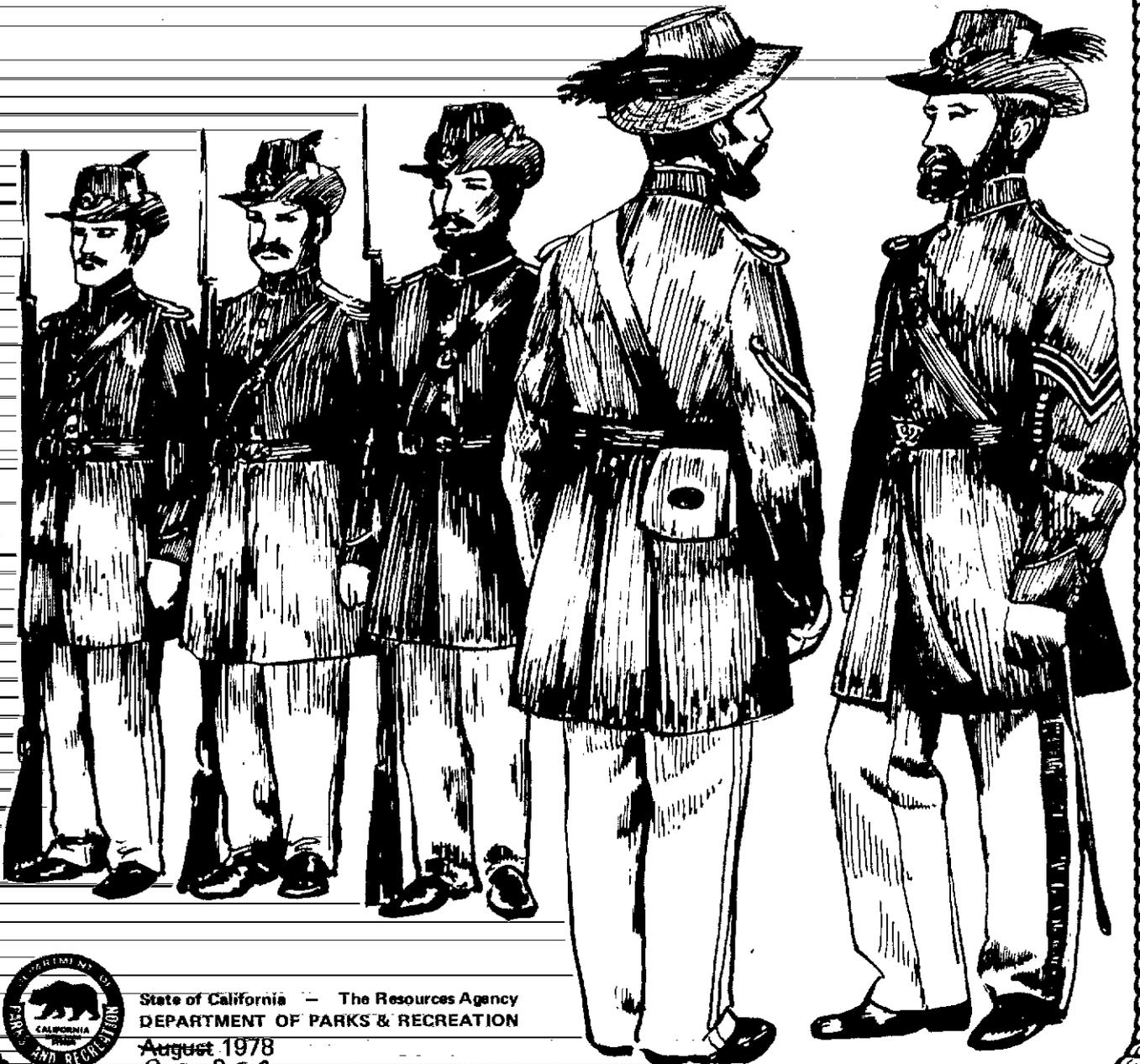


FORT HUMBOLDT

STATE HISTORIC PARK

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN, GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT



State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

August 1978

October

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811



Resolution 16 - 78

Resolution adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in Eureka
April 14, 1978

WHEREAS the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to the Park and Recreation Commission for approval the proposed Resource Management Plan and General Development Plan for Fort Humboldt State Historic Park; and

WHEREAS this reflects the long-range development plan as to provide for the optimum use and enjoyment of the unit as well as the protection of its quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Park and Recreation Commission approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's "Resource Management Plan and General Development Plan for Fort Humboldt State Historic Park," Preliminary, dated November 1977, subject to such environmental changes as the Director of Parks and Recreation shall determine advisable and necessary to implement carrying out the provisions and objectives of said plan as amended in the following respects:

1. On Page 13 and 14 there should be a revision to include an accurate and sensitive portrayal of Native American matters.
2. On Page 20 the Declaration of Purpose be modified to reflect the revised historical section.
3. On Page 32 the reconstruction under A Categories Priorities should include the corral, compound and related structures. Wherever possible having living history incorporated in reconstruction and role playing sensitively portrayed.
4. On Page 42, Item K, Interpretive Priorities, should be included in the first three priorities.
5. On Page 55, Relocation of Display (Logging), change the word "essential" to "may be desirable".



FORT HUMBOLT

STATE HISTORIC PARK

Resource Management Plan, General Development Plan,
and Environmental Impact Report

August 1978

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor
State of California

Huey D. Johnson
Secretary for Resources

Russell W. Cahill
Director
Department of Parks and Recreation



State of California - The Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento 95811

CONTENTS

Foreword.	v.
Summary	vi.
INTRODUCTION.	1
Purpose of Plans.	3
Project Description	5
Historical Background	12
Footnotes	14
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.	15
Unit Identification	16
Resource Summary and Evaluation	16
Cultural Resources	16
Natural Resources.	18
Geology	18
Vegetation.	18
Animals	19
Other Features.	19
Scenic Values	19
Recreational Values	20
Resource Deficiencies	20
Declaration of Purpose	20
Declaration of Management Policy.	22
GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.	25
Introduction.	26
Public Involvement Program.	27
Land Use Analysis	27
Zone of Primary Cultural Interest	28
Proposed Developments	28
Program for Restoration/Reconstruction	32
General Priority Grouping	34
Excerpts from Interpretive Prospectus	37
Methods and Media.	37
Interpretive Period and Themes	38
Interpretive Services.	38
Interpretive Facilities.	39
Recommendations	41
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.	43
Selected References	47
Appendixes.	49
Appendix A: Special Considerations	51
Appendix B: Logging Display.	56

List of Figures

Figure 1 - Aerial View	2
Figure 2 - Vicinity Map	4
Figure 3 - Cultural Resources Map	17
Figure 4 - General Development Plan	33
Figure 5 - Hospital Building Restoration	34
Figure 6 - Company Quarters Restoration	35
Figure 7 - Officers' Quarters Restoration	36

FOREWORD

Sensitivity of Fort Humboldt to the Indians

Current members of the Indian tribes whose ancestors inhabited the northern California region at the time of Fort Humboldt have great sensitivity regarding reconstruction and interpretation of the fort. For many Indians today, the fort is a symbol of what they consider unnecessary atrocities and privations suffered by members of their groups when the fort flourished.

This conviction was expressed by those who spoke on behalf of their people at the hearing on the General Development Plan for Fort Humboldt, before the State Park and Recreation Commission. The Department of Parks and Recreation was admonished to "tell the story as it was," without compromising the truth, when interpreting the story of relations between the white settlers and Native Americans.

The corral, built to contain Indian prisoners, existed for only a short time. Although located, in all probability, outside the current park boundary, it is still identified with Fort Humboldt by the Indians. It remains a significant, if adverse, element in the legend of the Indians, and has an impact on their feelings. The request that the corral should be included in the interpretive theme involving Native Americans and white settlers must be honored.

Another element of the fort's history is the story of the fort itself, and the daily lives of the military personnel stationed there. The fort was a supportive factor in settlement of the north coast, and should be recognized as such.

In order to achieve a balanced interpretive program for Fort Humboldt, it is essential to recognize the following:

- 1) The interpretive potential of the relationship between Native Americans and white settlers.
- 2) The story of the fort itself - the daily lives of soldiers, and the influence of the fort in the northern California settlement period.

Summary

The discovery of gold near the headwaters of the Trinity River in 1848 brought thousands of miners, merchants, timbermen, and farmers into northern California.

Conflicts between Native Americans and white settlers created the need for a formal means of resolving these differences. The United States Army was called into the field, and in January 1853, the 4th Regiment dispatched companies B and F to Humboldt Bay, to establish a post.

For the next thirteen years, army troops and California Volunteers struggled to keep the peace. The last troops were withdrawn from Fort Humboldt in September 1866, and the area was abandoned as a military installation on August 11, 1870.

Fort Humboldt was acquired as part of the California State Park System in 1955, with the understanding that the state would restore and reconstruct the fort's historic buildings, and would interpret the settlement of the northern California coast.

Because of statewide priorities and other factors, the department has not yet been able to fulfill this commitment, beyond necessary archeological and historical research which is now underway.

This document includes the General Development Plan, the Resource Management Plan, and the Environmental Assessment for Fort Humboldt State Historic Park.

The document emphasizes preservation, restoration, reconstruction, management, and interpretation of the fort's archeological and historic resources. The interpretive program, which relates to the public the fort's history and the Native American story, is described in the Interpretive Prospectus (page 37).

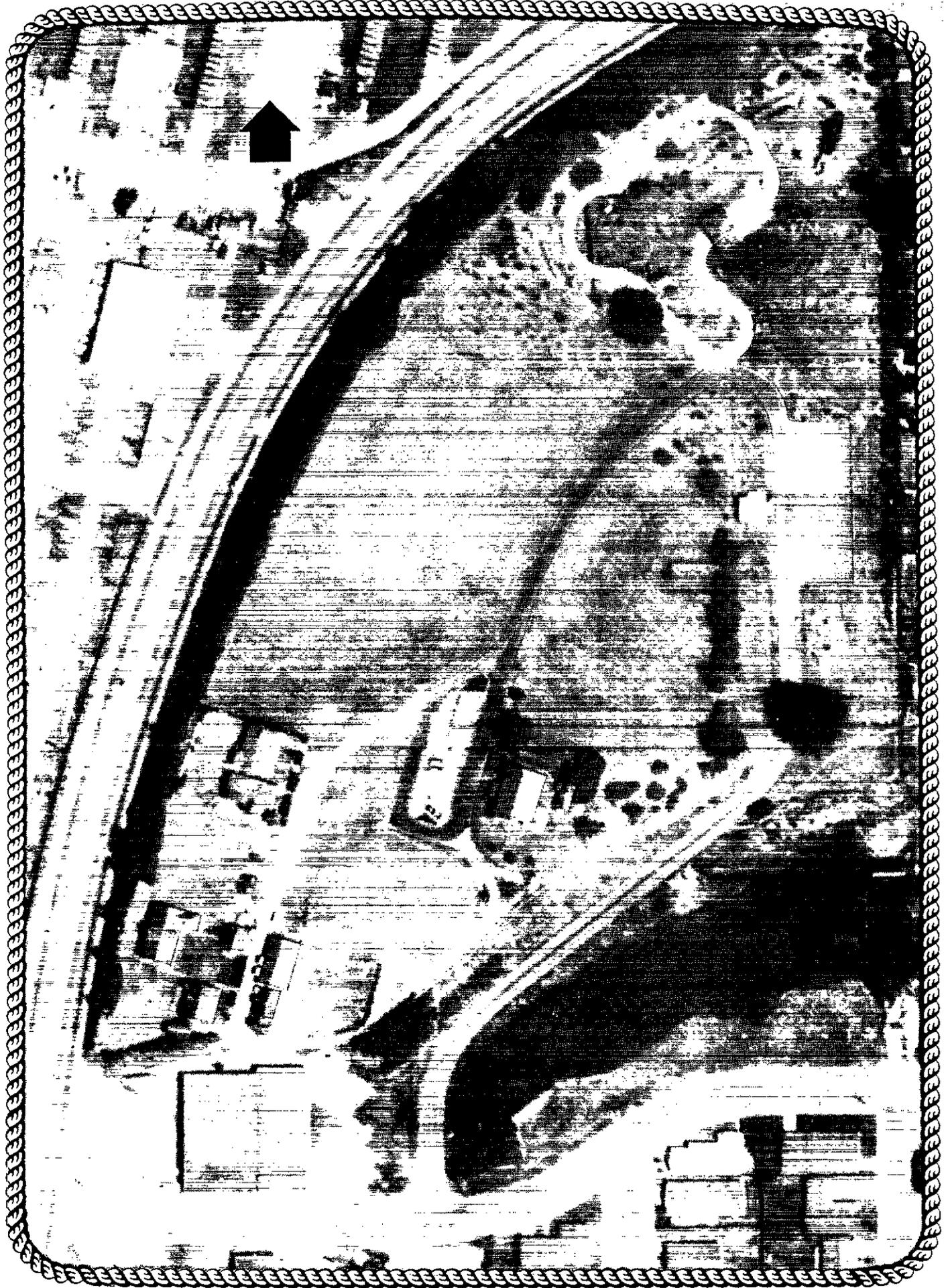
Actual restoration and reconstruction of Fort Humboldt's buildings will be based on the 1861 map of the fort. Priorities for development have been established under four categories. Within each of these, development has been programmed on a basis of relative importance to re-establishment of the fort (see Program for Restoration/Reconstruction Based on 1861 Map, page 32; General Priority Grouping, page 34).

The General Development Plan's graphic presentation (page 33) indicates complete restoration and reconstruction of the fort, and other phases of final site development.

INTRODUCTION



FIGURE 1



PURPOSE OF PLANS

Fort Humboldt was acquired as part of the California State Park System in 1955; the City of Eureka deeded Fort Humboldt to the state with the understanding that the state would reconstruct the historic buildings and interpret the settlement of the northern California coast.

In 1963, the California State Park and Recreation Commission classified this unit as a state historic park. The purpose of this General Development Plan is to provide broad guidelines for all development, in harmony with this classification.

The General Development Plan, the Resource Management Plan, and the Environmental Assessment for Fort Humboldt State Historic Park define a program involving archeological research and subsequent reconstruction and restoration of historic structures. The interpretive program, which relates to the public the history of the fort and the Indian story, is contained within a separate document - the Interpretive Prospectus. Appropriate parts of this document have been assimilated into the General Development Plan.

This plan supports the highest degree of integrity in reconstruction and interpretation, permitting only those interpretive displays and recreation activities which are associated with the historic presentation of the Fort Humboldt area.

Policies of the plan are flexible, in the sense that subsequent research could alter these provisions to a degree. A time frame of twenty years is used as the basis for the development period, allowing a reasonable time span in which anticipated efforts could be completed. It is not considered feasible to project development beyond this period of time.

The story of Fort Humboldt is important, because it represents a significant era in early California history. The fort played a major role in settlement of the northern California coast, and provided a hub of offensive and defensive activities in the conflicts between Indians and white settlers.

