

walled city, one of the earlier in the United States. The town was surrounded on three sides, by the **Cubo Defense Line** and the **Rosario Defense Line**. The Cubo line came first, running east-west from the Castillo to the San Sebastian River, across the San Agustín peninsula. It went through where the City Gate, constructed in 1808, now stands. It was built of palm logs and earth with a moat on the north side, and was last used during the Civil War. In all, three redoubts were built along the Cubo Line, the Santo Domingo, Medio Cubo and Cubo. And five along the Rosario Line.

Subsequent major English attacks came in 1728 by Colonel William Palmer of Carolina and in 1740 by Gen. James Oglethorpe of Georgia. Both of these attacks were repulsed by the Castillo and the added defense which the wall around the city provided.

VII. THE WALLED CITY: THE ROSARIO DEFENSE LINE & SANTO DOMINGO REDOUBT

The **Rosario Defense Line** joined the **Cubo Line** at the **Santo Domingo Redoubt**. It was located by an archaeological "dig" at Orange and Cordova Street. The Rosario Line ran south from the redoubt to the St. Augustine National Cemetery, then turned east to the bay. The wall was made of earth with plantings of razor-sharp Spanish Bayonet and prickly pear cactus on the top and outer side. A moat, consisting mostly of the Maria Sanchez inlet was outside the wall. Seven other redoubts, three of stone, spaced along the Rosario Line provided added protection to the west and south sides of the city. One of the redoubts survived until the mid-1880's. Since these redoubts and the line are now mostly on private property, this section of the walled city is interpreted by markers along Cordova Street. These lines (walls) played an important role in turning back the attacks of Palmer in 1728, Oglethorpe in 1740, and the "Patriots" in 1812.

VIII. THE OUTER DEFENSES

Defensive fortifications built to the north and south of San Agustín combined with the wall around

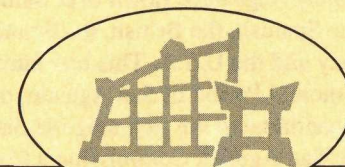
the town and the Castillo to make the Presidio one of the best planned military garrisons of its day. These included:

1. The **Hornwork Line**, half a mile north of the Cubo line, was important in the defense against Oglethorpe's attack in 1740.
2. **Fort Mosé** was the first fort built by free Africans. They had escaped from Georgia and the Carolinas. Its location, just north of today's city limits, is on a small hammock in the marshland. An interpretive marker tells about the important role Fort Mosé played in the city's defenses.
3. **Fort Matanzas** was named for the slaughter of the French troops by Menéndez in 1565. It is a unique small stone (coquina) fort built in 1742 near the south end of Anastasia Island. The fort is now part of the National Park Service as is the Castillo de San Marcos. A ferry trip can be taken to this fort for an interesting self-guided tour.

THE PRESIDIO COMMISSION PROJECT

The Presidio Commission's initial project is to reconstruct that portion of the line that ran from the City Gate to and including the first redoubt west, the Santo Domingo Redoubt at the northeast corner of Orange and Cordova Streets. Reconstruction will closely follow the original construction methods except to make the underground footings more stable, and to make the palm logs out of concrete for long term durability.

The names of all those who contribute to this project will be either in the permanent historical records of the City or, by way of the Commission's records, in the St. Augustine Historical Society's records. If you would like to be included in this historical project, please write to the Commission indicating your interest. Write to **H. C. Hoefler, Chair, Presidio de San Agustín Commission, 3580 Lone Wolf Trail, St. Augustine, FL 32086. Tel/Fax 904-794-2356, hch@aug.com.**



THE CUBO DEFENSE LINE & SANTO DOMINGO REDOUBT Reconstruction Project

"The Presidio Project"

An undertaking of
El Presidio de San Agustín
Commission

Inaugural Brochure
January, 1999:

For the Eight Panel Pictorial
Story of the History of
Spanish San Agustín

San Agustín de la Florida

The Spanish Colonial Period

An Historical Review

Many flags have flown over Saint Augustine, those of the Spanish, the British, the Spanish again, the Confederacy and the U.S.A. This brochure talks to the Spanish Colonial Period of San Agustín, presented as the accompaniment to the first tangible display of the Presidio de San Agustín Commission's Cubo Defense Line and Santo Domingo Redoubt project, an eight panel pictorial story of this early Spanish period in our "most loyal and valorous city".

