

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

PLEASE:

- Type or print, using a ball-point pen, when filling out this form. Legibility is critical.
- Do not guess at the information. An answer of, "Unknown," is more helpful.
- Include a photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.

- Thank You.

Type of Memorial

Monument *with* Sculpture
 Monument without Sculpture

Monument with *Cannon*
 Historical Marker Plaque

Affiliation

G.A.R. (Post Name & No. _____) M.O.L.L.U.S.
 W.R.C. (Corps Name & No. _____) Other Allied Order
 SUVCW (Camp Name & No. _____) (Please describe below)
 DUVCW (Tent Name & No. _____)
 Other: Private presentation

Original Dedication Date _____ Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

The Memorial is *currently* located at: FORT WAYNE MILITARY MUSEUM
 Street/Road address or site location 6053 West Jefferson Ave
 City/Village Detroit Township Detroit County Wayne

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)...
 Name City of Detroit Dept./Div. Detroit Historical Museums
 Street Address 5401 Woodward Ave
 City DETROIT State MI Zip Code 48213
 Contact Person Dennis Zembala, Dir. Telephone (313) 833-1805

If the Memorial has been moved, please list former location(s)...

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = Stone Concrete Metal Undetermined
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

Material of the Sculpture = ___ Stone ___ Concrete ___ Metal ___ Undetermined
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____
 If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" _____

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = _____

Material of Cannon = ___ Bronze ___ Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm
 Markings on muzzle = _____

Markings on Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____
 Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? ___ If so, describe _____

Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points
 Monument or Base: Height _____ Width _____ Depth _____ or Diameter _____
 Sculpture: Height _____ Width _____ Depth _____ or Diameter _____

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)
 Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found _____

The "Dedication Text" is formed: ___ cut into material ___ raised up from material face

Record the text (indicate any separation if on different sides...) Please use additional sheet if necessary.
Fort Wayne. Construction of this historic first American built fort at Detroit was begun in 1843. Completed in 1848, it was named in 1849 to honor the Revolutionary War hero General Anthony Wayne, who became first American commandant at Detroit in 1796. Fort Wayne was a mobilization center in the Civil War, Spanish American War, and World War I and was Detroit's ordnance depot in World War II. Transferred to Detroit Historical Commission in 1949, it was dedicated as Fort Wayne Military Museum, June 14, 1950. This marker presented by the J.L. Hudson Company.

Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Plaza/Courtyard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Town Square" | <input type="checkbox"/> Post Office | <input type="checkbox"/> School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Building | <input type="checkbox"/> State Capitol | Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courthouse | <input type="checkbox"/> College Campus | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> Library | _____ |

General Vicinity

Rural (low population, open land)
 Town

Suburban (residential, near city)
 Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

Industrial Commercial
 Street/Roadside within 20 feet Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)
 Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)
 Any other significant environmental factor _____

Condition Information

Structural Condition (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments *with* Sculpture, and Monuments without Sculpture - including the base for Monuments with *Cannon*. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

	Sculpture	Base
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? (look for signs of exterior rust)	___	___
Any evidence of structural instability? (look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)	___	___
Any broken or missing parts? (look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)	___	___
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? (also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)	___	___

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

	Sculpture	Base
Black crusting	___	___
White crusting	___	___
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	___	___
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	___	___
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	___	___
Chalky or powdery stone	___	___
Granular eroding of stone	___	___
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	___	___
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	___	___
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...	___	___

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? Yes No Unable to tell

General Vicinity

___ Rural (low population, open land)
___ Town

___ Suburban (residential, near city)
X Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

X Industrial ___ Commercial
___ Street/Roadside within 20 feet ___ Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
___ Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)
X Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)
Any other significant environmental factor

Condition Information

Structural Condition (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments with Sculpture, and Monuments without Sculpture - including the base for Monuments with Cannon. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

Table with 3 columns: Question, Sculpture, Base. Rows include: If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed?; Any evidence of structural instability?; Any broken or missing parts?; Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes?

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

Table with 3 columns: Question, Sculpture, Base. Rows include: Black crusting; White crusting; Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal); Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.); Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines); Chalky or powdery stone; Granular eroding of stone; Spalling of stone (surface splitting off); Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains); Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe...