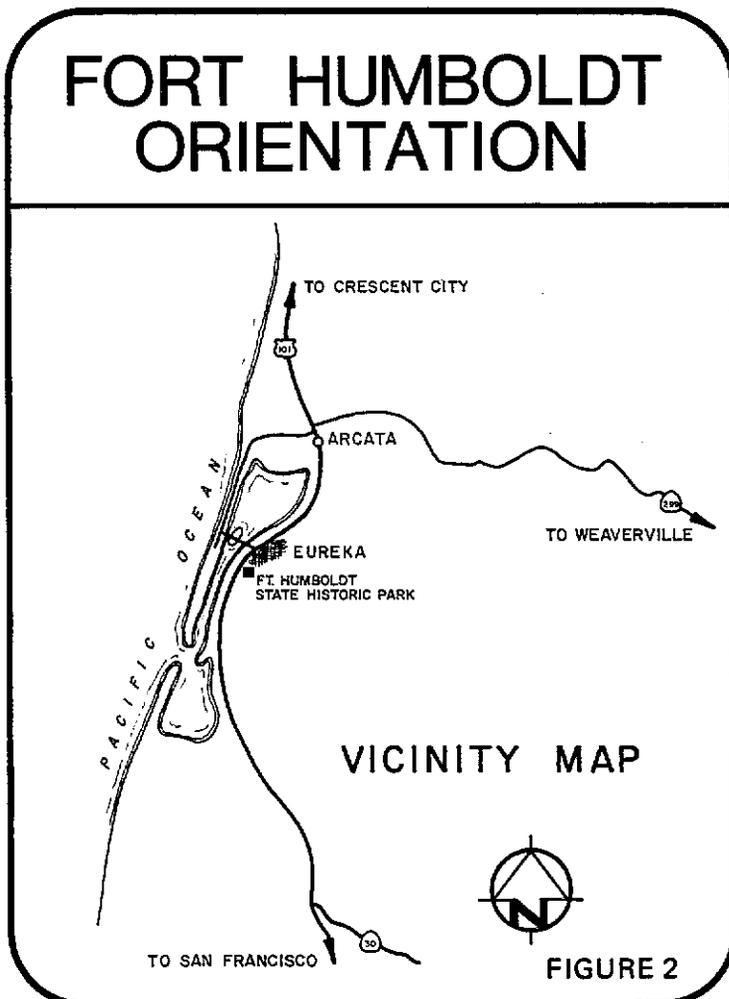
Reconstruction of such a historic site is not motivated solely by projected use through total attendance figures (as opposed to campground development, which should reflect total projected use). The capacity of the parking area at Fort Humboldt and the type of comfort station facilities, however, reflect current and projected visitation.

It is anticipated that as restoration and reconstruction of Fort Humboldt progresses, visitor attendance will increase. Complete reconstruction of the fort will create a destination for park visitors in the north coast area.

The fort and its appropriate recreation facilities will represent a complete park unit. Fort Humboldt has a minimal amount of available land, and can support only limited recreation development beyond restoration of the fort itself. More extensive development would be detrimental to the purpose of the restoration.

Specific goals and objectives of the plan are to:

1. Identify the cultural, natural, and recreational resources of the park.
2. Establish policies for management, protection, and interpretation of these resources.
3. Determine visitor activities that are in harmony with the purpose of the park.
4. Establish a sequence of development, based on priorities of importance. Actual construction priorities are based on fiscal-year programs subject to legislative approval.
5. Analyze desirable lands adjoining current ownership, and the effect of such lands on future planning.
6. Establish the need for additional planning beyond the scope of this document.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Location

Fort Humboldt State Historic Park, occupying an 11.78-acre site, lies on a grassy plateau near the southern boundary of the City of Eureka.

The north and west boundary of the park skirts U.S. 101, and the southern boundary faces Highland Avenue, which adjoins the present entrance to the park. The unit can be reached by turning east on Highland Avenue and travelling one-half block to Fort Avenue, the entrance road.

Freeway

A proposed CALTRANS freeway route would leave U.S. 101 about one mile south of Fort Humboldt; it would traverse the west side of the fort, and would reconnect with U.S. 101 about five miles to the north. The off-ramp south of the fort is very convenient, and retains the approach to the Fort from U.S. 101.

There is much opposition to construction of this route. Construction of an overpass at Elk River, the southern extremity of the route, will be part of a six-year CALTRANS program. The proposed overpass would overcome the hazards of a heavily-travelled intersection.

Setting

The broad setting in which Fort Humboldt rests is the northern part of California's Coastal Strip Landscape Province, in the heart of a recreation mecca which includes Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Richardson Grove State Park, Little River State Beach, Patrick's Point State Park, Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park.

Fort Humboldt is a significant historic unit in the State Park System. Fort Ross State Historic Park, more than 165 miles to the south, and Shasta State Historic Park, 155 miles to the east, are major areas of historic significance relatively near Fort Humboldt. The fact that these historic parks relate to widely separated areas adds to the need for and importance of an additional historic park on the north coast. Fort Humboldt has enough significance to qualify on its own merits as a historic area of major importance.

Fort Humboldt is located close to the metropolitan area of Eureka, and is surrounded by commercial and residential development. The City of Eureka is currently involved in reconstruction of the historic old town area, stressing history as a tourist attraction. This effort is being financed, in part, by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. Reconstruction of Fort Humboldt will enhance tourist attraction, and will augment local goals of historic rehabilitation.

The site is about 50 feet above Humboldt Bay and the Pacific Ocean beyond. It lies in an environment which once abounded in native trees and grasses, and in which only scattered native elements remain.



In addition to the residences which surround the unit, there is a commercial district consisting of lumber yards, service stations, motels, restaurants, and curio shops, along U.S. 101 below the bluff. A redeeming feature is the view of Humboldt Bay and the Pacific Ocean afforded on a clear day, although one is obliged to look across the lumber yards and a petroleum tank installation in the immediate foreground.

Biological Features

These are extremely limited. Plant life consists of various grasses and a few trees, most of which were planted. A zone of shrubs with a few stunted spruce and alder trees grows on the west-facing bluff; this growth may have occurred naturally. A small marsh located just beneath the south bluff is all that remains of the historic pond. An article written in 1886 describes the pond as being about two acres in extent, watered by springs in the winter but bog-like in the summer. Period photos show forest east of and bordering the post, and a large pond just beneath the south bluff.

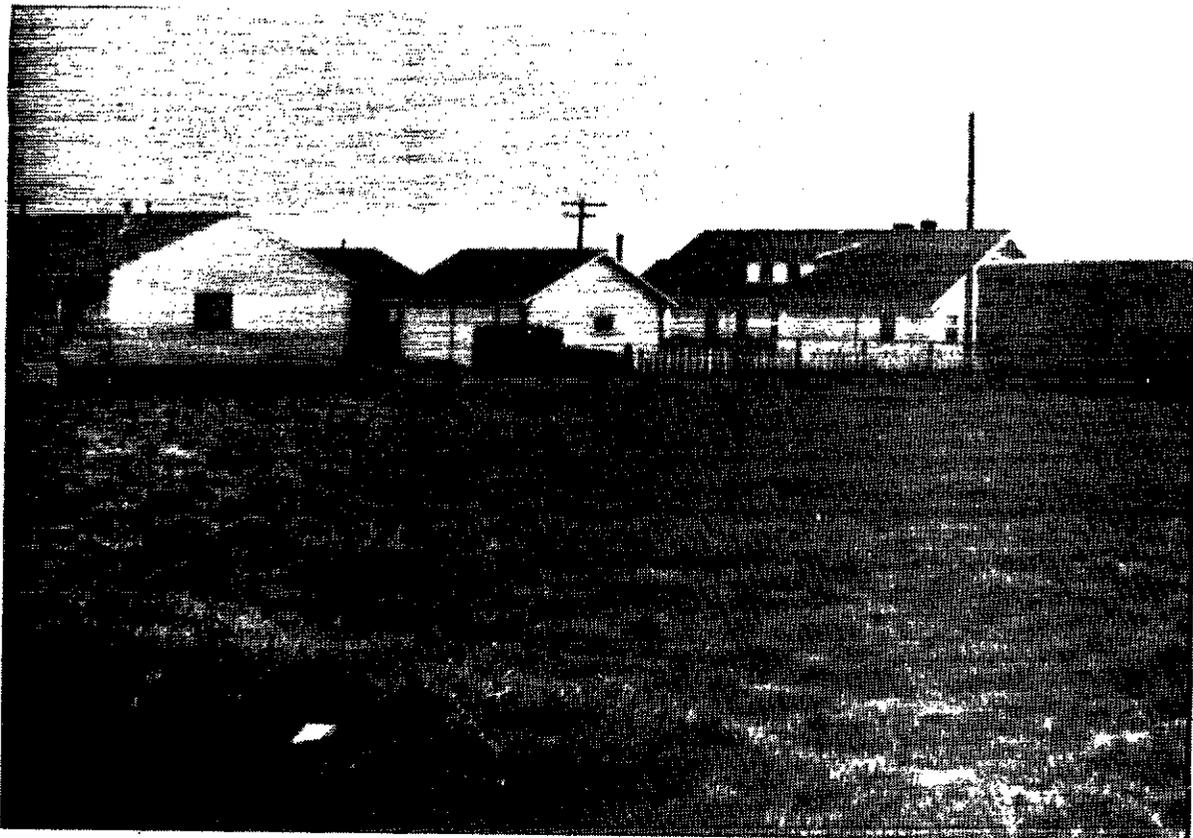
According to P.J. Rutledge, a local resident interviewed in 1953, the forest in the Humboldt area was a mixed evergreen variety, with little redwood. Current animal life is restricted to rodents and resident/migratory birds. The larger animals historically present are now gone.

Structures

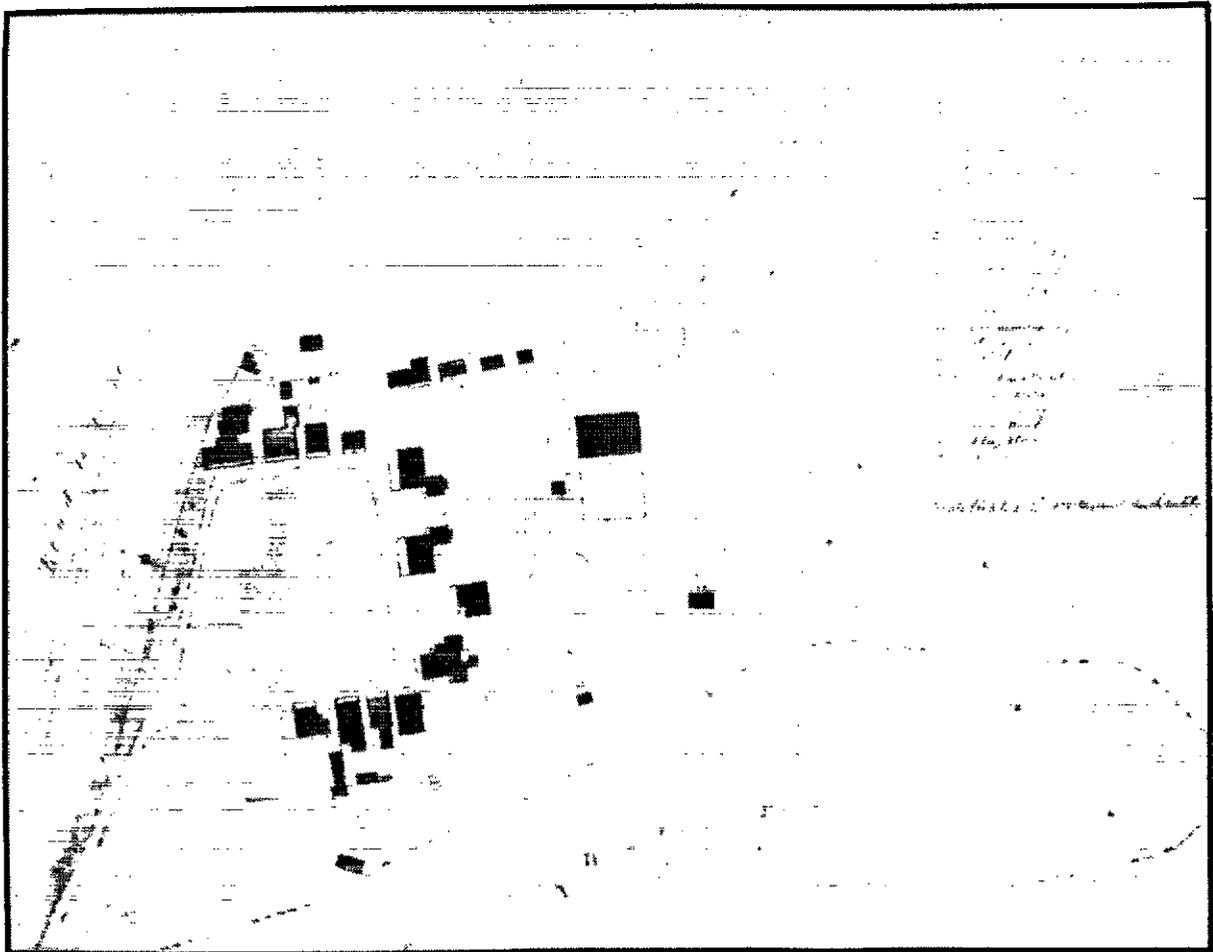
The 1863 hospital building which now serves as the District 1 office is the only remaining historic fort building left standing. With this exception, Fort Humboldt is an archeological site, with cultural resources evidenced only by archeological deposits. In addition to the district headquarters building, the site contains the following structures: a small museum and office building; three residences and a house used as an office building for district personnel; and two shop buildings and storage sheds associated with them.



