VLR- 11/5/68 Form 10-300 UNITE (Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	
Virginia	
COUNTY:	
Hampton (in c	it.)
FOR NPS USE O	NLY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	-

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)  1. NAME  COMMON: FORT WOOL  AND/OR HISTORIC: FORT Calhoun  2. LOCATION  STREET AND NUMBER: Located on an island one mile south of Fort Monroe at the entrance to Hampton Roads between Willoughby Spit and Old Point Comfort.  CITY OR TOWN:  STATE  Virginia  3. CLASSIFICATION  CATEGORY (Chack One)  District Building Public Deposition: Site Structure Private In Process  Object Both Both Both Private Other (Specify)  Agricultural Government Park Transportation Comments Agricultural Restricted Distriction Museum Scientific  Agricultural Museum Scientific Agricultural Agricultural Street And Number:  Commoncealth of Virginia  STREET AND NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN: RICHARDLON STREET AND NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN: RICHARDLON STREET AND NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN: ROATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION ROATION NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN: RICHARDLON STREET AND NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN: RICHARDLON STREET AND NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN: RICHARDLON STREET AND NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN: ROATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION ROATION NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN: RICHARDLON STREET AND NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN: ROATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION ROATION NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN: RICHARDLON STREET AND NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN: RICHARDLON STREET AND NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN: ROATION NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN: RICHARDLON STATE CODE STREET AND NUMBER:  CITY OR TOWN: ROATION NUMBER: ROATION NUMBER: ROATION NUMBE			134 H-522 F-34 F-46				
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Fort Wool is located on a fifteen acre island made of large granite blocks. The western end of the fort still retains its original ramparts, consisting of a close packed semi-circle of gun positions. Batterys dating from the Civil War period still remain on the southwest end of the island; however, the remainder of the southern wall has been demolished, leaving an open side. Granite blocks on the southern side were pushed into the water to form a rough causeway that links the island with the southern ventilation entrance of the Hampton Roads Tunnel. The rectangular open space vithin the fort's walls was originally the parade ground. The two towers at either end of the island date from World War I, while the concrete tower in the center dates from World War II.  On the northern side, facing Fort Monroe, were placed the bulk of the guns in the nineteenth century, however the original battery positions in this wall have been obscured by later works. Also, the fittings and emplacements along this side have been altered to hold newer types of guns Most of the original passages in the massive walls remain as do the powder and storage rooms, shelters for the gun crews, and lower tier gun position On the eastern end of the island a World War II concrete command post with bunker has been constructed behind the redoubts.  At present, the fort lies abandoned, but even in its decaying state it has become an exceedingly romantic ruin.		Excellent Good G	<del></del>		
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AREAS OF SIGNIFICAN	CE (Ch	eck One or More as	Approprie	ite)		• .
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Prehistoric		Engineering		Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)
Historic		Industry		losophy		History
Agriculture		Invention		Science		
Art	<u>(X)</u>	Lands cape		Sculpture		
Commerce		Architecture		Social/Human-		
Communication	: 🔾	Literature		itarian		
Conservation		Military	[23]	Theater		
		Music		Transportation		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Fort Wool, or Fort Calhoun as it was known until the Civil War, was begun in 1819 as part of the elaborate coastal fortification plan (which included Fort Monroe) of George Graham, Secretary of War under James Madison. The Virginia General Assembly of 1821 resolved that the island's title would be turned over to the United States Government as long as it was needed for national defense, reverting to the Commonwealth of Virginia when no longer needed.

Work on the fortification continued at a slow rate until the outbreak of the Civil War. Robert E. Lee actually supervised part of the construction at one time. By the outbreak of the war the lower tier had fifty-two casemates ready for guns, and 187 men stationed there. In 1862 the name of the fort was changed from Fort Calhoun to Fort Wool in honor of Major General John Wool, Commandant of the fortifications at Hampton Roads. It was from Fort Wool that President Abraham Lincoln watched the embarkation of the Union troops to seize Norfolk. From 1886 until the outbreak of World War I the fort was not garrisoned, but was reactivated during both World Wars as part of the harbor defense system. The fort was abandoned by 1953 and was turned back to the Commonwealth in 1967.

The fort at present is falling into a state of ruins, but in so doing it is acquiring a very romantic atmosphere. This atmosphere, coupled with the wide variety of military architecture found there, make it a prime site for potential visitors. Its long history and beautiful location in the mouth of one of the world's busiest harbors also contribute to making it a significant landmark.

JOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL	REFERENCES			
Bowman, Albert, S May 12, 1967, F	P4, "Hampton Roads'	Forgotten Fort,	" <u>Casement</u>	Chronicle,

Analysis of Existing Facilities, Fort Wool, Virginia, 1945 (from the Norfolk District, Corps of Engineers).

Feild, Robert, and Doug Michels, Fort Wool, 1968.

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10.	GEOG	RAPHICAL DATA									
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	As the tional 89-665 in the evaluatorth blevel of Name	e designated State Liaise Historic Preservation A (i), I hereby nominate this National Register and coted according to the critical to the Country the National Park Server (i) significance of this mational State  Or. Edward P. Ale	on Officer for the ct of 1966 (Publis property for incrtify that it has deria and proceduce. The recommination is:    X   Local   Loca	e Na- lic Law clusion s been ures set nmended	ir	I hereby Nationa	certify t 1 Registe	hat this programmer.	y and His	included	in the
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