

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

FORT JAMES JACKSON

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: FORT JAMES JACKSON

Other Name/Site Number: Fort Oglethorpe

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 1 Fort Jackson Road

Not for publication: N/A

City/Town: Savannah

Vicinity: X

State: Georgia

County: Chatham

Code: 052

Zip Code: 31402

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private:

Public-local:

Public-State: X

Public-Federal:

Category of Property

Building(s):

District:

Site:

Structure: X

Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

 buildings

 sites

1 structures earth dike

 objects

1 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 1

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Designated a
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK on

FEB 16 2000

by the Secretary of the Interior

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4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ____ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau**5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ Entered in the National Register

____ Determined eligible for the National Register

____ Determined not eligible for the National Register

____ Removed from the National Register

____ Other (explain):

Signature of Keeper_____
Date of Action

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6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: DEFENSE Sub: Fortification

Current: RECREATIONAL Sub: Museum

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: OTHER - Second System Fortification

MATERIALS:

Foundation: STONE

Walls: BRICK AND EARTH

Roof: BRICK

Other: N/A

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Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Fort James Jackson, one of the few preserved Second System Seacoast Fortifications in the United States (see Figure 1), is located approximately three miles east and downstream of Savannah, Georgia, on the south bank of the Savannah River. The fort was built to protect the city of Savannah and harbor from foreign naval attack. The fort consists of an irregular shaped gun battery of earth and brick masonry and is enclosed at its rear by brick walls that include four demi bastions. The gun platform, facing the Savannah River, is supported by arched brick casemates, which served as storage rooms, offices, and cells. Located at the southwest side of the gun platform is a brick powder magazine with gabled roof. On the northeast angle of the barbette is an 1870s concrete and granite sod covered magazine, which was the only addition to this fort after the Civil War. Along the east and west angles of the parade ground are the foundations of two brick enlisted mens barracks. On the center rear of the parade ground is the foundation of a brick officers' barracks, which was not completed. Both battery and rear walls are fully enclosed by a brick lined wet moat, which is supplied by a tide tunnel on the northwest face of the counter scarp wall.

Environmental Setting

The fort was built on a small island, known as Salter's Island, about three miles downstream from the City of Savannah, Georgia, on the south bank of the Savannah River. The fort was sited to overlook a natural deepwater anchorage and water route to Savannah, called Five Fathom Hole. From this location, Fort Jackson could command the river approach to Savannah. In the early nineteenth century the marshes around Salter's Island were developed into rice fields. In the 1950s, the rice fields which surrounded the high ground on which the fort was sited were filled with dredge spoil from the Savannah River.

Physical Description

In their book, *A History of the Savannah District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, Henry E. Barber and Allen R. Gann, note that prior to the construction of Fort James Jackson, the first defense for the city of Savannah was an earthen fort originally built by the Georgia Colonial Council in 1760, during the French and Indian War "on the eastern edge of the city on a bluff overlooking the river" (1989:32).

When the British occupied the city in 1778, this installation, called Fort Savannah, was fortified with 48 cannon and 43 mortars. After the Revolution it was renamed Fort Wayne in honor of General "Mad Anthony" Wayne, the Revolutionary War leader. It soon, however, fell into decay from disuse and disrepair [Barber and Gann 1989:32].

In 1806, foreseeing a future conflict between England and the United States, the City Council of Savannah ceded to the United States government the site of Fort Wayne, in hopes of the federal government expanding the defenses of the city. Over the next two years the government acquired numerous private parcels for construction of a large fortification, however, the government did not follow through with that project, and the city undertook the strengthening of Fort Wayne on its own (Barber and Gann 1989:32-33). In all probability, the reasoning of the Army Corps of Engineers was that Fort Wayne was too close to the city to provide adequate protection for Savannah. After all, in 1779 during the unsuccessful Franco-American siege of

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the British-held city, French warships anchored in Five Fathom Hole, the future site of Fort Jackson, had shelled the city. What was needed was a defensive position further away and down river from the city.

Accordingly, in 1808 the United States Government purchased a 2.3 acre parcel of land, which was identified as Wharf Lot Number 12, from Nichol Turnbull, for \$1800, for the purpose of a new fortification to protect the river approach to Savannah. The site was previously occupied by a "mud fort" constructed in the Revolutionary War, about which little is known (Barber and Gann 1989:33).

Construction of Fort Jackson began late in 1808 under the direction of Captain William McRee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This construction continued at different intervals being interrupted by lack of funds or fear of fever among the work force until completion of the fort in 1812 (see Figure 2).

Congress would apply the name of James Jackson to the masonry and earth fort being constructed at Five Fathom Hole, to honor the late Governor of the State of Georgia, who was a Revolutionary War veteran and United States Senator from Georgia (Brinson 1997:2). By 1809, the name of Fort Jackson was officially in use and the fort would continue to have this name except for the years between 1884 and 1905, when it was called Fort Oglethorpe (Kelso 1968:24).

The fort was garrisoned by local militia, such as the Chatham Artillery, as well as Federal troops during the War of 1812. The fort saw no action during the war. Federal troops and state militia were withdrawn from Fort Jackson in 1815. The condition of the fort in 1823 is clearly stated in a report to Major General Alexander Macomb. Since the fort was not altered during the interim period, this report gives an accurate description of its Second System appearance.

This fort consists of a battery, a palisade which enclosed it on the land side, barracks, magazines and a shot furnace. The battery has a development of masonry of 10 or 11 feet and a parapet of mud 17 or 18 feet thick. The platform is sustained by walls 3 feet thick and 12 feet apart. The development of the scarp is 100 yards that of the crest of the parapet or covering line is 78 yards with a height, above high water of about 21 feet.

The palisade is of square timbers rising 9 feet above the ground and pierced with loopholes: its development is 100 yards.

There are three wooden barracks of one story of which that marked A is 80 feet by 18 long outside to outside; that marked B, 105 feet by 10; and that marked C 109 feet by 15.

The magazines are under the platform; they are arched; covered with earth; and may be considered bombproof. There are two of them side by side each being 12 feet by 15. The [hot shot] furnace will hold 50 or 60 balls.

This fort having been exposed for years to the depredation of individuals, to the weather, and to the influx of the tide; the Board found, on their visit in March, 1821, the platform and ramp entirely rotten, the sides and roof of the Barrack A fallen in and the barracks B and C in a state of ruin. The scarp of the battery, the enclosing palisade, the two magazines, and the shot furnace were however well preserved.

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Fort Jackson to be put in good condition will require a new platform, a new Barracks for 75 men, a dike to exclude the water at high tide and certain reparation to the gates, and to the doors of the magazines [Anonymous 1823].

Until 1845, the Savannah District Corps of Engineers undertook periodic maintenance on the fort in order that it might support Fort Pulaski (built between 1829 and 1847) in the defense of Savannah. In 1845, Congress funded repairs to Fort James Jackson at the start of the conflict with Mexico, and "caused the War Department to have the old fort put into a state of readiness" (Barber and Gann 1989:53).

This work included the replacement of the wooden gun platform with masonry casemates to support a new barbette. The two original magazines were incorporated into these casemates without any alterations to their configuration. A new larger magazine was also built on the southwest end of the new casemates. The battery was raised on its front face about three feet. The wooden palisade was replaced by a 20 foot high brick curtain wall. The curtain wall was made three feet thick and pierced with loopholes with sandstone lintels and sills. Four demi bastions were also built into the curtain wall with embrasures, which could cover the curtain walls with howitzer fire. The entire perimeter of the battery and scarp walls was enclosed by a wet ditch, which is 20 feet wide and seven feet deep. The wet ditch was spanned by a drawbridge, which enters the fort through a sally port on the west face of the scarp wall (see Figure 3) (Mitchell 1970)

Inside the scarp on the fort parade ground, two brick enlisted mens barracks were built (see Figure 4). A foundation for an officers barracks was laid out in the rear center of the parade, but this building was never completed.

Although these modifications were made to the fort during the Third System Period (post-1816), the original Second System masonry of Fort James Jackson remained largely unaltered. Furthermore, the Third System modifications were simply permanent replacements of brick for wood from the Second System construction. The Fort retains its basic Second System form as designed by McRee in 1808 (Barber and Gann 1982:53).

Although occupied by Confederate and Union forces in the Civil War, no permanent modification of the fortification structure took place during that conflict. Following the war the Army Corps of Engineers continued its program of periodic maintenance for the next half century.

In 1869, a Board of Engineers examined the coastal defenses of the United States in light of the recent Civil War and possible threats to the country from an outside armed force. It was clear that the Second and Third Systems of fortifications could not provide adequate coastal defense in the light of the development of rifled cannons. However, the recommendations of the 1869 Board were considered so expensive that little work was accomplished. Between 1869 and 1875 the Savannah District Corps of Engineers received sporadic sums for the preservation and repair of the coastal forts under their jurisdiction -- including Fort James Jackson (called Fort Oglethorpe from 1884 to 1905). It was during this period that a new magazine was constructed at the fort (Kelso 1968:24).

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In describing the Savannah District forts (Forts Jackson, Pulaski, and Clinch), Barber and Gann note,

However, little had been accomplished when [Congressional] appropriations ceased, and work was reduced to essential maintenance. A few old-style smooth-bore guns remained at these forts, but these soon fell into disrepair and became unserviceable. In 1896 Captain Oberlin Carter complained that these three forts were ungarrisoned and two were cared for by only ordnance sergeants. "All these works are in a exceedingly bad condition, overgrown with weeds, and with woodwork rotten and falling," he wrote, "owing to the limited appropriations available, extensive repairs have not been possible for some years" [Barber and Gann 1989:212-213].

In 1925, Fort Jackson was purchased from the Federal Government by the City of Savannah for park purposes. In 1935, the Mayor of Savannah requested that the National Park Service undertake a feasibility study of Fort Jackson to determine whether it might be included as an outlying unit of Fort Pulaski National Monument. In the National Park Service report of October 12, 1936, Fort Jackson was described as follows:

Fort Jackson is a brick structure, roughly six-sided, but with one of the front faces divided into three slight angles. On the river side are three short faces, one parallel to the river, one leading southeastwardly, and one southwestwardly, roughly at thirty degree angles. Joining these walls are the side walls extending several hundred feet to the rear of the fort, and perpendicular to the bank of the river. The wall closing the rear of the fort, on the land side, has a pronounced bastion in each of its two angles [Young 1936].

The American Cyanamid Company acquired the fort in 1955 from the city as part of a larger tract of land. They later resold the fort to the state of Georgia for one dollar in 1965. Between 1965 and 1976 the fort was operated as a historic site for a maritime history museum by the Georgia Historic Commission (today called the Department of Natural Resources). During this period a modern addition was built to enclose the casemates, and the new space was used for museum exhibits. Other modern additions to the fort included paving the parapet with concrete and fiberglass, and the construction of a concrete and masonry stairway to admit visitors to the parapet. In 1976, the Coastal Heritage Society, through lease with the State of Georgia reopened the fort and is presently responsible for the fort's restoration and operation. By February of 1996, all of the 1960s museum additions were removed by the Coastal Heritage Society, and the fort returned to its 1865 condition (Smith 1991).

Integrity

Although modified in the mid-nineteenth century, Fort James Jackson still retains its essential Second System features as designed by Captain William McRee, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in 1808. Nearly all of the Second System masonry construction remains intact with the exception of the powder magazine (1870s). The only noncontributing property within the boundary is an earth dike constructed sometime after the Second World War (see Figure 5).

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally: X
Statewide: ___ Locally: ___

Applicable National

Register Criteria: A X B ___ C ___ D ___

Criteria Considerations

(Exceptions): A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___

NHL Criteria: Criteria 1 and 4

NHL Theme(s): IV. Shaping the Political Landscape
3. military institutions and activities

VI. Expanding Science and Technology
2. technological applications

Areas of Significance: Military

Period(s) of Significance: 1808 to 1865

Significant Dates: 1808

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Captain William McRee

Historic Context: V. POLITICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
K. The Army and Navy

VIII. TECHNOLOGY (ENGINEERING AND INVENTION)
E. Military (Fortifications, Weapons, and War Vehicles)

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.**Summary Statement of Significance**

Fort James Jackson was built by the United States Government between 1808 and 1812 to defend the harbor and city of Savannah, Georgia. It is nationally significant as one of only five surviving Second System Seacoast Fortifications. Most of the Second System forts were so radically redesigned by later defensive construction that little remains of their original works. Fort Jackson has nearly all of its Second System masonry, original design, and function intact. The fort was part of the Second System Seacoast Fortifications which defended the eastern and gulf coasts of the United States in the first half of the nineteenth century. Fort Jackson is a rare survival of the Second System as it contains most of its original design of 1808 and is unique in shape from other remaining Second System forts.

American Coastal Defense Systems

Pre-Revolutionary War and War of Independence coastal fortification design tended to be small, inexpensive, and temporary in nature, such as Fort Wayne constructed by Savannah on the east side of the city, or the "mud fort" -- about which little is known -- located on Salter's Island, and very often maintained only during periods of actual or perceived threat of war. In the 1790s, President George Washington asked Congress to appropriate funds for a series of coastal forts, later to be known as the First American System of fortifications, in response to concerns in the United States over the outbreak of general war in Europe. These forts were much like the pre-Revolutionary War forts -- "generally open works with earthen walls over which cannon could be fired" (Barber and Gann 1989:15). None of these First System fortifications were constructed in the Savannah area.

Fort Jackson would be constructed along the lines of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' recommendations for the Second System fortifications, which substituted brick masonry for earthen walls (see Figure 2).

As a result of mounting tensions between the United States and Europe, in November 1807 a new fortification program was launched, and during the next five years Congress appropriated more than \$3 million for its implementation. These installations, which have been designed the Second System of fortifications, were the first major construction to be carried out by American engineers who were regular officers in the U.S. Army. Most of these men were recent graduates of the new Military Academy at West Point, which had been established in 1802 to train engineers in this country.

In terms of developments in Georgia, only one of the various types of Second System architecture was significant - the all-masonry fort. This dramatic departure from previous architectural styles was employed in building Fort Jackson near Savannah and proved to be the forerunner of a new generation of seacoast fortifications that would emerge after 1816. The all-masonry design allowed for greater protection of guns and gunners by locating the gun emplacements behind the thick masonry wall and providing openings (embrasures) through which the guns could be fired. Masonry construction also permitted the stacking of artillery emplacements in multiple tiers, thus increasing the overall firepower of the installation [Barber and Gann 1989:15].

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Twenty-six Second System fortifications were constructed to meet the emergency of the War of 1812, in thirteen states. Today, only five of these fortifications remain unaltered. Fort Columbus and Castle Williams, both in New York, are a star shaped fort and a circular fort of masonry, respectively. Castle Pinckney, in South Carolina, also is a circular fort. Fort Norfolk, in Virginia, combines the elements of a half circular fort with a bastion and enclosed perimeter. Fort Jackson is the only remaining Second System fortification built as a masonry gun battery. Jackson, originally built as a faceted semicircular battery with a palisade to protect its rear, is the least typical and most unique of the Second System masonry fortifications (see Figure 1).

Historical Background of Fort Jackson

The earliest attempt to fortify the site adjacent to Five Fathom Hole was during the American Revolution. In September 1777 the Georgia Executive Council allocated \$3000 to build a fortification at Salter's Island. An artillery company was raised in Savannah to garrison this fortification known as the "mud fort," under the command of Thomas Lee. Lee died of yellow fever, contracted at the fort in February 1778, and it was abandoned due to its unhealthy location (Brinson 1997:1; Gaines n.d.).

The second effort to fortify the site was in 1808. The United States Government purchased from Nichol Turnbull the property known as Wharf Lot Number 12 for the sum of \$1800. Construction of a brick masonry battery was begun later that year under the direction of Captain William McRee, a recent graduate of West Point Military Academy. Work progressed on the fort until money ran out in 1810. In June of 1810, Captain McRee reported in a letter to the Secretary of War,

The wharf, with the barracks at Savannah and Fort Jackson are finished. To complete Fort Jackson agreeably to the plan originally proposed, there are required 140,000 bricks to be laid. The parapet of earth to be formed and the platform of wood to be erected [Bunting MS].

With the real possibility of war with England looming, work was resumed on Fort James Jackson in earnest, and the fort was rushed to completion in early 1812.

On June 26, 1812, McRee made application to the governor of Georgia for the necessary militia to garrison the newly finished Fort Jackson. By June 29th a company of state militia and a detachment of artillery occupied the fort. Wartime garrisons of Fort Jackson would include the following local militia companies; Chatham Artillery, Republican Blues, and the Heavy Artillery Company. The fort was also garrisoned by elements of the 8th Regiment United States Infantry until 1815 (Wade 1976).

In 1821, the fort was again garrisoned this time by Company H, 4th United States Heavy Artillery. Due to the unhealthy location of Fort Jackson the garrison suffered greatly from Yellow Fever. The U.S. Health Officer used Five Fathom Hole, opposite Fort Jackson as a quarantine ground and forced all vessels to stop there until 1827 (Barber and Gann 1989:33).

In 1846, due to the defensive needs brought on by the Mexican-American War, the US Army Engineer Department, under Major General Joseph Totten, recommended refitting Fort Jackson, and Congress appropriated funds for the work. This was necessary regardless of the completion

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of a large Third System fortification at the mouth of the Savannah River. This new fortification for Savannah, Fort Pulaski (a National Monument since 1933), only guarded the north and south approaches of the Savannah River through Tybee Sound. Hostile vessels could still reach Savannah by Warsaw Sound and advance up the Wilmington River and enter the Savannah River well above Fort Pulaski. Fort Jackson was necessary to guard this approach.

Under the direction of the Savannah District Corps of Engineers, periodic maintenance and other work would continue on Fort Jackson from 1846 until 1860. Work was conducted on the site only during the winter months to avoid the fever season. During this period brick scarp walls were built to replace the former wooden palisade at the rear of the main battery, a casemate was built to support a new gun platform, and a wet ditch or moat was built surrounding the entire work. The portion of the moat to the front of the battery actually extended into the river, being separated only by the counter scarp wall. Located on the northwest face of this counter scarp, a tide tunnel was built to feed water into the moat. A wharf was constructed at the end of the tide tunnel as a point to land supplies and personnel at the site. A large powder magazine was also built to supplement the two others built under McRee. The magazine was built with a gabled roof and located on the southwest end of the casemates (see Figure 3) (Bunting MS).

By 1859, two brick enlisted mens barracks had been completed on the east and west sides of the parade ground. An officers' barracks was also commenced and built as high as the window sills. Earlier that year a hot shot furnace was built at the base of the casemate stairs, behind the battery (Bunting MS).

In 1860, progress on Fort Jackson was slowed. Superintending Engineer William Henry Chase Whiting reported that the only work needing completion was the officers' barracks and platforms and roofs for the flank howitzers. This work was not completed before work was suspended in 1860.