Hospital Building, circa 1950 – Before Conversion to District 1 Office



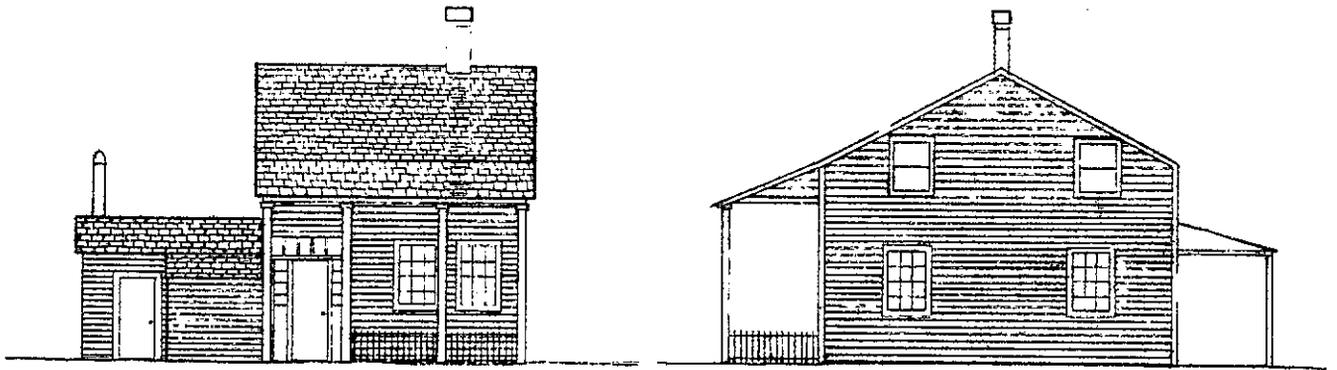
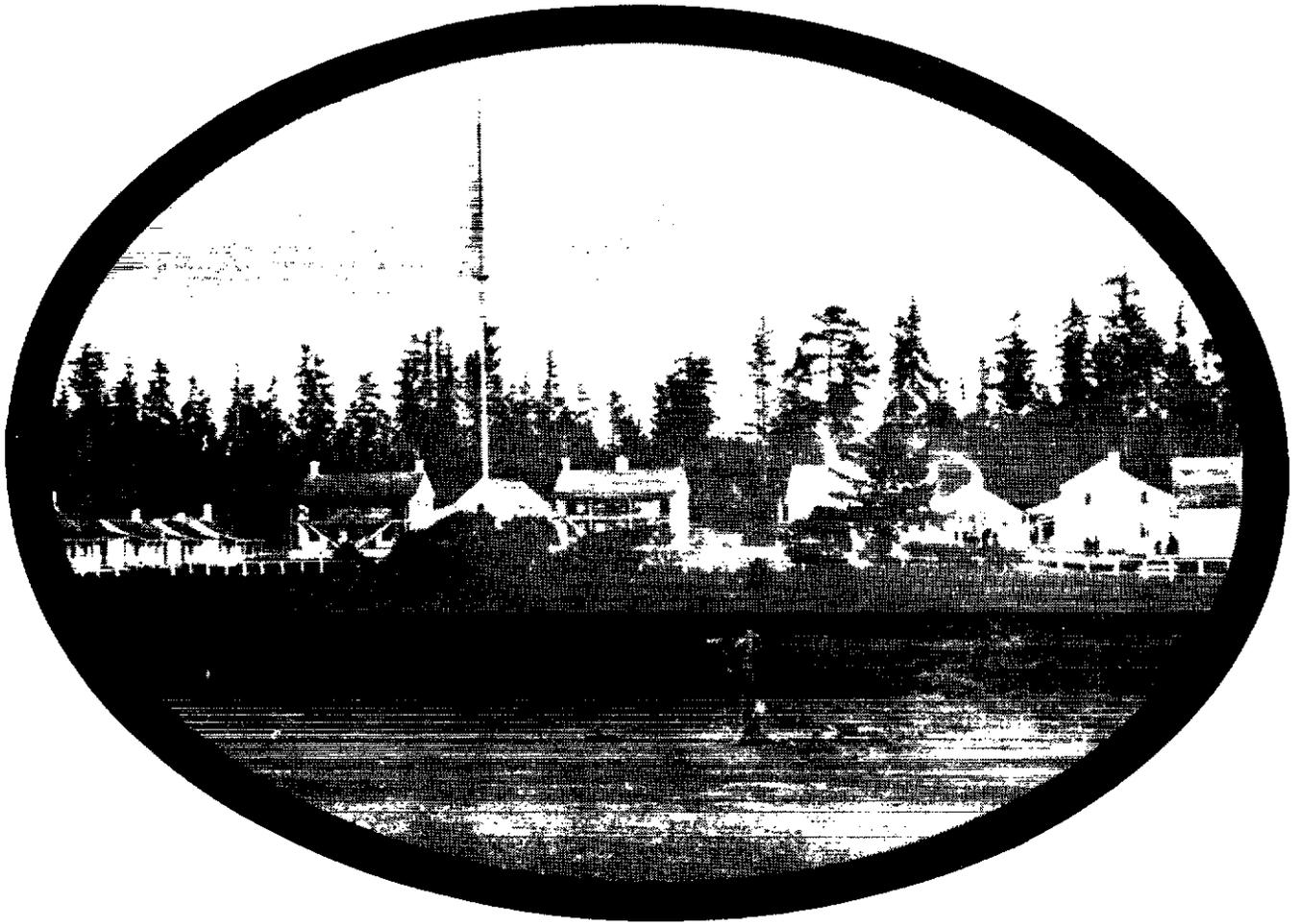
Shops and utility buildings used by district personnel.



Old map

The complete fort consisted of a dozen major buildings, surrounding a large quadrangular parade ground which was left open to the ocean on the west side. Additional outlying buildings were scattered about the site. On the north, the narrow side of the quadrangle was enclosed by the commanding officer's quarters, two additional buildings for officers' quarters, and an office building; on the east side, two buildings for company quarters and the guard house and hospital were located; to the south, a store room, two buildings for lieutenants' quarters, and one building for sergeants' quarters were located. Other buildings necessary for operation of the fort included a blacksmith shop, a stable, laundress' quarters, a bake shop, and servants' quarters. A sink, rain gauge, sundial, flagpole, and water pump completed the complement of buildings and accessories.





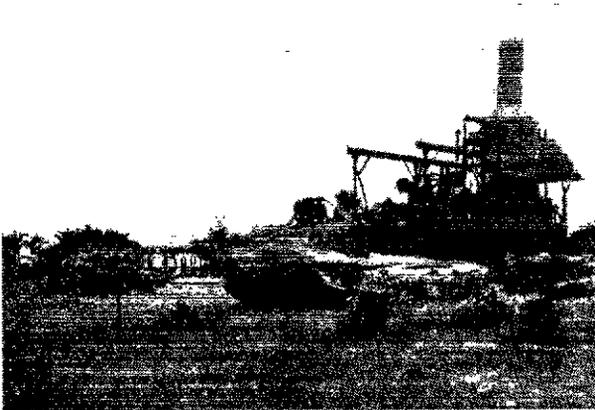
FRONT ELEVATION

RIGHT SIDE ELEVATION

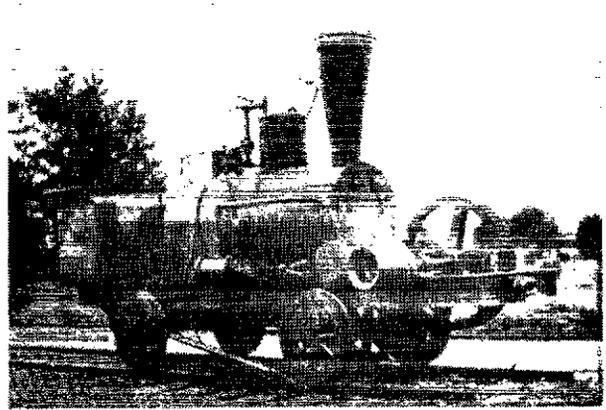
OFFICER'S QUARTERS

A logging display area exists on the northeast corner of the site. This area includes a newly-constructed building for logging interpretation, and a locomotive display shelter, which houses logging engines and a horse-drawn carriage. There is also a historical logging equipment exhibit, consisting of eleven display cases, a logger's cabin, two steam donkeys, a duplex loader, and a Washington slackliner. The display includes two lengths of redwood trees six feet in diameter and twenty-eight feet long, weighing about twenty-one tons.

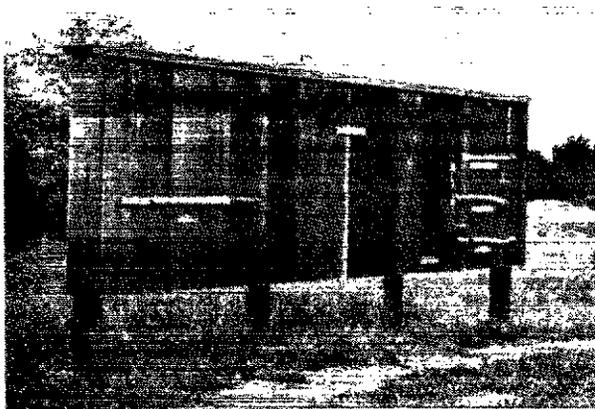
LOGGING DISPLAY



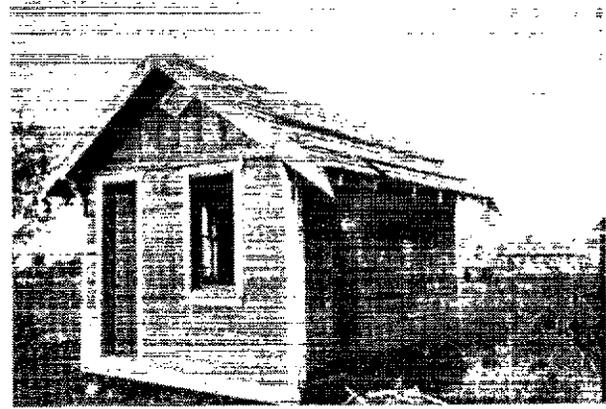
Washington Slackliner



Steam Donkey



Display Case



Logger's Cabin

The locomotive display shelter was built with funds from a 1969-70 budget request; an underground electric system and a self-guided tour were added at that time.

The buildings of the actual fort were under military control until 1870, when the property was sold. The last building to be abandoned was the commissary, which was converted into a residence for later use.

In the early days before urban development, the site offered an unrivaled view in all directions. Timber and other natural amenities afforded by the environment were nearby.

Circulation and Parking

The entrance road of the site, most of which passes through the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest*, terminates at a parking area which serves the district headquarters. From the parking area, a narrow road serves the shop, residences, and utility buildings further to the west, with a small parking site for the residences.

An additional twenty-eight-car parking area outside the zone to the east is served by the present entrance road. This parking is close to the current logging display.

Fire Protection and Sewage

Fire protection and sewage disposal are already supplied at the site. Sewer lines serving the fort are tied into the City of Eureka sewer district.

*For explanation of Zone of Primary Cultural Interest, see page 21 of this report.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The discovery of Humboldt Bay by Euroamericans was an important event in the history of the north coast. In 1806, sea captain John Winship and his crew entered Humboldt Bay, sailing an American ship for a Russian fur company. Winship's discovery, however, did not directly lead to the actual settlement of Humboldt Bay. Ships stopped there for water and food, but no one took the initiative to set up a permanent settlement.

Until gold was discovered, the northwestern corner of Alta-California was an isolated region of mostly unknown values to Spanish, Mexican, and American settlers; only fur trappers and explorers had penetrated the area.

With the discovery of gold near the headwaters of the Trinity River in 1848, there was renewed interest in the bay. Overland transport of food, supplies, and precious cargo through the great central valley and over the mountains was slow and expensive; a new, more direct water route was needed by merchants and miners. After several attempts, the bay was rediscovered; by 1850, Humboldt Bay had become a gateway to the mineral-rich region of northwest California.¹

Miners, merchants, timbermen, and farmers poured into the region. They brought their lives, hopes, dreams, and skills into this wilderness of the continental United States. They also brought values and land-use perceptions vastly different from those of resident natives. These settlers established harbors and cities, and produced homes, board feet of timber, gold dust, and food crops familiar to American taste.

Native Americans of the Humboldt Bay region were suddenly placed in cultural and territorial disarray.² They fought desperately against displacement, negotiating unsuccessfully with the U.S. government in repeated attempts to retain control over their homes and hunting and fishing grounds.³

The two cultures were in conflict. Incompatible uses for the land and its resources--and racial prejudice--brought on violence in the form of ambushes and skirmishes by both the original inhabitants and the new settlers.

Much of the trouble with the Indian people was instigated by the settlers, through their treatment of the Indians; when the Indians retaliated in the only way they knew--killing whites and destroying their property--the military was called in, to protect the settlers.

California governor John Bigler, urged on by state senators and citizens, demanded army protection for settlers and their property. Indian agent "Colonel" Redick McKee implored the army to defend the lives and remaining property of the Indians against the worst ravages of conquest. It was with these two goals in mind that the army was ordered into the field.⁴

In January 1853, army headquarters dispatched B and F Companies of the United States 4th Infantry to Humboldt Bay. They landed on January 30, setting up temporary camp beside the little town of Bucksport. Captain R.C. Buchanan, commander of the troops, had orders to choose a location and build suitable facilities. Within a few days, he had selected a site: the relatively flat area atop a bluff about one-quarter mile inland from the bay. The military

reserve embraced open land on the south, and timber and prairie for grazing on the east. Throughout the reserve, there was plenty of running water, which widened into a pond immediately adjoining the site of the fort, then passed off through a swale between the military lands and Bucksport, and into the bay.⁵ Construction of Fort Humboldt by the soldiers began immediately.⁶

Fort Humboldt was occupied from 1853 to 1866. Never the scene of battle, it served instead as the central hub of communications, supply, and personnel for lesser camps and forts that appeared throughout the region in response to threats and outbreaks of violence.⁷

One of the main duties of the garrison at Fort Humboldt was to guard Indian prisoners taken in the field and sent in by other garrisons. In July 1862, it was recorded that 412 Indians were held prisoner; by June 1864, more than 500 were being held.

At first, the prisoners were held in a corral near the fort, on the hill opposite the south side, across the slough. The conditions grew too crowded, and a temporary prisoner location was set up on the peninsula, across from Bucksport, in August 1864. This created room for more than 900 prisoners, who could be guarded by a few men.

These prisoners were transferred to Round Valley (Covello) by regular troops in September 1865.

U.S. Army regulars carried out official military functions until they departed for the Civil War in 1861. At this time, units of the federal California Volunteers took over control of the fort, and assumed full responsibility for halting Indian resistance. The volunteer forces were very effective. By the time U.S. regular troops returned in 1866, most of the fighting was ended.⁸ The army abandoned the fort in 1866, and it was sold by the U.S. Government in 1870.

FOOTNOTES

1. L.H. Irvine, History of Humboldt County, California (Los Angeles: Historic Record Co., 1897), p. 61; W.W. Elliott, History of Humboldt County, p. 82.
2. Jack R. Dyson, "Forts of California," letter, p. 6. Interpretive Planning Unit, Sacramento, folder No. 519.2-120.
3. Engel Sluiter, "Fort Humboldt, Registered Landmark #154," 1936, p. 4. Works Progress Administration, project No. 65-3-3218; Interpretive Planning Unit, Sacramento; folder No. 519.1-120.
4. James W. Jenne, "Fort Humboldt 1853-1866," p. 3. C.D. Thompson, "Notes on Fort Humboldt," Historical Report Series, No. 30; Interpretive Planning Unit, Sacramento; folder No. 519.2-120.
5. Chad Hoopes, "Fort Humboldt, Explorations of the Humboldt Bay Region and Founding of the Military Fort." 1964. p. 48.
6. Jenne, p. 4.
7. Sluiter, p. 11.
8. Jenne, pp. 5-12.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Fort Humboldt is classified as a historic unit of the State Park System, in conformity with the Public Resources Code (Section 5.0001.5(e)). The fundamental goal of a historic unit is the preservation of resources of prehistoric and historic significance. Interpretation and presentation of resources such as the unit's buildings, objects, sites, and natural features should help visitors to learn about and enjoy that aspect of California's heritage for which the unit was established.

