

Plan of a Battery of Seven Guns.

for the defence of Christ. Creek -

Curtain - 100 feet in Front

Flank of Bastion. 30 feet

Face of Bastion. 50 feet.

Width on Terre plain 18 feet & 2 feet Berme.

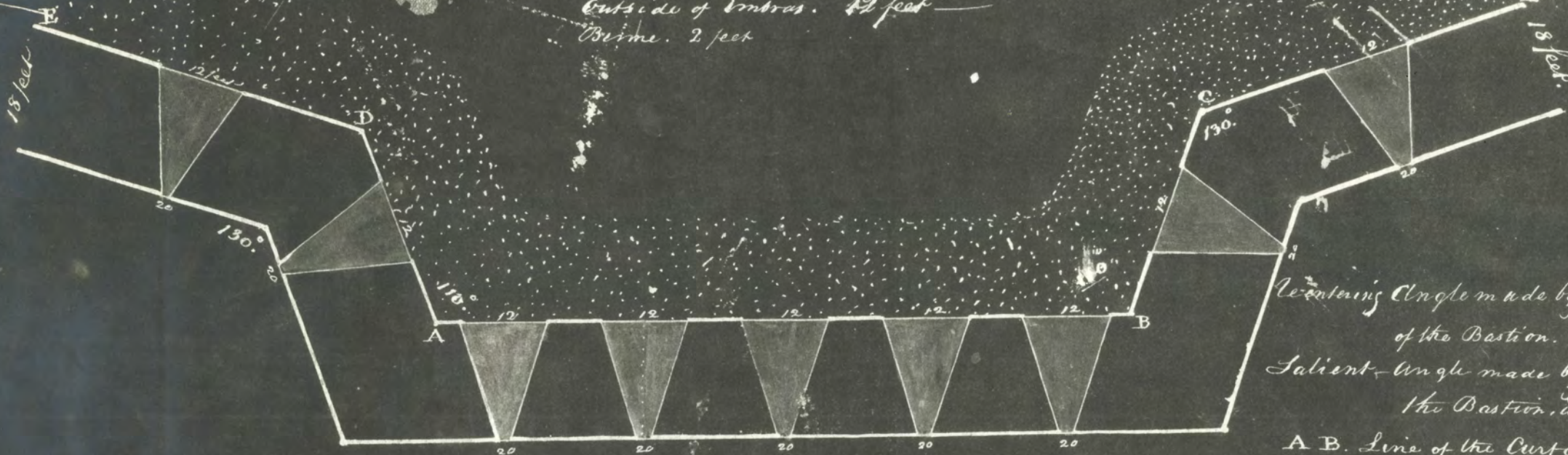
Width at Top . . . 15 feet

Height of Battery. - 7 1/2 feet above Terre plain

Embrasures inside 20 to 22 in

Outside of Embras. 42 feet

Berne. 2 feet



Re-entering Angle made by the line of the Flank
of the Bastion. 110 deg with the Curtain
Salient Angle made by the line of the Face of
the Bastion with the Flank - 130 deg

A B. Line of the Curtain.

B C. Line of Flank of Bastion. on the right

A D. Line of Flank of Bastion. on the left

D E. Line of Face of Bastion on the left

E F. Line of Flank of Bastion on the right

Wilmington Journal-Evening, April 24, 1931

Perpetuate Christina's Memory

TWO bills passed during the recent session of the Legislature are of historic importance. One changed the name of Northeast Boulevard to Governor Printz Boulevard. The other changed the name of Christiana River to Christina River. Both were sponsored by Rep. Frank R. Zebbley of Wilmington.

Governor Printz Boulevard, which is named in honor of Johan Printz, the first governor of what then was known as New Sweden, extends from Church Street bridge, Wilmington, to Claymont. It is a heavy-duty highway. New Sweden was the name given by Peter Minuit, leader of the first Swedish expedition to Delaware, to the land upon which the Swedes settled.

