

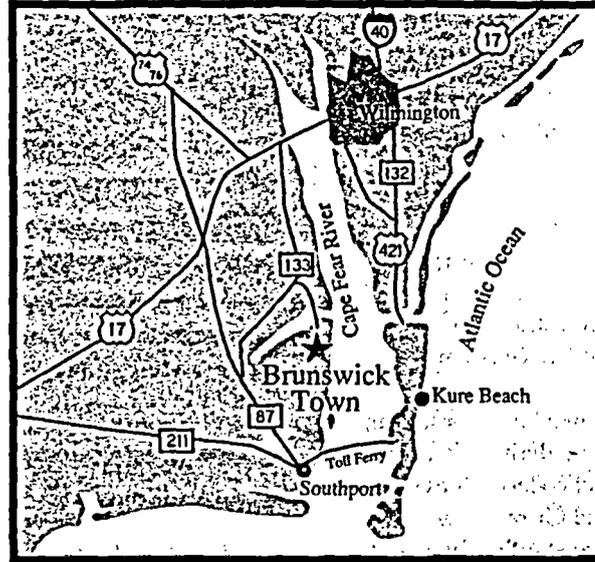
THE SITE TODAY

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, archaeologists uncovered foundations from Brunswick's earliest days. The most visible structure is the hulk of St. Philips Anglican Church with its surviving walls dating back to 1754. Another interesting foundation is Russellborough, an old sea captain's house that was used by royal governors Tryon and Dobbs.

The visitor center houses several displays that cover the time periods of both the old town and the fort. In the lobby is a colorful mural created by Claude Howell and Catherine Hendricksen depicting a scene from a Spanish attack on the town in 1748. A cannon on display was recovered from the river in 1986 and is believed to be from the Spanish ship *Fortuna* which blew up in the river as the townspeople regained control of the port.

The remains of homes, businesses, and other buildings bear witness to the story of Brunswick. Along with artifacts from the Civil War and the imposing mounds of Fort Anderson, this site offers a unique look at two fascinating periods of American history.

*For there are deeds that should not pass away,
And names that must not wither.*
—plaque in St. Philips Church



For more information, please contact:
Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson
8884 St. Philips Road SE
Winnabow, North Carolina 28479
(910)-371-6613
Fax (910)-383-3806

www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hs/brunswick/brunswick.htm

Hours

April–October

Mon.–Sat. 9 A.M.–5 P.M.; Sun. 1–5 P.M.

November–March

Tues.–Sat. 10 A.M.–4 P.M. Sun. 1–4 P.M.

Closed Mondays and most major holidays.

Admission is free.

Closed most major holidays.

Groups are requested to make advance reservations.

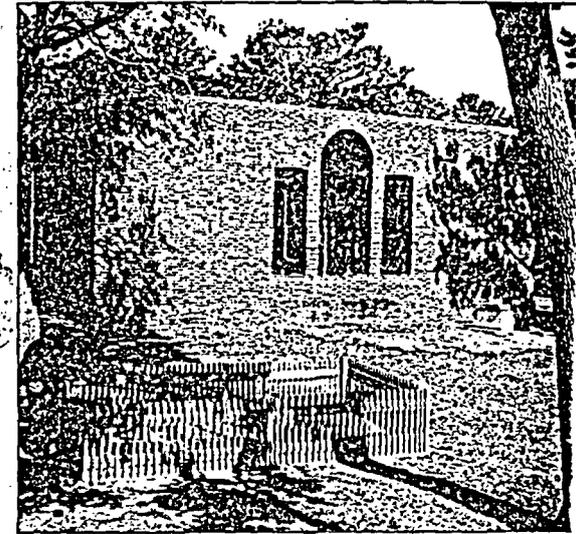
Brunswick Town

- Pre-Revolutionary War site
- Cape Fear River port
- Center for naval stores
- Archaeological site

Fort Anderson

- Confederate fortification
- Part of Cape Fear River defense
- Civil War battle: February 1865

Brunswick Town Fort Anderson



Colonial Port Town and Civil War Earthen Fort

North
Carolina
**HISTORIC
SITES**

Division of Archives and History

THE TOWN OF BRUNSWICK

This quiet, picturesque site on the banks of the Cape Fear River has an amazing past.

