

Selected Historical Maps and Plans  
Alcatraz Island

S E L E C T E D H I S T O R I C M A P S A N D P L A N S  
A L C A T R A Z I S L A N D

Map

- 1 Survey of Isla de los Alcatrazes, 1847
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- 10 1890 Batteries for Alcatraz (Endicott)
- 11 Alcatraz Island, 1894-1904
- 12 Alcatraz Island, 1909
- 13 Alcatraz Island, 1910
- 14 Military Prison, 1910
- 15 Alcatraz Island, 1933

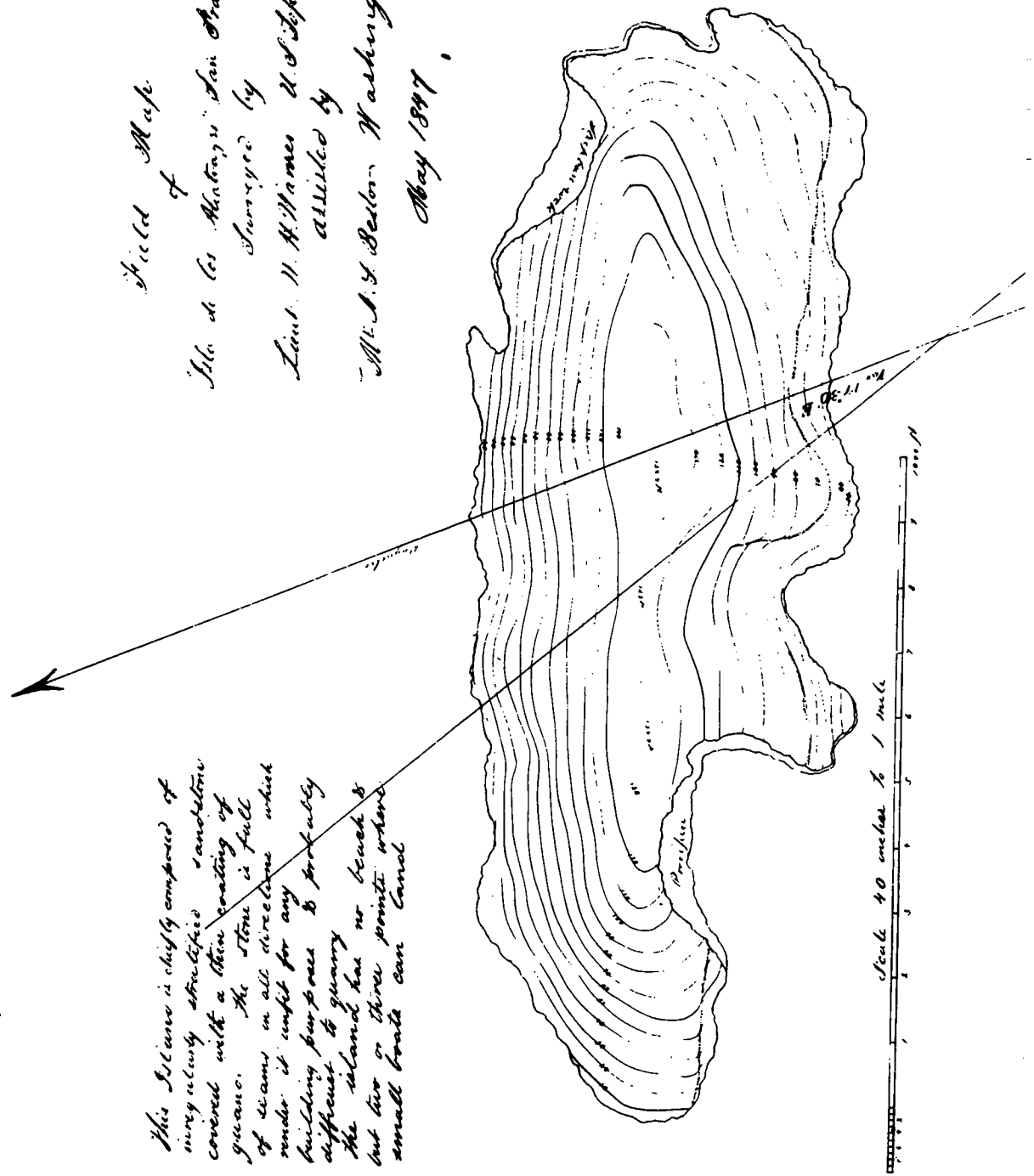
Copy - Made in Eng'g Dept. Nov. 20, 1879.  
from the original on file in R. & H. S. L.

A true copy  
from H. S. L.  
Eng'g Dept.

Drawer 95.  
Sheet 107.

This Island is chiefly composed of  
very heavy stratified sandstone  
covered with a thin coating of  
gravel. The stone is full  
of seams in all directions which  
renders it unfit for any  
building purposes & probably  
difficult to quarry  
The island has no beach &  
but two or three points where  
small boats can land

Field Map  
Isle de los Matanzas, San Francisco Harbor,  
Surveyed by  
Lieut. H. H. Warner U. S. Topog. Engrs  
Assisted by  
W. A. S. Boston Washington, D.C.  
May 1847.



Scale 40 miles to 1 inch.

(10) H. S. L.  
1879

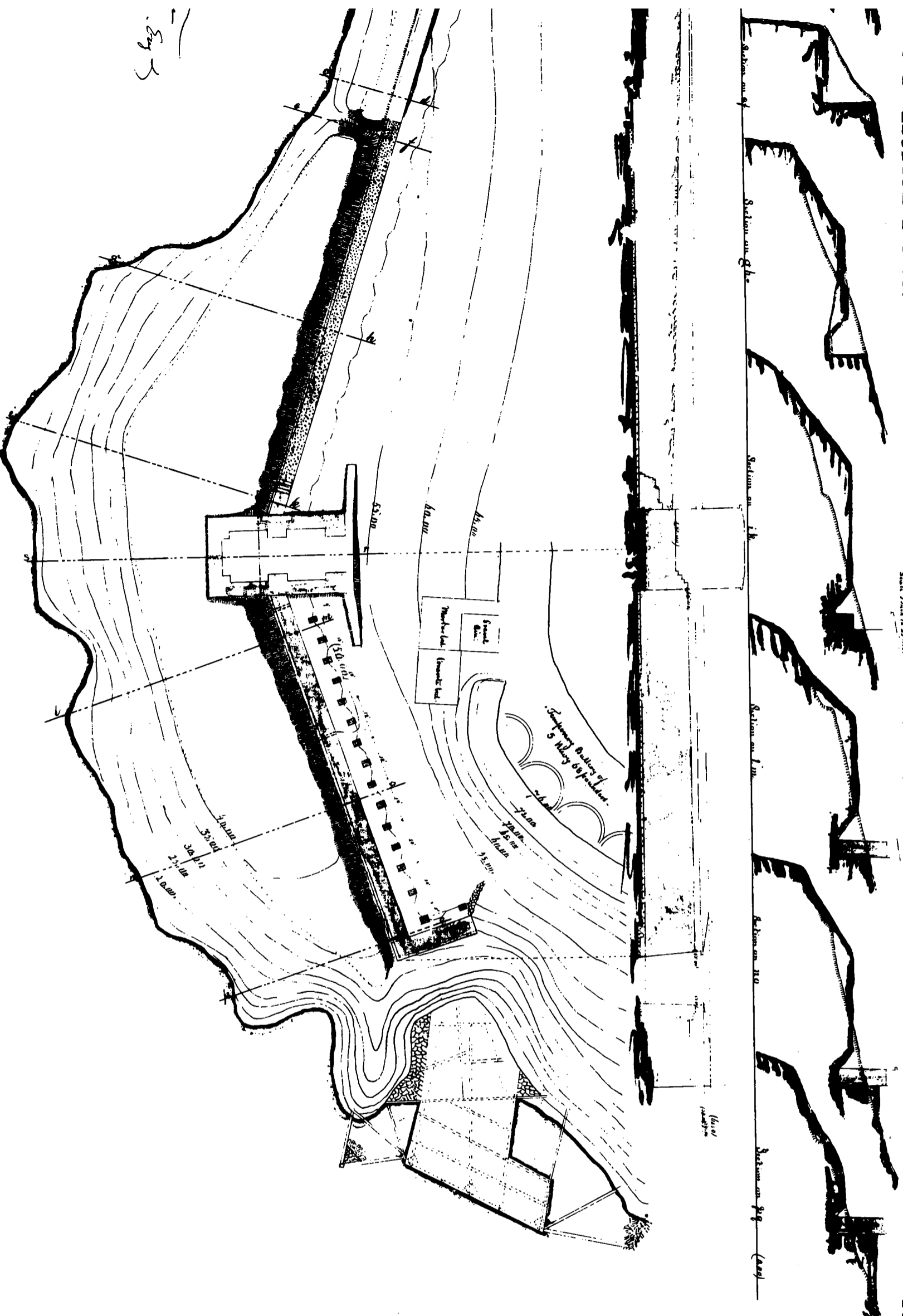
Map 2 - South Battery, 1854

The plan, elevations, and sections were drawn by Lt. Frederick Prime. A temporary wharf for the unloading of construction materials is shown, as well as a temporary battery composed of navy 68-pounders. Sections "lm" and "no" show the completed 24-foot-high scarp wall. Except for the coping this wall is believed to be intact today.

