air, ground and naval defense of the capital and newly built Pentagon. Later, MDW took command of the Army's official ceremonial units, the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own." On Sept. 11, 2001, MDW was the key defense support in the rescue and recovery operations at the Pentagon. Presently, MDW is the Army Force under JFHQ-NCR and shares a single commander and core staff that link operationally with other service components and interagency partners to support both ceremonial and contingency missions.

3 FLAG POLE

Surrounding the post's flag pole is a collection of artillery pieces reminiscent of the fort's early days as a collection and storage point for weapons, and later a manufacturing facility for weapons and ammunition. Of special interest is a Spanish bronze cannon believed to have been made in the 16th century for the King of Spain. Other cannon and mortars surround the flagpole and adorn various buildings on the post. Each has a plaque explaining its history and significance.

4 INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE COLLEGE

Across the street from the flag pole is Building 52, which was constructed as a barracks in 1905 and housed the Army Music School from 1921-1941. The Inter-American Defense College occupied the building in 1962 under the sponsorship of the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Defense Board. The school's postgraduate curriculum prepares selected military officers and civilians of the American nations for future leadership responsibilities in the hemisphere.

5 WALTER REED'S CLINIC

Building 54 once housed a hospital to which Maj. Walter Reed was assigned first in 1882, then again after discovering the cause of yellow fever in Cuba in 1898. His mission was to help remedy the vast malaria mosquito problems that plagued the area caused by the marshlands of the Potomac River, where Hains Point is today. Reed was struck with appendicitis and died at Washington Barracks on November 23, 1902.

6 GENERALS' ROW

As you walk down 2nd Avenue, the brick Colonial homes on the right make up what is known as Generals'Row. The houses were completed in 1905 to house officers of the Engineer School. Today, these houses are home to many of the Army's senior leaders. At the end of Generals' Row is the Officers' Club, built during the same time. Of note, in front of the club's main entrance, is the location where President Abraham Lincoln viewed the test firing of the first machine gun in history. There is a Don Stivers' painting depicting this moment in history inside the club. Across the parade field, six duplex quarters were also built by the Engineer School from 1905 to 1906 to house non-commissioned officers.

12 WOMEN WAR WORKERS MARKER

As you proceed up Fourth Avenue, you'll come to a historic marker on the right that pays homage to women war workers killed in the summer of 1864. A tragic explosion killed 21 and injured 36 women employed to make Civil War rifle and pistol ammunition by hand. The location of this tragedy was in a building in the area just north of Eisenhower Hall along the eastern wall of Fort McNair. President Abraham Lincoln was so moved that he ordered the U.S. Government to cover all expenses for the families involved and personally led the 150-carriage funeral cortege. A monument to these patriots stands in the District's Congressional Cemetery.

13 MARSHALL HALL

Turn right at the corner of 4th Avenue and C Street, and Marshall Hall is directly ahead. Completed in 1991 and dedicated by President George H. W. Bush, it is National Defense University's headquarters. In addition to university staff, the building houses the Information Resources Management College, NDU Foundation and NDU Library.

14 LINCOLN HALL

The National Defense University's newest building is Lincoln Hall, which was completed in 2009 and dedicated by President Barack Obama. It houses the College of International Security Affairs, which provides students with the fundamentals of security studies and strategic theory to operate in a complex security environment; the Institute for National Strategic Studies, which conducts strategic studies for the Secretary of Defense, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Combatant Commands; the Center for Applied Strategic Learning, which develops strategic-level simulations and sponsors symposia, conferences, and meetings; and the NDU Press.

15 2ND STREET GATE

To leave Fort McNair, turn right on the street between Lincoln Hall and the parking lot. Turn left at the stop sign and you will exit via the installation's newest gate, the 2nd Street Gate, which is open at all times.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We hope you've enjoyed your stroll through time at Fort McNair. If you would like more information, please call the JBM-HH Public Affairs Office at (703) 696-3114. Also, visit us on the Web at http://www.army.mil/jbmhh.

