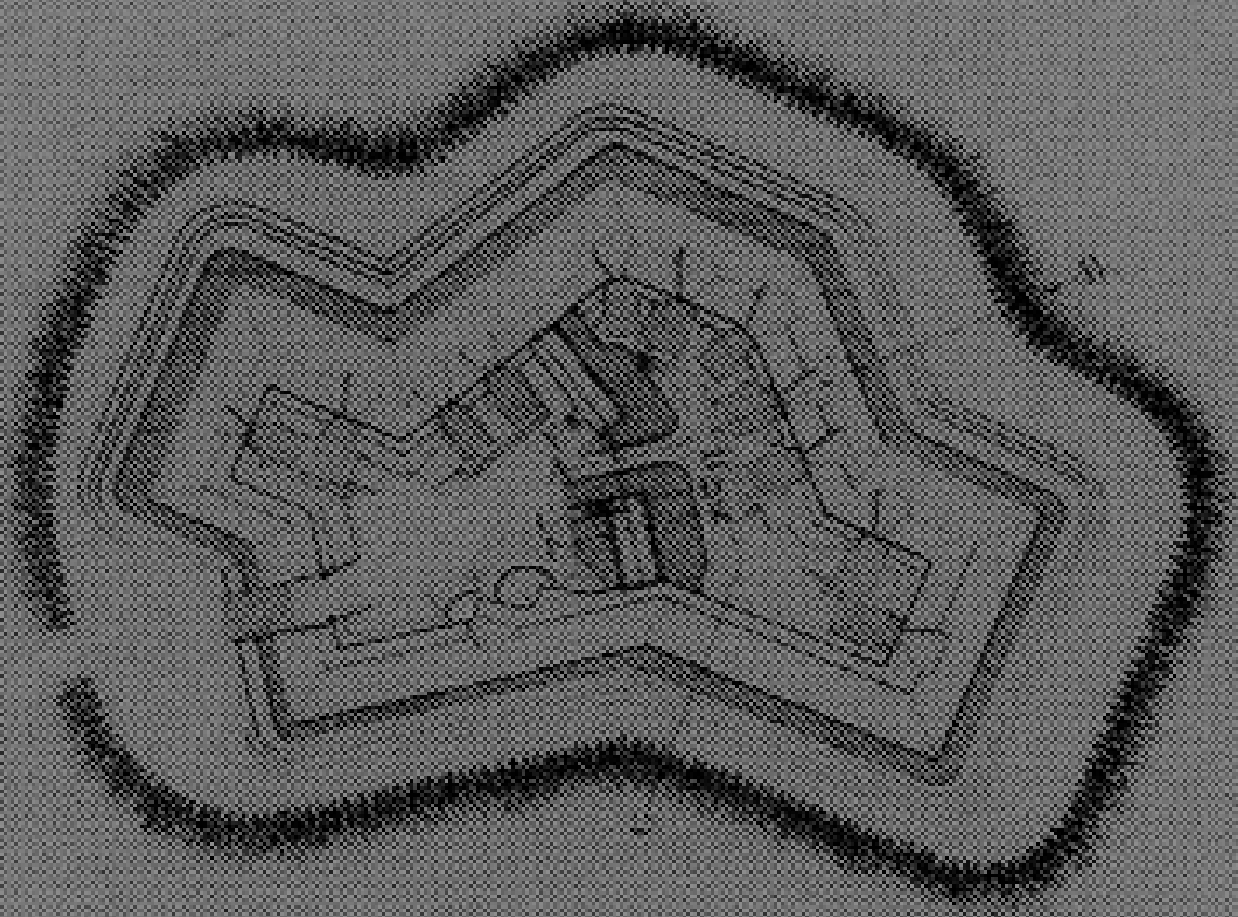


# Fort Chaplin

## National Capital Parks | East

Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
National Park Service



Urban Heritage Project | PennPraxis  
University of Pennsylvania  
June 2021

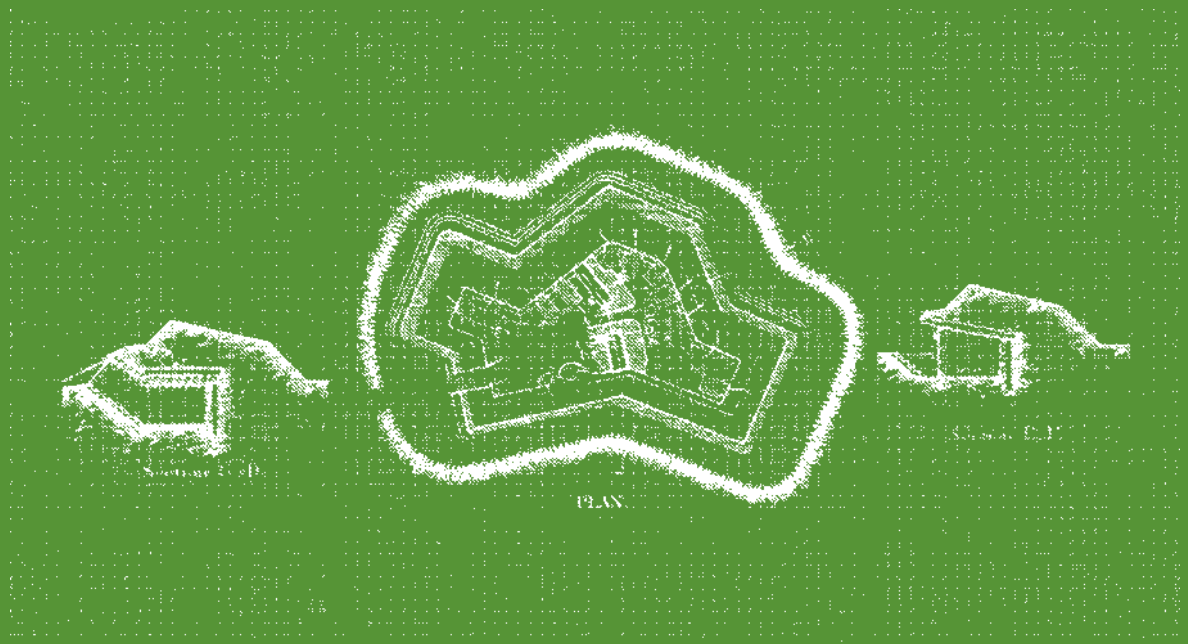
# Table of Contents

---

<b>Cultural Landscape Overview + Management Information</b>	<b>1</b>
Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan	<b>1</b>
Concurrence Status	<b>6</b>
Geographic Information and Location Map	<b>8</b>
Management Information	<b>10</b>
National Register Information	<b>14</b>
<b>Chronology &amp; Physical History</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Analysis &amp; Evaluation of Integrity</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Condition</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Bibliography &amp; Supplemental Information</b>	<b>89</b>

Fort Chaplin | National Capital Parks | East  
Fort Circle Park | East

# Cultural Landscape Overview + Management Information



## **Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan**

### **Inventory Summary**

#### **The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:**

##### **CLI General Information:**

###### **Purpose and Goals of the CLI**

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

###### **Scope of the CLI**

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

**Inventory Unit Description:**

Fort Chaplin, Reservation 609, is a 31.7-acre park located in southeast Washington, DC, approximately 3.54 miles east of the United States Capitol and approximately 3.52 miles southwest of Bladensburg, Maryland. The Fort Chaplin cultural landscape is a component landscape of the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Fort Chaplin is bordered on the east by Texas Avenue SE, on the south by C Street SE, on the west by Reservation 500, and on the north by East Capitol Street.

Fort Chaplin is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the 1974 Civil War Fort Sites nomination and the 1977 Defenses of Washington revision of the 1974 nomination. The National Register lists Fort Chaplin's period of significance as 1861-1865, and the fort is listed on the National Register for its military significance. This CLI argues that the Fort Chaplin cultural landscape is eligible under National Register Criteria A, C, and D, and that the period of significance should be expanded to include the years 1902-1939. Expanding the period of significance will recognize Fort Chaplin's role in the development of parks and recreation in Washington, DC.

Fort Chaplin was one of the 68 forts built as a defensive ring around Washington during the Civil War. It was one of three forts constructed in 1864 to bolster the ring of defenses soon after Confederate General Jubal Early's attack on Fort Stevens. It was built to strengthen Fort Mahan, which was located north of Fort Chaplin and responsible for guarding the Benning Road Bridge to the capital. The fort had an irregular, 11-sided perimeter that measured 225 yards; the sally port was located at the southwest corner of the earthworks (McCormick 1967: 35-36). The entire hill around the fort was clear-cut to ensure views north and east of the District of Columbia. Although the fort was never fully armed and was never garrisoned, it did have twelve gun emplacements (one of which was added after its initial construction) (CEHP, Incorporated 1998: Part I, Chapter IV, 5).

At the conclusion of the war in 1865, the fort was among the designated "second-class" forts east of the Anacostia River. Forts in this category were considered to be "generally in good order, and would last many years without much expenditure of labor or money. They [occupied] positions which must be held when the city is threatened by land attack. They [were] not so important, however, as the forts named in the first class." As a result, Fort Chaplin was decommissioned by December 1865; Selby Scaggs, who owned the land prior to the war, retook possession of the fort and its surrounding land (CEHP Incorporation, Part II, Chapter 1, 11).

According to historic maps and descriptions of the area around Fort Chaplin, the earthworks remained in place and clear-cut on the site into the late nineteenth century, even as the surrounding landscape reverted to agricultural use. The former Scaggs house remained intact, as did a few other structures further west on the site, along Eastern Branch Road; these buildings likely survived until the 1930s (The Evening Star 1891: 14). Circulation through the site was irregular through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as fragments of the old military road remained intact but other trails and roads deteriorated.

In 1902, the publication of the McMillan Plan spurred efforts to preserve Fort Chaplin as part of a circle of green spaces around the city (National Park Service 2013c). This ring of parks would be established on the former sites of the Civil War Defenses of Washington, as part of the City Beautiful movement's re-envisioning of the District of Columbia. Fort Chaplin was, by this time, surrounded by

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

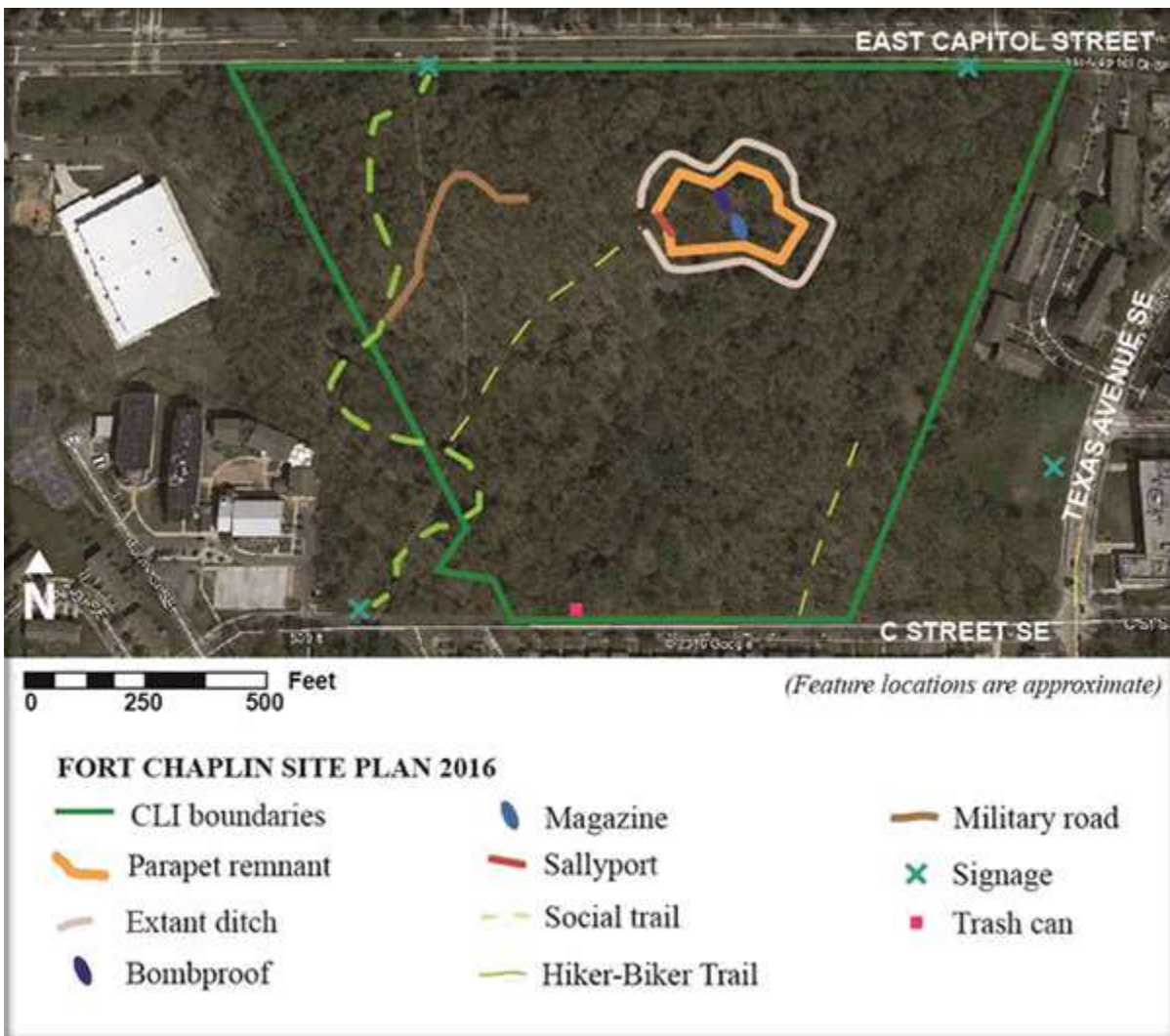
limited development, and the site itself featured a few of houses around its periphery. Because of this relatively sparse development, as well as the incomparable vistas from Fort Chaplin and its nearby defenses, the McMillan Plan considered the parks east of the Anacostia River to be particularly important for the future greenway, with “the most beautiful of the broad views to be had in the District” (Moore 1902: 111-112).

The District’s efforts to acquire the land stalled until the late 1920s, when the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission (NCPPC) was authorized to purchase land related to the Civil War Defenses of Washington. A year later, on April 30, 1926, Congress replaced NCPC with the larger and more empowered National Capital Park and Planning Commission (NCPPC), and in 1927, and the NCPPC began acquiring parcels of land to convert fort sites into parks (National Capital Park and Planning Commission 1927: 31). Fort Chaplin was one of the later acquisitions, with the first purchase completed in 1935. By 1939, Fort Chaplin Park was at its largest size since the Civil War (United States Congress, House Committee on Appropriations 1940: 291, 316). Beginning in the 1940s, however, the park’s boundaries were trimmed, due to both the formalization of the street pattern around the fort (including the introduction of East Capitol Street along the park’s northern edge), as well as various land deals that transferred acreage to other District of Columbia agencies (The Commissioners of the District of Columbia 1948: 270; Andrews 1947: B3).

Today, Fort Chaplin is situated in the midst of a largely residential area of southeast Washington, DC, with the major thoroughfare of East Capitol Street running east-west along its northern border. Its Civil War earthworks are largely deteriorated or overgrown, although some remnants are visible. The landscape retains portions of the vegetation pattern from its twentieth-century conversion to a park, although the density of the vegetation at the hilltop affects various features of the landscape.

This CLI finds that Fort Chaplin cultural landscape retains partial integrity from its periods of significance (1861-1865 and 1902-1939). Fort Chaplin displays the seven aspects that determine integrity, as defined by the National Register of Historic Places (location, design, setting, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association) through the retention of landscape characteristics and features.

**Site Plan**



*Fort Chaplin existing conditions (Map by Lester 2016, from base imagery by Google Maps)*

**Property Level and CLI Numbers**

<b>Inventory Unit Name:</b>	Fort Chaplin
<b>Property Level:</b>	Component Landscape
<b>CLI Identification Number:</b>	600080
<b>Parent Landscape:</b>	600078

**Park Information**

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

<b>Park Name and Alpha Code:</b>	National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East -NACE
<b>Park Organization Code:</b>	3561
<b>Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:</b>	National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East - NACE
<b>Park Administrative Unit:</b>	National Capital Parks-East




## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Concurrence Status:

**National Register Concurrence:** Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

### Concurrence Graphic Information:

  
IN REPLY REFER TO:  
I.B.(NCR-RESS)

**United States Department of the Interior**  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
National Capital Region  
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20242

**Memorandum**

**To:** Regional Landscape Architect, National Capital Region

**From:** Superintendent, National Capital Parks - East

**Subject:** Statement of Concurrence - Fort Chaplin Cultural Landscape Inventory

I, Tara Morrison, Superintendent of National Capital Parks - East, concur with the findings of the Fort Chaplin Cultural Landscape Inventory, including the following specific components:

**MANAGEMENT CATEGORY:** Must be preserved and maintained

**CONDITION ASSESSMENT:** Fair


Below are the definitions for conditions:

**Good:** indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

**Fair:** indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

**Poor:** indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The cultural landscape inventory for Fort Chaplin is hereby approved and accepted.

  
Tara Morrison, Superintendent, National Capital Parks - East

November 8, 2017  
Date

*National Capital Parks East Superintendent Tara Morrison provided original signed concurrence for the CLI on November 8th, 2017.*

**Statement of Concurrence  
Fort Chaplin Cultural Landscape Inventory**

The preparation of this CLI for Fort Chaplin is part of the National Park Service's efforts to update cultural resource inventories, as required by Section 110 (a) (1) of the National Preservation Act.

- The D.C. State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) concurs with the overall findings of the Fort Chaplin Cultural Landscape Inventory. The office concurs with the establishment of two periods of significance: the already established period from 1861 to 1865 and an expanded period from 1902 to 1939.
- The DC SHPO concurs that the resources retain integrity to these established periods of significance and contribute to the site's historic character.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Maloney  
District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer

10/30/2017  
Date

Please email signed PDF copy to Daniel Weldon, NCR CLI Coordinator at [daniel\\_weldon@nps.gov](mailto:daniel_weldon@nps.gov)

*The DC SHPO signed off on the original findings of the Fort Chaplin CLI on October 30th, 2017.*

## Geographic Information & Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

Fort Chaplin, Reservation 609, is a 31.7-acre park located in southeast Washington, DC, approximately 3.54 miles east of the United States Capitol and approximately 3.52 miles southwest of Bladensburg, Maryland. The Fort Chaplin cultural landscape is a component landscape of the Civil War Defenses of Washington. Fort Chaplin is bordered on the east by Texas Avenue SE, on the south by C Street SE, on the west by Reservation 500, and on the north by East Capitol Street.

### State and County:

**State:** DC

**County:** District of Columbia

**Size (Acres):** 31.70

**Boundary UTMS:**

<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Differentially Corrected
<b>Boundary Source Narrative:</b>	This point corresponds with the northeast point of the cultural landscape with subsequent points listed in a clockwise manner.
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	WSG 84
<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Differentially Corrected
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	WSG 84
<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Uncorrected
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	WSG 84
<b>Source:</b>	GPS-Differentially Corrected
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	WSG 84

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

**Location Map:**



*Location Map: Fort Chaplin is located approximately 3.54 miles east of the United States Capitol and 3.52 miles southwest of Bladensburg, Maryland.*

**Management Unit:** National Capital Parks East

**Tract Numbers:** Reservation 609

## Management Information

### General Management Information

**Management Category:** Must be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Explanatory Narrative:**

Fort Chaplin is listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its military significance and its association with the Civil War Defenses of Washington. The fort was one of 68 defensive forts constructed during the war to protect the nation's capital. Fort Chaplin is one of 19 forts surrounding Washington acquired by the National Park Service and listed as a group in the National Register

**NPS Legal Interest:**

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

**Public Access:**

**Type of Access:** Unrestricted

**Explanatory Narrative:**

Fort Chaplin closes to the general public at dusk.

### Adjacent Lands Information

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

**Adjacent Lands Description:**

The residential neighborhood adjacent to the CLI's boundaries, particularly along its west, south, and east edges, was originally part of Fort Chaplin during the Civil War period of significance. After the war, the outlying land surrounding the fort's earthworks was increasingly developed for residential, institutional, and commercial use, while the earthworks were preserved as recreational parkland for the developing community. These adjacent lands are contributing.

