

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 with Cannon
 Monument without Sculpture 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: _____

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 W. 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 MUSEUM
 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.

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 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.

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

Surface Coating

Does there appear to be a coating? Yes No Unable to determine
If known, identify type of coating.

Gilded Painted Varnished Waxed Unable to determine

Is the coating in good condition? Yes No Unable to determine

Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

Well maintained Would benefit from treatment In urgent need of treatment Unable to determine

Overall Description

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on) .

Supplemental Background Information

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Thank you.

Inspector Identification

Date of On-site Survey _____

Your Name Richard E. Danes

Address 2612 Burns City Dearborn

State MI Zip Code 48124-3204 Telephone 

SUVCW Camp 427 Senior Vice Commander

Please send this completed form to:

Douglas R. Armstrong
Civil War Memorials Officer
Department of Michigan - S.U.V.C.W.
236 E Frederick Ave.
Lansing, MI. 48906-3226

Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
National Civil War Memorials Committee

COMPENDIUM
OF
DONATED OBSOLETE ORDNANCE

SOURCES:

Chief of Ordnance Reports
House & Senate Reports
CIS U.S. Serial Set Indices
Registers of Naval Guns
Statutes at Large
Register of Inspections of Cannon
Field Artillery Weapons of the Civil War
Artillery and Ammunition of the Civil War
various commemorative booklets and pamphlets
antique postcards
compiler's files