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Unable to tell

MICHIGAN CIVIL WAR MONUMENTS

[Part Three: Mackinaw - Wayne Counties]

Compiled by George F. May

Published by the Michigan Civil War Centennial Observance Commission in 1965

WAYNE COUNTY

Marker at the Commandant's Quarters (Dearborn Historical Museum), Michigan Avenue at Monroe Boulevard, Dearborn. The marker was erected by the Dearborn Historical Commission, Dearborn Civil War Centennial Commission, Allied Veteran's Council, and other civic groups, and was dedicated November 11, 1964. The inscription reads:

Michigan soldiers trained at U. S. arsenal during Civil War. During the period of the American Civil War the U. S. Arsenal in Dearborn (then Dearbornville) served as training facilities for Michigan soldiers. This marker is a testimony and a memorial to those men and their units who gave a measure of their devotion. They include: First Michigan Sharpshooters Regiment Approximately one third to one half of the unit's ten companies were casualties, including men from the all Indian Company K. Four men received the Congressional Medal of Honor; and Battery M of First Light Artillery. Dearborn Historical Commission marker.

Marker on the U. S. Grant House at the Michigan State Fairgrounds, Detroit. The house was originally located at 1369 East Fort Street, Detroit, where the plaque was dedicated on November 3, 1922, under the auspices of the Detroit Art Commission. The inscription reads:

Upon this house occupied by him as his home in the year 1849 the City of Detroit has placed this tablet commemorating Ulysses S. Grant, then lieutenant, later general, United States Army and for two terms President of the U. S. of A. Savior of his country.

Marker on the same building as above. The inscription reads:

This one-time residence of Ulysses Simpson Grant presented to the State of Michigan as a modest monument to a great man by the Michigan Mutual Liability Company 1930.

Monument, consisting of an equestrian statue of General Alpheus S. Williams, at Central and Inselruhe avenues, Belle Isle, Detroit. The statue is the work of the sculptor Henry Merwin Shrady. It depicts Williams sitting astride his horse and studying a battle map during a storm. The General Alpheus S. Williams Association was formed in 1911 to spearhead the drive for the monument. The Detroit Common Council appropriated \$25,000 for the site and base. Shrady was paid \$30,000. The monument was unveiled on October 15, 1921. The inscription reads:

Major General Alpheus Starkey Williams. 1810-1878. Hero of two wars. Judge. Editor. Postmaster. Diplomat. Member of Congress. An untiring servant of the people. An honor to the City of Detroit. The Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal

Legion of the United States and citizens of Detroit have erected this tribute to the valor and abilities of Alpheus S. Williams, Lieut-Colonel, First Michigan Infantry Volunteers in the War with Mexico. Brig.-General and Brevet Maj. General United States Volunteers in the Civil War.

[Alpheus S. Williams was born in Connecticut in 1810, but from 1837 to his death in 1878 he was a resident of Detroit. His military record was a most distinguished one. He served as lieutenant colonel of the 1st Michigan Infantry in the Mexican War. When the Civil War broke out, he was appointed a brigadier general of volunteers by Lincoln. He commanded the Twelfth Corps at the battles of South Mountain, Antietam, and Gettysburg, and he commanded the Twentieth Corps in Sherman's campaigns in 1864-65. He was elected to Congress in 1874 and died in 1878 before the expiration of his second term. See Joseph Greusel, *General Alpheus S. Williams* (Detroit, 1911), and Milo M. Quaife, ed., *From the Cannon's Mouth: The Civil War Letters of General Alpheus S. Williams* (Detroit, 1959).]

Cannon, near the Casino on Belle Isle, Detroit. This cannon was captured at the battle of Vicksburg.

Monument, consisting of a statue of a Civil War soldier, at Central and Muse roads, Belle Isle, Detroit. The sculptor was Angelo Zirolo of Wyandotte. The inscription reads:

There are now forty-eight reasons why we will always remember the Grand Army of the Republic. Erected by Department of Michigan, Woman's Relief Corps, auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. Dedicated November, 1948.

Marker on a granite base, near Picnic Way, Belle Isle, Detroit. It was erected on September 27, 1923. The inscription reads:

1923. This tablet is dedicated to Gen. O. M. Poe Post No. 433, Grand Army of the Republic, by its auxiliary, Gen. Poe Woman's Relief Corps No. 8. "Not for selfish gain or applause, but for honor and the glory of the cause they did that which will never be forgotten."

Bust of Abraham Lincoln by Gutzon Borglum, on the grounds of the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit.

Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, Campus Martius, Woodward and Michigan avenues, Detroit. It is the work of the sculptor, Randolph Rogers. The monument is about fifty-six feet in height and consists of a granite body, on which are mounted statues and medallions of bronze. At the top is a ten-foot statue which represents Michigan. Beneath it, on projecting abutments, are four allegorical figures representing Victory, Union, Emancipation, and History. Farther down are four figures representing the infantry, cavalry, artillery, and the navy. On the same level as these statues are medallion portraits of Lincoln, Grant, Sherman, and Farragut. On the outer pedestals of the monument are four eagles. The cost of the monument was close to \$75,000, which was raised through popular subscription by the Michigan Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Association. The monument was erected in 1871 and dedicated on April 9, 1872. The four allegorical figures, however, were not put in place, to complete the monument, until July 19, 1881. The inscription reads:

Erected by the people of Michigan in honor of the martyrs who fell and the heroes who

fought in defense of liberty and union.