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---



*Views of the adjacent lands around Fort Chaplin Park that were historically associated with Fort Chaplin, including the hiker-biker trail entrance on C Street SE (top) and the Benning-Stoddert Recreation Center (bottom). (M. Lester 2016)*

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---



## National Register Information

### Existing National Register Status

#### National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

#### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Fort Chaplin is listed on the National Register as part of the 1977 Defenses of Washington revision of the 1974 Civil War Fort Sites nomination. The National Register lists Fort Chaplin's period of significance as 1861 to 1865 and is listed on the National Register for its military significance.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the "CLI Professional Procedures Guide," the Fort Chaplin landscape is inadequately documented based on the existing National Register documentation. This CLI maintains that Fort Chaplin is eligible under National Register Criteria A, C, and D, and that a later period of significance extends from 1902 to 1939. These additional areas of significance and second period of significance recognize Fort Chaplin's role in the development of parks and recreation throughout Washington, DC, and the partial implementation of the McMillan Plan, which was designed in part to promote the natural beauty of the area and convey to citizens the importance of the capital city.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the "CLI Professional Procedures Guide" the Fort Chaplin landscape is inadequately documented based on the existing National Register documentation. Important historic resources related to various landscape characteristics have not yet been determined eligible for the National Register. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the property is considered "Entered-Inadequately Documented."

#### Existing NRIS Information:

**Other Names:** Circle Forts780043399

**Primary Certification Date:** 07/15/1974

### National Register Eligibility

**National Register Concurrence:** Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

**Contributing/Individual:** Contributing

**National Register Classification:** Site

**Significance Level:** National

**Significance Criteria:** A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

**Significance Criteria:** C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

**Significance Criteria:** D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

**Period of Significance:**

**Time Period:** CE 1861 - 1864

**Historic Context Theme:** Shaping the Political Landscape

**Subtheme:** The Civil War

**Facet:** Battles In The North And South

**Time Period:** CE 1861 - 1864

**Historic Context Theme:** Expanding Science and Technology

**Subtheme:** Technology (Engineering and Invention)

**Facet:** Military (Fortifications, Weapons, And War Vehicles)

**Time Period:** CE 1902 - 1939

**Historic Context Theme:** Creating Social Institutions and Movements

**Subtheme:** Recreation

**Facet:** General Recreation

**Time Period:** CE 1902 - 1939

**Historic Context Theme:** Expressing Cultural Values

**Subtheme:** Landscape Architecture

**Facet:** The City Beautiful Movement

**Time Period:** CE 1902 - 1939

**Historic Context Theme:** Expressing Cultural Values

**Subtheme:** Landscape Architecture

**Facet:** Protection Of Natural And Cultural Resources

**Time Period:** CE 1902 - 1939

**Historic Context Theme:** Expressing Cultural Values

**Subtheme:** Landscape Architecture

**Facet:** The Automobile Age And Suburban Development

**Other Facet:** Fort Circle Drive

**Area of Significance:**

<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Community Planning and Deve
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Engineering
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Military
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Entertainment - Recreation
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Archeology
<b>Area of Significance Subcategory:</b>	Historic-Non-Aboriginal

**Statement of Significance:**

Fort Chaplin is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the 1974 Civil War Fort Sites nomination and the 1977 Defenses of Washington revision of the 1974 nomination.

The National Register lists the period of significance as 1861 to 1865. This CLI recommends that the period of significance be extended to include the years 1902 to 1939. This period includes the site's acquisition and conversion to public parkland under the direction of the McMillan Plan

This CLI proposes that the fort is eligible under three of the National Register's standards for evaluating the significance of properties:

**CRITERION A**

Local: Entertainment/Recreation

National: Military

Under Criterion A, the property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; Fort Chaplin is associated with several significant events in American history, including the Civil War, the creation of the National Capital Planning Commission, and the proposal of Fort Drive.

Fort Chaplin is eligible under Criterion A for its association with the Civil War. Fort Chaplin was one of the ring of fortifications built around Washington to protect the federal capital during the Civil War. Built on the land of Selby Scaggs, it was named for Colonel Daniel Chaplin, 1st Maine Heavy Artillery, who was killed in Virginia shortly before construction on the fort commenced. It was constructed in 1864, in the months after General Jubal Early's attack on Fort Stevens, as the Union Army bolstered the vulnerabilities in its existing defenses. Although the fort was never garrisoned, it

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

was classified as a second-class fort at the conclusion of the war, considered to be “generally in good order, and would last many years without much expenditure of labor or money.” The fort’s position on the Oxon Ridge, east of the Anacostia River, occupied territory “which must be held when the city is threatened by a land attack.” Today, the fort’s earthworks are among the most intact of the southern arc of fortifications around Washington. While Fort Chaplin saw minimal direct military action during the war, it—as well as the other defenses of Washington—had a deterrent effect on the Confederate Army’s plans for invasion of the capital city.

Also under Criterion A, Fort Chaplin is also eligible as part of the development of parks in Washington and for its significance in association with Fort Drive, the planned parkway designed to connect the Civil War forts around the city. With the publication of the McMillan Plan in 1902, the Senate Park Commission called for the acquisition of the former fort sites around DC and the creation of a public greenway that would link all of them together. Fort Chaplin was included in the proposed sites, and local neighborhood groups actively lobbied various District officials and agencies to pursue the conversion of the fort site to a park. The idea languished for two decades, but beginning in 1919, Fort Chaplin and the other defenses of Washington drew renewed interest and efforts on the part of the newly-created National Capital Parks Commission (NCPC). Charged with creating and improving the city’s park facilities, NCPC purchased the site of Fort Chaplin in various acquisitions between 1938 and 1939.

#### CRITERION C

##### National: Engineering

Under Criterion C, the property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, as an example of the Civil War-era earthworks that protected the federal city.

Constructed relatively late in the war, the fort was designed to cover the flank of Fort Mahan nearby. In order to fulfill this critical place in the line of defenses east of the Anacostia River, the entrance to the fort was at the southwestern corner of the earthworks, leaving the north and east parapet walls as a stronger buffer toward the vulnerable approaches to the city. The Fort Chaplin earthworks were designed with an irregular, 11-sided perimeter that hosted twelve gun emplacements, and a bombproof and magazine were located along the north-south axis at the center of the fort. Remnants of the fort’s parapets, ditches, bombproof, magazine, sallyport, and military road are still extant as characteristic features of a typical Civil War earthwork constructed by the Union Army.

#### CRITERION D

##### Local: Historic – Non-Aboriginal

Under Criterion D, the property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. A preliminary assessment of Fort Chaplin could potentially reveal archaeological information related to prehistory or related to history for its role in the Civil War. In the centuries before being settled by English colonists, the site of Fort Chaplin and its surrounding area was settled by the Nacotchtank people of the Algonquin Indian tribe (Berger 2015: 24). If archaeological sites exist, they may contribute to the eligibility of the landscape by yielding information about the site’s pre-colonial history, the fort’s construction and occupation during the Civil War.

### **National Historic Landmark Information**

**National Historic Landmark Status:** No

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

**World Heritage Site Information**

**World Heritage Site Status:** No

Fort Chaplin | National Capital Parks | East  
Fort Circle Park | East

# Chronology + Physical History



Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
National Park Service

## Chronology & Physical History

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Historic Site

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Battery (Defense)

**Primary Current Use:** Outdoor Recreation

**Other Use/Function** **Other Type of Use or Function**  
Leisure-Passive (Park)

**Current and Historic Names:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Type of Name</b>
Fort Chaplin	Both Current And Historic
Fort Circle Parks	Historic
Selby Scaggs' Farm	Historic
Civil War Defenses of Washington DC	Both Current And Historic
Fort Chaplin Park	Current

**Ethnographic Study Conducted:** No Survey Conducted

**Chronology:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Annotation</b>
9500 - 8000 BCE	Inhabited	Paleo-Indian peoples hunt in the Coastal Plain along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.
8000 - 2200 BCE	Inhabited	Archaic-Indian peoples hunt, fish, and seasonally camp along the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.
2200 - 1608 BCE	Farmed/Harvested	Native Americans, including the Nacotchtank people of the Algonquin Indian tribe, cultivate crops and establish villages along the Potomac River.
CE 1608	Explored	Captain John Smith is first Englishman to explore and map the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

CE 1612	Platted	Captain John Smith publishes General Historie of Virginia, which maps his explorations along the Potomac River and its Eastern Branch (later named the Anacostia River).
CE 1632	Colonized	King Charles I conveys the land east of the Anacostia River, including the future site of Fort Chaplin, to George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore.
CE 1658	Established	Lord Baltimore establishes the County of Maryland, which includes the land east of the Anacostia River.
CE 1668	Colonized	By 1668, the Native American tribes living along the Eastern Branch were largely driven from the area by English settlers.
CE 1695	Established	Prince George`s County, Maryland, is established, and encompasses the later site of Fort Chaplin on the ridge along Oxon Run.
CE 1703	Colonized	The land grant of Beall`s Adventure to Colonel Ninian Beall includes hundreds of acres along the east side of the Eastern Branch (Anacostia River).
CE 1790	Planned	Pierre L`Enfant lays out the new federal city of the District of Columbia, sited between the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, and includes the land east of the Anacostia as a buffer for military defense purposes.
CE 1791	Land Transfer	President George Washington signs an agreement on March 30, 1791, that establishes the District of Columbia on land from fifteen property owners and two different states (Virginia and Maryland). This territory includes land east of the Anacostia River, including the future site of Fort Dupont.
CE 1797	Built	The first version of the Benning Bridge is constructed over the Anacostia River, linking the land east of the Eastern Branch to the newly-formed capital west of the Eastern Branch.
CE 1861	Engineered	Three units of infantry and military engineers make a reconnaissance mission around the District of Columbia on May 23, 1861, to scout locations for fortifications around the capital city.



Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

CE 1864	Built	In the wake of General Jubal Early`s attack on Fort Stevens in July 1864, the Union Army decides to reinforce the eastern line of forts (particularly Fort Mahan) with additional fortificatons. In the fall of 1864, construction begins on Fort Chaplin and two smaller works. Fort Chaplin is constructed on land seized from Selby Scaggs.
	Expanded	The Union Army constructs improvements to fort, including alterations to the parapet to allow for flank defense guns. Nevertheless, the fort was never fully armed, and it was not garrisoned.
CE 1865	Abandoned	The Headquarters of the Department of Washington deems Fort Chaplin a second-class fort, a designation reserved for forts that were generally in good order, and woul dlast many years without much expenditure of labor or money. They [occupied] positions which must be held when the city is threatened by a land attack. They [were] not so important, however, as the forts named in the first class.
	Land Transfer	Selby Scaggs relinquishes claims for remuneration from the United States government, and Fort Chaplin reverts to the ownership of Selby Scaggs.
CE 1865 - 1919	Maintained	Surveyors` maps continue to indicate that Fort Chaplin earthworks remained intact in the decades after the war, faring better than most of the other defenses of Washington.
CE 1871 - 1872	Built	Circa 1871, the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad constructs the Washington and Point Lookout Branch, which extends through Anacostia west of the Fort Chaplin site.
CE 1902	Designed	The McMillan Plan calls for the design of a new Fort Drive connecting all the former fort sites in a green parkway around the city. The plan calls for the acquisition of 20.2 acres encompassing Fort Chaplin.
	Platted	East Capitol Street and surrounding street grid is mapped on the land east of the Anacostia. East Capitol Street is not built until the 1940s.

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

CE 1911	Platted	The Office of Engineer Corps releases the DC City Plan and a map of permanent system of highways, which includes East Capitol Street as a broad east-west thoroughfare, and expands the street system around the site of Fort Chaplin. The plan includes a street west of the earthworks that was labeled as Chaplin Street. The streets are not constructed at this time.
CE 1935	Purchased/Sold	The National Capital Park and Planning Commission purchases Square 5406, lot 85, encompassing 3,660 square feet of Fort Chaplin, for the purchase price of \$1,841.25.
CE 1938	Purchased/Sold	The National Capital Park and Planning Commission purchases an additional 5.173 acres of Fort Chaplin on March 5, 1938.
	Purchased/Sold	Land for the Fort Chaplin Recreation Center is purchased, with the deed recorded on April 7, 1938. The parcel totals 4.148 acres and was acquired for \$3,733.20.
CE 1939	Purchased/Sold	The NCPPC acquires an additional 1.65 acres around Fort Chaplin, via condemnation and at a cost of \$2,154.75. The deeds are recorded on March 6, 1939.
CE 1941 - 1942	Built	The National Capitol Housing Authority constructs the Stoddert Dwellings complex on the western edge of Fort Chaplin Park, along Ridge Road SE. The first unit was occupied beginning in January 1942.
CE 1942 - 1949	Built	At some point between 1942 and 1949, East Capitol Street is completed and opened to vehicular traffic along Fort Chaplin Park's northern boundary.
CE 1947	Maintained	The NCPPC conducts miscellaneous clearing and grading work at the east and west ends of Fort Chaplin Park to meet acute needs for play space.
	Land Transfer	The District of Columbia Department of Recreation negotiates an agreement with the National Capital Housing Authority and the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission for the use of NCPPC-owned land at Fort Chaplin. The agencies also negotiate an agreement to construct a playground unit at the west end of Fort Chaplin in the Stoddert housing project.

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

CE 1950	Purchased/Sold	The NCPPC acquires six acres for a playground at Fort Chaplin Park.
CE 1951	Established	The construction of the East Capitol Street bridge is authorized.
CE 1951 - 1979	Established	A daycamp program operates at Fort Chaplin Park c. 1951-c. 1979.
CE 1952 - 1955	Built	The East Capitol Street bridge is constructed, linking East Capitol Street over the Anacostia River. The bridge route crosses under the railroad lines west of Fort Chaplin Park and returns to grade at Burns Street SE, immediately west of Fort Chaplin Park.
CE 1956	Maintained	The NCPPC undertakes minor improvements and maintenance projects at Fort Chaplin Park, including the rehab of the baseball diamond, construction of hard-surfaced areas, and installation of fencing.
CE 1956 - 1960	Built	The National Capitol Housing Authority (NCHA) replaces the former Stoddert Dwellings complex with 200 units of public housing known as Stoddert Terrace, located along the western edge of Fort Chaplin Park.
CE 1962 - 1963	Built	The 550-unit Fort Chaplin Park Apartments complex is constructed along the eastern edge of Fort Chaplin Park, along East Capitol Street and Texas Avenue SE.
CE 1965	Built	The Benning-Stoddert Recreation Center is constructed at the northwest corner of Fort Chaplin Park (Reservation 706).
CE 1966	Designed	Representative Joel T. Broyhill (R., Va.) proposes the construction of a school on an undeveloped portion of Fort Chaplin Park, in order to avoid the seizure of private houses on nearby land (at Texas and Burns Avenues) for school construction.
CE 1967	Altered	A ditch is infilled in Fort Chaplin Park, increasing the park's acreage from 7 to 11 acres.
	Land Transfer	Five acres in the southwest corner of Fort Chaplin Park are transferred to the District of Columbia for the construction of a school.

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

CE 1970 - 1971	Land Transfer	The National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) transfers control and responsibility of 363 parcels of parkland to the District of Columbia. The transfers include the Fort Chaplin [Benning-Stoddert] recreation center/playground.
CE 1971		The Fort Circle Parks trail is named a National Recreation Trail.
CE 1974	Designed	The Master Plan for the Fort Circle Parks hiker-biker trail is approved. Only three miles of the trail were ultimately constructed, connecting several fort parks in the eastern section: Fort Mahan, Fort Chaplin, Fort Dupont, Fort Davis, and Fort Stanton.

**Physical History:**

PRECOLONIAL HISTORY AND NATIVE AMERICAN SETTLEMENT

(15,000 BCE to 1608 CE)

Although the area that hosts the Fort Chaplin Cultural Landscape did not exist as a permanent landscape until the early 20th century, it is located in a region that has been inhabited by humans since 15,000 BCE. (Berger 2015: 6-8). Though the landscape itself was non-existent until the 1890s, humans had arrived in the Middle Atlantic Coastal Plain and Piedmont by 11,000 BCE (Louis Berger 2016: 6). The Potomac River, meanwhile, has existed in the same approximate position for two million years. Approximately 33,000 years ago, it began incising the area below Great Falls on the west side of the current District of Columbia boundaries; this down-cutting ended around 8,000 years ago, coinciding with the sudden saline flux into the Chesapeake. The Lower Potomac River subsequently began to turn into a tidal estuary, with seawater mixing with fresh water and tides that affect the water level and currents (Louis Berger 2016: 9).

Beginning in approximately 11,000 BC and extending to c. 9600 BCE, the Paleoindian period was characterized by “small, highly mobile nomadic bands following a hunting and gathering subsistence pattern” (Louis Berger 2016: 11). Later, during the Early Archaic Period from 9600 to 7600 BCE, warming climates and rising sea levels forced native populations to adapt. They developed new technologies for hunting, fishing, and food preparation. Population density remained low. A recent study suggests that the territory of a single band of perhaps 150 to 250 people might have stretched from the Chesapeake Bay to the Blue Ridge, covering as much

as half the state of Virginia (Custer 1990; Berger 2016: 13). Native American population growth during the Middle Archaic Period (7600 to 3800 cal BC) led to settlement in previously underutilized areas, and the development of new tools designed for woodworking, seed-grinding, and nut-cracking (Gardner 1987; Berger 2016: 13).

A series of thriving cultures developed throughout eastern North America in the Late Archaic Period (3800 to 2400 BCE). These cultures had higher population densities and were experts in exploiting the changing forest environment. Sometime between 4000 and 3500 BCE, as the climate grew warmer and drier, oak and hickory trees began to replace hemlock and pines in the Middle Atlantic forests. In the mountains, chestnuts multiplied. The appearance of the Halifax culture around present-day Washington, D.C. coincided with the development of oak-hickory and oak-chestnut forests. The Halifax people ranged widely across the landscape, gathering nuts and using readily available quartz to fashion weapons (Berger 2016: 14).

The Terminal Archaic Period (2400 to 1400 BC) is characterized by the establishment of larger, more permanent settlements along the Coastal Plain. The pattern of sites suggests that people were spending much of the year in riverside base camps, moving less often, and using canoes (Berger 2016: 16). As the size and permanency of tribal populations grew throughout the Early Woodland Period (1400 to 700 BCE), local resource exploitation increased and new social hierarchies emerged. Native Americans began to experiment with ceramic technology,

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

and pottery dating from this period has been recovered in quantity from sites throughout Washington (Berger 2016: 18).

Trade networks expanded out of the Middle Atlantic region during the Middle Woodland Period (700 BCE to CE 1000). Sustained cultural contact with tribes in the Ohio Valley has been demonstrated by massive caches of artifacts found in cremation burials on Maryland's western shore (Berger 2016: 20-22). These developments continued through the Late Woodland Period (CE 1000 to 1607) as Native Americans began to experiment with farming. They cultivated crops such as maize as early as AD 1000. A dramatic increase in the number of sites coincides with the onset of agriculture. Late Woodland sites feature evidence of diverse activities and substantial dwellings, including small permanent hamlets. During this period, ranked societies emerged, which developed into the complex tribes and chiefdoms encountered by the Europeans in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Fortified villages began to appear around AD 1200 to 1300 (Berger 2016: 22).

#### COLONIAL SETTLEMENT (1632-1790)

When English colonists expanded their settlements in the Americas, the land around Fort Chaplin was included within the boundaries of the colony of Maryland, established by charter from King Charles I in 1632. Led by Leonard Calvert, colonists established the first permanent settlement at St. Mary's City in 1634 (Scharf 1879: 77-79). From there, settlement gradually expanded throughout the colony of Maryland over the course of the 17th century, although it remained concentrated along the region's waterways, including the Eastern Branch and the Potomac River.

