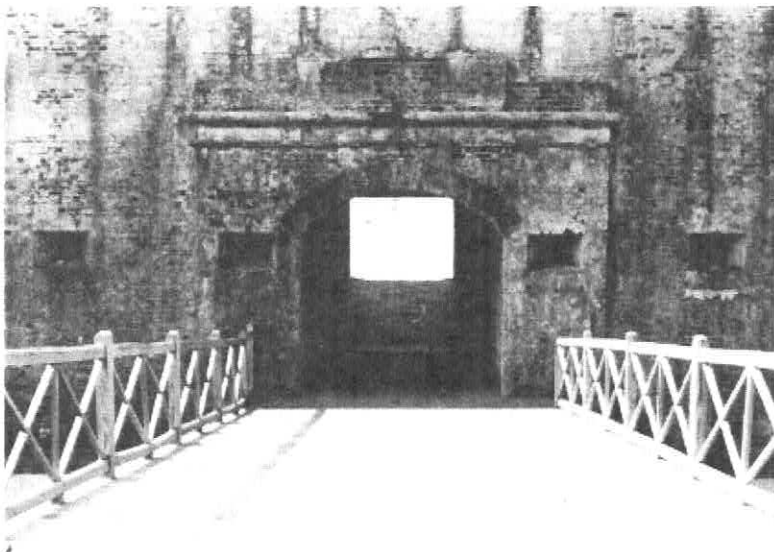
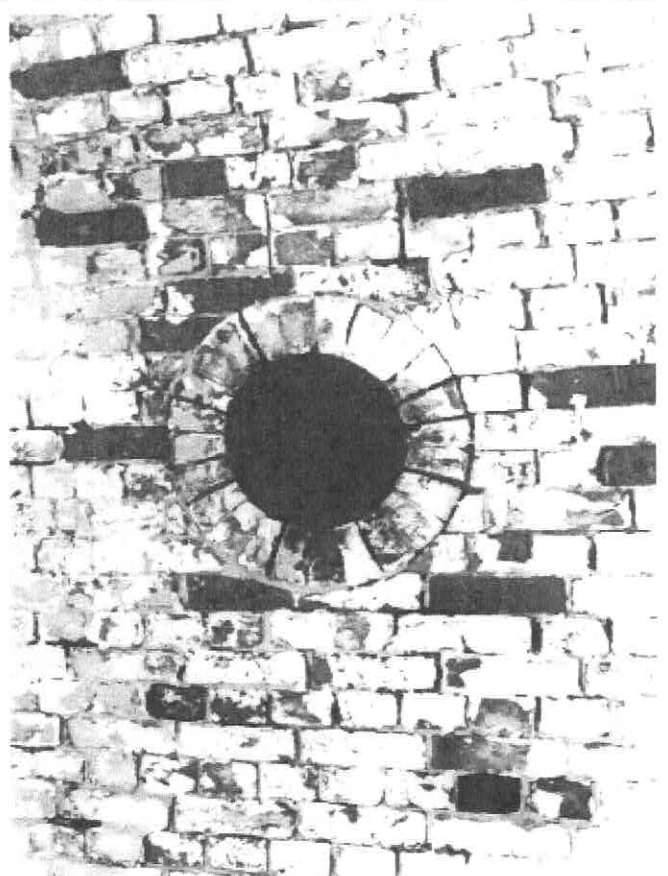
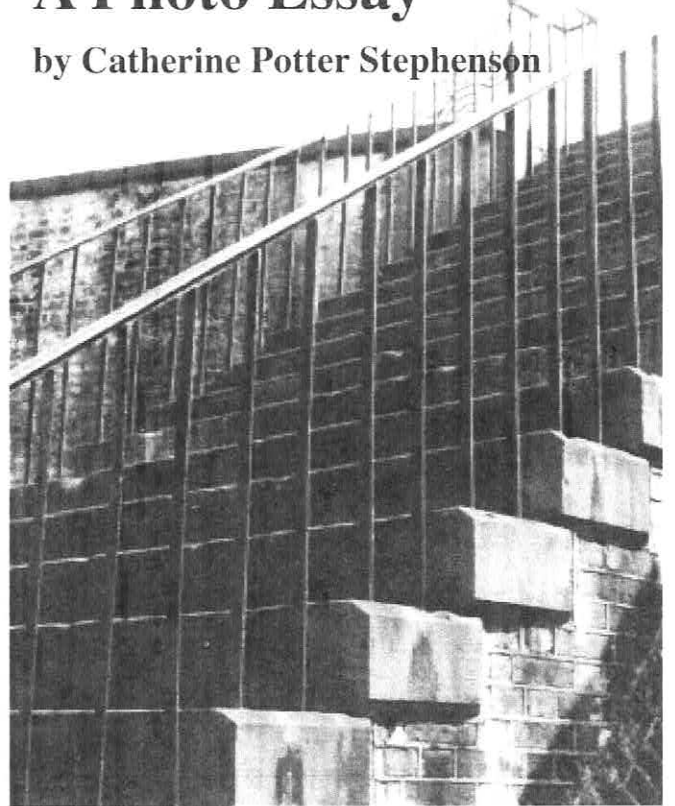
The project has had strong support from the Friends of Fort Macon who were instrumental in keeping the center in front of state legislators as an important need for the park.

