



*Columbiads at Water Battery in Warrington, Fla.
Courtesy National Archives*

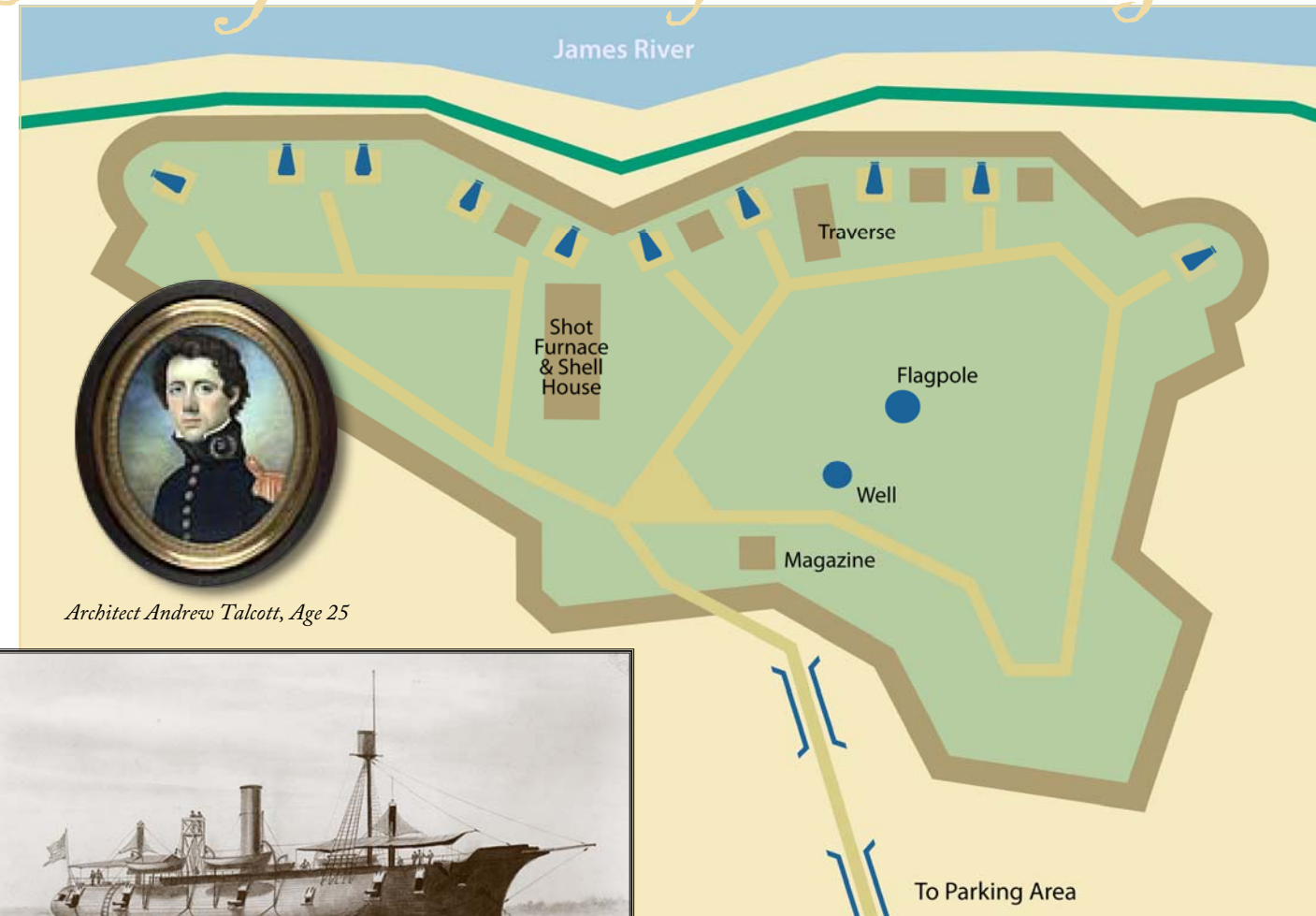
TALCOTT'S PLAN

...was conceived and drawn in 1861, and construction was administered under the direction of Captains E.T.D. Myers and John Clarke with Lt. C.T. Mason.

