



FORT ADAMS

MISSION

To preserve and revitalize historic Fort Adams for the public's benefit.



VISION

To be a valued, open, accessible historic destination that anchors our community.

NORTH STAR

To historically restore and open the whole Fort for the public.

Fort Adams Trust is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization founded in 1994 to partner with the State to manage and operate the Fort while seeking and earning revenue to support renovation and preservation efforts. Despite significant restoration efforts over the past 30 years, currently 80% of the Fort still remains inaccessible to the public and is in a state of disrepair. The Fort Adams Trust carries out our mission through programming such as daily tours, private & group tours, group overnights, site rentals and special events. Without the Trust, Fort Adams would remain closed to the public.

In summer of 2024, the Fort Adams Trust revised our strategic plan where we realigned our mission to preserve and revitalize historic Fort Adams for the public's benefit. Our vision is to be a valued, open, accessible historic destination that anchors our community. Our goal is to historically restore and open the whole Fort for the public. Part of our goals include enhancing safety standards and expanding visitor accessibility to new areas of the Fort.



FORT ADAMS

Economic Impact



1.3 Million Visitors

Fort Adams has the largest economic impact of any Rhode Island state park, with 1.3 million visitors – including nearly 775,000 out-of-state visitors – generating an estimated \$64 million in economic output in 2016. (1)(Sproul, 2017)

\$300k investment Generating \$64 Million

Fort Adams Trust has received \$300,000 yearly from DEM since 2016.

Fort Adams State Park is the second most popular park in the state and has the second highest number of visitors. (2)(Landeck, 2024)



(1) THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RHODE ISLAND STATE PARKS

Dr. Thomas Sproul, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental & Natural Resource Economics, College of the Environment & Life Sciences, University of Rhode Island

(2) There Were More Than 7 Million Visitors to RI State Parks. in 2023. These 5 Are Most Popular.

Katie Landeck, Providence Journal, Jan. 2, 2024.

FORT ADAMS

History and Significance



Newport is the only deep-water harbor between Boston and New York so it was critical to defend the entry to Newport Harbor and Narragansett Bay. Historic Fort Adams had an earlier iteration on the property in 1799, however, construction of the current Fort *began* in 1824 and was completed in 1857. Soldiers were stationed at Fort Adams by 1841, even before construction was completed. Fort Adams was named after President John Adams, and it is *one of the largest and the most complex Coastal Fortification* in the United States. The Fort was never attacked directly, potentially due to its formidable design.

Fort Adams, a National Historic Landmark, is one of the largest and the most complex coastal fortification in the United States.

Fort Adams was the second fort constructed under the Third System, after Fort Monroe in Virginia. Historic Fort Adams is a prime example of French military architecture prevalent in early 19th century fortifications. It was designed by French military engineer, Simon Bernard, who served as Napoleon's aide. The Fort was designed to mount 468 cannons and house 2400 troops. Lt. Col. Joseph Totten, revered as one of the founding fathers of the US Army Corp of Engineers supervised the Fort's construction from 1825-1838. Totten recruited Irish immigrants to provide manpower to construct the Fort. The fort was active in five major wars – the Mexican-American War (1846–1848), American Civil War (1861–1865), Spanish-American

It was designed by French military engineer, Simon Bernard, who served as Napoleon's aide.

War (1898), World War I (1917–1918), and World War II (1941–1945), although it never saw combat. By the outset of World War II, Fort Adams served as the command center for all coastal defenses, protecting the East Coast of the United States from the Long Island sound to Marthas Vineyard. Additionally, President Dwight D. Eisenhower stayed at the Fort's commanding officer's house (now called the Eisenhower House) when he summured in Newport in the 1950's.

The fort was decommissioned in 1953 and the U.S. Army transferred ownership of the property to the U.S. Navy. In 1965, the Fort and most of the surrounding land was transferred to the State of Rhode Island to create Fort Adams State Park. As a testament to its significance related to its architectural, engineering and military history, Fort Adams was listed as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 and documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) from 1971-1974. It was designated a National Historic Landmark District (NHLD) in 1976. From the early 1950s until the mid-1970s, Fort Adams fell victim to neglect, the weather, and vandalism.



