

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
- 2 South Battery, 1854
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- 10 1890 Batteries for Alcatraz (Endicott)
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- 12 Alcatraz Island, 1909
- 13 Alcatraz Island, 1910
- 14 Military Prison, 1910
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Copy - Made in Eng. Dept. Nov. 10, 1897.
from the original on file in R. & H. S. S.

2 true copies

Drawer 95.
Sheet 107.

~~From H. S. S.~~
May 1897.

Ad.

This Island is chiefly composed of
irregularly stratified sandstone
covered with a thin coating of
guano. 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.

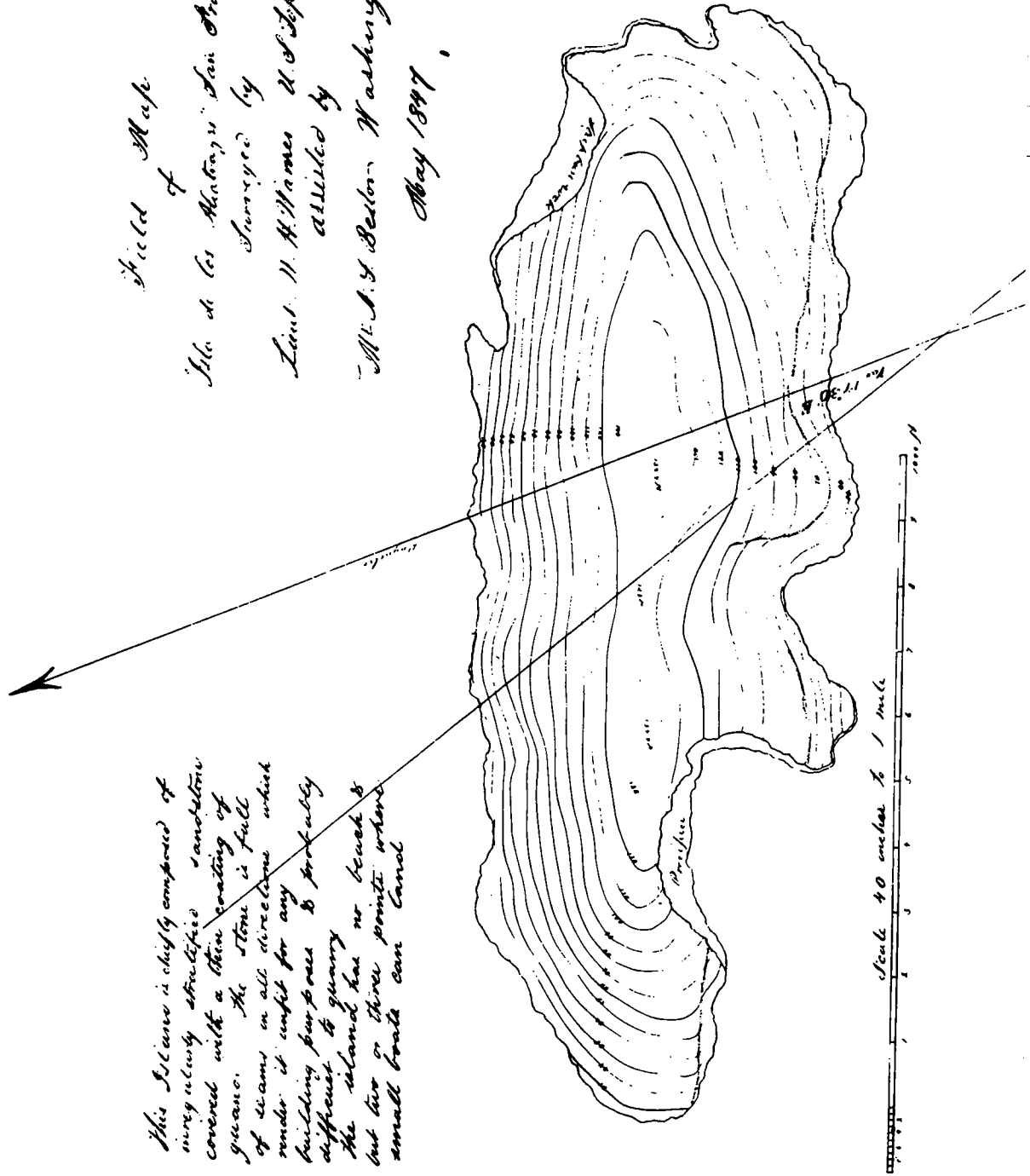
Field Map

Isla de las Matanzas San Francisco Harbor,
Surveyed by

Lieut. H. H. Warner U. S. Top. Eng. &
assisted by

W. A. S. Boston Washington D. C.

May 1897.



Scale 40 miles to 1 inch.

(10) H. S. S.
May 1897.

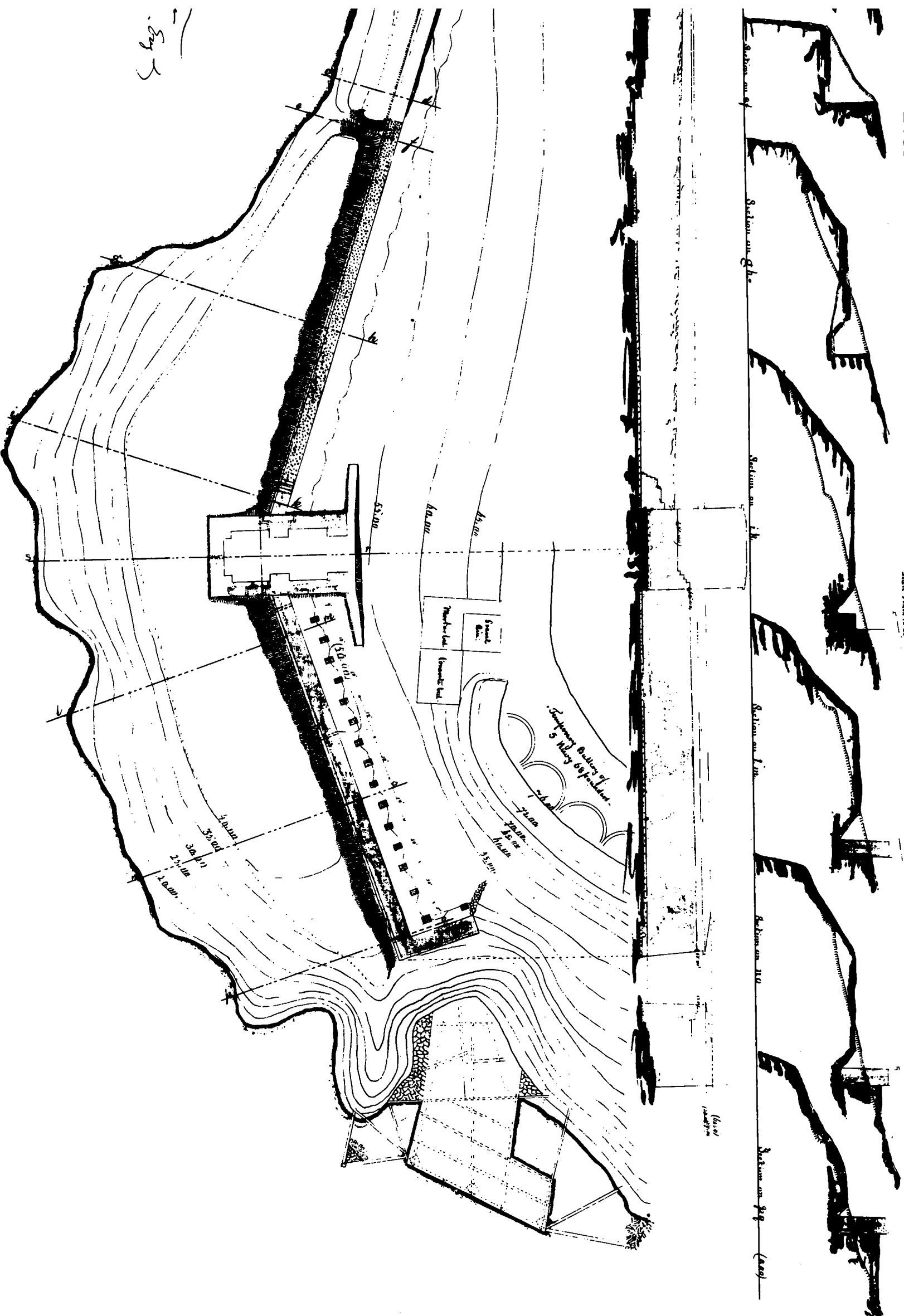
Map 2 - South Battery, 1854

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

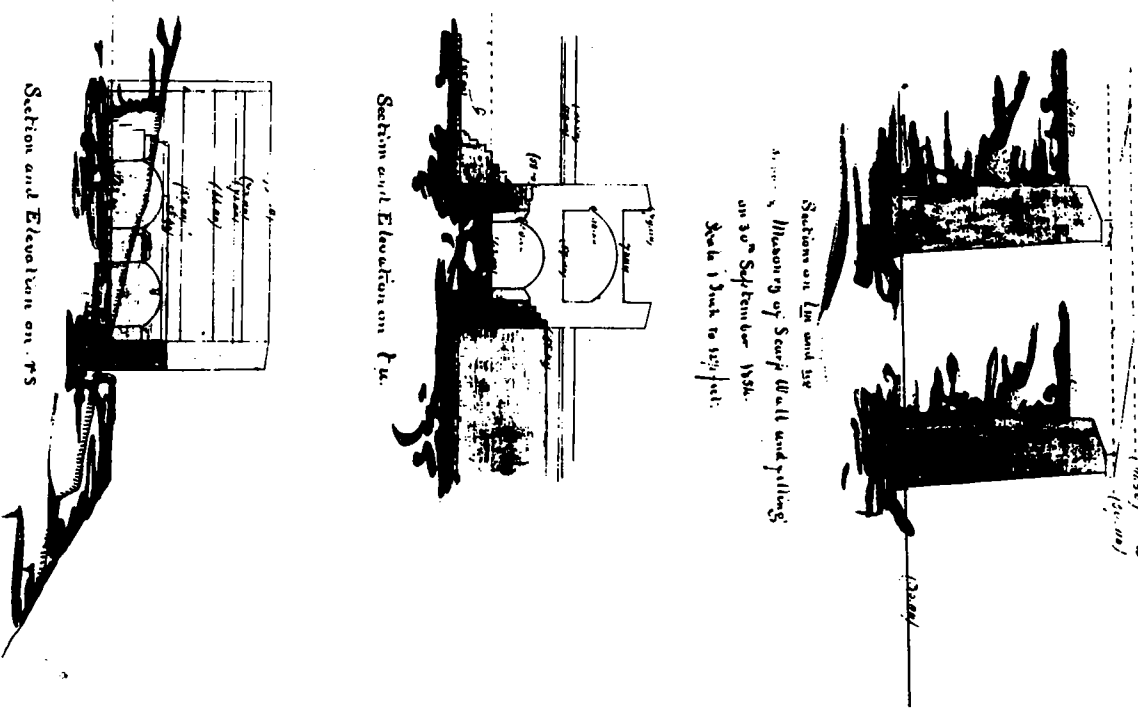
ISCO HARBOUR.