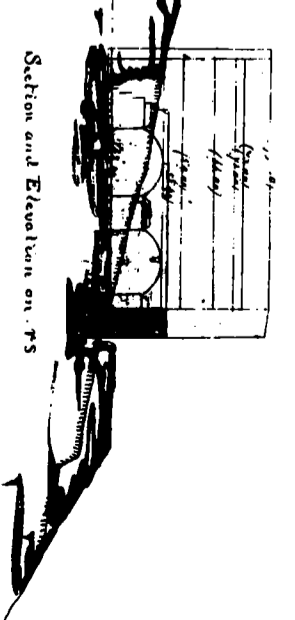
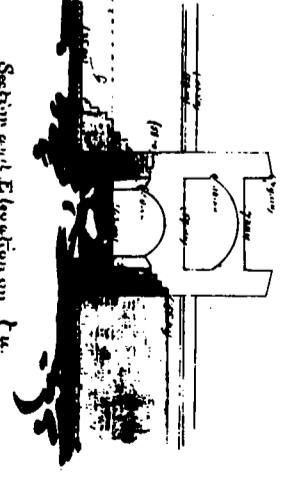
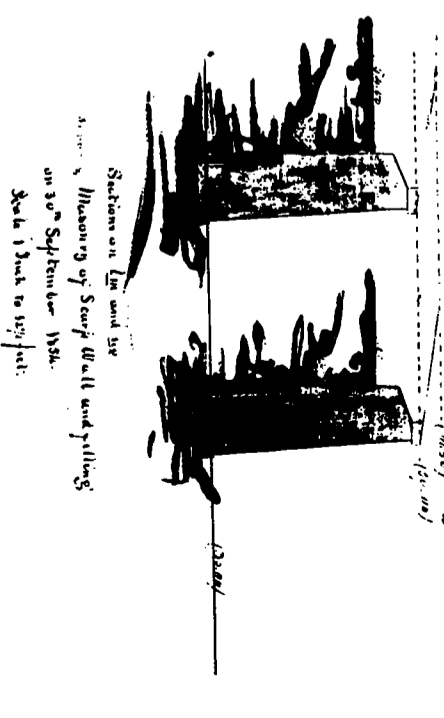
Located in the National Archives, Cartographic Archives Division, Record Group 77, Fortifications File, Drawer 95-11

# ISCO HARBOUR.

Sections showing amount of Work done up to 1<sup>st</sup> September.



# ALCATRACES ISLAND.



Plan, Elevation & Sections of South Battery

on Alcatrazes Island

Showing amount of work done up to the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1854.

Drawn under direction of Major Rowan

by Robert Thomas

Engineer 344 Oct 28 1854

Received with Major Rowan's Letter of 29<sup>th</sup> April 1854 (C/1852)

95-11

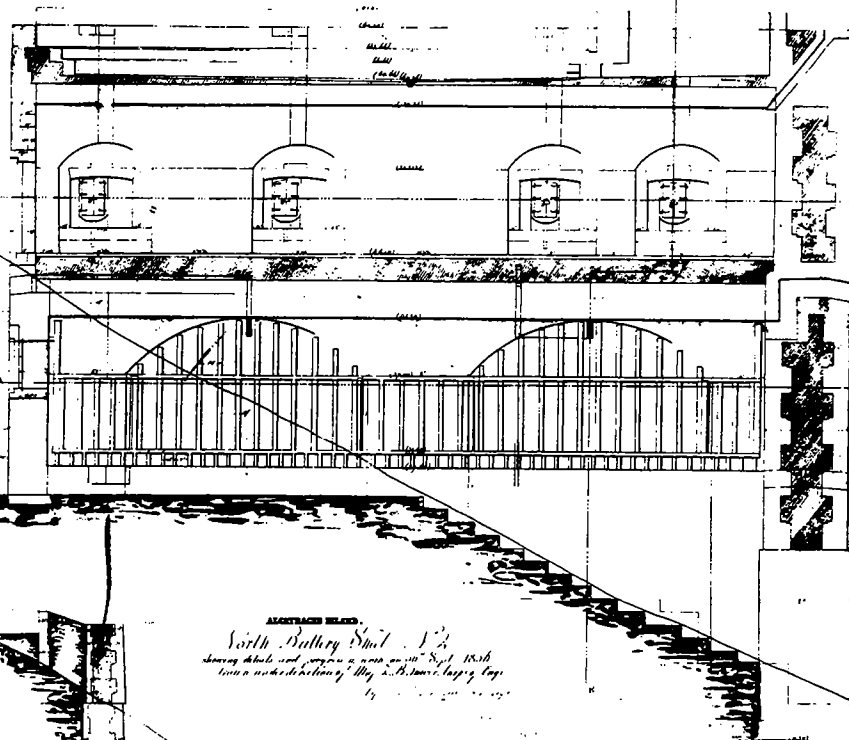
Map No. 3 - North Caponier, 1856

This caponier was built of concrete and brick, otherwise similar to the sandstone South Caponier. The lower floor was the powder magazine. Eight 24-pounder howitzers were mounted in the second floor to defend the guns of the battery. An 8-inch columbiad was mounted en barbette on top of the caponier where there was also an infantry parapet. The magazine portion of this caponier still stands.

Courtesy, National Archives, Cartographic Archives Division,  
Record Group 77, Fortifications File, Drawer 95-18

Drawer 95.  
Sheet 18.

Longitudinal Section and Elevation of Artillerymen



ARTILLERYMEN'S POSITION  
South Battery Street, 1 1/2  
showing details and arrangement of guns on 18" Sigsbee  
level in accordance with the design of the Artillerymen's position

Section and Elevation on 12  
North Street to 13th St

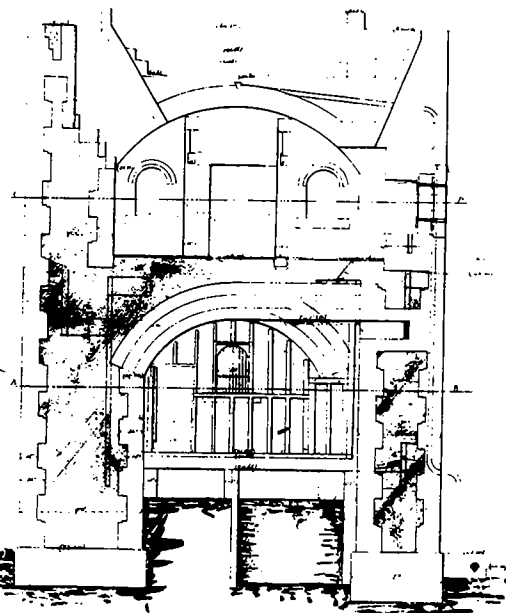
Section and Elevation  
on 14th Street from 13th St

Section and Elevation on 16th  
Street from 15th St

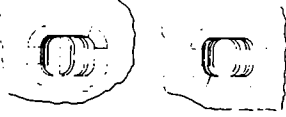
Section and Elevation on 18th  
Street from 17th St

