



“Old Civil War cannon found in the rear of the old Wilmington City Hall”
*Photo circa 1960 as published in the Final Report of the Civil War Centennial
Commission of the State of Delaware, June 1966*



“Old Civil War cannon restored by Mr. Paul W. Grimes”
Final Report of the Civil War Centennial Commission of the State of Delaware
June 1966

The Field Guns at Fort Delaware

- Two obsolete field guns were supplied by the Federal War Department to the defenders of Wilmington during the Civil War for the protection of local industry, notably the DuPont Powder Works on the Brandywine.
- The guns were deployed, but apparently never fired in anger, during Confederate invasions of Maryland and Pennsylvania.
- After the war, they became ornaments and for a long time stood in front of the old City Hall in Wilmington. Later, they were moved to the rear of this building and apparently forgotten. At this location they rusted, decayed and collapsed.
- The Delaware National Guard, circa 1960 and at the request of the Civil War Centennial Commission of the State of Delaware, removed all pieces and parts from the old City Hall to the National Guard repair shop. [See 1960 photo]
- Mr. Paul W. Grimes, a skilled restoration mechanic employed by the Hagley Museum, volunteered to restore the two guns. Using the facilities of the Hagley shops, and working on his own time, old iron work was reconditioned, new woodwork formed, and the repaired wheels fitted to the original axles.
- The cost of materials for the restorations was funded by the *Fort Delaware Society*. The restored field guns were put on display at Fort Delaware in 1963.

Current Restoration Work

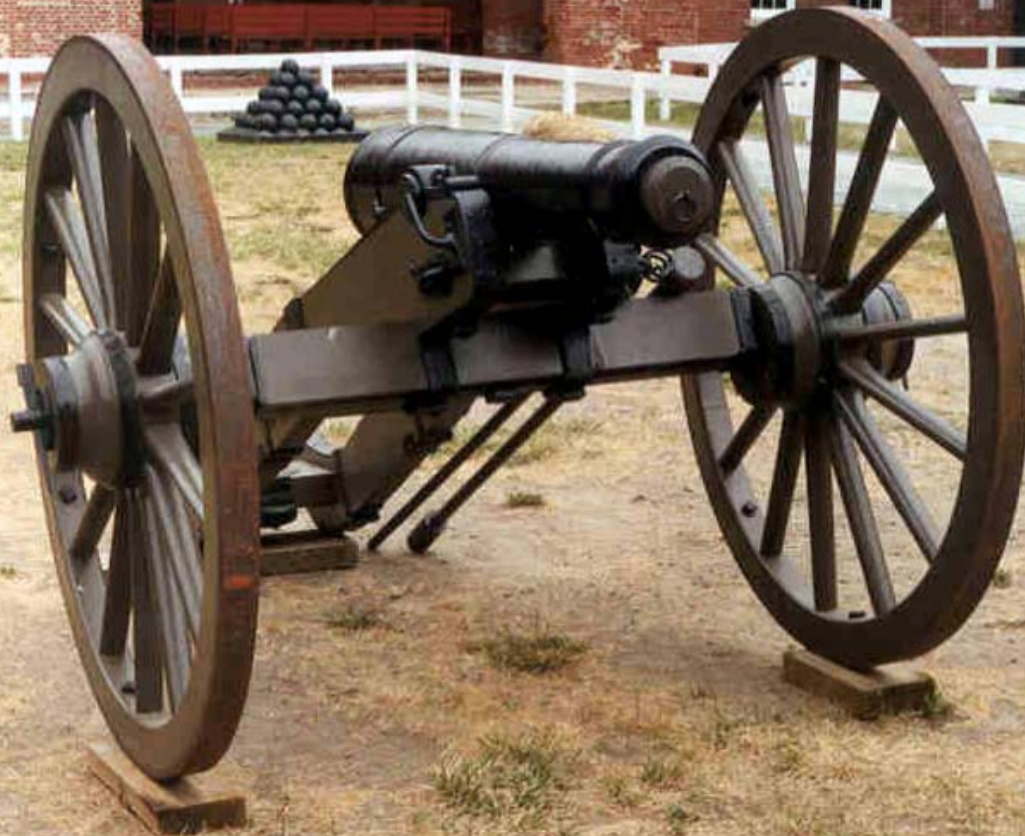
The Fort Delaware Society contracted for extensive restoration work in 2002 with Mr. Rob Howard of Anchorage Productions, Inc. Preparing for the restoration revealed significant new information about the guns:

- The iron gun barrels were cast at the Bellona Foundry in Richmond, Virginia under government contracts in 1820 or 1821.
- The two split trail carriages, numbered #74 and #105 respectively, were made in 1830 and 1831 at the Washington Arsenal.
- Carriage #74 [1830] is the earliest surviving split trail arsenal made gun carriage in the United States.
- These guns were obsolete but still usable in 1861.
- Each gun has a lunette ring fitted to the rear end of the carriage to allow the carriage to be hitched to a pintail hook on a Civil War era limber for transport.

