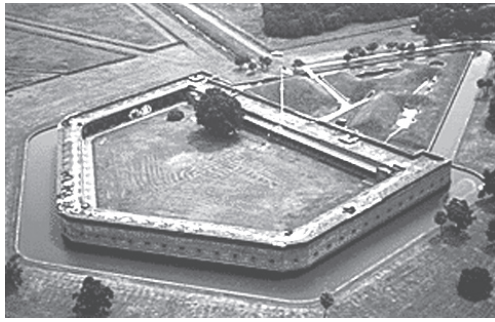


**FORT PULASKI**

**"You might as well bombard the Rocky Mountains..." -**  
General Totten, U.S. Chief of Engineers

When completed in 1847 with its 25 million bricks and walls 7.5 feet thick, FORT PULASKI was the ultimate defense system of its day. Part of a series of forts which protected major seaports from foreign attack, the stronghold would not be tested until the Civil War. Seized by Georgia state troops early in the war, the fort was besieged by Federal forces. Here on April 11, 1862, defense strategy changed worldwide when Union rifled cannon, firing from more than a mile away on Tybee Island, first overcame a masonry fortification.



The effectiveness of rifled artillery, which fired a bullet-shaped projectile with great accuracy at long range, was clearly demonstrated. After only 30 hours of bombardment, the walls were breached and the Confederates surrendered. The fall of FORT PULASKI tightened the Union blockade of southern ports and kept Savannah from exporting cotton and importing military supplies and civilian goods so vital to the Confederacy. But more importantly, the success of the new weapon marked the end of the era of masonry fortifications.

The commander of the Union forces captured the military world's surprise in these words... "The result of this bombardment must cause...a change in the construction of fortifications as radical as that foreshadowed in naval architecture by the conflict between the Monitor and Merrimac. No works of stone or brick can resist the impact of rifled artillery of heavy caliber." Major General David Hunter, U.S. Army.

**New Exhibit Opens on Famed Polish Patriot**

By Stephen M. Sitarski, Chief of Interpretation and Visitor Services,  
Independence NHP • March 31, 2009

Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial in Philadelphia has opened a new permanent exhibit to celebrate the life and legacy of this hero of two continents in March of 2009.

One highlight of the new exhibits is a large artifact case featuring objects from the Kosciuszko collection of the Historical Museum of the City of Cracow in Poland. Museum director Michal Niezabitowski and curator Klaudia Kaczmarczyk traveled from Poland as the Park's special guests. They presented official greetings and gifts, including a commemorative Kosciuszko medal, to the Park. Thomas Jefferson (portrayed by actor Steve Edenbo) shared thoughts about his good friend Kosciuszko. Noted historian and author Gary Nash discussed his most recent book, Friends of Liberty, which features Thaddeus Kosciuszko. A reception sponsored by the Friends of Independence concluded the celebration.



New exhibits recently installed at the Kosciuszko National Memorial highlight his contribution to the American Revolution as well as his later efforts to free Poland from Russian occupation. NPS photo by Michael Paskowsky.

The new exhibits replace the original ones installed in 1976. The four new interpretative themes are Kosciuszko's lifelong struggle for liberty for all, his military engineering expertise, how he is memorialized throughout the world, and why he returned to Philadelphia. An interactive kiosk on the first floor allows visitors to locate monuments, cities, ships, even mountains named in Kosciuszko's honor. This AV unit includes a virtual tour of the second floor bedroom rented by Kosciuszko. In his bedroom, new spotlights identify objects in the room associated with the Polish patriot, including a tomahawk like the one given to him by Chief Little Turtle of the Miami Nation. Nearby exhibits tell the little known story of Kosciuszko's will, which intended to leave his estate to free and educate enslaved African Americans.

Loaned artifacts from the Cracow Museum's Kosciuszko collection include a pistol and sword, a variety of 19th century paintings, and one of the three remaining original copies of Kosciuszko's famous 1794 call to arms against Russian rule. The museum collection is on loan for two years. The park is arranging to borrow Kosciuszko artifacts from other museums in Poland, including the National Museum of Poland.

The Harpers' Ferry Design Center served as the project manager for the exhibits, which include touchable sections and audio description for visitors with visual impairments. A new Junior Ranger program, featuring a travel truck loaded with reproduction items that Kosciuszko would have packed during the American Revolution, is available for younger visitors.

The memorial is now open Wednesday – Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.. For more information, visit [www.nps.gov/thko](http://www.nps.gov/thko).

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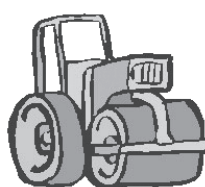
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