In 1726 Maurice Moore, the son of a former South Carolina governor, founded this port town. North Carolina was a colony of England, and the town was named Brunswick to honor George I, the king of England, who was a native of Brunswick, Germany.

The port became a bustling shipping area for exporting tar, pitch, and turpentine. These products, derived from the resin of the longleaf pine, were known collectively as naval stores. This "sticky gold" was essential for building and maintaining the great wooden sailing ships of the Royal Navy and the merchant fleet that plied the oceans between Europe, the colonies, and the islands of the Caribbean.

With two successive royal governors in residence, Brunswick was a political center and the colonial assembly occasionally met in the courthouse. Official port functions required merchants to pay taxes and shipping costs to the local representatives of the Crown. In 1765 the colonists challenged the Crown's authority to distribute hated tax stamps. That action, eight years

before the Boston Tea Party, halted collection of the tax along the Cape Fear.

Brunswick's decline resulted from several factors, including the growth of Wilmington and the relocation of the royal governor to New Bern in 1770. Few people remained in Brunswick in the spring of 1776 when British redcoats were put ashore from the Royal Navy ship *Cruizer*. Some reports indicate that much of the town was burned during this raid. By the end of the Revolutionary War families and merchants had moved to other locations, and the ruins and land became part of Orton plantation in 1842.

FORT ANDERSON

After decades of calm, the site once again entered the forefront of history in a national storm, the Civil War. In 1861 the Confederate States of America decided to build a large fort at the site as part of the river defense of Wilmington. The Cape Fear was an essential route for supplies moving by railroad from Wilmington to Petersburg and Richmond for General Lee's army.

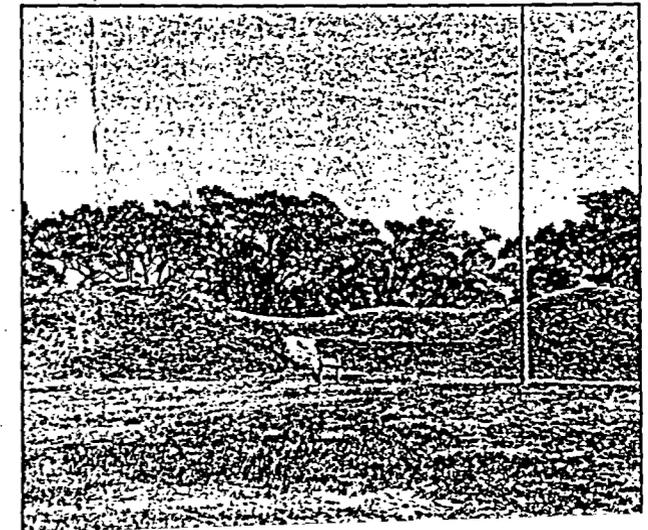
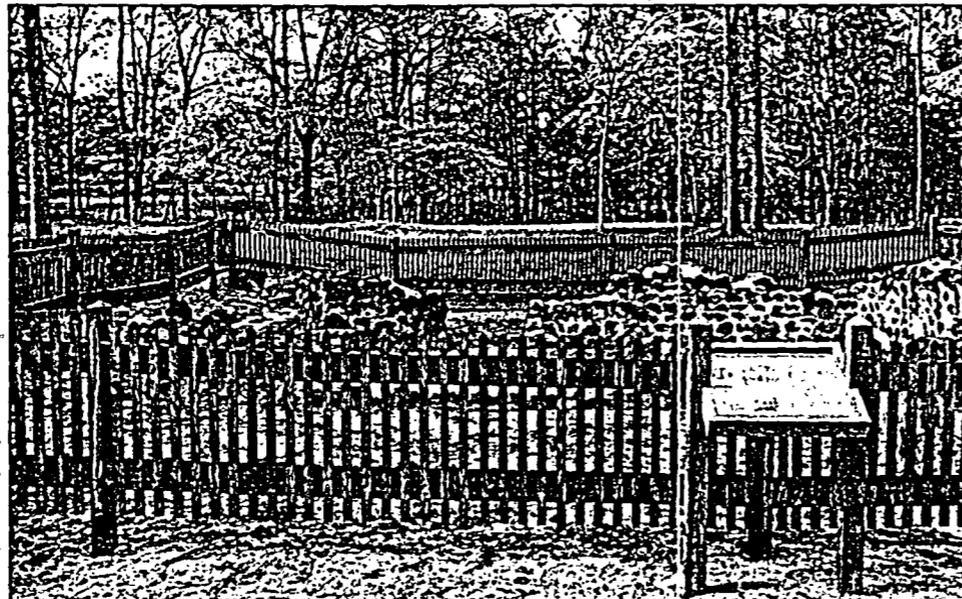
The Confederate army used manual labor to construct the large sand fortification originally called Fort St. Philip. There were two batteries, each with five cannons,