The word "presidio" is the Spanish equivalent of garrison - a fortified military outpost - of the kind found in the "new world" to protect its military interests and its Catholic missions. San Agustín was the first presidio on this continent, established in 1565. The modern day Presidio de San Agustín Commission is a group of governmental and citizen interests coming together to reinvigorate the process of bringing to life again the story of our early fortified, walled settlement.

I. DISCOVER SAN AGUSTÍN

- the oldest permanent settlement in the United States;
- the center of the early struggle among European powers to control the New World;
- the location of the oldest stone fort in the United States;
- a walled city;
- the first fortification built in this country by free Africans.

King Philip II of Spain sent his trusted Admiral, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, to destroy a French outpost and establish a *Presidio* to defend Spanish interests. For over a century a series of nine wooden forts protected the settlement until the Castillo de San Marcos, a coquina fort, was completed in 1695 in time to withstand a major English attack and siege. Some years later a wall was built around the three sides of the town not facing the harbor. Outer defensive lines and Ft. Matanzas provided even more protection.

II. FOUNDING OF SAN AGUSTÍN

Exploration of the Florida coasts, especially by the Spanish, began soon after Columbus' discoveries. Juan Ponce de León was among the earliest. He claimed the land for Spain and named it La Florida. Permanent colonization did not begin until Philip II learned the French Huguenots had built Fort Caroline near the mouth of the St. Johns River in 1564. Menéndez arrived with a fleet of ships to establish a garrison for permanent defense and to eliminate this "encroachment" of Spanish territory. He landed on September 8, 1565 at what today is the *La Leche* shrine.

Leaving some of his force behind with friendly natives, Menéndez took the other soldiers north and captured Fort Caroline. At the same time, the French fleet under Jean Ribault escaped only to run into a heavy storm which wrecked most of the fleet south of Anastasia Island. With a small force Menéndez captured most of the French at the next inlet south and slaughtered them. The river from St. Augustine south to the inlet and the inlet itself are named *Matanzas*, the Spanish word for "place of slaughter". Thus began Spain's control of Florida for the next 198 years.

III. THE WOODEN FORT ERA

During the first 130 years of the Presidio the sole defense for San Agustín was a series of nine wooden forts, most near the vicinity of the present Castillo de San Marcos. The first was a "great house", a community center the local natives gave to Menendez, which he converted into the first fort. All of the forts proved to be inadequate. Three of the nine were burned, one by the natives who had given it to the settlers, another by a garrison mutiny, and the third during a major attack by the English pirate Sir Francis Drake, who, in 1586, also burned down the town. Other forts had to be replaced because of rot, erosion or disrepair. These were turbulent times and a stronger primary defense was needed if San Agustín was to survive. Funds for a stone fort had been sought from Spain many times, beginning in the late 1500's, but Spain procrastinated.

IV. CASTILLO DE SAN MARCOS

With the increasing threat of the English in Carolina, Spain relented and funded a stone fort of coquina which still stands. Coquina, a local shell-rock quarried on Anastasia Island, was ferried to the mainland by native, convict and slave labor. The entire undertaking was a great engineering feat. Work began in 1672 and was completed in 1695. The Castillo is the oldest stone fort in the United States. It is square in shape with a bastion (an angled extension which allowed defenders to fire at anyone attempting to climb the walls) at each corner. The Castillo was armed with 22 canon, capable of firing balls from 6 to 36 pounds in weight.

Compared with the previous wooden forts and other forts in North America, the Castillo was a state-of-the-art military science construction marvel. The royal arms placed over the main gate in 1756 marks the end of modernization work started in 1739. The Castillo de San Marcos is the most visited site in St. Augustine.

V. THE ENGLISH ATTACK ON THE CASTILLO

The stone fort's completion was none too soon. The first test came in 1702 when Governor James Moore of Carolina brought 500 English soldiers and 300 natives to San Agustín by ship to capture the fort and town. The latter was easily taken. Greatly outnumbered, the Spanish soldiers inside the Castillo withstood a 52 day siege. The townspeople had moved into the fort, and the livestock were kept in the dry moat. The siege ended when Spanish warships arrived from Havana and blocked the harbor entrance, bottling up the English fleet. Moore burned his ships and prepared to return to Charleston over land. But before departing, he torched San Agustín leaving only the Castillo and a monastery remaining.

VI. THE WALLED CITY: THE CUBO DEFENSE LINE

The Castillo had withstood Moore's siege in 1702, but it was unable to save the town. When San Agustín was being rebuilt, it was decided to make it a