Sections showing amount of Work done up to 1st September



ALCATRACES ISLAND.

Sections on p. 10 and 11
Showing amount of Work done up to 1st September 1854.
Scale 1 inch to 100 feet.



Plan, Elevation & Sections of South Battery
on
Alcatrazes Island
Showing amount of work done up to the
1st September 1854.
Scale 1 inch to 100 feet.
Drawn under direction of Major. Foxworth
by Robert M. Brown
23 March 1855

Engineer. Alcatraz Oct. 25. 1854
Reviewed with Major General Allen &
24th Sept. 1854 (C. 1852)

95-11

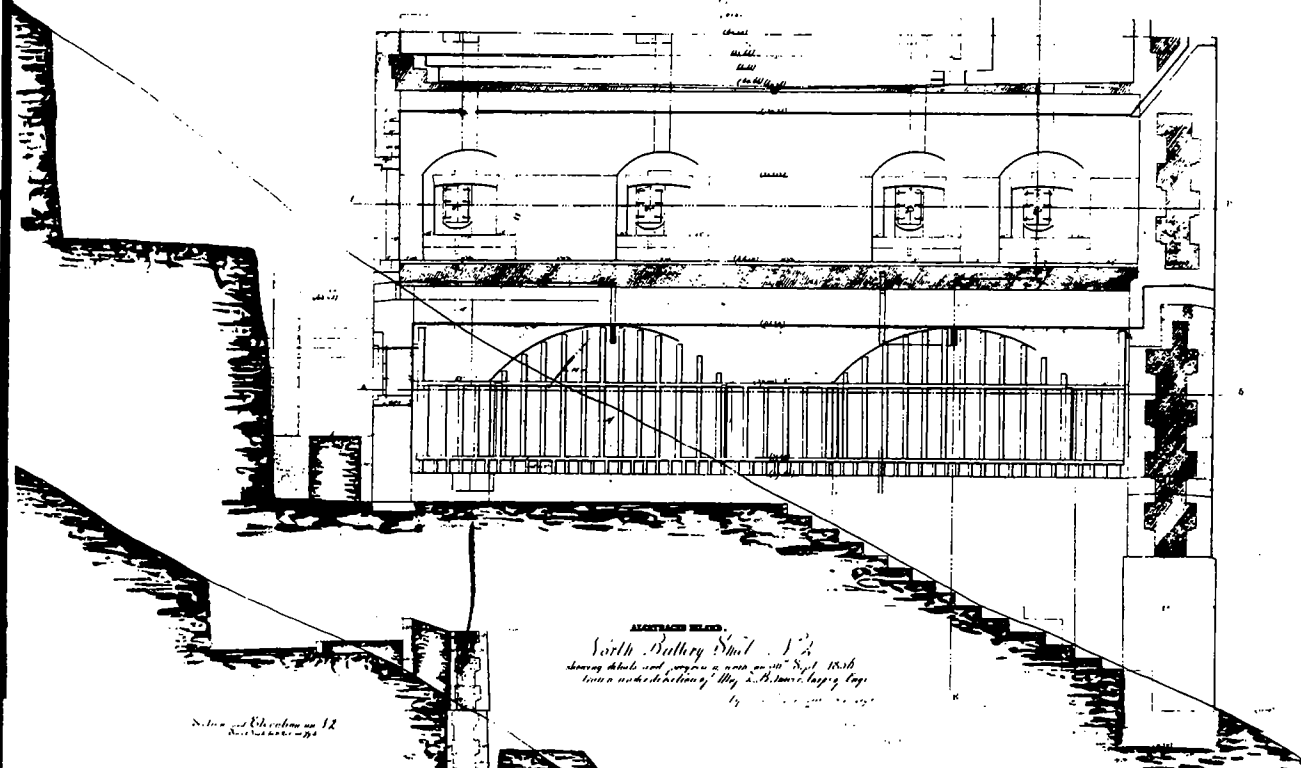
Map No. 3 - North Caponier, 1856

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.

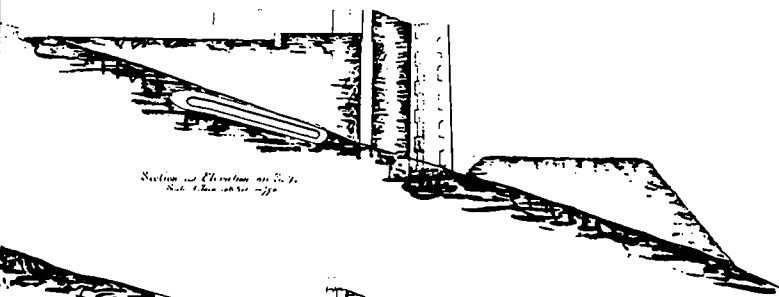
Longitudinal Section and Plan of Fortification



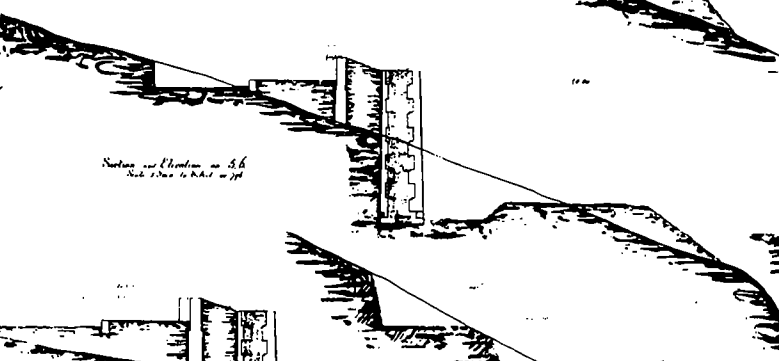
South Battery Shot 12
showing details and arrangement of the fortification
from a north-westerly view

Section and Elevation on 12

Section and Elevation
on 12



Section and Elevation on 12



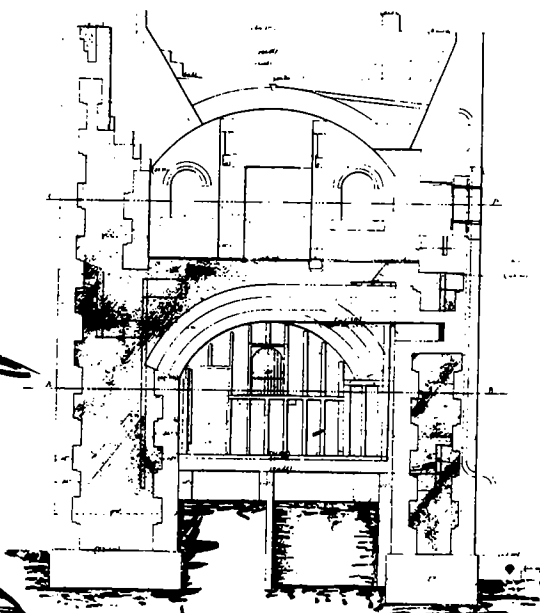
Section and Elevation on 12



Section and Elevation on 12

Section and Elevation on 12

DON'T PRINT
MAP #3



Plan of Fortification



Section and Elevation on 12

Section and Elevation on 12

Section and Elevation on 12

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.

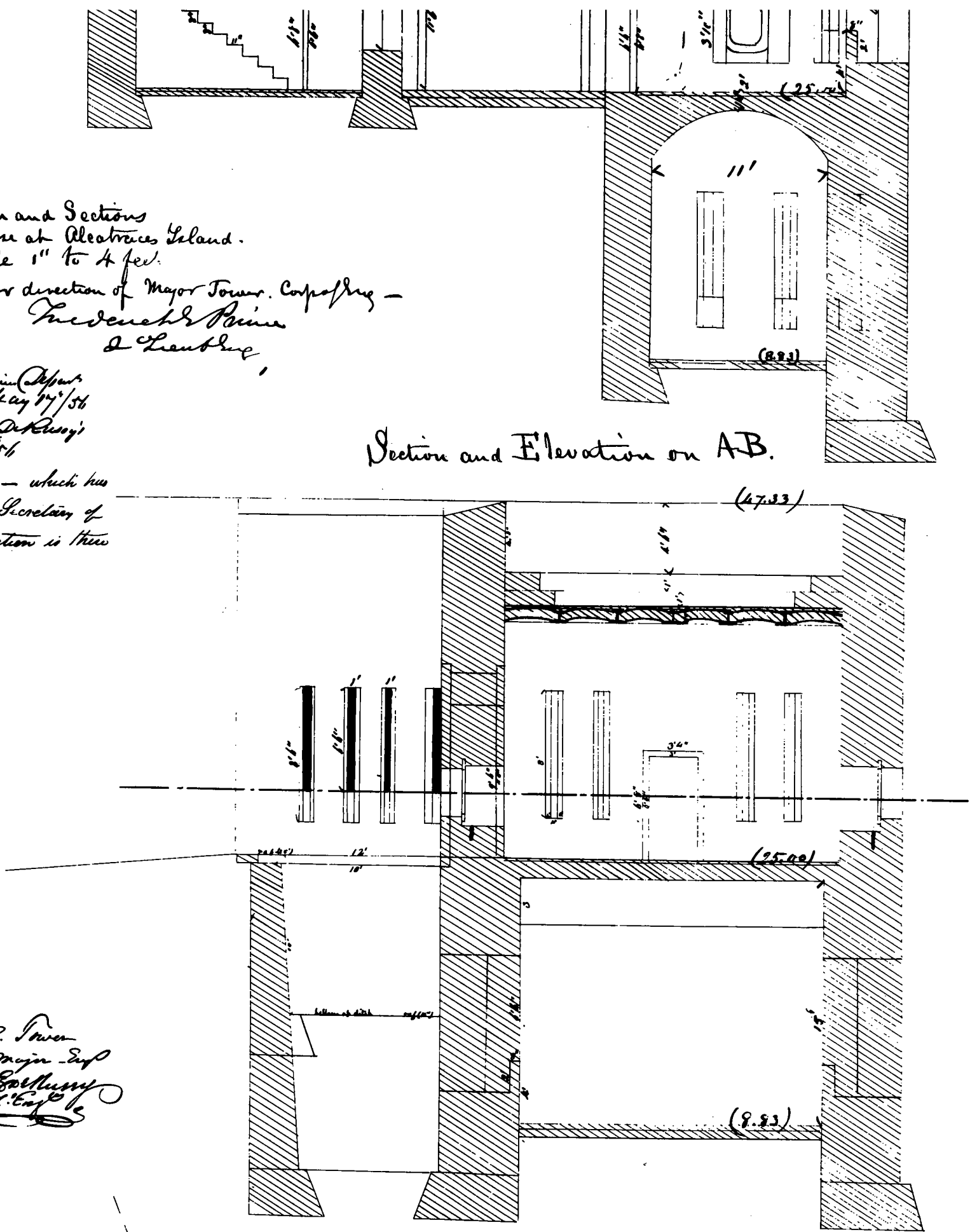
Drawn under direction of Major Tower. Copying -
by Frederick R. Prince
& Leubner,