The Christina River, which, by virtue of the recent legislative enactment will bear the name first given it by civilized people, has had a variety of names. When the Swedish settlers landed in 1638, it was known by the Indians as Minquas.

Minuit, immediately upon his arrival, gave the river the name Elbe. Soon thereafter he changed it to Christina, in honor of the young queen of Sweden. A fortification, built soon after the Swedes' arrival, was given the name Fort Christina. When a town was started, the forerunner of Wilmington, it was called Christinaham.

It seems quite appropriate, therefore, recognizing the affection of the first settlers for their ruler, and their evident desire to perpetuate her memory, that the river should bear her name henceforth.

Many persons have always called the river "Christeen," or "Christine." This, perhaps, was the result in some instances, of a misunderstanding of the name. In most instances, however, it is a colloquial name, whose usage dates back for many generations.

This applies not only to the river, but also to the town of Christiana, which, very likely, never will be called anything but "Christeen" by very many persons.

March 22, 1937

To the Editor:

With the growing interest in the recovery of "The Rocks" and of the site of Fort Christina, built by the Swedes in 1638, and apropos of Mr. Robert H. Richards' excellent proposal that the State Highway Department secure the ground for a State Park, it is interesting to recall the feverish activity that went on there in the Summer of 1748 while the War of the Austrian Succession was in progress. France and Spain were allies in that war against England, and French and Spanish privateers, operating off the American coast, so frightened the good people of the borough of Wilmington that they hurriedly built a redoubt on the site of the old Swedish fort so as to ward off an expected attack on the town and the shipping on the Christina River.

A reference to the building of the redoubt is made in the diary of Peter Kalm, the Swedish naturalist, who arrived in this country in September of that year and who on October 4 visited the Reverend Peter Tranberg, pastor of "Old Swedes" Parish. In parentheses it may be remarked that Peter Kalm was sent to America by the Swedish Academy of Sciences to study American plant life and that his great teacher, Linnaeus, the Swedish father of modern botany, named the American mountain laurel Kalmia latifolia for Kalm as this species was first brought to the attention of Linnaeus when Kalm returned to Sweden. It may be added that the Reverend Mr. Tranberg was pastor of "Old Swedes" from 1742 to November 8, 1748, his remains being buried near the altar of the church. Several descendants of Mr. Tranberg still live in Delaware.

The following quotation from the new edition of Peter Kalm's Travels in North America recently prepared by Professor A. B. Benson of Yale University gives the information about the redoubt built in 1748.

"The redoubt upon the Christina River was erected this summer when it was known that the French and Spanish privateers intended to sail up the river and to attempt a landing. It stands, according to the late Rev. Mr. Tranberg, on the same spot where the Swedes had built theirs. It is remarkable that on working in the ground this summer to make this redoubt, an old Swedish silver coin of Queen Christina's reign, not quite so big as a shilling, was found among some other things at the depth of a yard. Mr. Tranberg afterwards presented me with it. On one side were the arms of the house of Vasa with the inscription: 'CHRISTINA. D. G. DE. RE. SVE.', that is, Christina, by the grace of God, elected Queen of Sweden'; and near this, 'the year of our Lord 1633'. On the reverse were these words: 'MONETA NOVA REGNI SVEG.', or, a new coin of the kingdom of Sweden. At the same time a number of old iron tools, such as axes, shovels, and the like, were discovered. The redoubt that is now erected consists of bulwarks of planks with a rampart on the outside. Near it is the powder magazine in a

vault built of bricks. At the erection of this little fortification it was remarkable that the Quakers whose tenets reject even defensive war, were as busy as the other people in building it. For the fear of being every moment suddenly attacked by privateers conquered all other thoughts. Many of them scrupled to put their own hands to the work, but promoted it by supplies of money and by getting ready everything which was necessary."

In view of what was discovered on the site of Ft. Christina in 1748, it would seem desirable that careful excavations be made for further archaeological finds should the property be made into a State Park.

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