In 1687, the land around Fort Chaplin—including the hill on which the fort was later built—was patented to Colonel Ninian Beall (Beauchamp 1975: 174; Henley 1993: 909). Beall was a landmark figure in the establishment of the colony of Maryland, and later, his property (which passed through several subsequent landowners and their descendants) figured prominently in the founding of Prince George's County in 1696 and the concession of land for the new District of Columbia in 1791. Born c. 1625 in Largo, Fifeshire, Scotland, he fought with the Scottish Royalists against Oliver Cromwell at the Battle of Dunbar, Scotland (Benedetto et al. 2003: 30). When Cromwell's forces conquered the Royalists in 1652, thousands of the defeated Scots were imprisoned or deported to the West Indies and America. Among the captured was Colonel Ninian Beall, who was sentenced to indentured servitude for Richard Hall in the Province of Maryland (Reno 2008: 98-9).

After his release in 1658—the same year that Cromwell died and Charles II was restored to the throne—Beall was named commander of the colonial forces in Maryland and began to acquire large swaths in the province. At the time, the Colony of Maryland was divided into geographic entities distinguished as “hundreds” and “parishes.” Hundreds, which were platted by the Justices of the County Court and controlled by County Officers, were planned as efficient units of political administration. New hundreds were created as necessary, as settlement expanded (Verrey and Henley 1987: 18).

In exchange for his sponsorship of about 200 immigrants from Scotland, Beall was granted patents for over 25,000 acres of land. Among his many patents and purchases was the

acquisition in 1703 of the land around Fort Chaplin, immediately east of the Anacostia River—a tract of land known as “Fortune Enlarged” (Benedetto, Donovan, and Du Vall 2003: 30; Deanwood History Committee 2008: 7; The Evening Star 1891: 14). By the time of his death in 1717, Beall was a famous figure in Maryland, renowned for his public offices and his battles with Native American tribes (Lapp 2006: 2). Beall was both a property owner and a farmer, and Fort Chaplin’s site and the surrounding landscape was likely used for crops and livestock throughout the eighteenth century (Deanwood History Committee 2008: 7).

During these same decades, the Eastern Branch Road was established between the towns of Bladensburg (northeast of Fort Chaplin’s site) and Alexandria (southwest of the fort site). The road extended along a path west of the future site of Fort Chaplin. When the boundaries of Maryland and Virginia were established at the end of the eighteenth century, this road was the link (through the District of Columbia) between Washington, DC’s neighboring states. For much of the 1700s, however, the road was simply a rutted backwoods path between farms, running north-south parallel to the Eastern Branch of the Potomac River (from which it took its name) and near the western edge of Fort Chaplin’s hilltop site (Lapp 2006: 2). (It followed the same approximate route of the Anacostia Freeway/295 today.)

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL CITY (1790-1812)

With the resolution of the Revolutionary War around this time, the new government of the United States resolved to move its capital from Philadelphia to the area around the branch of the Eastern and Potomac Rivers. When Pierre L’Enfant laid out a design for the new capital city in 1790, the area between the two waterways was ceded by Maryland and included within the boundaries of the District of Columbia. Foreshadowing the construction of the forts 70 years later, the decision to include additional land beyond the rivers was one of military deterrence. Then-Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson recommended that the land west of the Potomac and east of the Eastern Branch be annexed to serve as a buffer for the city in the event of an attack on the new capital (Cantwell 1973-1974: 334).

By this time, the Anacostia River (still often referred to as the “Eastern Branch”) was a navigable commercial waterway for the District of Columbia and the Mid-Atlantic States, although sediment settling and erosion of the riverbanks had calmed the river’s flow from earlier centuries (Webb and Vooldrige 1892: 91). The land adjacent and east of the river’s banks was left largely untouched in the years after the founding of the capital, as land-planning efforts for the federal city concentrated on the plateau between the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers (Lapp 2006: 3). The area around Fort Chaplin therefore continued as agricultural land, remaining largely farmed and forested into the nineteenth century.

Early in the nineteenth century, farmer and slaveowner William Benning purchased 330 acres of Beall’s Adventure in the area north of Fort Chaplin’s later site. He built a house soon after on a ridge northeast of the river (and northeast of the project area), and then in 1823, he bought and rebuilt a wooden bridge that traversed the Anacostia River and offered access to the rest of the District of Columbia. That bridge, and the road that leads to it on the east side of the river, retains Benning’s name to this day, although Benning’s nephew sold the farm after his uncle’s death. Both the bridge and the road that took Benning’s name served as an important route out of the capital city to the surrounding states (Overbeck and Chatmon 2010:

259). Benning Road extended east-west along a path a short distance north of Fort Chaplin's site. Between the fort site and Benning Road, a tributary to the Anacostia River ran east-west, roughly parallel to the path of Benning Road; historic maps occasionally refer to it as Piney Run, or Piney Branch Run.

#### WAR OF 1812 (1812-1814)

Even as the District of Columbia grew, the capital and the country remained politically fragile. The advent of the nineteenth century brought with it new threats from old enemies, as the menace of war with England never completely receded. Within twenty years of the establishment of the capital, the deliberate openness and sense of ease in L'Enfant's plan became the city's liability during the War of 1812. Unprotected by any peripheral defenses, and left exposed by a country that thought the need for such protection had passed, the District quickly fell into the hands of the British Army (CEHP Incorporated 1998: Part I, Chapter II, 6).

As the British advanced on the city from the northeast in 1814, the United States Navy burned a bridge downstream (south of Benning Road) in an effort to thwart an attack after the Battle of Bladensburg. The British were not deterred, however, merely moving upstream to cross the river at the Benning Road Bridge (Overbeck and Chatmon 2010: 259). As Washington burned in August of 1814, remnants of buildings and urban fabric that were once proud symbols of the new republic stood as reminders of the destruction caused by an invading imperial army. This symbolism and military weakness had a lasting impact on the psyche of the young nation, and on the design of the capital's defenses as the 19th century progressed.

#### EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY (1814-1860)

Not much is known about the site of Fort Chaplin in the decades immediately after the War of 1812. However, it almost certainly remained agricultural and partially forested, since by 1840, the land seems to have been owned by Selby Scaggs, a slaveholding farmer who also served as a Methodist preacher to landowners in Anacostia (United States Bureau of the Census 1840). In 1857, Scaggs was appointed by President James Buchanan to serve as a county judge for the area (alongside Dr. Welford Manning, whose land was later seized to construct Fort Mahan) (United States Department of Education 1871: 272).

By this time, Scaggs' land was variously forested and clear-cut (presumably for agriculture) (Boschke 1861). His property also included two groupings of buildings: one cluster of structures (presumably, a house and at least two additional buildings) that straddled Eastern Branch Road, a short distance south of the intersection with Bennings Road [by Stony Hill, according to the 1861 Boschke map]. Scaggs reportedly constructed a church (known as the Piney Grove Church) for his slaves (although, later during the Civil War, he objected to the worshippers' prayers for the Union Army); this chapel was located in the western cluster of buildings, along Eastern Branch Road (The Evening Star 1891: 14; Hopkins 1879). A schoolhouse (which may have been housed in the same chapel building) was also located in the western cluster of buildings on Scaggs' land (The Baltimore Sun 1856: 4; Hopkins 1879).

The second grouping, comprised of two buildings, was located east of the larger cluster, south of Bennings Road and the creek that ran parallel to that road (Boschke 1861). The future Fort



Chaplin (and Fort Craven) was located in the vicinity of the eastern grouping of buildings on Scaggs' property, which encompassed a total of 400 acres and was worth \$52,000 (Cooling and Owen 2010: 214; CEHP, Incorporated 1998: Part I, Chapter III, 5).

#### FORTIFICATION OF THE FEDERAL CITY (1860-1861)

When war loomed again in the mid-19th century, the federal government was all too conscious of Washington's defenseless borders. As civil war approached, the atmosphere in Washington was one of apprehension and uncertainty. John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry in 1859 had heightened tensions in the border states, as Southern states feared a slave insurrection and Northern states—as well as the federal capital—rushed to strengthen their militias. (Before 1860, most of the regular army was posted further west, where conflicts with the Native Americans demanded the greatest military concentration.) (Billings 1960/1962: 123-4) The looming threat was so great that President Lincoln's inauguration on March 4, 1861, was conducted under military guard. Seven states had already seceded from the Union by this time, and Confederates were already positioned across the Potomac River in Alexandria, Virginia (one of the secessionist states), preparing for an attack on the capital (Miller 1976: 3).

Unlike the War of 1812, the threat to the capital this time was internal, rather than external, and the Union leaders wanted to reinforce Washington, DC, as both a symbolic and strategic center for the nation. Military officers had learned from the combat losses of 1812, and city officials wished to avoid the demoralizing psychological damage of that war as well. Washington, DC could no longer go unprotected, and Union leaders sought to capitalize on its open space for a tactical, and not simply a ceremonial, purpose (McCormick 1967: 3).

The District's geographic location in the middle of the Eastern Seaboard was an asset in the early years of the Republic. The city was carved out of the territory of its neighboring states, establishing the federal capital as the geographic and governmental center of the new nation. In the wake of the Battle of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, however, Washington, DC's position became a liability. The federal city was surrounded by the southern state of Virginia (which seceded on April 17 of that year) and the southern sympathizer state of Maryland, with just Fort Washington (twelve miles south of the city) as protection (Cox 1901: 1). That outdated fort, completed in 1824, was a distant and ineffective buttress for the federal city, with few armaments and even fewer troops stationed there. Designed to protect more against naval attacks than land armies, it was even more isolated and precariously located than the rest of the District of Columbia. In its position along the Potomac River, the fort was on the border with Maryland and was separated by less than a mile of water from Virginia (McClure 1957: 1). It did little to protect the city from attacks over land—as the British Army had proved in the War of 1812 (Cooling 1971/1972: 315).

As of January 1861, the only regular troops stationed near Washington were a few hundred Marines and enlisted men stationed at the Washington Arsenal at the branch of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers (Miller 1976: 3). When President Lincoln called for volunteer soldiers on April 15, 1861, for military offensives, his Union commanders quickly began to put in place a system of military defenses to protect the Union capital from surrounding threats (McCormick 1967: 2). On May 23, 1861, three infantry units accompanied military engineers on a reconnaissance mission around the capital city as they scouted locations for a ring of

fortifications around the capital city (Miller 1976: 4).

Under the command of General George McClellan's Chief Engineer, Major John G. Barnard, Union engineers surveyed the northern approaches between the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. The quick examination of the land provided insight on the roadways into the city and the "defensive character of the ground" (United States War Department 1881: 680). Based on the topography of this northern arc of hills, engineers quickly selected seven sites for what would become Forts Pennsylvania (later known as Fort Reno), Massachusetts (later renamed Fort Stevens), Slocum, Totten, Bunker Hill, Saratoga, and Lincoln. An additional four sites were later established to fill the perceived gaps in the northern defenses, resulting in Forts Gaines, DeRussy, Slemmer, and Thayer. According to Barnard's report to General J. G. Totten, Chief of Engineers, on December 10, 1861, these defensive works were begun in August and completed and armed by early December of that year (United States War Department 1881: 678-685).

The engineers' plan for the ring of defenses around Washington, including Fort Chaplin, reversed the city's siting from one of low-lying vulnerability to one of buffered impregnability. Where Washington had been defenseless and exposed in the War of 1812, its army officers now looked to capitalize on the ring of hills around the city, which formed a strategically-elevated shield several hundred feet above the rest of the city. (Indeed, some historians refer to the Defenses of Washington as the city's shield during the war, and the Army of the Potomac as its sword. [Cooling and Owen 2010: 1]) Once cleared of trees and undergrowth according to the engineers' plans, these ridges would host a circle of fortifications—linked by rifle trenches—that could command views not only to other neighboring defenses and the city, but to any military threats that might approach from Maryland, Virginia, or the sea.

Working swiftly in the early months of 1861, the Army bought, seized, and confiscated the agricultural land for 68 military posts and battlements around the edge of the city. By the end of 1861, a 37-mile ring of battlements, trenches, rifle pits, and military roads encircled the capital on land that was, until recently private farmland (McClure 1957: 1). The Army's acquisition of land for the full ring of fort sites was an exercise in federal authority and military necessity, as Brigadier General Barnard noted in his 1871 report:

The sites of the several works being determined upon, possession was at once taken, with little or no reference to the rights of the owners or the occupants of the lands—the stern law of "military necessity" and the magnitude of the public interests involved in the security of the nation's capital being paramount to every other consideration. (Barnard 1871: 85)

Indeed, the move was an emphatic signal to both the area landowners and the South's commanders that federal power would supersede individuals' property rights in the fight to protect and preserve the Union. (The transformations in the landscape were executed so quickly that the army's map of the line of defenses, published late in 1861, simply superimposed the designs for the fortifications on the Boschke map, printed just a few months earlier, with no effort to map the new topographical patterns of the now fully-cleared ridges.)

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---



*1861: Boschke map of the District of Columbia, with future hilltop site of Chaplin's earthworks highlighted with a red dot. (Boschke 1861)*

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---



*Modified 1865 map of the Defenses of Washington, distinguished by their current ownership and management status. (National Park Service)*

EARLY CIVIL WAR (1861-1864)

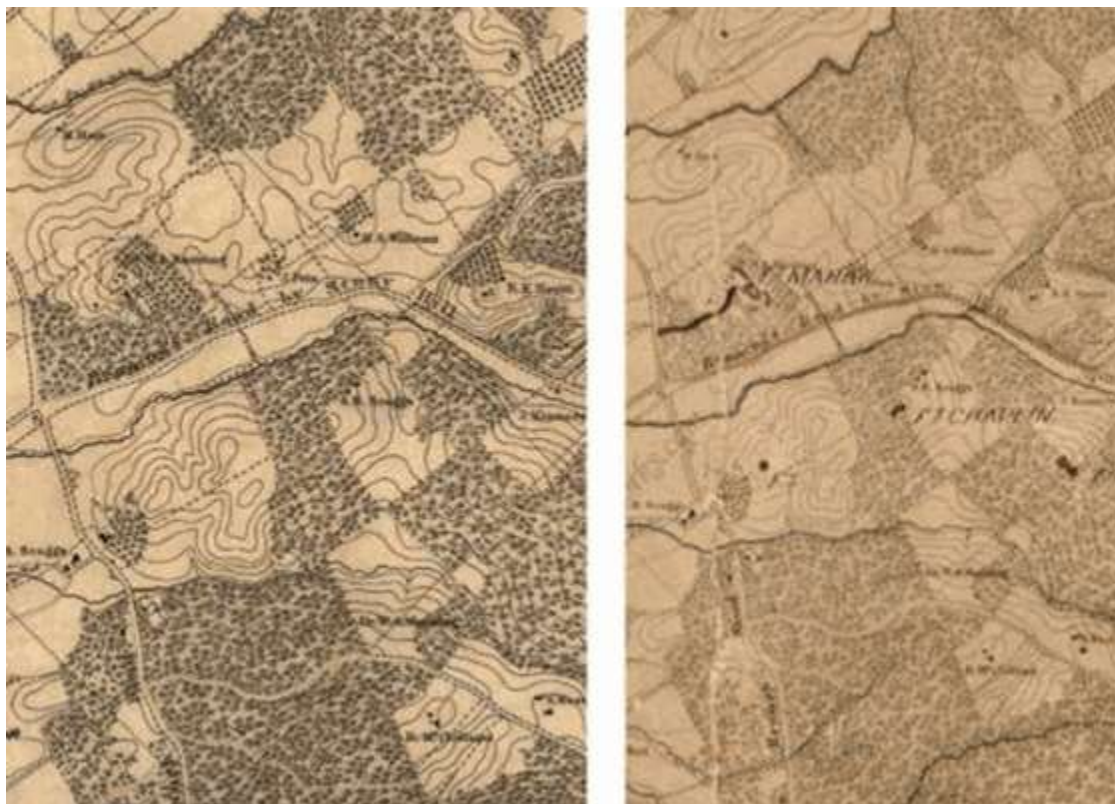
Although Fort Chaplin was not built until relatively late in the Civil War, it seems that the land was claimed near the beginning of the war. The construction of the fort was not ordered until 1864, but the hilltop land was likely acquired from Scaggs in 1860-1861, when the main defenses of Washington were constructed. A later newspaper account noted that Union officers occupied Scaggs' house "during the whole period of the war—a situation to which Scaggs vehemently and frequently objected." That same newspaper casually remarked that it was not unusual for Scaggs to be arrested twice in the same day, objecting to the presence of the Union Army.

(Although Scaggs sided with the South, he reportedly refused to materially support the cause, since he could not in good conscience oppose the federal government.) (The Evening Star 1891: 14)

An additional account of Scaggs' wartime protests described his run-ins with Union soldiers at the Piney Grove church on his property:

Rev. Selby B. Scaggs, a white Methodist preacher and a farmer in that neighborhood, locked up the chapel in which he was wont to preach, and when the people came to the church, they found him patrolling, key in hand, in front of the house, and declaring that he would have no more praying for the President and the success of the Union arms on his premises. It appeared that the pious officers and soldiers from the neighboring forts had taken part in the Sabbath services and given this offence to the pastor. (United States Department of Education 1871: 272)

This chapel was among the buildings in the western cluster of buildings on Scaggs' property, located along Eastern Branch Road, and may have also served as the schoolhouse referenced in various historic documents (Hopkins 1879).



*Comparison of the site of Fort Chaplin, as depicted on the 1861 Boschke map (left) and the 1861 Lines of Defense map (right), developed by Major General John G. Barnard. Barnard's map of the fortifications around Washington used Boschke's survey as a base*

#### DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF FORT CHAPLIN (1864)

The forts east of the Anacostia River saw little action in the early years of the war. (Indeed, few fortifications saw direct combat over the course of the four-year conflict.) Nevertheless, in 1864, Confederate General Jubal Early mounted an attack on Fort Stevens that represented the most direct wartime threat to the capital. In that battle, waged on July 11, 1864, General Early led a raid into Maryland and fired shots on Fort Stevens—and on President Abraham Lincoln, who was at the fort during the battle—before being rebuffed by the Union Army and their defenses (Kaufmann and Kaufmann 2004: 285).

Although the soldiers at Fort Stevens' repelled Early's attack, and both the president and the capital survived safely, the battle spurred the Union Army to bolster any weaknesses in its Defenses of Washington. From July to December of 1864, the Army reconstructed deteriorated elements of extant forts, such as Fort Mahan, and ordered the construction of new fortifications where there were gaps in the line. Among the newly-ordered forts was Fort Chaplin—so named for Colonel Daniel Chaplin, 1st Main Heavy Artillery, who died in Deep Bottom, Virginia, on August 17, 1864 (Cooling and Owen 2010: 213). Fort Chaplin was among three new works constructed in the fall of 1864 to strengthen Fort Mahan, which was

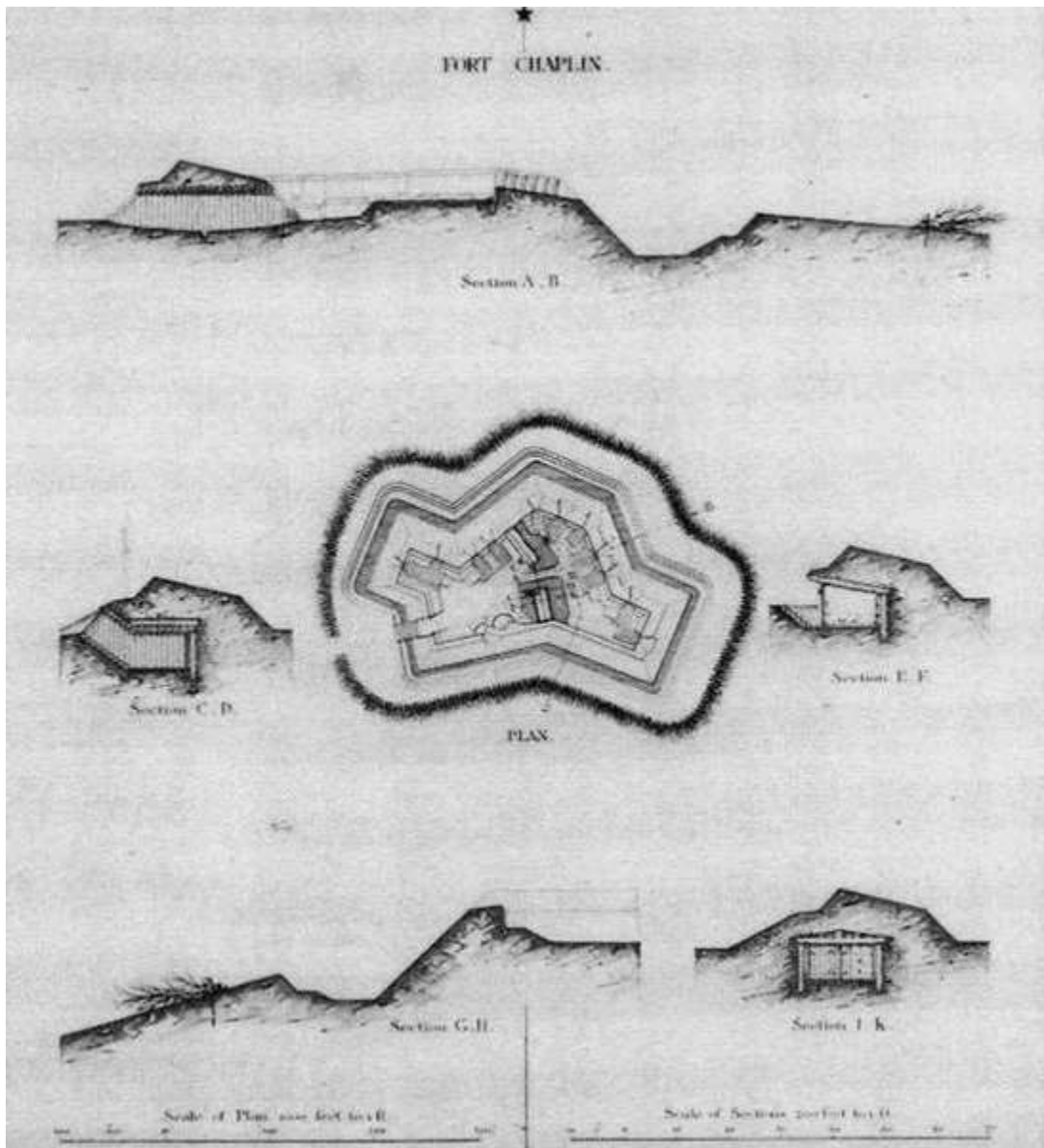
## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

located north of Fort Chaplin and responsible for guarding the Benning Road Bridge to the capital. Chaplin was designed to cover the flank of Fort Mahan, forcing any invading army to detour around Fort Meigs and delaying any approach to the capital (McCormick 1967: 22, 35).