FORT McNAIR

A STROLL THROUGH TIME

JOINT BASE MYER-HENDERSON HALL

A Tradition In Excellence

A STROLL THROUGH TIME

Established in 1791, Fort McNair is the third oldest Army installation in continuous use in the United States after West Point and Carlisle Barracks. The installation has been an arsenal, a penitentiary, a hospital, a troop training post, and now a center for higher education. ★ The peninsula at the confluence of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers was a critical site for the defense of Washington, and city designer Maj. Pierre C. L'Enfant positioned a military reservation there in his early plans for the city. The original reservation consisted of approximately 28 acres at the south end of the peninsula. It was known as Turkey Buzzard Point and later as Greenleaf's Point. ★ Originally known as Washington Arsenal, later Washington Barracks, the small installation gradually came to encompass the entire peninsula as it housed first the arsenal, then several artillery commands, the first federal penitentiary, an Army General Hospital, the Army Engineer School, the Army Music School, the Army War College, and other activities. ★ In 1948, the post was renamed in honor of Lt. Gen. Lesley J. McNair, commander, trainer and educator of Army ground forces during WWII. McNair was killed on July 25, 1944, in Normandy, France. ★ Today the fort is home to the National Defense University, the Inter-American Defense College, the Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region and the Military District of Washington, as well as many of the Army's senior leaders. Fort McNair, along with Fort Myer and Henderson Hall in Arlington, Va., make up Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, showcase of the Army and Marines and important joint military support community. Enjoy the history of Fort McNair as you begin your stroll through time.

BEGINNING YOUR TOUR...

Starting just inside Fort McNair's main gate, walk straight down 3rd Avenue toward the flag pole.

1 MAIN GATE

As you enter Fort McNair through the main gate, also known as the Ceremonial Gate, take a moment to notice the gate posts. The posts are actually six coast-defense guns that were made in 1850 at the Tredegar Foundry in Richmond, Va. The foundry was used by the Confederacy during the Civil War.

2 MILITARY DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Building 39 is home to the Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region and U.S. Army's Military District of Washington. MDW traces its origin to 1921, but its purpose existed in the Union Army headquarters that organized defenses of the nation's capital during the Civil War. In World War II, MDW was a jointly staffed command for the

7 GRANT HALL

Across the tennis courts from the Officers' Club is Building 20. Built in 1838, it was originally the east wing of the first U.S. penitentiary, and is perhaps the most famous structure on Fort McNair. In 1865, eight conspiritors were tried and convicted of conspiracy to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln. Today, the top floor contains a reconstructed court room and exhibit space, where the conspirators were tried. Outside, by the tennis courts, is the location where the four convicted conspirators were hanged. Among those hanged was Mary Surratt, the first woman ever executed under federal orders, whose guilt is still a subject of debate.

