

A Walking Tour of Fort Sumter

For those who wish to inspect the fort at their own pace, this text, keyed to the fort plan at right, describes a short tour of both ruins and exhibits. By comparing the fort plan and the painting of the fort as it appeared on the eve of the Civil War, you will gain a better understanding of how the Fort Sumter you see today compares to the Fort Sumter of 1861.

- 1 **Sally Port** The left-flank wall here is less than half its original height. This entryway was built in the 1870s and replaced a gun embrasure.
- 2 **Confederate Defenders Plaque** The Charleston Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, erected this plaque in 1929 to honor the Confederate defenders of Fort Sumter, 1861-65.
- 3 **Left-Flank Casemates** The first tier of casemates (gunrooms) was surmounted

by a second tier similar in appearance but considerably taller. This pattern was also followed on the fort's right flank and on its right and left faces.

- 4 **Enlisted Men's Barracks Ruins** Paralleling the left-flank casemates, this three-story building had a mess hall on the first floor and sleeping quarters on the upper floors. There was another barracks for enlisted men on the right flank.

- 5 **Officers' Quarters Ruins** Three stories high, this building extended the entire length of the gorge. In it were lodgings for officers, administrative offices, storerooms, a guardhouse, and powder magazines. For an unknown reason, the small arms magazine in this corner of the barracks exploded on December 11, 1863, killing 11 and wounding 41 Confederates. The explosion also tilted the arch over the entrance to the magazine.

- 6 **Union Garrison Monument** The U.S. Government erected this monument in 1932 in memory of the Union defenders during the opening bombardment of the Civil War.

- 7 **Parade Ground** When Battery Huger was built in 1899, the remainder of the parade was filled with sand. The National Park Service removed fill 20 feet deep from this area in the 1950s.

- 8 **Left-Face Casemate Ruins** The left-face casemates were destroyed by the fire of Union guns on Morris Island, 1863-1865. Several of the projectiles still protrude from the wall. Outside the casemate ruins are two 15-inch Rodman guns, an eight-inch Columbiad, and a 10-inch mortar.

- 9 **Right Face** Union forces on Morris Island fired these 11 100-pounder Parrott guns against Fort Sumter. The

Army moved them to the fort in the 1870s.

- 10 **Right-Gorge Angle** From a gun in the first-tier casemates, Capt. Abner Doubleday fired the first shot from Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861.

- 11 **Mountain Howitzer** Confederates used light field pieces like this 12-pounder mountain howitzer to defend against a surprise landing by Union forces.

- 12 **Esplanade and Granite Wharf Site** A 25½-foot-wide promenade ran the full length of the gorge exterior, and a 171-foot wharf extended out from the sally port. This was the original entrance to the fort.

To help preserve the fort, we ask that you do not climb or sit on cannons or brickwork. Do not disturb or remove artifacts.