Fort Chaplin had an irregular, 11-sided perimeter that measured 225 yards; the sally port was located at the southwest corner of the earthworks (McCormick 1967: 35-36). Although the fort was never fully armed or garrisoned, it did have twelve gun emplacements; all but one were empty. A single 24-pounder siege gun was mounted en barbette, and a bombproof and magazine were located along the north-south axis at the center of the fort. The fort was constructed at an altitude of approximately 180 feet above sea level. Soon after its initial construction, the parapet was altered for flank defense guns (CEHP, Incorporated 1998: Part I, Chapter IV, 5).



*Engineer drawings of Fort Chaplin, including plan (center) and sections of the earthworks. (National Archives, as printed in Cooling and Owen 2010)*

#### SETTLEMENT AROUND THE FORT (1864-1865)

In the years during and after the war, the Civil War Defenses of Washington had not only a strategic and symbolic role in the Union's victory and survival, but also a more tangible impact on the growth and settlement of the city and its landscape. The abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia in 1862—predating Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation by a year—prompted a mass migration of slaves to the city (McFadden-Resper and Williams 2005: 4). By 1863, thousands of former slaves had claimed their freedom in the District, and by the



war's end, the city's black population had nearly doubled from 18,000 in 1860, to 31,500 in 1865 (Hutchinson 1977: 69-70). This influx of escaped slaves from the South often gravitated toward the land around the forts, which they saw as protection for both the capital city and for themselves. On the run from enslavement and their former masters, many of them sought refuge near the soldiers' encampments, which at times provoked hostility with the white soldiers.

In response to the mounting tensions around the forts between the escaped slaves and the city's Union troops (and neighboring residents), a new federal policy issued in August 1861 classified the free slaves as "contraband" of the war. Under the "contraband" law, escaped slaves could earn their official emancipation if they worked for the Union Army—including helping to construct and maintain the city's fortifications (National Park Service 2013b). The historical records of the contrabands' migration and settlement near the Defenses of Washington in general suggests that they may have played a role in the construction of Fort Chaplin. An account of contraband settlement, published in 1919, described the forts and camps that "extended along the Eastern branch highlands from Benning to a point nearly opposite Alexandria, [beginning on the S. B. Scaggs farm]" (The Sunday Star 1919: 2). Further research is needed to confirm their role and scope at this particular site, but any buildings or structures associated with this camp were almost certainly temporary installations.

#### END OF THE CIVIL WAR AND THE DECOMMISSIONING OF THE FORTS (1864-1865)

Few of the fortifications saw real combat, but the Defenses of Washington had a clear deterrent effect throughout the war. As a newspaper article noted of the defenses in 1884: That the garrison of Washington was never called upon to withstand a siege is no argument against the precautions taken to insure the possession of the National Capital against any possible contingency, and that, through the darkest hours of the struggle for existence, the National Government could remain in security within sight of the debatable ground trodden by hostile soldiers is no slight testimonial to the wisdom that planned and the engineering skill that executed this important work. (The National Tribune 1884)

For four years, the ring of hills around the District of Columbia served as a topographical, psychological, strategic, and militaristic buffer to nearly all Confederate attacks on the capital. Indeed, the only substantial threat to the defenses—and, therefore to the capital city—was Jubal Early's attack on Fort Stevens in 1864. Nevertheless, although it precipitated fear of another attack on Washington, General Jubal Early's 1864 raid on Fort Stevens was ultimately unsuccessful and constituted the last real threat to Washington, DC before the end of the war in 1865.

By the time of General Robert E. Lee's surrender in April 1865, the defenses' circumferential system comprised 68 enclosed forts (with perimeters totaling 13 miles); 93 unarmed batteries; 1,421 gun emplacements; 20 miles of rifle trenches; and 30 miles of military roads—all constructed in just four years (Cooling 1971/1972: 330-2). Nearly as quickly as they had been erected, however, they were dismantled or abandoned, and their sites were sold or ceded to their original owners. The Union Army did retain eleven "first-class" sites as a precautionary military measure, but most of the other forts, better, and block-houses were ordered immediately dismantled by an order from the Headquarters of the Department of Washington

on June 23, 1865 (The Daily National Republican 1865b).

Fort Chaplin was among the designated “second-class” forts east of the Anacostia River. As B. S. Alexander, Lieutenant-Colonel and Aide-de-Camp to the Chief Engineer of Defenses, wrote to the commander of the Defenses of Washington:

The forts of this class are generally in good order, and would last many years without much expenditure of labor or money. They occupy positions which must be held when the city is threatened by land attack. They are not so important, however, as the forts named in the first class.

Thus, by December 16, 1865, the United States Government returned the site land around Fort Chaplin to Selby Scaggs (CEHP, Incorporated: Part II, Chapter 1, 5). The earthworks remained intact on the site, which was otherwise almost entirely clear-cut.

#### THE FORTS IN THE LATE NINETEENTH AND EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURIES (1865-1900)

Selby Scaggs continued to own and farm the land around Fort Chaplin for nearly twenty years after the conclusion of the Civil War. By 1884, Scaggs had sold the land and buildings around Fort Chaplin to W.B. Lacey (Lydecker and Greene 1884). According to contemporary maps and descriptions of the area, the earthworks remained in place on the site (as did the Piney Grove church nearby). Maps indicate that the land was still almost entirely clear-cut by this time, with limited areas of planting (possibly orchards), including a tract immediately north of the Fort Chaplin earthworks. A second planted tract (again, possibly orchards) was located southwest of the earthworks.

Circulation in the area around Fort Chaplin at this time was irregular, with fragments of road (likely the old military road, dating to the wartime period) that—according to an 1888 topographical map—no longer connected to nearby thoroughfares. A portion of road was located west of the earthworks. It consisted of a path beginning near a Civil War battery (west of Fort Chaplin) and extending toward Chaplin, with a brief transverse road that turned southeast. The road then ended in a loop (with a short offshoot), neither connected to nearby roads nor directly to the earthworks of Fort Chaplin. A second driveway north of the earthworks began at Benning Road and extended south toward a structure (possibly the old Scaggs house), although it, too, terminated without reaching the earthworks (United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1888).

Also extant on the property was “the old historic Scaggs building,” which a later newspaper account described as “a large two-story frame structure, with a porch or balcony extending along its entire front.” An article published in 1891 noted that the house contained twenty rooms and was “one of the noted landmarks of the locality and is rich in historic lore,” predating the war (The Evening Star 1891: 14). Historic maps indicate that the house (or a structure in its place) was standing until at least 1927, but demolished by 1945; it is likely that the house and its associated buildings were demolished soon after the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission acquired Fort Chaplin as parkland, beginning in 1935 (Baist 1927; United States Geological Survey 1945).

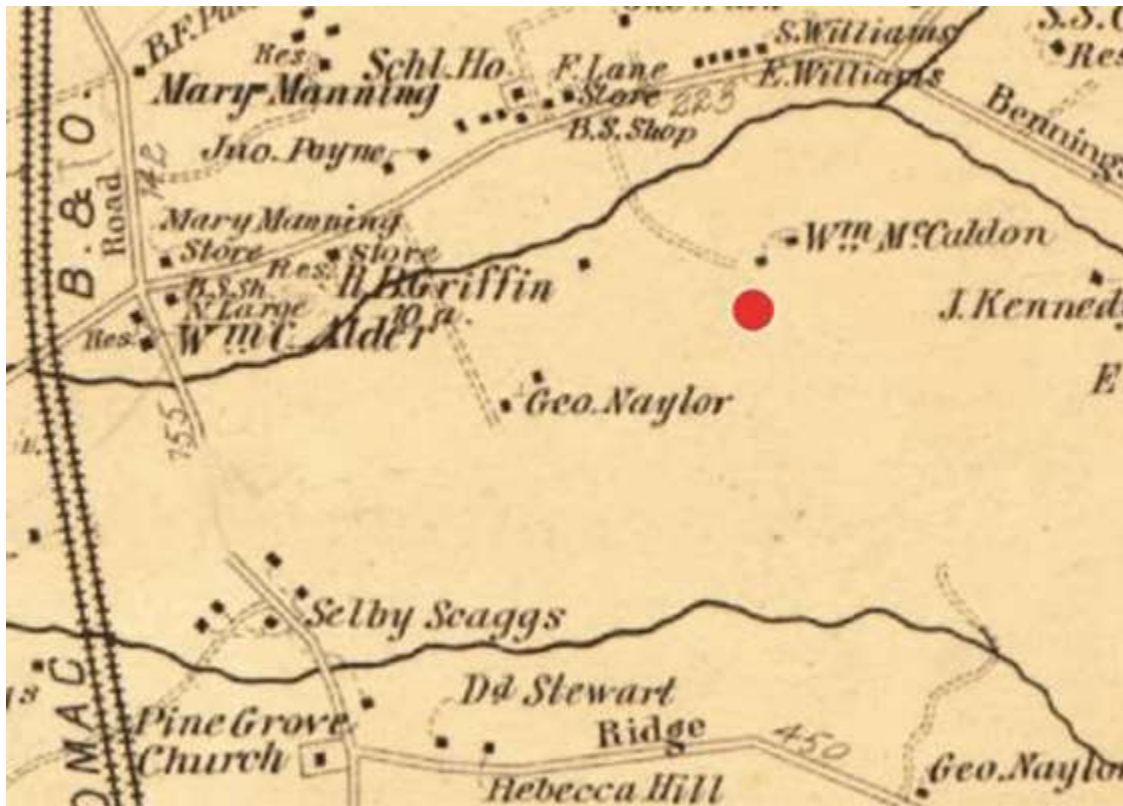
In the latter decades of the nineteenth century, as Fort Chaplin and the other defenses reverted

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

to private ownership and began to deteriorate (and in some cases disappear), they assumed a degree of curiosity and even mystique for the country. Several newspapers published stories about the defenses and their role in the war, with headlines such as “Roadside Sketches” and “Scenes that Thrill” paired with suggested itineraries for visiting the surviving forts (The Evening Star 1891: 14). In spite of the public interest and the romanticization of the defenses, however, many of the sites in the system continued to languish and deteriorate. In their descriptions of the forts in the late nineteenth century, military reports and the newspapers chart the gradual loss of several of the forts’ original form and fabric due to natural growth or outright demolition. A 1912 newspaper article referenced the “remains” of Fort Chaplin—a typical description of the Civil War-era forts by the early twentieth century.

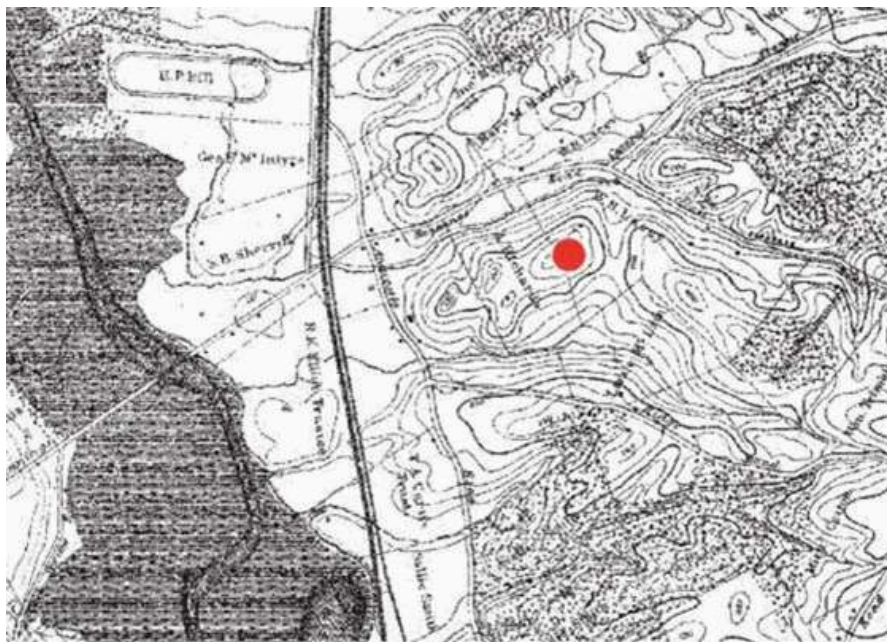


*Fort Chaplin's historic fabric, as seen in 1879. The approximate location of the earthworks is indicated with by a red dot. (Hopkins 1879)*

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---



*Fort Chaplin's historic fabric, as seen in 1884 (top) and 1888 (bottom). The approximate location of the earthworks is indicated in the 1884 map by a red dot. (Lydecker and Greene 1884; United States Geological Survey 1888)*

#### PRESERVATION OF THE FORTS (1890-1901)

By 1900, a steady stream of local interest and newspaper articles highlighted the beauty and significance of the forts, even as they (picturesquely) deteriorated. The travelogues and other press coverage that began soon after the war had continued to the start of the twentieth century. By then, several of the former defenses shared a trajectory of deterioration and demolition—a general rule to which Fort Chaplin seems to have adhered—but the ring of sites around the city still generated interest from public officials and local residents with a growing concern for the forts' preservation.

As the only fort in the defenses of Washington to see a presidential visit and military action during the war, Fort Stevens was the most prominent target for the early preservation movement. Beginning in the 1890s, patriotic organizations concentrated their efforts on preserving Fort Stevens—together with Forts Reno and DeRussy—and recreating a battlefield park in what was by then a streetcar-suburb context. In the ensuing decade, public interest in the preservation of the forts expanded to include the full ring of defenses around the city, including Fort Chaplin. Together, the fortifications became a prime focus of the city beautification efforts introduced a few years later under the McMillan Plan.



*A map of Fort Chaplin and its setting in 1895, denoting the surviving fragments of the earthworks (right), former military road (center), and vegetation. (United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1895)*

#### THE MCMILLAN PLAN AND FORT CIRCLE DRIVE (1901-1902)

In 1901, as part of the McMillan Plan that redesigned much of downtown Washington, city officials began to consider the restoration and preservation of the forts with a new use as parks. Named after Senator James McMillan of Michigan, the McMillan plan was spearheaded by the United States Senate Park Commission, which was founded in 1900 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the relocation of the national capital from Philadelphia to Washington (Robinson and Associates 2004: 48). With roots in the City Beautiful Movement, the McMillan Plan sought to realize sections of the city's original L'Enfant plan that had never been implemented and to reorient the city with an infrastructure of green spaces (National Park Service 2013c).

As part of that effort to renew the city's overlooked and undervalued areas, the plan included in its objectives a proposal to create a 28-mile parkway connecting the Civil War forts of DC as a string of public parkland. It promoted the forts not only for their history, but as a network of civic green space that would benefit the growing city:

It is necessary to mention the chain of forts which occupied the higher summits....The views from these points are impressive in proportion to their commanding military positions, and

they are well worth acquirement as future local parks, in addition to any claim their historical and military interest may afford. (Moore 1902: 111)

As part of the plan, the fort sites would once again transition from private use to public ownership—with due process of sale and purchase this time. The Fort Drive plan also signaled a remarkable shift in the sites' significance from one of wartime necessity—and protection of the federal capital from its own citizens—to one of peacetime public benefit. This narrative was not lost on proponents of the plan, as the *Washington Post* made evident in a 1931 article about “when Washington was fort-girdled”: “Thus the defenses which stood in protection of Washington will be preserved to us and a far lovelier purpose than that for which they were originally constructed” (Salamanca 1931).

The McMillan Plan envisioned an arc of parks east of the Anacostia River that would take advantage of the views to downtown and the hills of Virginia—“the most beautiful of the broad views to be had in the District” (Moore 1902: 111-112). The plan called for the District to acquire 20.2 acres around Fort Chaplin, which would then be linked with its neighboring defenses, including Forts Mahan, Sedgwick, Dupont, and others, to create a “permanent system of highways” that would be “comparable in beauty with that along the Potomac Palisades, but utterly different in character” (Moore 1902: 112). Once again, the topography of the fort sites was used to great advantage, and the McMillan Plan recognized that the views from the forts to DC, Virginia, and Maryland held great public value for the city of Washington.

#### FORT CHAPLIN IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY (1902-1938)

At the same time that the McMillan Plan called for the creation of a network of parks around the District of Columbia, city planners platted a street system on the land east of the Anacostia River, including the area through and around the site of Fort Chaplin. Although some of the platted streets (including East Capitol Street) mimicked the boulevards and radiating intersections of L'Enfant's plan for downtown Washington, DC, many of the streets—such as Texas Avenue—adopted curved, indirect paths (Office of Engineer Corps 1911). East Capitol Street was platted through the original fort site—immediately north of the earthworks—circa 1901 (Langdon 1901). As platted, a street immediately west of the earthworks was designated Chaplin Street circa 1911, and Texas Avenue began at East Capitol Street and ran south immediately east of the earthworks, through the original fort site. Although they appear on maps (as conjectural roads) as early as 1901, these streets were not formalized until several decades later.

In fact, there is little evidence that any development directly affected the immediate vicinity of the earthworks until the 1930s (Office of Engineer Corps 1911; Baist 1919; Baist 1927). However, the various sales of land in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries did subdivide the original, larger site of Fort Chaplin. As such, the earthworks and the eastern cluster of buildings dating to the Scaggs era of construction were eventually separated from the western cluster of buildings near the historic Eastern Branch Road. Contemporary maps suggest that the western buildings survived until at least 1927 (Baist 1927).

The eastern property, encompassing the historic earthworks, passed through various hands in the 1910s and 1920s, including Mary E. Curtis (possibly a servant or housekeeper); Gilbert

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

Spitzer (a real estate businessman); Charles Butler (likely a minister) and Rudolph B. Behrend (an attorney) (R. L. Polk and Company 1910: 453, 1228; R. L. Polk and Company 1924: 396; United States Bureau of the Census 1920). These changes in ownership do not seem to have affected the earthworks (in their deteriorated state) or the adjacent nineteenth-century buildings. The earthworks and nearby buildings remained standing until at least 1927, the area remained partially wooded, and Piney Run continued to flow through the creek bed parallel to Benning Road throughout the early twentieth century (Baist 1913; United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1914). The property remained privately owned until the 1930s; the house and its associated buildings were likely demolished sometime between 1935, when the site was first acquired as parkland, and 1945, when historic maps do not denote any buildings on the landscape (Baist 1927; United States Geological Survey 1945).