Word of the occupation of Fort Sumter by federal troops reached Savannah on 10 December 1860, already a hot bed for secession. On January 3, 1861 Georgia State civil officials demanded the keys and took possession of both Forts Jackson and Pulaski from their federal caretakers. On January 26, 1861, a company of Georgia state militia was sent to garrison Fort Jackson. A.R. Lawton later became concerned about the exposed position of the Georgia troops at Fort Pulaski. In a letter to H.C. Wayne he wrote, "The position of Fort Jackson, between this work [Fort Pulaski] and the City of Savannah, has caused some uneasiness among our people . . ." (Lawrence 1961:20).

On April 21, 1861, South Carolina troops fired on Fort Sumter commencing the Civil War. The first months of the war were uneventful at Fort Jackson, although the rebel garrison had their trials. A letter to the editor of the *Savannah Daily Morning News* describes the continuing problem of the fort's unhealthy location,

Why is it that the troops at Fort Jackson have not had any favors extended to them? They are in the midst of the rice fields, where mosquitoes are as thick as rice and as large as humming birds. Each and every one of them should have a mosquito bar. Let the parties having the funds in charge take notice and govern themselves as they should under the circumstances [Daily Morning News, May 16, 1861].

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With Fort Pulaski at the mouth of the Savannah River there was no great urgency to improve the position at Fort Jackson. However, on November 8, 1861, events in Port Royal Sound, South Carolina would change the lax attitudes in Savannah. With the bombardment and capture of Hilton Head Island by Union forces, the blockade of the South Atlantic coast began to be felt in the city.

In November of 1861, the Confederate blockade runner *Fingal* entered the Savannah River. In its holds was the largest single military cargo to enter the Confederacy during the war. Also on board were James D. Bullock and Edward C. Anderson. This was the first blockade running mission for Bullock, who purchased many ships and munitions in Europe for the Confederacy during the war. Anderson would become a major figure in the role of Fort Jackson in the Savannah River defenses. However, Anderson's first impression of the fort was less than flattering.

The troops cheered us as we passed Fort Jackson, garrisoned by the Blues at the time under my brother (John Wayne), and with Jake Reid's Company of (Georgia) Regulars. I smiled as I looked at the guns on the parapet. They were mounted between two logs placed parallel with each other, with the trunnions of the cannon supported upon them. They could never have been fired without jumping off into the area of the fort [Hoole 1976:99].

In overall charge of strengthening the Savannah River defenses in 1862 was General Robert E. Lee. Lee would make several inspection trips to Fort Jackson during this assignment. One of Lee's recommendations was the Confederate evacuation of the barrier islands. Lee felt the islands were vulnerable to Union naval attack, which was demonstrated at Port Royal. With the evacuation of Tybee Island the Federals began erecting siege batteries to attack Fort Pulaski. On April 11, 1862, Fort Pulaski fell after a 30 hour bombardment. With the fall of Fort Pulaski, Savannah was threatened with capture. Fort Jackson and its dependent batteries became the front line of defense of the city.

Had the Federals attacked up the Savannah River in the summer of 1862, they would have more than likely taken Savannah. However, two things prevented this attack. First, a major outbreak of Yellow Fever hit the coastal region of Georgia. This outbreak affected both the Federal and Confederate forces. Second, the Federals became aware of the launching of the ironclad ram *C.S.S. Georgia*. The Federal Navy had great respect for these Rebel ironclads, as the *C.S.S. Virginia*, had demonstrated their abilities earlier. Only later would it be realized that the *Georgia* was a failure as a warship. Its engines could not even push it against an incoming tide. It, therefore, had to be towed to a defensive position next to Fort Jackson, where it served as a floating battery to protect the flanks of the fort.

On October 1, 1862, two Union steamers, the *Planter* and *Starlight*, under the command of Col. W.B. Barton moved up the Savannah River on a reconnaissance mission. In addition, to acquiring information about the Savannah River defenses, Barton wished to destroy some Confederate steamboats working on the construction of river obstructions near Elba Island, just downstream from Fort Jackson. Upon being fired on by the Union steamers, the Confederate steamboats retreated upstream and anchored under the protection of Fort Jackson.

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The *Planter*, was piloted by a former slave Robert Smalls,¹ who had earlier stolen this ship from his masters in Charleston harbor, and turned it over to the Union Navy for their Barrier Island campaign. Now the *Planter* began firing shells at Fort Jackson at extreme range with a 30 pounder Parrot Rifle. Fort Jackson could not return this fire due to the extreme range, however, a supporting battery at Causton's Bluff, about a mile to Fort Jackson's rear, fired on the Union vessels. A few shots from the *Planter* silenced the battery at Causton's Bluff, and firing continued on Fort Jackson. According to local Savannah newspapers, the firing lasted about one hour, and over 100 shots were fired at the fort. Fort Jackson sustained little or no damage during the attack (*Savannah Republican*, October 2, 1862).

Throughout its occupation by Confederate troops, Fort Jackson had many different garrison units attached to it. Among the units to garrison the fort were the 4th Louisiana, the 1st Georgia Volunteers, and the 1st Georgia Regulars. By 1863, it was decided that the river batteries needed a semi-permanent garrison. This led to the formation of the 22nd Battalion Georgia Artillery. It was made up of six companies which served throughout the Savannah area. Companies A and B served at Fort Jackson, and Company A was part of the fort's last Confederate garrison.

The following year the fort would receive one of its most distinguished visitors. On October 31, 1863 President Jefferson Davis visited Savannah. During his visit, President Davis along with Brigadier General Hugh Mercer, Major General Jermy F. Gilmer, Commodore William W. Hunter, and Colonel E.C. Anderson toured the Savannah River defenses on the steamer *Beauregard*. At Fort Jackson, the Confederate President was greeted with a twenty-one gun salute. After a brief stop at the fort the presidential entourage continued on to Thunderbolt battery and later to Fort Boggs (*Daily Morning News*, November 2, 1863).

At the height of their preparedness the Confederates in Savannah had developed an impressive defensive system for the city. This included a series of earth batteries guarding all river approaches to the city (see Figure 6). Fort Jackson served as Headquarters for this river defense. These approaches were further guarded by river obstructions, which were protected by underwater mines. The rivers were also patrolled by a fleet of warships, among which were the ironclads *C.S.S. Savannah* and *Georgia*. The overall defense network served Savannah well as it continued to keep the Union fleet at bay. However, in late 1864 Savannah would feel a new threat from landward.

After the capture of the City of Atlanta, General William T. Sherman began his famous March to the Sea, which would culminate at Savannah. By December 1, 1864, as General Sherman's Union troops approached Savannah, Confederate General William J. Hardee's nearly 12,000 troops were all that separated Sherman from resupply by the Union Navy. Hardee ordered an evacuation of the city and Fort Jackson on December 20, 1864, rather than risk losing his army by defending the city against superior forces. As the Confederate troops moved north into South Carolina, they burned the enlisted mens barracks, spiked the guns of Fort Jackson, and threw

¹The Robert Smalls House, at 511 Prince Street, in Beaufort, South Carolina was designated a National Historic Landmark on May 30, 1973. Smalls lived in this house both as a slave and a free man. After the Civil War he served in the South Carolina legislature and in Congress.

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their ammunition into the moat. On the same day the ironclad *C.S.S. Georgia*, being unable to escape was sunk by its own crew at Five Fathom Hole next to the fort (Bunting MS).

The fort was occupied by troops of the 28th Regiment Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry and the 29th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry on the morning of December 21, 1864. Upon raising the Stars and Strips over the fort, the new garrison was greeted with several shells from the ironclad *C.S.S. Savannah*. The attack on the fort was brief, as the *Savannah* soon advanced up the river to attack other Federal positions. Unable to escape, the *Savannah* was later scuttled by her crew.

On January 16, 1865, the Union garrison at Fort Jackson was relieved by Companies C, D, and F of the 55th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry of African Descent. These troops were recently engaged in the Battle of Honey Hill. They spent their time at the fort putting it into some sort of fighting order by remounting the cannon. On February 1, 1865, the Regiment departed from Fort Jackson for Morris Island, South Carolina (Anonymous 1991:50).

Upon hearing of the news on April 11, 1865 of the fall of Richmond the river batteries fired salutes of victory. The salutes were begun by the Union warship *Pontiac*, with Fort Jackson making the first reply of the Army. This is believed to be the last occasion on which the fort's guns were fired.

In the months following the end of the war, the Army inspected Fort Jackson on several occasions. These inspections were to supervise the removal of Confederate ordnance in the moat and to determine the place of the fort in the future needs of coastal defense. In 1867 the fort was briefly used again as a port quarantine station.

By the 1870s there was renewed interest in modernizing Fort Jackson. In 1872 new armament was requested by General A.A. Humphreys, Chief of Engineers. Three 10 inch Rodmans and two 100 pounder Parrot guns were requested for Fort Jackson. On July 29, 1873, Q.A. Gilmore requested four 15 inch guns with front pintle carriages for the fort. The Engineers Annual Report of 1876-77 states that five guns were in position, but not the caliber contemplated in the approved projects. An appropriation of \$10,000 was requested for the following year. By 1884 Fort Jackson was occupied by a caretaker for which \$480 had been designated.

It was also in 1884 that the Army changed the name of the fort to Fort Oglethorpe. It kept this title until War Department General Order No. 10, dated January of 1905 assigned the name Oglethorpe to an active military base in North Georgia.

At the end of the nineteenth century, the United States began to prepare herself for another conflict. Fort Jackson (Oglethorpe) would make its final contribution for National Defense during the Spanish-American War. Early in this conflict, southern port cities were concerned about being attacked by Spanish warships, so the Army relocated many guns to calm the fears of the populace. In April 1898 the Fort Jackson guns were removed from the fort with some difficulty. While removing the guns, two fell into the moat and were later salvaged with barges. The guns were sent to Brunswick, Georgia for the defense of that port (Savannah Evening News April 16, 1898).

FORT JAMES JACKSON

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

In 1923, Congress authorized the disposal of Fort Jackson as surplus property. In June 1925 the City of Savannah purchased the property for the purpose of using the property as a park. The Great Depression interrupted these plans. Shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War, Fort Jackson was acquired by the Southeastern Shipyards, along with a parcel of river front property. Southeastern was Savannah's largest single employer during the war and produced over 80 Liberty ships and minesweepers.

The fort was purchased in 1955 by the American Cyanamid Company. American Cyanamid tried to encourage any historic group to take the fort site for a public park, but did not receive any interest in their proposal. Finally, when Cyanamid threatened to sell the fort for scrap brick, Judge Alexander A. Lawrence and a group of concerned Savannah citizens lobbied the State of Georgia to purchase the property (Bunting MS).

In 1965 the property was purchased by the Georgia Historical Commission. Shortly thereafter the Commission began developing the property as a site for a historical museum, opened in 1969. After opening the fort to the public for about five years, the State closed the site due to state budget problems in 1975. The following year a small citizen based group proposed to operate the site and reopen it to the public. On Labor Day 1976, the fort reopened under the operation of the Coastal Heritage Society. The Society continues to operate the fort, under a lease agreement with the State of Georgia, and is dedicated to interpreting the history of the fort and the people associated with it.

FORT JAMES JACKSON

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Savannah Republican

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Wade, Arthur P.

1976 Letter to Scott Smith concerning research on Fort Jackson. Copy on file with Coastal Heritage Society, Savannah, Georgia. December 3rd.

Young, Roger W.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
☒ Previously Listed in the National Register. February 18, 1970
☐ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
☐ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
☐ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: # _____
☐ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State Agency
☐ Federal Agency
☐ Local Government
☐ University
☒ Other(Specify Repository): Coastal Heritage Society
P.O. Box 1153
Savannah, Georgia 31402

FORT JAMES JACKSON

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 7.8 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Northing	Easting
	17	3549340	496590

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the southwest corner of the Fort Jackson structure, then south thirty-two degrees thirteen minutes. West a distance of four hundred and eight and three tenths (408.3) feet to a concrete monument, said concrete monument being the southwest property corner of said tract and being the point of beginning: thence north thirty-one degrees no minutes west four hundred and seventy-seven (477) feet, more or less to the mean low water mark of the south bank of the Savannah River, thence in an eastwardly direction following the mean low water mark along the southern bank of the Savannah River and along the masonry retaining wall of Fort Jackson to a point on the southern bank of the Savannah River thence south thirty-one degrees no minutes east three hundred and sixty-six (366) feet, more or less to a concrete monument, said concrete monument being the southeast property corner of said tract, thence south fifty-nine degrees no minutes west seven hundred and fifty (750) feet to a concrete monument at the southwest property corner of the tract hereby conveyed, the point of the beginning: all of which will appear by reference to a map of said tract of land made by Sewell & Associates, Inc. for the American Cyanamid Company, dated April 16, 1965, (see Figure 5) which is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in plat Record Book O, Folio 108.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary for Fort Jackson includes the masonry fort, its tidal moat, and counter scarp walls. This represents the total nationally significant properties associated with Fort James Jackson.

FORT JAMES JACKSON

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Mr. Jefferson C. Reed

Org.: N/A

Street/#: 704 East 48th Street

City/Town: Savannah

State: Georgia

ZIP: 31405

Telephone: (912) 353-9353

Date: August 21, 1998

Additional assistance in the preparation of this nomination provided by:

Mark R. Barnes, Ph.D.
Senior Archeologist
National Register Programs Division
National Park Service, SERO
1924 Building
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

(404) 562-3173

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS SURVEY

May 15, 2000

Figure 1. Status of Second System Fortifications - Information provided by State Historic Preservation Offices.

Maine

Fort Scammel - Destroyed

Fort Preble - Destroyed

New Hampshire

Fort Constitution - Destroyed except for one wall and gate.

Fort McClary - Destroyed except for one granite wall and an earth work.

Massachusetts

Fort Warren - Destroyed by Third System Fortification construction.

Rhode Island

Fort Adams - Destroyed by Third System Fortification

New York

Fort Columbus - Intact masonry star fort.

Castle Williams - Intact masonry circle battery.

Pennsylvania

Fort Mifflin - Destroyed by Third System Fortification.

Maryland

Fort Madison - Destroyed.

Fort Washington - Destroyed in War of 1812. Present structure dates from the Third System.

Fort McHenry - Present structure is largely Third System.

Virginia

Fort Powhatan - Destroyed during the Civil War.

Fort Nelson - Destroyed.

Fort Norfolk - Intact masonry circle battery.

North Carolina

Fort Johnson - Only the officers' quarters remain from the Second System.

Fort Hampton - Destroyed by Third System Fortification.

South Carolina

Fort Moutrie - Destroyed by Third System Fortification.

Castle Pinkney - Intact masonry circle battery.

Fort Johnson - Destroyed by Civil War construction.

Georgia

Fort Jackson - Intact masonry gun battery.

Fort on the St. Mary - Destroyed.

Alabama

Fort Bowyer - Destroyed by the construction of Fort Morgan (Third System Fortification).

Louisiana

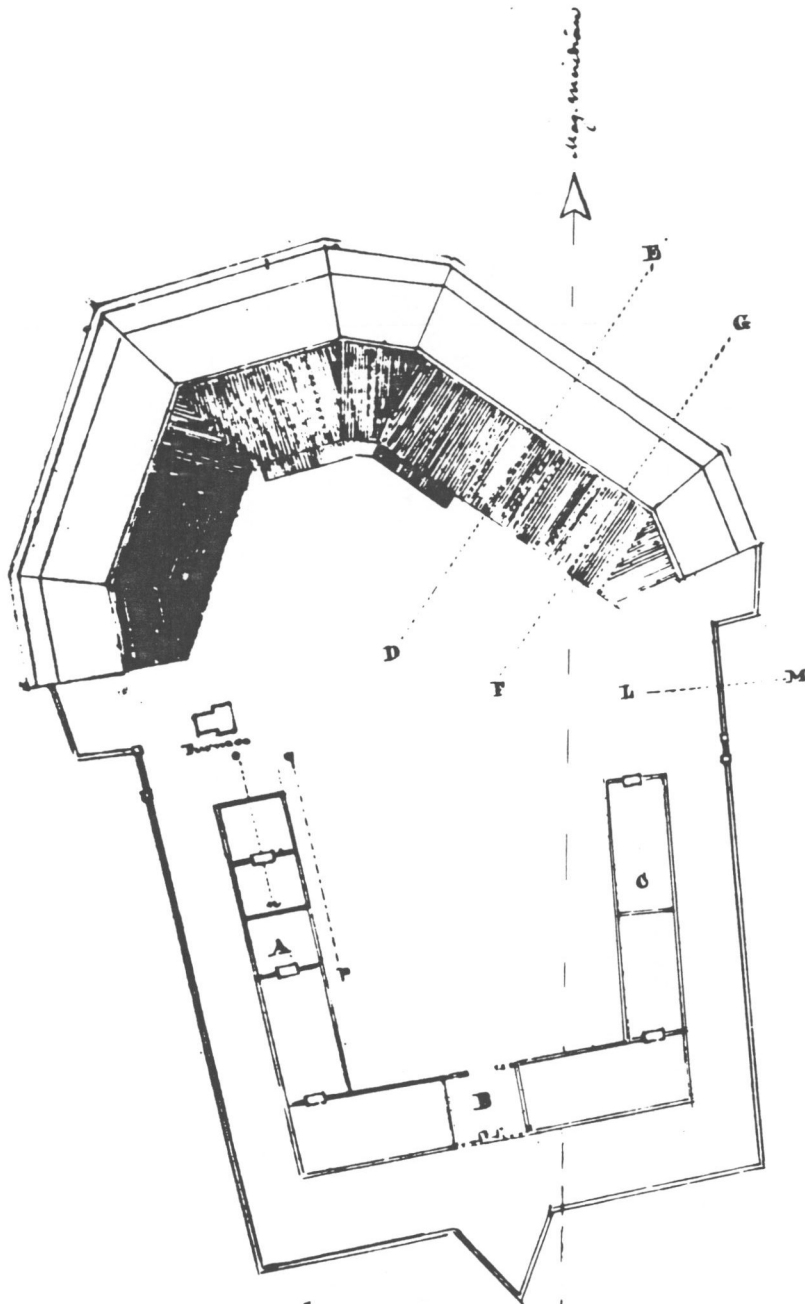
Fort St. Philip - Damaged in Civil War and altered by post-Civil War construction.

English Turn - Little remains of Second System fortification.

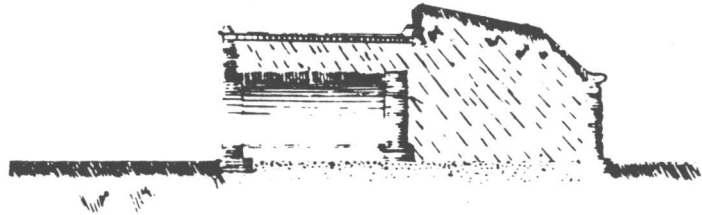
FORT JACKSON

on Savannah River

State of Georgia 1833



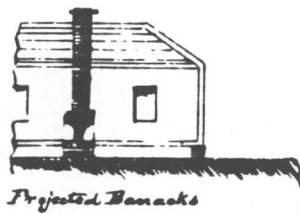
Profile on D E



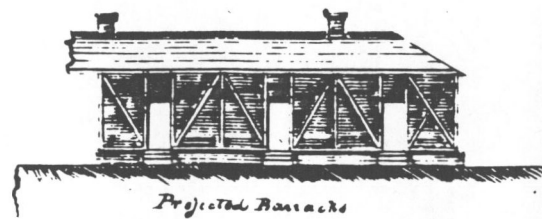
Profile on F G



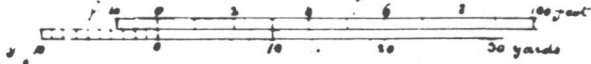
Section on T. O



Elevation on p. q.



