



Military Corner

Fort Rodman

Fort Rodman was an Endicott Period Coastal Fort first established in 1898 in Bristol County, Massachusetts, on the site of previous fortifications, Fort Taber and Fort at Clark's Point. It's history goes back to 1857.

Work on the stone fort continued through the U.S. Civil War but was not far enough along at the beginning of the war to provide protection from Confederate raiders. The city provided temporary earthworks west of the stone fort and named it Fort Taber after the city Mayor Isaac C. Taber. The temporary fort was armed with cannons and a volunteer force.

The earthworks remained active from 1861 to 1863 until the stone fort was complete enough to assume guard duty. The stone fort came to be known as Fort Taber after the earthworks fort was abandoned but was never formally given that name.

During the U.S. Civil War, construction was supervised by Captain Henry M. Robert who would become known for his "Robert's Rules of Order". Robert was eventually promoted to Brigadier General and became Chief of Engineers. Construction continued until 1867 when funding was withdrawn. The stone fort was never actually completed.

The Fort Rodman garrison expanded during World War I with a number of temporary WWI buildings built on the southern end of the parade. The temporary buildings can be seen on the 1921 plan of the post along a diagonal road across the parade. By the 1935 plan all of these temporary buildings have been removed and the post has been restored to its prewar state.



In 1940, before the start of World War II, it was recognized that virtually all of the disappearing gun batteries were obsolete and an upgrade program was begun to replace them with more modern long range and rapid fire guns. This project was not completed until late in the war, long after the threat was over. Protection for the harbor moved out beyond Fort Rodman with a number of large caliber long range guns pointed seaward and a number of smaller 6" and 90mm guns guarding the harbor approaches from dispersed locations. Fort Rodman became a training and support facility

The garrison expanded significantly between 30 Jun 1940 and 30 Jun 1941, adding 15 temporary 63 man barracks and support facilities for them. The post capacity was raised to 44 officers and 1054 enlisted men.

Today, it's part of Fort Taber City Park, Bristol County, Massachusetts. The old fort is closed to the public, but the batteries can be viewed, and there are three original buildings still left. The PX building remains but it has been moved from its original location. [http://www.fortwiki.com/Fort_Rodman/]