FORT ADAMS

Recent Restoration

South East Demi-Bastion

SE Demi-Bastion:

2021:

Rebuild and repair collapsed arches -

\$318,000.00



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Recent Restoration

South East Demi-Bastion Roof

2022:

Removed existing roof ballast and unstable built-up tar, prepared for new concrete:

\$66,650.00

Patch in new concrete at collapsed holes with rebar and tie into existing deck:

\$66,000.00

*Pour new concrete slab with reinforcing mesh over existing terreplein substrate: **\$168,000.00***

*Masonry repairs at granite partition wall: **\$47,500.00***



2023 – 2024:

*Masonry repair on the South and North wall - **\$605,100.00***

*Re-install gun pivot/traversing blocks with padding and drainage mat - **\$18,750.00***

*Installed new Siplast Terranap Plaza Roofing System on terreplein roof with associated flashings: **\$750,250.00***



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Future Restoration

South East Demi-Bastion Bakery



2025 – BEYOND:

- **Repair and stabilize existing interior brick arch at “bakery” window opening: \$30,100.00**
- **Rebuild “bakery” interior West brick wall: \$69,300.00**
- **Demo/rebuild Interior brick arch at gate opening: \$27,400.00**
- **Remove/reset granite panels above brick arch at opening: \$81,600.00**
- **Remove/reset granite steps to terreplein level: \$103,500.00**
- **Add drainage mat & pea stone ballast to terreplein deck: \$47,500.00**
- **Install custom steel railings \$73,150.00**

FORT ADAMS

Restoration Timeline



\$10 Million in Resoration

North Casemates before/after

Since the establishment of Fort Adams Trust in 1994, nearly \$10 million has been raised to support four major restoration projects, namely: North Casemates, East Wall Roof and Terreplein, Overnight Barracks and the Redoubt/Jail. Additionally, the Trust has made major masonry repairs to several wall, stabilized arches, cleared the gun batteries and the Southern Redoubt that had been overgrown by decades of vegetation. Below is a complete list of restoration that has happened at Fort Adams since the early 2000s.