Section and Elevation on 19th  
Street from 18th St

Section and Elevation on 20th  
Street from 19th St



Elevation of End of Structure  
on 18th Street



Notes as mentioned  
See 13th Street to 14th St

Notes on 14th  
Street from 13th St

Engine Department  
San Francisco, California

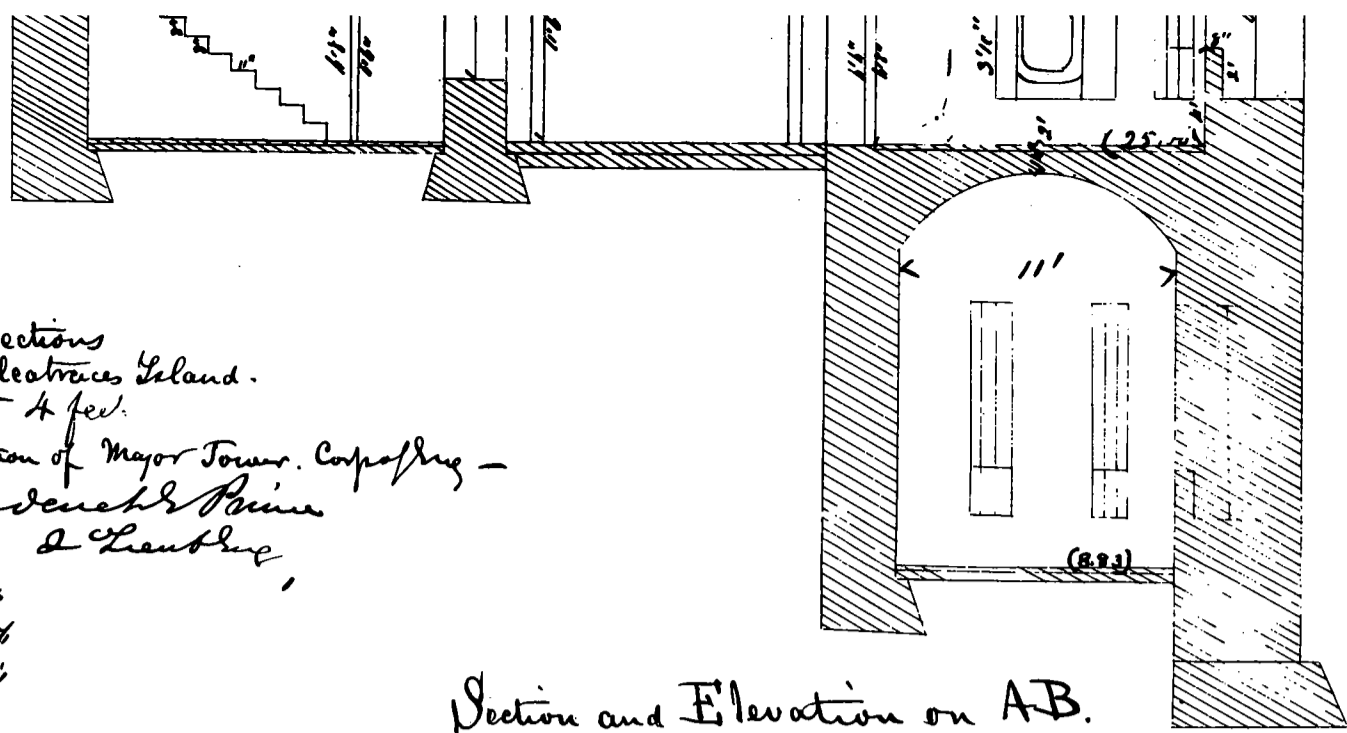
DONT PRINT  
MAP # 3

Map 4 - Guardhouse, 1856

This defensive guardhouse, constructed in a manner similar to the caponiers was to be armed with three 24-pounder howitzers. With the establishment of a general prison on the island in 1861, this guardhouse became the focus of the first prison on Alcatraz. Its howitzers never were mounted. The moat may still be found under the roadway today.

National Archives, Cartographic Archives Division, Record Group 77, Fortifications File, Drawer 95-15

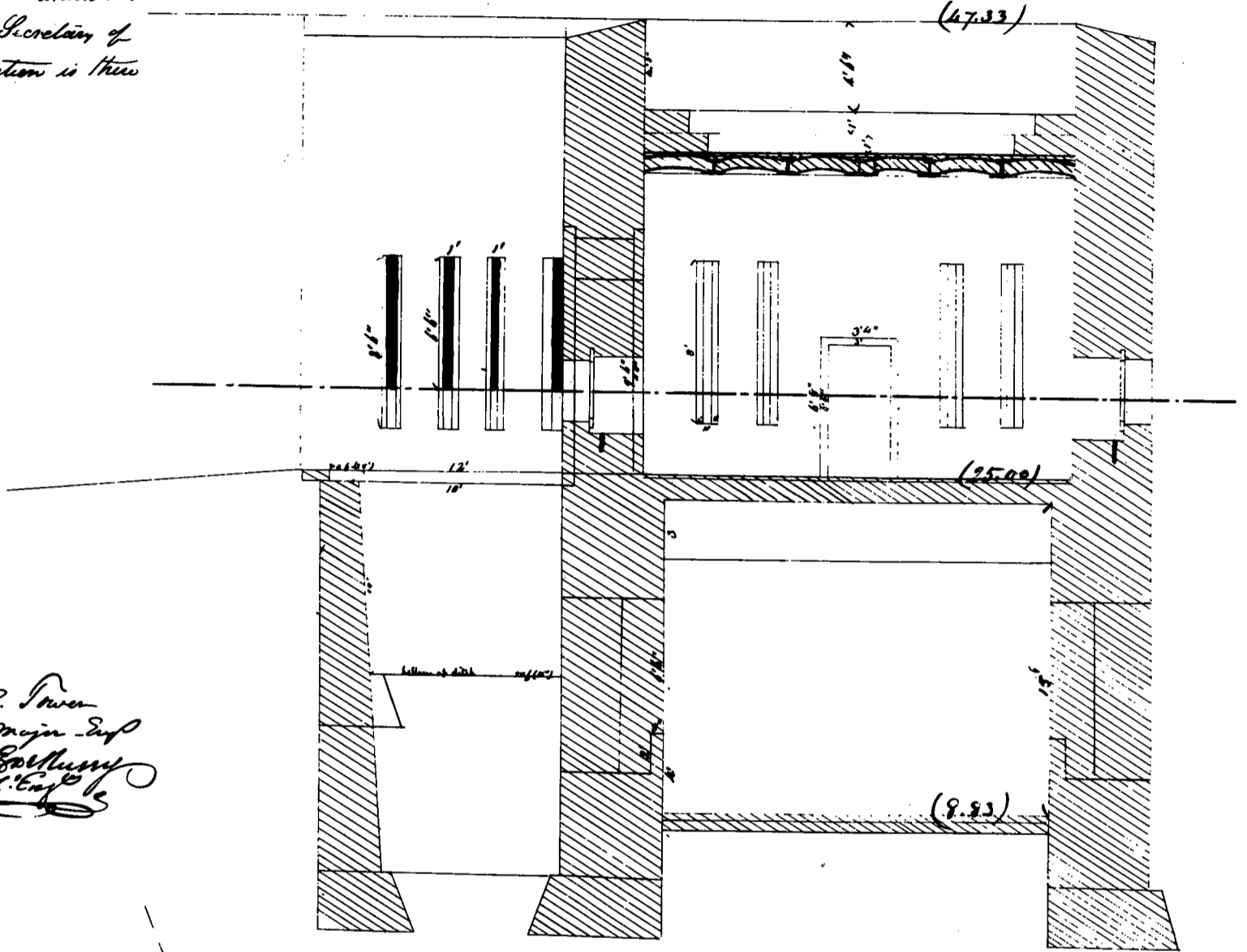




Plan and Sections  
of Guard House at Alcatraz Island.  
Scale 1" to 4 feet.  
Drawn under direction of Major Tower, Corps of Eng -  
by Frederick Palmer  
& Leabing,

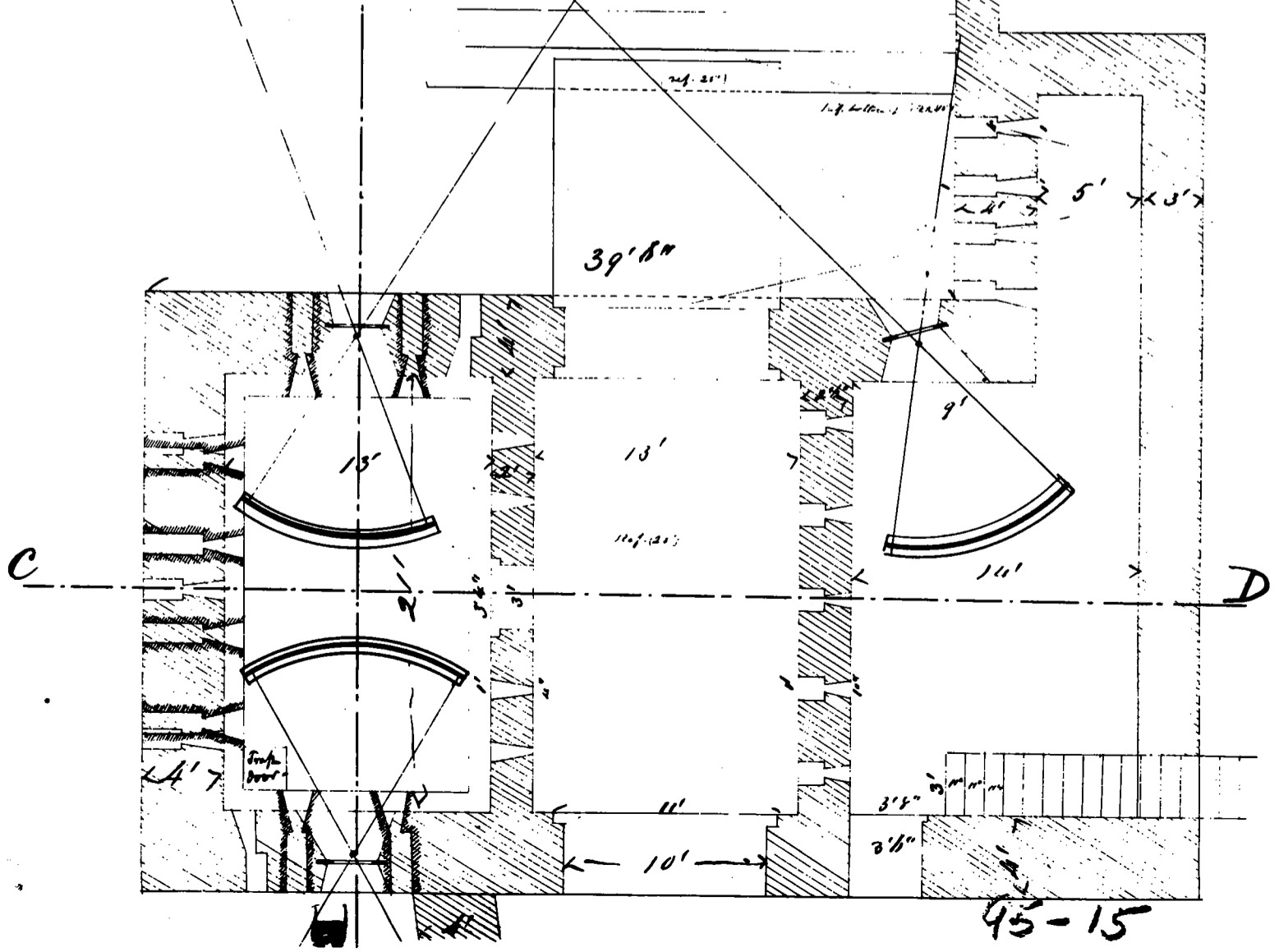
Engineer  
May 17/56  
Record with Col. De Russy's  
letter of April 19/56  
(B 6810) - which has  
been before the Secretary of  
War & his action is there  
on endorsed

Section and Elevation on AB.