Fort Chaplin  
National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East



The buildings, structures, and setting of Fort Chaplin, as seen in 1907 (top) and 1927

*(bottom). The approximate location of the surviving earthworks is indicated on each map by a red dot. (Baist 1907, via HistoricMapWorks.com; Baist 1927, via HistoricMap*

#### FORT DRIVE AND THE ACQUISITION OF PARKLAND (1925-1939)

Although the McMillan Plan revived public interest in Fort Chaplin, and ignited further interest in their preservation of the fort network, the Fort Drive idea saw little progress in the first decade after the report's release. Several bills were introduced, authorizing the purchase of sites for the fort circle parks and fort drive; yet, faced with lack of funds or initiative, these attempts consistently failed. Fort Dupont, east of the Anacostia, was one of the earliest parks acquired, with a Congressional resolution passed in 1912; Fort Chaplin was named in a 1919 bill authorizing the DC Commissioners to make a survey and submit a plan for Fort Drive (CEHP Incorporated 1998: Part II, Chapter III, 3).

However, most Fort Drive projects continued to stall and fail until 1925. On March 3 of that year, the National Capital Parks Commission (NCPC, which was created in 1924) received its first authorization and appropriation for the purchase of land related to the Civil War Defenses of Washington. On October 15, 1925, Fort Stevens became the first fort site acquired by the District of Columbia to serve as parkland (CEHP Incorporated 1998: Part II, Chapter III, 4).

On April 30, 1926, Congress replaced NCPC with the larger and more empowered National Capital Park and Planning Commission (NCPPC), which continued to push for further funding for the Fort Drive Plan (CEHP Incorporated 1998: Part II, Chapter III, 4). The commission's efforts succeeded when, in 1930, Congress passed the Capper-Crampton Act, which provided \$16 million for the acquisition of parkland. Administratively, the plan for Fort Drive advanced further when the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks was abolished in 1933; its responsibilities were transferred to the Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations, Department of the Interior, and eventually to the National Park Service (CEHP Incorporated 1998: Part II, Chapter III, 4).

The acquisition of parkland at Fort Chaplin did not advance until 1935, when the NCPPC purchased 5406, lot 85, encompassing 3,660 square feet, for the purchase price of \$1,841.25 (House of Representatives, Seventy-Fifth Congress 1938: 543). Subsequent purchases of parkland around the Fort Chaplin earthworks were recorded in 1938 (5.173 acres) and 1939 (1.65 acres). An additional 4.148 acres were purchased on April 7, 1938, for the establishment of the Fort Chaplin Recreation Center, located west of the earthworks (United States Congress, House Committee on Appropriations 1940: 291, 316). (This "recreation center" does not appear to have resulted in an actual building until later in the twentieth century; rather, it seems to relate to the baseball diamond and playing field that were created along the park's western boundary in the 1940s.)

With the inclusion of the land acquired for the Fort Chaplin Recreation Center, Fort Chaplin Park's boundaries in 1939 seem to represent the largest version of the park in the twentieth century. Beginning in the 1940s, the park's boundaries were trimmed, due to both the formalization of the street pattern around the fort, as well as various land deals that redistributed parcels of Fort Chaplin Park to other District of Columbia agencies.

MID- TO LATE-TWENTIETH CENTURY (1939-Present)

As of 1937, East Capitol Street remained inaccessible to cars in the vicinity of Fort Chaplin (Federal Writers' Project, Works Progress Administration 1937: 594). According to historic maps, it remained incomplete as of 1942 (United States Geological Survey 1942). However, by 1949, aerial photographs show it to be both complete and operational, although the street did not connect to downtown DC, as the East Capitol Street bridge was not yet constructed (United States Geological Survey 1949).

By 1949, Fort Chaplin Park was circumscribed by East Capitol Street on its northern edge, Texas Avenue on its eastern edge, and various (smaller) residential streets along its southern edge. The park's western boundary now stopped short of Ridge Road, since the Stoddert Dwellings public housing was constructed by the National Capitol Housing Authority on the northwest corner of the site in 1942 (United States Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, Seventy-Eighth Congress 1944: 938-9).

In 1947, the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission conducted miscellaneous clearing and grading work at the east and west ends of Fort Chaplin Park "to meet acute needs for play space" (The Commissioners of the District of Columbia 1948: 270). That same year, the District of Columbia Department of Recreation negotiated an agreement with the National Capital Housing Authority and the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission for the use of NCPPC-owned land at Fort Chaplin. The agencies also negotiated an agreement to construct a playground unit at the west end of Fort Chaplin, in the Stoddert housing project (Andrews 1947: B3). As a result, by 1948, the southwest corner of the park abutted a baseball diamond and a cleared playing field, located along Ridge Road SE south of the Stoddert buildings (United States Geological Survey 1949).

The remainder of the park was almost entirely forested at this time, with the exception of the earthworks (which are visible and clear-cut in aerial photographs) and a cleared area directly north of the earthworks, along East Capitol Street; a social trail connected these two cleared areas. Additional social trails include: a path extending south from the earthworks before turning east and connecting to Texas Avenue SE; and a path at the northeast corner of the park, connecting East Capitol Street and Texas Avenue SE (United States Geological Survey 1949). These social trails appear to be consistent with the current layout of circulation on the site.

In 1950, the NCPPC acquired six additional acres for a playground at Fort Chaplin Park, but it is not known where this parcel was located in relation to the earthworks (National Capital Park and Planning Commission 1950: 56). Moreover, it is not clear whether the playground was a constructed feature, or merely a playing field.

However, the development patterns around the park's boundaries suggest that this acreage was adjacent to or near the existing recreational fields along Ridge Road SE.

Also in 1950, DC officials authorized the construction of the East Capitol Street bridge, which

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

connected Anacostia to downtown DC. (The East Capitol Street bridge offered a more direct connection to downtown than the older Benning Road Bridge, located further north and a critical link across the Anacostia River during the Civil War.) The authorized route in Anacostia crossed under the railroad lines immediately west of Fort Chaplin Park, at which point it returned to street-grade at Burns Street SE (The Washington Post, August 21, 1951: B2). Construction on the bridge commenced in 1952, and it was completed in 1955 (The Washington Post, May 2, 1951: B1).

The 1950s and 1960s saw both increased use of Fort Chaplin Park and increased encroachment on its boundaries. A day camp began operating in the park circa 1951 (it ran until about 1979) (The Washington Post, June 24, 1951: F1). Around this same time, the NCPPC conducted minor repair and upgrade projects around the playing fields, including the rehab of the baseball diamond, the construction of hard-surfaced areas (exact location unknown), and the installation of fencing (United States Senate Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations 1955: 160). A 1954 memo also noted that the earthworks remained “fairly well preserved” (CEHP Incorporated 1998: Appendix AAA).

However, this era also saw the construction of new housing—on both the eastern and western edges of the park this time. On the western edge of the park, the National Capitol Housing Authority replaced the former Stoddert Dwellings complex with 200 new units of public housing (renamed Stoddert Terrace), which were completed in 1960. In addition, a 550-unit complex was constructed in 1962-63 on the eastern edge of the park; the Fort Chaplin Park Apartments trimmed the park’s eastern boundary away from Texas Avenue SE (The Washington Post, December 8, 1962: D7). By 1966, the park’s southern boundary was further delineated with the creation of C Street SE, which extends generally east-west between Ridge Road SE and Texas Avenue SE (United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1966).

In 1965, the Benning-Stoddert Recreation Center was completed at the northwest corner of the park (Johnston, Claypool, and Neubelt 2014: Appendix B). One year later, U.S. Representative Joel T. Broyhill (R., Va.) proposed the construction of a school on “an undeveloped portion of Fort Chaplin Park.” Broyhill’s proposal was a compromise in response to another proposal that would have seized several privately-owned homes nearby (at Texas and Burns Avenues) (The Washington Post, Times Herald, February 6, 1966: A37). Thus, in 1967, the NCPPC discussed the transfer of five acres in the southwest corner of Fort Chaplin Park to the District of Columbia for the construction of the school. (It is unclear whether this proposal was ultimately approved.) That same year, the park officials infilled a ditch in the park, increasing the site’s acreage from 7 to 11 acres;

further research is needed to determine the location of this infill, and whether it coincides with the acreage transferred to the District of Columbia (Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Eighty-ninth Congress 1966: 21). The next major land transfer of Fort Chaplin Park acreage was conducted in 1971, when the National Capital Planning Commission transferred control and responsibility of 363 parcels of parkland (throughout DC) to the District of Columbia; the transfers included the Fort Chaplin [Benning-Stoddert] recreation center and playground (Combes 1971: K5).

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

By this time, the fort site and park were quite overgrown. A newspaper article published in 1970 described Fort Chaplin thus: “With a jungle of vines and undergrowth, this fort’s locale is probably the wildest of any.” That same article acknowledged that “about half the original forts [in the Defenses of Washington] have been flattened by housing developments, schools and roads” (Aubin 1970: B1). Although Fort Chaplin itself was an exception to this trend, the development around its perimeter did confirm it.

In 1971, the Fort Circle Parks trail was named a National Recreation Trail. Soon after, the master plan for the trail was approved (96th Congress, 1st Session 1979: 35). However, only three miles of the trail were ultimately constructed, connecting several fort parks in the eastern section: Forts Mahan, Chaplin, Dupont, Davis, and Stanton (Robinson and Associates 2004: 74). More recently, the school adjacent to the park at its southwest corner was reconstructed; it is now known as The SEED School.

Although the boundaries of Fort Chaplin Park were frequently trimmed, bartered, and transferred in the mid- to late-twentieth century, the actual landscape of the park within those altered boundaries has remained relatively consistent from the 1970s to the present. The earthworks are intact and visible, if deteriorated, near the center of the current park boundaries. While the remaining earthworks are not as densely wooded as other areas of the park, mature trees and brush are growing throughout the surviving parapets and transverse. The remainder of the site is generally wooded, with small cleared areas in various points around the perimeter of the park.

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---



*The evolution of Fort Chaplin's footprint and boundaries in the mid-twentieth century, as seen in maps from 1945 (top) and 1949 (bottom). The approximate location of the extant earthworks is indicated in each map by a red dot. Among the changes that affected the cultural landscape.*

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

# Analysis + Evaluation of Integrity





## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

This section provides an evaluation of the physical integrity of Fort Chaplin's cultural landscape, comparing the landscape characteristics and features present during the periods of significance (1861-1865 and 1902-1939) with the current conditions at the site. Landscape characteristics are the tangible and intangible aspects of the landscape that allow visitors to understand its cultural value. Collectively, they express the historic character and integrity of a landscape. Landscape characteristics give a property cultural importance and comprise the property's uniqueness. Each characteristic or feature is classified as contributing or non-contributing to the site's overall historic significance.

Landscape characteristics are comprised of landscape features. Landscape features are classified as contributing if they were present during the property's period of significance. Non-contributing features (those that were not present during the historical period) may be considered "compatible" when they fit within the physical context of the historic period and attempt to match the character of contributing elements in a way that is sensitive to the construction techniques, organizational methods, or design strategies of the historic period. Incompatible features are those that are not harmonious with the quality of the cultural landscape and, through their existence, can lessen the historic character of a property. For those features that are listed as undetermined, further primary research, which is outside the scope of this CLI, is necessary to determine the feature's origination date.

Landscape characteristics and features, individually, and as a whole, express the integrity and historic character of the landscape and contribute to the property's historic significance.

Landscape characteristics identified for the property are topography, spatial organization, land use, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, views and vistas, and small-scale features. The buildings and structures, already documented through the List of Classified Structures (LCS), are described here in the context of the landscape setting. This section also includes an evaluation of the property's integrity in accordance with National Register criteria. Historic integrity, as defined by the National Register, is the authenticity of a property's identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics that existed during the site's historic period. The National Register recognizes seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Several or all of these aspects must be present for a site to retain historic integrity. To be listed in the National Register, a property not only must be shown to have significance under one of the four criteria, but must also retain integrity.

### LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

Landscape characteristics identified for Fort Chaplin are topography, spatial organization, land use, buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, views and vistas, small-scale features, and archaeology.

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

The site for Fort Chaplin was selected for its topography. Its position at approximately 180 feet above sea level provided an elevated vantage of the surrounding landscape, including several strategic sites that Fort Chaplin was designed to protect. The topography remains the same as it was throughout the historic period, and retains a high degree of integrity.

The extant spatial organization of the Fort Chaplin cultural landscape is generally consistent with the later period of significance, when the site was converted to a park. As a public park, the site's spatial organization is characterized by its proximity and accessibility to the surrounding public streets and roads. (The proximity of the earthworks specifically to the public streets is considered a non-contributing feature, inconsistent with the nineteenth-century period of significance.) There have been minor additions to the landscape in the form of wayfinding and interpretive signs since the later period of significance, but the site retains its historic spatial organization from the twentieth-century period of significance.

The Civil War-era military land use aspect of the Fort Chaplin cultural landscape ended when the United States government sold the property in 1865. However, the land use at Fort Chaplin has not changed since the 20th century period of significance (1902-1939). The site remains a public park, and is used for recreation, education, and interpretation. The park continues to serve a public function and is open for general recreational use. Land use at Fort Chaplin retains integrity.

The site has some integrity of buildings and structures from its nineteenth-century period of significance (1861- 1865). Portions of Fort Chaplin's earthworks remain intact; this includes remnants of the sally port, bombproof, magazine, and fragments of parapet walls. However, these features are generally collapsed and deteriorated. No other buildings or structures survive from the periods of significance, and no other structures are extant within the current park boundaries. Fort Chaplin retains partial integrity of buildings and structures due to the surviving earthwork fragments.

A small portion of Fort Chaplin's Civil War-era military road survives as the primary circulation feature from the nineteenth-century period of significance. The extant social trails may date in part or in full to the twentieth- century period of significance, but this cannot be confirmed. All extant circulation features are difficult to access and generally difficult to discern in the current landscape due to the relatively heavy vegetation; this has an adverse effect on the integrity of the site's circulation. The site therefore retains some integrity of circulation.

There was limited vegetation at Fort Chaplin during the Civil War, in keeping with the site's strategic design and use. Therefore, the mature tree stands and wooded understory of the current vegetation pattern are not consistent with the nineteenth century period of significance, detracting from the landscape's integrity of setting. However, the extant vegetation has likely been responsible for stabilizing and preserving the Civil War- era earthworks, preventing further erosion and invasive plant growth. Moreover, the current vegetation pattern is generally consistent with the twentieth-century period of significance, when the park landscape was characterized by dense tree and ground cover. Fort Chaplin retains integrity of vegetation.

The views and vistas from Fort Chaplin during the Civil War extended to the countryside surrounding

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

the fort—in particular, towards the north and east. These vistas remained intact for several decades after the war, but the redevelopment of the site and the surrounding area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries affected the views from the landscape at Fort Chaplin. During the later period of significance, vegetation growth within the site affected the significant nineteenth-century views, shifting the setting and feeling of the site's vistas to the more limited views of a wooded park landscape. Fort Chaplin's views and vistas retain integrity based on the later period of significance.

Fort Chaplin's small-scale features do not retain integrity. The site has no surviving features from its nineteenth century period of significance. The site's extant features, including signs (regulatory, wayfinding, and interpretive) and a trash can on the southern edge of the park, postdate the twentieth-century period of significance and are non-contributing. The small-scale features of Fort Chaplin's cultural landscape therefore do not retain integrity.

Fort Chaplin retains archaeological integrity. Although the site has seen limited archaeological investigation to date, it is highly likely that future archaeological study of the area in and around Fort Chaplin will locate additional resources from the Civil War-era period of significance. Further investigation is necessary to determine the integrity of the site's archaeological features, including the internal works of the fort (e.g. magazine, bombproof, traverse, etc.).

#### ASPECTS OF INTEGRITY

**Location:** The location aspect of integrity involves the place where the landscape was constructed. During the Civil War, Fort Chaplin occupied a larger area than the present-day park. Over the course of the late nineteenth century and throughout the twentieth century, its boundaries were whittled down by the platting of new streets and development in the surrounding area. In addition, in the mid-twentieth century, after the later period of significance, the park's boundaries were diminished by the transfer of parkland to other

District and federal agencies. However, the historic earthworks and other contributing landscape features remain in their historic locations. The park therefore retains integrity of location.

**Design** is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape or historic property. Portions of the Civil War-era design of the site survive intact, including remnants of the sally port, parapets, bombproof, and magazine. Although these features have deteriorated from their original condition, they remain intact as a characteristic example of Civil War-era fortification design. During the twentieth century period of significance, the site was not actively designed to be a park within the Fort Drive system, but its design passively transitioned to a park landscape with increased vegetation that was allowed to grow and expand. Fort Chaplin retains integrity of design.

**Setting** is the physical environment of a cultural landscape or historic property. During the Civil War, Fort Chaplin's setting was rural, occupied by only a few local landowners. The character of the cultural landscape's context has changed since the Civil War, and there is a loss of integrity from the

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

first period of significance. During the later period of significance, the site's setting was marked by increasing suburban development and commercial development. Its immediate context was comprised of single-family homes and apartment complexes. Currently, Fort Chaplin is still a park and historic site within an urban community, with single-family homes and apartment complexes along the surrounding streets (particular those east, south, and west of the park). A school and recreation center were constructed west of the park in the late twentieth century; these buildings do not detract from Fort Chaplin's significance as a public park in a primarily residential neighborhood. The introduction of East Capitol Street in the 1940s marked a significant alteration in the broader landscape around the park, but it did not adversely impact the setting of the site overall. The park's cultural landscape retains the essential integrity of setting for the twentieth-century period of significance.

Materials are the physical elements of a particular period, including construction materials, paving, plants, and other landscape features. The earthen outerworks, parapets, sally port, and magazine of the nineteenth-century period of significance contribute to the material integrity of Fort Chaplin. There has been some loss of vegetative material and soil on the earthworks, and there has been a change from grasses to other vegetation, but this does not detract from the overall integrity of materials on the site.

Workmanship includes the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular period. The earthen forms of Fort Chaplin's surviving Civil War-era features offer evidence of nineteenth-century military workmanship.

These features have deteriorated since their original construction, but they still demonstrate the craft and skills of the site's wartime laborers. Fort Chaplin retains integrity of workmanship.

Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period. As the site's Civil War-era layout, design, and features have been compromised by vegetation and surrounding development, the site does not retain integrity of feeling from its nineteenth-century period of significance. However, the feeling of the site's twentieth-century use and design as a recreational green space remains consistent. Fort Chaplin remains a public park in the midst of an urban neighborhood, with the vegetation and circulation pattern of trails that (despite the density of the vegetation on and around these features) contribute to and maintain the integrity of feeling from the twentieth-century period of significance. Fort Chaplin retains a high degree of integrity of feeling from its later period of significance.

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Fort Chaplin is associated with the Civil War and the beautification of urban sites as parks. Links to these historic events and movements are still evident at the park. Fragments of the earthworks are still visible on the site and somewhat accessible for visitors to explore. The cultural landscape reflects the links to the historic periods and retains integrity of association for the periods of significance.

## CONCLUSION

After evaluating the landscape features and characteristics within the context of the seven aspects of integrity established by the National Register, this CLI finds that Fort Chaplin retains integrity from

its periods of significance (1861-1865 and 1902-1939). While there have been some changes to the landscape and several features have deteriorated, the overall historic integrity of the landscape remains.

<b>Aspects of Integrity:</b>	Location
	Design
	Setting
	Materials
	Workmanship
	Feeling
	Association

**Landscape Characteristic:**

**Spatial Organization**

During Fort Chaplin’s early period of significance (1861-1865), the landscape’s elevation, together with its views toward the landscape north and east of the capital city, was the organizing principle for the arrangement of the site. Engineers designed the fort’s earthworks to take advantage of the crest of the hill. The entrance to the fort was at the southwestern corner of the earthworks, leaving the north and east parapet walls as a stronger buffer toward the larger Fort Mahan and the vulnerable approaches to the city (Cooling and Owen 2010: 200). No known designed features (e.g. auxiliary buildings associated with the fort) were located outside the earthworks during the nineteenth-century period of significance.

