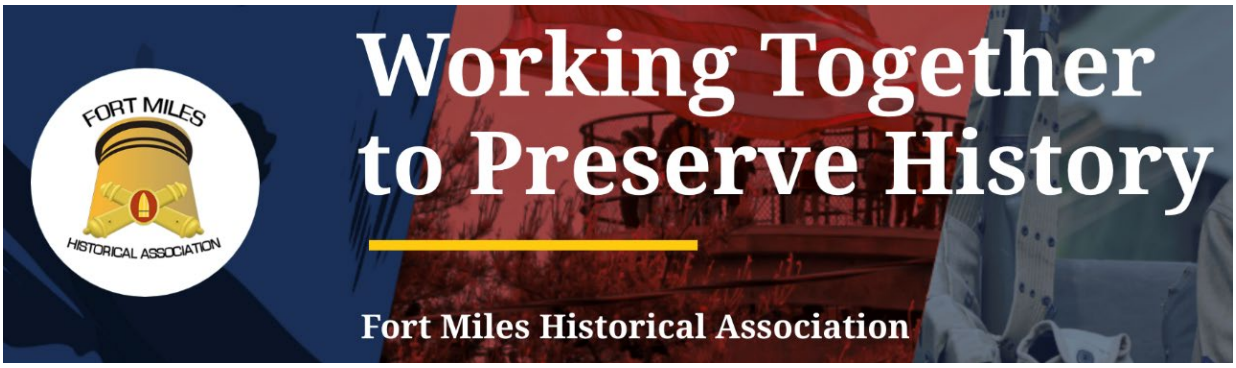


Since 2003, Fort Miles Historical Association and Delaware State Parks have worked as partners to renovate, operate and expand the Fort Miles Museum and surrounding historical area.

The Bunker Blast

October 5, 2026

A short and frequent communication to keep you, our loyal members, stay informed of what's happening with your association.

In today's Bunker Blast: The 606 Barrack update, Terry McGovern answers questions about Fire Control Stations & Battery Assignments, and our first Lecture of the fall season.

New Exhibit in Battery 519 Barracks Nears Completion

Work on the return of the 606 Barrack to how it looked in WWII continues. The Barrack was used in 1944 to house troops from the 21st Coastal Artillery's Headquarters unit and was set up uniquely with a caged supply area on one end and individual bunks in the majority of the space.



As you can see in the pictures, we have placed 20 period bunks back in the barrack each with footlocker. We have also returned one of the original pot bellied stoves which heated the units in the center of the building.

Occasionally the barrack will be used to house reenactors. Most of the time it will serve as a barrack display open to the public during the summer season.

Delaware Bay Fire Control Stations and Battery Assignments

By Terry McGovern

I have been asked many times about the Fire Control Stations supporting Delaware Bay during WW2 and what batteries were assigned to which stations. The challenge to this question is that the assignments changed depending when the battery was active and when the station was constructed. If you ask about 1942 you will get a different answer then if you asked about 1945.

The other interesting fact is that the US Army tailored each location to the fire control needs at that location so some structures were 94-feet tall or only 8-feet tall, some were made of concrete, while others were made of steel, while one was actually a lighthouse!

I have assembled the table below to show the Army's Location Number, the Tower Number, the Location, Type of Tower, its Height, and battery assignments (most towers

had several FC stations (levels) with one to four batteries assigned) as of June 1945, today's status, if it had a radar mounted on the tower, and a translation of battery assignments to battery names.

HD of Delaware Bay - Fire Control Towers - June 1945 — Note: Tower assignments and numbering changes throughout the war as armaments change.