Engineer
May 14/56

Record with (of Dr. R. R. R.)
letter of April 19/56

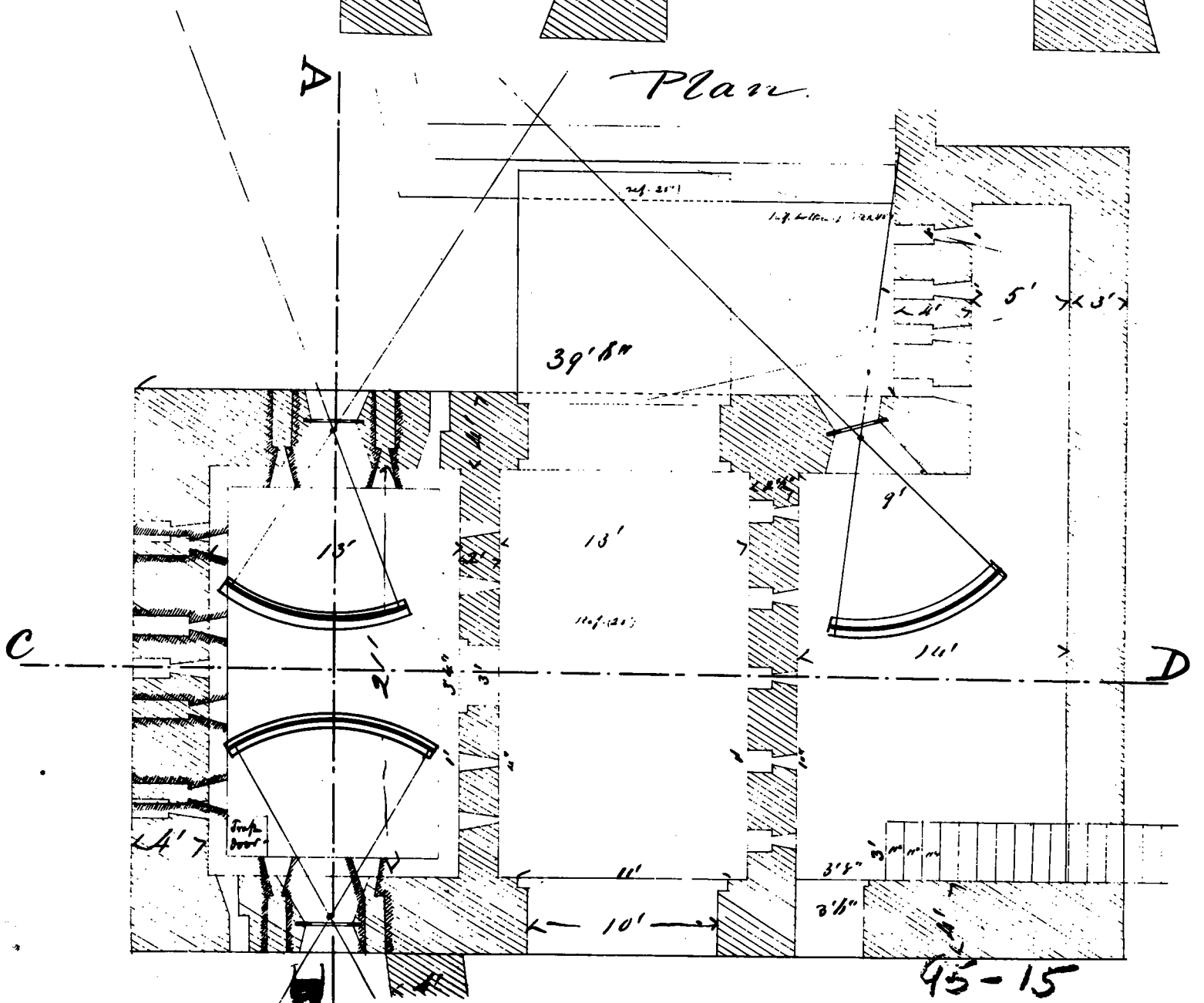
(B 6810) - which has
been before the Secretary of
War & his action is there
on endorsed

Section and Elevation on AB.



L. B. Tower
Maj. Major Eng
J. R. R. R.
L. (of Dr. R. R. R.)

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

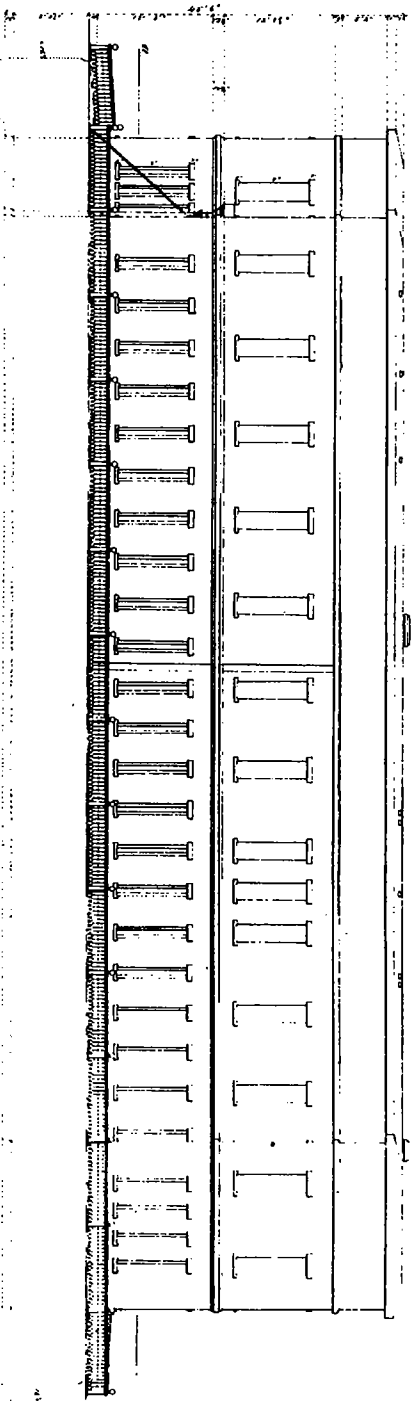
DRAWN 95.
Sheet 29.

PLAN SECTIONS and ELEVATIONS

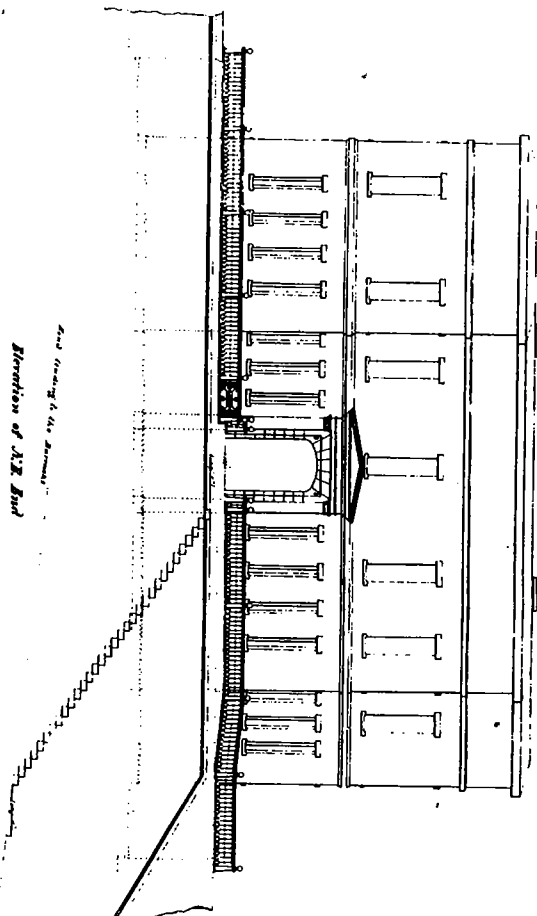
Defensive Barracks

Sept 17 1859
T. B. M. Thompson
15th St. N. Y. C.