Restoration of both gun barrels and gun carriages #74 and #105 were completed in 2002. The first gun remounted on a carriage was returned to the Fort Delaware parade ground for display in August 2002.



***Six-Pound Field Gun
Restored and on display at Fort Delaware
August 16, 2002***



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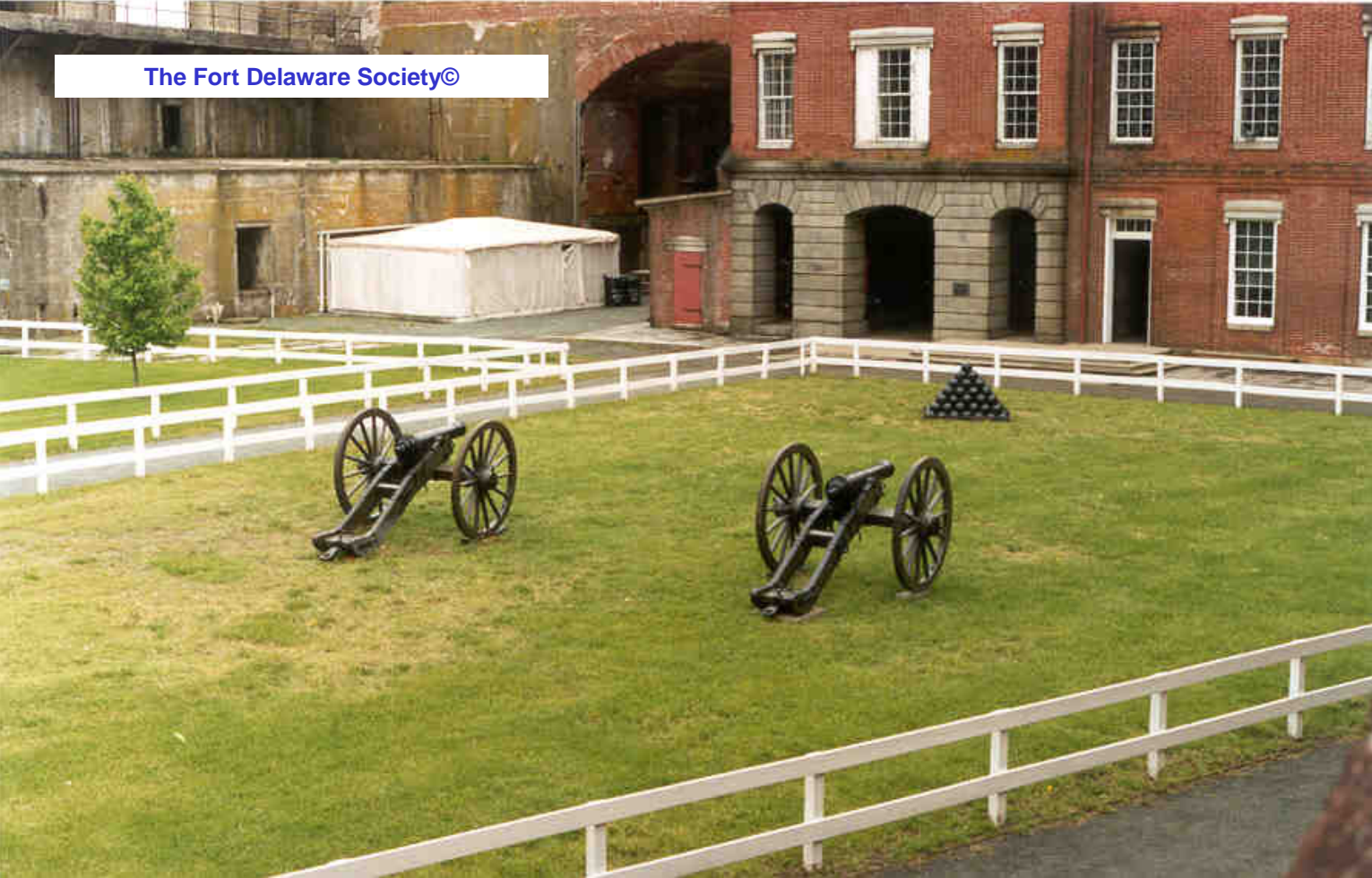


***Six-Pound Field Gun
Restored and on display at Fort Delaware
August 16, 2002***



***Six-Pound Field Gun
Restored and on display at Fort Delaware
August 16, 2002***

The Fort Delaware Society©



***Two Six-Pound Field Guns
Restored and on display at Fort Delaware
May 18, 2003***