Marker mounted between two posts, adjacent to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, Woodward and Michigan avenues, Detroit. The inscription reads:

First Michigan Infantry, 1861. President Abraham Lincoln issued a call for troops on April 15 1861. On April 29 the First Michigan Infantry Regiment was organized and was mustered into Federal service May 1 for three months' service. The regiment received its flag from the ladies of Detroit in Campus Martius on May 11, and left for Washington, D. C. on May 13. This was the first western regiment to respond to the President's call for Civil War troops. It was mustered out August 7, 1861 then reorganized for three years. Presented to the city of Detroit by the J. L. Hudson Company, May 13, 1961, centennial of the regiment's departure from Detroit.

[Actually, the organization of the 1st Michigan Infantry as a three-year regiment had commenced on June 28, more than a month before the three-month regiment was mustered out. Although many of the officers of the new regiment had served with the three-month regiment, very few of the enlisted personnel of the original regiment chose to enlist in the three-year regiment. See Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, 1:passim.]

Memorial fountain including a bronze figure representing Michigan and a medallion portrait of Russell A. Alger, in Grand Circus Park, Detroit. The sculptor was Daniel Chester French. The Russell A. Alger Memorial Association, formed in 1912, raised \$30,000 to finance the project. The memorial was unveiled on July 27, 1921. The inscription reads:

Russell A. Alger. Soldier. Statesman. Citizen. 1836 - 1907.

[See the footnote for Alger County for biographical information. Alger's home at 510 West Fort Street, Detroit, was marked by a bronze plaque which, since the destruction of the building, has been stored in the Detroit Historical Museum.]


Monument, consisting of a statue of Abraham Lincoln, at the Detroit Public Library branch at Gratiot Avenue and Farmer Street, Detroit. The statue is a copy of one designed by Alonzo Pelzer for Lincoln, New Jersey. It was originally located at the Lincoln Motor Company plant at West Warren and Livernois in Detroit. It was a gift to Henry M. Leland, founder of the company. It was moved to its present location on April 17, 1958.

* Marker at the site of the Second Baptist Church, 441 Monroe Street, Detroit. The inscription reads:

Emancipation Proclamation, 1863. President Abraham Lincoln formally issued his Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. The first celebration in honor of the event in Detroit was held in the Second Baptist Church on January 6, 1863. The Negro citizens of Detroit resolved that "when in the course of human events, there comes a day which is destined to be an everlasting beacon light, marking a joyful era in the progress of a nation and the hopes of a people, it seems to be fitting the occasion that it should not pass unnoticed by those whose hopes it comes to brighten and to bless . . ." The meeting was a culmination of the efforts of Detroit Negroes which had begun with the underground railroad. Presented to the city of Detroit by the J. L. Hudson Company January 6, 1963, centennial of the meeting.

- Marker on the lawn at the John R Street entrance to Harper Hospital, Detroit. The inscription reads:

Harper Hospital 1863-1864. In 1859 Walter Harper and Nancy Martin conveyed land to a board of trustees for the purpose of establishing a hospital. Harper Hospital was incorporated May 4, 1863. Construction of the hospital buildings began June 13 1864. Sick and wounded Civil War soldiers, Harper's first patients, were admitted on October 12, 1864. Presented to the city of Detroit under the auspices of the Michigan Civil War Centennial Observance Commission by Parke, Davis & Company on the centennial of the incorporation of Harper Hospital.

- Marker at Fort Wayne Military Museum, 6053 West Jefferson Avenue, Detroit. The inscription reads: 

Fort Wayne. Construction of this historic first American-built fort at Detroit was begun in 1843. Completed in 1848, it was named in 1849 to honor the Revolutionary War hero, General Anthony Wayne, who became first American commandant at Detroit in 1796. Fort Wayne was a mobilization center in the Civil War, Spanish-American War and World War I and was Detroit's ordnance depot in World War II. Transferred to Detroit Historical Commission in 1949, it was dedicated as Fort Wayne Military Museum, June 14, 1950. This marker presented to the city of Detroit by the J. L. Hudson Company.

Back to Alger - Huron Counties

Back to Ingham - Livingston Counties

-
- [Return to the Michigan Civil War Memorials Project](#)
 - [Return to the Department of Michigan](#)

Last updated 2/3/98 - CTB.