Scale of the plan 100 yds to one inch



Scale of the profiles 100 yds to one inch

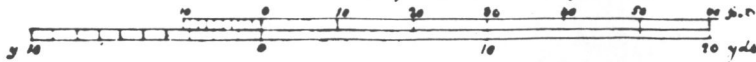
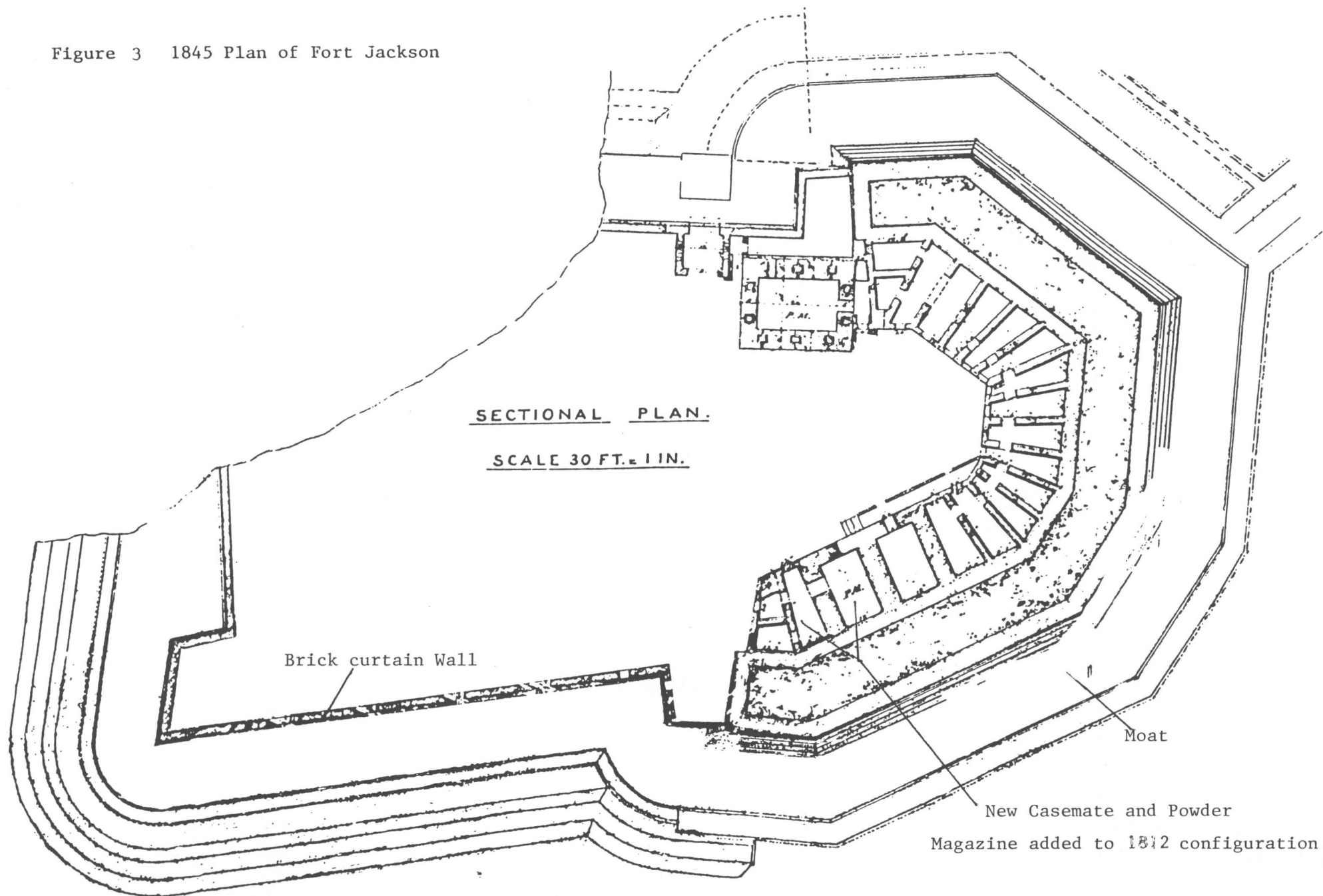


Figure 2

Figure 3 1845 Plan of Fort Jackson



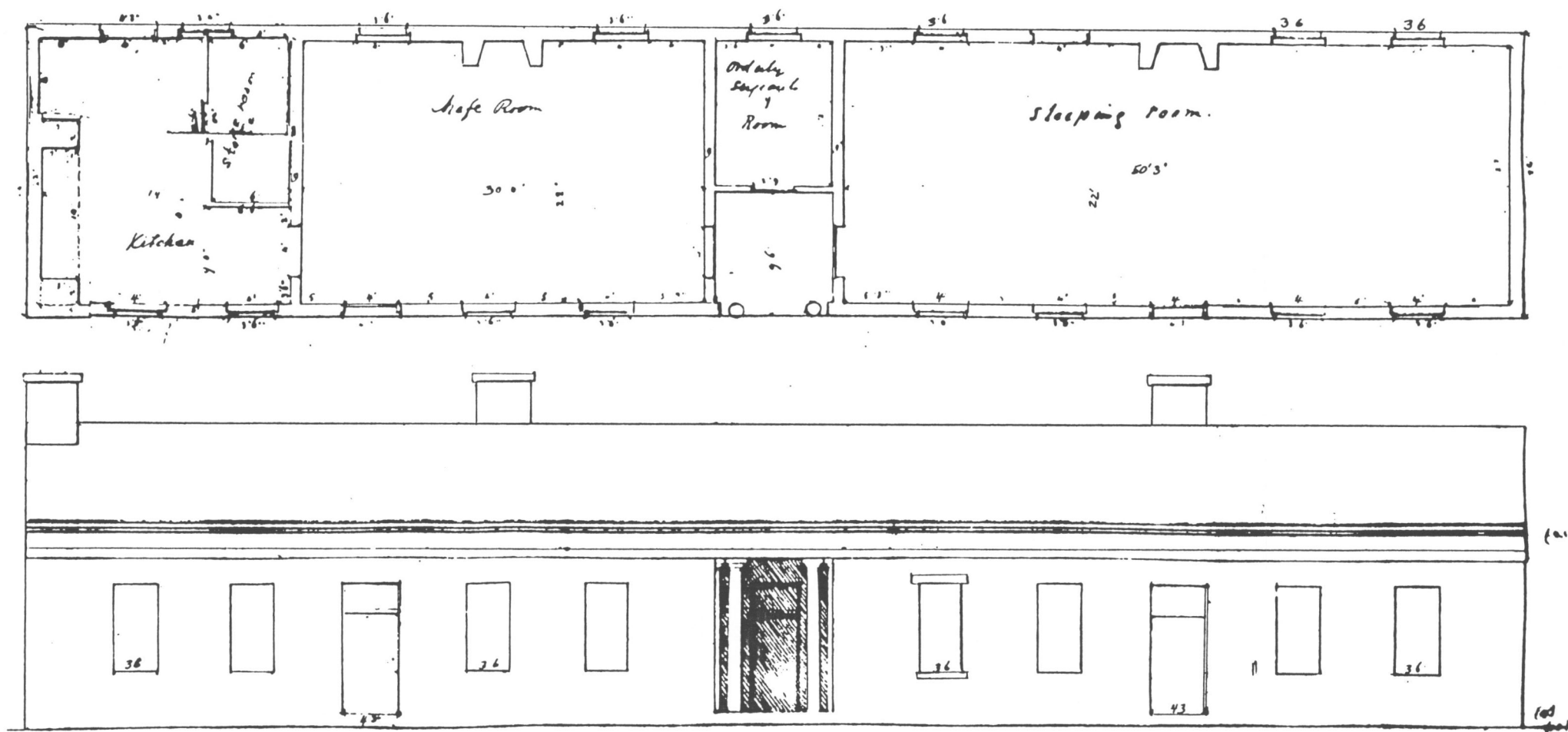
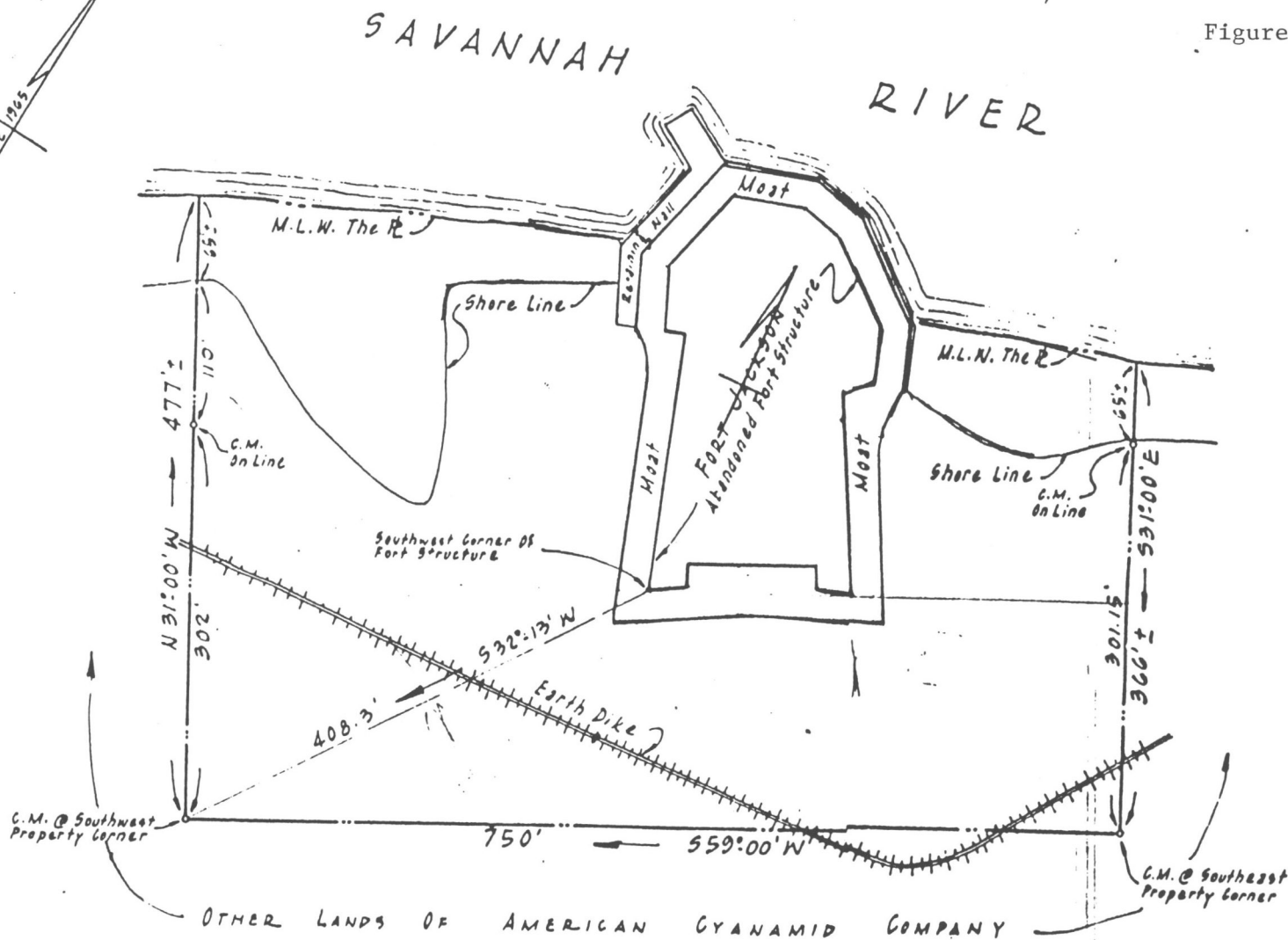


Figure 4 1845 Plan for Enlisted Men's Barracks at Fort Jackson

Figure 5



ACREAGE COMPILATION	
To Shore Line	6.6 Ac ±
Between Shore Line And M.L.W.	1.2 Ac ±
TOTAL	7.8 Ac ±

State of Georgia
Chatham County

PLAT OF A 7.8 ACRE ± PORTION OF THE LANDS OF AMERICAN CYANAMID COMPANY

Surveyed For: AMERICAN CYANAMID COMPANY

Scale: 1" = ~~100'~~ 10'

April 16, 1965

SEWELL & ASSOCIATES, INC.

ENGINEERS-ARCHITECTS

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

In My Opinion This Plat is a Correct
Representation of The Land Plotted &
Has been Prepared in Conformity With The
Minimum Standards & Requirements of Law.

Paul A. Barrett



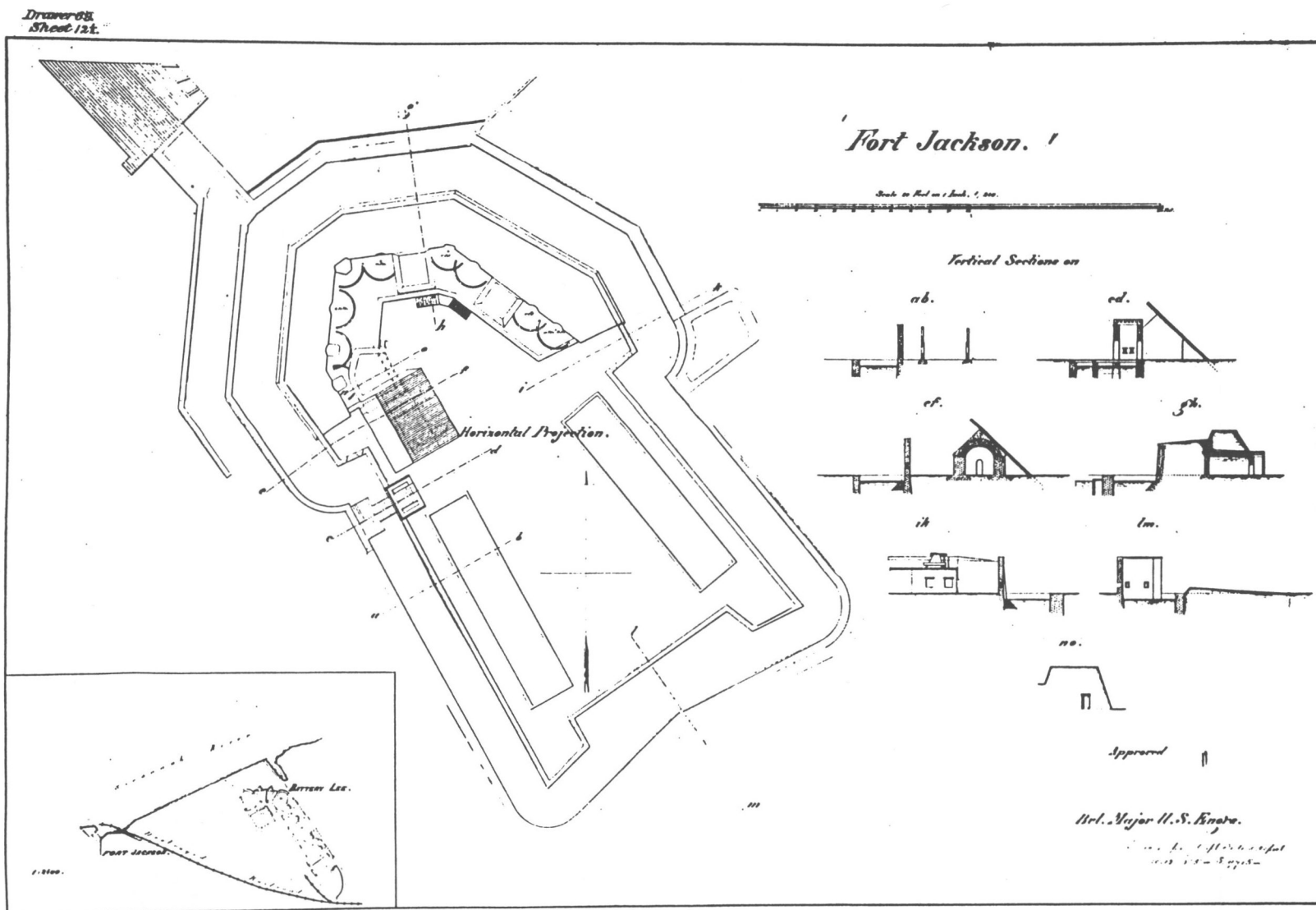


Figure 6 1864 View of Fort Jackson and Battery Lee



FORT JAMES JACKSON
Chatham County, Georgia
Fort Jackson, looking west
Photo by Jefferson C. Reed, 1998



Fort James Jackson
Chatham Co, Savannah vic., Georgia
Jefferson C. Reed, photographer

1998

Negative - Coastal Heritage Society, Savannah, GA
Fort Jackson, looking west
Photo I



FORT JAMES JACKSON
Chatham County, Georgia
Sally port from interior, looking west
Photo by Jefferson C. Reed, 1998



Fort James Jackson

Matham Co, Vic. Savannah, Georgia

Tefferson C. Reed- Photographer

1998

Negative- Coastal Heritage Society, Savannah, GA

Fort Jackson, Sally port from interior looking west.