RESOURCE SUMMARY AND EVALUATION

Cultural Resources

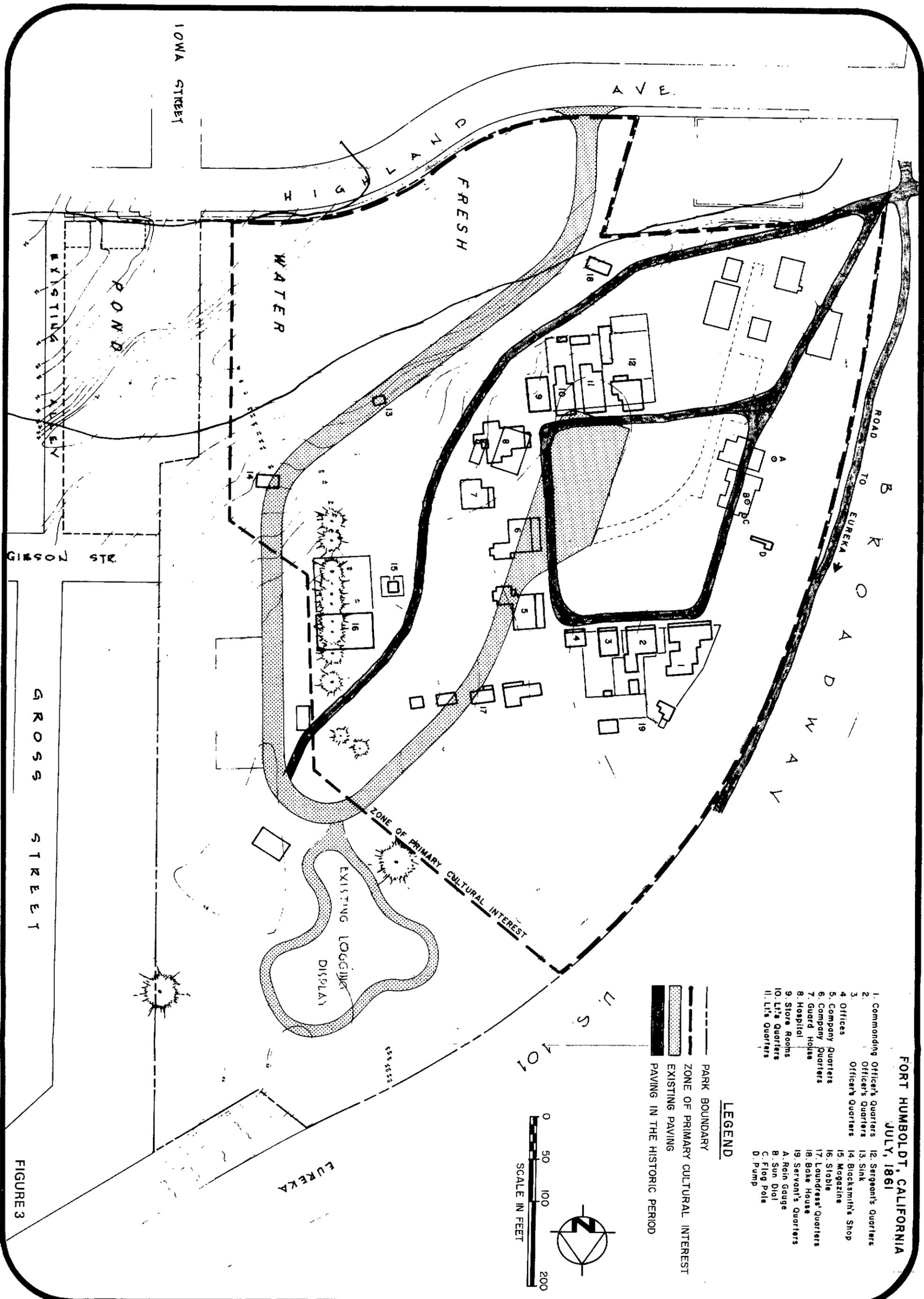
Fort Humboldt played an important part in the settlement and development of California's north coast region. From the early 1850s through the mid 1860s, a military garrison was assigned to the fort. The first garrison was made up of U.S. regulars, assigned to enforce the Intercommerce Acts which regulated activities between settlers and Native Americans. Ideally, these regulars were to serve as a buffer between the two cultures and to protect both groups. On occasion, the regulars were ordered to punish or round up Indians for alleged depredations. The Indians' actions were often retaliatory raids for attacks on Indian people or for encroachment on their lands. From 1861, the post housed California Volunteers in federal service. The volunteers brought with them not only greater manpower, but also a more violent intolerance in dealing with the Indians. An intense struggle between the two cultures occurred over the next three years, with Fort Humboldt as a focus of this struggle. The historic site is important to understanding the conflict between these two cultures, and the history of the area.

Fort Humboldt is a registered California Historical Landmark, #154. It was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in the early 1970s; the nomination is still pending.

The cultural resources of the historic park exist mostly in the form of archeological deposits. The 1861 map of the fort shows 23 cultural features, of which only the hospital building remains (see map). Continued research suggests that the hospital shown in the 1861 map was replaced by another structure in 1862; it is the 1862 structure which remains today.

This building, the one remaining piece of the fort's original fabric, is vital to the historic scene. Although not entirely sound structurally, its exterior is generally of a historically compatible appearance. However, it has been adapted and has served as District 1 Headquarters since 1956. The interior has been completely remodeled. The building has also been rotated 15 degrees east of its historic alignment, although it remains in about the same location.

The fort deteriorated quickly after it was abandoned in 1866. Buildings were vandalized; wood was salvaged. All that is left besides the unit's one original building are the sites of buildings and other features, such as the flag pole and parade grounds.



FORT HUMBOLDT, CALIFORNIA
JULY, 1861

- 1. Commanding Officer's Quarters
- 2. Officers' Quarters
- 3. Officers' Quarters
- 4. Offices
- 5. Company Quarters
- 6. Company Quarters
- 7. Guard House
- 8. Hospital
- 9. Store Rooms
- 10. Lt's Quarters
- 11. Lt's Quarters
- 12. Sergeant's Quarters
- 13. Sink
- 14. Blocksmith's Shop
- 15. Magazine
- 16. Stable
- 17. Laundress' Quarters
- 18. Bake House
- 19. Servant's Quarters
- A. Rein Gauge
- B. Sun Dial
- C. Flag Pole
- D. Pump

LEGEND

- PARK BOUNDARY
- - - ZONE OF PRIMARY CULTURAL INTEREST
- ▨ EXISTING PAVING
- PAVING IN THE HISTORIC PERIOD

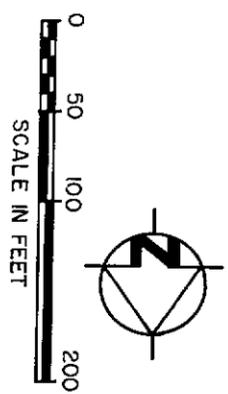


FIGURE 3

Archeological sites vary in potential. Some may have been disturbed by development, but many deposits are intact, since erosion on the bluff has been minimal in the last 100 years. All archeological deposits have a potential for information yield that is vital to restoration, reconstruction, and interpretation of the unit.

No prehistoric or paleontological features have been identified at the unit. This does not preclude their existence here. If discovered, these resources will be evaluated and included in applicable programs for preservation, investigation, and interpretation. State laws and the department's Resource Management Directives will be followed in treatment of all significant cultural resources.

In addition to the historic resources associated with the fort, there is a two-acre outdoor logging exhibit in the northeast part of the property. This display impinges on the northern boundary of the prime historic resources area, but the exhibit makes a significant contribution to the visitor experience at the unit.

Natural Resources

Geology

The north coast area of the Coastal Strip Landscape Province contains alluvial deposits, coastal sand deposits, the Franciscan formation, and marine and non-marine sedimentary formations. Fort Humboldt stands on marine deposits typical of the northern coast range. Normally, they are poorly-consolidated sands and clays.

Excavation has revealed that from the grass roots to a depth of ten to twelve inches, a layer of dark, loamy topsoil overlays a stratum of lighter brown earth of fine, sandy texture. Below these layers is a highly-compacted yellow base of sedimentary origin. Areas of the bluff were cultivated, and later, a housing tract was planned. However, the bluff has been relatively unaffected by this agriculture, or by development and erosion in the past century. Plaster fragments, square nails, broken bottles, and ceramic sherds have been found in the topsoil throughout most of the unit. The undisturbed locations of these objects and disruption of soil layers from historic activities are evidence of the military presence in the 1850s and 1860s.

Vegetation

California's Coastal Strip Landscape Province, in which Fort Humboldt is located, contains the following vegetative associations: redwood forest, north coast coniferous forest, north coast scrub, coastal strand, sandy intertidal, rocky intertidal, and near shore marine.

During the prime period, the blufftop was grassy, with coniferous forest to the east and bordering the post. Letters from people who stayed at the fort refer to gardens and cultivated fields. The soldiers may have spent much time working in these fields.

The bluff now contains a variety of plant species, both native and exotic. It is still primarily grassy, now mostly non-native and mowed, with exotic plantings for screening and decorative purposes. An area of shrubs and young spruce and alder trees along the west shoulder of the bluff is the most prominent vegetation.

The vegetation of the unit is not exceptional within the state park system, but when restored and viewed in its historical context, it will contribute significantly to the setting and feeling of historic Fort Humboldt.

During the fort's prime period, a freshwater pond was located south of the bluff. The pond supported water plants and waterfowl. Willows, berries, and other riparian vegetation now grow in this area, which is marsh-like in years of normal rainfall. The area may also contain artifacts, and should be investigated before development. It is an area suitable for restoration and interpretation.

Animals

A variety of animals inhabited the area during the fort's prime period, including bears, deer, coyotes, jack rabbits, and squirrels. The larger animals are now gone. The activities of burrowing animals, such as the botta pocket gopher, are the main signs of animal life on the bluff. Various resident and migratory birds are present.

Plant/animal communities in abundance during the fort's prime period no longer exist, for the most part. Nevertheless, the natural environment of the fort during its prime period will be considered in interpretation.

Other features

Ecological features and other aspects of the natural environment that may affect development and operation of the unit are discussed in the General Development Plan.

Scenic Values

The bluff on which Fort Humboldt is located was selected because it was elevated and relatively barren, thus providing a commanding view of the immediate area. In contrast to the open, scenic views from the bluff in the fort's prime period, modern views are dominated by nearby commercial and industrial development. While these changes may detract from the site's scenic values, visitors to the fort may find these industrial developments (shipping and lumber mills, etc.) interesting, as representative of the north coast.

Fort Humboldt is surrounded by private residences and by a commercial district. The effects of these on the historic scene are adverse, but they cannot be mitigated to any great extent. Such views, although they diminish the historic setting, may contribute in other ways to visitors' experiences at the unit.

RECREATIONAL VALUES

Fort Humboldt SHP has recreational value for sightseeing and other historically compatible recreation. Eureka's historic district adds to the interesting historic sightseeing in the area. Several State Park System units in the vicinity offer hiking and camping. Swimming, fishing, boating, and other water sports are available nearby.

RESOURCE DEFICIENCIES

Development of Fort Humboldt SHP is hindered by the following resource deficiencies:

1. The hospital building is the only remaining above-ground historic structure at the fort with interpretive value.
2. The surrounding urban setting detracts from the historic scene.
3. Artifacts necessary for interpretation are not now a part of the unit. Those associated with the following must be secured:
 - a. A military post of the 1850s.
 - b. The local Native Americans.
 - c. Period miners, farmers, loggers, etc.
4. Current natural features of the fort are unlike those of the prime period. The freshwater pond has filled with sediment; it is now a marshy area, with no open water.
5. Present research necessary to analyze and interpret the resources is not adequate, and must be expanded.

DECLARATION OF PURPOSE

On July 19, 1963, a declaration of purpose was approved for Fort Humboldt by the State Park Commission; this is contained in Appendix A (p. 51).

Since 1863, further evaluation of Fort Humboldt, and analysis of interpretive needs, has necessitated a new declaration of purpose, embodying the elements of the original declaration, but containing a more definitive policy for interpretation:

The purpose of Fort Humboldt State Historic Park is to make available to the people, for their appreciation and enlightenment, the story of Fort Humboldt as a nucleus of cultural and economic growth in north-western California; its methods of apprehending, restraining, and evicting the natives; and the U.S. Army's influences in the Fort Humboldt area during the gold-rush era, with emphasis on the area's mining and logging industries.

Themes and eras of California's history have been identified in the California History Plan. Fort Humboldt SHP generally fits the military and settlement themes during the American era (1848-present). The prime period is the time of military occupation, 1853-1866. Emphasis will be placed on 1861, a time of significant development of the garrison under U.S. Army regulars before the Civil War.

The following interpretive themes will be emphasized:

Primary Themes:

1. Establishment, construction, and occupation of Fort Humboldt.
2. The role of Fort Humboldt, the U. S. Army, and the federal California Volunteers in the settlement of northern California.
3. Cultures and conflicts - the area's native residents and early settlers.

Secondary Themes:

1. Military men of Fort Humboldt who later became famous.
2. Humboldt Bay - its significance to the settlement of northern California.

Temporary Theme:

1. Logging history of the north coast (the logging exhibit located temporarily at the unit will be removed to a more appropriate place, after which this theme will no longer be interpreted here; see Appendix B, page 56).

The unit's resources will be used to interpret these themes and the prime period. A flow-of-history concept related to the people and events of the area, both before and after the prime period, will also be considered. Fort Humboldt will be analyzed in terms of broad historical perspectives, as well as in terms of specific interpretive themes.

A Zone of Primary Cultural Interest, in which complete historical authenticity will be sought, has been identified. It encompasses most of the unit, including all prime resources - the fort area, all known archeological sites, and much of the freshwater pond area, now a marsh (see map). At present, only a strip along the east boundary and the logging display area in the northeast corner are excluded. Any acquisition at the unit will be evaluated by the Resource Preservation and Interpretation Division in terms of this zone, and its boundaries may be extended.

DECLARATION OF MANAGEMENT POLICY

Preservation/Restoration/Reconstruction

No restoration or reconstruction will take place without information that assures accurate and authentic work. Research and excavation will be carried out to gather the necessary information.

Using the July 1861 map as a guide, the historic scene will be re-created as it was during the prime period. The hospital building, the only remaining structure, will eventually be completely restored. The initial budgetary program involves re-orientation to the building's original position, and stabilization. Complete restoration will follow at a later date. Eventually, all buildings and structures shown on the 1861 map, as well as the gardens and grounds, will be reconstructed or restored. The locations of the fort's buildings and other appropriate features should be verified and marked, to facilitate their protection and give visitors a better idea of the fort's layout.

Reconstruction work will be phased according to the needs of interpretation and operation of the unit. This phasing may be adjusted as development progresses. After the hospital has been stabilized, the following actions will be taken, in order of priority:

Reconstruction of the sergeants' quarters

Complete restoration of the hospital, and establishment of a house museum

Reconstruction and/or interpretation of the corral for retaining prisoners

Reconstruction of the company quarters

Reconstruction of the officers' quarters

Reconstruction of the commanding officer's quarters.

Other features, such as the flag pole (note: the modern flagpole on the site is not at the original flagpole's location), parade grounds, and gardens, should be restored.

Next, remaining historic buildings around the parade grounds, and outlying buildings, such as the laundress' quarters, bake house, servants' quarters, magazine, sink, stables, and blacksmith shop, will be re-constructed.

During reconstruction work, intrusions on the historic scene, such as the asphalt entrance road, parking lot, and modern buildings, will be removed and relocated.

Certain historic buildings and reconstruction will serve the unit's administrative, visitor orientation, and housing needs. This will obviate construction of new facilities to meet these needs. This may improve the quality of the visual environment of the historic park, as well as facilitating its operation.

The Interpretive Prospectus provides interpretive priorities and a reconstruction schedule.

Archeology

Archeology is considered a major part of development at Fort Humboldt, since most of the fort's resources are archeological deposits. They derive their significance from their potential for information yield. Consequently, archeological investigation will be performed before any stabilization, restoration, or reconstruction, whenever necessary to develop a complete data base for the work, or whenever the integrity of the resource may be endangered by the work. All development work that requires subsurface activity will be evaluated for alternatives before the work is begun, and will be monitored for archeological value during the work.

Zone of Primary Cultural Interest

A parking facility located outside the zone is reached by a road that passes through the zone. This road will be maintained until an alternate route, also outside the zone, is developed (see General Development Plan, p. 33). The existing road should be returned to as historically accurate a condition and route as possible.

No modern devices will be permitted within the zone, except where required for public health and safety and for interpretation. When the fort is opened to the public, motor vehicles will not be permitted in the zone, except in emergencies. House museums, historic/environmental live-in programs, and sightseeing and other compatible activities may be permitted within the zone. Picnic tables and other contemporary facilities that may be needed will be located outside the zone.

Natural and Scenic Values

The natural resources of the unit will be restored and managed in their historic context. Grounds will be depicted in a way that permits visitors to experience the historic setting of the fort in as authentic a manner as can be achieved today. Gardens, both functional and decorative, should be restored and maintained for interpretive as well as esthetic purposes, consistent with the authentic historic scene. Appropriate flora will be established to partially screen contemporary facilities and urban surroundings, without completely blocking views of the bay and other interesting features. No plantings should intrude into the north boundary of the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest; this area was historically left free of planting. Appropriate replacement species, both native and exotic, will be selected for screening and for the gardens. Selective removal of certain vegetation may be necessary. The marsh/pond area will eventually be restored to its period appearance.

Intrusions

The unit currently contains a number of structures and facilities that intrude on the historic scene of Fort Humboldt in the 1850s and '60s. These include the following: two ranger residences; a technical services building; a carpenter shop; and four smaller storage buildings. These will be removed. Power lines will eventually be placed underground. The District 1 Headquarters housed in the hospital building violates that resource's historic integrity; the headquarters will be vacated and the building restored.