DETROIT'S 300TH

Detroit's 300th birthday is next July 24. Look for a story about Detroit in this section every Thursday.

INSIDE HISTORIC FORT WAYNE

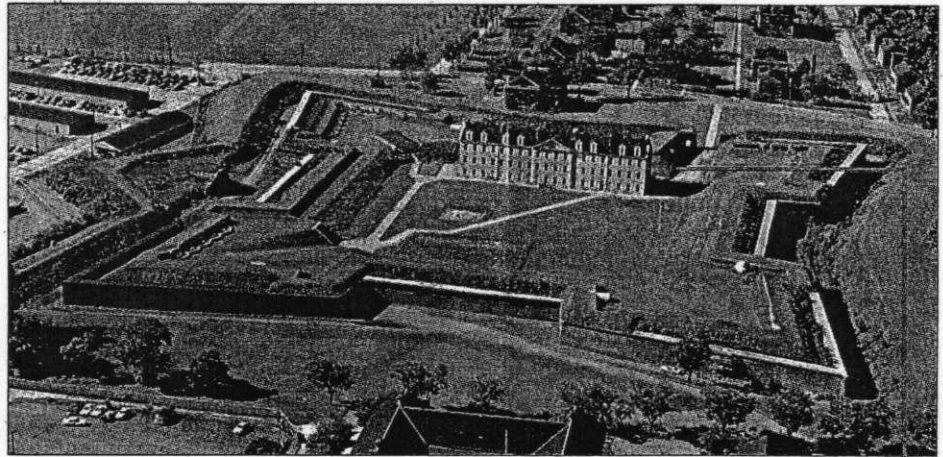


PHOTO COURTESY OF DETROIT HISTORY MAGAZINE

Historic Fort Wayne's brick walls are still intact.

Call it fort-itis. The Yak has made it his mission to learn about all the forts that once guarded the Detroit River.

Earlier this month, he explored the remains of Fort Malden, in Amherstburg, Ontario. Before that, he wrote about two Detroit forts that no longer exist — Fort Pontchartrain, built by the French, and the British-built Fort Lernoult (Luhr-NOOLT).

But you didn't think he would stop there, did you? Not when there's one more fort to explore — Historic Fort Wayne.

It was built in the late 1840s and almost all of the fort has survived. If you flew over it in a plane, you could see its star-

shaped walls, grassy parade grounds and barracks.

Unfortunately, that's about the only way to see it. The Detroit Historical Museum, which owns the fort, was forced to close it in 1991, when state money was cut. So mark July 22 on your calendar: The fort will be open that day as a viewing station for a Tall Ships parade.

"It's the best place to see the parade because it overlooks the narrowest part of the river," said Bode Morin, the fort's project manager.

Bode's No. 1 project these days is to reopen the fort permanently. Plans are in the works to do that "at some point in the future," he said.

Touring the little-seen fort was thrilling. The Yak kept thinking, "I'm only a few miles from Renaissance Center! How can this be here?"

He felt like a time traveler who magically had stepped back into the 19th Century. Bode led the Yak through a sally port, the long, vaulted passageway in the fort's thick walls. It led into a maze of brick rooms with openings for cannons, though no cannons were ever placed there.

"The fort was designed at a time of growing tensions between the United States and British Canada," said Bode.

Cannons were needed in the event of an attack by water. But U.S.-Canadian relations simmered down. By the time the



PHOTOS BY MARY SCHROEDER

This old barracks once housed 500 soldiers.

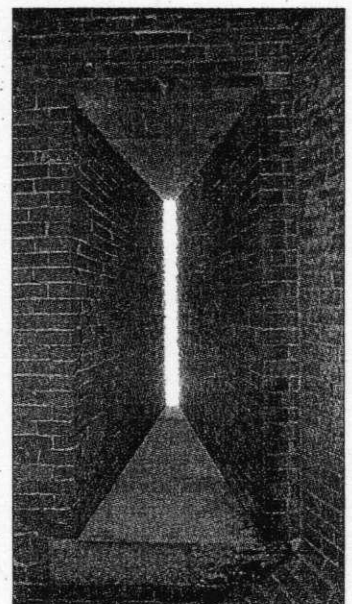
fort was fully garrisoned, or occupied with troops, its mission had changed — to infantry recruiting and training for the Civil War.

The fort was also active during World Wars I and II and the Korean and Vietnam wars.