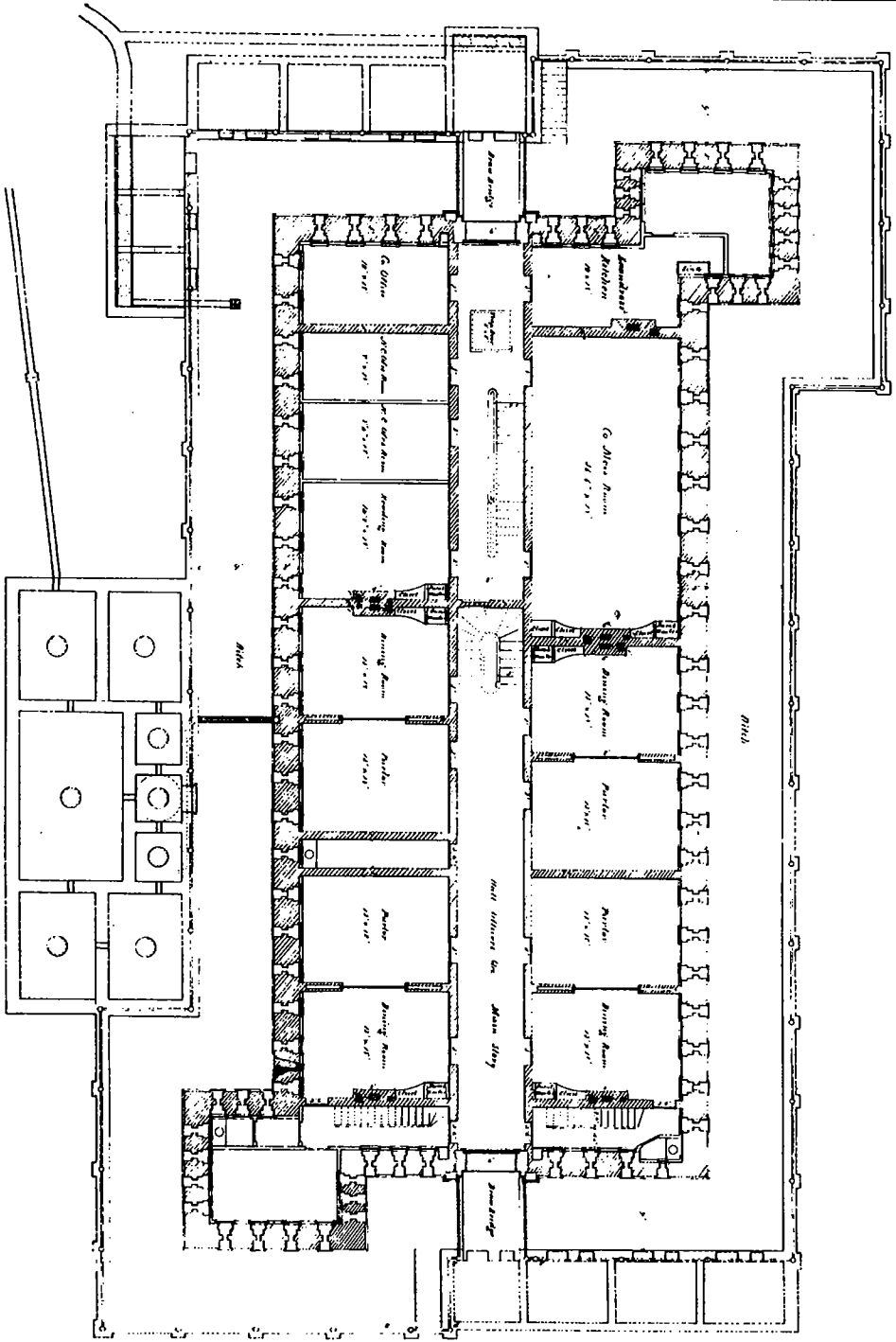
Engineer's Department
October 29, 1859
Approved with final alterations
Order of Oct 4 1859 (M3524)



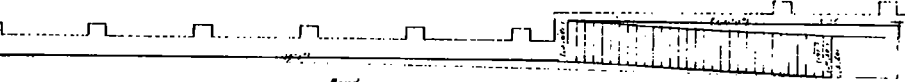
Elevation S.E. Side



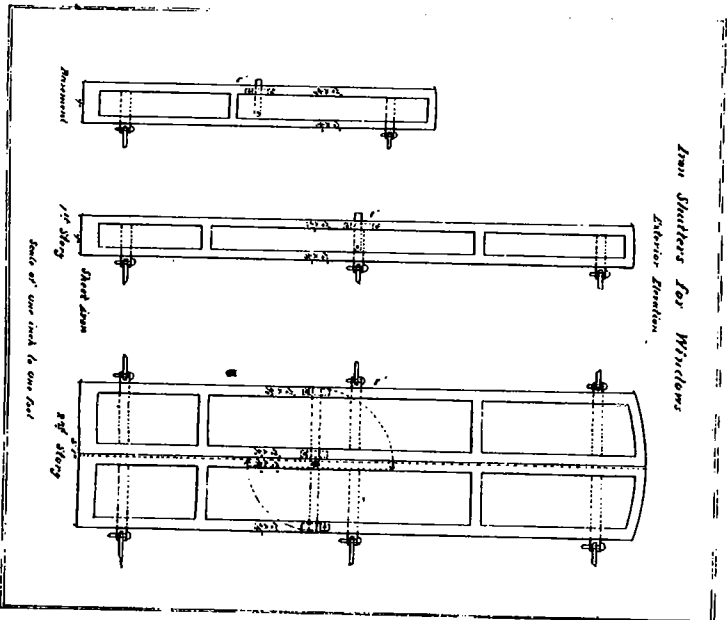
View looking to the Barracks
Direction of S.W. End



Well situated in main story

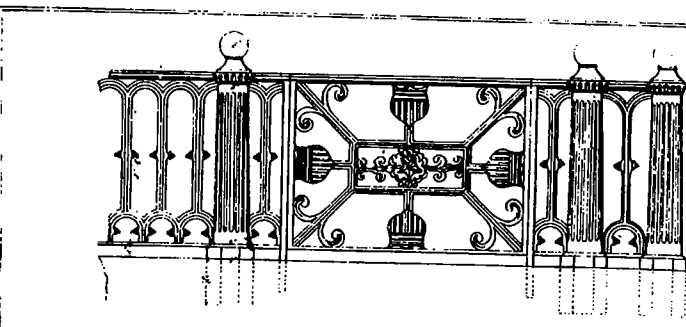


Plan



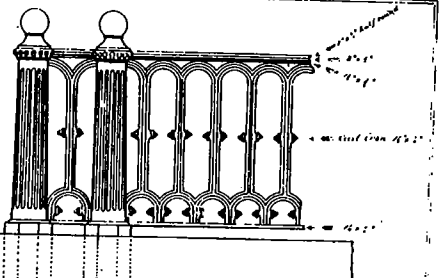
Iron Shutters for Windows
Extreme Position

1st story
2nd story
Side of iron shutter to one side



Elevation of portion of iron fence
Scale of one inch to one foot

Main entrance to Barracks
Side of building on main story



MAP # 5

Plan and section on scale of 1/4 inch to one foot

95-29

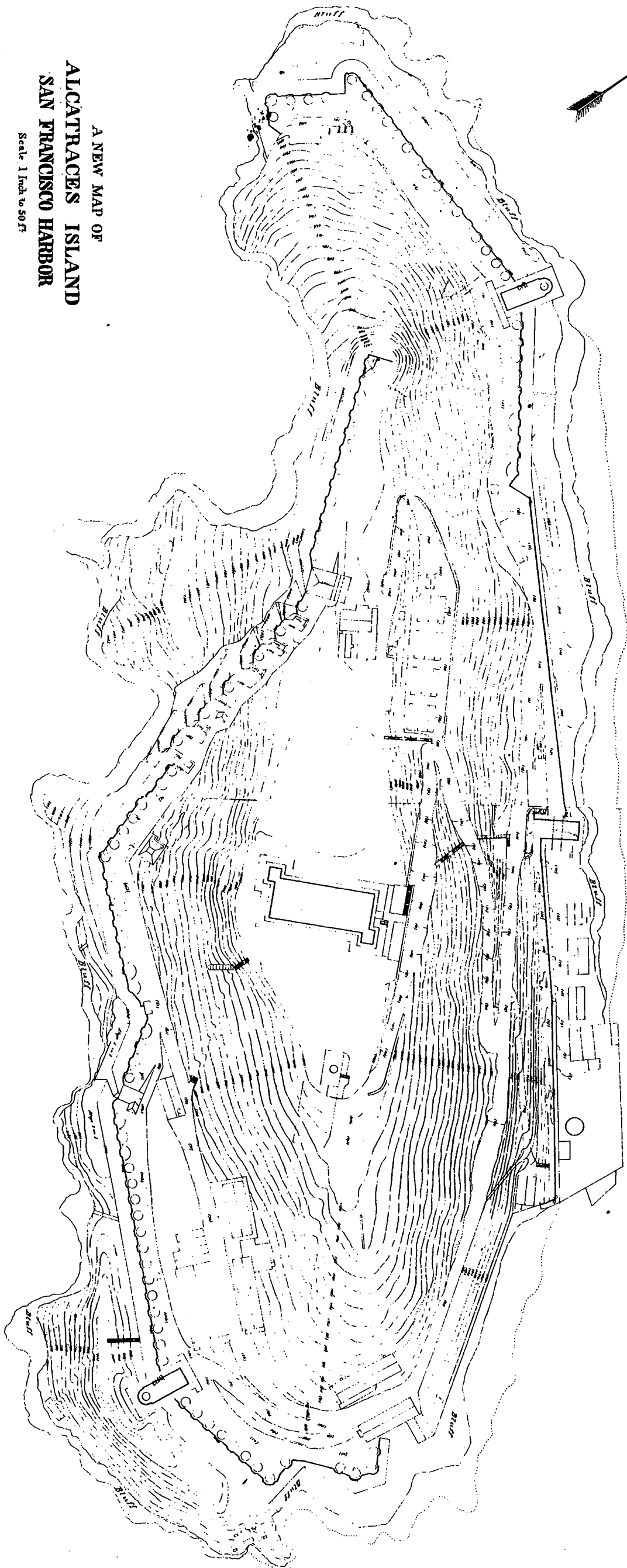
Map 6 - Alcatraz Fortifications, 1863

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

Dresser 95.
Sheet 43.

2



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 12th 1865

Engineer Ogden Charles 25th of - *copy to Louis -*
17th of 1865 - *copy to Louis -*
17th of 1865 - *copy to Louis -*
17th of 1865 - *copy to Louis -*