The logging industry exhibit is considered an intrusion on the fort's historic scene. Until it is moved, the exhibit will be maintained at the unit. Although a short distance from the fort's main area, this exhibit is located outside the zone, and should not impede early phases of the fort's development (see Appendix B, page 55).

Recreation

Environmental live-in programs, sightseeing, and other forms of passive recreation may be permitted at the unit, as deemed compatible with its purpose. Public participation programs that interpret life at the fort, such as gardening and certain special events, may be permitted, provided they do not adversely affect the resources or the historic scene. Many local people are interested in the development of Fort Humboldt; their volunteer assistance should be sought. Fort Humboldt SHP is not currently suited to more active forms of recreation.

Interpretation

Interpretive objectives are to be harmonious with the declared purpose of the unit. All resources preserved, restored, or reconstructed shall be effectively interpreted. The 1853-66 period will be emphasized, but a flow-of-history concept in both time and place will also be considered in interpretation. All resources that have been identified, or may be identified, will be evaluated and considered for interpretation. Parts of the Interpretive Prospectus reproduced in this report (page 37) presents guidelines for achieving the unit's interpretive objectives.

Operations

Subjects such as operational methods, schedules, and systems are discussed in the General Development Plan.

All interpretation, development, and operation at the historic park will be in conformity with the Public Resources Code and with Department of Parks and Recreation Resource Management Directives.

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the General Development Plan is to establish guidelines for development and reconstruction of Fort Humboldt, and to determine interpretive plans and areas for recreation which are compatible with policies of the Resource Management Plan.

The nucleus for the state historic park was given to the State of California, Division of Beaches and Parks, by the City of Eureka on January 11, 1955, under provisions of City Resolution No. 4638:

Whereas, it appears to the Council of the City of Eureka meeting in regular session that it would be for the best interests of the City and the inhabitants thereof and of the State of California that said real property hereinbefore referred to and commonly known as "Fort Humboldt" be transferred and conveyed to the State of California, in order that same be restored and perpetuated as a State Historical Monument.

MOUNTED OFFICERS

From "Harper's Weekly," 1858



The primary purpose for the establishment and perpetuation of Fort Humboldt State Historic Park is the presentation for public instruction and enjoyment of the story of the fort's occupation by the U.S. Army from 1853 to 1866.

As consideration for the deeding of this land, the state in 1955 expressed its intention to restore and reconstruct Fort Humboldt as it originally existed. Since only a small part of the necessary archeological research has been accomplished to date to achieve this goal, this plan becomes an essential document to initiate actual development.

Two buildings are involved in the initial development for fiscal 1978/79: re-orientation and stabilization of the hospital building, and reconstruction of the sergeants' quarters. The hospital, now the District 1 Headquarters, will be vacated when stabilization begins.

The timely aspect of this plan cannot be over-stressed.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

Local people are very interested in state development of this project. District 1 personnel have received sympathetic overtures from the public for several years, in anticipation of state activity and initial steps toward reconstruction.

In December 1968, a recommendation was made that an advisory committee for Fort Humboldt be formed. The backgrounds of committee members varied from interests in logging and history to business and professional involvement.

Two meetings with committee members and personnel from the Department of Parks and Recreation have been held at Fort Humboldt, to involve the committee in planning procedures, and to acquaint it with the department's proposals for initial development. The committee has been invaluable as a liaison between department personnel and the public.

An open meeting to determine the feelings of various public sectors was held in October 1977. Previous meetings with committee members and other interested parties have been valuable in determining the general tone of this plan, and have served as sounding boards to relate its details to the interested public.

LAND USE ANALYSIS

The primary land use of Fort Humboldt State Historic Park is determined by restoration and reconstruction of the fort as it originally existed from 1853 to 1866. The Zone of Primary Cultural Interest embraces the fort itself and the historic area embodying the freshwater pond, which was important to the fort's operation.

The remaining park area contains the present logging display, which is considered incompatible with the historic integrity of the fort. However, its intrusion into the scene is tolerable until a new site can be found, where the story of redwoods logging can be more adequately told. The logging display is currently the major attraction to the area, and will remain so until reconstruction of the fort itself is underway. The drawing capacity of the gradual restoration and reconstruction of the fort remains to be seen.

Also located in the remaining park outside the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest are the comfort station and parking area. These facilities, should they be expanded, cannot be allowed to intrude into the cultural zone.

The story of Native Americans and white settlers will be told in the Area for Interpretation, northeast of the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest, when the logging display is moved. There is also a possibility that the area to the south near the pond will be used. Day use facilities will be part of land use outside the zone, designed to enhance the interpretive theme. This will require a sensitive land use concept, addressing the needs of passive recreation and interpretation.

Another land use concept is rehabilitation of the present pond (to restore it ecologically to its original condition), and the accompanying plant environment which existed at the time of the fort's occupation.

ZONE OF PRIMARY CULTURAL INTEREST

In accordance with the primary purpose of the unit, about two-thirds of the property is designated as a Zone of Primary Cultural Interest. This zone, involving the pond, is the minimal area required to properly interpret the fort without intrusion of activities and structures extraneous to its purpose.

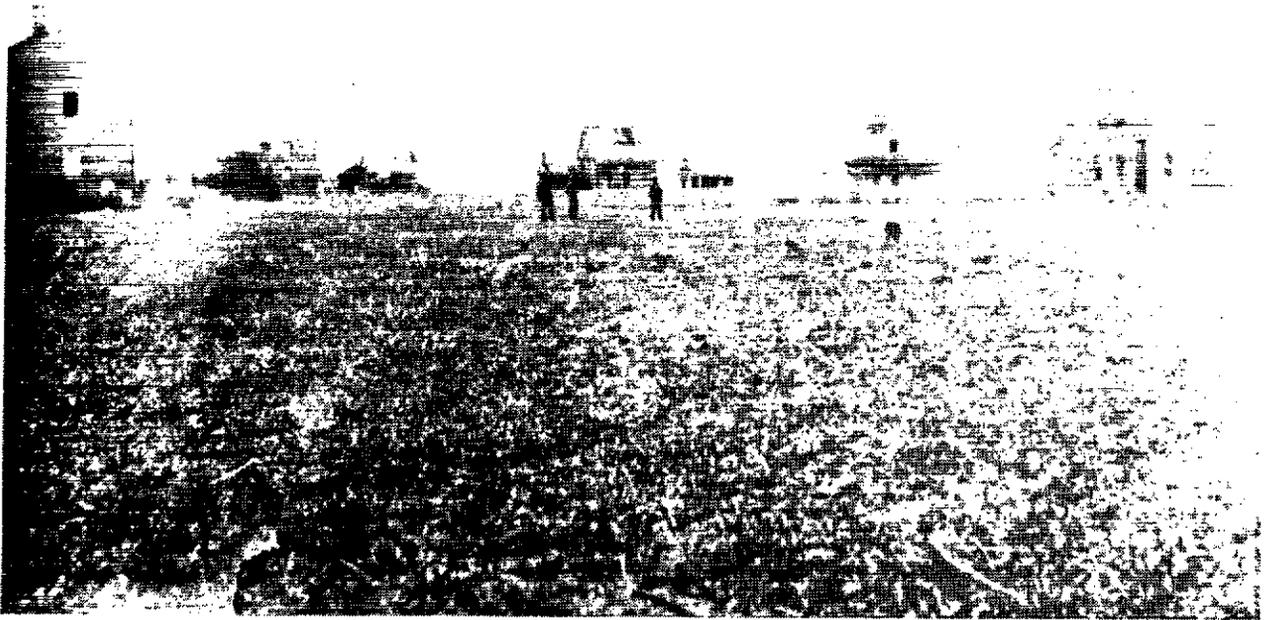
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

The main thrust at Fort Humboldt is history. The program of historical reconstruction is based on the 1861 map of the fort, and the order of priority is taken from the Interpretive Prospectus, a summary of which appears on page 37 of this document.

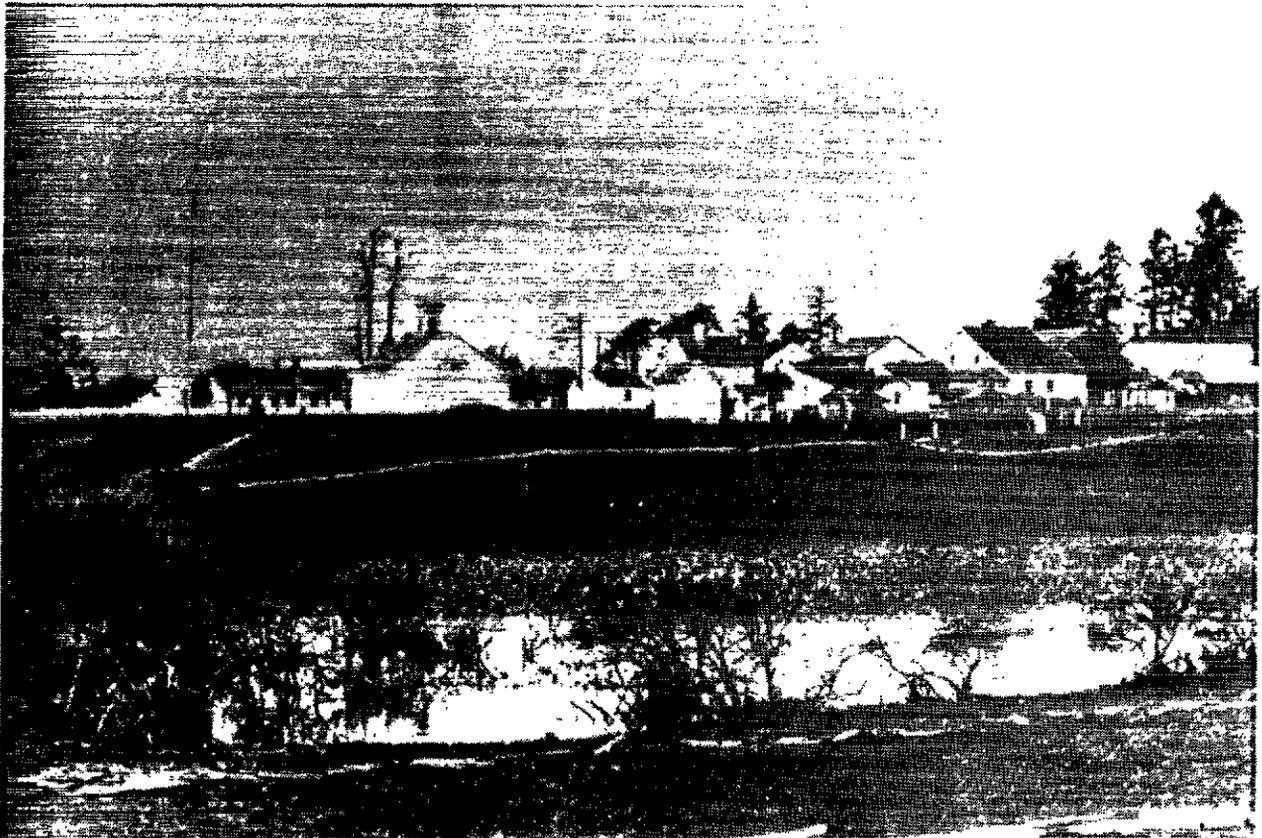
The General Development Plan's major function is to provide a guide for complete reconstruction of the fort. This will allow the department to preserve, restore, protect, and interpret for the public, as quoted from the Declaration of Purpose, "...a nucleus of cultural and economic growth in a remote wilderness area..."

In order to implement this declaration, the following program is offered:

1. Preservation, reconstruction, and interpretation of the eighteen structures which comprised the fort during the period of occupation by the U.S. Army from 1853-1866.
2. Removal of all paving and structures which did not historically exist on the site of the original fort.
 - (a) Removal of the district office to a more appropriate site.



Fort Humboldt in state of deterioration after being abandoned by Army



Old Photo of Fort Humboldt

- (b) Removal of park residences.
- (c) Removal of buildings in the service compound (most of these will logically be moved with the district office).
- (d) As an interim measure, the park office building has been relocated to its current position, close to the logging display building. The office has been serving as a public control point. During reconstruction of the fort, interpretive literature will be made available to visitors of this office.
- (e) Removal of the logging display. (See Appendix B, page 56.)

Certain constraints have been made on moving of the present logging display:

- (1) The display cannot be moved until a new site has been acquired. No storage of artifacts should be permitted.
 - (2) The new site should be close to a freeway or main road of travel; otherwise, the display will suffer from lack of visitation.
 - (3) The exhibit should be moved as soon as possible, to promote continuity of an interpretive display.
3. Appropriate planting to restore the site as closely as possible to the historic occurrence of trees and plants, and additional landscape planting, as required.

Planting of native materials as a screen should be done on the east boundary, and on the north side as far up as the west end of the present logging display.

The west boundary of the Zone of Primary Cultural Interest, next to U.S. 101, should not be screened with planting. This planting would lack historic integrity, as the north side of the fort was left open to preserve the commanding view. Planting next to Highland Avenue should be compatible with restoration of the natural pond, to simulate the historic setting.

The bowling alley on the parcel southwest of the fort should be screened with appropriate planting (for the status of this parcel, see Appendix A, page 51).

- 4. Ecological restoration of the existing pond, to achieve as great a degree of historical restoration as possible.
- 5. Future parking demands will be met by expanding the present area east of the entrance road. Present parking for the district office and park residences will be removed when the respective buildings are moved from the site.

6. Provision of day-use facilities at the southeast corner of the property, to satisfy the needs of visitors to the fort. At present, there is a deficiency of picnic facilities in Planning District 1. These amenities should be designed as accessories to the interpretive scene.

7. Provision of administrative services and operational facilities.

- (a) Administrative Service Facilities: Public contact will continue to be made in the park office, which has been moved close to the logging museum building. Personnel in the office will pass out brochures and leaflets to aid in interpretation of Fort Humboldt. This will be visitors' first public contact when they leave the parking area.

The current logging museum building will remain after removal of the logging exhibit to another site. When this takes place, the building can be converted to a park office building. This building will replace the present park office. The office will handle typical day-to-day business associated with Fort Humboldt.

- (b) Operational Facilities: There is need for a small service yard to accommodate service cars, a small tractor, and other equipment for park operation. This yard will be located off the main entrance road, on the northeast corner of the site. The location will provide easy access to the fort, yet will be secluded. The carpenter shop will be moved to this location when the buildings in the service complex are moved. There is also a need for storage of artifacts.

Vandalism is a problem in the park. Without patrol furnished by rangers, it will be necessary to provide extra money in the operations budget for surveillance, because fencing is inadequate to cope with the situation. This fiscal arrangement would be satisfactory to operations personnel, since removal of ranger residences as proposed would make additional surveillance necessary.

It is anticipated that sanitary facilities will become inadequate as progress is made in reconstruction of the fort. As these are expanded, it seems appropriate to design them for compatibility with the architectural theme of the fort.