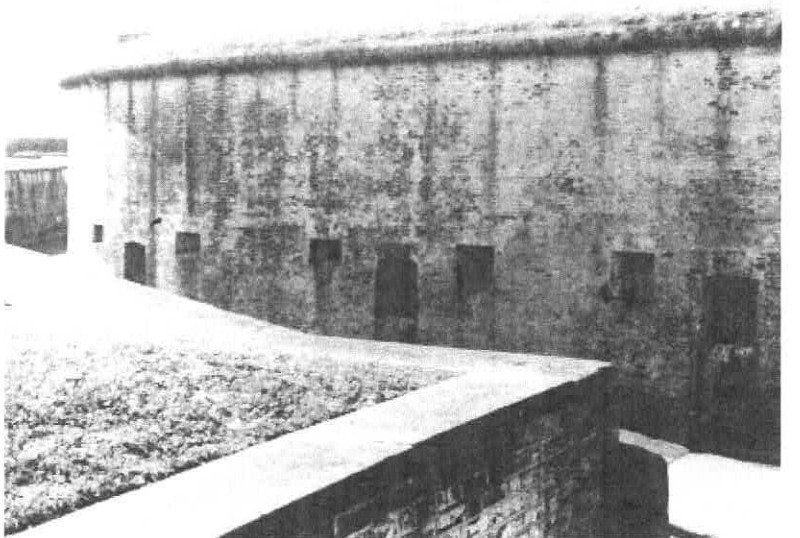
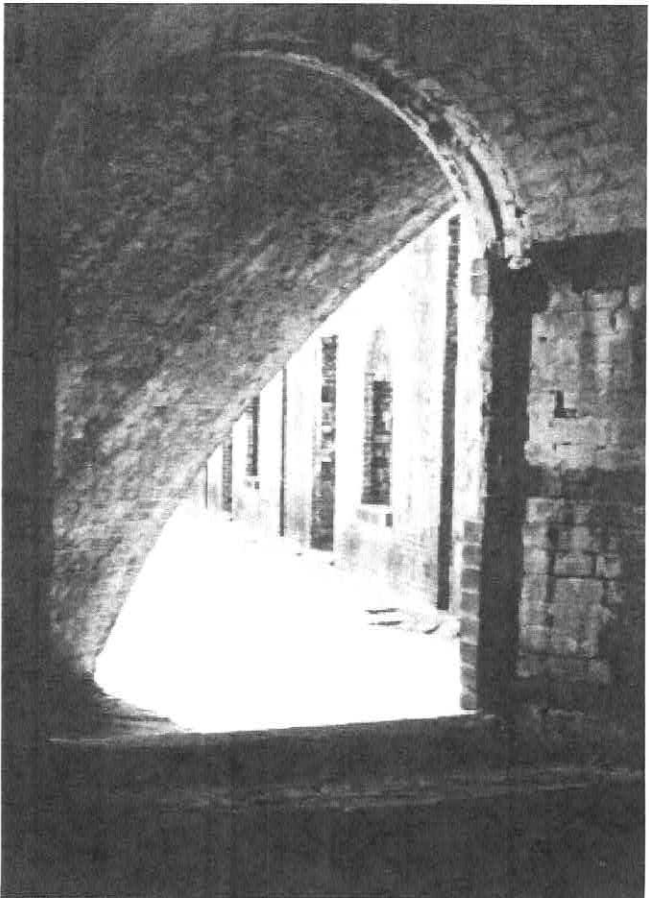
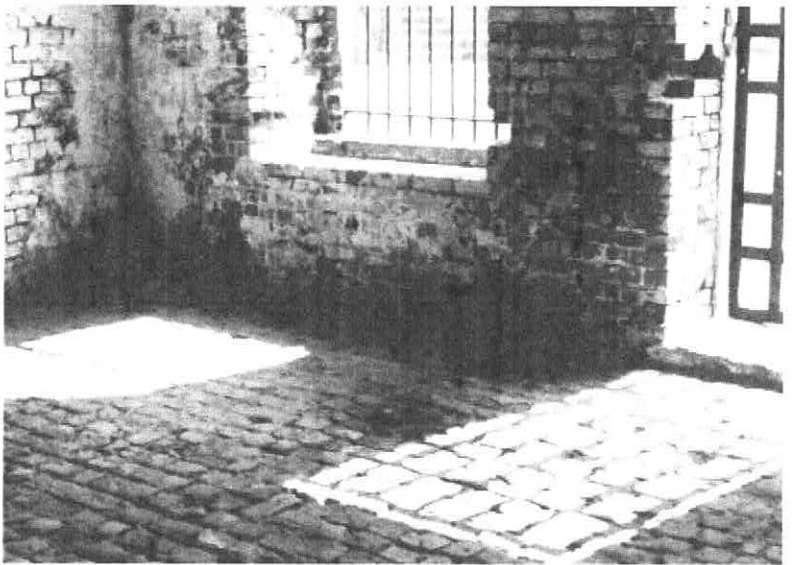
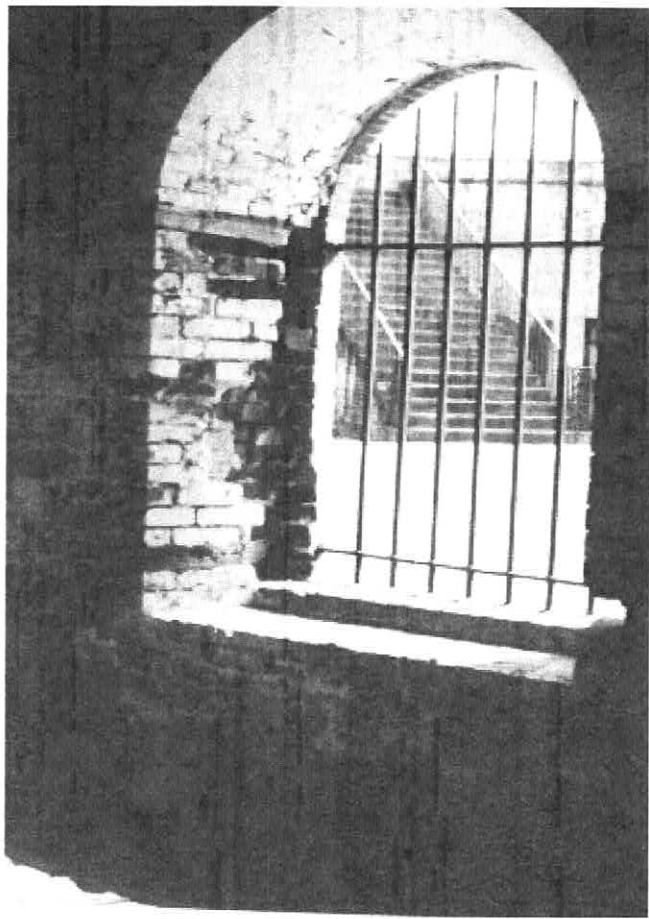
Once the Center is open, the need for additional volunteers will be great. The information desk will be manned during open hours with volunteers greeting visitors and providing information. In addition, a wide variety of programming will be scheduled for the auditorium. Volunteers may wish to share their knowledge of the fort or the area through public presentations or workshops. Those interested in volunteering should call the Park Office at (252) 726-3775. Training for new volunteers will likely begin in the spring of 2009.