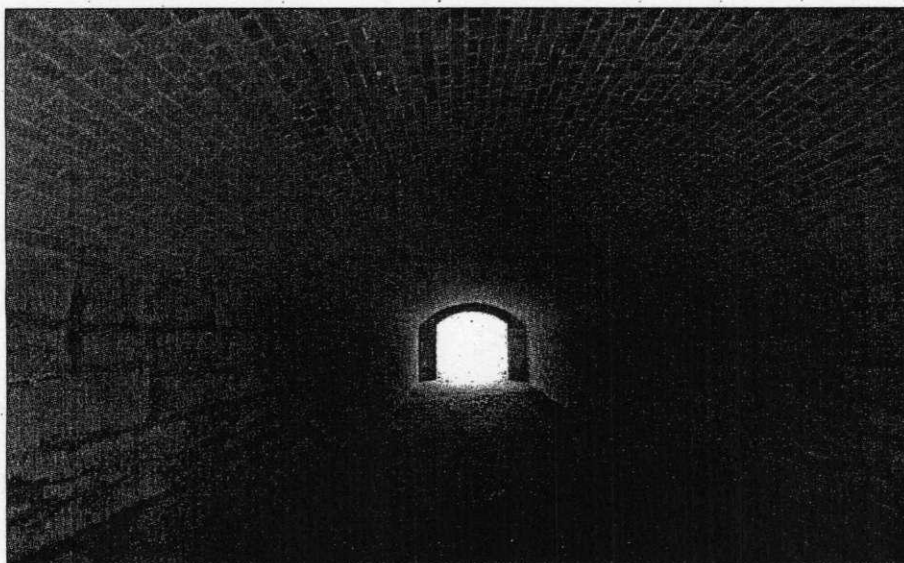
The fort's story is locked away in the old barracks, which once housed 500 soldiers. In the 1980s, it became a military museum. The displays are still there, including a model of Fort Pontchartrain — the only one the Yak had ever seen. He sure hopes someone dusts it off and puts it where we can all see it in time for Detroit's 300th birthday.

By Patricia Charget

Keep reading the Yak for more updates on the Tall Ships Parade.



Soldiers could shoot their rifles through narrow, vertical windows in the fort's walls.



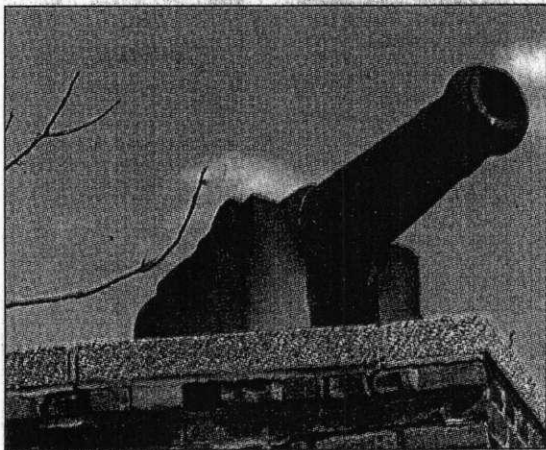
This sally port, or long tunnel, was once the main entrance to Fort Wayne.

A PLAN FOR ACTION



Photos by RICHARD LEE/Detroit Free Pre

Much of Ft. Wayne, which includes the visitor center at left and storage areas at right, is dilapidated. With the City Council's approval, th 82-acre site may undergo renovations.



Ft. Wayne has played various roles in military efforts since the mid-1880s. Planners envision the complex reborn with a military museum and recreation site.

Proposed partnership requires city to be owner of neglected complex in name only

By DAN SHINE
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

It was built in the mid-1800s to ward off Canadian attack and has served the U.S. military from the Civil War through Vietnam. It also has housed Italian prisoners of war in the 1940s and Detroiters burned out of their homes during the 1967 riot.

For the past 10 years, Ft. Wayne — with its historic buildings and riverfront panorama — has been closed to the public except for the occasional flea market. Many of the buildings are crumbling from neglect.

But now, there is a plan to refurbish and reopen the 82-acre fort at West

Jefferson and Livernois.

One big hurdle remains: getting th Detroit City Council to agree to a partnership proposed with Wayne Count and the Huron-Clinton Metropolita Authority to raise money to renovat and operate the fort.

The city would retain ownership bu representatives from the three entities which would make up the council would make the decisions about how Ft Wayne is run. County and metropark officials have agreed to the partnership

It would be called the Historic Ft Wayne Park and Museum Council and would have nonprofit status.

Please see FORT, Page 4B

THE FORT IN HISTORY

Name: Ft. Wayne. Named for Gen. Anthony Wayne.

Age: Built between 1843-1849.

Located: On an 82-acre site at Livernois and West Jefferson.

Why it's there: The \$150,000 fort was built to guard Detroit from Canadians. It's worked!

Its history: About 1,250 years ago, American Indians built a burial mound of earth now located inside Ft. Wayne.