Loc #	Tower	Location	Type	Height (ft)	Assign1	Assign2	Assign3	Assign4	Status	Radar	Other
1	1	South Bethany Beach	Concrete Round	49	B1-2	B1-3			Abandoned		Smith/519
2	2	Indian River Inlet	Concrete Round	57	B2-3	B2-2	B1-1	B1-4	Abandoned	SCR296	Smith/519/Herring/Hunter
3	3	Dewey Beach	Concrete Round	67	B3-3	B2-4			Public - Stairs	SCR296	519/Hunter
3	4	Dewey Beach	Concrete Round	67	B3-2	B2-1			Abandoned		Smith/Herring
4	5	North Rehoboth Beach	Concrete Round	58	B4-3	M-1			Abandoned		519/Mine-1
4	6	North Rehoboth Beach	Concrete Round	75	B4-2	B3-4	B3-1		Abandoned	SCR296	Smith/Hunter/Herring
5	7	Great Dune	Concrete Round	80	G-1 OPCP	G-2 OPCP	M-2		Public - Stairs		Group 1-2-3/Mine-2
5	8	Mine Casemate	Concrete Round	84	B5-3	B5-2			Abandoned		Smith/519
5	9	HECP - Pilot	Concrete Round	40	B4-4	B4-1	M-3		Pilot Station		Hunter/Herring/Mine-3
5	10	CP-OP Bty 5B	Concrete Square	8	CPOP 5B	CPOP 5A	CPOP 5		Destroyed	SCR296	AMTB
5	11	Harbor of Refuge Light	Lighthouse	60					Abandoned		
5	12	HDCP	Concrete Round	94	HDCP	CPOP			Abandoned	SCR582	HDOP
6	13	Ferry Terminal	Concrete Round	92	B5-4	B5-1			Abandoned		Hunter/Herring
7	14	Broadkill Beach	Steel	70	B6-4	B6-1	B1-23		Destroyed		Hunter/Herring/Hall
8	15	Fowler Beach	Steel	94					Destroyed		Hall
10	16	Mispillion River	Steel	94					Destroyed		Hall
11	17	Big Stone Beach	Steel	70					Abandoned		Hall
12	18	South Bowers Beach	Steel	70					Destroyed		Hall
13	19	Unknown									
14	20	Unknown									
15	21	Unknown									
16	22	Unknown									
17	23	Cape May Point	Concrete Round	82	B1-6				Public - Stairs		#223
19	24	Cape May	Concrete Round	90	B6-2	B6-3	B2-6		Private Hotel	SCR296	Smith/519/#223
20	25	Wildwood Gables	Concrete Round	50	B7-2	B7-3	B3-6		Destroyed		Smith/519/#223
21	26	North Wildwood	Concrete Round	50	B4-6	B8-2			Destroyed		Smith/#223

Note: Battery Numbering

1: Herring	3: #519	5: 3-inch AMTB	5B: 90mm AMTB	7: 90mm AMTB
2: Smith	4: Hunter	5A: 90mm AMTB	6: #223	8: Mines

The US Army had allocated 1-26 for towers during WW2 for the Defenses of Delaware Bay, but four numbers never got towers (19-22). Many only consider the round concrete towers to be part of the WW2 fire control stations, but this is not true. At Fort Saulsbury two 12-inch batteries never had FC Stations built during WW1, it was only in 1941 when five steel towers were constructed along Delaware Bay (and one remains today at Big Stone Beach).

The most interesting FC Station was #11 the Harbor of Refuge Lighthouse, but this station only served for a short time.

Please let me know your questions at tcmcgovern@att.net

The First Lecture of 2026 Season – October 17th at 10 AM

The first talk of the 2026 lecture series is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th at 10 AM in the North Gun Room of the Fort Miles Museum. Our theme for this forthcoming series is Military Aviation with a focus on the wartime growth of aviation in Delaware during World War Two and later developments during the Cold War.

October's offering features Dr. Mark Moline: A University of Delaware scientist and key leader with Project Recover. He gives fascinating presentations on using modern

marine technology to locate and identify downed Delaware and American WWII aircraft and MIA airmen overseas.

While admission is free, online registration (via email notification) is used as our lectures quickly become full due to limited seating capacity.

Volunteers Wanted

Do you have experience in public relations or communications?

We are looking for a professional in this area to be our liaison with print, television, radio and podcast media, recruiting and coordinating our historians to present our story and promote events. This individual would also write press releases, prepare advertising and could also write newsletters.

If you are interested please contact our volunteer coordinator at volunteer@fortmilesha.org

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FMHA volunteers work almost 20,000 hours a year: as Bunker Busters restoring and maintaining the buildings, developing and building displays; as Docents giving tours and guiding visitors at special events; and as Associate Staff managing the gift shop, lecture series, special events, membership, website and electronic displays.

If you would like to volunteer in any of these areas, please send us an email.

FORT MILES HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Learn More: fortmilesha.org

Fort Miles is located in Cape Henlopen State Park.
15099 Cape Henlopen Drive, Lewes, DE 19958