Lt. B. Tower  
Maj. Major Eng  
F. B. Leabing  
L. J. De Russy

Plan



95-15

Map 5 - The Citadel, or Defensive Barracks, 1859

The engineers believed that this stout structure was capable of resisting the shot and shell of the day. No guns were mounted inside the building; it was to be defended by infantry only, should an enemy land on the island. Note the iron shutters for the musket-slit windows and the ornate iron fence that surrounded the dry moat. The underground cisterns shown at the bottom of the sheet were later greatly enlarged in volume.

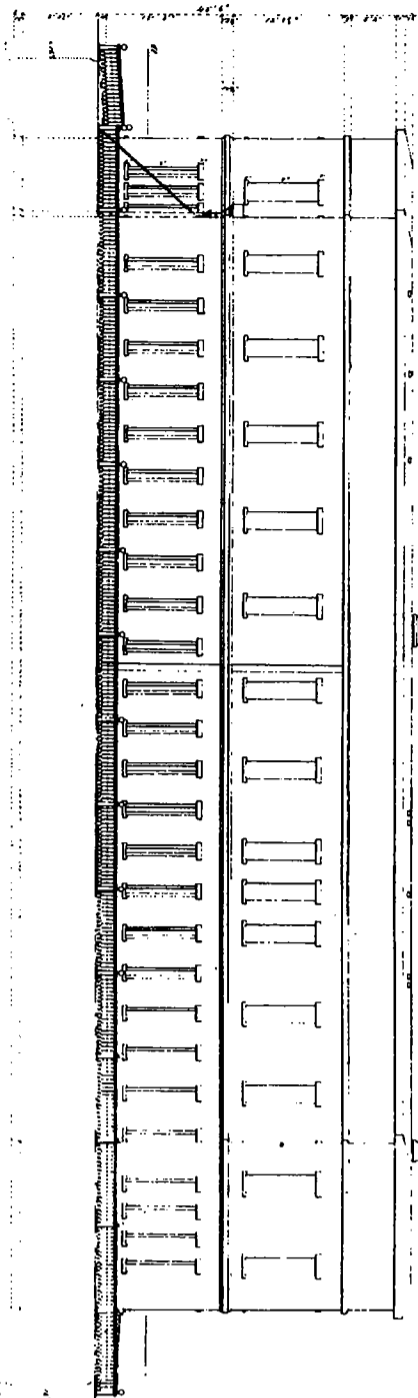
National Archives, Cartographic Archives Division, Record Group 77, Fortifications File, Drawer 95-15

**ALCATRACES ISLAND**

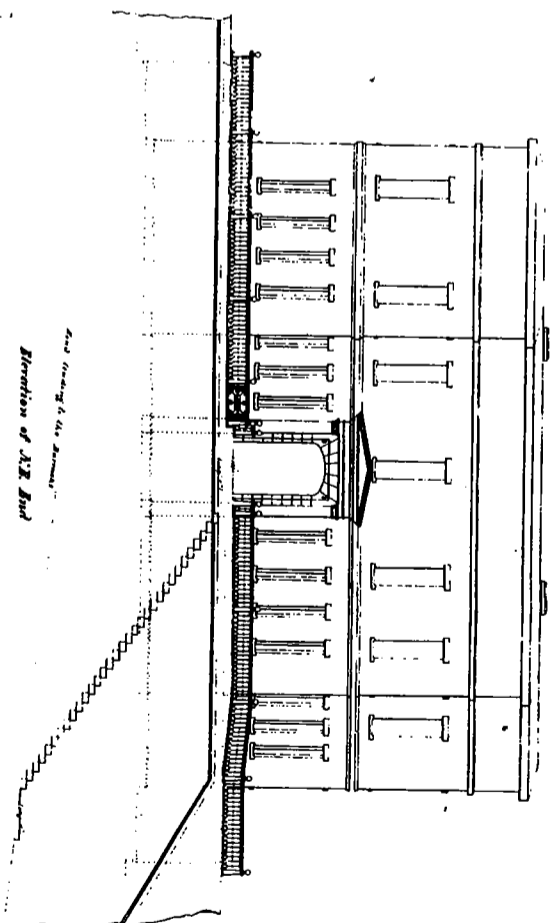
Drawer 95.  
Sheet 29.

PLAN SECTIONS and ELEVATIONS  
of  
**Defensive Barracks**  
Sept. 17, 1859.  
T. B. MERRISON  
172-172 1/2 St. N. Y.

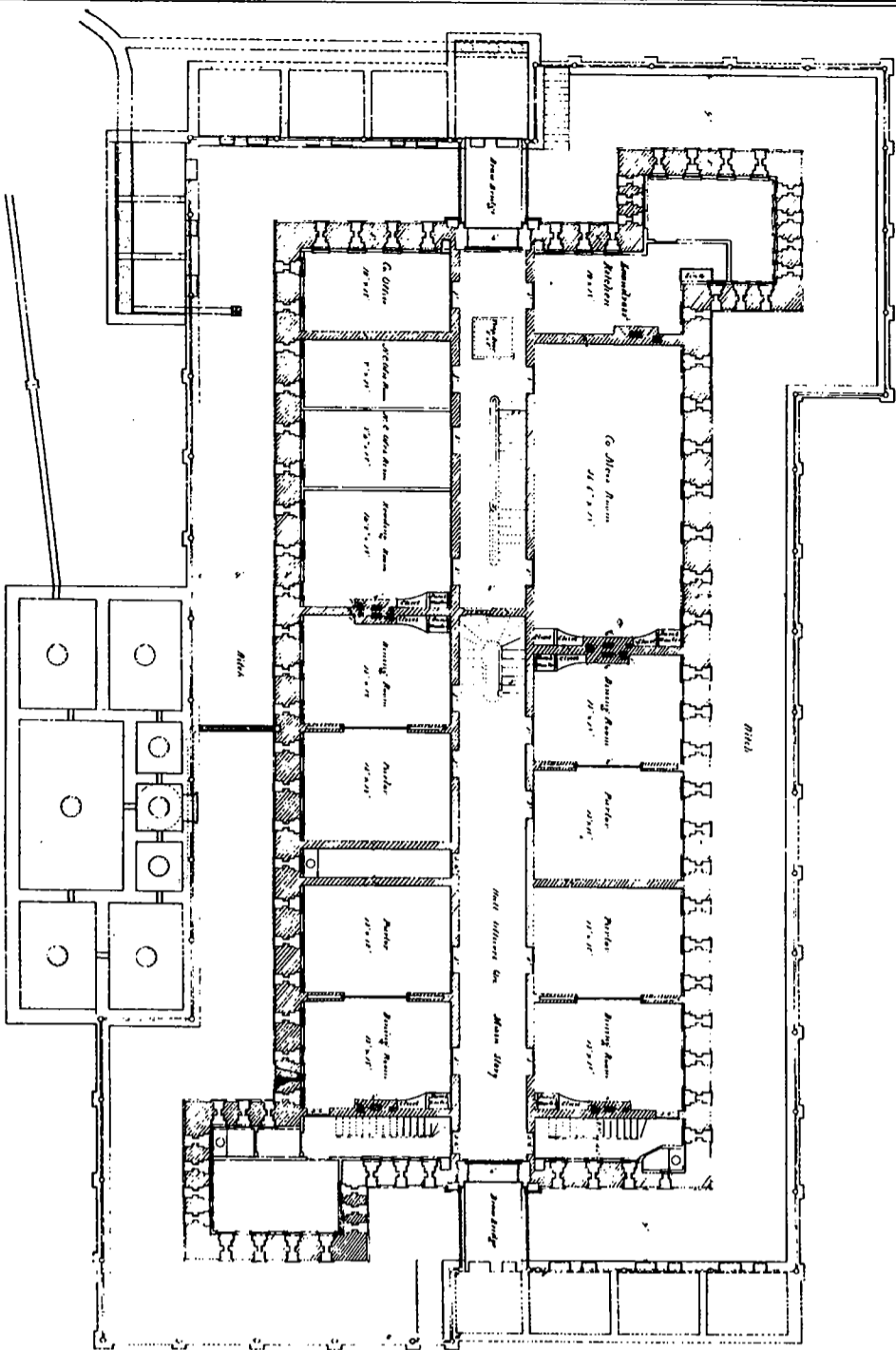
Engineer's Department  
October 29, 1859  
Revised with final alterations  
After Oct 4, 1859 (A. B. 524)