During the Civil War, Ft. Wayne served as a mustering post for Michigan's volunteer regiments. During World War I, Ft. Wayne housed troops, including construction battalions and an aero-squadron.

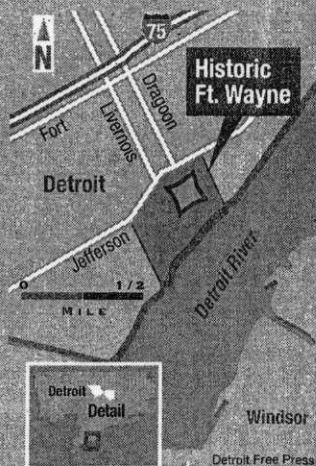
During World War II, the fort became the Motor Supply Depot, serving as the parts warehouse for the armed forces.

In the 1950s and 1960s, Ft. Wayne was one of the largest induction centers in the Midwest during the Korean and Vietnam wars.

The oldest part of the fort became a museum in 1950. During the 1970s and 1980s, the fort hosted Civil War and World War I reenactments and other summertime events. When state funding for Detroit's historical museums was cut in 1991, the fort closed to the public.

What's there: The fort includes a large parade ground that fronts on the river, several streets of handsome brick dwelling for officers and senior enlisted men and their families and a restored frame house once occupied by the post commander.

The barracks, a four-story building that's the focal point of the fort,



has walls nearly 2 feet thick.

One of the remodeled officer's homes has become the national museum of the Tuskegee Airmen.

FORT | Historic site may see new life

From Page 1B

Councilwoman Maryann Mahaffey has reservations: "For me, that's privatization."

She said the plan means the fort would be run "by a small group and citizens' input is limited."

Councilwoman Sheila Cockrel is more optimistic.

"I think the formation of a nonprofit committee... is a welcome addition to the city's capacity to provide leisure activities," she said.

Dennis Zembala, director of Detroit Historical Museums, briefed the City Council.

"They don't have control now," Zembala said. "Right now it's falling apart. You're not in control, nature is."

John Hartig, navigator for the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative, said restoring the fort is a priority but he fears it will continue to deteriorate.

Since the federal government, which turned the property over to the city, requires Ft. Wayne be used as a historical site, Zembala said little else could be done.

Those pushing the proposal envision a military museum based on Detroit's building of tanks, planes, bullets and bombs during World War II and a park-like setting with programs for youth groups such as camp outs. Some buildings could be rented out.

"Ft. Wayne has the potential to be a vibrant military museum," said Zembala. "It could be

based on the 'Arsenal of Democracy.'"

The city, county and metro-parks authority would each appoint two people to the council that would oversee the fort. Those six people would elect other directors to raise money and decide the future of Ft. Wayne. Zembala said people are needed on the fort council who know how to get federal and state grants and private donations. The \$4.5 million from a 1996 Wayne County millage won't be enough, Zembala said.

"It's going to take a lot of money" to renovate Ft. Wayne, Zembala said. "Probably \$25-40 million over 10-15 years."

Contact DAN SHINE at 313-223-4554 or dshine@free-press.com.

History isn't finished with city landmark

Renewal sought at Civil War-era fort

By DAN SHINE
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

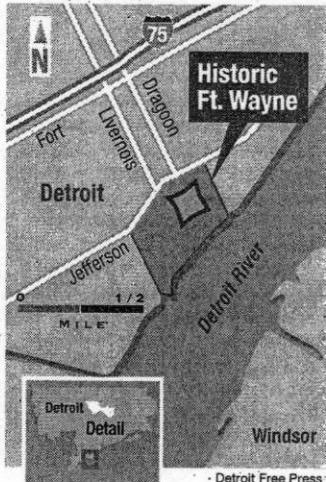
More than 18,000 people watched the tall ships cruise the Detroit River this summer from the grounds of Historic Ft. Wayne, the first time that many people had been on the 83-acre property since it was all but closed to the public 10 years ago.

But now there are discussions about reopening the fort — with its historic buildings and riverfront panorama — with a mix of recreational, historical and business uses.

In the past year, the Detroit Historical Museums, Wayne County and the Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority have come up with a plan to upgrade the fort's grounds. It includes renovating some buildings to lease to businesses and nonprofit groups, adding a 125-slip marina for visiting boaters, a riverfront walk and a music stage.

The plan also calls for building a new Tuskegee Airmen museum and renovating a warehouse into a military museum based on Detroit's key role in arming the United States during World War II with tanks, planes, bullets and bombs.