8. Provision of fencing - historic and security.

9. Provision of interpretive panels and signs.

10. Appropriate park additions (Appendix A, p. 52).

Program for Restoration/Reconstruction, Based on 1861 Map

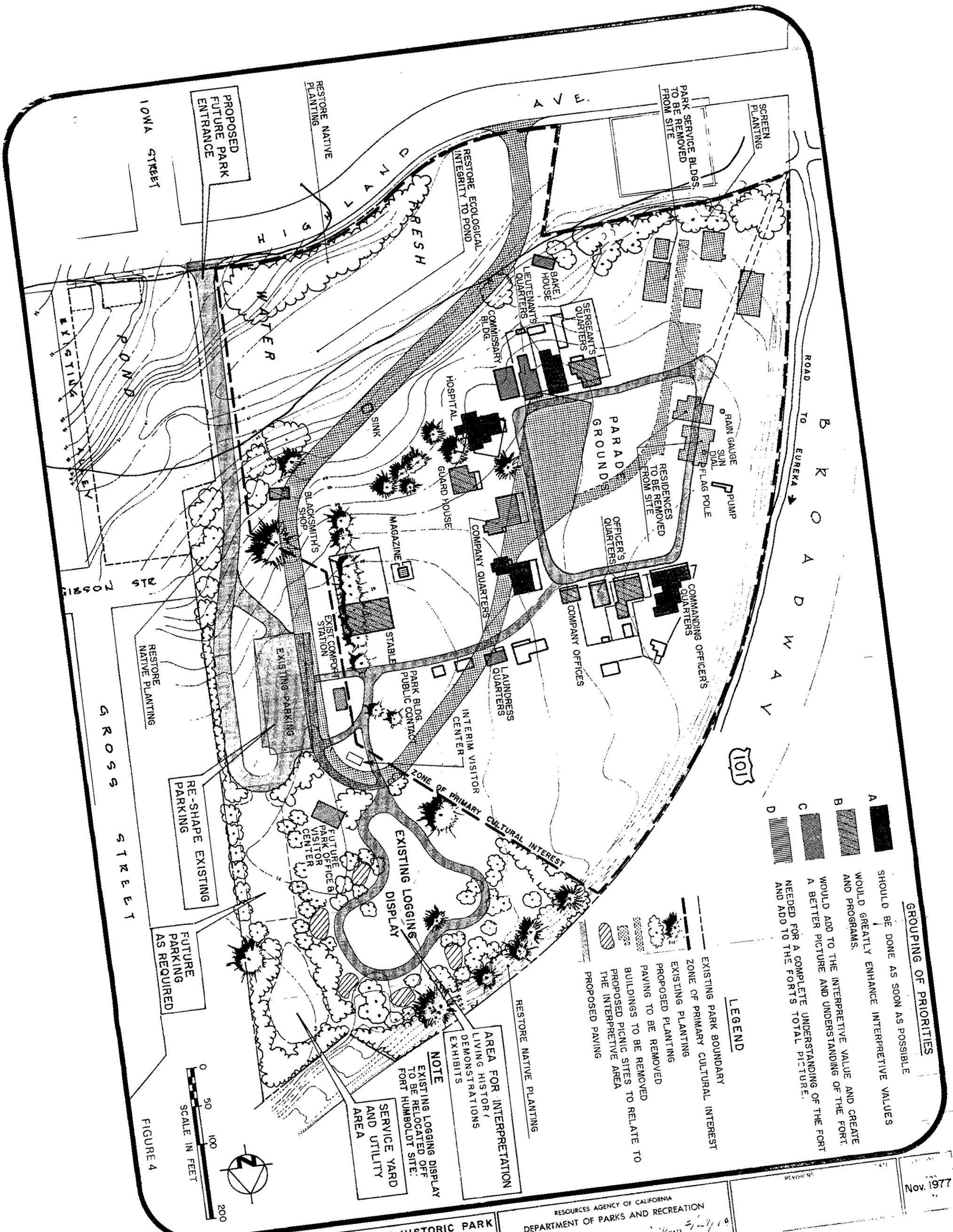
In Order of Priority

<u>Category</u> <u>Priorities*</u>	<u>Phasing</u> <u>Proposals**</u>	<u>Name of Building</u>	<u>Map</u> <u>No.</u>
A	1.	Stabilization of hospital building	
	2.	Reconstruction of sergeants' quarters	
	3.	Reconstruction and/or interpretation of corral to hold Native Americans (corral to be rebuilt only if originally within current park boundaries)	
	4.	Restoration of hospital and establishment of house museum	
	5.	Reconstruction of company quarters (barracks)	
	6.	Restoration of officers' quarters	
B	7.	Reconstruction of commanding officer's quarters	
	8.	Reconstruction of company offices	4
	9.	Reconstruction of guard house	7
	10.	Reconstruction of stables and blacksmith shop	16
	11.	Reconstruction of officers' quarters	2
C	12.	Reconstruction of bake house	18
	13.	Reconstruction of store rooms (company store)	9
	14.	Reconstruction of laundress' quarters	17
	15.	Reconstruction of officers' quarters	10
	16.	Reconstruction of officers' quarters	3
D	17.	Reconstruction of magazine	15
	18.	Reconstruction of company quarters	6

*Category priorities indicate selected buildings in preferential groups which have priority for construction.

**Phasing proposals indicate individual buildings within category priorities; the numbers indicate the desired development sequence. This sequence is subject to some changes, depending on changes in thinking, local pressures, and the influences of research and archeological studies.

It should be noted that only phasing proposals 1 and 2, in Category A, are currently budgeted (see Appendix A, page 51).



- GROUPING OF PRIORITIES**
- A [Solid black box] SHOULD BE DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
 - B [Diagonal lines /] WOULD GREATLY ENHANCE INTERPRETIVE VALUES AND PROGRAMS.
 - C [Diagonal lines \] WOULD ADD TO THE INTERPRETIVE VALUE AND CREATE A BETTER PICTURE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE FORT.
 - D [Horizontal lines] NEEDED FOR A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE FORT AND ADD TO THE FORT'S TOTAL PICTURE.

- LEGEND**
- [Dashed line] EXISTING PARK BOUNDARY
 - [Dotted line] ZONE OF PRIMARY CULTURAL INTEREST
 - [Cloud symbol] EXISTING PLANTING
 - [Hatched symbol] PROPOSED PLANTING
 - [Cross-hatched symbol] PROPOSED PAVING
 - [Diagonal lines /] BUILDINGS TO BE REMOVED
 - [Diagonal lines \] PROPOSED PICNIC SITES TO RELATE TO THE INTERPRETIVE AREA
 - [Dotted line] PROPOSED PAVING

NOTE
 EXISTING LOGGING DISPLAY TO BE RELOCATED OFF FORT HUMBOLDT SITE.
 SERVICE YARD AND UTILITY AREA

AREA FOR INTERPRETATION
 LIVING HISTORIC DEMONSTRATIONS EXHIBITS

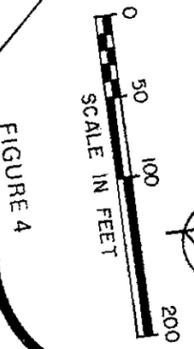


FIGURE 4

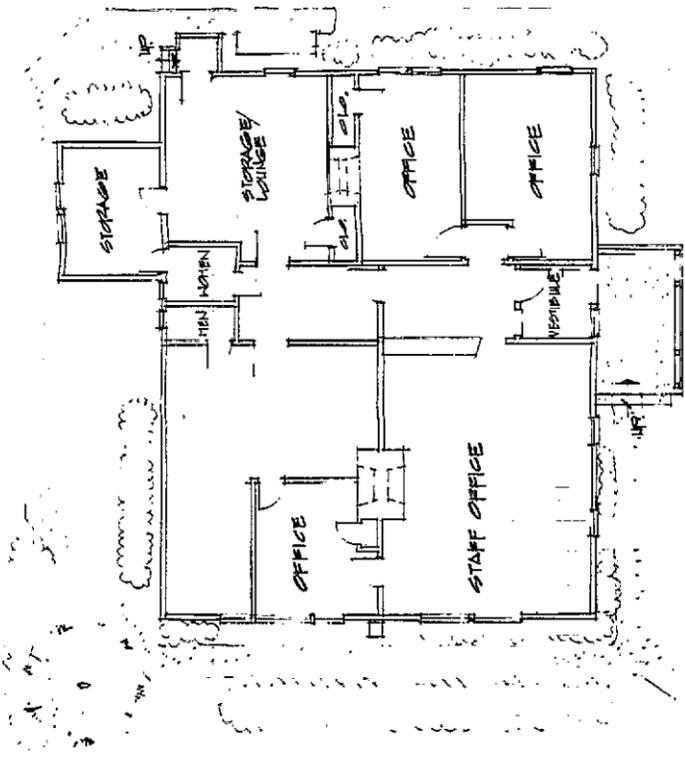
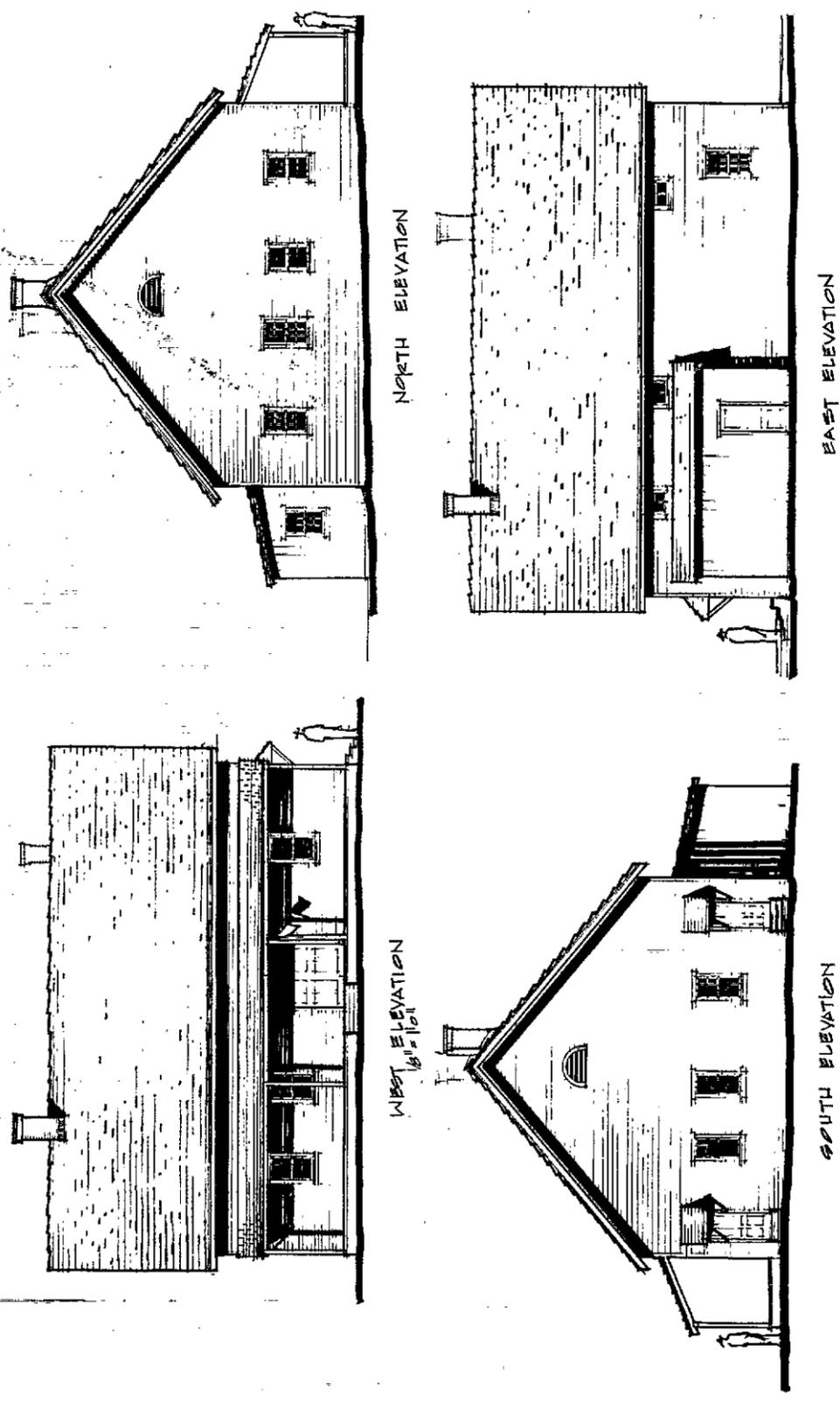
General Priority Grouping

Category Priority

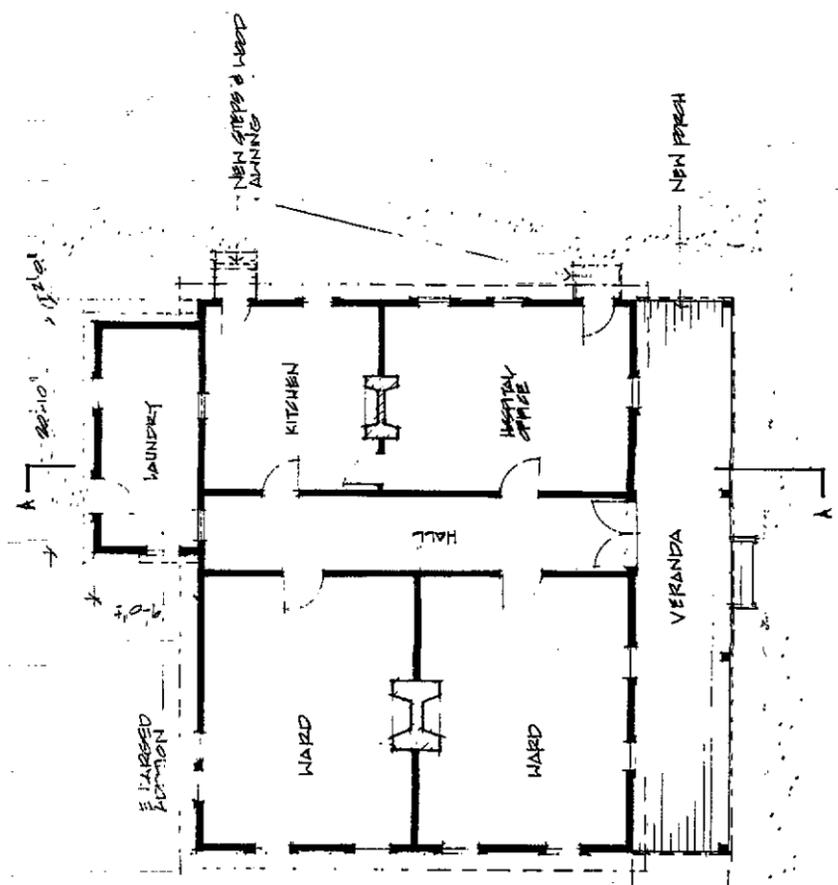
- A. This priority should be completed as soon as possible.
- B. Completion of this priority would greatly enhance the interpretive values and programs of Fort Humboldt.
- C. Completion of this priority would add to the fort's interpretive value, and would create a better public understanding of the fort.
- D. Completion of this priority would add to the fort's total picture.

Note: Foundations of all buildings should be delineated by timbers or other means, until the buildings have been reconstructed. Signs should identify all building locations.