Compiled by Wayne E. Stark

Research assistance by Edwin Olmstead & Don Lutz

MICHIGAN CANNON LEADS

CODE	+ CITY	DONEE	CANNON	YEAR
43 L	Adrian Lepawce	Soldiers' Mon't Assn	4 12-pdr iron guns (2 there)	1870
" A	Albion Calhoun	GAR 21 (at new armory)	1 6.4-in Parrott rifle	1897
"	Allegan Allegan	Michigan Soldiers' Mon. Assn.	?	?
7 N	Ann Arbor Washenaw	GAR 128	2 3.67-in Parrott rifles	1899
7 N	Ann Arbor "	city (U of M Span. War Mon't)-	1 br cannon or fldpc (Spanish)	1912
	+ Bacheaw - ?	private on Neeshish Island	cannon in front yard	per R&MH
N	Bad Axe - Huron	city	4 bronze cannon or fldpcs	1915
16 OS	Bancroft - Shiawassee	GAR 11 (once @ high school)	32-pdr of 57 cwt #516	1898
20A	Bangor - Van Buren	GAR 19 (Arlington Cemetery)	XI-in Dahlgren #417	1897
22S	Battle Creek - Calhoun	GAR 32 (was in Oak Hill Cem)	XI-in Dahlgren #230	1896
67A/S	Bay City - Bay	GAR 67 (how in Pine Ridge Cem)	1 8-in S&G how & 1 4.2-in Parr	1897
67A	Bay City "	GAR 67 (Green Ridge Cem)	1 3-in wrought iron gun	1898
67S	Bay City "	city	IX-in Dahlgrens #230 & 231	1904
67S	+ Bay City "	courthouse	13-in SC mortar	190- postcard.
67S	Bay City "	municipality	VIII-in shellguns #326 & 336	1907
67S	Bay City, West "	GAR 67	1 4.2-in Parrott rifle	1897
85A	+ Benton Harbor - Berrien	Crystal Springs Cemetery	Alger 24-pdr flank how No.188	?
28N	+ Big Rapids - Mecosta	Mecosta County courthouse	cannon on granite mount	1928 postcard
43A	+ Blissfield - Lenawee	cemetery on US Rte 223	1 8-in columbiad M1844	?
14A	+ Boyne City - Charlevoix	Front & State Streets	1 8-in Rodman	?
120N	Brighton - Livingston	GAR 179	1 6.4-in Parrott rifle	1897
22N	Bronson - Branch	GAR 185	1 3-in wrought iron gun	1898
85A	Buchanan - Berrien	GAR 22 (now in cemetery)	6.4-in navy Parrott rifle #48	1897
145N	Caro - Tuscola	village	4 bronze cannon or fldpcs	1916
85A	+ Cassopolis - Cass	privately owned	4.5" Ord Rfl Reg#51	per JDJ
14A	Charlevoix - Same	GAR 119 (Brookside Cemetery)	1 4.2-in Parrott rifle	1897
17A/D	Charlotte - Eaton	GAR 40 (now at courthouse)	1 6.4-in Parrott & 1 8-in clmb	1898
A	Cheboygan - Same	city (now at courthouse)	IX-in Dahlgren #225	1904
[A]	+ Cheboygan - "	in storage somewhere	CW cannon from park	per GHM
A	Chelsea - Washtenaw	solds' mon. in (Oak Grove) cem	2 30-pdr iron guns	1895
7A	+ Chelsea - "	unspecified	old iron 6-pdr gun	?
"	Chesaning - Saginaw	GAR 121	3.67-in navy Parrott rfl #262	1900
"	+ Coldwater - Branch	park (Military Park)	3 2.9-in Parrott rifles	?
53A	Coleman - Midland	Town	IX-in Dahlgren #698	1909
A	Constantine - St Joseph	GAR 121 (park)	1 4.2-in Parrott rifle	1897
145N	Davison - Genesee	GAR 284	1 42-pdr gun	1898
20A	Decatur - Van Buren	GAR 27 (now in City Park)	6.4-in navy Parrott rifle #12	1896
17NI	+ Delta Township - Eaton	Delta Center Cemetery	replica 10-pdr Parrott	per GHM
101A	+ Detroit - Wayne	Ft. Wayne	2 12-pdr guns	?
101A	→ Detroit "	Ft. Wayne (from Grand Rapids)	2 4.2-in Parrott rifles	?
101A	Detroit "	Mon't to MG McComb(Wash.Blvd.)	2 bronze 12-pdr guns, M1838	1908
101A	Detroit "	Mon't to MG McComb(Wash.Blvd.)	1 French 9-pdr gun	1908
101S	Detroit "	Woodmere Cemetery Assn.	2 4.2-in Parrott rifles	1897
101A	+ Detroit "	fairgrounds	2 3-in Ord Rfls altered to BLs	?
101N	+ Detroit (Belle Isle)	view from Belle Isle	fieldpiece on carriage	old postcard
7A	Dexter - Washtenaw	GAR 339 (now American Legion)	1 4.2-in Parrott rifle	1897
76A	+ Dundee - Monroe	park	1 6.4-in Parrott rifle	?
76A	+ Dundee "	privately owned	3* Ord Rfl R#390 & CA Coeh #11	?
76A	+ Dundee "	privately owned	1 6-pdr M1841 Ames No.286	?
A	+ East Tawas - Iosco	unspecified	6-pdr iron Bellona gun w/o rbs	?
17A	Eaton Rapids - Eaton	GAR 111	1 4.2-in Parrott rifle	1898
17A	+ Eaton Rapids - "	park/island (south)	1 6.4-in Parrott rifle	?
120A	+ Farmington - Oakland	American Legion Post 346	3.2" converted 3" Ord Rfl-SBF	per R&MH
53A	Farwell - Chare	GAR 386 (now in park)	32-pdr of 4500# #226	1897
145A	Fenton - Genesee	GAR 24 (West Fenton Fire Hall)	2 4.5-in guns	1897
145A	Flint - "	GAR 145 (now at courthouse)	2 4.2-in Parrott rifles (4)	1897
145A	+ Flint - "	McFarland Pk (now 2nd MI Inf)	6-pdr br gun carriage	1907 postcard
145A	+ Flint - "	Sloan Museum	1868 British cannon (500#)	per newspaper
120A	Fowlerville - Livingston	GAR 114 (in cemetery)	1 4.2-in Parrott rifle	1897
147A	+ Frankfort - Benzie	park	1 10-in Rodman	?
28N	Fremont - Newaygo	GAR 182	4.2-in navy Parrott #256 & 258	1902
"	Gaylord - Otsego	city (now at courthouse)	IX-in Dahlgren #250	1904
4.	+ Gibraltar - Wayne	Parsons School	2 10" Rodmans sleeved to 8" rf	?
67A	Gladwin - Same	GAR 369	12-pdr boat how, small, #7 & 12	1891
67N	Gladwin - "	municipality (crths on pstcard)	VIII-in shellguns #325 & 334	1907
1A	+ Grand Haven - Ottawa	City Hall	2 Lyle guns	?
1N	Grand Haven - "	city	IX-in Dahlgrens #701 & 702	1908