Before any plans can be implemented, however, the Detroit City Council must approve a fund-raising partnership proposed with the county and the metropark authority. The city would retain ownership, but rep-



resentatives from the three entities would form a council and make the decisions about how Historic Ft. Wayne is run.

Officials from the county and metroparks have agreed to the partnership. The Detroit council was briefed on the restructuring plan earlier this year but has not approved it. It is unclear when the issue will come up again in Detroit.

"We're in a holding pattern while we wait for City Council approval," said Bode Morin, who works at the fort for the historical museums.

Morin gave a presentation on the plan Tuesday at a meeting of the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative's steering committee. One of the federal initiative's priorities is re-

Please see FORT, Page 10A

SATURDAY

Nov. 24,
2001

Page 3A

FORT | New use sought for landmark

From Page 3A

furbishing the fort's grounds so it can be reopened to the public, said John Hartig, who has the title river navigator under the initiative.

The plan calls for some buildings to be demolished but for others, such as the old barracks and the 110-seat Post Theater, to be renovated. Campsites also would be added. There is also discussion of developing part of

the shoreline for canoe landings.

Morin said his group received a Michigan Coastal Zone Management grant to study the shoreline and possibly add a walkway and wetlands.

Returning the fort to its former state could cost up to \$40 million. The county has \$4.5 million for the fort from a 1996 millage. Leasing some buildings would raise more money. Still, federal and state grants and private donations would also be

needed.

The fort, at West Jefferson and Livernois, was built in the mid-1800s to ward off Canadian attack. It served the U.S. military from the Civil War through Vietnam. It also housed Italian prisoners of war in the 1940s and Detroiters burned out of their homes during the 1967 riot.

Contact DAN SHINE at 313-223-4554 or dshine@freepress.com.



GALLERY | 1999 IN PICTURES

A horse gazing out a window is among Free Press photographers' images from this year. **PAGE 8B**

MONDAY

Dec. 20,
1999

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Section B

LOCAL NEWS

◆ EWD

DETROIT FREE PRESS

Fixing Historic Ft. Wayne a battle

3 years after bond passed, work not started

By EMILIA ASKARI
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

It has been three years since Wayne County voters dug into their pockets and passed a parks bond that included \$4 million for restoring Historic Ft. Wayne, the sprawling Civil War-era relic at Jefferson and Livernois.

So far, not a penny of that money has been spent on repairing the crumbling fort that is owned by the City of Detroit and was closed to the public in 1991.

City, county and metropark officials are squabbling about who should run the fort once it is re-

vamped. While the discussions have lingered, city officials have missed numerous opportunities to apply for state and federal grants to shore up barracks with failing roofs and leaky windows.

They did, however, win a \$500,000 state grant earlier this year to study the structural integrity of the star-shaped dirt barricade in the fort's center. That work has yet to begin.

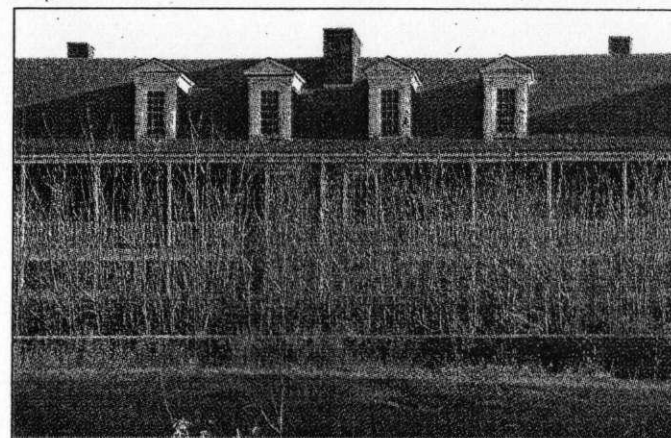
City officials insisted this month that progress toward repairing the fort's sagging buildings and opening it again to the public are just around the corner.

As Detroit's tricentennial ap-

proaches in 2001, they say a master plan for the fort's renewal should be completed by a consultant soon. The plan likely will outline which buildings are beyond repair and should be demolished; which should be repaired first, and what kind of events are likely to entice visitors.

Officials estimate that the effort is likely to cost at least \$20 million and take several years. Nevertheless, city officials say they look forward to hosting a special event or two in the 83-acre fort during the year-long celebration of Detroit's founding.