FIGURE 5 - HOSPITAL BUILDING RESTORATION



FIRST FLOOR PLAN - EXISTING PARK HEADQUARTERS



FIRST FLOOR PLAN - RESTORED HOSPITAL

FIGURE 6

COMPANY'S QUARTERS - BUILDING NO. 5

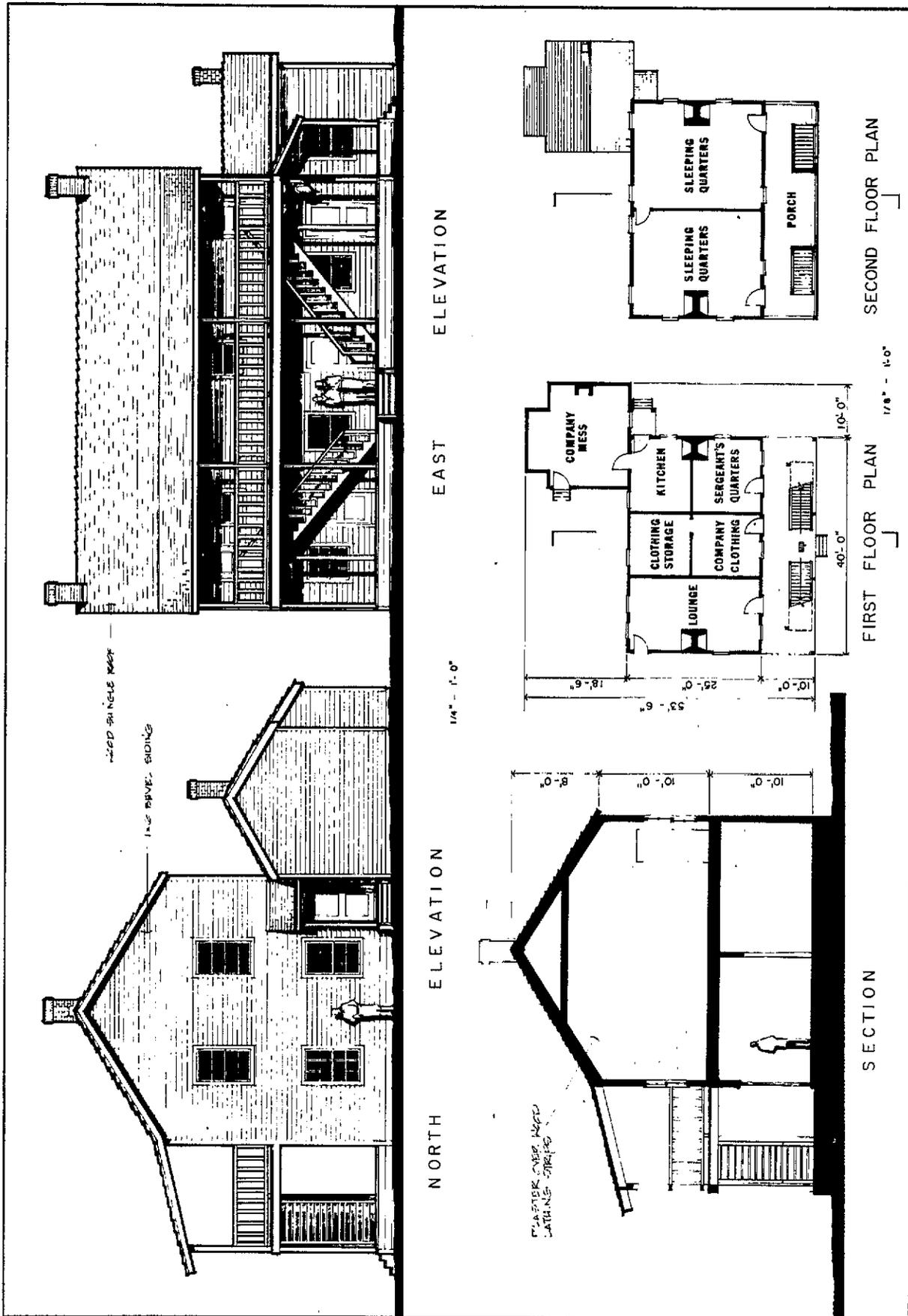
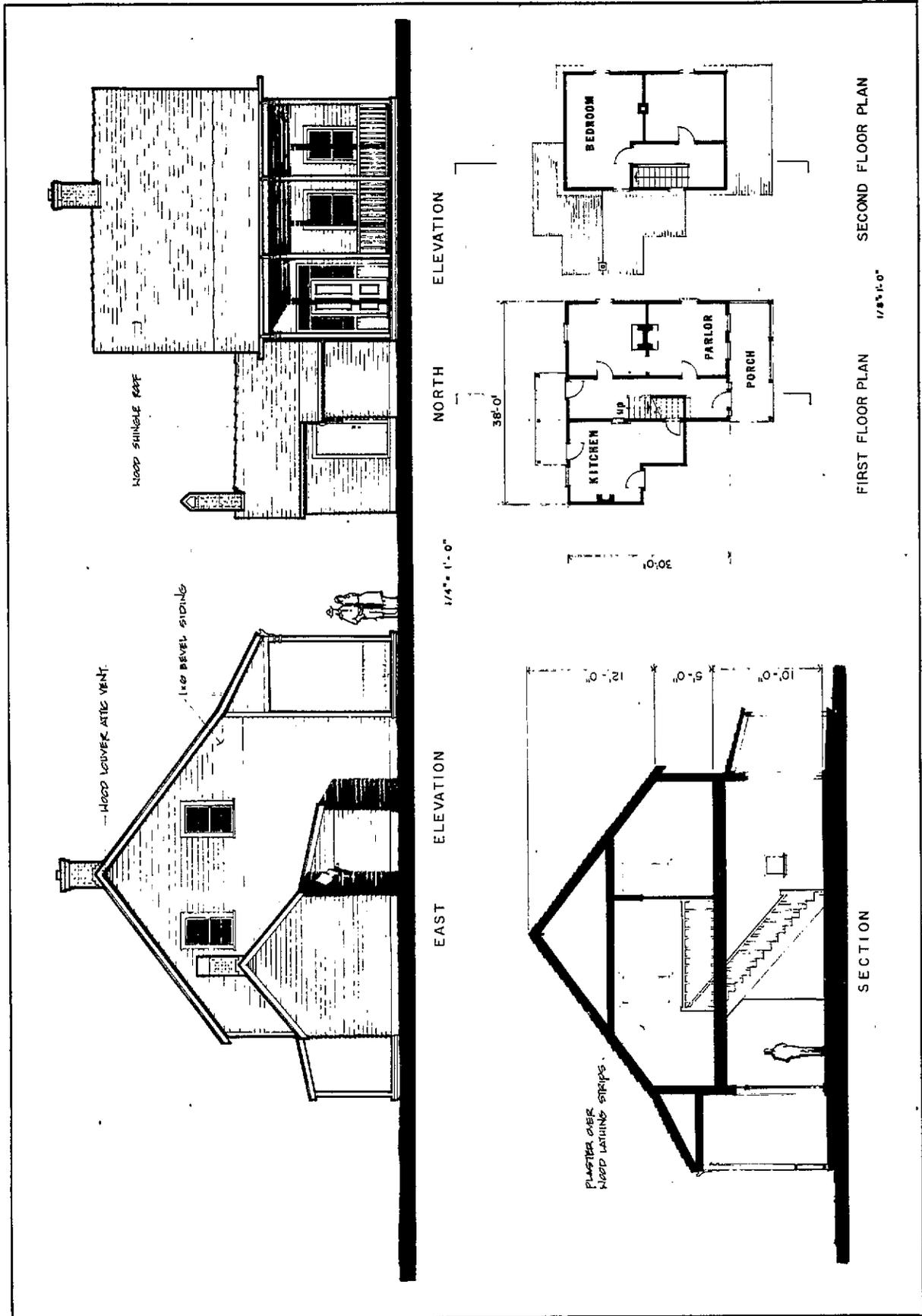


FIGURE 7

OFFICERS' QUARTERS - BUILDING NO. 12



EXCERPTS FROM INTERPRETIVE PROSPECTUS

Methods and Media

Selection of methods and media for interpretation of Fort Humboldt is limited by the lack of historic structures on the fort site. The central, long-range goal is reconstruction of the fort. The goal should be reflected by an interpretive program that grows with the unit. This discussion deals with what can be done now, and what can be done later - during and after fort reconstruction.

As the site exists now, signs indicate the original locations of fort buildings. An interpretive panel displays a map of the fort, providing orientation and information to visitors. A small visitor center displays artifacts and historical photos. A unit brochure tells the complete story of Fort Humboldt. Talks on fort history are given off-site to school and civic groups. An outdoor display and an interpretive center present a history of logging (see Appendix B, p. 56). The interpretive center contains an audio/visual room where slide shows will be presented relating the fort's role in the treatment of Native Americans.

Other methods will be used as development occurs. Use of an Environmental Living Program (ELP) would produce an active, highly visible form of interpretation. Such a program can first emphasize reconstruction of the fort, then increasingly focus on other fort themes as reconstruction proceeds to conclusion. In this way, the ELP can act as a bridge linking an "empty" site with a fully developed resource and interpretive program. Benefits to be derived from this effort are: a tremendous increase in interpretive activity; some unit development at relatively low cost; and a superb educational experience for many students, ranging from grade five through college.

Private groups interested in certain aspects of Fort Humboldt history might provide additional interpretive efforts.

Three methods need not await the ELP: (1) A Living History Program can involve the park in historic celebrations - national and local. This program might include local national guard units, pioneer societies, Native American groups, and students. (2) Native trees and shrubs can be planted along the east boundary and on the northern perimeter as far as the end of the logging exhibit, to help create an atmosphere of history. This buffer would also mitigate afternoon winds. (3) An effort to reconstruct foundations on the original building sites should be made, to delineate the fort more clearly and to provide a tangible framework on which to hang the history of Fort Humboldt.

As buildings are constructed and furnished, they can be used for more dramatic and vivid interpretive programs. House museums can be developed for detailed views of different fort activities and the daily lives of military personnel; audio messages could be used to convey sounds and story lines in this setting. As development occurs, signs and outdoor exhibits will be reduced in number and changed in content. The Living History Program can be expanded to include demonstrations and role playing on a regular basis, in addition to historic celebrations.

A self-guided history trail, with a brochure, can provide visitors with a general view of the fort and its activities. Original and replica artifacts



can be used during talks, demonstrations, and role playing, as well as for house museum and visitor center displays.

Forms of transportation could be displayed, such as rowboats used on the bay and steamer and tug service for the army. A pack mule with gear could add a colorful note to this theme of transportation.

An interim display is suggested, involving re-creation of early tents used on the site. By setting up a wooden platform (rough boards on scantling foundation) and placing tents on the platform, a scene could be achieved which is inexpensive, easily put together, and historically correct. One platform could include two enlisted tents; a second platform could include an officer's wall tent. Furnishings should be crude or nearly non-existent. A docent (volunteer) program could be established, with historically correct scripts, to tell the story associated with this early scene of the fort.

Interpretive Period and Themes

The prime period of emphasis will be the military occupation of Fort Humboldt from 1853 to 1866. Events before the prime period, such as Native American exploration and penetration of the area and the discovery of Humboldt Bay, and events after the prime period, such as the fate of the fort after its abandonment, will receive secondary emphasis.

For interpretive themes, see "Declaration of Purpose," page 20.

Interpretive Services

Talks, with or without slide presentations, should deal with both primary and secondary themes; they can be conducted on-site and off-site. Guided walks among the foundations and buildings should focus primarily on the fort itself, discussing its establishment, construction, and occupation. They may touch on other stories as appropriate.

The Environmental Living Program should initially promote the research, design, and reconstruction of historic buildings and furnishings appropriate for the interpretive period.

The ELP should emphasize provision of such information to students in elementary/secondary schools and colleges. The degree of sophistication in research, design, and reconstruction of specific projects would determine the participating grade levels. With students or others acting as "soldiers" and working under the guidance of carpenters and other woodworkers, a historically accurate reconstruction can take place. Student participation would also include class or individual projects involving mechanical drawing, design and construction, wood shop, etc.

As buildings are constructed, the program will increasingly emphasize role playing and demonstrations as major interpretive techniques. Demonstrations can re-create such activities as military drill and equipment usage. Role playing can be as inclusive as time, energy, creativity, and money permit. Although demonstrations and role playing should focus on military life in accordance with the primary themes, it is necessary to present views of the lives of Native Americans and early settlers.

Interpretive Facilities

The visitor center should provide orientation to unit activities and facilities; contain an audio-visual room for presentation of slide shows and talks; and present a general overview of the history of Fort Humboldt, touching on primary and secondary themes. As developments occur, the visitor center will be relocated into the hospital building.

Complete reconstruction is the central long-run interpretive goal. As work progresses, certain structures will become house museums, focusing on aspects of military life and official activities.

Construction of all building foundations as a first step will provide visitors with a better understanding and mental image of the fort. The stable and blacksmith shop will interpret the importance of horse transportation and the work of the company blacksmith. For story continuity, the shop should be relocated near the stable. The hospital will portray period army medical equipment, techniques, and services provided; it could become a museum for a history of army medicine.

Officers' quarters No. 11 will tell the story of officers' lives and lifestyles, while company quarters No. 5 will interpret the very different lives and lifestyles of enlisted men. The commanding officer's quarters will relate to visitors the role of the fort's commander and his lifestyle. The company offices will provide background information on why the fort was established, how it was designed and constructed, and what functions it served.

Audio messages should be considered for some or all of the following buildings: sergeants' quarters, No. 12; officers' quarters, No. 11 (surgeon's home); commanding officer's quarters; company barracks, office, and store; guard house; and blacksmith shop. In addition, drum rolls could be sounded throughout the fort grounds.



Infantry Officer's Button



Enlisted Man's Button



Cavalry Officer's Button



From Harper's Weekly," 1858

In the surgeon's quarters, the message can describe the quarters and living conditions of the surgeon and his family. The message can be done in the style of available personal correspondence of the surgeon's wife. Messages in other buildings can present duties and lifestyles of the soldiers, done in narrative or dialogue form, with background sound effects.

Outdoor panels and interpretive signs are crucial to fort interpretation. They are used to identify building locations, and to display a map of the fort. As foundations are built, the impact of the signs and panels will be enhanced. As buildings appear, there will be much less reliance on these exhibits. Their use will continue, however, particularly in conjunction with development of a self-guiding trail. They should be designed to blend into the scene, and should not be obtrusive (bright colors; oversized) or detract from the historic scene or period.

A self-guiding trail will allow short-time visitors to grasp the essence of Fort Humboldt, without attention to detail. A brochure should be designed to supplement the self-guiding trail tour, with care taken not to duplicate the unit brochure which provides visitors with an overview of the history of Fort Humboldt from discovery of the bay to the present time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations are based on the identified needs, which should be filled to insure a timely and adequate restoration/reconstruction of Fort Humboldt State Historic Park.

1. Research Needs

Additional research is required in the following areas:

- A. The involvement of state volunteer units at Fort Humboldt, including: which companies, regiments, etc.; where the volunteers came from; their terms of duty; and where they went after service.
- B. The differentiation between volunteers, regulars, and militia, including: legal relationships; field relationships; uniforms and equipment; attitudes and interests of troops and officers; operations and effectiveness; and how these personnel were viewed by settlers and Indians.
- C. Native Americans of the north coast region, including: who they were; their lives; conquest; and how Fort Humboldt affected their cultural demise.
- D. The relationship of Fort Humboldt to other military posts, camps, and civilian/vigilante anti-Indian groups on the west coast, including: overall systems and strategies; communications; and sites and structures.
- E. The daily lives of soldiers at the fort.
- F. Family life on a military post in the far west, including: officers; NCOs; and enlisted men.
- G. Army medicine of the 1850s and 1860s.
- H. Soldiers who later settled in the Humboldt area.
- I. Fort Humboldt personnel who later achieved fame.

As these subjects are researched, they will be incorporated into the interpretation program as sub-themes of the primary and secondary themes.

It is recommended that the department take steps to begin this necessary additional research, in a timely manner.

2. Acquisitions

A variety of equipment is needed for proper interpretation of Fort Humboldt's primary and secondary themes, including:

- A. For immediate use (a standing request): two to four wearable period-style uniforms; two period-style muskets; one period-style sidearm; and flags and colors.
- B. All furnishings and other artifacts appropriate to a military post of the 1850s and 1860s.

- C. Native American artifacts appropriate to the period.
- D. Artifacts of period miners, farmers, and loggers.
- E. A pack mule and appropriate equipment.