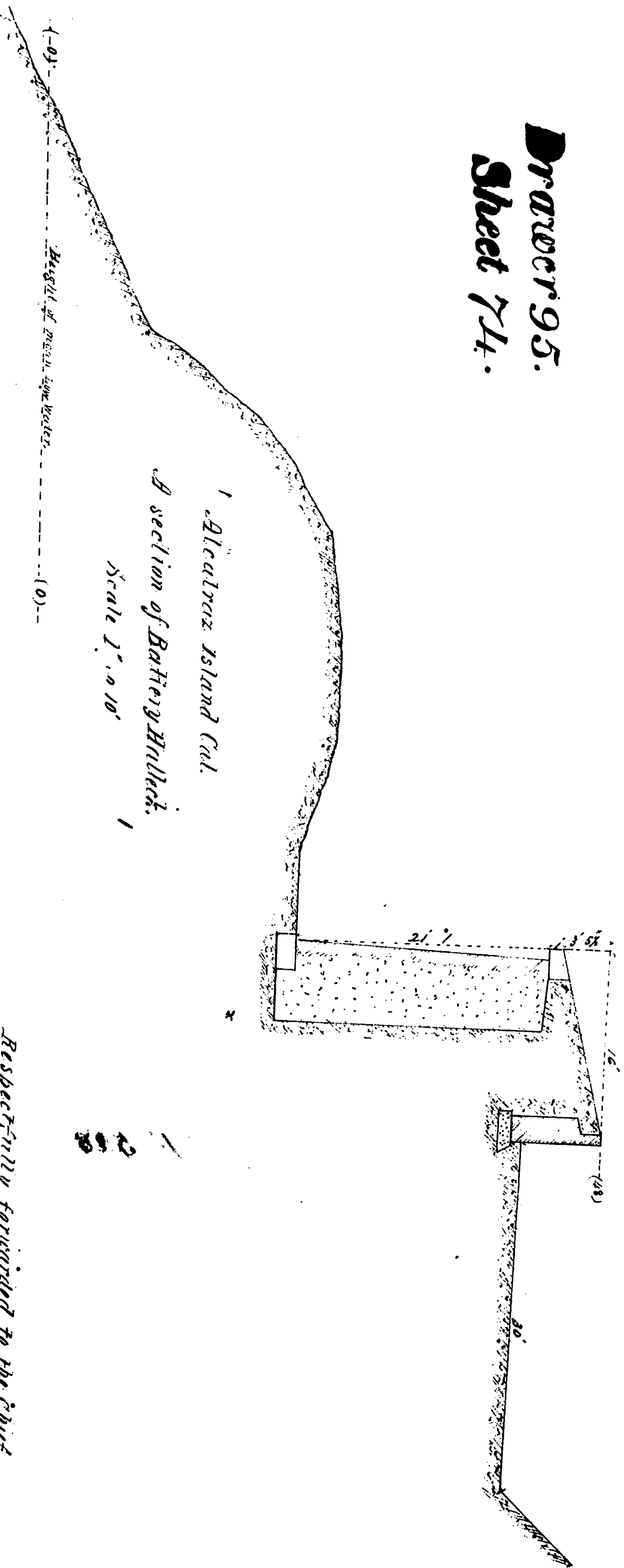
MAP # 6
1865
1865

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.**



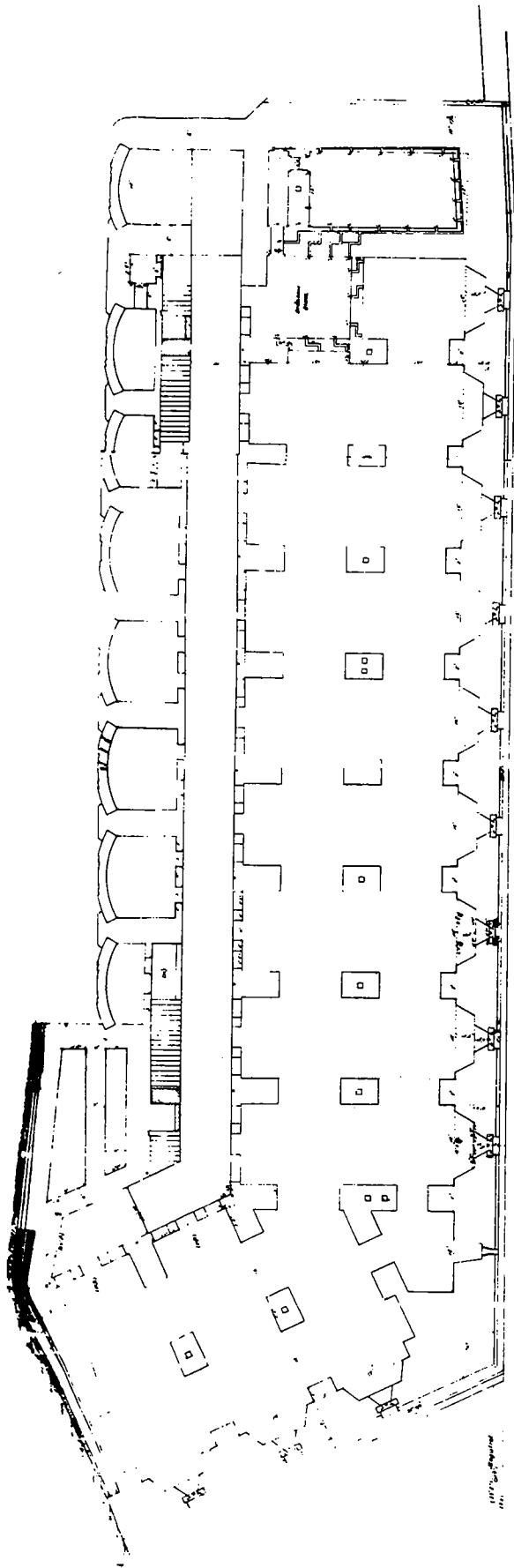
Respectfully forwarded to the Chief
Engineer with a letter of this date.

San Francisco Cal. }
April 8th 1865. }
Wm. A. Hunt
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

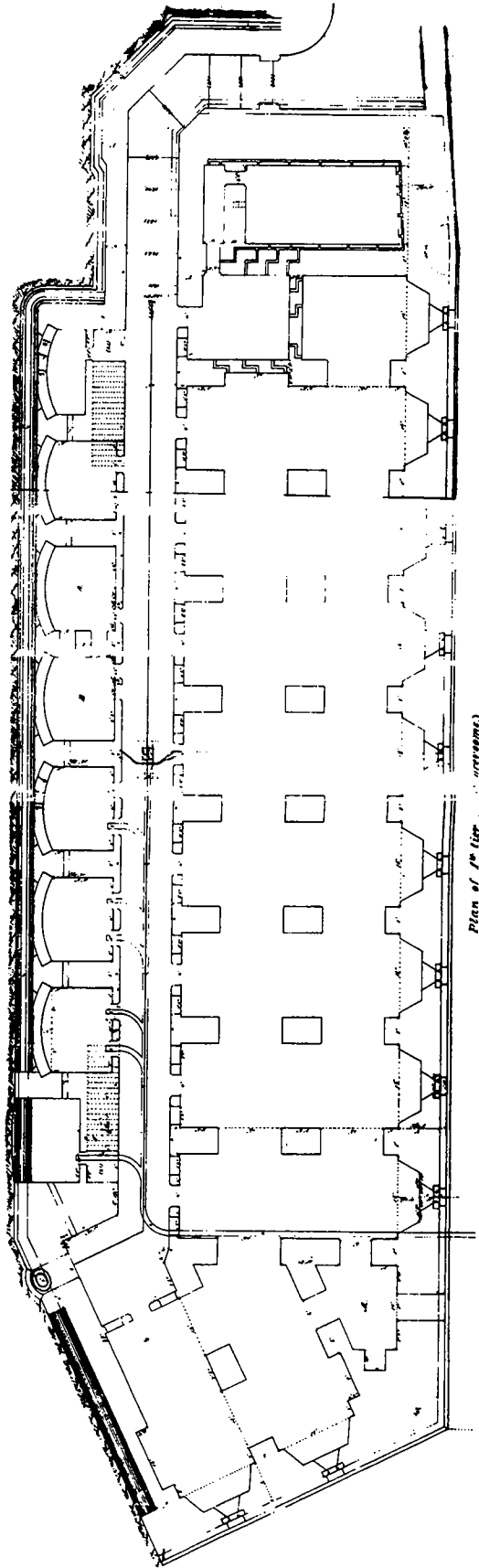


Plan of 3rd tier - (Barrack)

Alcatraz Island.
San Francisco Harbor
California.

Bomb proof Barrack.

Scale 1/4" = 1'.
Sheet 344 B
San Francisco Cal.
Jan 10th 1916.
Superintendent
Army Engineers

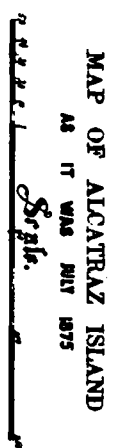
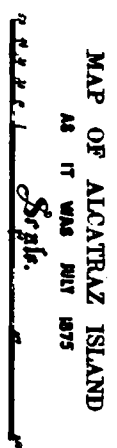


Plan of 1st tier - (Barrack)

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 10 - 1890 Batteries for Alcatraz (Endicott)

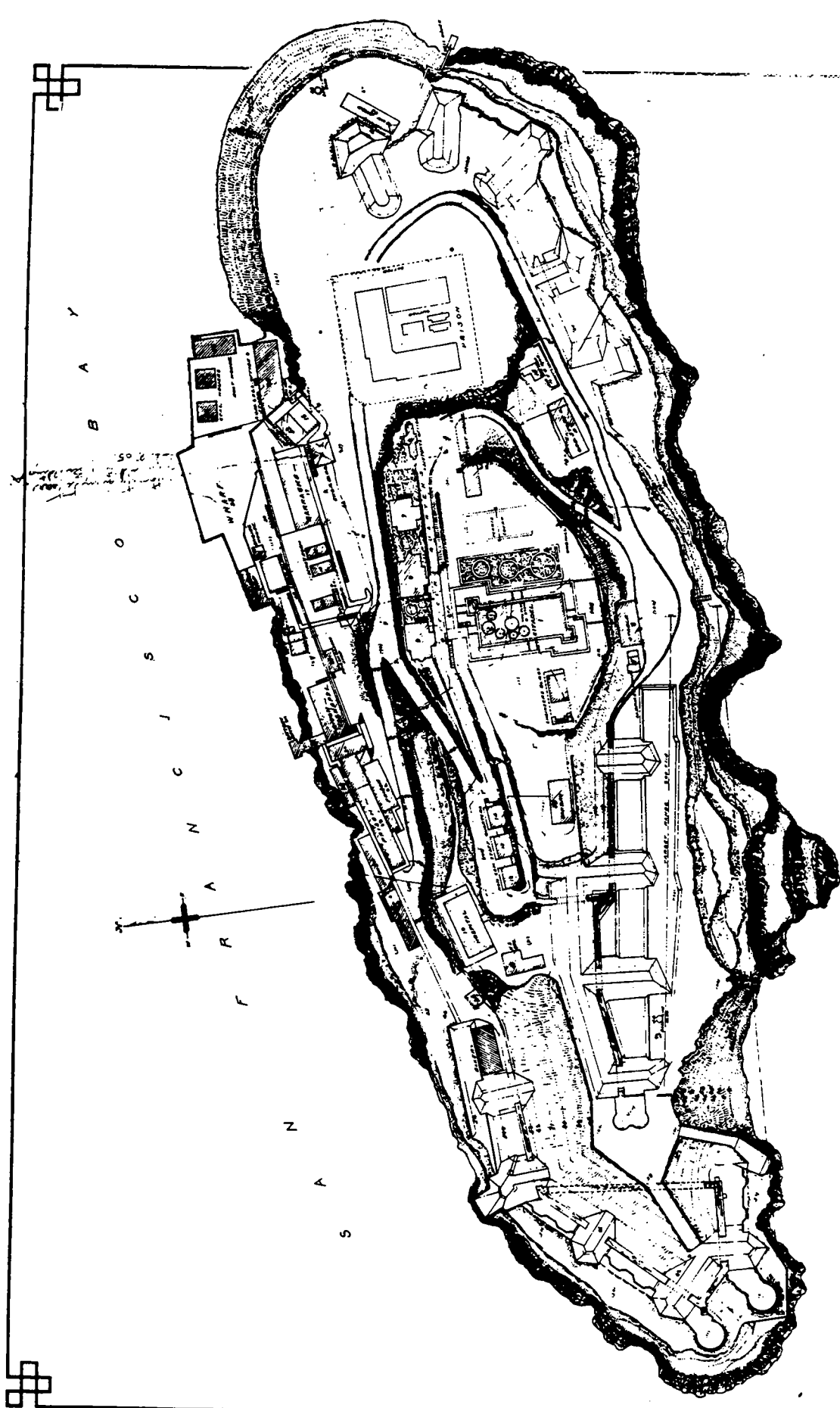
Modern Endicott-period batteries were planned for Alcatraz in 1890. Throughout the 1890s the engineers continued to think of Alcatraz as necessary to the defenses of San Francisco Bay, but early in the 20th century the island was dropped from the defense plans. Instead, it became the site of a permanent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

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

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.
 — STORM DRAIN.
 NO PATTERNS UNDER GROUND.
 AND INTERIOR N.E. OF CITY.

