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### **A Historical Investigation into the Purpose and Uses of Fort Terry on Plum Island, New York in the Spanish American War (1898-1902)**

In 1898, the US War Department purchased portions of Plum Island, located in the eastern entrance of Long Island Sound, for strategic military purposes. Within 10 years, the entire island was owned by the government and Fort Terry was constructed. This project focuses on the government's decision to purchase and fortify Plum Island as well as what it was initially used for, particularly during the Spanish-American War.

After careful examination of documents including government reports, newspaper articles, and historical land surveys for language, context, and basic facts, I conclude that Fort Terry clearly had high strategic value in protecting the area at Long Island Sound's eastern entrance, particularly Gardiner's Bay and Plum Gut, from a potential military invasion. After seeing the impact from the War of 1812 when the British controlled Plum Island and shut down movement in the region, the War Department used the threat of the Spanish-American War to pressure the government into building fortifications in this region. Fort Terry protected ports like New York City and New Haven and served as training grounds for soldiers. In this time frame, it also served as a quarantine location for Virginia soldiers with yellow fever. This research is important in building a foundational history for understanding the controversy surrounding the intended sale of the island due its historical and environmental significance.

## References

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