

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 29 1976

DATE ENTERED 10-15-24
(10-15-64)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fort Matanzas

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 105

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

St. Augustine

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4th

STATE

Florida

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

12

COUNTY

St. Johns

CODE

109

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

1895 Phoenix Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Park Files, C/O Castillo de San Marcos NM

STREET & NUMBER

1 Castillo Drive

CITY, TOWN

St. Augustine

STATE

Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Road and Trail System Plan, Drawing No. NM-MAT 2003B

DATE

June 27, 1950

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Castillo de San Marcos NM

CITY, TOWN

St. Augustine

STATE

Florida

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	Restored	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Matanzas is a restored and stabilized masonry tower which, seen from the east, resembles a reversed L. The tower is 48 feet square and 40 feet high. The horizontal portion of the L constitutes a gun deck, under which there is a cistern. At the same level as the gun deck is the former guard quarters, where there is a fireplace. Above these quarters there is, in the upright portion of the L, another room reached by a stairway from the gun deck, where the officer of the guard had his quarters. This room also provides access to a powder storage compartment in the western wall of the tower. A ladder in this upper story leads through a hatch or scuttle to the roof or observation deck.

Many of the original features--the low curb of a well in the gun deck (to extract water from the cistern), the beam and masonry roof-floor between the lower and upper stories, sleeping bunks, doors and windows, the structure sheltering the hatch in the roof--have disappeared. Utilitarian features--a boards roof-floor between the lower and upper stories, a stairway from the gun deck to the second story, and a ladder to the roof--have replaced some of the original features.

During the 19th century, Fort Matanzas split vertically into three separate segments and became a ruin. However in 1916-24 the War Department pulled segments together and stabilized the structure.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Two historical associations comprise the basic significance of Fort Matanzas National Monument. First, the 1565 Ribault Massacre occurred somewhere in the area of what is now the park, and comprises part of a sequence of events whereby Spain eliminated France from competition for dominance in northern Florida. Second, the series of Spanish outpost structures located in the vicinity- the last and most impressive of which is Fort Matanzas- served as important defense elements for the Spanish at Castillo de San Marcos and thereby represent important defensive elements in Spain's protection of its interests in the New World.

The Spanish-French struggle for Florida in the 1500's resulted in Spanish domination of the Southeast for nearly 200 years. During most of that period Matanzas was a typical Florida outpost that served as a lookout tower to spot approaching enemy ships and to serve St. Augustine, the capital of Spanish Florida. Previous towers had been built of wood, but in 1737-1742 the coquina Fort Matanzas was built to reinforce the garrison in the face of increasing depredations from James Oglethorpe's English colony of Georgia. Having little military value to the Nation, the old tower and its vicinity were abandoned when Florida was ceded to the United States in 1819.

Built of masonry and coquina, the Fort also exemplifies the engineering and construction skills of the Colonial Spanish.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Georgia Colonial Records, vol.35, 352-3, 373-8; vol.36, 65.
 Mereness, N.D. (ed) Travels in the American Colonies, (New York: MacMillan, 1916) p. 236.
 NC Coll, AGI 58-1-32/37, Gov. Montiano and royal officials of Florida to Count de Fonclara.
 (St. Augustine, March 26, 1743), 24ff.
 SC, AGI 87-3-12/51, Gov Manuel de Montiano of Fla to Sec of State for the Indies Jose del Campillo. (St. Augustine: March 20, 1743), 7ff. (con't.)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 19.7 298.21
 UTM REFERENCES

UTM References Listed on Continuation Sheet -OK

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	100000	1800000

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	100000	1800000

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Same boundaries as Fort Matanzas National Monument

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Luis R. Arana, Historian, Florida-Caribbean District

ORGANIZATION

DATE 6/14/73, '7 (REVISED 6/76)

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN c/o Castillo de San Marcos NM, 1 Castillo Drive

STATE

St. Augustine

Florida

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ___ NO ___ NONE ___

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National ___ State ___ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE SEP 23 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 8/4/77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET Fort Matanzas ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Stetson Coll, AGI 87-1-2/115(35). Engineer Pedro Ruiz de Olano of Fla to the
Crown. (St. Augustine, March 20, 1743), 7ff.

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UTM References

- A 17/477630 3287440
- B 17/478310 3286320
- C 17/477395 3285540
- D 17/476080 3287235
- E 17/476460 3287520