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

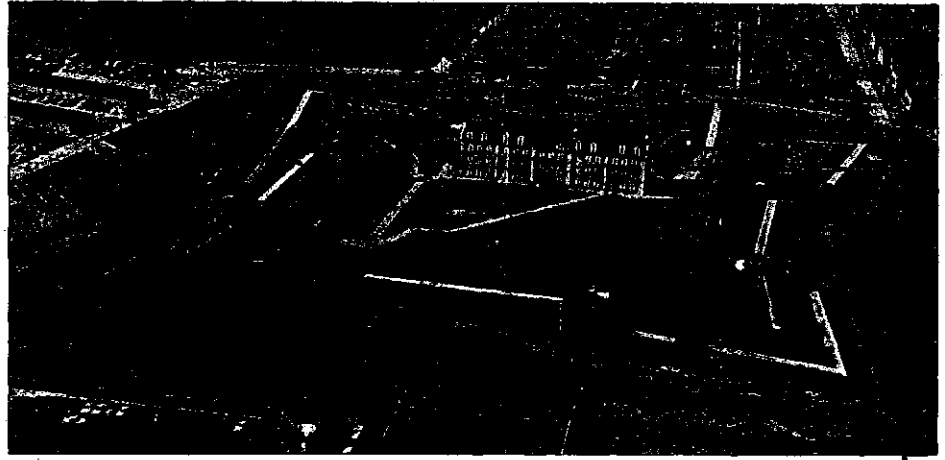


PHOTO COURTESY OF DETROIT HISTORY MAGAZINE

Historic Fort Wayne's brick walls are still intact.

Call it fort-it-is. 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 Lemoult (Luh-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.

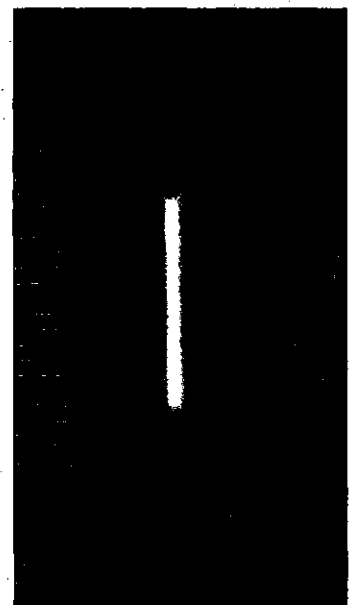
fort was fully garrisoned, or occupied with troops, its mission had changed — to infantry recruiting and training for the Civil War.

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

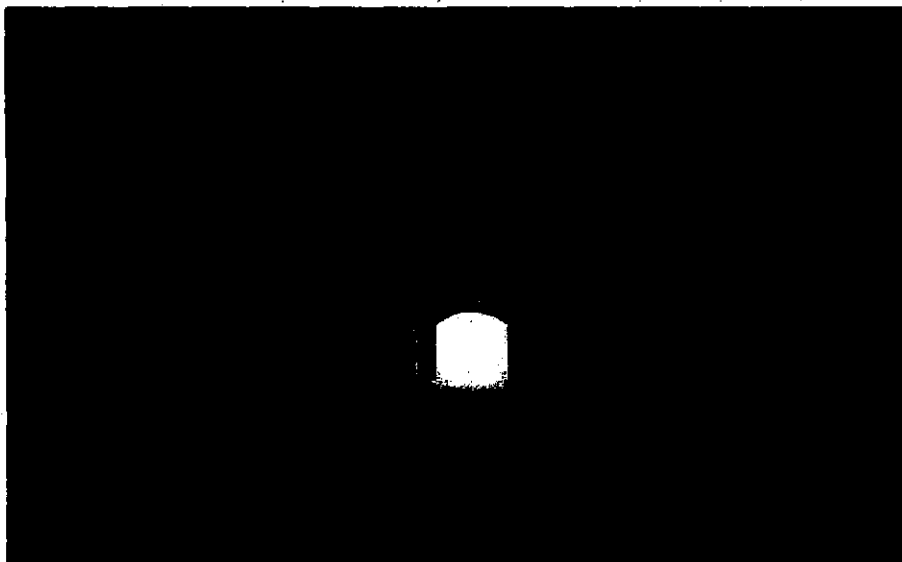
The fort's story is locked away in the old barracks, which once housed 500 soldiers. In the 1980s, it became a military museum. The displays are still there, including a model of Fort Pontchartrain — the only one the Yak had ever seen. He sure hopes someone dusts it off and puts it where we can all see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



FORD
April 13,
2001

Photos by RICHARD LEE/Detroit Free Press

Much of Ft. Wayne, which includes the visitor center at left and storage areas at right, is dilapidated. With the City Council's approval, the 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 the Detroit City Council to agree to a partnership proposed with Wayne County and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority to raise money to renovate and operate the fort.

The city would retain ownership but 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.

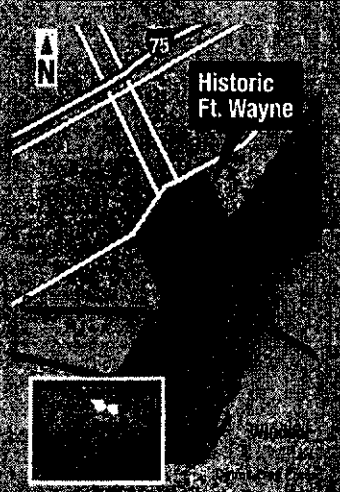
It would be called the Historic Ft. Wayne Park and Museum Council and would have nonprofit status.