that overlooked the shipping channel and provided protection to blockade-runners.

In February 1865, following the fall of Fort Fisher at the mouth of the river, Union forces repositioned for an attack on Fort Anderson. Federals attacked from the land and river. After three days of fighting, the Confederates evacuated the fort at night. Union gunboats started firing at first light, unaware that Federal soldiers were breaching the walls of the fort. The infantry frantically waved sheets and blankets to stop the deadly fire from their own forces. There was a one-day fight north of the site at Town Creek before the Federals occupied Wilmington on George Washington's birthday, February 22, 1865.



Artist rendering by Stephen McCall.



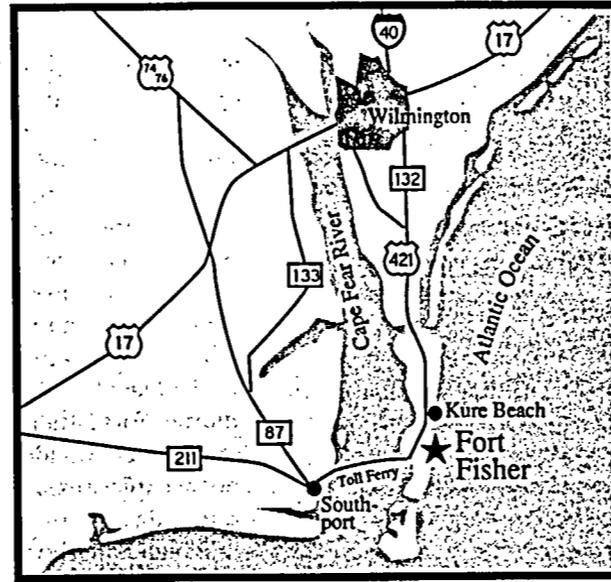
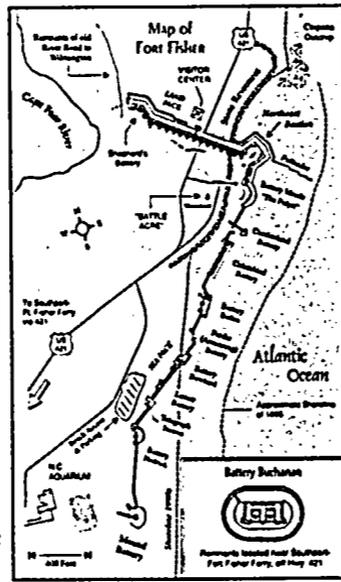
fighting with little headway, Union commanders concluded that the fort was too strong to assault and withdrew their forces. However, they returned for a second attempt on January 12, 1865. For two and one-half days Federal ships bombarded the fort on both land and sea face. On the fifteenth more than 3,300 Union infantry, including the 27th Regiment, U.S. Colored Troops, assaulted the land face. After several hours of fierce hand-to-hand combat, Federal troops captured the fort that night.



The Confederate army evacuated remaining forts in the Cape Fear area, and within weeks Union forces overran Wilmington. Once Wilmington fell the supply line of the Confederacy was severed, and the Civil War was soon over.

FORT FISHER TODAY

The visitor center contains exciting exhibits, a 16-foot fiber optic map detailing the second battle, a video presentation, and gift shop. Approximately ten percent of the original fort remains. A quarter-mile tour trail surrounds the remains of the fort with scenic views of both the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean. Exterior exhibits, including a partially restored gun emplacement, enhance historic interpretation. Special events and programs are offered throughout the year. Guided tours are available daily. State headquarters for underwater archaeology is also located here.