FORT ADAMS RESTORATION PROJECTS 1994-2018

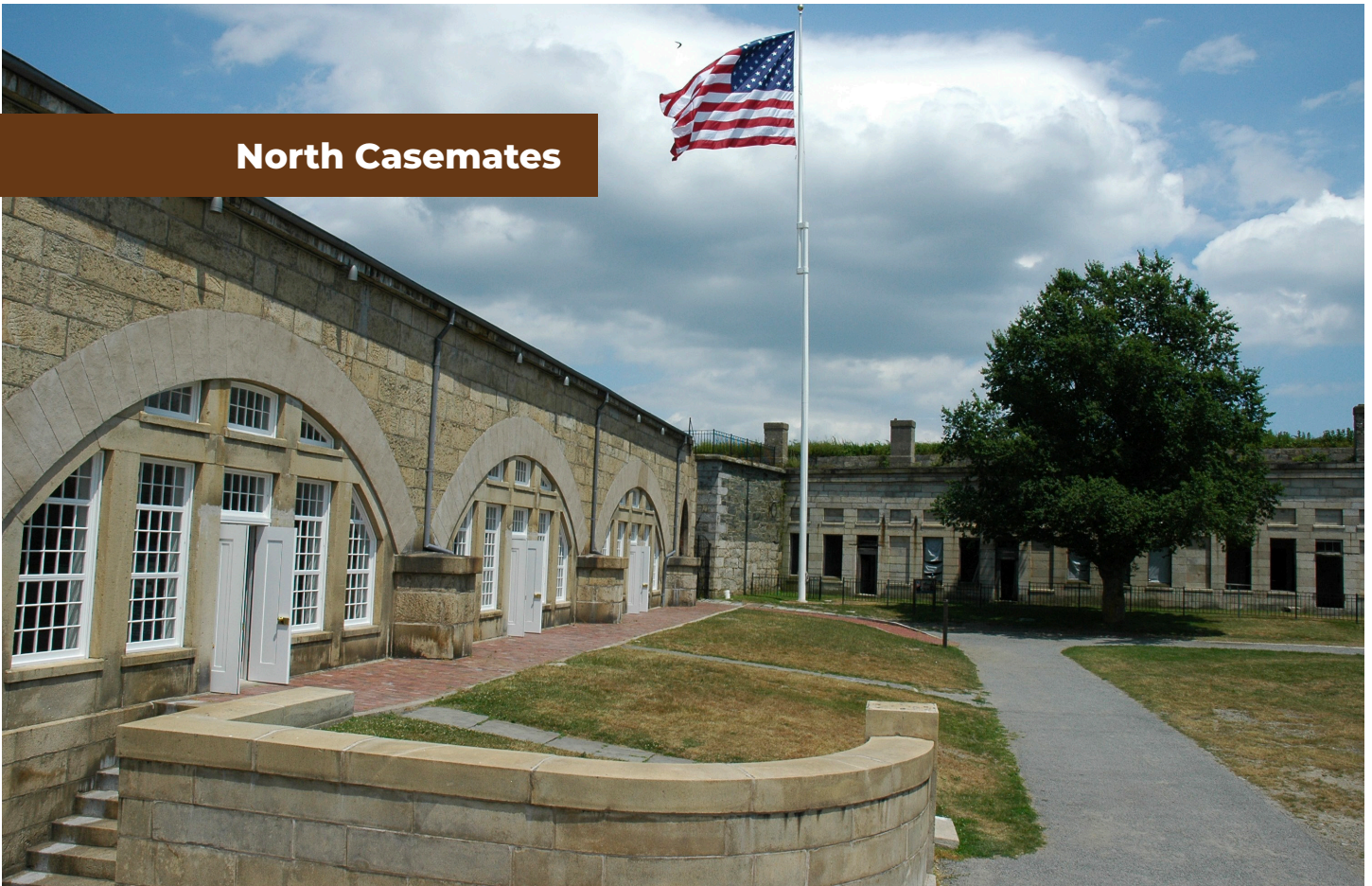
- 1995 – General repairs to open the Fort to the public... \$2,000,000.00
- 2001 – Installation of gates and general repairs...\$350,000.00
 - Installation of interpretive signs...\$33,470.00
 - Installation of Garrison Flagpole...\$37,558.00
- 2002 – Decking on South West Overlook...\$14,500.00
 - Lighting at the base of the North Wall...\$32,150.00
- 2003 – Restoration of North Casemates...\$1,445,248.00
 - Restoration of the 24-pound cannon and carriage...\$17,500.00
- 2004 – Restoration of East wall roof and Terreplein...\$765,627.00
- 2006 – Restoration of Overnight Barracks...\$1,267,000.00
- 2008 – Restoration of Redoubt/Jail...\$1,988,000.00
- 2012- Open the Fort Phase 1 - Brush removal and stabilizing and securing areas...\$275,000.00
- 2014 – Installation of Decking on North wall...\$79,000.00
- 2015 – Construction of Catering Prep Area and Restrooms...\$197,000.00
- 2026 – Fire/Life Safety Improvements...\$30,000.00
- 2017 – West side utilities installation...\$250,000.00
- 2017 – Inner Ditch Egress Stairs Installation...\$265,000.00
- 2018 – Masonry Repairs to the North wall...\$165,000.00

