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Governors Island Maps, Plans, Architectural and Engineering Drawings

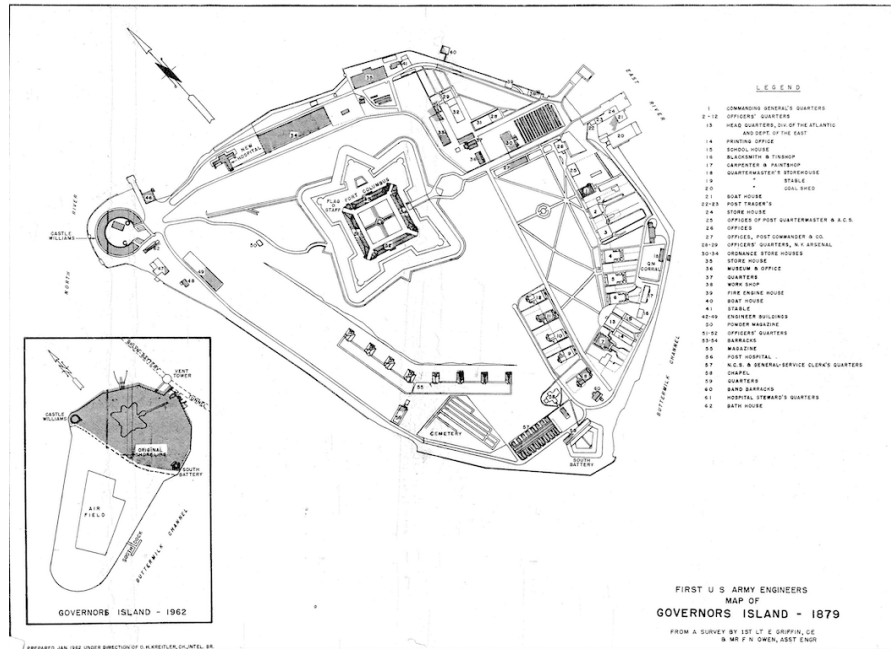
The [Electronic Records Division](#) at the National Archives recently completed a large project to add more than [11,000 born-digital records related to Governors Island](#) in New York City to the Catalog.



Governors Island Fog Bell, New York. [National Archives Identifier 45693031](#)

Governors Island, which first served as a military installation during the American Revolutionary War, was decommissioned as an Army base in the 1960s, and ownership of

the Island was transferred to the United States Coast Guard, making it the largest Coast Guard installation.