Photo 2



FORT JAMES JACKSON
Chatham County, Georgia
Second Fortification Period Magazine Entrance
Photo by Jefferson C. Reed, 1998



Fort James Jackson

Chatham Co, Savannah Vic., Georgia

T Jefferson C Reed - photographer

1998

Negative - Coastal Heritage Society, Savannah, GA

Second Fortification Period Magazine Entrance

terior of Fort Jackson

Photo 3



FORT JAMES JACKSON
Chatham County, Georgia
Sally port exterior, looking east
Photo by Jefferson C. Reed, 1998



1. Fort James Jackson
2. Chatham Co, Savannah vic, Georgia
3. Jefferson C. Reed - photographer
4. 1998
5. Negative - Coastal Heritage Society, Savannah, GA
6. View of Sally port exterior looking east.
7. Photo 4



Fort Jackson

Chat ham Co, Savannah Vic., Georgia

Jefferson C. Reed - photographer

1948

Society

Negative - Coastal Heritage Foundation, Savannah, GA

Interior of fort showing Northwest Demi BASTION
a darker colored brick dates from the Second
system fortification (1808-1812) The lighter
colored brick dates from the construction
of the brick curtain wall (1840s)

Photo 5



FORT JAMES JACKSON

Chatham County, Georgia

Front of Second System Battery, looking east

Photo by Jefferson C. Reed, 1998



1. Fort James Jackson
2. Chat ham County, Savannah vic., Georgia
3. Jefferson C. Reed - photographer
4. 1998
5. Negative - Coastal Heritage ~~Foundation~~ Society, Savannah, GA
6. Front of Second System Battery looking east
7. Photo 6



Fort James Jackson

Chatham Co, Savannah vic, Georgia

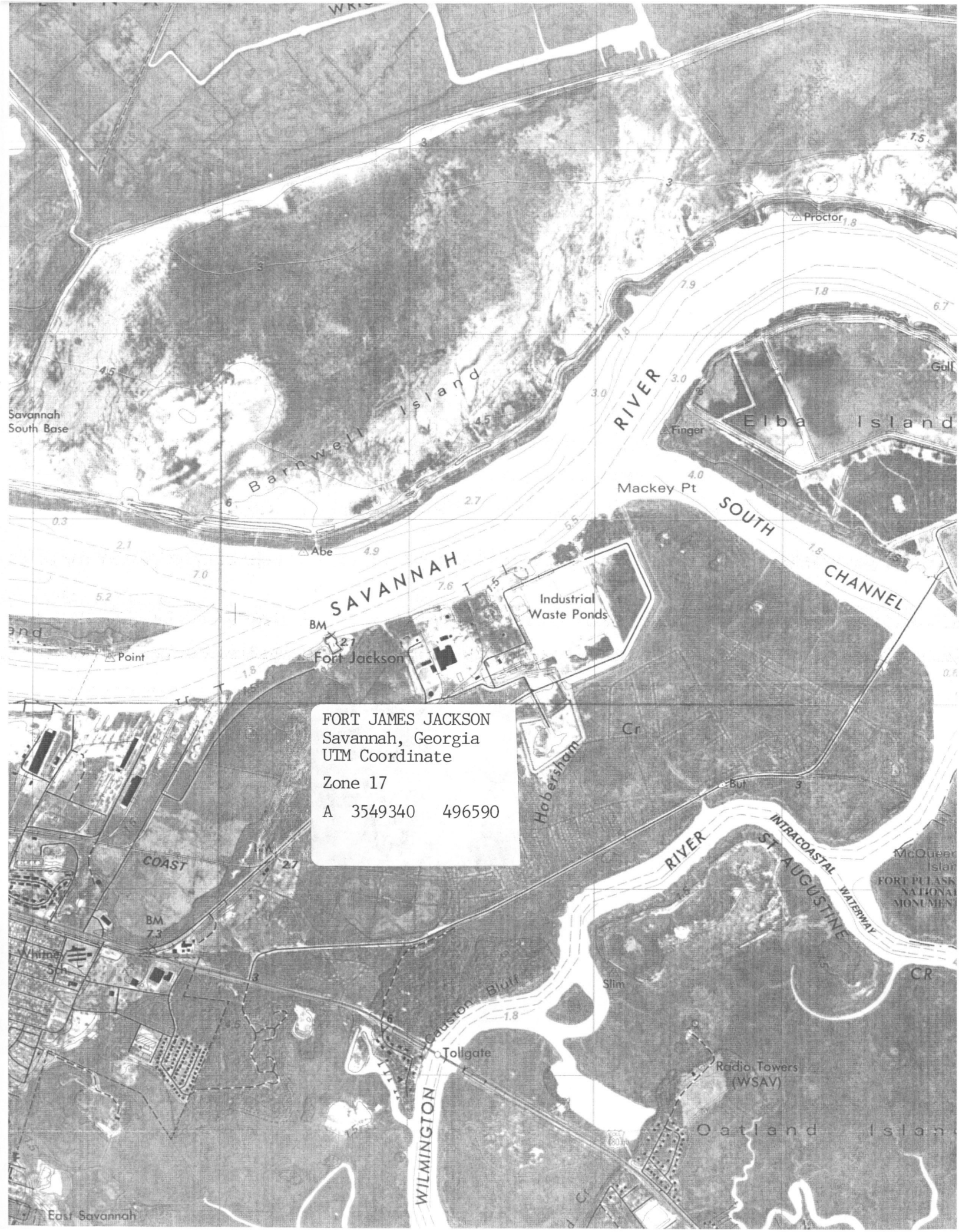
Jefferson C. Reed - Photographer

1948

Negative-Coastal Heritage Society, Savannah, GA

Fort Exterior looking East.

Photo 7



FORT JAMES JACKSON
Savannah, Georgia
UTM Coordinate

Zone 17

A 3549340 496590

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

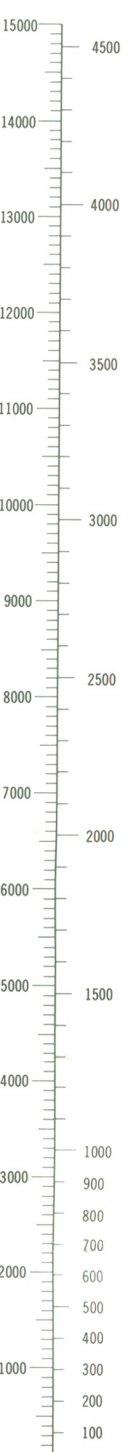
STATE OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
GEOLOGIC AND WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

SAVANNAH QUADRANGLE
GEORGIA—SOUTH CAROLINA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES ORTHOPHOTOMAP (TOPOGRAPHIC)



17 496 590
3549 340

CONVERSION
SCALES



Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

To convert feet to meters
multiply by .3048
To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

70 000 FEET
(S. C.)

70 000 FEET
(S. C.)

70 000 FEET
(S. C.)

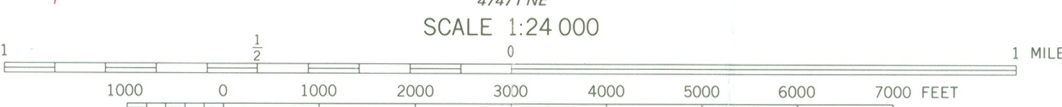
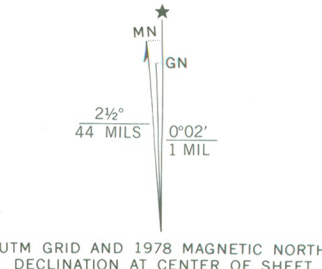
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70 000 FEET
(S. C.)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE, and Georgia Geodetic Survey
Orthophotomap prepared from aerial photograph taken
April 18 1974. Topography by photogrammetric methods
from aerial photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1975
Map edited 1978. Supersedes topographic map dated 1955
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS 11512
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Projection: Georgia coordinate system (transverse Mercator)
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Georgia coordinate system,
east zone, and South Carolina coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 17. 1927 North American datum
Portions of Georgia—South Carolina boundary
in dispute, not shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 1.5 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS 2.2 METERS AT SAVANNAH AND 2.4 METERS AT THUNDERBOLT

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Trails
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road

Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

SAVANNAH, GA.—S. C.
N3200—W8100/7.5

1978

AMS 4748 II SE—SERIES W8450



NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

FORT JAMES JACKSON

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 1

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Draft for comment

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: FORT JAMES JACKSON

Other Name/Site Number: Fort Oglethorpe

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 1 Fort Jackson Road

Not for publication: N/A

City/Town: Savannah

Vicinity: X

State: Georgia

County: Chatham

Code: 052

Zip Code: 31402

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: _____

Public-local: _____

Public-State: X

Public-Federal: _____

Category of Property

Building(s): _____

District: _____

Site: _____

Structure: X

Object: _____

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

_____ buildings

_____ sites

1 structures earth dike

_____ objects

1 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 1

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

FORT JAMES JACKSON

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau**5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ Entered in the National Register _____
____ Determined eligible for the _____
____ National Register _____
____ Determined not eligible for the _____
____ National Register _____
____ Removed from the National Register _____
____ Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper_____
Date of Action

FORT JAMES JACKSON

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Page 3

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

6. FUNCTION OR USEHistoric: **Defense**Sub: **fortification**Current: **Recreational**Sub: **Museum****7. DESCRIPTION**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: **Other - Second System Fortification****MATERIALS:**

Foundation:	Stone
Walls:	Brick and Earth
Roof:	Brick
Other:	N/A

FORT JAMES JACKSON

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Fort James Jackson, one of the few preserved Second System Seacoast Fortification in the United States (see Figure 1), is located approximately three miles east and downstream of Savannah, Georgia, on the south bank of the Savannah River. The fort was built to protect the city of Savannah and harbor from foreign naval attack. The fort consists of an irregular shaped gun battery of earth and brick masonry and is enclosed at its rear by brick walls that include four demi bastions. The gun platform, facing the Savannah River, is supported by arched brick casemates, which served as storage rooms, offices, and cells. Located at the southwest side of the gun platform is a brick power magazine with gabled roof. On the northeast angle of the barbette is an 1870s concrete and granite sod covered magazine, which was the only addition to this fort after the Civil War. Along the east and west angles of the parade ground are the foundations of two brick enlisted mens barracks. On the center rear of the parade ground is the foundation of a brick officers barracks, which was not completed. Both battery and rear walls are fully enclosed by a brick lined wet moat, which is supplied by a tide tunnel on the northwest face of the counter scarp wall.

Environmental Setting: The fort was built on a small island, known as Salter's Island, about three miles downstream from the City of Savannah, Georgia, on the south bank of the Savannah River. The fort was sited to overlook a natural deep water anchorage and water route to Savannah, called Five Fathom Hole. From this location, Fort Jackson, could command the river approach to Savannah. In the early nineteenth century the marshes around Salter's Island were developed into rice fields. In the 1950s, the rice fields which surrounded the high ground on which the fort was sited were filled with dredge spoil from the Savannah River.

Physical Description: In their book, *A History of the Savannah District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, Henry E. Barber and Allen R. Gann, note that prior to the construction of Fort James Jackson, the first defense for the city of Savannah was an earthen fort originally built by the Georgia Colonial Council in 1760, during the French and Indian War "on the eastern edge of the city on a bluff overlooking the river" (1989:32).

When the British occupied the city in 1778, this installation, called Fort Savannah, was fortified with 48 cannon and 43 mortars. After the Revolution it was renamed Fort Wayne in honor of General "Mad Anthony" Wayne, the Revolutionary War leader. It soon, however, fell into decay from disuse and disrepair [Barber and Gann 1989:32].

Doesn't match
dates on next
page.
Should be
earlier than
1808?

In (1808) foreseeing a future conflict between England and the United States, the City Council of Savannah ceded to the United

FORT JAMES JACKSON

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

States government the site of Fort Wayne, in hopes of the federal government expanding the defenses of the city. Over the next two years the government acquired numerous private parcels for construction of a large fortification, however, the government did not follow through with that project, and the city undertook the strengthening of Fort Wayne on its own (Barber and Gann 1989:32-33). In all probability, the reasoning of the Army Corps of Engineers was that Fort Wayne was too close to the city to provide adequate protection for Savannah. After all, in 1779 during the unsuccessful Franco-American siege of the British-held city French warships anchored in Five Fathom Hole, the future site of Fort Jackson, had shelled the city. What was needed was a defensive position further away and down river from the city.

2 Accordingly, in 1808 the United States Government purchased a 2.3 acre parcel of land, which was identified as Wharf Lot Number 12, from Nichol Turnbull, for \$1800, for the purpose of a new fortification to protect the river approach to Savannah. The site was previously occupied by a "mud fort" constructed in the Revolutionary War, about which little is known (Barber and Gann 1989:33).

Construction of Fort Jackson began late in 1808 under the direction of Captain William McRee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This construction continued at different intervals being interrupted by lack of funds or fear of fever among the work force until completion of the fort in 1812 (see Figure 2).

Congress would apply the name of James Jackson to the masonry and earth fort being constructed at Five Fathom Hole, to honor the late Governor of the State of Georgia, who was a Revolutionary War Veteran and United States Senator from Georgia (Brinson 1997:2). By 1809, the name of Fort Jackson was officially in use and the fort would continue to have this name except for the years between 1884 and 1905, when it was called Fort Oglethorpe (Kelso 1968:24).

The fort was garrisoned by local militia, such as the Chatham Artillery, as well as Federal troops during the War of 1812. The fort saw no action during the war. Federal troops and state militia were withdrawn from Fort Jackson in 1815. The condition of the fort in 1823 is clearly stated in a report to Major General Alexander Macomb. Since the fort was not altered during the interim period, this report gives an accurate description of its Second System appearance.

This fort consists of a battery, a palisade which enclosed it on the land side, barracks, magazines and a shot furnace. The battery has a development of masonry of 10 or 11 feet and a parapet of mud 17 or 18 feet thick. The platform is sustained by walls 3 feet thick and 12 feet apart. The development of the scarp is 100 yards that of the crest of the parapet or covering line is 78 yards with a height, above high water of about 21 feet.

FORT JAMES JACKSON

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

The palisade is of square timbers rising 9 feet above the ground and pierced with loopholes: its development is 100 yards.

There are three wooden barracks of one story of which that marked A is 80 feet by 18 long outside to outside; that marked B, 105 feet by 10; and that marked C 109 feet by 15.

The magazines are under the platform; they are arched; covered with earth; and may be considered bombproof. There are two of them side by side each being 12 feet by 15.

The [hot shot] furnace will hold 50 or 60 balls.

This fort having been exposed for years to the depredation of individuals, to the weather, and to the influx of the tide; the Board found, on their visit in March, 1821, the platform and ramp entirely rotten, the sides and roof of the Barrack A fallen in and the barracks B and C in a state of ruin. The scarp of the battery, the enclosing palisade, the two magazines, and the shot furnace were however well preserved.

Fort Jackson to be put in good condition will require a new platform, a new Barracks for 75 men, a dike to exclude the water at high tide and certain reparation to the gates, and to the doors of the magazines [Anonymous 1823].

Until
~~Up to~~ 1845, the Savannah District Corps of Engineers undertook periodic maintenance on the fort in order that it might support Fort Pulaski (built between 1829 and 1847) in the defense of Savannah. In 1845, Congress funded repairs to Fort James Jackson at the start of the conflict with Mexico, and "caused the War Department to have the old fort put into a state of readiness" (Barber and Gann 1989:53).

This work included the replacement of the wooden gun platform with masonry casemates to support a new barbette. The two original magazines were incorporated into these casemates without any alterations to their configuration. A new larger magazine was also built on the southwest end of the new casemates. The battery was raised on its front face about three feet. The wooden palisade was replaced by a 20 foot high brick curtain wall. The curtain wall was made three feet thick and pierced with loopholes with sandstone lintels and sills. Four demi bastions were also built into the curtain wall with embrasures, which could cover the curtain walls with howitzer fire. The entire perimeter of the battery and scarp walls was enclosed by a wet ditch, which is 20 feet wide and seven feet deep. The wet ditch was spanned by a drawbridge, which enters the fort through a sally port on the west face of the scarp wall (see Figure 2) (Mitchell 1970)

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Inside the scarp on the fort parade ground, two brick enlisted mens barracks were built (see Figure 3). A foundation for an officers barracks was laid out in the rear center of the parade, but this building was never completed.

Although these modifications were made to the fort during the Third System Period (post-1816), the original Second System masonry of Fort James Jackson remained largely unaltered. Furthermore, the Third System modifications were simply permanent replacements of brick for wood from the Second System construction. The Fort retains its basic Second System form as design by McRee in 1808 (Barber and Gann 1982:53).

Although occupied by Confederate and Union forces in the Civil War, no permanent modification of the fortification structure took place during that conflict. ~~And,~~ following the war the Army Corps of Engineers continued its program of periodic maintenance for the next half century.

In 1869, a Board of Engineers examined the coastal defenses of the United States in light of the recent Civil War and possible threats to the country from an outside armed force. It was clear that the Second and Third Systems of fortifications could not provide adequate coastal defense in the light of the development of rifled cannons. However, the recommendations of the 1869 Board were considered so expensive that little work was accomplished. Between 1869 and 1875 the Savannah District Corps of Engineers received sporadic sums for the preservation and repair of the coastal forts under their jurisdiction -- including Fort James Jackson (called Fort Oglethorpe from 1884 to 1905). It was during this period that a new magazine was constructed at the fort (Kelso 1968:24).

In describing the Savannah District forts (Forts Jackson, Pulaski, and Clinch), Barber and Gann note,

However, little had been accomplished when [Congressional] appropriations ceased, and work was reduced to essential maintenance. A few old-style smooth-bore guns remained at these forts, but these soon fell into disrepair and became unserviceable. In 1896 Captain Oberlin Carter complained that these three forts were ungarrisoned and two were cared for by only ordnance sergeants. "All these works are in a exceedingly bad condition, overgrown with weeds, and with woodwork rotten and falling," he wrote, "owing to the limited appropriations available, extensive repairs have not been possible for some years" [Barber and Gann 1989:212-213].

Eventually, ~~In~~ ^{by} 1925, Fort Jackson was purchased from the Federal Government to the City of Savannah for park purposes. In 1935, the Mayor of Savannah requested that the National Park Service undertake a feasibility study of Fort Jackson to determine whether it might be included as an outlying unit of Fort Pulaski National

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Monument. In the National Park Service report of October 12, 1936, Fort Jackson was described as follows:

Fort Jackson is a brick structure, roughly six-sided, but with one of the front faces divided into three slight angles. On the river side are three short faces, one parallel to the river, one leading southeastwardly, and one southwestwardly, roughly at thirty degree angles. Joining these walls are the side walls extending several hundred feet to the rear of the fort, and perpendicular to the bank of the river. The wall closing the rear of the fort, on the land side, has a pronounced bastion in each of its two angles [Young 1936].

The American Cyanamid Company acquired the fort in 1955 from the city as part of a larger tract of land. They later resold the fort to the state of Georgia for one dollar in 1965. Between 1965 and 1976 the fort was operated as a historic site for a maritime history museum by the Georgia Historic Commission (today called the Department of Natural Resources). During this period a modern addition was built to enclose the casemates, and the new space used for museum exhibits. Other modern additions to the fort included paving the parapet with concrete and fiberglass, and the construction of a concrete and masonry stairway to admit visitors to the parapet. In 1976, the Coastal Heritage Society, through lease with the State of Georgia reopened the fort and is presently responsible for the fort's restoration and operation. By February of 1996, all of the 1960s museum additions were removed by the Coastal Heritage Society, and the fort returned to its 1865 condition (Smith 1991).

Integrity: Although modified in the mid-nineteenth century, Fort James Jackson still retains its essential Second System features as designed by Captain William McRee, of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in 1808 (see Photos 1-7). Nearly all of the Second System masonry construction remains intact with the exception of the powder magazine (1870s). The only noncontributing property within the boundary is a earth dike constructed sometime after the Second World War (see Figure 4).

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National
Register Criteria: A X B C D

Criteria Considerations
(Exceptions): A B C D E F G

NHL Criteria:

Criterion 1

NHL Theme(s):

V. POLITICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**K. The Army and Navy**

Areas of Significance: **Military**

Period(s) of Significance: **1808 to 1865**

Significant Dates: **1808**

Significant Person(s): **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation: **N/A**

Architect/Builder: **Captain William McRee**

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State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Summary Statement of Significance: Fort James Jackson was built by the United States Government between 1808 and 1812 to defend the harbor and city of Savannah, Georgia. It is nationally significant as one of only five surviving Second System Seacoast Fortification. Most of the Second System forts were so radically redesigned by later defensive construction that little remains of their original works. Fort Jackson has nearly all of its Second System masonry, original design, and function intact. The fort was part of the Second System Seacoast Fortification which defended the eastern and gulf coasts of the United States in the first half of the nineteenth century. Fort Jackson is a rare survival of the Second System as it contains most of its original design of 1808 and is singular in shape from other remaining Second System forts. Unique

American Coastal Defense Systems

Pre-Revolutionary War and War of Independence coastal fortification design tended to be small, inexpensive, and temporary in nature, such as Fort Wayne constructed by Savannah on the east side of the city, or the "mud fort" -- about which little is known -- located on Salter's Island, and very often maintained only during periods of actual or perceived threat of war. In the 1790s, President George Washington asked Congress to appropriate funds for a series of coastal forts, later to be known as the First American System of fortifications, in response to concerns in the United States over the outbreak of general war in Europe. These forts were much like the pre-Revolutionary War forts -- "generally open works with earthen walls over which cannon could be fired" (Barber and Gann 1989:15). None of these First System fortifications were constructed in the Savannah area.

