

Fort Moultrie

SOUTH CAROLINA

ADMINISTRATION

Fort Moultrie is administered as part of Fort Sumter National Monument by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Box 428, Sullivan's Island, SC 29482, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources." The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Fort Moultrie has had a long history. Three generations before the Civil War—in another revolution—at the first of three forts built on this site, Col. William Moultrie and about 400 South Carolinians beat off a squadron of 9 British warships on June 28, 1776. The Battle of Sullivan's Island, or Fort Moultrie as it came to be called, was one of the most decisive engagements of the American Revolution. It kept the south free of British control for the next 3 years and allowed Southern men and supplies to strengthen the patriot cause in the North.

The present Fort Moultrie was built between 1807 and 1811. Its low 15-foot-high walls, covering 1½ acres, were built of sand faced with brick inside and out. Full armament was about 40 guns. Three brick barracks built within the courtyard housed up to 500 men, and a powder magazine held up to 500 barrels of gunpowder. A furnace used to heat solid shot to red glow was also built in the courtyard. The barracks and furnace were destroyed in the Civil War, but the fort's original walls and powder magazine stand intact.

In the mid-1830's, while the U.S. Government was trying to relocate the Seminole Indians to open Florida to settlement, Osceola, a self-made leader of the Seminoles who opposed emigration to the west, fought a 2-year guerrilla war against settlers and the U.S. Army. Finally captured, he and 200 other Indians were confined at Fort Moultrie to isolate them from Seminoles still fighting the war. Osceola died in Moultrie from malarial complications after only 1 month of confinement. Before

his death, however, he had become a celebrity to Charlestonians and was granted considerable freedom within the fort.

New improvements in naval and coastal artillery occurred after the Civil War, among them the development of breech-loading, rapid-fire guns. Battery Jasper was built in 1896 to hold these powerful new weapons. The huge concrete structure would also provide protection against increasingly powerful naval armament. Although never tested in battle, such coastal batteries played a substantial role in safeguarding the United States from enemy attacks.

After World War II, when new weapons had completely transformed tactical and strategical concepts, forts like Moultrie became obsolete; and in

1947, after 171 years of service, it was officially deactivated. In January 1961, the National Park Service took over its administration.

ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Fort Moultrie is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in winter and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in summer. It is closed Christmas Day.

The fort is on west Middle St. on Sullivan's Island. From U.S. 17B take S.C. 703 to Middle St. Camping and picnicking facilities are on Isle of Palms 4 miles east of Fort Moultrie.

Please protect yourself and help us protect the fort by staying on the stairs, walks, and flat sections. Please do not remove or disturb relics.