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.

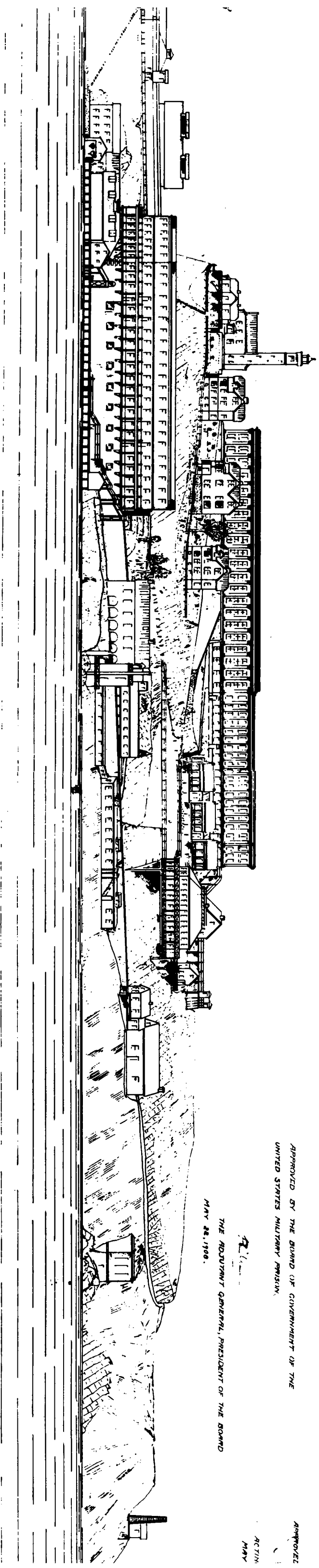
National Archives, Cartographic Archives Division, Record Group 92, Blueprint File, Alcatraz

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 Quotermaster
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



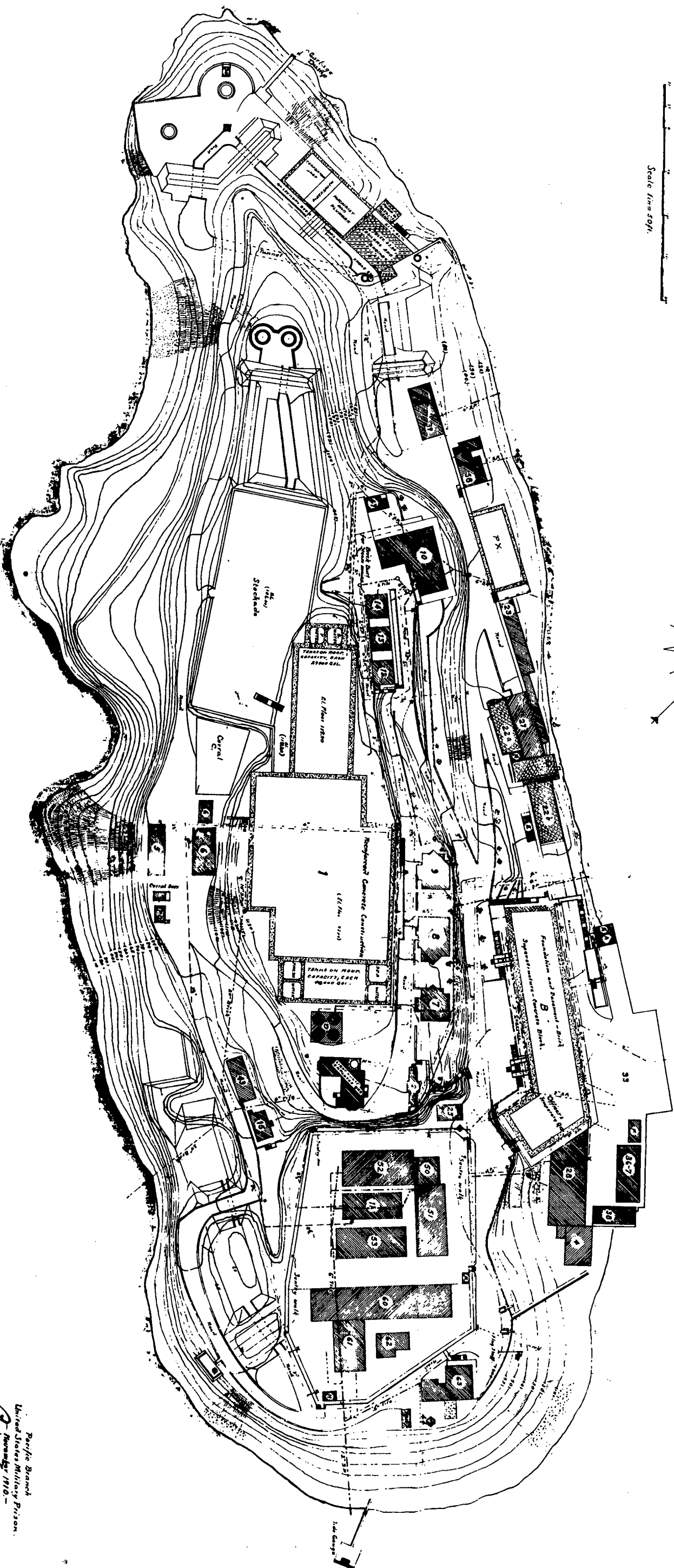
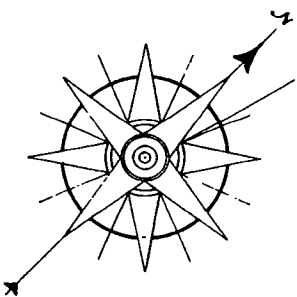
Map 13 - Alcatraz, 1910

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

MAP OF PACIFIC BRANCH UNITED STATES MILITARY PRISON, ALCATRAZ ISLAND, CALIFORNIA.

Scale 1 in = 50 ft.



BUILDING BOOK DESIGNATION **PRESENT USE**

1. Chapel New Prison
2. Headquarters
3. Conventory
4. Q. M. Store House
5. Carriage
6. Stable
7, 8, 9. Officers' Quarters
10. Hospital
11. Prison Laundry
12, 13, 14. Men's Quarters
15. Prisoners' Quarters
16. Old Prison
17. " Mess Hall
18. " Mess Hall
19. Tool House
20. Carpenter Shop
21. Office
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BUILDING BOOK DESIGNATION **PRESENT USE**

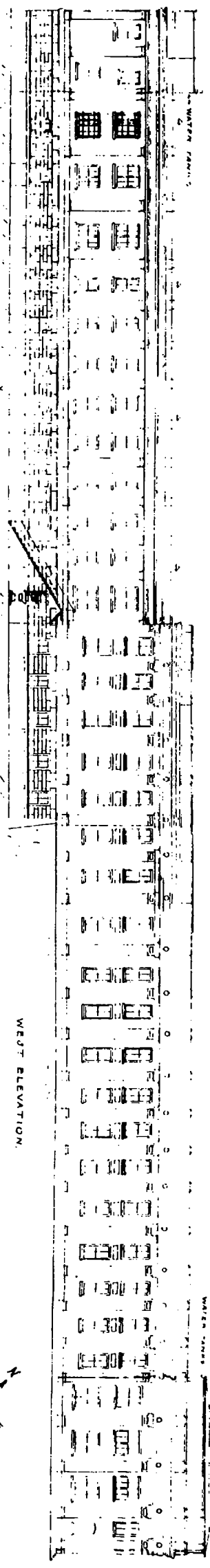
1. Chapel New Prison
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Pacific Branch
United States Military Prison,
Alcatraz, California
Lieut. Colonel, 29th Infantry, U.S.A.
Commandant.