Fort Jackson would be constructed along the lines of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommendations for the Second System fortifications, which substituted brick masonry for earthen walls (see Figure 2).

As a result of mounting tensions between the United States and Europe, in November 1807 a new fortification program was launched, and during the next five years Congress appropriated more than \$3 million for its implementation. These installations, which have been designed the Second System of fortifications, were the first major construction to be carried out by American engineers who were regular officers in the U.S. Army. Most of these men were recent graduates of the new Military Academy at West Point, which had been established in 1802 to train engineers in this country.

In terms of developments in Georgia, only one of the various types of Second System architecture was

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significant - the all-masonry fort. This dramatic departure from previous architectural styles was employed in building Fort Jackson near Savannah and proved to be the forerunner of a new generation of seacoast fortifications that would emerge after 1816. The all-masonry design allowed for greater protection of guns and gunners by locating the gun emplacements behind the thick masonry wall and providing openings (embrasures) through which the guns could be fired. Masonry construction also permitted the stacking of artillery emplacements in multiple tiers, thus increasing the overall firepower of the installation [Barber and Gann 1989:15].

Twenty-six Second System fortifications were constructed to meet the emergency of the War of 1812, in thirteen states. Today, only five of these fortifications remain unaltered. Fort Columbus and Castle Williams, in New York, are a star shaped fort and a circular battery of masonry, respectively. Fort Norfolk, Virginia, and Castle Pinkney are both masonry circle batteries. Fort Jackson is the only remaining Second System fortification built as a masonry gun battery (see Figure 1).

→ simple descriptive sentence

about difference between circle battery & gun battery

others? role in military action? integrity?

Historical Background of Fort Jackson

The earliest attempt to fortify the site adjacent to Five Fathom Hole was during the American Revolution. In September 1777 the Georgia Executive Council allocated \$3000 to build a fortification at Salter's Island. An artillery company was raised in Savannah to garrison this fortification known as the "mud fort," under the command of Thomas Lee. Lee died of yellow fever, contracted at the fort in February 1778 and it was abandoned due to its unhealthy location (Brinson 1997:1; Gaines n.d.).

The second effort to fortify the site was in 1808. The United States Government purchased from Nichol Turnbull the property known as Wharf Lot Number 12 for the sum of \$1800. Construction of a brick masonry battery was begun later that year under the direction of Captain William McRee, a recent graduate of West Point Military Academy. Work progressed on the fort until money ran out in 1810. In June of 1810 Captain McRee reported in a letter to the Secretary of War,

The wharf, with the barracks at Savannah and Fort Jackson are finished. To complete Fort Jackson agreeably to the plan originally proposed, there are required 140,000 bricks to be laid. The parapet of earth to be formed and the platform of wood to be erected [Bunting MS].

With the real possibility of war with England looming, work was resumed on Fort James Jackson in earnest, and the fort was rushed to completion in early 1812.

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On June 26, 1812, McRee made application the governor of Georgia for the necessary militia to garrison the newly finished Fort Jackson. By June 29th a company of state militia and a detachment of artillery occupied the fort. Wartime garrisons of Fort Jackson would included the following local militia companies; Chatham Artillery, Republican Blues, and the Heavy Artillery Company. The fort was also garrisoned by elements of the 8th Regiment United States Infantry, until 1815 (Wade 1976).

In 1821, the fort was again garrisoned this time by Company H, 4th United States Heavy Artillery. Due to the unhealthy location of Fort Jackson the garrison suffered greatly from Yellow Fever. The U.S. Health Officer used Five Fathom Hole, opposite Fort Jackson as a quarantine ground and forced all vessels to stop there until 1827 (Barber and Gann 1989:33).

In 1846, due to the defensive needs brought on by the Mexican-American War, the Bernard Board recommended refitting Fort Jackson, and Congress appropriated funds for the work. This was necessary regardless of the completion of a large Third System fortification at the mouth of the Savannah River. ~~Fort Pulaski~~, (a National Monument since 1933) This new fortification for Savannah, Fort Pulaski, only guarded the north and south approaches of the Savannah River through Tybee Sound. Hostile vessels could still reach Savannah by Warsaw Sound and advance up the Wilmington River and enter the Savannah River well above Fort Pulaski. Fort Jackson was necessary to guard this approach.

Under the direction of the Savannah District Corps of Engineers, periodic maintenance and other work would continue on Fort Jackson from 1846 until 1860. Work was conducted on the site only during the winter months to avoid the fever season. During this period brick scarp walls were built to replace the former wooden palisade at the rear of the main battery, a casemate was built to support a new gun platform, and a wet ditch or moat was built surrounding the entire work. The portion of the moat to the front of the battery actually extended into the river, being separated only by the counter scarp wall. Located on the northwest face of this counter scarp, a tide tunnel was built to feed water into the moat. A wharf was constructed at the end of the tide tunnel as a point to land supplies and personnel at the site. A large powder magazine was also built to supplement the two others built under McRee. The magazine was built with a gabled roof and located on the southwest end of the casemates (see Figures 3 and 4) (Bunting MS).

By 1859, two brick enlisted mens barracks had been completed on the east and west sides of the parade ground. An officers barracks was also commenced, and built as high as the window sills. Earlier that year a hot shot furnace was built at the base of the casemate stairs, behind the battery (Bunting MS).

In 1860, progress on Fort Jackson was slowed. Superintending Engineer William Henry Chase Whiting reported that the only work needing completion was the officers barracks, and platforms and

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roofs for the flank howitzers. This work was not completed before work was suspended in 1860.

Word of the occupation of Fort Sumter by federal troops reached Savannah on 10 December 1860, already a hot bed for succession. On January 3, 1861 Georgia State troops seized both Forts Jackson and Pulaski. A.R. Lawton later became concerned about the exposed position of the Georgia troops at Fort Pulaski. In a letter to H.C. Wayne he wrote, "The position of Fort Jackson, between this work [Fort Pulaski] and the City of Savannah, has caused some uneasiness among our people . . ." (Lawrence 1961:20).

On January 26, 1861, a company of Georgia state militia was sent to occupy Fort Jackson. On April 21, 1861 South Carolina troops would fire on Fort Sumter commencing the Civil War. The first months of the war were uneventful at Fort Jackson, although the Rebel garrison had their trials. A letter to the editor of the Savannah Daily Morning News describes the continuing problem of the fort's unhealthy location,

Why is it that the troops at Fort Jackson have not had any favors extended to them? They are in the midst of the rice fields, where mosquitoes are as thick as rice and as large as humming birds. Each and every one of them should have a mosquito bar. Let the parties having the funds in charge take notice and govern themselves as they should under the circumstances [Daily Morning News, May 16, 1861].

With Fort Pulaski at the mouth of the Savannah River there was no great urgency to improve the position at Fort Jackson. However, on November 8, 1861, events in Port Royal Sound, South Carolina would change the lax attitudes in Savannah. With the bombardment and capture of Hilton Head Island by Union forces, the blockade of the South Atlantic coast began to be felt in the city.

In November of 1861, the Confederate blockade runner *Fingal* entered the Savannah River. In its hold was the largest single military cargo to enter the Confederacy during the war. Also on board were James D. Bullock and Edward C. Anderson. Anderson would become a major figure in the role of Fort Jackson in the Savannah River defenses. However, Anderson's first impression of the fort was less than flattering.

The troops cheered us as we passed Fort Jackson, garrisoned by the Blues at the time under my brother (John Wayne), and with Jake Reid's Company of (Georgia) Regulars. I smiled as I looked at the guns on the parapet. They were mounted between two logs placed parallel with each other, with the trunnions of the cannon supported upon them. They could never have been fired without jumping off into the area of the fort [Hoole 1976:99].

2.
Dates
don't
match

OR SECESSION?

Garrison?

BULLOCK CAME TO SAVANNAH
ON THE FIRST MISSION OF
MANY HE LED TO
BUY SHIPS &
MUNITIONS
IN EUROPE.

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In overall charge of strengthening the Savannah River defenses in 1862 was General Robert E. Lee. Lee would make several inspection trips to Fort Jackson during this assignment. One of Lee's recommendations was the Confederate evacuation of the barrier islands. Lee felt the islands were vulnerable to Union naval attack, which was demonstrated at Port Royal. With the evacuation of Tybee Island the Federals began erecting siege batteries to attack Fort Pulaski. On April 11, 1862, Fort Pulaski fell after a 30 hour bombardment. With the fall of Fort Pulaski, Savannah was threatened with capture. ~~The role of Fort Jackson and its dependent batteries became the front line of defense of the city.~~

CLAD
Had the Federals attacked up the Savannah River in the summer of 1862, they would have more than likely taken Savannah. However, two things prevented this attack. First, a major outbreak of Yellow Fever hit the coastal region of Georgia. This outbreak affected both the Federal and Confederate forces. Second, the Federals became aware of the launching of the iron ram C.S.S. Georgia. The Federal Navy had great respect for these Rebel ironclads, as the C.S.S. Virginia, had demonstrated their abilities earlier. Only later would it be realized that the Georgia was a failure as a warship. Its engines could not even push it against an incoming tide. It, therefore, had to be towed to a defensive position next to Fort Jackson, where it served as a floating battery to protect the flanks of the fort.

On October 1, 1862, two Union steamers the *Planter* and *Starlight*, under the command of Col. W.B. Barton moved up the Savannah River on a reconnaissance mission. In addition, to acquiring information about the Savannah River defenses, Barton wished to destroy some Confederate steamboats working on the construction of river obstructions near Elba Island, just downstream from Fort Jackson. Upon being fired on by the Union steamers, the Confederate steamboats retreated upstream and anchored under the protection of Fort Jackson.

The *Planter*, was piloted by a former slave Robert Smalls,¹ who had earlier stolen this ship from his masters in Charleston harbor, and turned it over to the Union Navy for their Barrier Island campaign. Now the *Planter* began firing shells at Fort Jackson at extreme range with a 30 pounder Parrot Rifle. Fort Jackson could not return this fire due to the extreme range, however, a supporting battery at Causton's Bluff, about a mile to Fort Jackson's rear, fired on the Union vessels. A few shots from the *Planter* silenced the battery at Causton's Bluff and firing continued on Fort Jackson. According to local Savannah newspapers, the firing lasted about one hour and over 100 shots

¹ The Robert Smalls House, at 511 Prince Street, in Beaufort, South Carolina was designated a National Historic Landmark on May 30, 1973. Smalls lived in this house both as a slave and a free man. After the Civil War he served in the South Carolina legislature and in Congress.

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were fired at the fort. Fort Jackson sustained little or no damage during the attack (*Savannah Republican*, October 2, 1862).

Throughout its occupation by Confederate troops, Fort Jackson had many different garrison units attached to it. Among the units to garrison the fort were the 4th Louisiana, the 1st Georgia Volunteers, and the 1st Georgia Regulars. By 1863, it was decided that the river batteries needed a semi-permanent garrison. This led to the formation of the 22nd Battalion Georgia Artillery. It was made up of six companies which served throughout the Savannah area. Companies A and B served at Fort Jackson, and Company A was part of the fort's last Confederate garrison.

USE FULL NAMES & TIME!
The following year the fort would receive one of its most distinguished visitors. On October 31, 1863 President Jefferson Davis visited Savannah. During his visit, President Davis along with Generals Mercer and Gilmore, Commodore Hunter, and Colonel E.C. Anderson toured the Savannah River defenses on the steamer *Beauregard*. At Fort Jackson, the Confederate President was greeted with a twenty-one gun salute. After a brief stop at the fort the presidential entourage continued on to Thunderbolt and later to Fort Boggs (*Daily Morning News*, November 2, 1863). *BATTERY*

At the height of their preparedness *live system* the Confederates in Savannah had developed an impressive defense for the city. This included a series of earth batteries guarding all river approaches to the city (see Figure 6). Fort Jackson served as Headquarters for this river defense. These approaches were further guarded by river obstructions, which were protected by underwater mines. The rivers were also patrolled by a fleet of warships, among which, were the ironclads *C.S.S. Savannah* and *Georgia*. The overall defense network served Savannah well as it continued to keep the Union fleet at bay. However in late 1864 Savannah would feel a new threat *from landward*.

After the capture of the City of Atlanta, General William T. Sherman began his famous March to the Sea, which would culminate at Savannah. By December 1, 1864, as General Sherman's Union troops approached Savannah, Confederate General William J. Hardee's nearly 12,000 troops were all that separated Sherman from resupply by the Union Navy. Hardee ordered an evacuation of the city and Fort Jackson on December 20, 1864, rather than risk losing his army by defending the city against superior forces. As the Confederate troops moved north into South Carolina, they burned the enlisted mens barracks, spiked the guns of Fort Jackson, and threw their ammunition into the moat. On the same day the ironclad *C.S.S. Georgia*, being unable to escape was sunk by its own crew at Five Fathom Hole next to the fort (*Bunting MS*).

The fort was occupied by troops of the 28th Regiment Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry and the 29th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry on the morning of December 21, 1864. Upon raising the Stars and Strips over the fort, the new garrison was greeted with

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several shells from the ironclad *C.S.S. Savannah*. The attack on the fort was brief, as the *Savannah* soon advanced up the river to attack other Federal positions. Unable to escape, the *Savannah* was later scuttled by her crew.

On January 16, 1865, the Union garrison at Fort Jackson was relieved by Companies C, D, and F of the 55th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry of African Descent. These troops were recently engaged in the Battle of Honey Hill. They spent their time at the fort putting it into some sort of fighting order by remounting the cannon. On February 1, 1865, the Regiment departed from Fort Jackson for Morris Island, South Carolina (Anonymous 1991:50).

Upon hearing of the news on April 11, 1865 of the fall of Richmond the river batteries fired salutes of victory. The salutes were begun by the Union warship *Pontiac*, with Fort Jackson making the first reply of the Army. This is believed to be the last occasion on which the fort's guns were fired.

In the months following the end of the war, the Army inspected Fort Jackson on several occasions. These inspections were to supervise the removal of Confederate ordnance in the moat and to determine the place of the fort in the future needs of coastal defense. In 1867 the fort was briefly used again as a port quarantine station.

By the 1870s there was renewed interest in modernizing Fort Jackson. In 1872 new armament was requested by General A.A. Humphreys, Chief of Engineers. Three 10 inch Rodmans and two 100 pounder Parrot guns were requested for Fort Jackson. On July 29, 1873, Q.A. Gilmore requested four 15 inch guns with front pintle carriages for the fort. The Engineers Annual Report of 1876-77 states that five guns were in position, but not the caliber contemplated in the approved projects. An appropriation of \$10,000 was requested for the following year. By 1884 Fort Jackson was occupied by a caretaker for which \$480 had been designated.

It was also in 1884 that the Army changed the name of the fort to Fort Oglethorpe. It kept this title until War Department General Order No. 10, dated January of 1905 assigned the name Oglethorpe to an active military base in North Georgia.

At the end of the nineteenth century, the United States began to prepare herself for another conflict. Fort Jackson (Oglethorpe) would make its final contribution for National Defense during the Spanish-American War. Early in this conflict, southern port cities were concerned about being attacked by Spanish warships, so the Army relocated many guns to calm the fears of the populace. In April 1898 the Fort Jackson guns were removed from the fort with some difficulty. While removing the guns, two fell into the moat and were later salvaged with barges. The guns were sent to Brunswick, Georgia for the defense of that port (Savannah Evening News April 16, 1898).

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In 1923, Congress authorized the disposal of Fort Jackson as surplus property. In June 1925 the City of Savannah purchased the property for the purpose of using the property as a park. The Great Depression interrupted these plans. Shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War, Fort Jackson was acquired by the Southeastern Shipyards, along with a parcel of river front property. Southeastern was Savannah's largest single employer during the war and produced over 80 Liberty ships and minesweepers.

~~After the war~~ The fort was purchased ~~in another sale~~ in 1955 by the American Cyanamid Company. American Cyanamid tried to encourage any historic group to take the fort site for a public park, but did receive any interest in their proposal. Finally, when Cyanamid threatened to sell the fort for ~~cheap~~ ^{at} brick, Judge Alexander A. Lawrence and a group of concerned Savannah citizens lobbied the State of Georgia to purchase the property (Bunting MS).

In 1965 the property was purchased by the Georgia Historical Commission. Shortly thereafter the Commission began developing the property as a site for a maritime museum, opened in 1969. After being opened to the public for about five years, the State closed the site due to state budget problems in 1975. The following year a small citizen based group proposed to operate the site and reopen it to the public. On Labor Day 1976, the fort reopened under the operation of the Coastal Heritage Society. The Society continues to operate the fort, under a lease agreement with the State of Georgia, and is dedicated to interpreting the history of the fort and the people associated with it.

is the maritime history gone,
no more maritime museum?

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Savannah Republican

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☒ Previously Listed in the National Register. **February 18, 1970**
- ☐ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
- ☐ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
- ☐ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: # _____
- ☐ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other (Specify Repository): **Coastal Heritage Society**
P.O. Box 1153
Savannah, Georgia 31402

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATAAcreage of Property: **7.8 acres**

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting

17 3549340 496590

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the southwest corner of the Fort Jackson structure, then south thirty-two degrees thirteen minutes. West a distance of four hundred and eight and three tenths (408.3) feet to a concrete monument, said concrete monument being the southwest property corner of said tract and being the point of beginning: thence north thirty-one degrees no minutes west four hundred and seventy-seven (477) feet, more or less to the mean low water mark of the south bank of the Savannah River, thence in an eastwardly direction following the mean low water mark along the southern bank of the Savannah River and along the masonry retaining wall of Fort Jackson to a point on the southern bank of the Savannah River thence south thirty-one degrees no minutes east three hundred and sixty-six (366) feet, more or less to a concrete monument, said concrete monument being the southeast property corner of said tract, thence south fifty-nine degrees no minutes west seven hundred and fifty (750) feet to a concrete monument at the southwest property corner of the tract hereby conveyed, the point of the beginning: all of which will appear by reference to a map of said tract of land made by Sewell & Associates, Inc. for the American Cyanamid Company, dated April 16, 1965, (see Figure 5) which is recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Chatham County, Georgia, in plat Record Book O, Folio 108.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary for Fort Jackson includes the masonry fort, its tidal moat, and counter scarp walls. This represents the total nationally significant properties associated with Fort James Jackson.