Elevation S.E. Side

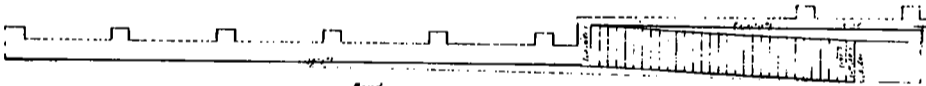


Elevation S.W. Side

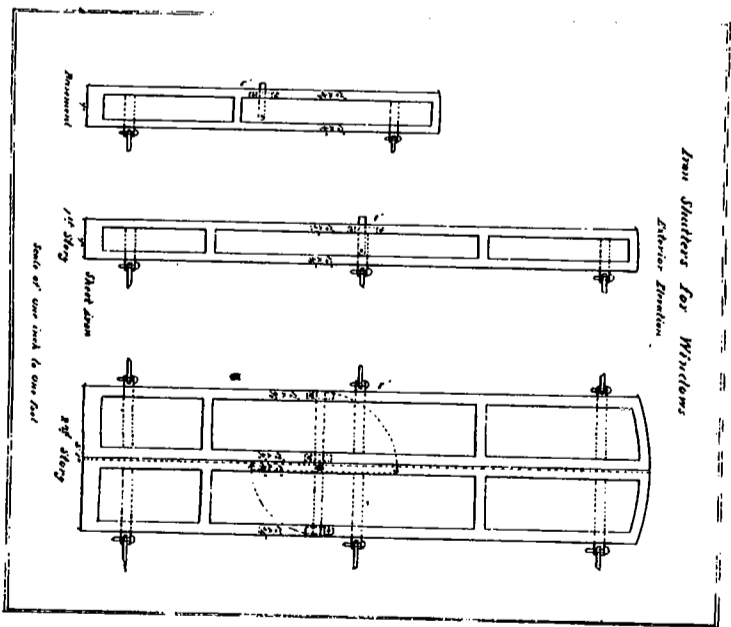


MAP # 5  
1/2 inch scale

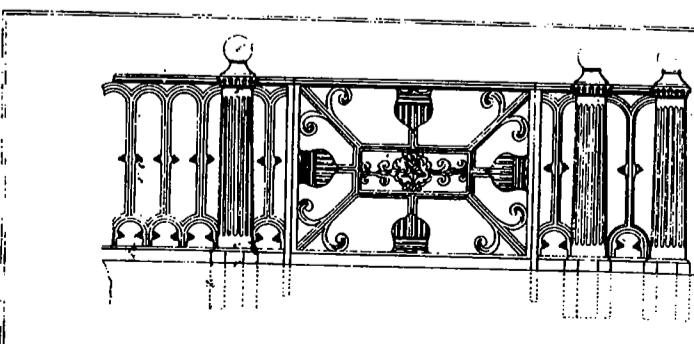
Plan and sections on this sheet  
Scale 1/2 inch to one foot



Roof



Iron Shutters for Windows  
Various Positions



Elevation of portion of Iron Fence  
Scale of one inch to one foot

Main entrance to Barracks  
Scale of one inch to one foot

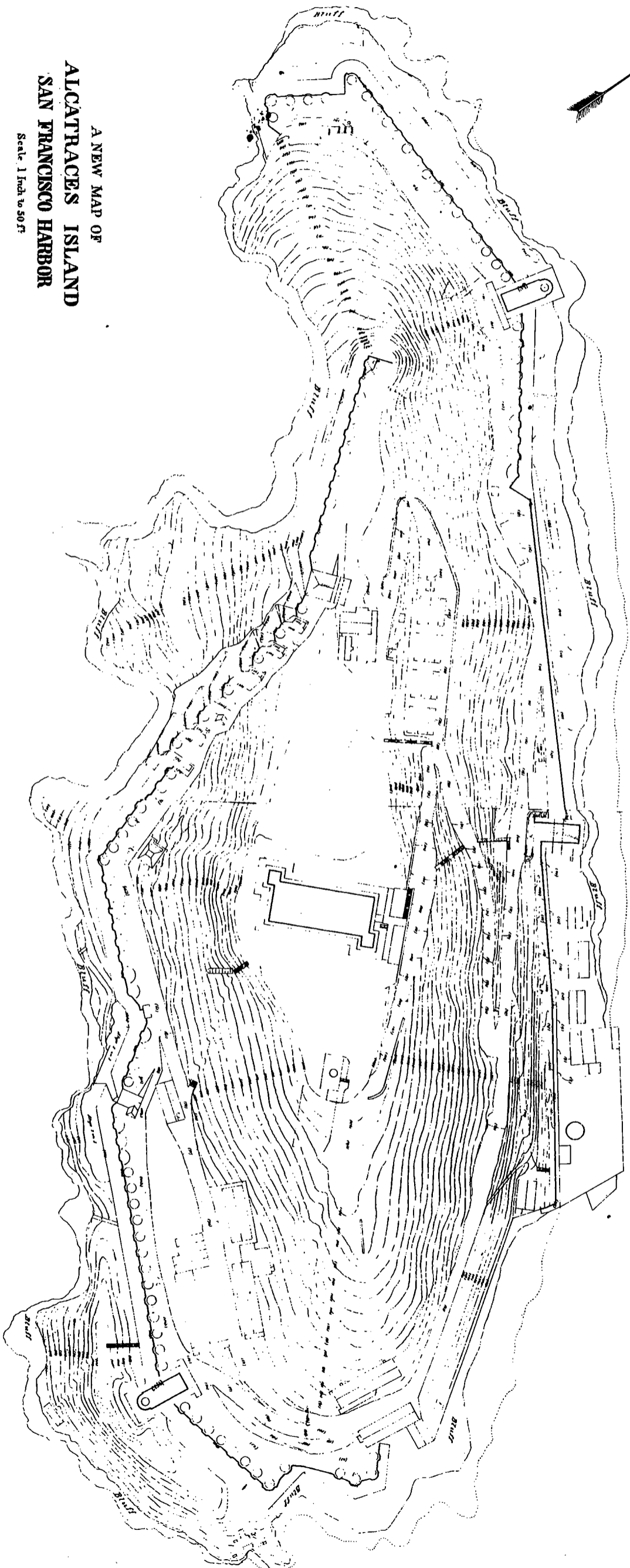
95-29

Map 6 - Alcatraz Fortifications, 1863

The maps show the state of the fortifications on Alcatraz in 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, and at a time when Confederate raiders were reported to be in the Pacific. At the northwest end of Battery Mansfield someone has already penciled in the location of a 15-inch Rodman which would soon be mounted.

National Archives, Cartographic Archives Division, Record Group 77, Fortifications File, Drawer 95-43

Drawer 95.  
Sheet 43.



A NEW MAP OF  
ALCATRACES ISLAND  
SAN FRANCISCO HARBOR

Scale 1 Inch to 50 ft.

Respectfully forwarded to Chief Engineer  
with letter of this date  
San Francisco California  
February 12<sup>th</sup> 1862

*Copy of this Chart sent by  
letter to the Chief Engineer  
of the U.S. Navy  
San Francisco  
February 12<sup>th</sup> 1862.*

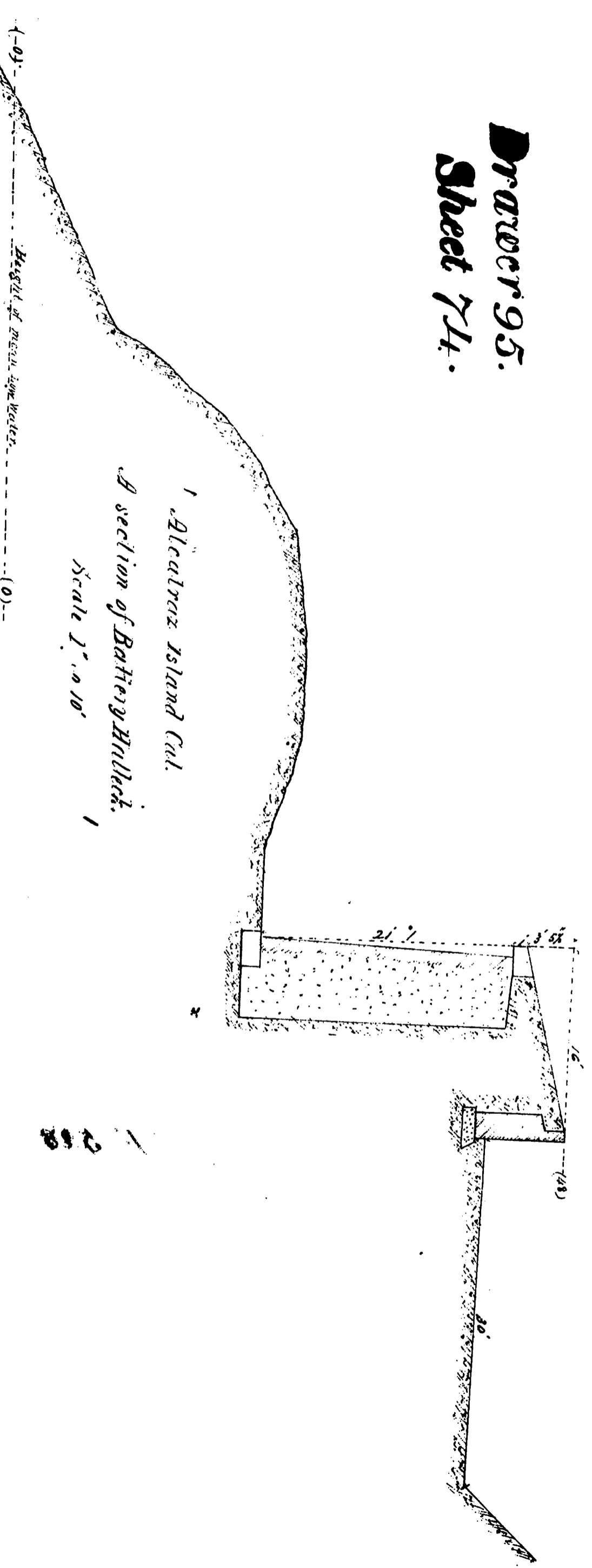
MAP # 6  
1861/54

Map 7 - Scarp Wall, North Battery (Battery Halleck), 1865

This brick and concrete scarp wall still stands under the model industries building. This report recommends that a gun emplacement for a 15-inch Rodman be reconstructed at North Battery.