The spatial organization within the fort saw a limited number of modifications during its short existence, as engineers corrected issues with the fort’s design and hasty construction. These modifications included the alteration—but not relocation—of the parapet for flank defense guns (CEHP, Incorporated 1998: Part I, Chapter IV, 5). In addition, a battery was constructed outside of the project area, placed southwest of the earthworks to support Fort Chaplin (although the fort itself was never garrisoned). Throughout this period of significance, the fort remained the central feature of the hilltop landscape, intentionally removed from surrounding public roads. The earthworks were the largest structure on the landscape, dwarfing the antebellum buildings along Benning Road and the Eastern Branch Road, which were secondary anchors in the landscape. The new military road was introduced as a limited-access circulation feature directed toward the sallyport of the fort.

During the second period of significance (1902-1939), new thoroughfares (e.g. East Capitol Street) further trimmed the edges of the site and thrust the earthworks into closer proximity with the surrounding public roads, reorienting the spatial organization of the military landscape into a public recreational space (Baist 1907; Baist 1913). Rather than a broad expanse at the crest of the hill, centered on the earthworks, the Fort Chaplin landscape became a tightly contained parcel within a commercial and residential context, wherein the earthworks were a secondary feature to the development and residents that surrounded them. (During this

same period, the secondary buildings on the landscape (including the nineteenth-century house associated with Selby Scaggs, as well as several additional buildings) were demolished, eliminating the secondary anchors in the Civil War-era landscape.) As a result, the site's proximity to the surrounding public roads became a defining feature of the landscape, vital to its use as a public park that served the developing neighborhood around it.

The spatial organization within the earthworks remained relatively intact, if deteriorated, throughout the second period of significance. The earthworks remained in their original position, and interior features such as the bombproof and magazine remained in place, even as they collapsed and eroded. Remnants of the military road remained in place, but the road was no longer a prominent or orienting circulation feature within the Fort Chaplin landscape.

Beginning in the 1940s and continuing until the late twentieth century, various parcels of parkland were transferred to other city and federal agencies for new construction, including public housing, a recreation center, a school, and new roads and boulevards. As a result, the spatial organization of the larger Fort Chaplin site shifted; the earthworks were eventually dwarfed by adjacent development, new street grids, and the loss of associated adjacent lands. Within the trimmed boundaries of the park, the fort's internal spatial organization remained generally consistent, with the earthworks in place at the crest of the hill.

#### Existing Condition

Fort Chaplin's spatial organization has been altered since its early period of significance. The existing conditions are inconsistent with the orientation of the site during the Civil War, when the earthworks were prominently located at the center of an otherwise undeveloped landscape. Today, the earthworks are extant on the site, and their historic orientation (with the sally port at the southwest corner) remains intact, but the adjacent lands that were critical to the landscape's historic spatial organization during the early period of significance have been curtailed. During the Civil War-era period of significance, the earthworks were fairly removed from nearby circulation and access roads; today, the surrounding streets are relatively close to the earthworks, altering the configuration of, and approach to, the earthworks.

However, the site's extant spatial organization is generally consistent with the later, twentieth-century spatial organization of the landscape, when Fort Chaplin became Fort Chaplin Park. The site's limited extant park infrastructure, including social trails and wayfinding/interpretive signs, is dispersed around the perimeter of the extant landscape, accessible from the surrounding public streets and roads. This is consistent with the twentieth-century period of significance, when the park's proximity to the developing neighborhood around it, was a significant feature of its use as a public park.

The current Fort Chaplin landscape is currently separated, visually and physically, from the former battery (southwest of the earthworks), Fort Mahan (north of the earthworks), or the surrounding landscape north and east of the earthworks that all three defenses were designed to protect. However, the public hiker-biker trail on the western edge of the park links Fort Chaplin to Fort Mahan—a spatial link that was a key aspect of the original design for the Civil

War Defenses of Washington.

#### Analysis

The spatial organization of the cultural landscape is not consistent with the site's nineteenth-century use as Fort Chaplin; the landscape's boundaries, context, internal configuration, and extant features have changed significantly since that Civil War-era period of significance. The short distance between the earthworks and surrounding thoroughfares (including East Capitol Street) is not consistent with the earlier period of significance, when the fort was intentionally removed and inaccessible from public roads.

However, the extant spatial organization is consistent with the twentieth-century use of the site as Fort Chaplin Park, when its proximity to public streets and a developing commercial and residential context was critical to its conversion to public parkland. The landscape therefore does retain integrity with respect to spatial organization, based on the twentieth-century period of significance.

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature: Key spatial relationship between earthworks and former military road

Feature Identification Number: 181203

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Proximity and accessibility of Fort Chaplin Park to surrounding public streets and roads

Feature Identification Number: 181205

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Close proximity of the earthworks to surrounding public streets and roads

Feature Identification Number: 181207

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

#### Land Use

##### Historic Condition

The Fort Chaplin cultural landscape's distinct periods of significance (1861-1865, and 1902-1939) represent different uses of the landscape throughout its history, first as a military installation and later as a place for recreation and interpretation.

Built in 1861 as one of the peripheral Defenses of Washington, Fort Chaplin maintained its military use until it was decommissioned and abandoned shortly after the war ended in 1865. For several decades, the fort deteriorated and was largely dismantled as the land transitioned back to residential/agricultural use and limited development. Two clusters of buildings, serving residential and mixed uses (e.g. school/chapel), existed on the site into the twentieth

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

century. By the end of the twentieth-century period of significance, however, all of these buildings were demolished.

The movement to create a park at Fort Chaplin took root with the publication of the McMillan Plan in 1901, which called for the creation of a Fort Drive linking all of the former Civil War forts as public parks. The plan did not gain traction, however, until 1925, when the National Capital Parks Commission (NCPC) was first authorized to purchase land at various Defenses of Washington sites for use as parkland for the District of Columbia. Fort Chaplin was acquired beginning in 1935, and all of the remaining parkland was purchased by 1939. As the area around the park rapidly developed into a commercial and residential context, the creation of a public park at Fort Chaplin introduced a critical piece of recreational infrastructure in the growing neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River. The landscape offered generally passive recreational use throughout the second period of significance, emphasizing social trails and tree cover rather than active recreational features such as playgrounds.

Beginning in the 1940s, the boundaries of Fort Chaplin Park were trimmed as various land deals redistributed parcels of the park to other District of Columbia agencies. These parcels were developed for residential and recreational use. The land within Fort Chaplin Park remained exclusively recreational throughout the twentieth century.

#### Existing Condition

The site has no current association with its historic nineteenth century use as a military installation. The entire landscape serves a public recreational use today, with limited wayfinding elements and signs designed to serve an educational interpretive function on the site. This is consistent with the landscape's use during the later years of the 1902-1939 period of significance. Features of its historic recreational use are still evident on the site, including fragments of hiking and social trails.

#### Analysis

The Civil War-era military aspect of land use at Fort Chaplin ended with the decommissioning and abandonment of the fort in 1865. Its use has not changed, however, since the later period of significance, when it was converted to public urban parkland. The ongoing use of the Fort Chaplin cultural landscape as a setting for recreational use and trail-walking contributes to the historic character of its land use. While the integrity of land use is impacted by the lack of ongoing military land use, it retains integrity of this characteristic due to the continuation of recreational and interpretation, consistent with the later period of significance (1902-1939).

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Public use as a recreational landscape
Feature Identification Number:	181209
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

#### Topography

##### Historic Condition

The site's elevation was the primary consideration when army officials scouted locations for



## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

Fort Chaplin and the other Civil War Defenses of Washington in 1861. Its position at approximately 180 feet above sea level, as well as its views toward Fort Mahan to the northwest and Forts Dupont and Meigs to the southeast, were critical characteristics for the fort throughout its first period of significance (1861-1865). During the later period of significance (1902-1939), the topography of the site, including the level terrain around the site's perimeter allowed for the recreational use of the site (particularly on its western side). Refer to Buildings and Structures section for description of how the earthwork features manipulated the ground plane.

#### Existing Condition

Fort Chaplin's elevation has not changed significantly since the later period of significance. The topography on the eastern and western edges of the site were somewhat altered in the twentieth century as new developments were constructed. These alterations, however, did not compromise the topography of the earthworks or their immediate vicinity. The topography of the current park site is consistent with the 20th century period of significance.

#### Analysis

Fort Chaplin's topography contributes to the historic character of the site and retains a high degree of integrity.

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature: Elevated topography of the earthworks' site above the surrounding landscape

Feature Identification Number: 181211

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Manipulated, human-made topography on the eastern and western edges of the site

Feature Identification Number: 181213

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

#### Vegetation

##### Historic Condition

Although no known photographs exist of Fort Chaplin during the Civil War, period maps and records of the army's general treatment of the defenses of Washington indicate that the hilltop was cleared of all trees by the end of 1864, when Fort Chaplin was constructed (Boschke 1861). It is unknown whether the hilltop was bare in the early years of the war, in keeping with the other fortifications that were built before Chaplin, or whether it was cleared at the time of the earthworks' construction; what is known, however, is that the area around the earthworks was open and visually unencumbered before the end of the early period of significance (1861-1865). This included the removal of large treed stands east and west of Scaggs' house, on the slopes of the hill and south of Piney Branch Creek. In felling these trees, the Union Army improved visibility from the earthworks and established views toward the nearby forts (Mahan, Meigs, etc.) and Maryland. Within a few months, the earthworks were complete, with sodded parapets and no vegetation on the interior of the fort. The landscape

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

remained uncultivated and clear of trees through the end of the early period of significance (1861-1865).

According to late-nineteenth century maps, the land around the earthworks remained almost entirely open into the 1880s. The landscape was selectively planted, including a small planted tract (possibly orchards) located immediately north of the Fort Chaplin earthworks. A second planted tract (again, possibly orchards) was located southwest of the earthworks (United States Geological Survey 1888). By 1895, a small tree stand was extant southwest of the earthworks, near the orchard and former military road driveway (United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1895). Southeast of the earthworks, additional tree stands had returned to the hillside by this time; ownership maps, however, suggest that these lands were already under different ownership than the land around the former earthworks (Lydecker and Greene 1884). These maps confirm that the landscape around Fort Chaplin remained agrarian into the early twentieth century, and that the development of the landscape around the former fort site was, to this point, informally planned.

Little is known about the vegetation patterns of the site in the early twentieth century and the early decades of the twentieth century period of significance (1902-1939). However, aerial and survey photographs, as well as records from the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, from the late 1940s indicate the presence of mature tree stands and ground cover throughout the site and around its perimeter. This documentation suggests that such vegetation had taken root much earlier—before the end of the later period of significance (The

commissioners of the District of Columbia 1948: 270; United States Geological Survey 1949). Thus, research to date suggests that by 1939, the land around the earthworks and on the newly-established park's hillsides was characterized by extensive tree growth (with both deciduous and evergreen trees) and brush. This vegetation likely stabilized and preserved the Civil War-era earthworks, a condition that the National Park Service has documented in its guide to sustainable military earthworks management ("Sustainable Military Earthworks Management" n.d.).

By 1948, the only areas known to be tree-less were in the southwest corner of the park along Ridge Road SE (abutting a baseball diamond and cleared playing field), a cleared area directly north of the earthworks, and the earthworks themselves, which remained treeless and visible in aerial photographs at the time. By the late twentieth century, aerial photographs of the park indicate that the earthworks were no longer distinct and clear-cut of vegetation. A small area west of the earthworks was somewhat less dense than the remainder of the site, but in general, the park's vegetation was dense throughout, characterized by both mature trees and undergrowth.

#### Existing Condition

Fort Chaplin now has a narrow perimeter of grass and gravel on some edges of the site. (The southern edge of the site has very little grass between the curb and the park's trees and brush.) Additionally, a few small cleared areas exist on the eastern side of the park, behind Fort

Chaplin Park Apartments and approaching Texas Avenue SE; these areas are free of trees and characterized by grassy ground cover.

The remainder of the site is densely forested with ground cover throughout, although the area west of the earthworks features significantly less brush and ground cover than the earthworks themselves. Some limited areas are nearly impassable due to mature deciduous and evergreen trees, fallen limbs, brush, and ground cover. This is particularly true of the earthworks, which feature dense vegetation on the surviving remnants of the parapets and magazine. According to James Rosenstock of the National Park Service, the extant woods around the earthworks are botanically and genetically consistent with the vegetation that was present during the original construction of Fort Chaplin (“James Rosenstock Comments” 2017). As such, the existing double- and triple- trunked trees are almost certainly sprouted from formerly cut stumps during the fort’s construction. The extant trees, which matured during the twentieth-century period of significance, can be considered second-generation witness trees to the nineteenth-century period of significance.

The site’s circulation (including the hiker-biker trail and the social trails) are difficult to access and distinguish from the interior of the site (although they are somewhat visible for a short distance at the perimeter of the park) due to extant vegetation. No clear planting scheme is evident within or around the park.

Tree specimens throughout the site include: red and sugar maples (*Acer rubrum* and *Acer saccharum*); sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*); box elder (*Acer negundo*); sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*); and loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*). Ground cover and brush specimens throughout the site include: briar wild rose (*Rosa virginiana*); common ivy (*Hedera helix*); poke berry (*Phytolacca americana*); French endive (*Cichorium intybus*); common greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*); mapleleaf viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*); native pinkster azaleas (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*); and the rare white morph of the pink lady slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*). As observed by James Rosenstock of the National Park Service, the additional presence of rare orchids, native azaleas, and similar specimens in the understory indicate the long-undisturbed nature of the Fort Chaplin landscape (“James Rosenstock Comments” 2017).

#### Analysis

The vegetation pattern is generally consistent with the second period of significance, when the landscape was used as a park and its vegetation was characterized by mature tree stands and a wooded understory. The vegetation pattern is not consistent with the Civil War period of significance at the site, as the character of the vegetation has evolved since the nineteenth century, when the fort and its surrounding hillsides were largely treeless. Although the trees have matured and the wooded understory has returned to the site since the nineteenth-century period of significance, the twentieth-century vegetation has likely served to stabilize and preserve the earthwork remnants. According to Mikaila Milton of the National Park Service, the site’s vegetation protects the earthworks from future erosion and invasion by non-native plants, which typically take hold once light gaps are present in the canopy (“Mikaila Milton Comments” 2017). The site retains integrity with respect to vegetation.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

Feature: Mature tree stands, including double- and triple-trunked second-generation witness trees

Feature Identification Number: 181215

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wooded understory growth throughout the landscape

Feature Identification Number: 181217

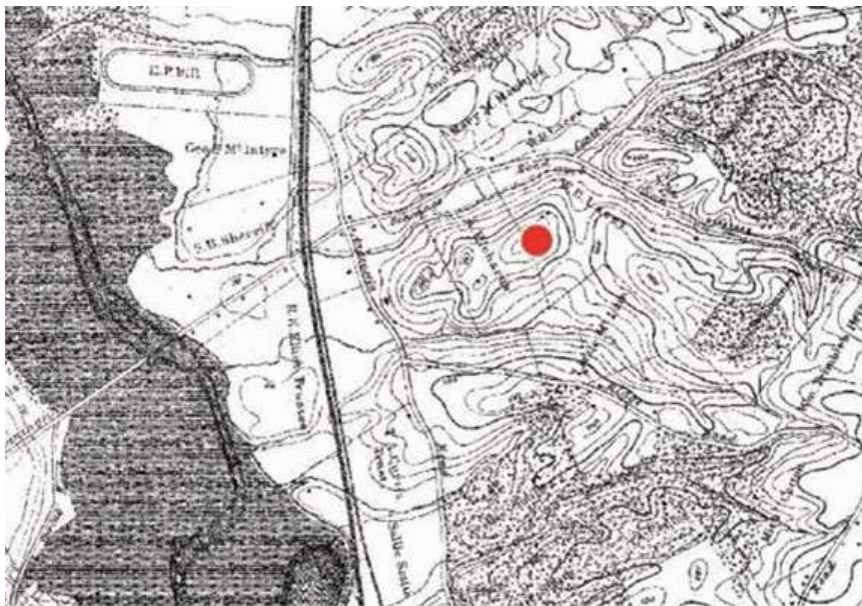
Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---



*Historic vegetation conditions on the site during the nineteenth-century period of significance, when Fort Chaplin was clear-cut (top), as compared with current vegetation patterns on the site, with mature trees throughout. The approximate location of extant earthworks*

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---



*Existing vegetation conditions around the perimeter of the site. The northern boundary (top), located along East Capitol Street, features a narrow grassy strip between the hillside and the sidewalk, while the southern boundary (bottom) on C Street SE has no extant sidewalk in the vegetation border of the cultural landscape and the Washington DC street.(M Lester 2016).*



Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---



*General vegetation conditions, including mature trees and ground cover throughout the site (top) and extensive brush and tree stands covering the earthworks (bottom). (M. Lester 2016)*

### **Circulation**

#### Historic

Little is known about the landscape of Fort Chaplin before the mid-nineteenth century. By this time, the property was bordered on its northern edge by Bennings Road [by Stony Hill]. On the western edge of the eventual fort site, the Eastern Branch Road evidently extended through Selby Scaggs' property; buildings on either side of the north-south road are denoted with Scaggs' name on contemporary maps (Boschke 1861). Thus, circulation patterns on the site served the two clusters of buildings on the property's northeastern and western edges. Historic newspaper articles refer to both a schoolhouse and a chapel on Scaggs' land (they may have shared a structure); the circulation patterns of the site suggest that such building(s) were in the western cluster of buildings on Scaggs' property, since those buildings are quite close to—and well served by—the wide thoroughfare of Eastern Branch Road. The smaller cluster of buildings in the northeastern portion of the property appear to have been accessed via a smaller driveway from Bennings Road.

When the earthworks for Fort Chaplin were constructed in 1864, they were accessed via a road constructed west of the fort. The 1888 map published by the United States Geological Survey offers the clearest evidence of this road's route, although it is unclear where the path originated; fragments extend alternately toward Bennings Road, Eastern Branch Road, and Ridge Road (south of the site). The main section of road serving Fort Chaplin approached the earthworks from a battery to the southwest, curving back on itself while a spur diverged toward the earthworks. Secondary driveways intersected this access road, seemingly encircling various orchards and secondary buildings on the property (although these secondary routes do not have clear start or end points).

A second driveway, unconnected to the larger system of roads/driveways west of the earthworks, was located northeast of the fort. Beginning at Benning Road, it extended southeast before turning 90 degrees to the southwest and ending at the eastern cluster of buildings on Scaggs' property (likely, Scaggs' house and at least one additional building).

In the decades after the war, circulation on the land around Fort Chaplin remained irregular, with fragments of the old military road and driveways extant until at least 1895 (United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1895). As the land was sold, subdivided, and platted in the early twentieth century, maps indicate small, informal driveways in various locations, leading from the surrounding roads to the remaining buildings on the former Fort Chaplin site. One such drive, represented on a 1914 map, begins at Bennings Road and extends south over Piney Run Creek (United State coast and Geodetic Survey 1914). A second driveway is represented on a 1919 map, superimposed over the newly-platted (but not yet completed) East Capitol Street (Baist 1919). Both driveways appear to have been removed before the end of the second period of significance (1902-1939).

As the park's edges were trimmed, beginning in the 1940s, new streets and formal sidewalks were introduced on the adjacent lands, providing access to the Stoddert Dwellings and later to the Benning-Stoddert Recreation Center and the SEED School on the park's western

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

boundary. On the adjacent lands east of the park, the Fort Chaplin Park Apartments have their own system of paved access roads and sidewalks. Within the park, fragments of informal social trails remained extant on the land west, southeast, and northeast of the earthworks.

#### Existing

Fort Chaplin's extant social trails are generally overgrown and difficult to distinguish in the current landscape. They include: a portion of the larger Fort Circle Parks hiker-biker trail, located along (and beyond) the western edge of the park and extended from East Capitol Street to C Street SE; a social trail that begins at the hiker-biker trail and continues northeast toward the earthworks; and a fragment of social trail that begins at C Street SE and extends north into the southeast corner of the park before terminating (without a clear endpoint).

In addition, a fragment of the former military road is extant in the northwest corner of the park, beginning at the hiker-biker trail and extending eastward. A portion of the hiker-biker trail appears to follow the path of the historic military road, but the extant military road is challenging to access, overgrown, and difficult to discern in the overall park landscape due to vegetation patterns and overgrowth.

