

NEWSLETTER

Friends of Civil War Alcatraz

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East Guard Room Gets a Whitewash The maintenance crew on the island have almost completed whitewashing the east guard room in the sally port. They have been using lime paint, which would probably have been the same paint used after the building was completed. Applying the whitewash has been difficult, according to the workers. Unlike modern paint, paint which is mostly from lime doesn't work with a roller - the paint just slides on the roller and doesn't adhere. Instead, it must be applied with several layers using a paintbrush, which makes the work take longer. The contrast with the previous look of the room is striking - it looks very clean and milky; anyone who has seen whitewashed walls at the missions or historic adobes in California will notice the same look as the guard room. One caution: whitewashed walls tend to rub off on clothes (there's no "fixative") so volunteers in uniforms should be wary of leaning against the walls.

Dates to Remember

Saturday, Aug. 15th
Fort Point Civil War Day
10 am to 5 pm



Newly painted east guard room



West guard room in need of a paint job

The west guard room is also in need of a new paint job, but the maintenance people hope a more modern paint will be used because of the time and expense it takes to paint these rooms. (Lime paint is twice the cost of regular paint).

Another Method for Restoring the Cannon Ranger John Cantwell has been discussing the removal of the plug in the fuse hole of the cannon with the contractors who worked on the sally port. They have suggested using a tool which has a heating element hot enough to melt the plug but not enough to damage the iron wall. Discussions are continuing and a decision will be made later this month.