National Archives, Record Group 77, Fortifications File,  
Drawer 95-74

**Drawer 95.**  
**Sheet 74.**



Respectfully forwarded to the Chief  
Engineer with a letter of this date.

Done in presence of  
April 8<sup>th</sup> 1865.

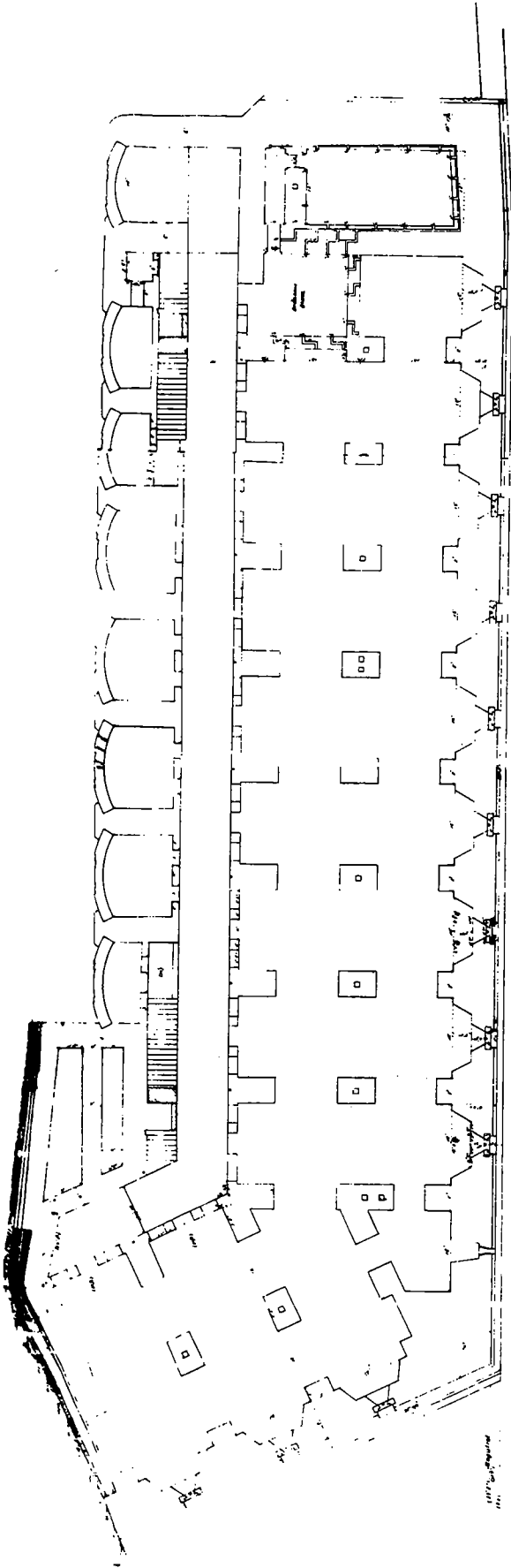
Wm. H. Burt  
Capt. of Engineers.

Map 8 - Bombproof (or casemated) Barracks, 1866

Only the first tier of the barracks was constructed, but both tiers of the rear area rooms were finished. In later years the passageway behind the barracks was called Chinatown. The casemates of the lower tier never had their guns mounted; they served several functions over the years, mostly as store-rooms, mess halls, and kitchens. The magazine at the northwest end of the building served as the first storage area in San Francisco for submarine mines and as one of the first mining casemates.

National Archives, Cartographic Archives Division, Record Group 77, Fortifications File, Drawer 95-87



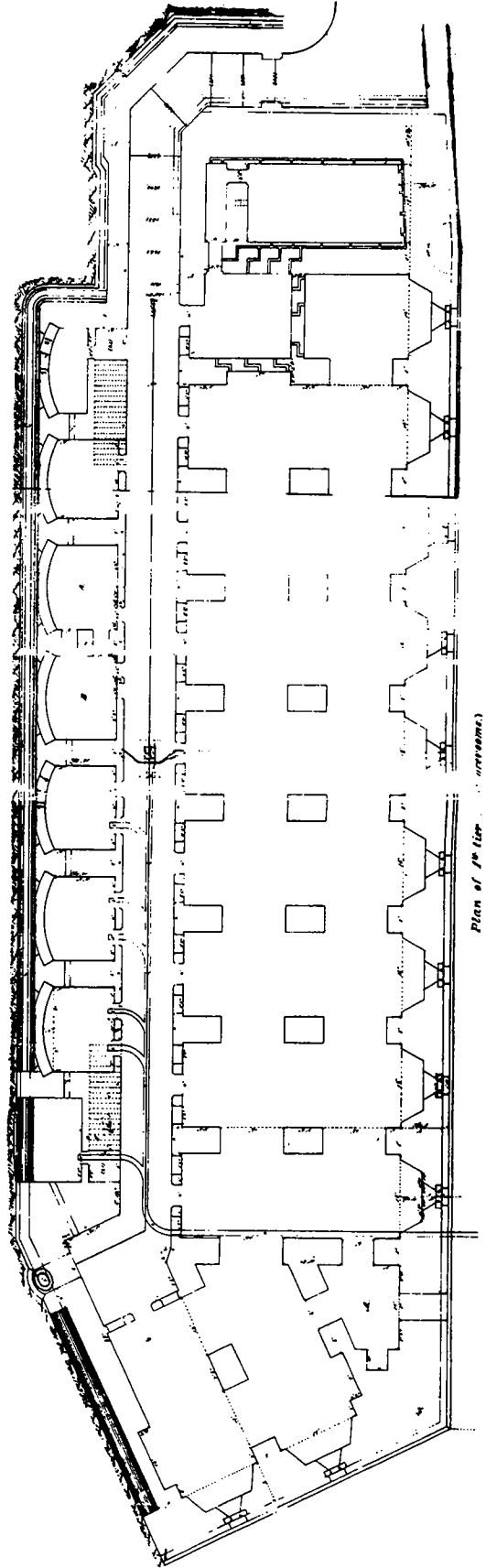


Plan of 3<sup>rd</sup> tier - (Barrack)

Alcatraz Island,  
San Francisco Harbor  
California.

Bomb proof Barrack.

Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"  
Sheet No. 2  
San Francisco Cal. Aug. 4, 1916.  
L. S. S. (Landscape Architect)

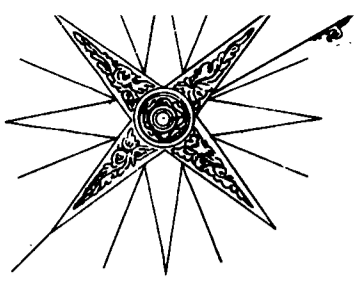


Plan of 2<sup>nd</sup> tier - (Barrack)