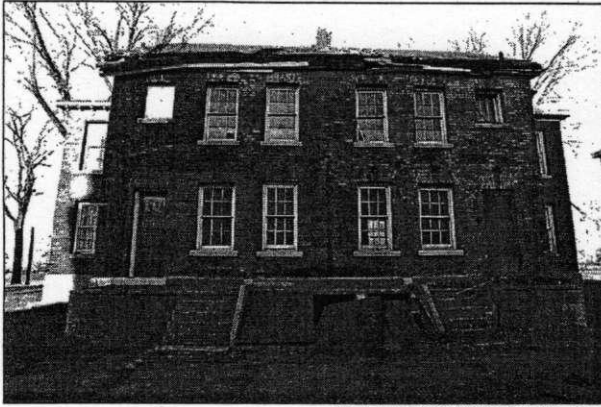
"Now is the time to invest in this part of the city," said Vicky



MARY SCHROEDER/Detroit Free Pre

Trees obscure the view of barracks inside the Historic Star Fort at Ft. Wayne. The trees' roots are starting to buckle the wall.

Please see FORT, Page 4B



Photos by MARY SCHROEDER/Detroit Free Press

This crumbling two-family residence at Ft. Wayne is indicative of the property's deterioration. Despite passage of a \$4-million bond three years ago for renovation, no repair work has been done.

FORT | Site is in disrepair as officials keep arguing

From Page 1B

Kruckeberg, interim director of the Detroit Historical Museums, which oversees the fort and other historic properties owned by the city. Renewal projects in downtown Detroit, the booming economy and increasing interest in the Detroit River all set the stage for increased interest in the fort. "All of a sudden, it's time."

Before its closing almost a decade ago, Historic Ft. Wayne served as a garrison, induction center, museum and park for generations of Detroiters.

For the past year, officials from the city, Wayne County and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks have been in negotiations about who will run the fort and who will contribute how much to its restoration.

County officials wanted to lease the fort from the city and run it as soon as possible. City officials refused to relinquish control. Metropark officials expressed interest in helping to fund recreational opportunities, but were concerned about spending money on capital improvements to a property they did not own or run.

A small portion of the county park bond money approved three years ago has been spent to cut the fort's grass, trim trees and fertilize the turf of the parade ground so Detroit youth soccer league teams could play there last summer. Another modest chunk was used to hire the consultant whose master plan is expected by early next year.

But most of the \$4 million in bond money allocated for the park has not been spent. As time has passed, so have deadlines for applying for grants under the Clean Michigan Initiative endorsed by state voters last year. Other cities are lining up to vie for tens of millions of dollars from that fund.

Wayne County parks director Hurley Coleman said officials tried unsuccessfully to pull together a credible application. "We were trying to make that happen over the last couple of weeks and

we couldn't," he said recently. "There'll be another round in April. Hopefully, we'll be ready."

Officials also failed to embrace help offered by hundreds of local businesspeople associated with the President's Council on Sustainable Development, a national organization that drew 3,000 people to a May meeting at Cobo Hall. Organizers wanted to make restoration of Ft. Wayne their "legacy project," or gift to the meeting's host city. But they said at the time that they were rebuffed.

"I hope they contact me again," Kruckeberg said recently. "As soon as we have that master plan, we'll be able to tell them how they can help."

At a minimum, Coleman estimates it will take \$20-\$25 million to open the historic fort to the public once more.

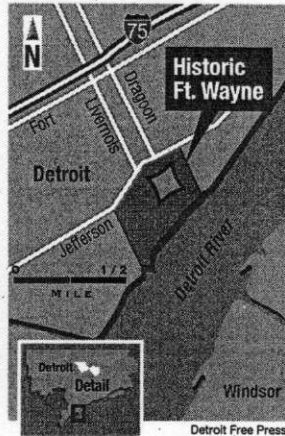
Currently, only a handful of the 40-odd buildings where generations of men were inducted into the armed forces are being used. One houses the offices of the Mosaic Youth Theater. Another functions as the Medicine Bear Academy, a Detroit public school with an American-Indian theme. Another is home to the Tuskegee Airmen Museum, a tribute to black aviators that is open to groups by appointment.

A handful of other fort buildings are used as historic museum offices and as warehouses for thousands of artifacts, from American-Indian beadwork to pinball machines.

The city spends about \$500,000 a year on these uses of the fort, Kruckeberg said.

John Hartig, who was recently appointed by the U.S. Department of Commerce to coordinate revitalization and restoration efforts along the Detroit River, said he has made restoring Historic Ft. Wayne one of the federal government's top six priorities for making the river attractive once again.

"I grew up in Allen Park," he said. "I remember going to Ft. Wayne every year as a kid. It's a spectacular location, right on the river. It would sure be a shame if



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The U.S. government began building Ft. Wayne in Detroit in 1845, even though this plaque seems to indicate otherwise.

we couldn't leverage that \$4 million and open it up again."

EMILIA ASKARI can be reached at 313-222-6487 or at askari@freepress.com.