All of the extant circulation features through Fort Chaplin Park are unpaved.

#### Evaluation

The Civil War circulation patterns of the Fort Chaplin cultural landscape are partially extant in the form of the old military road and the portion of the hiker-biker trail that appears to follow the path of the former military road. The integrity of this road, however, is compromised by the current vegetation overgrowth. The social trails may date in part or in full to the twentieth-century period of significance (1902-1939), but this cannot be confirmed. Fort Chaplin therefore retains some integrity of circulation.

#### Analysis

The Civil War circulation patterns of the Fort Chaplin cultural landscape are partially extant in the form of the old military road and the portion of the hiker-biker trail that appears to follow the path of the former military road. The integrity of this road, however, is compromised by the current vegetation overgrowth. The social trails may date in part or in full to the twentieth-century period of significance (1902-1939), but this cannot be confirmed. Fort Chaplin therefore retains some integrity of circulation.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Military road fragment

Feature Identification Number: 181223

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Hiker-biker trail fragment along military road trace

Feature Identification Number: 181225

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

Feature: Social trails throughout landscape

Feature Identification Number: 181227

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---



*Historic circulation patterns at Fort Chaplin (top), as of 1888 (with fragments of Civil War-era features), and current circulation patterns (bottom), with fragments of social trails and the historic military road. (United States Geological Survey 1888; D*

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---



Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---



*Extant circulation features in Fort Chaplin Park include a portion of the historic military road (top) and the Fort Circle Parks hiker-biker trail (bottom), which extends through Fort Chaplin Park and crosses over into adjacent lands. (M. Lester 2016)*



*Existing conditions of social trails on the site. At their entrances (left), social trails are generally legible; on the interior of the site, however (right), they are difficult to distinguish and follow. (M. Lester 2016)*

### **Buildings and Structures**

#### Historic Condition

Not much is known about the site of Fort Chaplin until the mid-nineteenth century. However, it was almost certainly agricultural and partially forested, with minimal structures. By 1840, the land seems to have been owned by Selby Scaggs. It included two groupings of buildings: one cluster of structures (presumably, a house and at least two additional buildings) that straddled Eastern Branch Road, a short distance south of the intersection with Bennings Road [by Stony Hill, according to the 1861 Boschke map]. Scaggs reportedly constructed a church (known as the Piney Grove Church) for his slaves (although, later during the Civil War, he objected to the worshippers' prayers for the Union Army); this chapel was located in the western cluster of buildings, along Eastern Branch Road (The Evening Star 1891: 14; Hopkins 1879). A schoolhouse (which may have been housed in the same chapel building) was also located in the western cluster of buildings on Scaggs' land (The Baltimore Sun 1856: 4; Hopkins 1879).

The second grouping, comprised of two buildings, was located east of the larger cluster, south of Bennings Road and the creek that ran parallel to that road (Boschke 1861). The future Fort

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

Chaplin (and Fort Craven) was located in the vicinity of the eastern grouping of buildings on Scaggs' property, which encompassed a total of 400 acres and was worth \$52,000 (Cooling and Owen 2010: 214; CEHP, Incorporated 1998: Part I, Chapter III, 5).

Although Fort Chaplin was not built until relatively late in the Civil War, it seems that the land was claimed near the beginning of the war. A later newspaper account noted that Union officers occupied Scaggs' house "during the whole period of the war—a situation to which Scaggs vehemently and frequently objected" (The Evening Star 1891: 14). Scaggs also had run-ins with Union soldiers at the Piney Grove church on his property, located along Eastern Branch Road (Hopkins 1879).

In 1864, after Confederate General Jubal Early mounted an (unsuccessful) attack on Fort Stevens, the Union Army moved quickly to bolster its existing defenses and construct new forts to address any vulnerabilities in the perimeter of the capital city. Among the newly-ordered forts was Fort Chaplin, one of three new works constructed in the fall of 1864 to strengthen Fort Mahan (located north of Fort Chaplin and responsible for guarding the Benning Road Bridge to the capital).

Fort Chaplin had an irregular, 11-sided perimeter that measured 225 yards; the sally port was located at the southwest corner of the earthworks (McCormick 1967: 35-36). Although the fort was never fully armed or garrisoned, it did have twelve gun emplacements; all but one were empty. A single 24-pounder siege gun was mounted en barbette, and a bombproof and magazine were located along the north-south axis at the center of the fort. Soon after the fort's initial construction, the parapet was altered for flank defense guns (CEHP, Incorporated 1998: Part I, Chapter IV, 5).

The area around the fort may have included a contraband settlement camp of escaped and former slaves. An account of contraband settlement, published in 1919, described the forts and camps that "extended along the Eastern branch highlands from Benning to a point nearly opposite Alexandria, [beginning on the S. B. Scaggs farm]" (The Sunday Star 1919: 2). Further research is needed to confirm their role and scope at this particular site, but any buildings or structures associated with this camp were almost certainly temporary installations.

In the decades after the Civil War, the earthworks remained in place on the site, as did the Piney Grove church nearby. Also extant on the property was "the old historic Scaggs building," which a later newspaper described as "a large two-story frame structure, with a porch or balcony extending along its entire front." An article published in 1891 noted that the house contained twenty rooms and was "one of the noted landmarks of the locality and is rich in historic lore," predating the war (The Evening Star 1891: 14).

As the land around Fort Chaplin was sold and subdivided in the early twentieth century, the earthworks and the eastern cluster of buildings (dating to the Scaggs era of construction) were

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

eventually separated from the western cluster of buildings near the historic Eastern Branch Road. Contemporary maps suggest that the western buildings survived until at least 1927 (Baist 1927).

The eastern property, encompassing the historic earthworks, passed through various hands in the 1910s and 1920s. These changes in ownership do not seem to have affected the earthworks (in their deteriorated state) or the adjacent nineteenth-century buildings. The earthworks and nearby buildings remained standing, and the property remained privately owned until the 1930s.

In 1938, 4.148 acres of land on the site were purchased for the establishment of the Fort Chaplin Recreation Center, located west of the earthworks (United States Congress, House Committee on Appropriations 1940: 291, 316). However, this “recreation center” does not appear to have resulted in an actual building until later in the twentieth century; rather, it seems to relate to the baseball diamond and playing field that were created along the park’s western boundary in the 1940s.

Beginning in the 1940s, the park’s eastern and western edges were trimmed as new public housing was constructed along perimeter streets. In 1942, the Stoddert Dwellings public housing was constructed by the National Capitol Housing Authority on the northwest corner of the site (United States Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, Seventy-Eighth Congress 1944: 938-9). In 1947, the District of Columbia Department of Recreation negotiated an agreement with the National Capital Housing Authority and the National Capital Parks and Planning Commission for the use of NCPPC-owned land at Fort Chaplin. The agencies also negotiated an agreement to construct a playground unit at the west end of Fort Chaplin, in the Stoddert housing project (Andrews 1947: B3). As a result, by 1948, the southwest corner of the park abutted a baseball diamond and a cleared playing field, located along Ridge Road SE south of the Stoddert buildings (United States Geological Survey 1949).

In 1950, the NCPPC acquired six additional acres for a playground at Fort Chaplin Park, but it is not known where this parcel was located in relation to the earthworks (National Capital Park and Planning Commission 1950: 56). Moreover, it is not clear whether the playground was a constructed feature, or merely a playing field. However, the development patterns around the park’s boundaries suggest that this acreage was adjacent to or near the other recreational fields along Ridge Road SE. Around this same time, the NCPPC conducted minor repair and upgrade projects around the playing fields, including the rehab of the baseball diamond, the construction of hard-surfaced areas (exact location unknown), and the installation of fencing (United States Senate Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations 1955: 160). A 1954 memo also noted that the earthworks remained “fairly well preserved” (CEHP Incorporated 1998: Appendix AAA).

However, this era also saw the construction of new housing—on both the eastern and western edges of the park this time. On the western edge of the park, the National Capitol Housing Authority replaced the former Stoddert Dwellings complex with 200 new units of public

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

housing (renamed Stoddert Terrace), which were completed in 1960. In addition, a 550-unit complex was constructed in 1962-63 on the eastern edge of the park; the Fort Chaplin Park Apartments trimmed the park's eastern boundary away from Texas Avenue SE (The Washington Post, December 8, 1962: D7).

In 1965, the Benning-Stoddert Recreation Center was completed at the northwest corner of the park (Johnston, Claypool, and Neubelt 2014: Appendix B). The next major land transfer of Fort Chaplin Park acreage was conducted in 1971, when the National Capital Planning Commission transferred control and responsibility of 363 parcels of parkland (throughout DC) to the District of Columbia; the transfers included the Fort Chaplin [Benning-Stoddert] recreation center and playground (Combes 1971: K5). More recently, the school adjacent to the park at its southwest corner was reconstructed; it is now known as The SEED School.

#### Existing Condition

Today, Fort Chaplin's earthworks remain intact and visible near the center of the current park boundaries. Although only certain features are discernible, including the sally port, bombproof, magazine, and fragments of parapet walls, they are generally collapsed and deteriorated. In addition, most of the surviving earthworks are covered in heavy vegetation, which obscures their forms. No other buildings or structures survive from the periods of significance, and no other structures are extant within the current park boundaries.

Outside the park's perimeter (but within the scope of the fort's historic landscape), the Benning-Stoddert Recreation Center, SEED School, and a housing complex are located along the park's western edge; the apartment complex known as Fort Chaplin Apartments is located along the park's eastern edge.

#### Analysis

Although the site's other nineteenth-century buildings (extant during the first period of significance) are no longer present on the site, Fort Chaplin retains partial integrity due to the surviving earthwork fragments.

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature: Earthwork remnants, including the sallyport, ditches, bombproof, magazine, and parapets

Feature Identification Number: 181229

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 1125

LCS Structure Name: Fort Chaplin, Earthworks

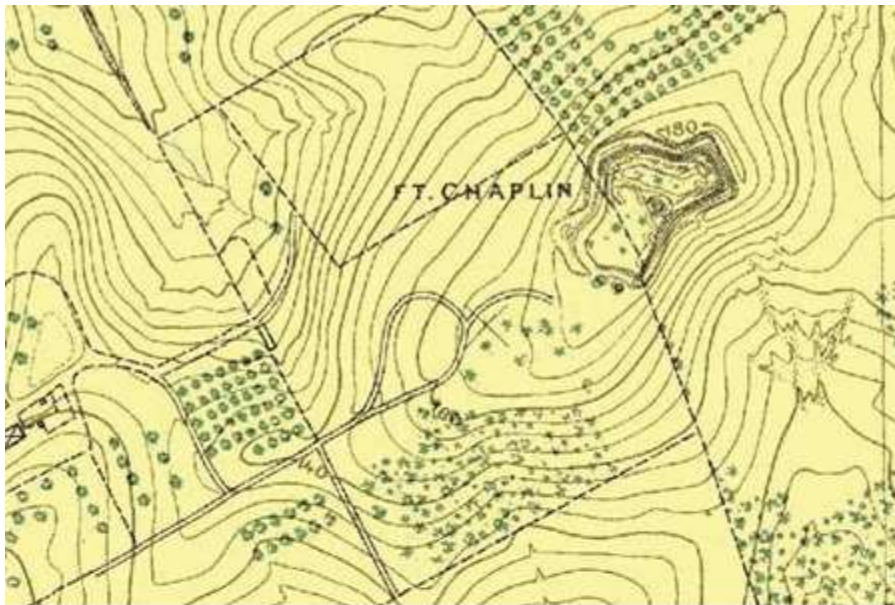
LCS Structure Number: 113-2

#### Landscape Characteristic Graphics:

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---



*Footprint of the earthworks at Fort Chaplin, as seen in an 1888 map (top) and recent aerial photography (bottom); portions of the parapets can be seen at the center of the photograph. (United States Geological Survey 1888; Digital Globe-Sanborn/Google Ear*



*Extant conditions of the earthworks, including parapet remnants (top) and the area between the bomb proof and the magazine (bottom). (M. Lester 2016)*



### Views and Vistas

#### Historic

At the time of its construction in 1864, Fort Chaplin was surrounded by farms and, more distantly, small villages. The area around the eventual fort site remained agricultural and was partially forested before the Civil War, but by the end of the nineteenth-century period of significance, the landscape was entirely clear-cut, enabling broad views toward the surrounding countryside. The site was only a mile from Benning Road, to the northwest, a critical link between Anacostia and the capitol that the forts east of the river were designed to protect. At 180 feet above sea level, Fort Chaplin also had a view to Forts Mahan (to the north) and Meigs (to the southeast) and to the land north and east of the District, which constituted the Southern sympathizer state of Maryland. The fort's vantages depended on the absence of trees on the hilltop, which was accomplished with the Union Army's order to cut down trees within two miles of each of the Defenses of Washington (Barnard 1871: 2). At Fort Chaplin, this included the removal of the orchards and forests on the crest of the hill, as well as the slopes east and west of the earthworks (Boschke 1861). The views and vistas were therefore extensive and unobstructed by the end of the early period of significance (1861-1865).

Later maps of the site indicate no trees on the hillsides of Fort Chaplin, suggesting that the site retained many of its views and vistas for several decades after the nineteenth-century period of significance (Lydecker and Greene 1884). In 1895, limited areas of the land had been replanted with orchards, which likely did little compromise the views from the hilltop) (United States Coast and Geodetic Survey 1895).

By the 1940s (soon after the second period of significance), aerial photographs of the site demonstrate that vegetation had returned to the site, and that mature trees covered the crest of the hill and the area around the earthworks by this time (NASA-United States Geological Survey 1949). As a result, the views and vistas available from the site during the later period of significance were likely limited by the landscape's own vegetation features. Thus, the views and vistas during the twentieth-century period of significance contrasted with those during the Civil War-era period of significance.

#### Existing

The views of the Civil War period are almost entirely gone today, cut off by vegetation and twentieth-century development in the surrounding area. The most significant aspect of the Civil War views from Fort Chaplin—the vantages toward Forts Mahan and Meigs—is interrupted by the trees and growth on the site itself, which obstruct any view from the crest of the hill toward the other Civil War defense sites.

The late nineteenth century and the later period of significance saw increased development in the area, which is largely consistent with the site's context today. This development affected

## Fort Chaplin

### National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

the full perimeter of the city block that encompasses the earthworks—consistent with the context of the site today.

#### Analysis

The views and vistas from Fort Chaplin have been altered by changes in both the surrounding area and within the site's own landscape. Surrounding development has affected the views available from the site, shifting the context from its historically-agricultural setting to the modern developed context that emerged in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and exists today. Moreover, changes in Fort Chaplin's own vegetation and growth have had a marked impact on the vistas available from the site, consistent with its twentieth-century period of significance but interrupting its nineteenth-century views toward the sites of Forts Mahan and Meigs. Fort Chaplin's views and vistas do not retain historic integrity.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Limited views to surrounding urban context, generally obscured by site's own vegetation

Feature Identification Number: 181231

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

#### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Current views from Fort Chaplin Park, obstructed by vegetation—particularly on the surviving earthworks. (M. Lester 2016)*

### Small Scale Features

#### Historic

Little is known about the small-scale features present on the site during the periods of significance. The Union Army evidently occupied Selby Scaggs' land early in the war, but the fort itself was not constructed until 1864. Because the fort was never garrisoned, and was only minimally armed, there is limited documentation of any features associated with the fort during the nineteenth-century period of significance. Elsewhere on the surrounding landscape, historic maps indicate that fences (likely wood) separated Scaggs' property from his neighbors'. The fences' configuration was altered in the late nineteenth-century, however, and by the early twentieth century, there is no evidence of any fencing on the property.

During the twentieth-century period of significance (1902-1939), as the former fort site was converted to parkland, the landscape appears to have been informally used and minimally developed. As a result, the research to date has not discovered evidence of any formal small-scale features on the current landscape during the later period of significance.

#### Existing

No small-scale features (including fencing or the gate) from the Civil War period of significance (1861-1865) survive on the site today. The extant small-scale features include interpretive signage at the northeast and southeast corners of the park, limited wayfinding signage for the hiker-biker trail at the northwest corner of the park, and a trash can along C Street NE on the site's southern edge. These features on the site postdate the later period of significance (1902-1939) and are non-contributing.

#### Analysis

Fort Chaplin's small-scale features do not retain integrity, as all of the site's extant small-scale features postdate the periods of significance.

### Character-defining Features:

Feature: NPS interpretive signage

Feature Identification Number: 181233

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature: Hiker-biker trail wayfinding signage

Feature Identification Number: 181235

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

Feature: Trash cans

Feature Identification Number: 181237

Type of Feature Contribution: Non contributing

### **Archeological Sites**

#### Historic and Existing Condition

Fort Chaplin was never fully armed and was never garrisoned. However, it did have twelve gun emplacements and it was extant for the last year of the Civil War. Such use for an extended period of time generally leaves an architectural signature. In 1995, Barbara J. Little authored an archaeological overview and survey plan of the National Capital Area, including the Fort Circle Parks (an alternate name for the Civil War Defenses of Washington). The report deemed the Fort Circle Parks a “Priority #1” survey project, noting that “archaeological survey and inventory of the Fort Circle Parks is insufficient to ensure that archaeological resources under NPS stewardship are conserved, protected, preserved in situ and managed for long-term scientific research and for appropriate public interpretation and education.” The report also determined that “information about the location, characteristics, and significance of the majority of archaeological resources is lacking.”

No archaeological discoveries from Fort Chaplin’s periods of significance were noted. Existing conditions in and around Fort Chaplin are conducive to further archaeological explorations.

#### Analysis

It is highly likely that future archaeological study of the area around Fort Chaplin will locate additional resources from the Civil War-era period of significance. Additionally, resources dating to the second period of significance and the site’s use for recreation may be discovered and would help shed light on twentieth-century alterations to the area. Evidence of prehistoric occupation/use of the site may also be revealed by further archaeological investigation. Fort Chaplin retains a high degree of archaeological integrity.

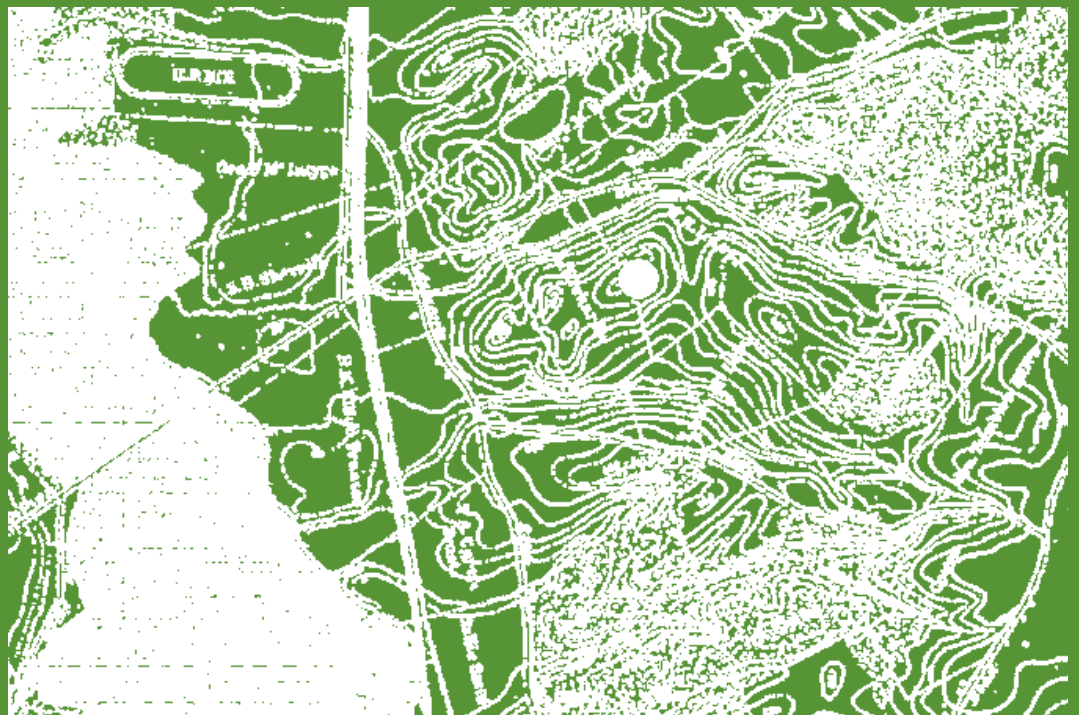
#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Internal works of Fort Chaplin, including archaeological potential of the magazine, bombproof, parapets, etc.