For more information, please contact:
Fort Fisher

Post Office Box 169
Kure Beach, North Carolina 28449
(910) 458-5538
Fax (910) 458-0477

Hours:

Apr.-Oct.: Mon.-Sat. 9 A.M.-5 P.M., Sun. 1-5 P.M.
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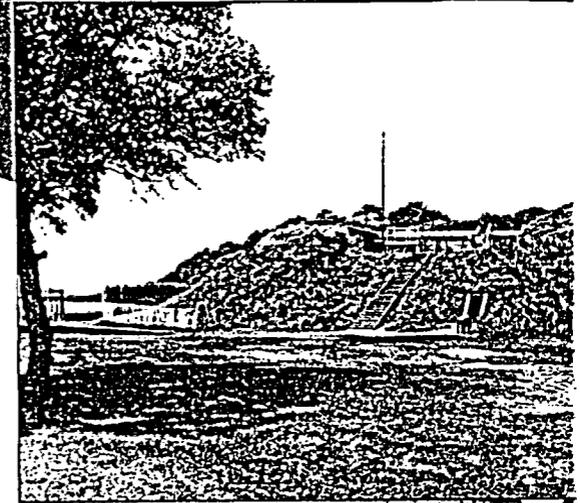
Groups are requested to make advance reservations.

Visitors requiring special assistance should contact the site prior to visiting.

Visit our Web site for additional historical information and map printouts.

www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hs/fisher/fisher.htm

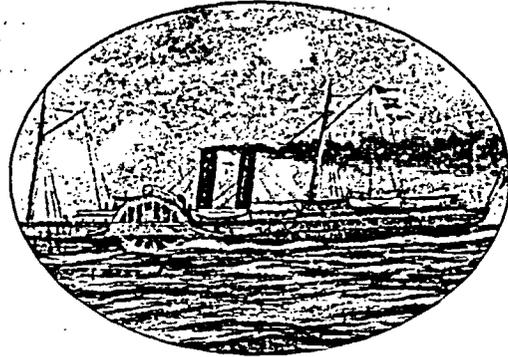
Fort Fisher



Last Major
Stronghold of the
Confederacy

North Carolina
HISTORIC
SITES

Division of State Historic Sites
Department of Cultural Resources



I do not know now that there is another place, excepting perhaps Richmond, we should not sooner see lost than this.

—Maj. Gen. W. H. C. Whiting
Commander of the District of the Cape Fear
August 24, 1863



Maj. Gen. W. H. C. Whiting

Two major battles were fought there, and many Union soldiers received the Congressional Medal of Honor for their gallant participation in that fighting. Today only a few of the mounds remain, since much of the fort has been eroded by the ocean.

GIBRALTAR OF THE SOUTH

Until the arrival of Col. William Lamb in July 1862, Fort Fisher was little more than several sand batteries mounting fewer than two dozen guns. Under Colonel Lamb's direction and design, which was greatly influenced



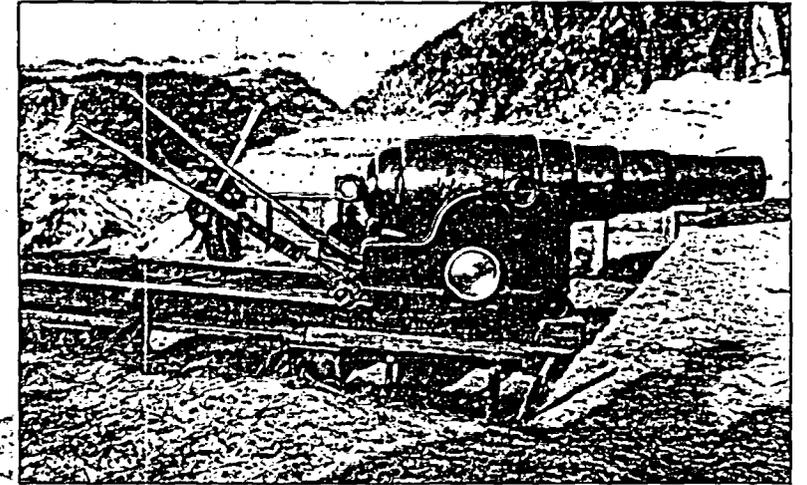
Col. William Lamb

At the dawn of the American Civil War, the Confederacy took control of a neck of land in southern North Carolina near the mouth of the Cape Fear River and constructed what was to become the largest and one of the most important earthwork fortifications in the South.