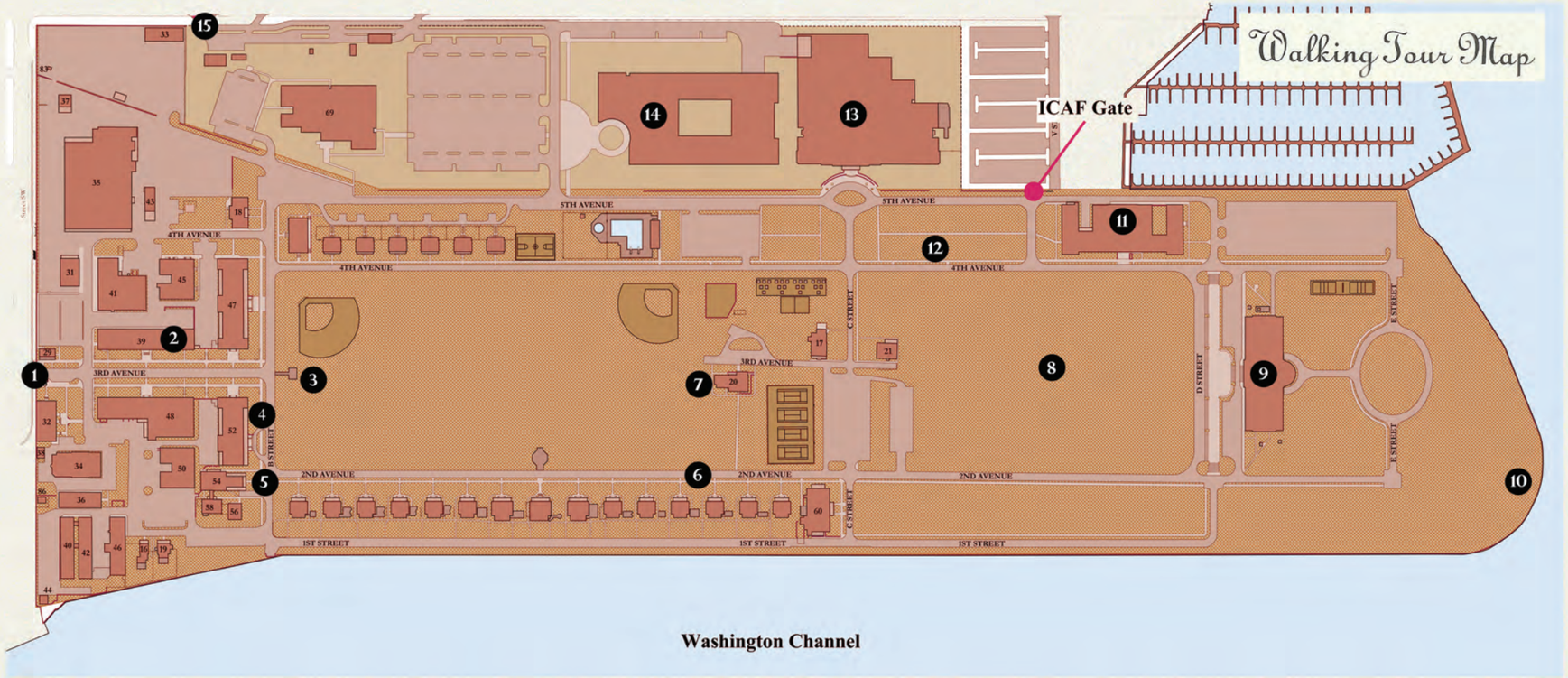
Two related buildings in the same vicinity, Buildings 17 and 21, also deserve mention. Building 17 was built in 1872 as a guardhouse, with bricks recovered from the demolished penitentiary. Building 21 was built around 1832 as a model house, or museum, for the arsenal. It later served as a writing office and was converted to officer housing when the arsenal closed in 1881. All three buildings now house the Africa Center for Strategic Studies.

8 THE ARSENAL

As you continue down 2nd Avenue from the Officers' Club, you enter the original Greenleaf's Point, which started as a marshy hayfield and evolved over some 20 years into Washington Arsenal. When the British were burning the federal city during the War of 1812, a company of soldiers marched to the arsenal to destroy the powder magazine. Before the British soldiers arived, the retreating Americans hid the powder down a dry well. Legend has it that the British inspected the well using either a lantern or a lit match, causing an explosion, and killing about 12 soldiers and wounding 36 others. The surviving soldiers destroyed the arsenal buildings, which were later rebuilt.

9 ROOSEVELT HALL

The ornate building that dominates the south end of the peninsula was built between 1901 and 1904 to house the Army War College. The school was created under the direction of Secretary of War, Elihu Root, to educate selected officers in all aspects of preparing for and conducting war. Dedicated by President Theodore Roosevelt, Roosevelt Hall is designated as a National Historic Landmark. After the Army War College was transferred to Carlisle Barracks, Pa., in 1946; on July 1st of that year, the National War College was formed and has occupied the building since. The NWC was incorporated into the National Defense University in 1976 when the latter was created as the country's pre-eminent joint professional military education center.



10 FORT MCNAIR'S SOUTHERNMOST TIP

The military reservation was first established in 1791 when the southern tip of Fort McNair was included in Maj. Pierre Charles L'Enfant's plans for Washington, the Federal City, as a major site for the defense of the capital.

11 EISENHOWER HALL

As you turn the corner onto 4th Avenue, you'll see Eisenhower Hall. Dedicated in 1960 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a graduate of the class of 1933, Eisenhower Hall houses the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy, formerly know as the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and is one of the five colleges within the National Defense University. The Eisenhower School was founded in 1924 as the Army Industrial College and is the premier Department of Defense graduate school for the study of national security resource management.