Please see FORT, Page 4B

THE FORT IN HISTORY

Named Ft. Wayne in honor of Gen. Anthony Wayne.
 Age: Built between 1819-1849.
 Location: On an 87-acre site at Livernois and Westfield.
 What it's known for: The site of the fort was built to guard the western end of the Erie Canal.
 Historic events: In 1837, a battle between American Indians and a small group of settlers took place in the area.
 During the Civil War, Ft. Wayne served as a military depot for Michigan's volunteer regiments. During World War I, Ft. Wayne housed troops, including construction battalions and an aerial squadron.
 During World War II, the fort became the Motor School, helping to train the Army's tank crews for the invasion of Europe.

In the 1950s, the site was used as a training area for the National Guard. In 1966, the site was designated as a National Historic Landmark. In 1981, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 1982, the site was designated as a National Historic Site. In 1983, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 1984, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 1985, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 1986, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 1987, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 1988, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 1989, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 1990, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 1991, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 1992, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 1993, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 1994, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 1995, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 1996, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 1997, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 1998, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 1999, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 2000, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 2001, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 2002, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 2003, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 2004, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 2005, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 2006, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 2007, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 2008, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 2009, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 2010, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 2011, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 2012, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 2013, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 2014, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 2015, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 2016, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 2017, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 2018, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 2019, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 2020, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 2021, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 2022, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit. In 2023, the site was transferred to the State of Michigan. In 2024, the site was transferred to the City of Detroit.



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 dashine@freepress.com.

History isn't finished with city landmark

Renewal sought at Civil War-era fort

By DAN SHINE
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

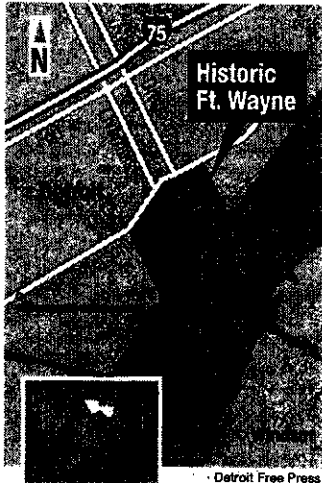
More than 18,000 people watched the tall ships cruise the Detroit River this summer from the grounds of Historic Ft. Wayne, the first time that many people had been on the 83-acre property since it was all but closed to the public 10 years ago.

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-



Detroit Free Press

representatives 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

Dateline

Your Schools

Roadwork

Obituaries

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PHONE 313-222-6600

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.

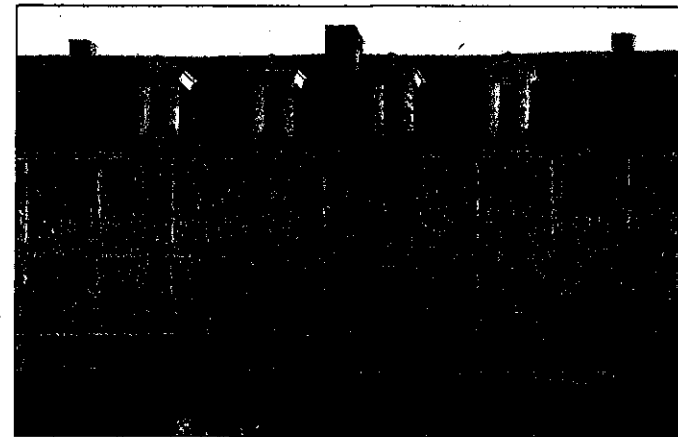
City officials insisted this month that progress toward repairing the fort's sagging buildings and opening it again to the public are just around the corner.

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.

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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.

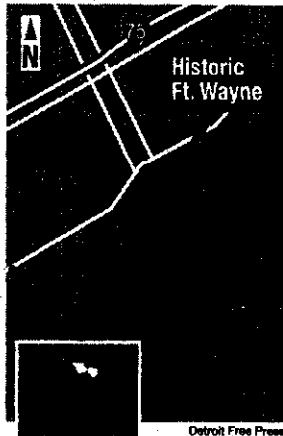
Currently, only a handful of the 40-odd buildings where generations of men were inducted into the armed forces are being used. One houses the offices of the Mosaic Youth Theater. Another functions as the Medicine Bear Academy, a Detroit public school with an American-Indian theme. Another is home to 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 1843, even though this plaque seems to indicate otherwise.

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

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