FORT JAMES JACKSON

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 21

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Mr. Jefferson C. Reed
Org.: N/A
Street/#: 704 East 48th Street
City/Town: Savannah
State: Georgia
ZIP: 31405
Telephone: (912) 353-9353
Date: August 21, 1998

Additional assistance in the preparation of this nomination provided by:

Mark R. Barnes, Ph.D.
Senior Archeologist
National Register Programs Division
National Park Service, SERO
1924 Building
100 Alabama Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

(404) 562-3173

FORT JAMES JACKSON**Page 9**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National
Register Criteria:

A X B C D

Criteria Considerations
(Exceptions):

A B C D E F G

NHL Criteria:

Criterion 1

NHL Theme(s):

- V. **POLITICAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**
K. **The Army and Navy**

IV Shaping the Political Landscape
3 military institutions
and activities

Areas of Significance: **Military**

Period(s) of Significance: **1808 to 1865**

Significant Dates: **1808**

Significant Person(s): **N/A**

Cultural Affiliation: **N/A**

Architect/Builder: **Captain William McRee**

Historic Context:

FORT JAMES JACKSON**Page 11**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

significant - the all-masonry fort. This dramatic departure from previous architectural styles was employed in building Fort Jackson near Savannah and proved to be the forerunner of a new generation of seacoast fortifications that would emerge after 1816. The all-masonry design allowed for greater protection of guns and gunners by locating the gun emplacements behind the thick masonry wall and providing openings (embrasures) through which the guns could be fired. Masonry construction also permitted the stacking of artillery emplacements in multiple tiers, thus increasing the overall firepower of the installation [Barber and Gann 1989:15].

Twenty-six Second System fortifications were constructed to meet the emergency of the War of 1812, in thirteen states. Today, only five of these fortifications remain unaltered. Fort Columbus and Castle Williams, both in New York, are a star shaped fort and a circular fort of masonry, respectively. Castle Pinkney, in South Carolina, also is a circular fort. Fort Norfolk, in Virginia, combines the elements of a half circular fort with a bastion and enclosed perimeter. Fort Jackson is the only remaining Second System fortification built as a masonry gun battery. Jackson, originally built as a faceted semicircular battery with a palisade to protect its rear, is the least typical and most unique of the Second System masonry fortifications (see Figure 1).

Historical Background of Fort Jackson

The earliest attempt to fortify the site adjacent to Five Fathom Hole was during the American Revolution. In September 1777 the Georgia Executive Council allocated \$3000 to build a fortification at Salter's Island. An artillery company was raised in Savannah to garrison this fortification known as the "mud fort," under the command of Thomas Lee. Lee died of yellow fever, contracted at the fort in February 1778 and it was abandoned due to its unhealthy location (Brinson 1997:1; Gaines n.d.).

The second effort to fortify the site was in 1808. The United States Government purchased from Nichol Turnbull the property known as Wharf Lot Number 12 for the sum of \$1800. Construction of a brick masonry battery was begun later that year under the direction of Captain William McRee, a recent graduate of West Point Military Academy. Work progressed on the fort until money ran out in 1810. In June of 1810 Captain McRee reported in a letter to the Secretary of War,

The wharf, with the barracks at Savannah and Fort Jackson are finished. To complete Fort Jackson agreeably to the plan originally proposed, there are required 140,000 bricks to be laid. The parapet of earth to be formed and the platform of wood to be erected [Bunting MS].

FORT JAMES JACKSON**Page 12**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

With the real possibility of war with England looming, work was resumed on Fort James Jackson in earnest, and the fort was rushed to completion in early 1812.

On June 26, 1812, McRee made application the governor of Georgia for the necessary militia to garrison the newly finished Fort Jackson. By June 29th a company of state militia and a detachment of artillery occupied the fort. Wartime garrisons of Fort Jackson would included the following local militia companies; Chatham Artillery, Republican Blues, and the Heavy Artillery Company. The fort was also garrisoned by elements of the 8th Regiment United States Infantry, until 1815 (Wade 1976).

In 1821, the fort was again garrisoned this time by Company H, 4th United States Heavy Artillery. Due to the unhealthy location of Fort Jackson the garrison suffered greatly from Yellow Fever. The U.S. Health Officer used Five Fathom Hole, opposite Fort Jackson as a quarantine ground and forced all vessels to stop there until 1827 (Barber and Gann 1989:33).

In 1846, due to the defensive needs brought on by the Mexican-American War, the US Army Engineer Department, under Major General Joseph Totten, recommended refitting Fort Jackson, and Congress appropriated funds for the work. This was necessary regardless of the completion of a large Third System fortification at the mouth of the Savannah River. This new fortification for Savannah, Fort Pulaski (a National Monument since 1933), only guarded the north and south approaches of the Savannah River through Tybee Sound. Hostile vessels could still reach Savannah by Warsaw Sound and advance up the Wilmington River and enter the Savannah River well above Fort Pulaski. Fort Jackson was necessary to guard this approach.

Under the direction of the Savannah District Corps of Engineers, periodic maintenance and other work would continue on Fort Jackson from 1846 until 1860. Work was conducted on the site only during the winter months to avoid the fever season. During this period brick scarp walls were built to replace the former wooden palisade at the rear of the main battery, a casemate was built to support a new gun platform, and a wet ditch or moat was built surrounding the entire work. The portion of the moat to the front of the battery actually extended into the river, being separated only by the counter scarp wall. Located on the northwest face of this counter scarp, a tide tunnel was built to feed water into the moat. A wharf was constructed at the end of the tide tunnel as a point to land supplies and personnel at the site. A large powder magazine was also built to supplement the two others built under McRee. The magazine was built with a gabled roof and located on the southwest end of the casemates (see Figures 3 and 4) (Bunting MS).

By 1859, two brick enlisted mens barracks had been completed on the east and west sides of the parade ground. An officers barracks was also commenced, and built as high as the window sills. Earlier that year a hot shot furnace was built at the base of the casemate stairs, behind the battery (Bunting MS).

FORT JAMES JACKSON**Page 13**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

In 1860, progress on Fort Jackson was slowed. Superintending Engineer William Henry Chase Whiting reported that the only work needing completion was the officers barracks, and platforms and roofs for the flank howitzers. This work was not completed before work was suspended in 1860.

Word of the occupation of Fort Sumter by federal troops reached Savannah on 10 December 1860, already a hot bed for secession. On January 3, 1861 Georgia State civil officials demanded the keys and took possession of both Forts Jackson and Pulaski from their federal caretakers. On January 26, 1861, a company of Georgia state militia was sent to garrison Fort Jackson. A.R. Lawton later became concerned about the exposed position of the Georgia troops at Fort Pulaski. In a letter to H.C. Wayne he wrote, "The position of Fort Jackson, between this work [Fort Pulaski] and the City of Savannah, has caused some uneasiness among our people . . ." (Lawrence 1961:20).

On April 21, 1861, South Carolina troops fired on Fort Sumter commencing the Civil War. The first months of the war were uneventful at Fort Jackson, although the Rebel garrison had their trials. A letter to the editor of the *Savannah Daily Morning News* describes the continuing problem of the fort's unhealthy location,

Why is it that the troops at Fort Jackson have not had any favors extended to them? They are in the midst of the rice fields, where mosquitoes are as thick as rice and as large as humming birds. Each and every one of them should have a mosquito bar. Let the parties having the funds in charge take notice and govern themselves as they should under the circumstances [Daily Morning News, May 16, 1861].

With Fort Pulaski at the mouth of the Savannah River there was no great urgency to improve the position at Fort Jackson. However, on November 8, 1861, events in Port Royal Sound, South Carolina would change the lax attitudes in Savannah. With the bombardment and capture of Hilton Head Island by Union forces, the blockade of the South Atlantic coast began to be felt in the city.

In November of 1861, the Confederate blockade runner *Fingal* entered the Savannah River. In its holds was the largest single military cargo to enter the Confederacy during the war. Also on board were James D. Bullock and Edward C. Anderson. [This was Bullock's first blockade running mission, who purchased many ships and munitions in Europe for the Confederacy during the war.] Anderson would become a major figure in the role of Fort Jackson in the Savannah River defenses. However, Anderson's first impression of the fort was less than flattering.

The troops cheered us as we passed Fort Jackson, garrisoned by the Blues at the time under my brother (John Wayne), and with Jake Reid's Company of (Georgia) Regulars. I smiled as I looked at the guns on the

FORT JAMES JACKSON**Page 17**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Spanish-American War. Early in this conflict, southern port cities were concerned about being attacked by Spanish warships, so the Army relocated many guns to calm the fears of the populace. In April 1898 the Fort Jackson guns were removed from the fort with some difficulty. While removing the guns, two fell into the moat and were later salvaged with barges. The guns were sent to Brunswick, Georgia for the defense of that port (Savannah Evening News April 16, 1898).

In 1923, Congress authorized the disposal of Fort Jackson as surplus property. In June 1925 the City of Savannah purchased the property for the purpose of using the property as a park. The Great Depression interrupted these plans. Shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War, Fort Jackson was acquired by the Southeastern Shipyards, along with a parcel of river front property. Southeastern was Savannah's largest single employer during the war and produced over 80 Liberty ships and minesweepers.

The fort was purchased ~~in another sale~~ in 1955 by the American Cyanamid Company. American Cyanamid tried to encourage any historic group to take the fort site for a public park, but did not receive any interest in their proposal. Finally, when Cyanamid threatened to sell the fort for scrap brick, Judge Alexander A. Lawrence and a group of concerned Savannah citizens lobbied the State of Georgia to purchase the property (Bunting MS).

In 1965 the property was purchased by the Georgia Historical Commission. Shortly thereafter the Commission began developing the property as a site for a historical museum, opened in 1969. After being opened to the public for about five years, the State closed the site due to state budget problems in 1975. The following year a small citizen based group proposed to operate the site and reopen it to the public. On Labor Day 1976, the fort reopened under the operation of the Coastal Heritage Society. The Society continues to operate the fort, under a lease agreement with the State of Georgia, and is dedicated to interpreting the history of the fort and the people associated with it.

April 25, 1935

Memorandum for Miss Schmidt:

A study is desired on the history of Fort Jackson, which lies south of Savannah. The fort was built in the 1830's. It was ceded to the city of Savannah by the Federal Government, (War Department) in 1925, for park purposes, but nothing has been done to improve the area or make it available to the public. The city of Savannah is interested in giving this site to the National Park Service, to be administered in conjunction with Fort Pulaski.

Herman Kahn

HK:ICS

April 20, 1935

Honorable Thomas Gamble,
Mayor, City of Savannah,
Savannah, Georgia.

My dear Mayor Gamble:

Your letter of April 16, dealing with the proposed transfer of old Fort Jackson to the National Park Service, has been received.

I have asked our Historical Division to make a study and report on this matter at the earliest opportunity. After the study has been made we can advise you further.

Perhaps a little later, when he is next in Savannah, Mr. Chatelain may be able to make a personal inspection of this area.

Sincerely yours,

A. E. Demaray,
Acting Director.

VEC:ICS

G. ELLIOTT HEGAN
First Senator, Georgia

COMMITTEE:

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CONSTITUTIONAL
EDUCATION
GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS
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TERRITORY AND DEVELOPMENT
TRANSPORTATION
WATER RESOURCES

WEEKLY REPORT
SYNOPSIS, GEORGIA

LS8

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TRANSPORTATION
WATER RESOURCES

RECEIVED

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE

11 1 33 PM '63

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

February 7, 1963

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth,
Director
National Park Service
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

I have received an inquiry from the Honorable Malcolm Maclean, Mayor of Savannah, Georgia, with regard to the possibility of restoring Fort Jackson, formerly named Fort Oglethorpe, which overlooks the Savannah River just east of Savannah.

This, I certainly believe, would be a worthy project for the National Park Service. It is a very fine and very interesting old fort, and is apparently in near-perfect condition except for poison ivy and other growth, and a colony of snakes with a bad reputation. I have seen the fort a number of times from the river, which is about the only way to get to it, and have often thought that something should be done to preserve this piece of American history. It is my understanding that the owner, American Cyanamid, would be willing to deed the property to the Park Service and give an additional \$1,000 towards its restoration.

I am extremely interested in hearing the Park Service's reaction to this proposal, and will be glad to talk personally with any member of your staff who might be familiar with this particular area.

Thank you for your consideration. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

G. Elliott Hegan
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

GEH/f

Survey File

FEB 20 1963

158-CHA

Hon. G. Elliott Hagan
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hagan:

Director Wirth has asked me to thank you for your letter of February 7 concerning an inquiry you have received from Mayor Malcolm Maclean, of Savannah, Georgia, with regard to the possibility that the National Park Service would undertake the restoration and maintenance of nearby Fort Jackson as part of the National Park System.

Ga.

It is helpful for us to have the information in your letter concerning the present condition of Fort Jackson, located some three miles east of the city on the Savannah River. We are also interested to learn that the present owner of the property, the American Cyanamid Corporation, would be willing to deed it to the Federal Government and to donate certain funds for its restoration.

In the spring of 1935, the City of Savannah, which was then the owner of the property, offered to transfer Fort Jackson to the care of the Service, and we made a preliminary study of this proposal at that time. It was the view of the Service that Fort Jackson did not qualify for national recognition and preservation by the Federal Government, but appeared more appropriate for State or local action. While the site of the existing Fort Jackson had been fortified as a defense of Savannah beginning in 1809 and the present Fort Jackson had attained its present form in the 1840's, it did not see military action of major significance either in the War of 1812 or in the Civil War. Fort Pulaski National Monument, which exists only a few miles down the Savannah River from Fort Jackson, commemorates a major bombardment and a strategic victory of national historical significance in the period of the Civil War and completely overshadows Fort Jackson in historical importance.

The views of the Service regarding the relative historical importance of Fort Jackson have recently been confirmed in the course of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, during which new studies were made of sites and structures of national significance in the War of 1812 and in the Civil War. These were carefully considered by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, created by the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666), to advise the Secretary of the Interior on questions of national historical significance and other park matters. The Advisory Board did not include Fort Jackson among those sites or structures related to these periods of history which were found to be of exceptional value in commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States. Under these circumstances, the National Park Service would not be in a position to accept title to the Fort Jackson property and undertake its restoration and development as part of the National Park System.

We appreciate the long-standing interest of the City of Savannah in the preservation of Fort Jackson and recall that, following its original disposition by the Federal Government under Public Law 501, approved March 4, 1923, the city purchased the property for park purposes in June 1925. It appears that the city has since disposed of its interest in the property, but because of its continued interest in the preservation of the old Fort, we suggest that it consider a proposal for joint development of the property by the American Cyanamid Corporation, the City of Savannah, and the State of Georgia. If the city desires to approach the State regarding this matter, it should communicate with Mr. Horace Caldwell, Director, Department of State Parks, who may be addressed at 7 Hunter Street, S. W., Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Your thoughtfulness in bringing this proposal to our attention is greatly appreciated, and we trust that a satisfactory solution regarding the preservation of old Fort Jackson may be achieved through city and State action.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) HILLORY A. TOLSON

Assistant Director

cc:

IM

Legislative Counsel w/c of inc.

Congressional Liaison w/c of inc.

Regional Director, Southeast (2) w/c of inc.

Branch of History w/c of inc.

RWYoung:jd 2-14-63



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

September 4, 1998

Memorandum

To: Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey, and Keeper
of the National Register of Historic Places, WASO

From: Chief, National Register Programs Division, SERO

Subject: Fort James Jackson, National Historic Landmark (NHL)
Nomination

Enclosed is the NHL nomination for Fort James Jackson, a property located in Chatham County, in the vicinity of Savannah, Georgia. Fort James Jackson is a rare surviving example of a Second System Seacoast Fortification.

The staff of the Coastal Heritage Society of Savannah, Georgia, in cooperation with this office developed this nomination.

If you have any questions on this nomination, please call me at (404) 562-3171.

Cecil H. ~~Wright~~

Enclosure

H30(2280)

FEB 25 1999

Ph 2/25/99
Shull
2-25-99

Memorandum

To: Chief, National Register Programs Division, SERO

From: Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey, and Keeper of the National Register
of Historic Places, WASO (Sgd) Carol E. Shull

Subject: Fort James Jackson National Historic Landmark Nomination

We have completed our review of the subject nomination and believe this to be a wonderful NHL candidate. In addition to the NHL Survey staff review, I asked Kevin Foster of the Maritime Initiative to look at the nomination and he agrees with the property's eligibility for NHL designation.

We have no major concerns. You will note minor comments and questions in the margins of the draft nomination which I am enclosing with this memorandum. If it is agreeable with you, I am returning only the nomination form itself. The NHL Survey will keep on file in our office the black and white photographs, the UTM map and the figures. Please let us know if you have need of those items and we will return them to you immediately. If you have any questions concerning the comments on the nomination, or about the review in general, please contact Patty Henry at 202/343-8163.

Thank you for your work on this property and I look forward to seeing the completed nomination for Fort James Jackson on the next agenda of the NPS Advisory Board.

Attachment

cc: Ms. Leslie Sharp
State Historic Preservation Office
Department of Natural Resources
500 The Healey Building
57 Forsyth Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

bcc: 2200
5020 M. Barnes
2280 Shull; Sprinkle; Foster; Harper; Sandoval; Henry
2280 FORT JAMES JACKSON (NHL Pending)

FNP:Phenry:mg:2/18/99
F:\NR-NHL\FTJMSJAC.MEM



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

March 22, 1999

Memorandum

To: Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey and Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, WASO

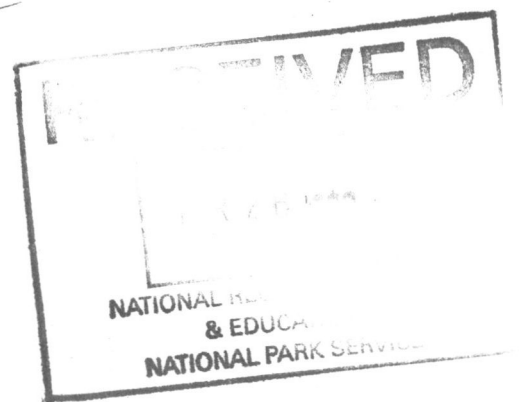
From: Acting Chief, National Register Programs Division, SERO

Subject: Fort James Jackson National Historic Landmark Nomination

Enclosed is a revised copy of the Fort James Jackson National Historic Landmark (NHL) Nomination, a significant Second System Coastal Fortification located south of the city of Savannah, Georgia. Our office, in conjunction with the Coastal Heritage Society, have responded to the comments and questions provided by your reviewers. As per your memo of February 25, 1999, we are only transmitting the text of the nomination as your office has retained the photographs, figures, and USGS map for this nomination.

Please contact me if you have any questions regarding the enclosed nomination (404) 562-3171.

