
FORT TRUMBULL STATE PARK

New London, Connecticut



The majestic Fort Trumbull has stood guarding the inlet of the Thames River for over 200 years. The U.S. Navy's de-accessioning of this critical military complex provided Historical Perspectives, Inc. (HPI) with an opportunity to complete the documentary study and field testing necessary to comply with mitigation measures mandated by the Navy's Historical and Architectural Resource Protection Plan. HPI conducted the research, wrote, and completed the first draft of the production design for the 56-page public document on historic Fort Trumbull. *Fort Trumbull: Ramparts, Subs, and Sonar*, funded in conjunction with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, was published as part of the transfer of the property to the Connecticut Department of Parks. This 50-plus page booklet now serves as a major tool for the Parks Department as they open the nineteenth century fort for tours and recreational activities.

Legends and rumors about the activities at the fort over the last two centuries have been rife. Specialized and detailed research was required in order to verify and interpret local legends. This included investigating purported subterranean escape routes that were thought to extend into the harbor. In the twentieth century the fort became the site of the Naval Testing Laboratory, where an anti-submarine research program was enacted. As part of the research on the fort, a comprehensive field survey was completed, and interviews were undertaken with retired sonar experts that worked on the first submarine detection equipment in the field from these guarded testing laboratories.