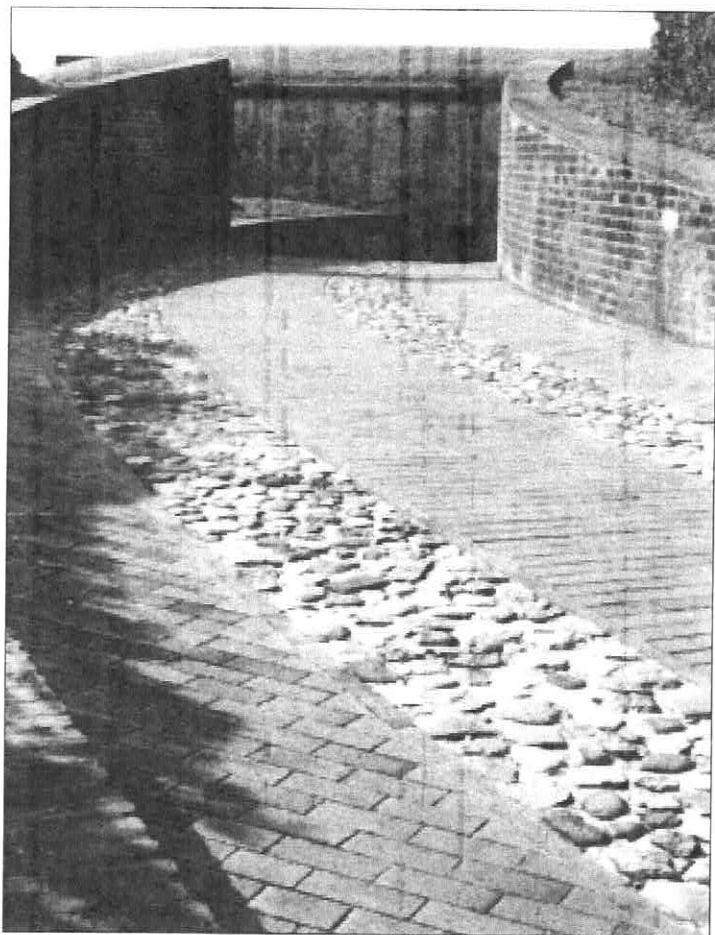
Fort Macon: A Photo Essay

by Catherine Potter Stephenson





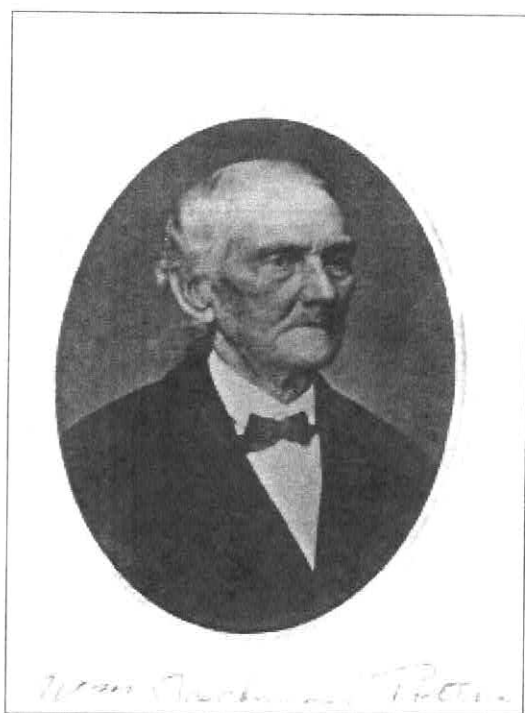
All photographs are copyrighted © 1993



These photographs of Fort Macon were taken by Catherine Potter Stephenson, great-great-grand daughter of William Jackson Potter. She is seen sitting on the Fort's wall on the 4th of July in 1949. She studied photography at many different venues in New York City, including the International Center of Photography.



Catherine Potter Stephenson



William Jackson Potter

William Jackson Potter, a brick mason, was sent to Beaufort by the Federal government to work on the Fort. He married Elizabeth Davis, a native of Beaufort. Their descendants have been prominent citizens in Cartaret County and many live here today.

Fort Macon Tour Guides

Learn some fascinating local history and volunteer to give tours (averaging 40 minutes) of beautiful old Ft. Macon. This is one of the most visited state parks, and guides have the pleasure of taking visitors on casual walking tours from April through October. The time commitment is only a few hours per month, but the rewards are great—people, some from distant parts, are always surprised to explore and learn about the beautifully restored structure and to hear some of the history of this storied site. No need to be an expert—even our “training” is fun. Call John Rhodes at 252-393-7313, or email him for more information at croatian2@coastalnet.com

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Meetings and Speakers Winter 2009

The Friends meet at the Golden Corral in Morehead City on the 1st Wednesday of each month. Brief business meetings are followed by wonderful speakers. Be sure to put these meetings on your calendars.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Jan. 7 | David Stallman of Wilmington will give a presentation entitled “Women in the Wild Blue: Target Towing WASP at Camp Davis.” |
| Feb. 4 | Elizabeth Smith or Larry Neal from the NC Transportation Museum at Spencer, NC will talk about hospital train cars that transported the injured during WWII and the Korean War. |
| Mach. 4 | Andrew Duppsstadt from the Archives and History Eastern Office in Kinston. |
| April 7 | Millie Barbee, West Jefferson, NC from the NC Historical Commission. |
| May | No meeting |
| June 3 | Chris Fonvielle, Jr., PhD from the Department of History at UNCW, Wilmington |