Enclosures



Author: Jody Cook at NP-SERO

Date: 10/13/99 1:34 PM

Priority: Normal

Receipt Requested

TO: Patty Henry at NP-WASO-NRHE, Frank Miele, Mark Barnes

Subject: Re:Notice information

----- Message Contents -----

Patty--

Here's the owner notification info as requested for Fort J. Jackson:

Owner: Lonice Barrett, Commissioner
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
205 Butler Street, Suite 1252
Atlanta, 30334

Ga DNR Contact person; Billy Townsend, Chief Historian
Parks and Historic Sites Division
Ga DNR
205 Butler Street, Suite 1352
Atlanta, 30334

Site Lessee: Scott W. Smith, Director
Coastal Heritage Society
PO Box 1153
Savannah, GA 31402

(I'm still waiting for this guy to call me back, this may not be the current address, will let you know asap)

Site Manager: Greg Starbuck, Site Manager
Old Fort Jackson
1 Fort Jackson Road
Savannah, 31404

Chief elected official/type of govt.: County Commission

Billy Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission
PO Box 8161
Savannah, 31412

Let me know if you have trouble getting the owner notification info for Fort St. Pierre in Mississippi.

Jody

Reply Separator

Subject: Notice information

Author: Patty Henry

Date: 10/13/99 10:14 AM

Hi Jody:

I'm sorry to bother you but has Mark Barnes been out? I sent him a

message last week when I sent you yours about the notification information and I have not heard from him. He has two properties on the agenda and he is usually so good about getting right back to us. I am getting worried about this information. I thought maybe he was just out last week and I would hear from him yesterday, but so far nothing.

John tried calling Cecil about another issue and was going to ask him this same question, but John just got Cecil's voice mail. (John then sent Cecil an e-mail on his issue but I don't think he mentioned Mark to Cecil.)

Thanks for your help.

Patty

INFORMATION FOR NOTICE LETTERS

PLEASE ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY.

EXACT NAME OF PROPERTY

(The historic name is preferred. This name will be used throughout the process and for purposes of listing and filing.)

Fort James Jackson

Other Name if different from name listed above: _____

LOCATION(S) OF PROPERTY

(Be as complete as possible; give locational data for all sites involved.)

Street Number: 1 Fort Jackson Road

Town: Savannah

State: GA

Zip: 31402

County: Chatham

Other: _____

OWNER(S) OF PROPERTY

Are there multiple owners? (YES)/(NO) (If yes, please provide complete information for each owner on an attached page.)

Name: Lonice Barrett, Commissioner

Title: Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Street Number: 205 Butler Street, Suite 1252

Town: Atlanta

State: GA

Zip: 30334

Telephone: _____

Is this owner: PRIVATE or PUBLIC?

If Public, is this owner: LOCAL, STATE, FEDERAL?

HIGHEST LOCALLY-ELECTED OFFICIAL(S)

for the jurisdiction identified as location of the property.
(NOTE: These individuals must hold an ELECTED office; appointed administrative officers do not meet this requirement.)

Name: Billy Hair, chairman

Title: Chatham County Commission

Street Number: P.O. Box 8161

Town: Savannah

State: GA

Zip: 31412

Telephone: _____

SENATORS and CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE(S)

Please list the names of these individuals.
(NOTE: List only the representative(s) for the district(s) in which the property is located.)

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

it would be advisable to inform of this nomination.
(NOTE: These individuals will receive copies of notice correspondence.)

Name: Mr. Jefferson C. Reed

Title: _____

Street Number: 704 East 48th St

Town: Savannah

State: GA

Zip: 31405

Telephone: 912-353-9353

over →

— Billy Townsend, Chief Historian
Parks and Historic Sites Division
Georgia Division of Natural Resources
Same

— Scott W. Smith, Director
Coastal Heritage Society
P.O. Box 1153
Savannah, GA 31402

Greg Starbuck, Site Manager
Old Fort Jackson
1 Fort Jackson Road
Savannah, GA 31404

H34(2280)

OCT 14 1999

Honorable Paul Coverdell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coverdell:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Park Service has completed the study of the Fort James Jackson in Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia, for the purpose of nominating it for possible designation as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). We enclose a copy of the nomination. The National Park System Advisory Board will consider the nomination during its next meeting, at the time and place indicated on an enclosure. This enclosure also specifies how you may comment on the proposed nomination if you so choose. The Board will make its recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior based upon the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

You have 60 days to submit your views in writing, if you so desire. After the 60-day period, we will submit the nomination and your comments to the National Park System Advisory Board's Landmarks Committee, which will then inform the full Advisory Board of the Committee's recommendations at the Board's meeting. The Secretary of the Interior will then be informed of the Board's recommendations for his final action.

To assist you in considering this matter, we have enclosed a copy of the regulations governing the National Historic Landmarks Program. They describe the criteria for designation (Sec. 65.4) and include other information on the Program. We are also enclosing a fact sheet that outlines the effects of designation.

Sincerely,

Ronald M. Greenberg

Katherine H. Stevenson
Associate Director, Cultural Resources
Stewardship and Partnerships

Enclosures

PROPERTY STUDIED FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

FORT JAMES JACKSON SAVANNAH, CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

The Landmarks Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board will evaluate this property at a meeting to be held on Monday, December 13, 1999, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 100, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC. The Landmarks Committee evaluates the studies of historic properties being nominated for National Historic Landmark designation in order to advise the full National Park System Advisory Board at their meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 14 and 15, 1999, in Washington, D.C., and will recommend to the full Board those properties that the Committee finds meet the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

Owners of private properties nominated for NHL designation have an opportunity to concur with or object to listing in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR 65. Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to designation must submit a notarized statement certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property and objects to the designation. Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote regardless of the portion of the property that the party owns. If a majority of private property owners object, a property will not be designated. Letters objecting to or supporting nominations may be sent to Ms. Carol D. Shull, Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey, at the National Park Service, National Register, History and Education, 1849 C Street, N.W., NC 400, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Should you wish to obtain information about these meetings, or about the National Historic Landmarks Program, please contact Historian Patty Henry at the National Park Service, National Register, History and Education, 1849 C Street, N.W., NC 400, Washington, D.C. 20240; or by telephone at 202/343-8163.

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:

Honorable Paul Coverdell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Senator Coverdell

Honorable Max Cleland
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable John Linder
House of Representative
Washington, D.C. 20510

bcc: PSO B. Bolger
0001 Stanton
2200 Stevenson
2605 CCU
2280 Henry
2280 FORT JAMES JACKSON (NHL PENDING)

FNP:PHenry:mg:10/12/99
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OCT 14 1999

H34(2280)

Honorable Lonice Barrett, Commissioner
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
205 Butler Street, Suite 1252
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Mr. Barrett:

We are pleased to inform you that the National Park Service has completed the study of Fort James Jackson in Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia, for the purpose of nominating it for possible designation as a National Historic Landmark. We enclose a copy of the nomination. The National Park System Advisory Board will consider the nomination during its next meeting, at the time and place indicated on an enclosure. This enclosure also specifies how you may comment on the proposed nomination if you so choose. The Board will make its recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior based upon the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

You have 60 days to submit your views in writing, if you so desire. After the 60-day period, we will submit the nomination and your comments to the National Park System Advisory Board's Landmarks Committee, which will then inform the full Advisory Board of the Committee's recommendations at the Board's meeting. The Secretary of the Interior will then be informed of the Board's recommendations for his final action.

To assist you in considering this matter, we have enclosed a copy of the regulations governing the National Historic Landmarks Program. They describe the criteria for designation (Sec. 65.4) and include other information on the Program. We are also enclosing a fact sheet that outlines the effects of designation.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) Carol D. Shull

Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places

Enclosures

PROPERTY STUDIED FOR NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

FORT JAMES JACKSON SAVANNAH, CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

The Landmarks Committee of the National Park System Advisory Board will evaluate this property at a meeting to be held on Monday, December 13, 1999, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 100, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC. The Landmarks Committee evaluates the studies of historic properties being nominated for National Historic Landmark designation in order to advise the full National Park System Advisory Board at their meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 14 and 15, 1999, in Washington, D.C., and will recommend to the full Board those properties that the Committee finds meet the criteria of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

Owners of private properties nominated for NHL designation have an opportunity to concur with or object to listing in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR 65. Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to designation must submit a notarized statement certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property and objects to the designation. Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote regardless of the portion of the property that the party owns. If a majority of private property owners object, a property will not be designated. Letters objecting to or supporting nominations may be sent to Ms. Carol D. Shull, Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey, at the National Park Service, National Register, History and Education, 1849 C Street, N.W., NC 400, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Should you wish to obtain information about these meetings, or about the National Historic Landmarks Program, please contact Historian Patty Henry at the National Park Service, National Register, History and Education, 1849 C Street, N.W., NC 400, Washington, D.C. 20240; or by telephone at 202/343-8163.

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:

OWN/SHPO: Honorable Lonice Barrett, Commissioner
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
205 Butler Street, Suite 1252
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

HEO: Honorable Billy Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission
P.O. Box 8161
Savannah, Georgia 31412

cc: Mr. Jefferson C. Reed
704 East 48th Street
Savannah, Georgia 31405

bcc: PSO B. Bolger
0001 Stanton
2200 Stevenson
2280 Henry
2280 FORT JAMES JACKSON (NHL PENDING)

FNP:PHenry:mg:10/12/99
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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H34(2280)

Honorable Billy Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission
P.O. Box 8161
Savannah, Georgia 31412

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I N T E R O F F I C E

DATE: October 19, 1999

TO: Milton Newton, Executive Director, MPC

FROM: 
R. E. Abolt, County Manager

SUBJECT: Fort Jackson Designation as National Historic Landmark

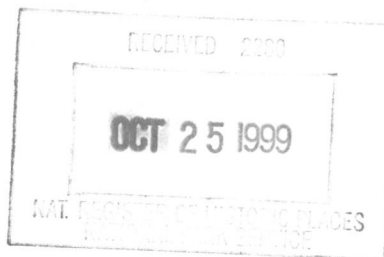
Milton, the attached to Chairman Hair from the U. S. Department of the Interior asks for the County's position on subject nomination. Please prepare the appropriate analysis for Board consideration.

REA:fqr

Attachment

cc: Chairman and Members of the Board (with cover letter attachment only)

Carol D. Shull, Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey, Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, U. S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20240 (with cover letter attachment only)



PAUL D. COVERDELL
GEORGIA

CONFERENCE SECRETARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1004

CHAIRMAN
WESTERN HEMISPHERE SUBCOMMITTEE
FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN
MARKETING, INSPECTION, AND PRODUCT
PROMOTION SUBCOMMITTEE
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

November 18, 1999

Ms. Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey
National Park Service, National Register, History and
Education
1849 C Street, NW
NC 400
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

It has come to my attention that Fort James Jackson on Salter Island, Georgia has been nominated for designation as a National Historic Landmark.

This historic site, near Savannah, Georgia, was built in 1812 to protect the City of Savannah from foreign attack. It was named after James Jackson, former Governor of Georgia, United States Senator and veteran of the Revolutionary War. It is my understanding that Fort is one of the few existing Second System Seacoast Fortifications in the country that remains preserved. It would be appreciated if fair and appropriate consideration, in accordance with established policies and procedures, be given to Fort James Jackson's National Historic Landmark nomination.

If your office requires further information regarding this matter, please feel free to contact my Projects Director, Heidi Green, in my Atlanta office at (404) 347-2280.

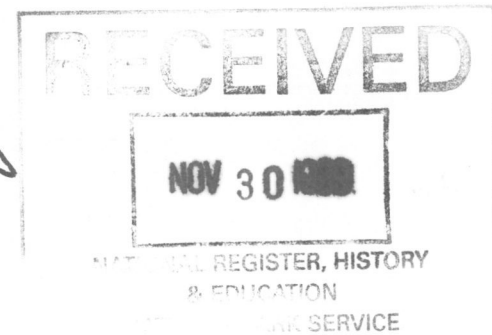
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul D. Coverdell
United States Senator

PDC/hlh





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H3415(418)

JAN 28 2000

MEMORANDUM

To: Secretary *Don Barry* FEB 02 2000
Through: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
From: Director *Bob Stanton*
Subject: Designation of 18 Properties as National Historic Landmarks: Request for Secretarial Action

At a meeting on December 15, 1999, the National Park System Advisory Board recommended designation of the following 18 properties as National Historic Landmarks:

ARCHITECTURE

1. **SOTTERLEY**, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2. **ABEL AND MARY NICHOLSON HOUSE**, SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
3. **GROVE STREET CEMETERY**, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT
4. **EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA
5. **ARTHUR HEURTLEY HOUSE**, OAK PARK, ILLINOIS
6. **WHITEHALL (Henry M. Flagler House)**, PALM BEACH, FLORIDA
7. **HIGHLAND PARK SHOPPING VILLAGE**, HIGHLAND PARK, TEXAS

INDIVIDUAL TOPICS

8. **GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BOYHOOD HOME SITE**, FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA
9. **KENNEBEC ARSENAL**, AUGUSTA, MAINE
10. **FORT JAMES JACKSON**, CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
11. **NATHAN AND POLLY JOHNSON PROPERTIES**, NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS
12. **MULBERRY PLANTATION (James and Mary Boykin Chesnut House)**, CAMDEN, SOUTH CAROLINA
13. **RANCHO CAMULOS**, VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
14. **HERNDON HOME**, ATLANTA, GEORGIA
15. **STONEWALL**, NEW YORK, NEW YORK

PREPARED BY: Patty Henry/TELEPHONE: 202/343-8163

ENGINEERING


- 16. **BOLLMAN TRUSS RAILROAD BRIDGE**, HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND
- 17. **SHENANDOAH-DIVES (Mayflower) MILL**, SAN JUAN COUNTY, COLORADO

ARCHEOLOGY

- 18. **FORT ST. PIERRE SITE**, WARREN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

In accordance with National Historic Landmarks Program regulations, the Board reviewed the studies nominating these properties for Landmark status and found that the properties meet National Historic Landmarks Program criteria. The Board, therefore, voted to recommend that they be designated as National Historic Landmarks.

I recommend that you approve the Board's recommendations and designate as National Historic Landmarks the 18 properties listed above.

APPROVE:  DISAPPROVE: _____
DATE: FEB 16 2000 DATE: _____

ATTACHMENT

H3417(2280)

MAY 25 2000

Honorable Lonice Barrett, Commissioner
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
205 Butler Street, Suite 1252
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Mr. Barrett:

I am pleased to inform you that Fort James Jackson in Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia has been found to possess national significance in the history of the United States. As a result, the Secretary of the Interior designated this property a National Historic Landmark on February 16, 2000.

The purpose of landmark designation is to identify and recognize nationally significant sites and to encourage their owners to preserve them. Landmarks are chosen after careful study by the National Park Service. They are evaluated by the National Park System Advisory Board and designated by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Designation as a National Historic Landmark automatically places a property in the National Register of Historic Places, if it is not already so listed, and extends to it the safeguards and benefits provided by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and other Federal laws protecting historic properties.

Each Landmark is eligible to receive one bronze plaque to commemorate the property's designation. You will shortly be contacted by a National Historic Landmarks coordinator for your area about applying for your plaque. If you have any questions about the plaque or the designation prior to that time please contact Ms. Patty Henry of the National Historic Landmarks Survey at 202/343-8163.

We are pleased to include Fort James Jackson on the roll of National Historic Landmarks as significant representatives of our Nation's heritage.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) Carol D. Shull

Carol D. Shull
Chief, National Historic Landmarks Survey and
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:

OWN/SHPO: Honorable Lonice Barrett, Commissioner
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
205 Butler Street, Suite 1252
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

HEO: Honorable Billy Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission
P.O. Box 8161
Savannah, Georgia 31412

cc: Mr. Jefferson C. Reed
704 East 48th Street
Savannah, Georgia 31405

bcc: PSO B. Bolger
0001 Stanton
2200 Stevenson
2280 Henry
2280 FORT JAMES JACKSON (NHL)

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JUN 12 2000

Shue
5-25-00

/Robbins
5/26/00

Meyer
Stanton
6-1-00
+ 2/2/00
6/5/00

0002
06/06/00

H3417(2280)

Honorable Paul Coverdell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coverdell:

I am pleased to inform you that Fort James Jackson in Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia, has been found to possess national significance in the history of the United States. As a result, the Secretary of the Interior designated this property a National Historic Landmark on February 16, 2000.

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Each Landmark is eligible to receive one bronze plaque to commemorate the property's designation. The owner(s) will shortly be contacted by a National Historic Landmarks coordinator for their area about applying for their plaque. If you have any questions about the plaque or the designation please contact Ms. Patty Henry of the National Historic Landmarks Survey at 202/343-8163.

We are pleased to include Fort James Jackson on the roll of National Historic Landmarks as significant representatives of our Nation's heritage.

Sincerely,



Robert Stanton
Director

IDENTICAL LETTER SENT TO:

Honorable Paul Coverdell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Senator Coverdell

Honorable Max Cleland
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Jack Kingston
House of Representative
Washington, D.C. 20510

bcc: PSO B. Bolger
0001 Stanton
2200 Stevenson
2605 CCU
2280 Henry
2280 FORT JAMES JACKSON (NHL)

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III.A.9
FORT JACKSON

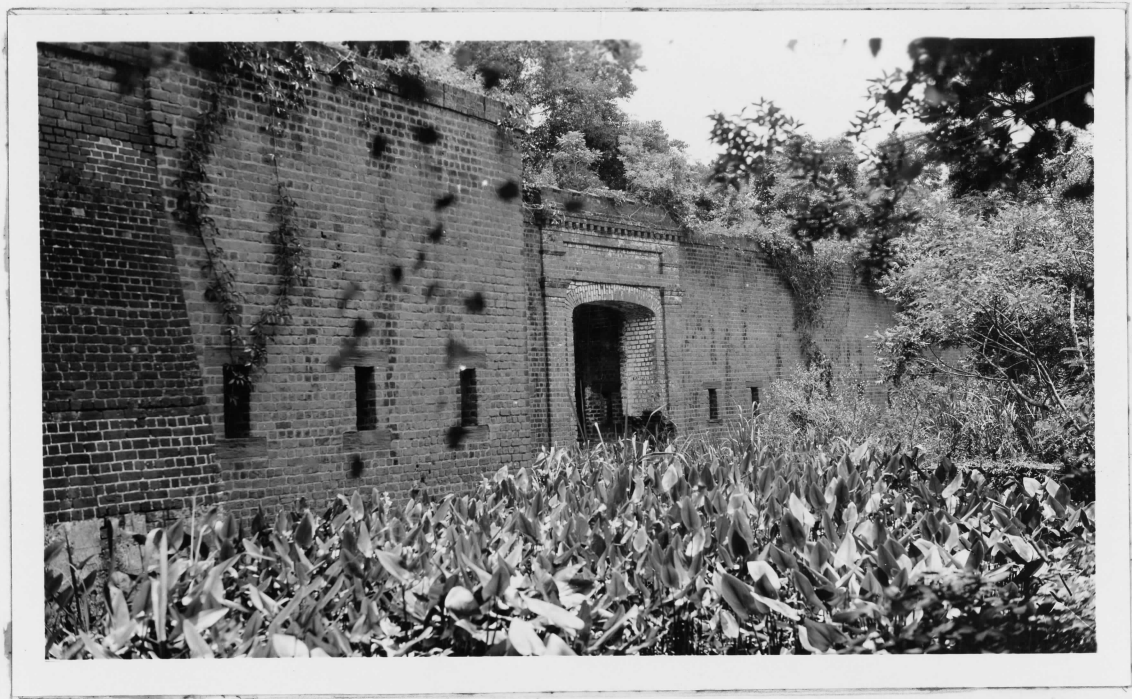


Looking out of Fort thru
Sally Port

6-23-34
T.S.O.