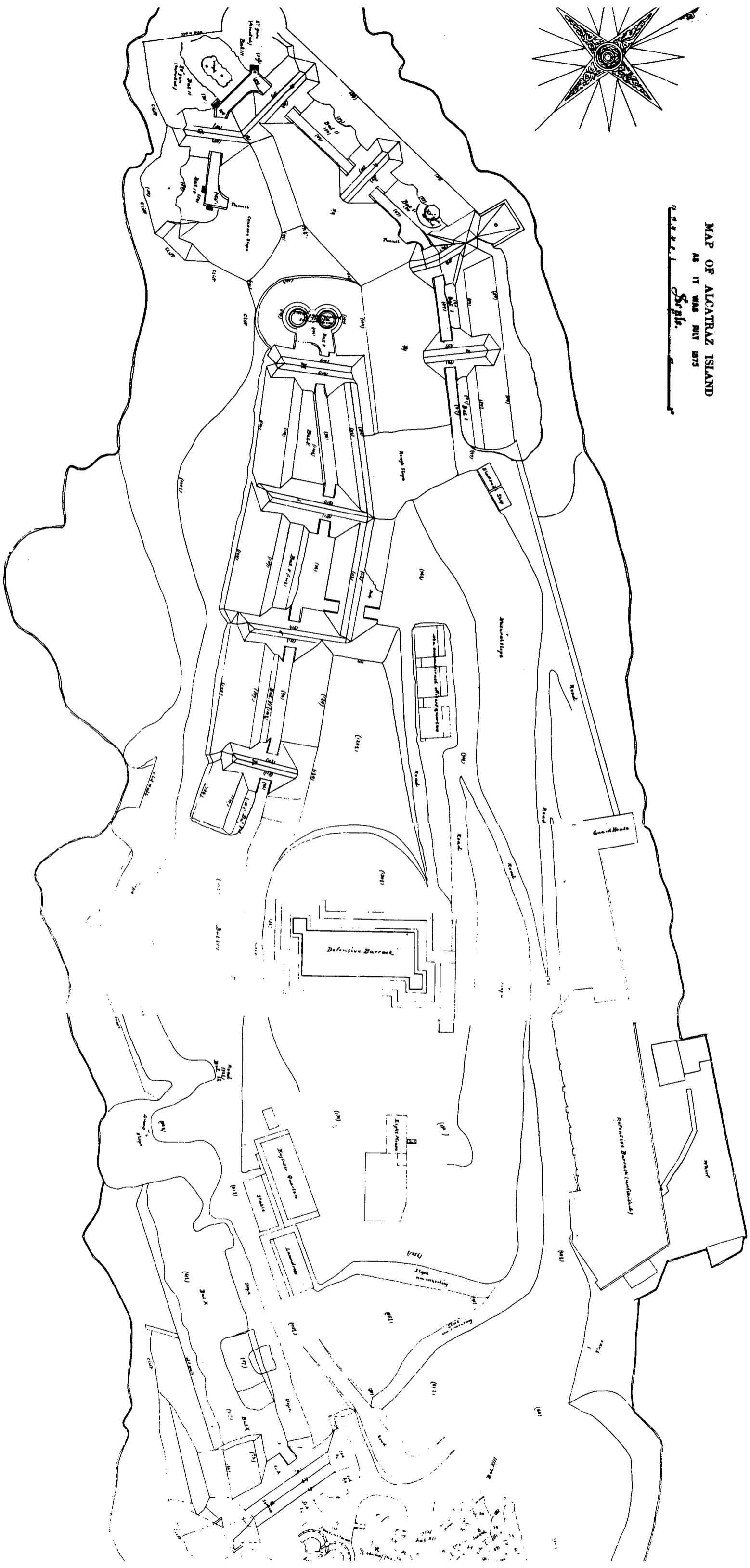
## Map 9 - Post-Civil War Fortifications

These fortifications were constructed by Col. George Mendell. Plans called for over thirty 15-inch Rodmans. As of 1875, five of these big guns were in place. Only a few more were mounted before Congress stopped appropriations for the construction of fortifications.

National Archives, Cartographic Archives Division, Record Group 77, Fortifications File, Drawer 95-108.



MAP OF ALCATRAZ ISLAND  
AS IT WAS IN 1875  
*Sr. Gls.*



Map 10 - 1890 Batteries for Alcatraz (Endicott)

Modern Endicott-period batteries were planned for Alcatraz in 1890. Throughout the 1890s the engineers continued to think of Alcatraz as necessary to the defenses of San Francisco Bay, but early in the 20th century the island was dropped from the defense plans. Instead, it became the site of a permanent military prison.

National Archives, Cartographic Archives Division, Record Group 77, Fortifications File, Drawer 93-69-12

**SHEEP M. SAN FRANCISCO, HARBOR CAL.**

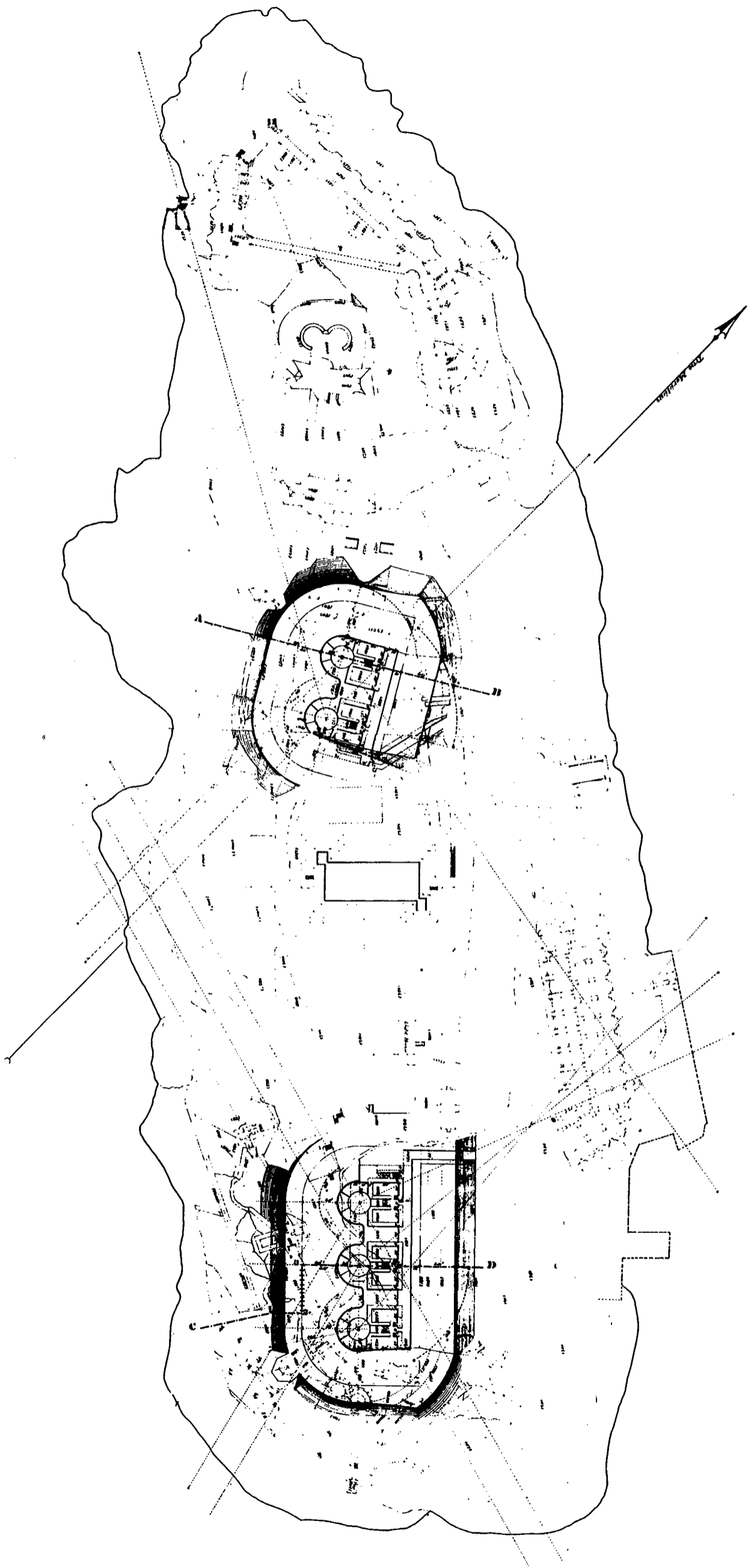
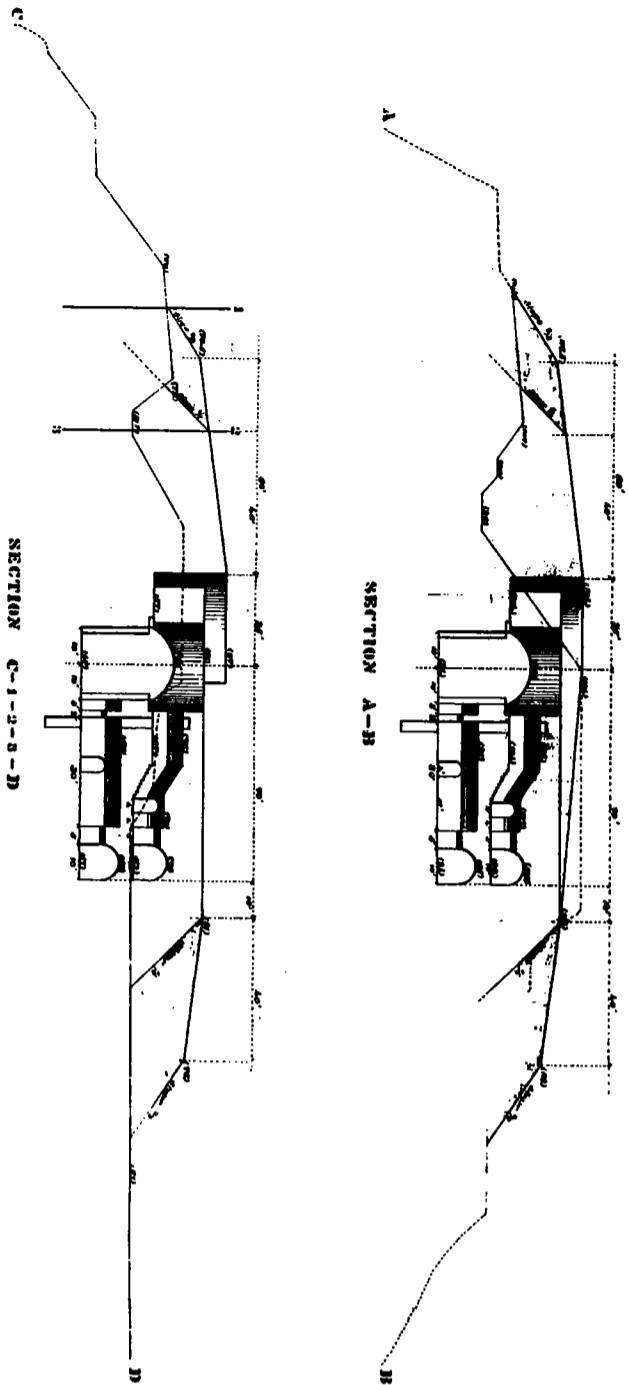
**PLAN AND SECTIONS OF NEW WORKS**

**ALCATRAZ ISLAND.**

PROPOSED BY  
**THE BOARD OF ENGINEERS.**

NEW YORK: 21, 1898.