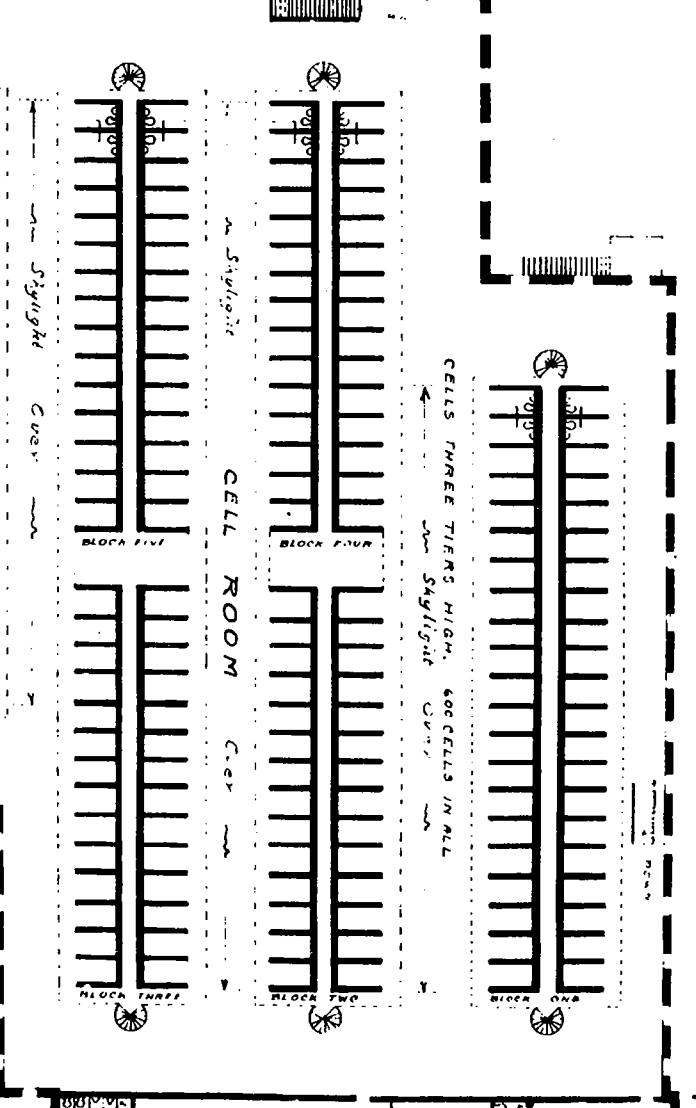
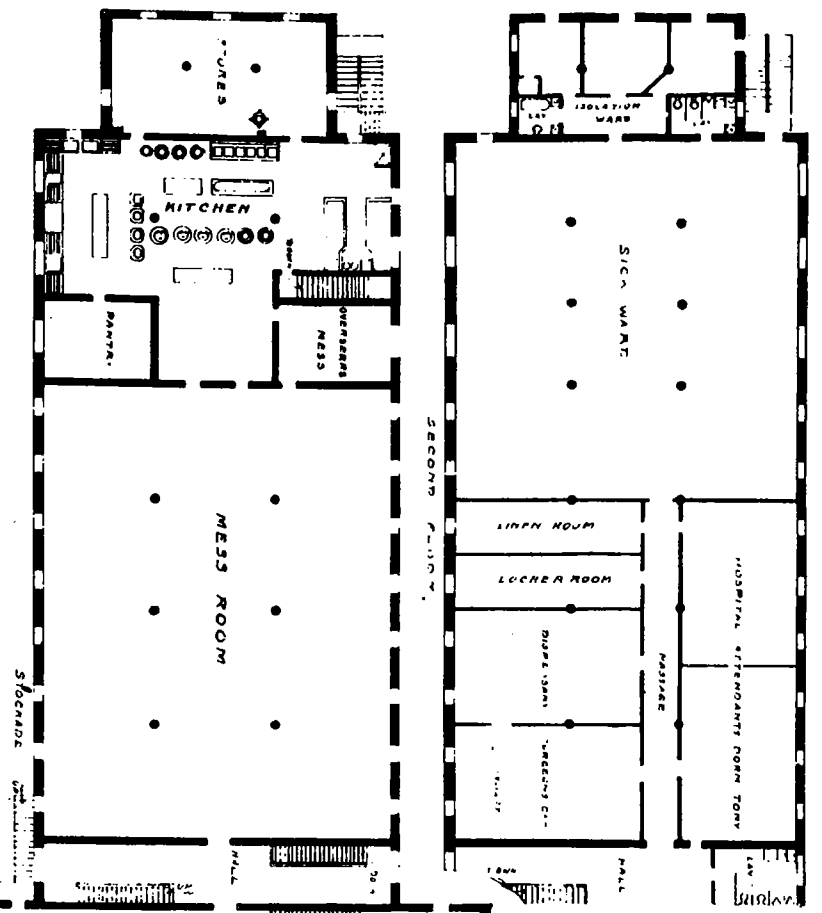
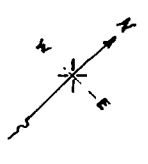
Map 14 - Military Prison, 1910

Colonel Turner's plan for a permanent military prison for Alcatraz Island in 1910. Note that the administrative section has a small prison room for the island's own garrison. The second floor of the administrative unit later became an assembly hall as well as a library.

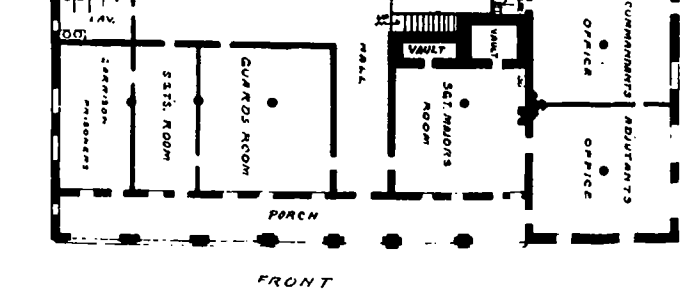
National Archives, Record Group 92, OQMG, General Correspondence File 1890-1914, Item No. 223810



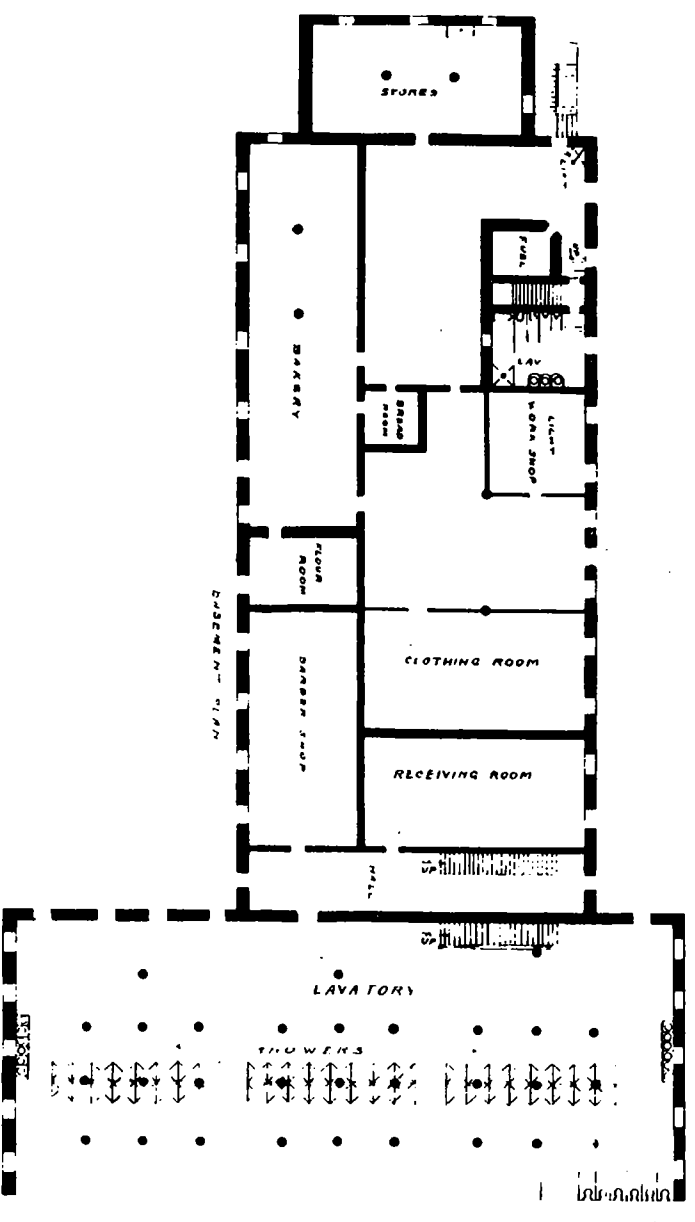
WEST ELEVATION



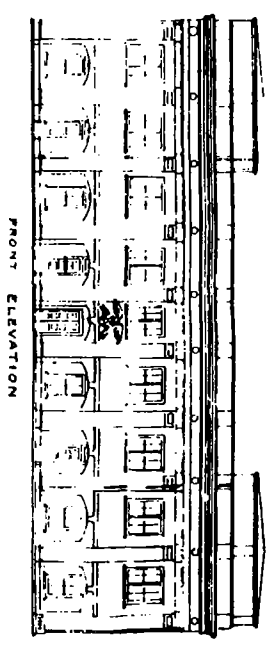
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR



PACIFIC BRANCH
U.S. MILITARY PRISON
— ALCATRAZ CALIFORNIA —
Lieut. Colonel R.B. Turner, 28th Inf. U.S.A.
Constructing Quartermaster.
Seely, 1st-2d-3d



FRONT ELEVATION

Map 15 - Alcatraz Island, 1933

This map was made on the eve of the transfer from U.S Army to the U.S. Department of Justice. The structure numbers correspond to a list given in this report.

National Archives, Record Group 129, Bureau of Prisons, No. 4-49-2-36

33

SITUATED IN SAN FRANCISCO BAY, CALIFORNIA
PRESERVATION OF CLARENCE NOV 5 1980

William C. Field

SEA MAIL'S MAINS FLY	APPROX. 10-15% OFF
OIL LINE	

SEA PORTS, MARINE FACILITIES

SEAL LINE:

ELECTRIC CABLES, RAILROADS,
ELECTRIC STREET LIGHTS
MARINERS:
" " " "

" " " " " "

SUBWAY IN INS
TELEPHONE LINES
STREET LINES
STREET LINES, IN (N)

