



Take a Step Back in Time

U.S. Military Reservation



Egmont was used by the military during the second Seminole Indian War and Civil War and became a fortified base during the Spanish-American War of 1898.

Activated at the End

Not much had been built when the war ended. The island mainly served as a hospital and quarantine station.



Armed and Ready

Five gun batteries, with three-inch guns, were built on Egmont Key to protect Tampa Bay from attack during the Spanish-American War. The Spanish fleet never came. And no shots were fired from Egmont guns.



As you walk the abandoned roads, imagine life here in the island's heyday. Enter the power station, observation posts, and bunkers, and think of the hundreds of families that called this home. Follow the red brick road to ruins of houses, barracks, the gymnasium, tennis courts, firehouse, and guardhouse.



Time may have taken its toll, but you can almost hear the retort of the guns that once proudly protected our shores.



Fort Dade



In 1900, the installation was renamed in honor of Major Francis Dade, killed in 1835 by Seminole Indians.

Its Glory Days

By 1916, over 70 new buildings had been added, including a hospital, school, bowling alley, and movie theater. During World War I, it became a National Guard training center, and the population doubled to 600.



In Times of Need

Advances in mobile artillery and several hurricanes led to its deactivation in 1923. It was reactivated by the Navy and Coast Guard during World War II, the Korean War, and the Cuban Missile Crisis. The last military maneuvers took place in 1978.

