



DECEMBER 7, 1787



FORT DELAWARE

Located in the Delaware River, Fort Delaware was built by the federal government on Pea Patch Island in the mid-1800s as a coastal defense fortification to protect the ports of Wilmington and Philadelphia. During the Civil War, Union forces housed more than 33,000 Confederate and political prisoners of war here. About 2,400 Confederate prisoners died, with many buried at Finn's Point National Cemetery in New Jersey. Following service in both World Wars, the fort was returned to the State of Delaware. In 1951, through advocacy efforts led by the Fort Delaware Society, the site was preserved as one of Delaware's first state parks.

DELAWARE PUBLIC ARCHIVES - 2026

WDS-278

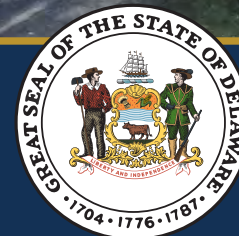
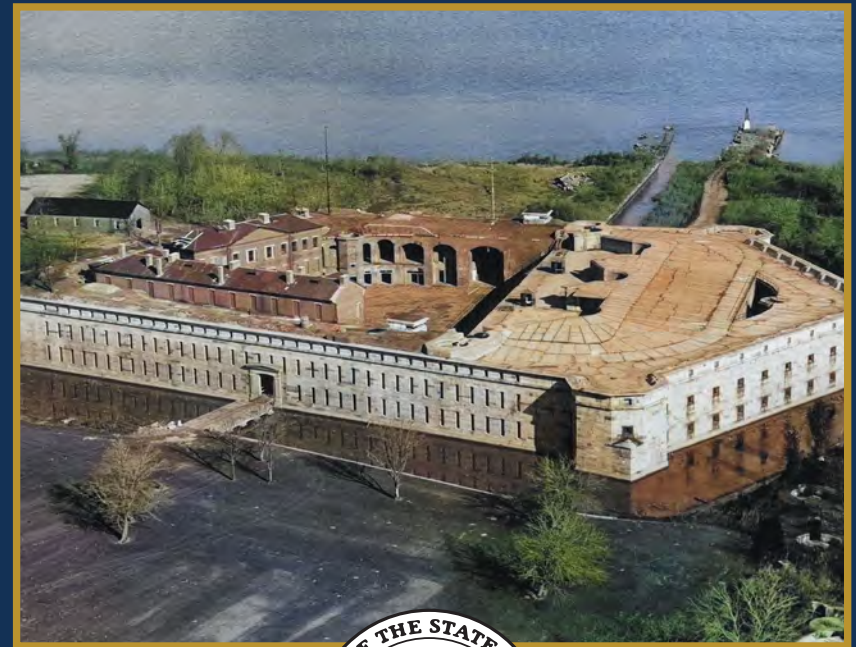


121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. North,
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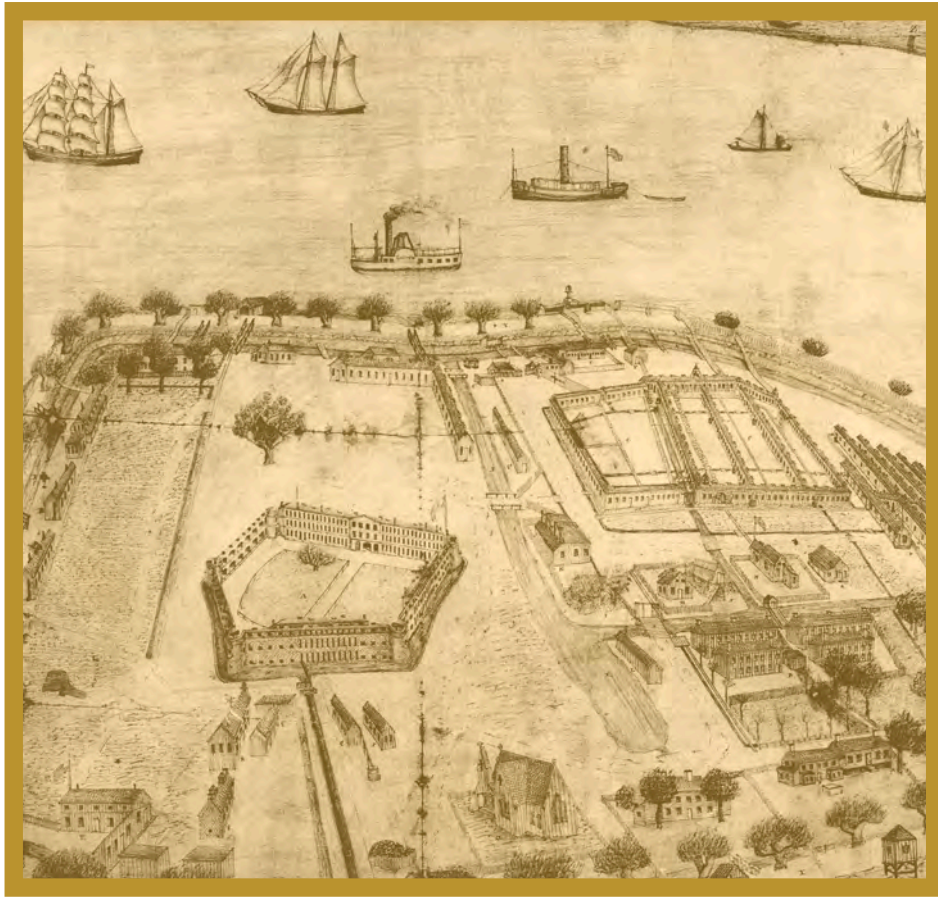
THE STATE OF DELAWARE HISTORICAL MARKERS PROGRAM

Fort Delaware Historical Marker Unveiling



SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026
9:30 A.M.

Fort Delaware State Park
55 Clinton Street, Delaware City, DE 19706



LOUD NOISES WARNING

The 2nd Delaware Volunteer Infantry Regiment reenactors are a living history group portraying the Union Army's 2nd Delaware Infantry, often appearing at events like Dover Days and Fort Delaware P.O.W. weekends. They demonstrate 19th-century military life, including drills, firing, and camp cooking. In addition to presenting colors, **they will be performing a firing volley at the drop of the marker cover prior to reading the text.**

Front: Aerial view of Fort Delaware, with the New Jersey shore in the distance, before June 1962. (Photo digitally enhanced)
Resource ID: 1306-00-00_3041 ap

Above: 1864 sketch of Fort Delaware and Pea Patch Island by Max Neugas.
Resource ID: 1325-003-036_04553n

Historical Marker Unveiling Fort Delaware

(NCC-256)

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026, 9:30 A.M.



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Paul H. Johnson, Sr.

Delaware City Mayor

Maegan Peterman

Delaware Public Archives Director and State Archivist

REMARKS

Gregory Patterson

*Department of Natural Resources &
Environmental Control Secretary*

Mitch Cummings

Fort Delaware Society President

Nicole Poore

Delaware State Senator

Governor Matt Meyer

UNVEILING / FIRING VOLLEY