As this equipment is acquired, it will be phased into the interpretive efforts underway at the fort.

It is recommended that the department take steps to acquire these necessary items of equipment, in a timely manner.

3. Interpretive Priorities

These priorities are presented in a proposed chronological order:

- A. Continue existing interpretive services.
- B. Begin planting of perimeter trees and shrubs (see Natural and Scenic Values, page 23).
- C. Expand interpretation of "Cultures and Conflicts." After the logging display is removed, some of the available space will be used to interpret: the views of surviving north coast Native Americans, and the fort's effect on them; the lives of settlers; and the conflicts between two socially different groups. One theme could focus on how the clashing cultures approached the use of resources, including tools and finished products, and the environmental impacts of various industries. This comparison would emphasize the incompatible lifestyles that provoked the conflicts.
- D. Begin operation of Living History Program.
- E. Vacate district headquarters and restore hospital building; relocate visitor center in hospital; begin program to interpret army medicine in hospital (for possible alternatives to this program, see Appendix A, page 51).
- F. Remove non-period buildings.
- G. Conduct archeological excavations and lay out foundations of historic buildings.
- H. Begin operation of Environmental Living Program.
- I. Begin reconstruction of fort complex (see Program for Restoration/Reconstruction, page 32), including design and installation of new interpretive signs, panels, and displays, as necessary.
- J. Design and install self-guiding trail.
- K. Relocate logging display out of fort.

It is recommended that the department take steps to implement this chronological order of interpretive priorities at Fort Humboldt.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT





ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

As described in greater detail in the General Plan, the proposed changes at Fort Humboldt State Historic Park will include preservation, reconstruction, and interpretation of structures; removal of non-historical paving and structures; interpretive features; expansion of parking at the lower parking lot; day-use facilities; and fencing and landscaping.

These activities are among those that have no significant effect on the environment under provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Individual environmental documents will be prepared for each budget phase.



THE BIVOUAC

From "Harper's Weekly," 1858.



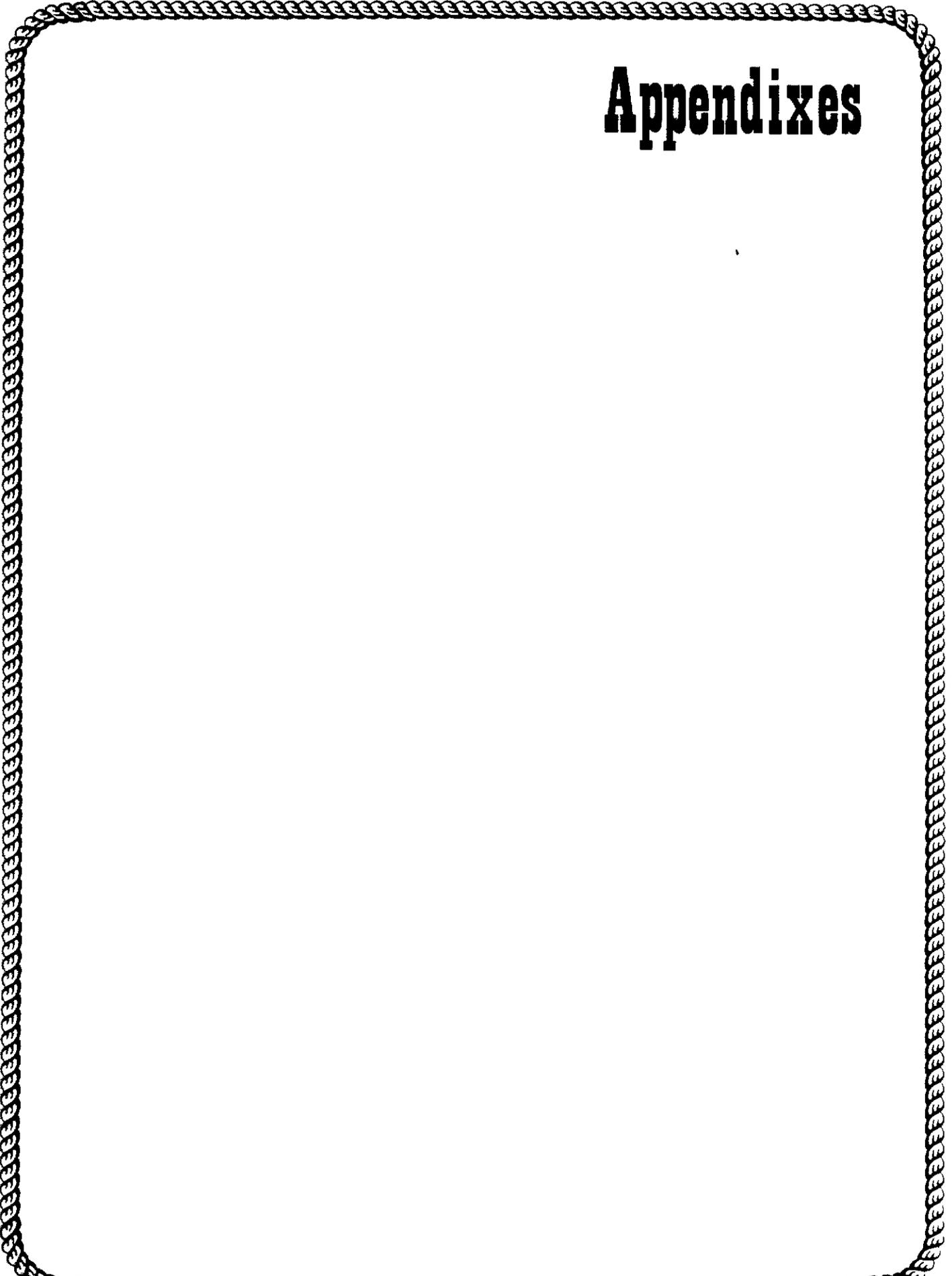
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Appendixes

APPENDIX A
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Interpretation of Indian Story

It seems appropriate that the story of Indian and white activities occurring before 1900 should be told, because the establishment of Fort Humboldt was prompted by the need to resolve conflicts between Indians and white settlers. Interpretation of these events should not infringe on the area of the fort itself, but should be confined to locations well outside the building sites. There is ample space now occupied by the existing logging display at the southeast side of the fort, and possibly along the shore of the marsh.

First Development Priorities

(See "Category Priorities" and "Phasing Proposals," p. 32.)

The first budget phase in development of Fort Humboldt, to comply with the Declaration of Purpose, involves re-orientation and stabilization of the hospital building (No. 8), and reconstruction of the sergeants' quarters (No. 12).

Hospital Building

This is the only structure from the historic fort left standing on the site. The existing building, last remodeled in 1955, does not align with the historic parade ground. To re-orient the building to its original position involves a 15-degree adjustment. Sufficient archeological and historical research will be conducted to define the precise historic location. Historic data concerning the fort will be obtained from research of military records at the National Archives.

Stabilization of the hospital will involve new concrete footings and a new front addition; new doors, windows, and trim; exterior siding, porch, and steps; and installation of a new roof. Complete restoration of the hospital will come in a later phase of fort development.

Sergeants' Quarters

In order to give certain identity to the fort, and to satisfy public support for the immediate establishing of an additional building, the sergeants' quarters will be restored in the first phase of development. This building, the most westerly on the south side of the quadrangle, was chosen for restoration because of its relatively small size, and its significance to the fort.

The building will be properly sited in accord with architectural and archeological research. Reconstruction will include: a new concrete foundation, wood frame and exterior siding; interior lath and plaster partitions; mechanical, electrical, heating and ventilation systems; and a roof cover.

Foundation Delineation

Another first-development priority should be delineation of the foundations of those buildings not currently being restored, included in the "A" grouping of priorities for reconstruction.

These buildings are: the company quarters (building 5); the lieutenants' quarters (building 11); and the commanding officer's quarters (building 1). It would be desirable to delineate, if possible, the foundations of all buildings which historically faced the fort parade ground.

Re-establishment of these foundations will give visitors an immediate perception of the relationship of these buildings. With accompanying interpretive devices, much can be achieved in the first-development priority of telling Fort Humboldt's story.

Appropriate Park Additions

This general plan places first priority on restoration, reconstruction, and interpretation of the fort. The time frame of twenty years which the plan projects allows a sufficient span to accomplish a major part of the proposed fort rebuilding.

At the present time, there are no appropriations for acquisition of additional park land at Fort Humboldt. Such acquisition is not critical to the current program. For this reason, the General Development Plan does not include an aggressive program for immediate acquisition of adjacent land parcels, for which funding might be competitive with other statewide acquisitions of higher priority.

However, should these lands become available, every attempt should be made to secure them, because their acquisition would be beneficial to future public services and operation of the fort.

The property on the southeast, bounded on the east by an alley, is desirable as a continuation of the pond, the major part of which lies to the west on state property. This feature should be protected against inroads of adverse development. It is therefore desirable as an adjunct to present park ownership.

A future entrance, located close to the intersection of Iowa Street and Highland Avenue at the east end of the project, is in the planning stage. The southeast property would greatly ease planning of the east entrance to the fort. Should the proposed new entrance be built, it would eliminate the present entrance, thus permitting an undisturbed landscape between Highland Avenue and the fort.

The property to the southwest, bounded by the park ownership lines and Highland Avenue, presents possibilities for diverse types of development. Using these options would greatly contribute to the fort's operations and environmental integrity.

Possibilities for development include:

1. Restoration of the natural area, and continuation of the pond as an environmental buffer.
2. Development of a center for visitor service facilities and/or an administrative facilities area. These facilities would include parking near the present entrance road, immediately north of Highland Avenue.

Should this property become available, the choice of one of these options for development will be guided by park needs at the time the property is offered.

Recreation Demand

Recreation demand, as applied to a specific area, is determined by analysis of the following factors: geographic location; socio-economic characteristics of related urban areas; travel time zones; and statewide recreation demand analyses.

Driving for pleasure and sightseeing are the principal recreation activities of the Fort Humboldt area. These activities have been greatly increased by certain emerging economic and recreation patterns: increasing discretionary income; greater amounts of free time for outdoor recreation; and increasing amounts of recreation travel.

A stimulus for sightseeing recreationists is the current redevelopment of the historic area of Eureka, where food and opportunities to shop for antiques are offered. These types of activities should provide additional interest in Fort Humboldt as a historical site. Actual reconstruction of the fort should give added stimulus for visitation.

In Planning District 1*, to which Fort Humboldt belongs, there is a sufficient supply of most recreation facilities except picnic tables. Recreation planning at Fort Humboldt proposes limited day-use facilities which will relate to the purpose of the fort.

Use Intensity

Current visitor attendance at Fort Humboldt is derived primarily from the logging display and museum; the fort itself is largely an archeological resource at the current time.

Day-use attendance for fiscal 1976-77 was 43,899. Figures for July and August 1977 show a total of 9,965 visitors.

It is difficult to determine what attendance figures might be as Fort Humboldt passes through the various restoration/reconstruction stages, and the logging display is moved to another site.

*The state is divided into ten planning districts. Planning District 1 includes Mendocino, Lake, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties.

Reconstruction of the fort's buildings could comfortably generate this visitor program: two tours could be arranged at half-hour intervals, including twenty-five to thirty persons per tour. A six-time turnover of this program would bring the total to a possible 300-360 persons per tour day. This volume of tour visitation could probably be realized only on weekends or holidays, and is considered to be the maximum number of visitors who could be served in a single day by a formal tour program.

Only some of the recreationists who visit Fort Humboldt will join the tour program. Others will walk informally through the site, enjoying picnicking and/or exploring the interpretive themes.

The numbers of persons who now visit the relatively small logging display, and who enjoy the present site, with its few scattered artifacts and signs, is significant. These numbers justify the prediction that a well-reconstructed fort, or even part of it, could attract an impressive number of visitors on a yearly basis.

At this writing, it cannot be determined when the logging display will be moved from its present location. It is conceivable that a substantial part of the fort may be restored/reconstructed before the display is moved. During the time when both attractions are available simultaneously, it is certain that an ever-increasing number of people will visit Fort Humboldt.

Justification for developing the fort is more solidly based on the need to re-activate a historic entity of major importance, rather than on estimated attendance figures derived from unsound hypotheses.

Future Reconstruction of Fort Humboldt Beyond Current Budgetary Proposal

Some basic historic research has been accomplished, and some of the available information is on file with the Humboldt Historical Society. Other sources of information are also available, with listings to be found in the files of the Fort Humboldt State Park Office.

However, sufficient archeological research has not been completed. Budgeting of enough money for continued archeological exploration is of utmost importance. Priorities of future reconstruction will be based in part on the degree of archeological and historical research involving the various buildings.

Original Declaration of Purpose, 1955

"The purpose of Fort Humboldt State Historical Monument is to make available to the people forever, for their inspiration and enjoyment, the story of Fort Humboldt as a nucleus of cultural and economic growth in northwestern California, including its important contributions to the state and the nation.

The function of the Division of Beaches and Parks at Fort Humboldt is to carry out a program to control, preserve, restore, protect, maintain, and interpret the Fort on its original site, enhanced by related and pertinent historical, archeological, and other scientific resources of the area."

Fort Humboldt is now named as a state historic park instead of a monument. The Division of Beaches and Parks is now the Department of Parks and Recreation.

This declaration was in keeping with objectives which were mutually agreed upon by the city of Eureka, Humboldt County, the Humboldt County Historical Society, and the department, in 1955, when the property was deeded to the state.

APPENDIX B
LOGGING EXHIBIT

I. Factors Influencing Selection of Interpretive Medium or Method:

A. Future Objectives of Presentation

This program will present the story of the redwood logging industry in northern California from 1850 to the present, and will promote awareness and appreciation among visitors of progress and development in techniques and equipment made by the logging industry during that period.

B. Advantages and Limitations of Methods and Media

The potential for interpretation is almost unlimited, if the logging story is told in its entirety. The story lends itself well to personal services, especially demonstration tours. Exhibits can carry the greatest part of the story, because many artifacts are still available. Exhibits that allow visitor participation or demonstrations by working models of equipment will stimulate the most interest, and should be relatively easy to produce. At present, the limited size of the unit and narrow spread of methods limit interpretation severely.

C. Visitors and Their Needs

Visitor needs are met well by the current exhibit. The self-guiding tour is quite good, and the logging exhibit brochure is adequate for giving background information concerning the artifacts.

More personal interpretation is needed, especially working demonstrations of equipment. Of course, there is little or no room to demonstrate any larger pieces of equipment. Until the entire exhibit can be moved to a suitable location, tour brochure and labels can carry the interpretation well.

D. The Environment or Physical Situation

The logging exhibit is currently located on a very small part of a small state park unit. The story is not appropriate to the themes or purpose of the park; furthermore, the total park unit would not contain enough space to tell this important and interesting story well. There is an urgent need to relocate this exhibit to a place where the story can be told more completely.

II. Relocation of Display

To achieve the greatest degree of integrity in the development of Fort Humboldt, it may be desirable to move the logging display. This is important for two reasons:

1. The logging display is an obtrusive element to interpretation of Fort Humboldt.
2. To realize the greatest potential for interpretation of the logging industry in northern California, it is essential to move the logging display to a larger, less restrictive site.

A museum-type structure should be built on the new site. An interpretive park is envisioned, large enough to take visitors on a tour in which actual demonstrations of logging equipment may be made. The validity and availability of such sites should be explored, and sketch plans of the proposed interpretation of the logging industry should be made, to substantiate the type and extent of the acquisition. The museum should have collections of photographs, paintings, maps, and descriptions of various phases of the logging story related to the redwoods. Dioramas of logging scenes and equipment collections should be displayed. The importance of a site relatively close to a major travel route to ensure adequate visitation cannot be overemphasized.

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