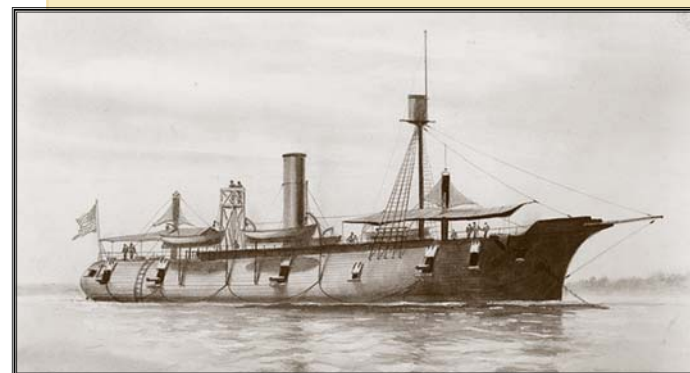
Thirteen guns were mounted at Fort Huger including two 8-inch Columbiads and four 10-inch Dahlgrens. Additionally, the fort, under the leadership of Lt. Col. Fletcher Harris Archer of the 5th Virginia Infantry Battalion, contained a shot furnace, powder magazine and shell house.

Confederate Maj. Gen. John B. Magruder's defensive line facing Union forces during the Peninsula Campaign of 1862 was abandoned on May 4, 1862, due to overwhelming siege forces brought by Union Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan. With the land route cleared, Union forces focused their attention on the Confederate forts blocking the James River.

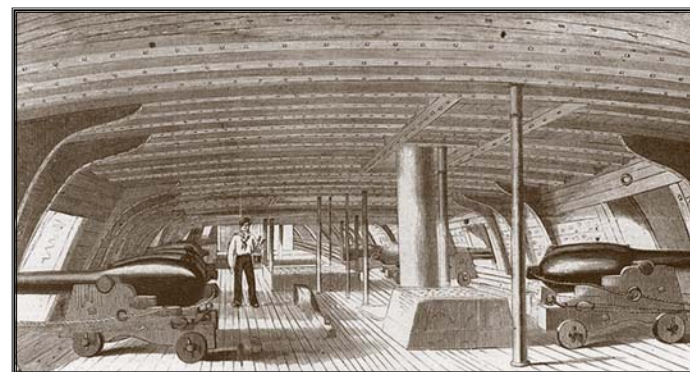
Gateway to the Confederate Capital



Architect Andrew Talcott, Age 25



USS Galena. Watercolor by Oscar Parkes



Gun Deck of the USS Galena

UNION WARSHIPS

...trained their guns at Fort Huger and Fort Boykin. Despite accurate cannon fire from these forts, they were no match for the heavy enemy shelling in May 1862 from ironclads and other warships of the Union fleet.

The bombardments convinced Confederate forces that these forts were untenable, and they were abandoned.

U.S. Marines landed and occupied Forts Huger and Boykin on the 17th and 18th of May, respectively, to find most of the guns spiked, the carriages burned and the structures within the forts destroyed.



This reduction of Fort Huger opened up the James River to the Union fleet to Drewry's Bluff, eight miles south of Richmond. Although Confederate land forces continued to operate freely within the interior of Isle of Wight County, Forts Boykin and Huger never again impeded the Union advance to Richmond.

Isle of Wight County was offered Fort Huger as a condition for development of a residential housing project along the James River. The county began work on the 23-acre site in 2006 and dedicated it to the citizens of Isle of Wight County in 2008.



TODAY FORT HUGER

...stands as a restored and interpreted fort of state and national significance. Visit for a self-guided tour and a view of the James River Reserve Fleet.

