

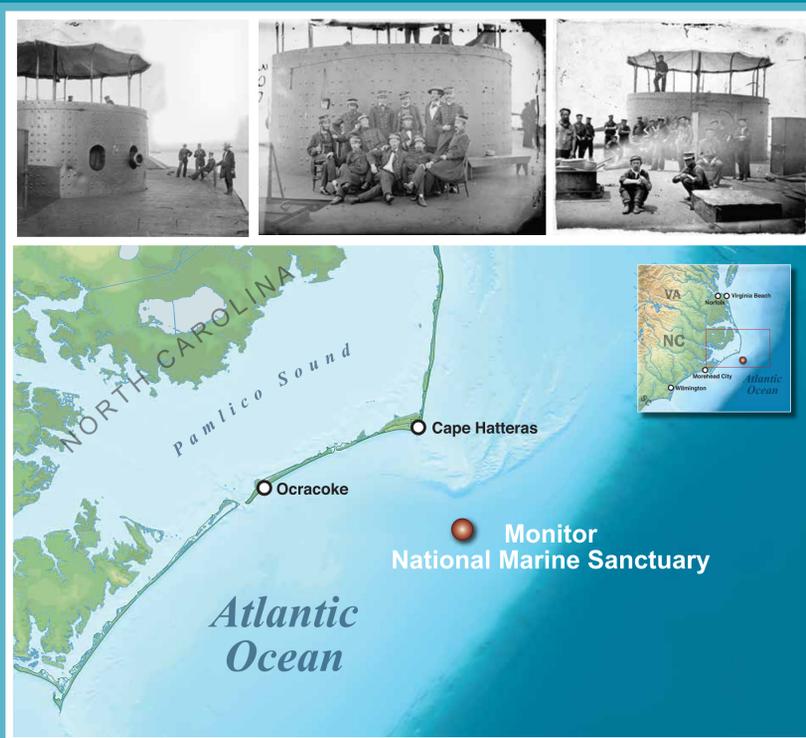
# USS MONITOR TRAIL

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

MONITOR NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



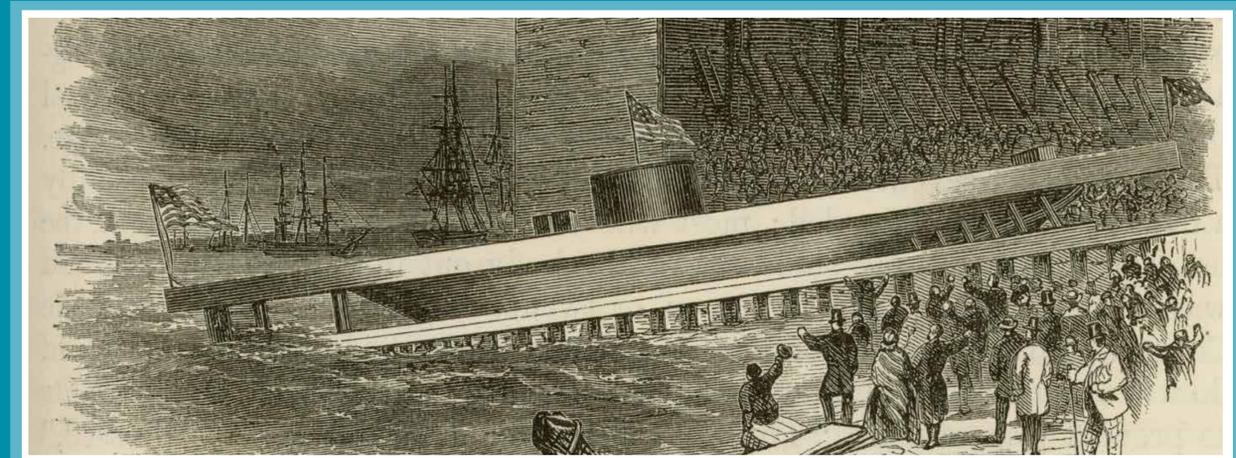
## USS MONITOR: AMERICA'S FIRST IRONCLAD



Launched on Jan. 30, 1862, at the Continental Iron Works in Greenpoint, N.Y., the USS *Monitor* made history as the Union Navy's first ironclad warship. It fought the Confederate ironclad CSS *Virginia* in the first-ever clash between two ironclads at the Battle of Hampton Roads on March 9 — an encounter that signaled the start of a new era of naval warfare. The *Monitor's* short but historic career came to an end on Dec. 31, 1862, when it sank in a storm off Cape Hatteras, N.C., with the loss of 16 sailors.

In 1975, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) designated the USS *Monitor's* wreck site as the nation's first national marine sanctuary. Over the years, NOAA and partners have undertaken several recovery operations and retrieved artifacts for conservation. When U.S. Navy divers recovered the ship's iconic gun turret in 2002, archaeologists discovered the remains of two sailors inside.

On July 9, 1862, as the ship docked in Virginia on the James River, James F. Gibson took the only known photos of the *Monitor* and her crew (above). Monitor National Marine Sanctuary is located approximately 16 miles south-southeast of Cape Hatteras, N.C.



At this site on January 30, 1862, USS *Monitor* launched from Continental Works. The site was donated to The Greenpoint Monitor Museum by Motiva Enterprises for further interpretation of the *Monitor*.

## CONTINENTAL WORKS

In 1859, Thomas Fitch Rowland established the Continental Works at this site in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, N.Y. When the Civil War began, the company was engaged by John Ericsson to build a "shot-proof steam battery." On October 25, 1861, the keel for the ironclad was laid and construction began on the ship that Ericsson named *Monitor*. Just 98 days later, the *Monitor* launched on January 30, 1862. During the course of the Civil War, Continental Works built seven more ironclad ships for the U.S. Navy including the *Passaic* and *Montauk*. In 1887, the business incorporated as the Continental Iron Works.

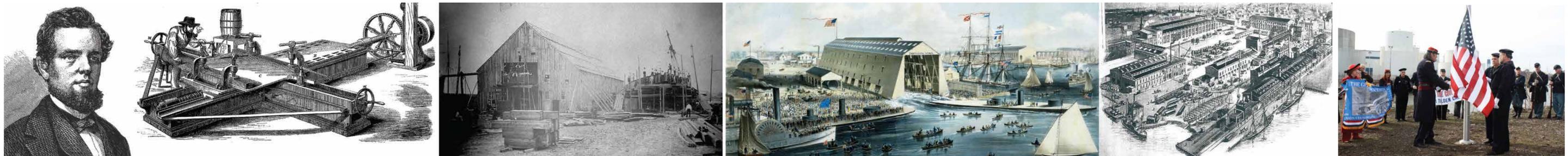
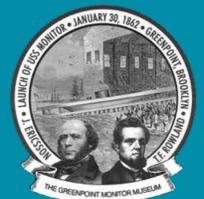


Image credit: The Greenpoint Monitor Museum