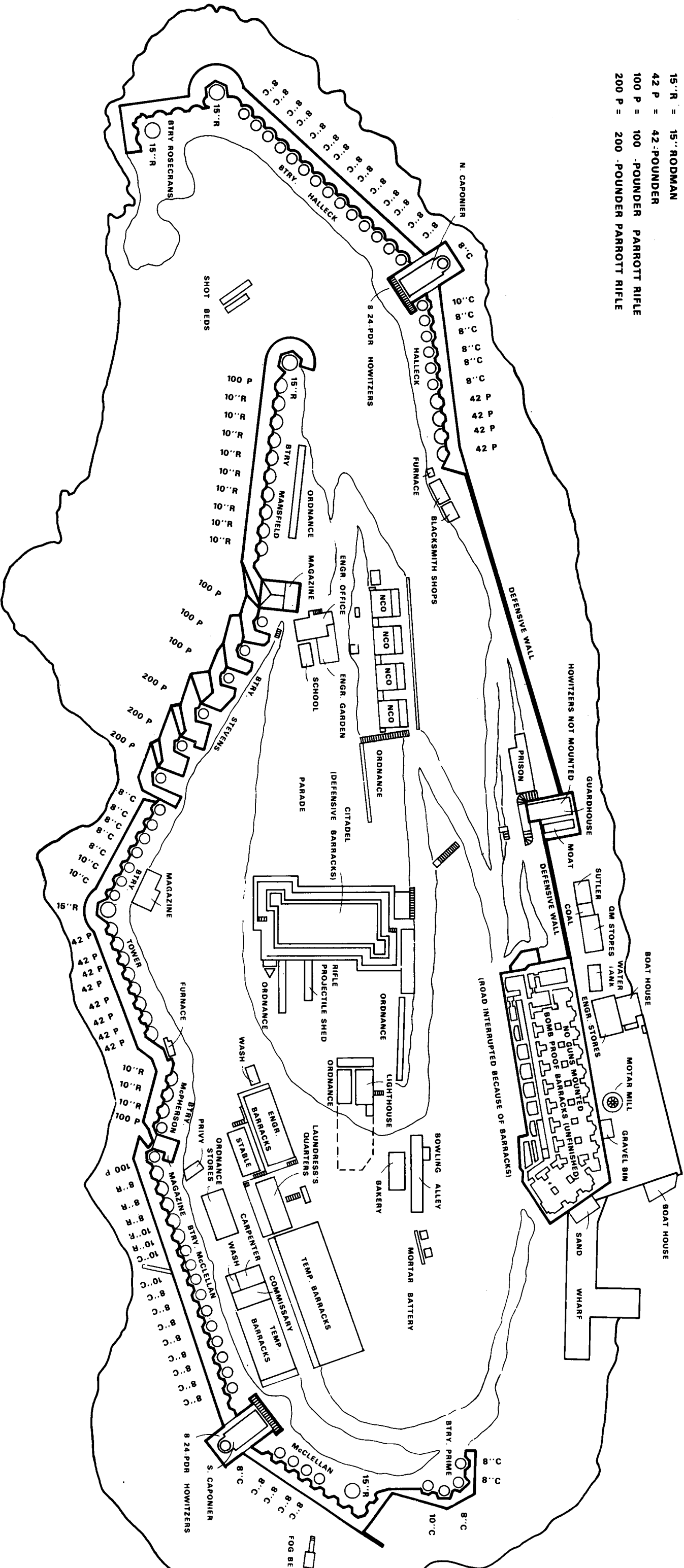
H I S T O R I C A L B A S E M A P S

Map 1 - Historical Base Map, The Rock (Sheet 1)

Map 2 - Historical Base Map, The Rock (Sheet 2)

Map 3 - Historical Base Map, The Rock (Sheet 3)

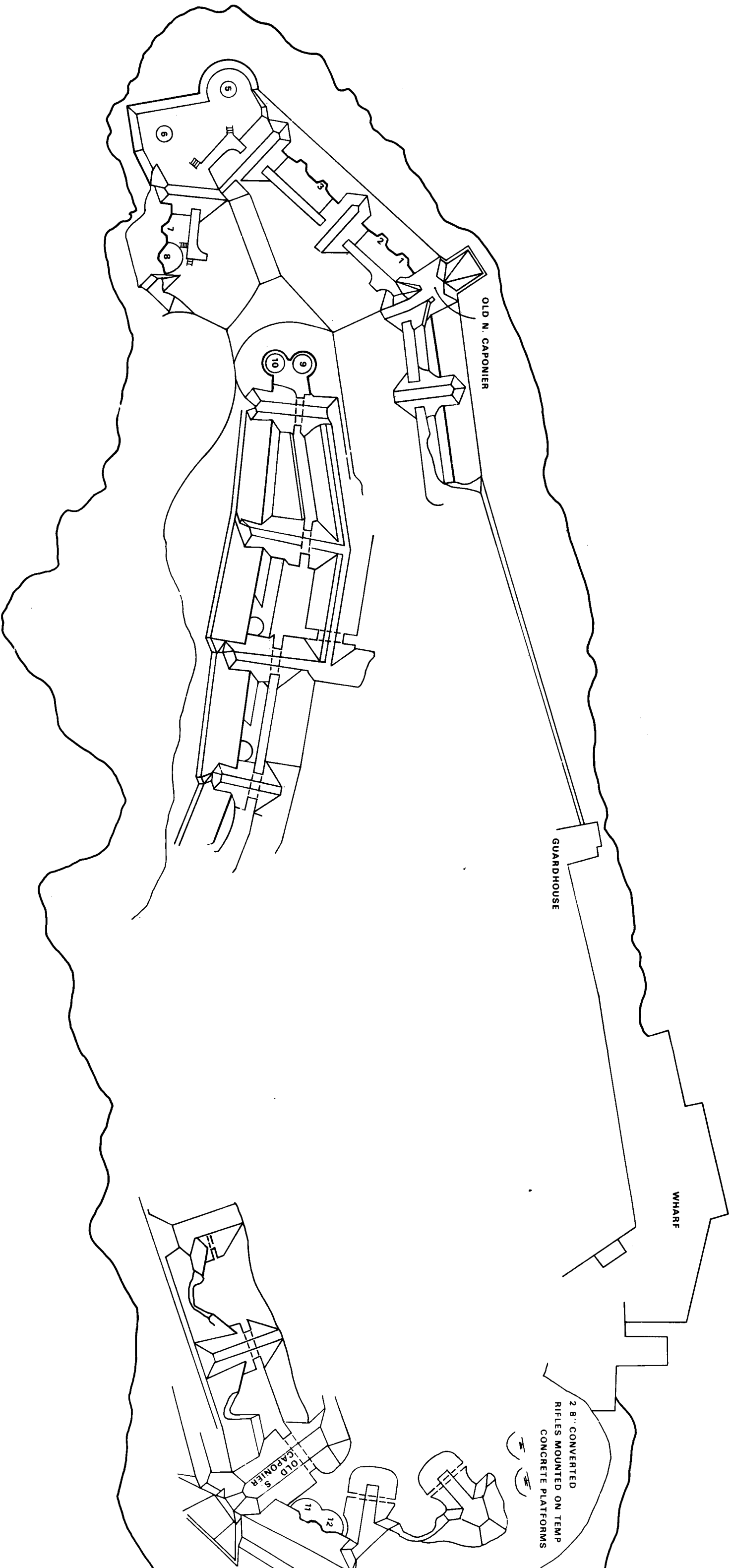
8''C = 8'' COLUMBIAD
10''C = 10'' COLUMBIAD
8''R = 8'' RODMAN
10''R = 10'' RODMAN
15''R = 15'' RODMAN
42 P = 42-POUNDER
100 P = 100 -POUNDER PARROTT RIFLE
200 P = 200 -POUNDER PARROTT RIFLE



HISTORICAL BASE MAP
ALCATRAZ ISLAND 1867
108 Heavy Weapons Mounted
GOLDEN GATE
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
CALIFORNIA

May 2 - Historical Base Map, The Rock: A History of Alcatraz,
1847-1977
Sheet 2

Compiled by Erwin N. Thompson, drawn by Frank E. Wines



HISTORICAL BASE MAP
ALCATRAZ ISLAND 1899

Fortifications

7 15" Rodmans mounted, Positions 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, & 12

GOLDEN GATE
NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
CALIFORNIA

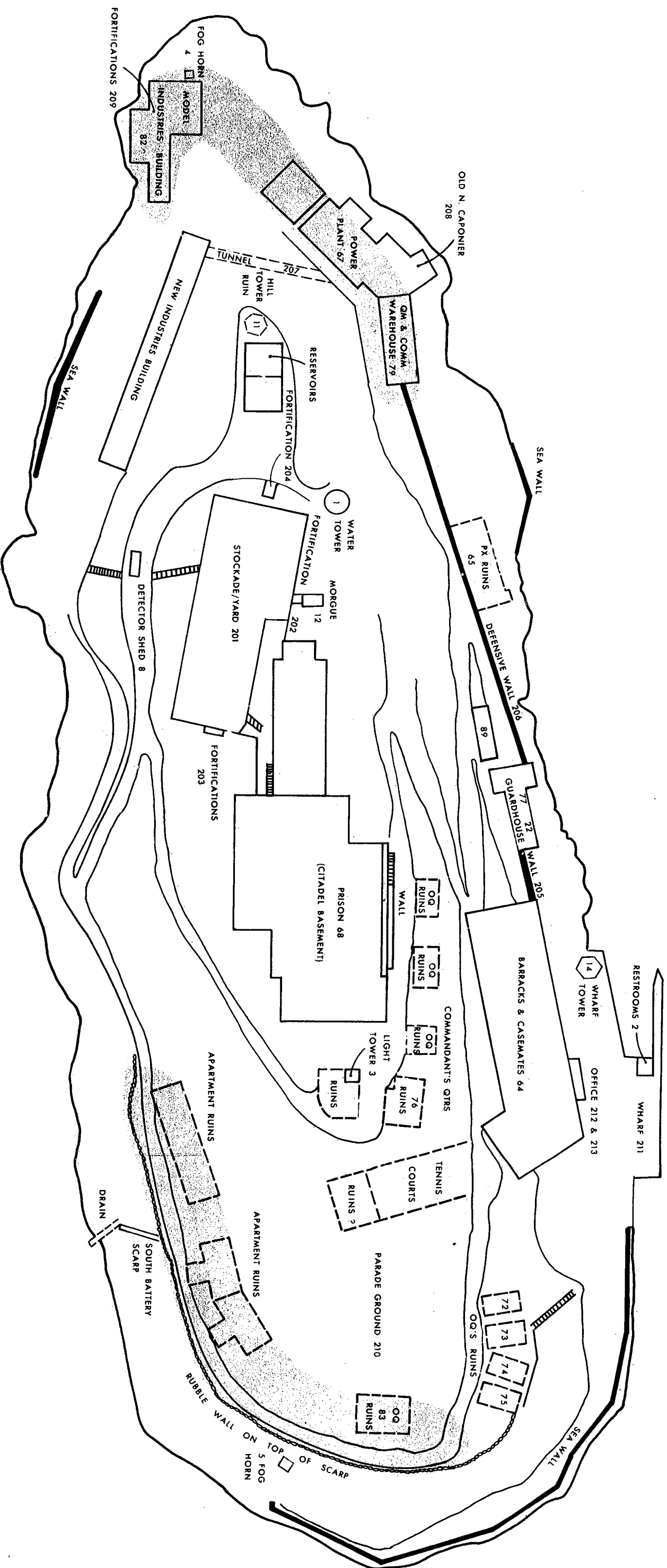
Map 3 - Historical Base Map, The Rock: A History of Alcatraz,
1847-1977
Sheet 3

Compiled by Erwin N. Thompson, drawn by Frank E. Wines



CALIFORNIA

SHEET 3 OF 3
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ERRATA SHEET

Page 6, paragraph 2, the second sentence should read,

But, on July 20, 1838, the Mexican government, fearful that foreigners might occupy some of these islands, passed a law that authorized the governor of California to grant them to Mexican citizens.¹⁰ On April 30, 1846, less than two months before the Bear Flag Revolt, Julian Workman, a naturalized Mexican, petitioned Governor Pio Pico for a grant to Alcatraz, "which has never been inhabited by any person, nor used for any purpose." The governor forwarded the petition to the second prefect to be certified.

Page 207, paragraph 2, second sentence, should read,

This action brought out the fact that Winder's troops had established a vegetable garden on that island, because Alcatraz was too rocky to support such an enterprise.