III.A.1
FORT JACKSON

6-23-34
r.s.e.



Sally Port from Counter-Scarp Wall

III.A.2
FORT JACKSON

6-23-34
r.s.e.



Sally Port from Counter-Scarp Wall

III.A.10
FORT JACKSON

6-23-34
r.s.c.



East Side of Fort

III.A.4
FORT JACKSON

6-23-34
r.s.c.



Approaching from the West
headed down the South Channel

III.A.5
FORT JACKSON

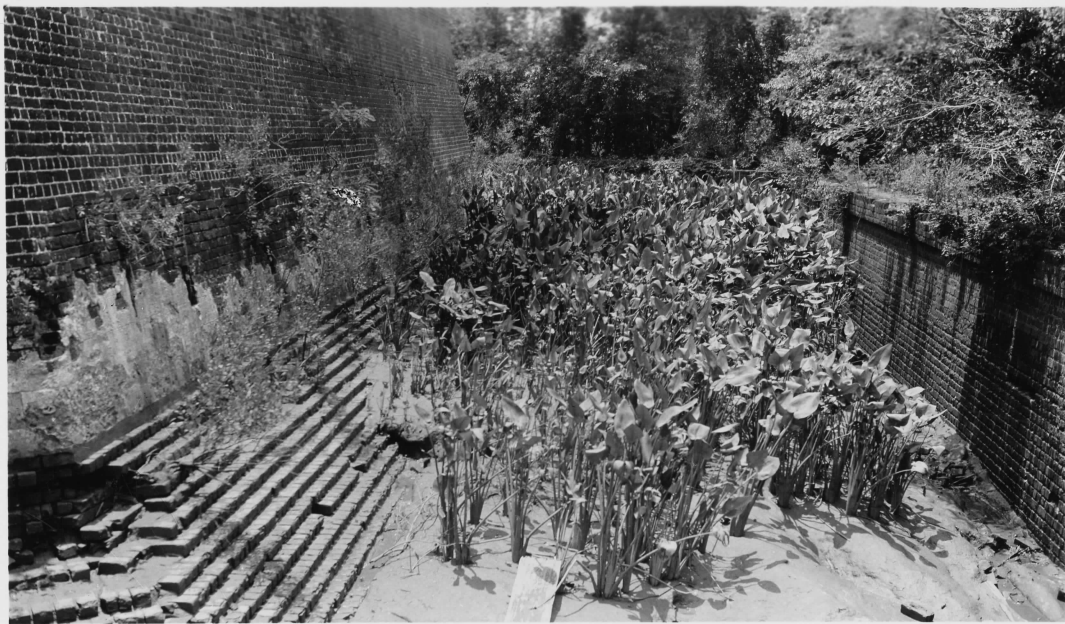
6-23-34
r.s.00



Approaching from the West
headed down the South Channel

III.A.8
FORT JACKSON

6-23-34
r.s.e.



Moat at Low Tide

III.A.6
FORT JACKSON

6-23-34
r.s.e.



Looking West (up stream)
across Moat in front of Fort

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

____ NATIONAL PARK



*Proposed
Fort Jackson, Ga.*

FILE NO.

FORT JACKSON, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Field Report - October 12, 1936

IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

FORT JACKSON, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

Name of Site: Fort Jackson, later Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia.

Location: On the south bank of the Savannah River, approximately three miles east of the City of Savannah.

Accessibility: With low marsh lands and old rice fields lying between the fort and the highland to its rear, the structure is not now directly accessible by roadway from the mainland. The roadway nearest the fort today is that leading to the property of the Standard Oil Company, a dock and terminal on the river about one half mile west of the fort. This unimproved dirt road joins the paved Chatham County road to Causten's Bluff at a point about one half mile to the rear of the Standard Oil dock, making the nearest paved road about a mile or a mile and a quarter distant from the fort. The fort may be reached on the water side by boat, but since there is now no boat service to the fort, special arrangements would have to be made for such a trip.

This whole picture changed as a result of World War II - Rys 1/17/51

Description of setting: Located on the marshy south bank of the Savannah River, Fort Jackson is practically surrounded on two sides and to the rear by old abandoned rice fields. The present main channel of the Savannah River passes within three hundred yards of the front faces of the fort. A jungle like growth of marsh grass, low trees and vines extend along the bank at the fort site, but thin out into weedy fields and marsh to the rear of the fort.

Description of site: Built on the south bank of the Savannah River, Fort Jackson occupies a commanding position about midway the last bend of the river as it approaches the City of Savannah. Occupying approximately two acres, together with its moat and counterscarp walls, the fort extends slightly into the river. With the exception of the covered brick sluiceway which conducts the water into the moat, and a portion of the front faces, the fort is today practically screened from view on the river side by a heavy growth of oaks, sea myrtle, cypress, and other plants and trees which have grown up on the parade ground and barbette platform of the fort.

Fort Jackson is a brick structure, roughly six-sided, but with one of the front faces divided into three slight angles. On the river side are three short faces, one parallel to the river, one leading southeastwardly, and one southwestwardly, roughly at thirty degree angles. Joining these walls are the side walls extending several hundred feet toward the rear of the fort, and perpendicular to the bank of the river. The wall closing the rear of the fort, on the land side, has a pronounced bastion in each of its two angles. The walls of

the fort, from the bottom of the moat to the top of the barbette platform are about thirty feet in height, making the inside measurement of the wall, from the level of the parade ground to barbette about twenty feet. The three front faces contain casemated storerooms and magazines. Above these three faces guns were mounted on a barbette platform, while the two side walls and the rear wall contain loopholes for defense on the land side. The entrance or sally port to the fort is midway the western side wall. The fort is entirely surrounded by a moat some twenty feet wide and seven feet deep, which is today flooded only at high tide. The moat has a brick counterscarp wall about eight feet high, and has been filled to a large extent by mud and a heavy growth of grass and water hyacinth. It should be noted that some embrasures are in the side walls.

Fort Jackson is generally in a fair state of preservation. The walls are in good condition, with some few exceptions. The drawbridge to the sally port and the floor of the sally port have been destroyed. The parade ground of the fort, perhaps an acre in size, is covered with a dense growth of bushes, weeds, vines, and trees, including myrtle, pine, and oak, some of which are quite large in the trunk and quite high. The barbette platform now has an earthen mound extending its length, with rather steep slopes, and an irregular surface. The entire barbette is covered with the same jungle like growth as the parade. The casemates have not been filled with sand or mud, and are as a rule dry.

Historical narrative: The site occupied by Fort Jackson has historic associations running far back into the early colonial days of Georgia. It is opposite the Five Fathom Hole, which was the deep anchorage for large ships from the earliest days of the Colony. The site was a part of the plantation of Nicholas Turnbull, who had a wharf lot here for river shipment. A mud fort, about which little is known, also existed here apparently during the Revolution. Just above the site, toward Savannah, are still to be seen piling of a wharf said to have been used by the British in mooring their ships during the Revolution.

The form of the present structure of Fort Jackson is the result of a series of re-constructions and additions dating as far back as 1808. On May 16, 1808, Lot No. 12, containing 1.6 acres of land was purchased by the United States Government, from Nicholas Turnbull, to be used as the site of a new fortification for the protection of Savannah. Work was begun immediately and early in 1809, a "strong battery" of "mason work" and mud was reported to Congress as nearly completed on the site. Later in 1809 the work at Five Fathom Hole was reported completed as a "battery of masonry calculated for eight guns." The name "Fort Jackson" was not applied officially until 1811, when it was described as "an inclosed work of masonry and mud, mounting six heavy guns; two small brick magazines, and a wooden barrack for one company of men and officers." However, the fort was then reported to be in an unfinished state. From 1822 through 1825, a garrison of one company of men was regularly reported on duty at Fort Jackson. After that date, however, several sources indicate that garrisoning of this post was very erratic, the regular force of the United States regulars in Savannah being reported as located at the Oglethorpe Barracks in the city, rather than at the fort.

Repairs and additions to the fort were begun in 1823, continued in 1842, and for some time after 1847. Additional armament was proposed

for the fort as early as 1836. During the War between the States, the fort was taken over and occupied by Confederate Troops until the capture of Savannah by General Sherman in December, 1864. Following the war, Fort Jackson was not re-instated as an active fortification, and during the 1870's attempts were made by the War Department to re-condition the work as a modern fort. Modifications by the board of engineers, approved on January 11, 1870, to fit it for the reception of five heavy guns on the barbette, were commenced in 1872, but suspended in 1876 due to a lack of appropriations for the work. Five temporary platforms for modern rifled cannon were laid during this period, but the cannon never mounted. During this period the fort's name had been changed to "Oglethorpe," but this designation was discontinued by the War Department's General Order No. 10, dated January 24, 1905, and the name assigned to an active post in north Georgia. At this time, the old Fort Jackson reservation was placed under the supervision of the Engineer Department of the United States Army.

The final disposal of Fort Jackson by the United States Government was recommended by the War Department on November 19, 1921. Sale of the property was authorized by an act of Congress approved March 4, 1923, and on June 9, 1925, the City of Savannah purchased it for usage for park purposes only. Since that time several movements on the part of the city and interested citizens to develop the fort as a park have been initiated without definite results as yet. The latest steps toward the creation of a park at Fort Jackson were taken by Mayor Gamble and the City Council of Savannah, and certain interested citizens of the community. On March 17, 1935, Mayor Gamble approached Director Robert Fechner of the Civilian Conservation Corps regarding the possibility of the creation of a CCC project at Fort Jackson. Three days later, the City Council passed a resolution offering Fort Jackson to the Department of the Interior, National Park Service for development as a park, in order that surveys might be made of its possibilities for such a purpose.

Historical Evaluation: Fort Jackson is of definite Historical interest as an early unit of the defense system of Savannah and its water approaches. Its constructional history is of interest due to the fact that its evolution as a fortification exhibits the several stages from a mud and masonry battery to a casemated and barbette work. Unlike Fort Pulaski, Fort Jackson has not played a definite part in an actual military occurrence, and thus does not assume the national significance as the former fort. Interest in Fort Jackson would today lie in the beauty of its natural setting, the uniqueness of its construction and present wild condition rather than its association with the events of national history. Due to this fact, it is believed that Fort Jackson would lend itself to, and prove of more value as a city or state park with a definite association with the history of Georgia and Savannah.

Possibilities of Preservation: Following a program of cleaning up the property, it is believed that the State of Georgia or some historical group in Savannah, or even the city itself, would find little difficulty in perpetually caring for the area.

Sponsorship: Present sponsorship of the Fort Jackson area is in the hands of the owners of the property, the City of Savannah.

Restoration or repairs: It is not deemed advisable or necessary to regard the Fort

Jackson structure as a restoration project since it is practically undamaged. Restoration of the drawbridge, sally port flooring, steps to the barbette, and one of the casemates as a public contact point and rest room would be enough repair to cover public facilities in the area.

Maintenance and income: Annual maintenance cost would be slight in the area. One laborer and a guide would be sufficient personnel to handle the area, or one full time guide and custodian, with a part time laborer. Repairs and cleaning up of the area would constitute the main annual expense. Income could be derived perhaps from a small parking or entrance fee.

Previous treatment: No previous treatment.

Suggested Treatment: It would be necessary for the State of Georgia or Savannah to acquire a right of way across the marsh to the rear of the fort in order to construct an approach road. Since an old causeway crosses the marsh nearly to the fort, from the Chatham County Causten's Bluff road, a new road of perhaps one mile and a half in length could be built on this alignment. A small area immediately to the rear of the fort would have to be acquired for the purpose of constructing a parking area.

Within the fort structure itself the main work necessary would be the cleaning up of the parade, thinning out the undergrowth, and constructing paths. The barbette which is also overgrown with bushes and small and large tree could also be considerably cleared, paths constructed and guard rails built. All of the fine trees on both parade and barbette should be retained for their beauty and for the distinctive atmosphere they create at Fort Jackson.

Museum: A museum is not thought necessary, as the military story with which Fort Jackson is associated in even the slightest degree can be more vividly told at Fort Pulaski.

Research required: Sufficient research should be completed in order to learn the full details of the construction of the fort, and the main details of its significance as a unit in the defenses of Savannah. Research in the Office, Chief of Engineers, United States Army, Washington, and in the United States District Engineer Office, Savannah would be required.

Bibliographical references:

- A. American State Papers, Military Affairs, I-VII, Washington, Gales and Seaton, 1832-1861
- B. United States Military Reservations National Cemeteries and Military Parks. Title, Jurisdiction, Etc. Prepared in the Office of the Judge Advocate General United States Army Revised Edition: 1916 Washington, Government Printing Office.
- C. "Plan Reclaiming Old Fort Jackson," article, Savannah Morning News, 3/18/35
- D. "Ft. Jackson As National Park," article, Savannah Morning News, 3/21/35.

Photographs: See following pages.

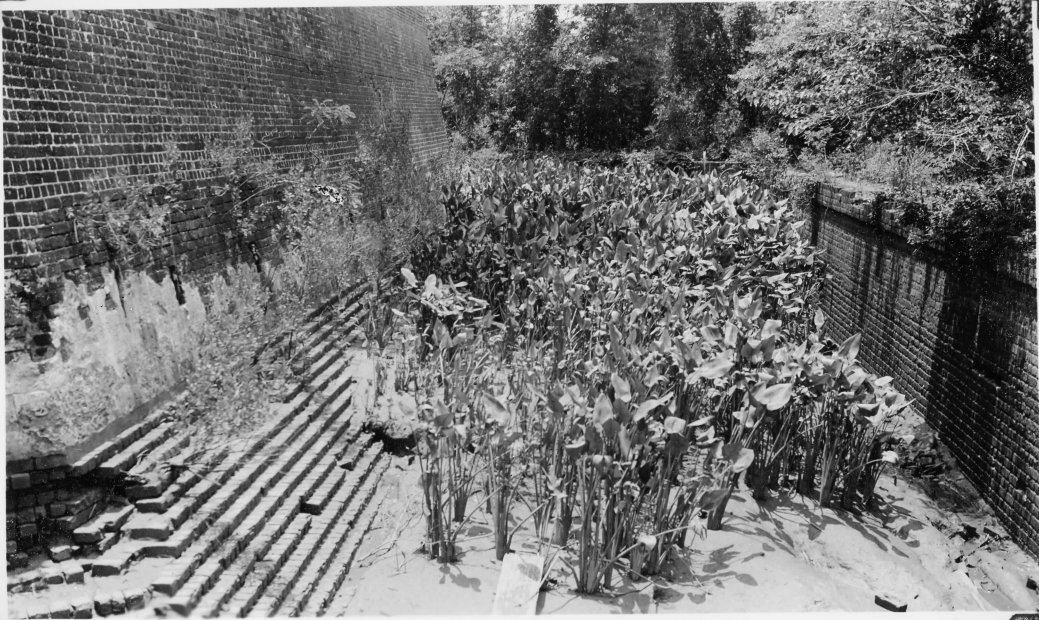
Maps and plans: Maps and plans of Fort Jackson may be obtained in the Construction Section, Office, Chief of Engineers, United States Army, Washington, and in the United States District Engineer Office, Savannah.



Fort Jackson, Savannah, Georgia
Sally Port from the counter scarp wall



Fort Jackson, Savannah, Georgia
Faces fronting on the River approaching from
the west, and heading down the South Channel



Fort Jackson, Savannah, Georgia
Moat at low tide



Fort Jackson, Savannah, Georgia
East side of fort.

Respectfully submitted:

Rogers W. Young
Rogers W. Young
Junior Historian

Approved:

Ralston B. Lattimore
Ralston B. Lattimore
Acting Superintendent,
Fort Pulaski National Monument.

Edna M. Colman

Study File

FORT JACKSON, GEORGIA

Fort Jackson, Georgia, about three miles below the City of Savannah, which is about fifteen miles from the mouth of the Savannah River, was one of the early fortifications, established by the United States Government for the defense of that city.

It was projected in 1808 and used during the war of 1812-15.

"Major General Thomas Pinckney of the Southern Division arrived in town yesterday by land from Charleston, accompanied by Col. Morris, his aide de camp. Soon after his arrival the Chatham Artillery and the Rangers repaired to the front of his lodging and greeted his visit with a salute. In the afternoon the General accompanied by several other gentlemen took a view of the boundaries of the City. This morning he proceeded down the river to inspect Fort Jackson below Five Fathom Hole in a barge belonging to the revenue James Madison."⁽¹⁾

Fort Jackson, named in honor of Gen. James Jackson, Governor of Georgia, and previous to that as "the Mud Fort", is about two miles below the City. The land was originally conveyed to the United States by Nicholas Turnbull, by a deed dated May 16, 1808.⁽²⁾ The jurisdiction was ceded to the United States by Act of Georgia Legislature, making a general cession of jurisdiction approved December 22, 1808. The fort was occupied during the war of 1812 by a detachment of the Chatham Artillery. It was destroyed by fire in 1833 and not rebuilt until 1842, when it

(1) The Savannah Republican, June 22, 1812.

(2) Historic and Picturesque Savannah, Adelaide Wilson, p. 116.

(3)
was modified and described as an open barbette battery with five guns.

"This is a small work, built on a low marsh, on a site four miles from Savannah, on a site near the bend of the river and commands important points on the channell on the interior lines of fortifications. It is built of heavy brick masonry. Its armament consists of ten 24-pounder iron guns, three field pieces, five 8-inch howitzers, one 10-inch mortar, and one 8-inch mortar. It cost the government \$80,000. There is also an exterior line of fortifications erected to protect the mouth of the Savannah on its sea approach at Tybee Island."
(4)

Fort Jackson was seized by Governor Brown for the State of Georgia shortly after that state seceded from the Union - January 3, 1861. It was retaken by Federal troops under General W. T. Sherman, after the evacuation of Savannah December 21, 1864 by Confederates.
(5)

Fort Jackson was renamed Fort Oglethorpe in 1884.

Oglethorpe Barracks, now a part of the city of Savannah, cover two blocks and the land between. The boundaries are Liberty, Drayton, Harris and Bull streets. It is oblong in shape and 306' 6" running along Liberty and Harris streets and 212' 6" along Drayton and Bull streets.
(6)
Since its construction in 1833-35 it has been modified several times.

(3) Estill, J. H., Guide to Savannah, pp. 60, 271

(4) The New York Herald, January 31, 1862. For detailed plans see Plans in Room 2323, Munitions Bldg., Plans No. 10, 12, 13, July 22, 1850.

(5) Hardee, Charles H., Reminiscences and Recollections of Old Savannah, p. 105.

(6) Estill, J. H., op. cit., p. 27.

It is unoccupied now and was recommended for sale at auction. It was ceded to the City of Savannah by the War Department in 1925 for park purposes.

Submitted by:

Edna May Colman
Edna May Colman, per. W.E.P.
Historical Assistant.
June 26, 1935



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June 25, 1935

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PORT JACKSON, GEORGIA

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