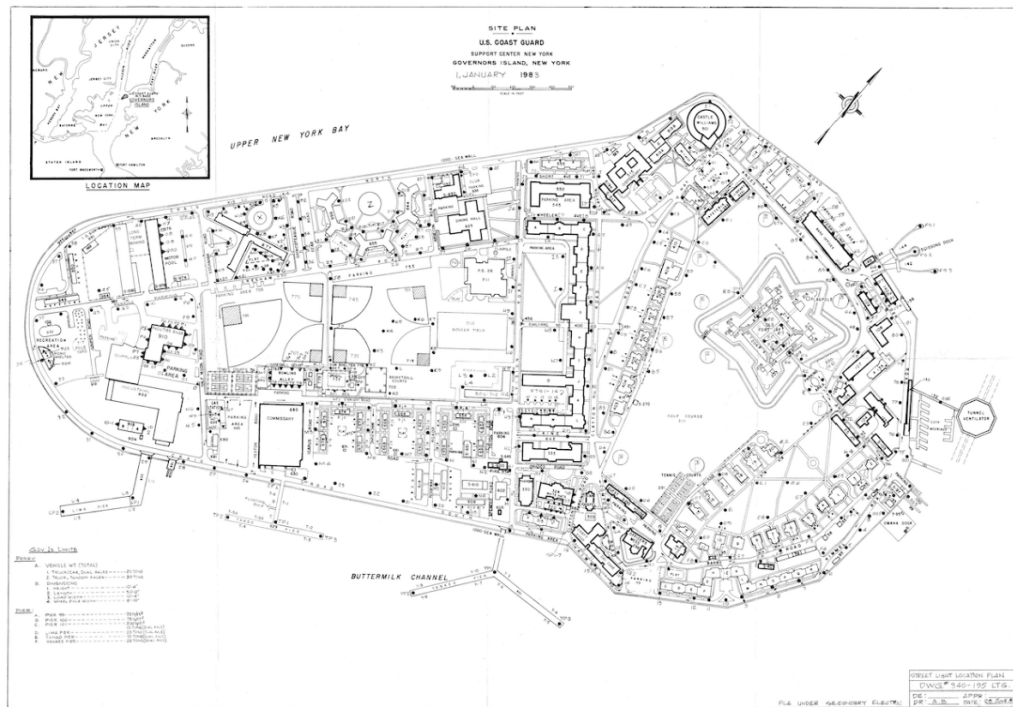


Map of Governors Island - 1879, [National Archives Identifier 167060529](#)

Governors Island also served as the backdrop for the newly refurbished Statue of Liberty in 1986. In 1995, the base was closed – that same year, many of the structures on the Island were designated as a National Historic Landmark. Governors Island now sees thousands of visitors and tourists each year.

Accessioned to the National Archives in 2006, the [Scanned Images of Governors Island Maps and Plans and Architectural and Engineering Drawings](#) contains digitized paper maps and plans, along with architectural and engineering drawings of the buildings and structures in the former United States Coast Guard installation.

The series comprises more than eleven thousand Tagged Image Format Files (.TIFF), over one hundred fifty text files, and other system files and textual documentation. The drawings capture details of the buildings and structures on the Island through the 1990s, when it was decommissioned.



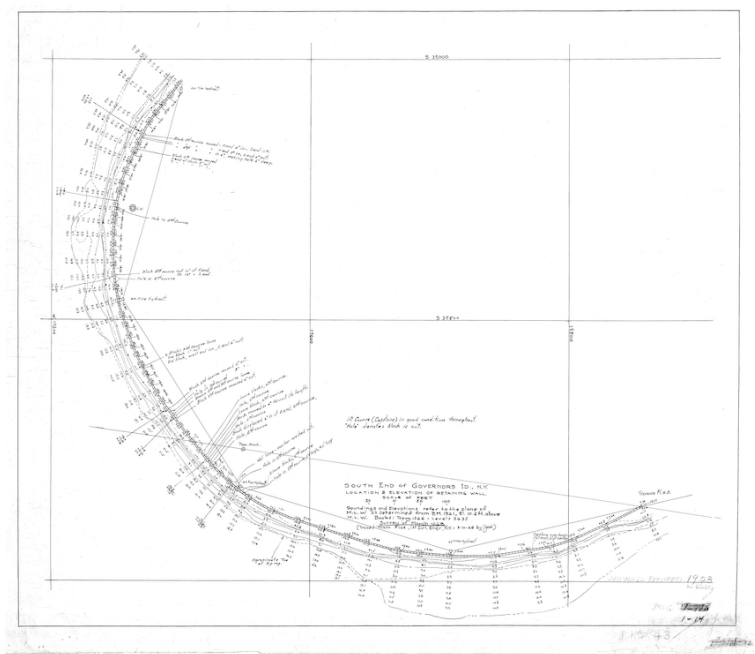
Street Light Location Plan, June 29, 1983, [National Archives Identifier 167079299](#)

Images within the series include building floor plans, plumbing and other internal functions, including electrical wiring and ducts. There are architectural drawings that depict larger sections of the houses and other buildings, including elevations to porches. Others depict aspects of civil engineering on the island.



Group of men drilling at Governors Island, New York, [National Archives Identifier 26434430](#)

The Coast Guard originally organized the images by physical location. To prepare these records for the Catalog, staff from the Electronic Records Division organized the files into subject categories, represented in 43 separate file units; including “Lists of Drawings” ([National Archives Identifier 159138493](#)), General information, Numbered and Named Buildings, Structures, along with some Unidentifiable Drawings ([National Archives Identifier 159138552](#)) and Scanning Job Reports ([National Archives Identifier 159138555](#)).