Total: \$9,212,053.00

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Restoration Timeline

North Casemates



North Casemates Restoration Completed in 2003



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Restoration Timeline

East Wall Ramparts



East Wall Ramparts Completed in 2006



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Restoration Timeline

Youth Overnight Barracks



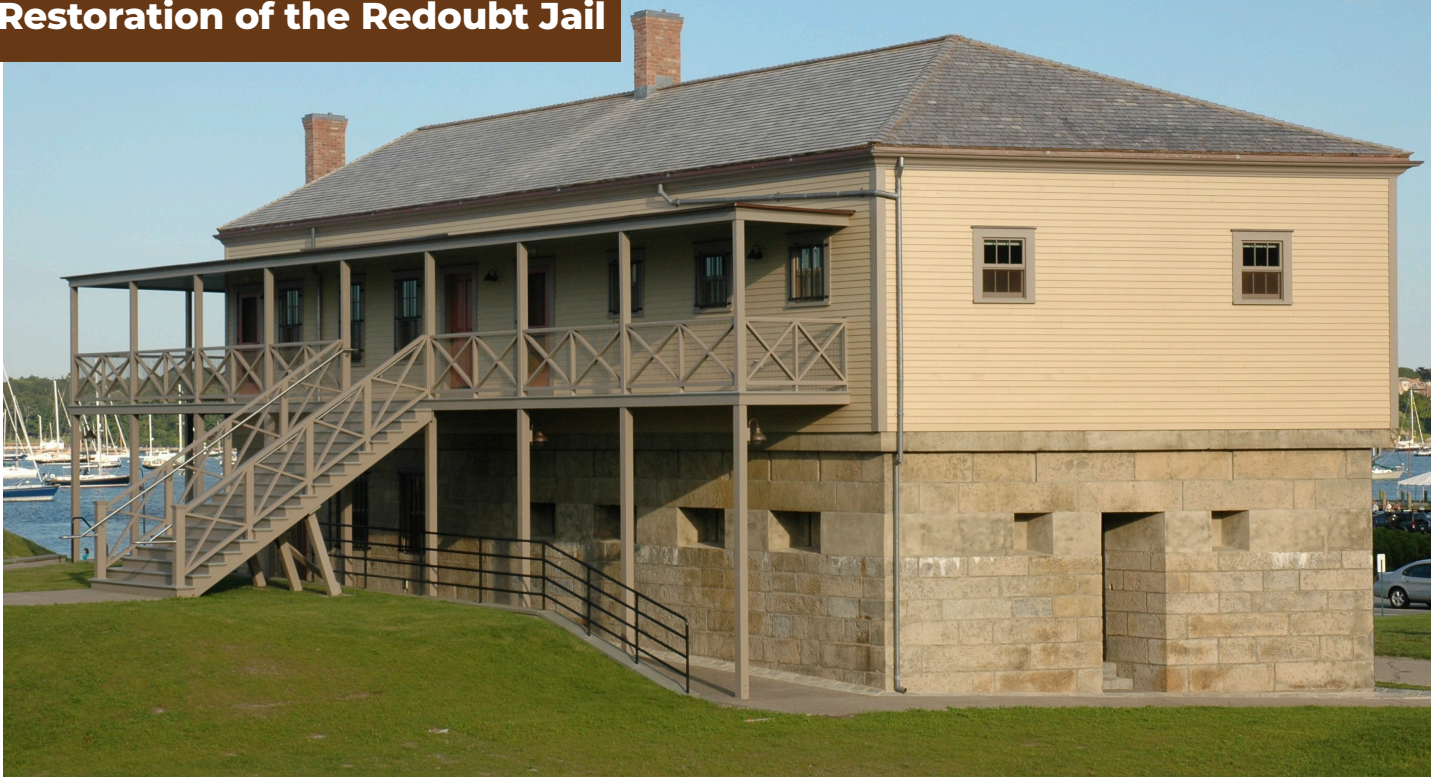
Youth Overnight Barracks Completed in 2007



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Restoration Timeline

Restoration of the Redoubt Jail



Redoubt/Jail Completed in 2009



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Restoration Timeline

Stabilization of the South & West Walls



Clearing the Outworks Stabilization of South & West Walls
Completed in 2012



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Restoration Timeline

Reopening the Southern Redoubt



Southern Redoubt Bridge Reconstruction & Brush Clearing Completed in 2016



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Restoration Timeline

Exterior Masonry on the West & Southeast Walls



2017 – West side utilities installation...\$250,000.00
2017 – Inner Ditch Egress Stairs Installation...\$265,000.00
2018 – Masonry Repairs to the North wall...\$165,000.00