by the Malakoff Tower (a Crimean War fortification) in Sevastopol, Russia, expansion of the fortress began. By January 1865 Fort Fisher embraced one mile of sea defense and one-third mile of land defense. More than five hundred African Americans, both slave and free, worked with Confederate soldiers on construction; occasionally as many as one thousand men were working, although maintaining adequate labor was difficult.

Unlike older fortifications built of brick and mortar, Fort Fisher was made mostly of earth and sand, which was ideal for absorbing the shock of heavy explosives. The sea face, equipped with twenty-three guns, consisted of a series of twelve-foot-high batteries bounded on the south end by two larger batteries forty-five and sixty feet high. Of the smaller mounds, one served as a telegraph office and another was converted into a hospital bombproof. The land face was equipped with twenty-one guns distributed among its fifteen mounds. Each mound was thirty-two feet high with interior rooms used as bombproofs or powder magazines and connected by underground passageways. Extending in front of the entire land face was a nine-foot-high palisade fence.

Colonel Lamb recognized the importance of Fort Fisher to the defense system of the Cape Fear, to the

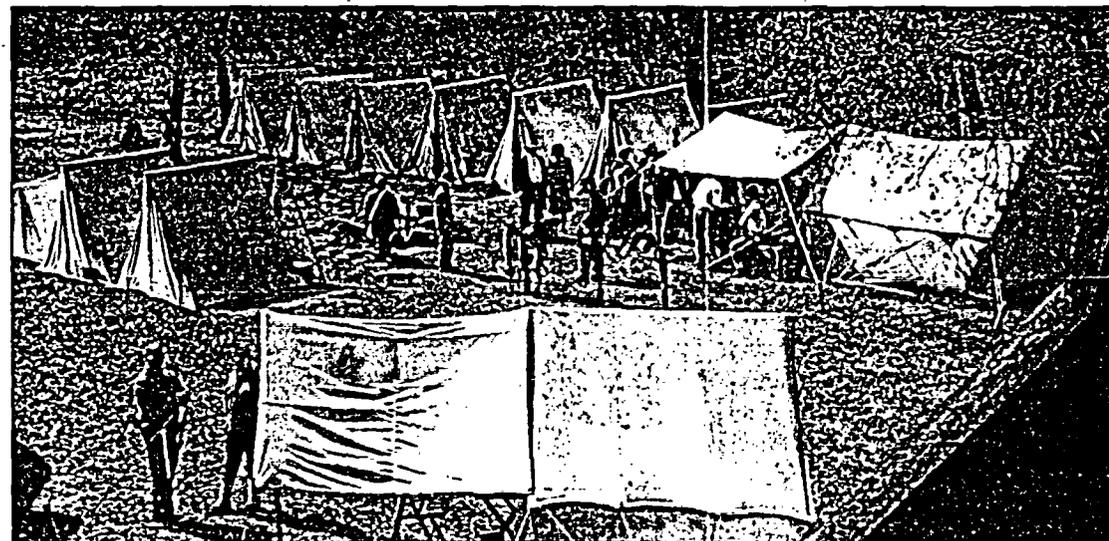


security of Wilmington, and to the survival of the entire Confederacy. Massive and powerful, Fort Fisher kept Federal blockading ships at a distance from the Cape Fear River, shielding Wilmington from attack and insuring relatively safe passage for Confederate naval travel. Wilmington was the last major port open to the Confederacy and the destination of steamers called blockade-runners, which smuggled provisions into the southern states and supplied General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. These ships traveled from Bermuda, the Bahamas, and

Nova Scotia, where southern cotton and tobacco were exchanged for food, clothing, and munitions from British traders.

ATTACKS ON FORT FISHER

The Union army and navy planned several attacks on Fort Fisher and the port of Wilmington but made no attempt until December 24, 1864. After two days of



Civil War encampments are part of special events at Fort Fisher.