Sea Wall 1928. [National Archives Identifier 167080349](#)

In addition to these images, the National Archives took custody of the [Index to the Scanned Images of Governors Island Maps and Plans and Architectural and Engineering Drawings](#) in 2013. The Trust for Governors Island created and maintained the Index to provide order to the drawings in their possession from the United States Coast Guard.

There is a wealth of additional materials [available in the Catalog concerning Governors Island](#), including photographs, and records concerning the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER).



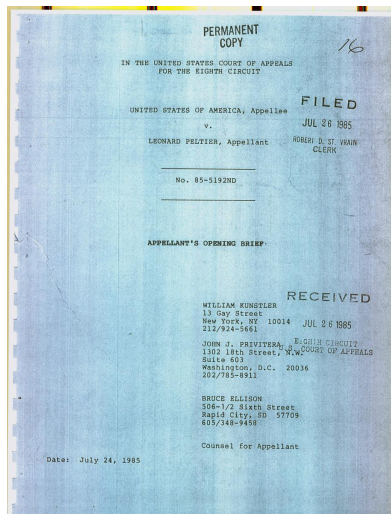
Governors Island Railroad has 11 miles of track, 5 locomotives and 200 freight cars, connects with 12 foreign railroads and is the most efficient railroad of its size in the world. [National Archives Identifier 45501949](#)

These materials, in addition to the Scanned Images and the Index, are an invaluable resource to researchers – providing information about New York City history, the history of the United States Army and Coast Guard, collaboration between government and private entities, along with a deep examination of architecture throughout the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries.

Today's post was written by John LeGloahec, Archives Specialist in Electronic Records Reference Services at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland.

Transcription Challenge

Ready for an [#ArchivesAtHome](#) challenge? We're looking to transcribe some of our biggest files on the online Catalog!



Our latest challenge is almost complete! Just a few pages are left to transcribe in the 1,066-page case of United States of America v. Leonard Peltier. Can you help completely transcribe this record?

We'll post a new challenge on our Dashboard as soon as this record is complete. [Find a page without a blue tag and start transcribing!](#)

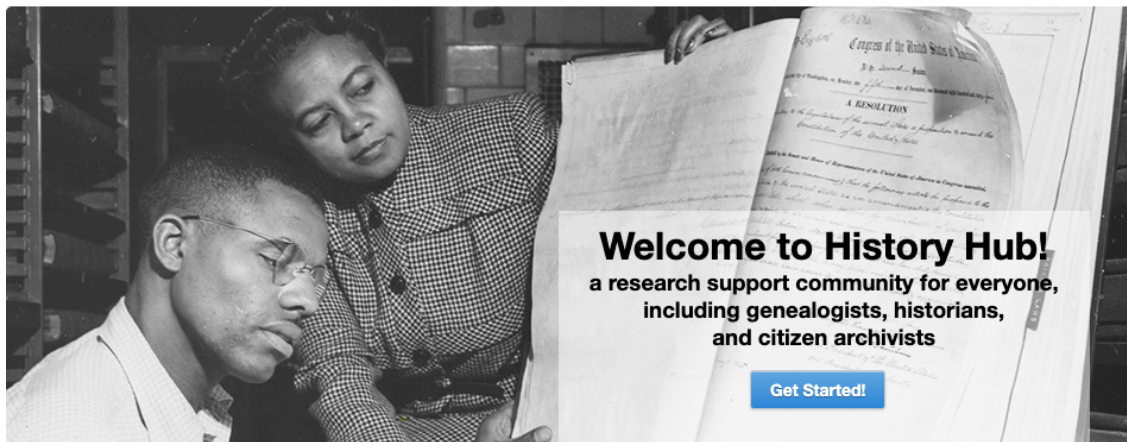
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[Citizen Archivists, there's a group just for you!](#) You can share tips and strategies, find new challenges, and get support for your work. Get started with our poll: [What kinds of records do you like to transcribe?](#)

COVID-19 Update

The National Archives is committed to the health and safety of our visitors and staff. We are closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19, and we are working with public health officials and our counterpart agencies to monitor and respond to the evolving conditions and following CDC guidelines.

For more information, visit <https://www.archives.gov/coronavirus>

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