Feature Identification Number: 181239

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

# Condition



## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Fair

**Assessment Date:** 09/30/2017

#### Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

A Condition Assessment of Fair indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

This determination takes into account both the landscape and the buildings situated therein. In order to improve the condition of the property to 'Good' the park should consider the addressing erosion in and around the earthworks, improving the lighting on site, and the removal of invasive vegetation. Routine monitoring and maintenance will be key.

### Impacts

**Type of Impact:** Erosion

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** Evidence of damage caused by erosion is noticeable on the parapet, sally port, and magazine of the earthworks.

**Type of Impact:** Poor Security/Lighting

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** There are no lighting fixtures within the park or around the perimeter of the site (despite the dense tree cover that limits sun exposure throughout the park). This has a negative impact on the security and use of the site, particularly by users of the hiker-biker trail that passes through the park along its western edge.

**Type of Impact:** Vegetation/Invasive Plants

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** The dense trees, undergrowth, and bushes on the hillsides and crest of the park preclude visitors from seeing and understanding the remaining Civil War-era topography, buildings/structures (including the surviving parapets and sally port), views and

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

vistas, and circulation.



**Treatment**

Fort Chaplin | National Capital Parks | East  
Fort Circle Park | East

# Bibliography & Supplemental Information



## Bibliography and Supplemental Information

### Bibliography

- Citation Author:** Aubin, Henry
- Citation Title:** District`s Old Forts: Squirrels Man Ivied Ramparts
- Year of Publication:** 1970
- Citation Publisher:** The Washington Post, Washington, DC
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:**
- Citation Location:** ProQuest Historical Newspapers
- 
- Citation Author:** Averill, F. L.
- Citation Title:** Map of the District of Columbia and Vicinity, including the present condition of the Defenses of Washington
- Year of Publication:** 1892
- Citation Publisher:** District of Columbia National Guard
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Graphic
- Citation Location:** NOAA Historical Map and Chart Collection
- 
- Citation Author:** Baist, G. W.
- Citation Title:** Baist`s Real Estate Atlas of Surveys of Washington, District of Columbia, Volume Four, Sheet 17
- Year of Publication:** 1903
- Citation Publisher:** Baist, G. W.
- Citation Type:** Graphic
- Citation Location:** Library of Congress

**Citation Author:** Baist, G. W.  
**Citation Title:** Baist`s Real Estate Atlas of Surveys of Washington, District of Columbia, Volume Four, Sheet 17  
**Year of Publication:** 1913  
**Citation Publisher:** Baist, G. W.  
**Citation Type:** Graphic  
**Citation Location:** Library of Congress

**Citation Author:** Baist, G. W.  
**Citation Title:** Baist`s Real Estate Atlas of Surveys of Washington, District of Columbia, Volume Four, Sheet 17  
**Year of Publication:** 1919  
**Citation Publisher:** Baist, G. W.  
**Citation Type:** Graphic  
**Citation Location:** Library of Congress

**Citation Author:** Baist, G. W.  
**Citation Title:** Baist`s Real Estate Atlas of Surveys of Washington, District of Columbia, Volume Four, Sheet 17  
**Year of Publication:** 1927  
**Citation Publisher:** Baist, G. W.  
**Citation Type:** Graphic  
**Citation Location:** Library of Congress

**Citation Author:** Barnard, Brevet Major General John Gross  
**Citation Title:** A Report on the Defenses of Washington: to the Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army  
**Year of Publication:** 1871  
**Citation Publisher:** Government Printing Office, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Beauchamp, Tanya Edwards; rev. Kimberly Prothro Williams  
**Citation Title:** Anacostia Historic District  
**Year of Publication:** 2006  
**Citation Publisher:** The Historic Society of Washington, DC, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Benedetto, Robert, Jane Donovan, and Kathleen Du Vall  
**Citation Title:** Historical Dictionary of Washington, Part 3  
**Year of Publication:** 2003  
**Citation Publisher:** Scarecrow Press, Lanham, MD  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Billings, Elden E.  
**Citation Title:** Military Activities in Washington in 1861  
**Year of Publication:** 1962  
**Citation Publisher:** Historical Society of Washington, DC, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Number:** Vol. 60/62

**Citation Author:** Boschke, Albert  
**Citation Title:** Topographical Map of the District of Columbia, Surveyed in the Years 1856 `57 `58 and `59 by A. Boschke, Engraved by D. McClelland, Washington, D.C.  
**Year of Publication:** 1861  
**Citation Publisher:** Blanchard & Mohun  
**Citation Type:** Graphic  
**Citation Location:** Library of Congress

**Citation Author:** Boschke, Albert  
**Citation Title:** Topographical Map of the District of Columbia, Surveyed in the Years 1856 `57 `58 and `59 by A. Boschke, Engraved by D. McClelland, Washington, D.C.  
**Year of Publication:** 1880  
**Citation Publisher:** Blanchard & Mohun  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Graphic  
**Citation Location:** NOAA Historical Map and Chart Collection

**Citation Author:** Burr, Charles  
**Citation Title:** A Brief History of Anacostia, Its Name, Origin and Progress  
**Year of Publication:** 1920  
**Citation Publisher:** Columbia Historical Society, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Number:** Vol. 23

**Citation Author:** Cantwell, Thomas J.  
**Citation Title:** Anacostia: Strength in Adversity  
**Year of Publication:** 1973  
**Citation Publisher:** Historical Society of Washington, DC, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Number:** Vol. 49

**Citation Author:** CEHP, Incorporated  
**Citation Title:** A Historic Resources Study: The Civil War Defenses of Washington  
**Year of Publication:** 1998  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Number:** Parts I and II; Appendices  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/civilwar/](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/civilwar/)

**Citation Author:** Combes, Abbott  
**Citation Title:** US to Shift 363 Parcels of Parkland to D.C. Control  
**Year of Publication:** 1971  
**Citation Publisher:** The Washington Post, Times Herald  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** ProQuest Historical Newspapers

**Citation Author:** Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Eighty-ninth Congress  
**Citation Title:** District of Columbia Appropriations, 1967: Hearings before the Subcommittee on District of Columbia Appropriations, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Eighty-ninth Congress, Second Session  
**Year of Publication:** 1966  
**Citation Publisher:** United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Cooling, Benjamin Franklin  
**Citation Title:** Defending Washington During the Civil War  
**Year of Publication:** 1972  
**Citation Publisher:** Historical Society of Washington, DC, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Number:** Vol. 71/72

**Citation Author:** Cooling, Benjamin Franklin III and Walton H. Owen II  
**Citation Title:** Mr. Lincoln`s Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington, New Edition  
**Year of Publication:** 2010  
**Citation Publisher:** Scarecrow Publishing, Lanham, MD  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Cox, William V.  
**Citation Title:** The Defenses of Washington: General Early`s Advance on the Capital and the Battle of Fort Stevens, July 11 and 12, 1864  
**Year of Publication:** 1901  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Federal Writers` Project, Works Progress Administration  
**Citation Title:** Washington, City and Capital  
**Year of Publication:** 1937  
**Citation Publisher:** U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Gahn, Bessie Wilmarth  
**Citation Title:** Original Patentees of Land at Washington Prior to 1700  
**Year of Publication:** 1969  
**Citation Publisher:** Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, MD  
**Source Name:** Other



**Citation Author:** Goodwin, Maria, ed. Kathryn Schneider Smith  
**Citation Title:** Benning Heights: A View from Another Hill  
**Year of Publication:** 1988  
**Citation Publisher:** Windsor Publications, Inc., Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Number:** First Edition

**Citation Author:** Hopkins, G. M.  
**Citation Title:** Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, including the County of Montgomery, Maryland  
**Year of Publication:** 1879  
**Citation Publisher:** G. M. Hopkins and Co.  
**Citation Type:** Graphic  
**Citation Location:** Library of Congress

**Citation Author:** House of Representatives, Seventy-Fifth Congress  
**Citation Title:** District of Columbia Appropriations, 1939: Hearings before the Subcommittee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Seventy-Fifth Congress, Third Session on the District of Columbia Appropriation Bill for 1939  
**Year of Publication:** 1938  
**Citation Publisher:** United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Hutchinson, Louise Daniel  
**Citation Title:** The Anacostia Story, 1608-1930  
**Year of Publication:** 1977  
**Citation Publisher:** Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Johnston, Edna, Julia Claypool, Jess Neubelt  
**Citation Title:** District of Columbia Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Historic Preservation Review  
**Year of Publication:** 2014  
**Citation Publisher:** HistoryMatters  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Langdon, J. G.  
**Citation Title:** Map of the District of Columbia Showing Public Reservations and Possessions  
**Year of Publication:** 1901  
**Citation Publisher:** District of Columbia Commission on the Improvement of the Park System, Washington  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Graphic  
**Citation Location:** NOAA Historical Map and Chart Collection

**Citation Author:** Lydecker, G. J. and F. V. Greene  
**Citation Title:** Topographical Map of the District of Columbia and a Portion of Virginia  
**Year of Publication:** 1884  
**Citation Publisher:** U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Graphic  
**Citation Location:** NOAA Historical Map and Chart Collection

**Citation Author:** McClure, Stanley W.  
**Citation Title:** The Defenses of Washington 1861-1865  
**Year of Publication:** 1957  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

- Citation Author:** McCormick, Charles H.  
**Citation Title:** General Background, Forts Mahan, Chaplin, Dupont, Davis  
**Year of Publication:** 1967  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other
- Citation Author:** McFadden-Resper, Susie and Brett Williams  
**Citation Title:** Washington`s People Without History  
**Year of Publication:** 2005  
**Citation Publisher:** American Anthropological Association  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Number:** Vol. 13, no. 1
- Citation Author:** Miller, David V.  
**Citation Title:** The Defenses of Washington During the Civil War  
**Year of Publication:** 1976  
**Citation Publisher:** Mr. Copy, Inc., Buffalo, NY  
**Source Name:** Other
- Citation Author:** Moore, Charles, ed.  
**Citation Title:** The Improvement of the Park System of the District of Columbia  
**Year of Publication:** 1901  
**Citation Publisher:** U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
**Citation Title:** The Future Park System for Washington and its Environs  
**Year of Publication:** 1932  
**Citation Publisher:** Office of Motion Pictures, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington,  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Number:** ARC Identifier 11745/Local Identifier 48.113A  
**Citation Type:** Both Graphic and Narrative  
**Citation Location:** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=nQqJ4ytt9ug](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=nQqJ4ytt9ug)

**Citation Author:** National Capital Park and Planning Commission  
**Citation Title:** Open Spaces and Community Services: A Portion of the Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital and Its Environs  
**Year of Publication:** 1950  
**Citation Publisher:** National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** National Capital Parks and Planning Commission  
**Citation Title:** Aerial Photography of Washington, DC, compiled 1949  
**Year of Publication:** 1949  
**Citation Publisher:** National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Civil War Fort Sites  
**Year of Publication:** 1974  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Defenses of Washington  
**Year of Publication:** 1978  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** Living Contraband  
**Year of Publication:** 2013  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** <http://www.nps.gov/cwdw/historyculture/living-contraband-former-slaves-in-the-capital-during-and-after-the-civil-war.htm>

**Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** The Defenses as a Symbol of the Union Cause  
**Year of Publication:** 2013  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** <http://www.nps.gov/cwdw/historyculture/the-defenses-as-a-symbol-of-the-union-cause.htm>

**Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** The L'Enfant and McMillan Plans  
**Year of Publication:** 2013  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** <http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/wash/lenfant.htm>

**Citation Author:** National Park Service  
**Citation Title:** Civil War Defenses of Washington: Fort Chaplin  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** <https://www.nps.gov/cwdw/learn/historyculture/fort-chaplin.htm>

**Citation Author:** Ninety-Sixth Congress, 1st Session  
**Citation Title:** Message from The President of the United States Transmitting: A Report Recommending the Designation of the Potomac Heritage Trail in Portions of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia as a Component of the National T  
**Year of Publication:** 1979  
**Citation Publisher:** United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Office of the Engineer Commissioner D.C.  
**Citation Title:** Map of the Permanent System of Highways District of Columbia  
**Year of Publication:** 1911  
**Citation Publisher:** Office of the Engineer Commissioner D.C.  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Graphic  
**Citation Location:** NOAA Historical Map and Chart Collection

**Citation Author:** Overbeck, Ruth Ann and Kia Chatmon, ed. Kathryn Schneider Smith  
**Citation Title:** Deanwood: Self-Reliance at the Eastern Point  
**Year of Publication:** 2010  
**Citation Publisher:** Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** R. L. Polk and Company  
**Citation Title:** Washington, District of Columbia, City Directory, 1910  
**Year of Publication:** 1910  
**Citation Publisher:** R. L. Polk and Company, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** Ancestry.com

**Citation Author:** R. L. Polk and Company  
**Citation Title:** Washington, District of Columbia, City Directory, 1924  
**Year of Publication:** 1924  
**Citation Publisher:** R. L. Polk and Company, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** Ancestry.com

**Citation Author:** Reno, Linda Davis  
**Citation Title:** The Maryland 400 in the Battle of Long Island, 1776  
**Year of Publication:** 2008  
**Citation Publisher:** McFarland, Jefferson, NC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Robinson and Associates  
**Citation Title:** Fort Dupont Park: A Historic Resources Study, Final  
**Year of Publication:** 2004  
**Citation Publisher:** National Park Service, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Salamanca, Lucy  
**Citation Title:** When Washington was Fort-Girdled  
**Year of Publication:** 1931  
**Citation Publisher:** The WashingtonPost  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** The Baltimore Sun  
**Citation Title:** [Correspondence of the Baltimore Sun] Washington, Nov. 25  
**Year of Publication:** 1856  
**Citation Publisher:** The Baltimore Sun, Baltimore, MD  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** Newspapers.com

**Citation Author:** The Commissioners of the District of Columbia  
**Citation Title:** Annual Report of the Government of the District of Columbia for the Year Ended June 30 1947  
**Year of Publication:** 1948  
**Citation Publisher:** United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** The Daily National Republican  
**Citation Title:** Large Government Sale of Timber, Lumber, and Abattis in the Dismantled Forts Around Washington City  
**Year of Publication:** 1865  
**Citation Publisher:** The Daily National Republican  
**Source Name:** Other



**Citation Author:** The Eastern Star, Washington, DC  
**Citation Title:** Roadside Sketches: Picturesque Scenes and Historic Spots Across the Eastern Branch  
**Year of Publication:** 1891  
**Citation Publisher:** The Eastern Star, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** The Evening Times, Washington  
**Citation Title:** Historic Forts near By  
**Year of Publication:** 1901  
**Citation Publisher:** The Evening Times, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** The National Tribune  
**Citation Title:** Washington Forts: Completion of the Line of Fortifications Encircling the National Capital  
**Year of Publication:** 1884  
**Citation Publisher:** The National Tribune  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** The Omaha Daily Bee  
**Citation Title:** Firing Lines at Washington  
**Year of Publication:** 1899  
**Citation Publisher:** The Omaha Daily Bee  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** The Sunday Star  
**Citation Title:** The Rambler Writes of Aunt Aggie and Family  
**Year of Publication:** 1919  
**Citation Publisher:** The Sunday Star, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** ProQuest Historical Newspapers

**Citation Author:** The Washington Post  
**Citation Title:** Capital`s Youngsters Do Own `Lobbying` for Better Playgrounds  
**Year of Publication:** 1947  
**Citation Publisher:** The Washington Post, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** ProQuest Historical Newspapers

**Citation Author:** The Washington Post  
**Citation Title:** City Heads Give Their Approval to Bridge Plan  
**Year of Publication:** 1951  
**Citation Publisher:** The Washington Post, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** ProQuest Historical Newspapers

**Citation Author:** The Washington Post  
**Citation Title:** Army Clears E. Capitol St. Bridge Plans  
**Year of Publication:** 1951  
**Citation Publisher:** The Washington Post, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** ProQuest Historical Newspapers

**Citation Author:** The Washington Post  
**Citation Title:** Local Day Camps Taking Children for this Summer  
**Year of Publication:** 1951  
**Citation Publisher:** The Washington Post, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** ProQuest Historical Newspapers

**Citation Author:** The Washington Post  
**Citation Title:** Stoddert Ter. Housing Open for Big Families  
**Year of Publication:** 1960  
**Citation Publisher:** The Washington Post, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** ProQuest Historical Newspapers

**Citation Author:** The Washington Post  
**Citation Title:** New Apartments in SE  
**Year of Publication:** 1962  
**Citation Publisher:** The Washington Post, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** ProQuest Historical Newspapers

**Citation Author:** The Washington Post, Times Herald  
**Citation Title:** Broyhill Protests Razing Homes of 61 to Build School  
**Year of Publication:** 1966  
**Citation Publisher:** The Washington Post, Times Herald  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** ProQuest Historical Newspapers

**Citation Author:** United States Air Force  
**Citation Title:** Washington, DC  
**Year of Publication:** 1949  
**Citation Publisher:** Aeronautical Chart Service, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** United States Bureau of the Census  
**Citation Title:** 1840; Census Place: Washington, Washington, District of Columbia  
**Year of Publication:** 1840  
**Citation Publisher:** United States Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** Ancestry.com

**Citation Author:** United States Bureau of the Census  
**Citation Title:** 1920; Census Place: Washington, Washington, District of Columbia  
**Year of Publication:** 1920  
**Citation Publisher:** United States Bureau of the Census, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Narrative  
**Citation Location:** Ancestry.com

**Citation Author:** United States Coast and Geodetic Survey  
**Citation Title:** Topographic Map of Washington and Vicinity  
**Year of Publication:** 1888  
**Citation Publisher:** United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Graphic  
**Citation Location:** NOAA Historical Map and Chart Collection

**Citation Author:** United States Coast and Geodetic Survey  
**Citation Title:** Nautical Chart of the Potomac River  
**Year of Publication:** 1966  
**Citation Publisher:** United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Graphic  
**Citation Location:** NOAA Historical Map and Chart Collection

**Citation Author:** United States Congress, House Committee on Appropriations  
**Citation Title:** District of Columbia Appropriation Bill for 1940; Hearings before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Seventy-Sixth Congress  
**Year of Publication:** 1940  
**Citation Publisher:** United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** United States Department of Education  
**Citation Title:** Special Report of the Commissioner of Education on the Condition and Improvement of Public Schools In the District of Columbia  
**Year of Publication:** 1871  
**Citation Publisher:** United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** United States Geological Survey  
**Citation Title:** Satellite Photography of Washington, DC  
**Year of Publication:** 1949  
**Citation Publisher:** United States Geological Survey, Washington, DC  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Type:** Graphic  
**Citation Location:** Google Earth

- Citation Author:** United States Geological Survey
- Citation Title:** Satellite Photography of Washington, DC
- Citation Publisher:** United States Geological Survey, Washington, DC
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Type:** Graphic
- Citation Location:** Google Earth
- 
- Citation Author:** United States Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, Seventy-Eighth Congress
- Citation Title:** Investigation of the Program of the National Capital Housing Authority: Hearings Before a Subcommittee of the Committee on the District of Columbia, United States Senate, 78th Congress, 2d Session, on S. Res. 184,--and S. 1699--pt. 1-5, Oct. 5, 1943-June
- Year of Publication:** 1944
- Citation Publisher:** United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC
- Source Name:** Other
- 
- Citation Author:** United States Senate Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations
- Citation Title:** District of Columbia Appropriations for 1956: Hearings Before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate, Eighty-Fourth Congress, First Session of H.R. 6239
- Year of Publication:** 1955
- Citation Publisher:** United States Government Printing Office, Washington, DC
- Source Name:** Other
- 
- Citation Author:** Webb, William Bensing and John Vooldrige
- Citation Title:** Centennial History of the City of Washington, DC
- Year of Publication:** 1892
- Citation Publisher:** United Brethren Publishing House, Dayton, OH
- Source Name:** Other

Fort Chaplin

National Capital Parks-East - Fort Circle Park-East

---