Scale for Plan 1 in. = 50 FT.  
Scale for Sections 1 in. = 20 FT.



*Alcatraz Island: Showing the condition of the work in November 1898. -  
Legend for Plans: Existing work is shown in black. - The work to be done, shown with embankments  
and slopes in grey. - Proposed work shown in white. - Proposed work shown in black. - New masonry and new  
work shown in black. - Existing work and masonry shown in grey. - New masonry and new  
work shown in black. - Proposed work shown in white. - Proposed work shown in black.*

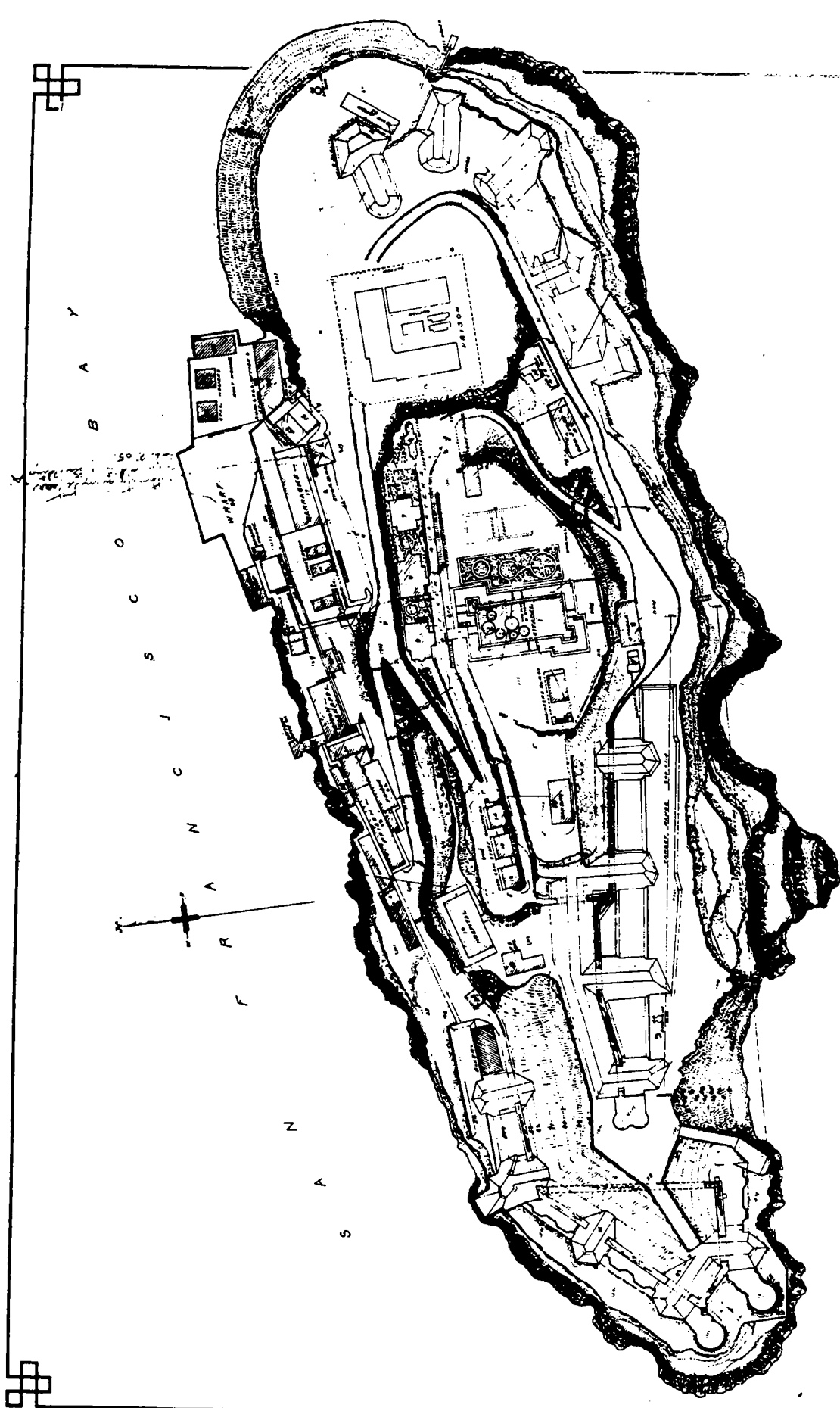
*The Board of Engineers.  
New York, Nov. 21, 1898.  
Submitted to the Chief of Engineers with report of the date.*

*Engineers:  
James A. B. Smith  
Henry D. Smith  
R. E. Sigsbee  
C. R. Smith  
C. F. Smith  
W. H. Smith  
C. R. Smith  
J. A. Smith  
W. H. Smith*

Map 11 - Alcatraz Island, 1894-1904

The expansion of the upper prison covers Battery 12 at the southeast end of the island. The batteries at the northwest end of the island are still in first-class condition. Note the target range for small arms firing.

National Archives, Cartographic Archives Division, Record Group 92, OQMG, General Record



ALCATRAZ ISLAND, CALIFORNIA.

SCALE  
 QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE.  
 JAN 1894.

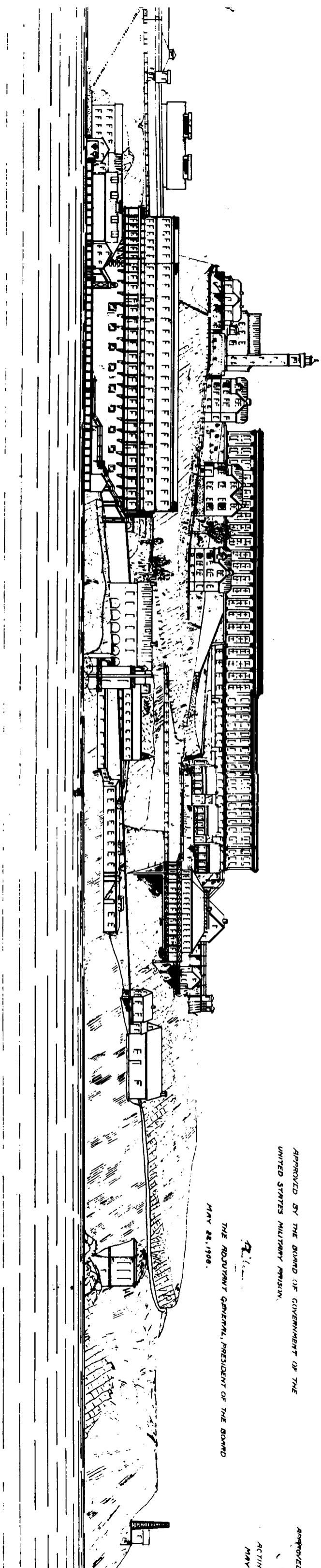
— FRESH WATER DRAIN.  
 - - - - - SEWER DRAIN.  
 - - - - - FIREWALL.  
 DO PATRONS UNDER GARDEN.  
 AND INTERNAL W.E. OF COURSE.

Map 12 - Alcatraz Island, 1909

This map shows the proposed military prison and the new lighthouse. Both the lower and the upper prisons are shown, as well as the magazine of the North Caponier.

National Archives, Cartographic Archives Division, Record Group 92, Blueprint File, Alcatraz





SKETCH OF ALCATRAZ ISLAND  
FROM THE NORTH EAST  
SHOWING PROPOSED MILITARY PRISON AND STO  
AND PROPOSED LIGHTHOUSE  
Major R. B. Turner, 8th Inf. U.S.A.  
Constructing Quarters  
Scale 1 in = 50 ft. 1/4 in

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNMENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES MILITARY PRISON.

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD  
MAY 28, 1900.

APPROVED  
ACTIN  
MAY

Map 13 - Alcatraz, 1910

This map shows all three prisons. The new power plant and shops complex destroyed part of the batteries at the northwest end of the island. Part of the barracks became officers' quarters.

National Archives, Cartographic Archives Division, Record Group 92, Blueprint File

