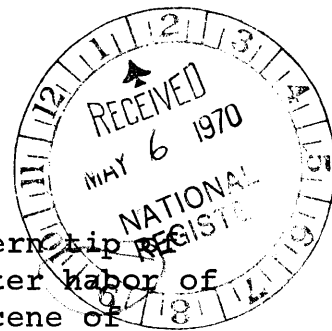


FORT PICKENS  
(FORT PICKENS STATE PARK)  
U.S. 98, 21A, west of Pensacola Beach  
Escambia County



Old brick Fort Pickens, built on the western tip of Santa Rosa Island to defend the important deepwater harbor of Pensacola against foreign attack, has been the scene of activities in every major conflict in which this country has been engaged, from the Civil War to World War II.

Its major role was during the Civil War, when it remained one of three Southern forts (all in Florida) that the Confederates were unable to seize from the Federals.

Santa Rosa Island has been the location of many fortifications since the early 1700's. It was recognized by the Spanish, French, British, Confederates, and the United States Army and Navy as the key to the defense of Pensacola Harbor.

Pensacola was the capital of West Florida when the Florida territory was ceded to the United States in 1821. In anticipation of the selection of Pensacola as the principal United States naval depot of the Gulf of Mexico, the U.S. government built four forts in the area. Fort Pickens, completed in 1834, was named in honor of Brig. Gen. Andrew Pickens of the South Carolina State Troops in the American Revolution.

At the onset of the Civil War, the fort had been unoccupied for several years. The day Florida passed her ordinance of secession, Jan. 10, 1861, the fort became the Federal headquarters. Confederates made several attempts to capture Fort Pickens, but all hostilities were stopped when they evacuated their holdings in the area in May of 1862. The Federals immediately took possession of the other deserted forts and the Navy Yard, and held Pensacola for the rest of the war.

As the war waned, Fort Pickens was used as a prison for military and political prisoners. In 1875, Congress again used Fort Pickens as a prison with the Apache, Geronimo, and some of his band being held there for two years after their capture in 1866.

Fort Pickens was an active coastal defense fortification during the Spanish-American War, and also was activated during the two World Wars.

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

*Arundell Allen Pennington*  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

AUG 12 1970

ATTEST:

*William J. Montague*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date

JUL 8 1970

PH0022254

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida	
COUNTY: Escambia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 31 1972	

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Fort Pickens

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
State Road 399A west of Pensacola Beach

CITY OR TOWN:  
Santa Rosa Island

STATE Florida	CODE 12	COUNTY: Escambia	CODE 033
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Division of Recreation and Parks  
Department of Natural Resources

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Larson Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Tallahassee

STATE:  
Florida

CODE:  
12

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Elliott Building

CITY OR TOWN:  
Tallahassee

STATE:  
Florida

CODE:  
12

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:

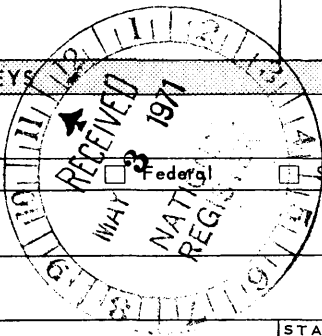
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida  
COUNTY: Escambia  
ENTRY NUMBER: MAY 31 1972  
DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

PH0022254  
E 475740

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

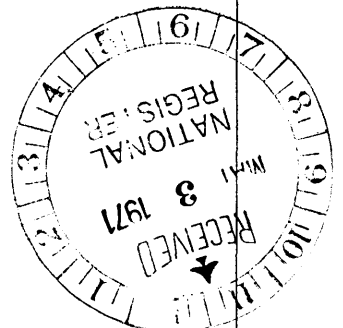
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Pickens, named in honor of Brig. Gen. Andrew Pickens, was completed in 1834. The fort was pentagonal in shape, with a bastion at each of the five corners. Each bastion was like a small independent fort, having its own guns and magazine. These bastions projected from the regular line of the fort walls so that they could set up cross fire with the facing bastion and prevent an enemy from attacking the fort walls.

The walls of Fort Pickens were 40 feet high and twelve feet thick. The fort was complete with protected passageways, a dry ditch, flanking outworks, and portholes for one tier of guns in bomb-proof casements with an additional tier of guns mounted on top of the walls (en barbette.) The armament of the fort was to consist of 252 guns of various types and calibers.

Present-day Fort Pickens looks much as it did in its early days. Recreational facilities for public use and enjoyment have been added by the Division of Recreation and Parks. A large picnic and swimming area, along with a fishing dock and boat launching ramp comprise the total park area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



5

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

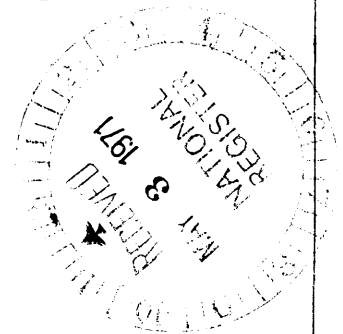
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Fort Pickens, built on the western tip of Santa Rosa Island to defend the important deepwater harbor of Pensacola against foreign attack, has been the scene of activities in every major conflict in which this country has been engaged, from the Civil War to World War II. This terrain was recognized by the Spanish, French, British and the United States as the key to the defense of Pensacola Harbor.

Fort Pickens was one of the few in the south from which the United States flag was never brought down during the Civil War. Although under intermittent cannon fire from its companion forts--McRee and Barrancas, both of which were in Confederate hands--Fort Pickens thwarted a Confederate land assault before the attackers ever approached the walls of the fort.

At the onset of the Civil War, the fort had been unoccupied for several years. The day Florida passed her ordinance of secession, January 10, 1861, the fort became the Federal headquarters. Confederates attempted several times to capture Fort Pickens, but all hostilities were stopped when they evacuated their holdings in this area in May, 1862. The Federals immediately took possession of the Navy Yard and other deserted forts, and held Pensacola for the rest of the war.

As the Civil War waned, Fort Pickens was used as a prison for military and political prisoners. Notable among prisoners held at the fort, is the Apache, Geronimo, who along with some of his band was held for two years after being captured in 1866.



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Armstrong, H. Clay. History of Escambia County, Florida.  
 St. Augustine: Record Company, 1930.  
 Bears, Edwin C. "Civil War Operations in and Around Pensacola,"  
Florida Historical Quarterly. XXXVI (July, 1957 - April,  
 1958), 125-165; XXXIX (July, 1960 - April, 1961), 231-255,  
 330-353.

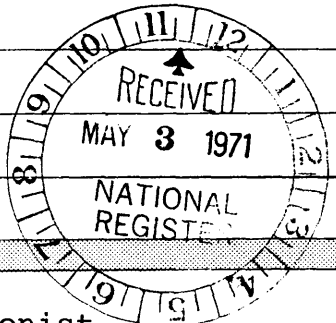
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	30 ° 19' 52"	87 ° 17' 45"		30 °	18'	54"
NE	30 ° 19' 33"	87 ° 16' 04"		30	17	05
SE	30 ° 19' 12"	87 ° 15' 15"		30	17	28
SW	30 ° 18' 57"	87 ° 15' 15"		-1	17	54

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ~~5.00~~ **8.50** acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Randy F. Nimnicht, Historic Preservationist

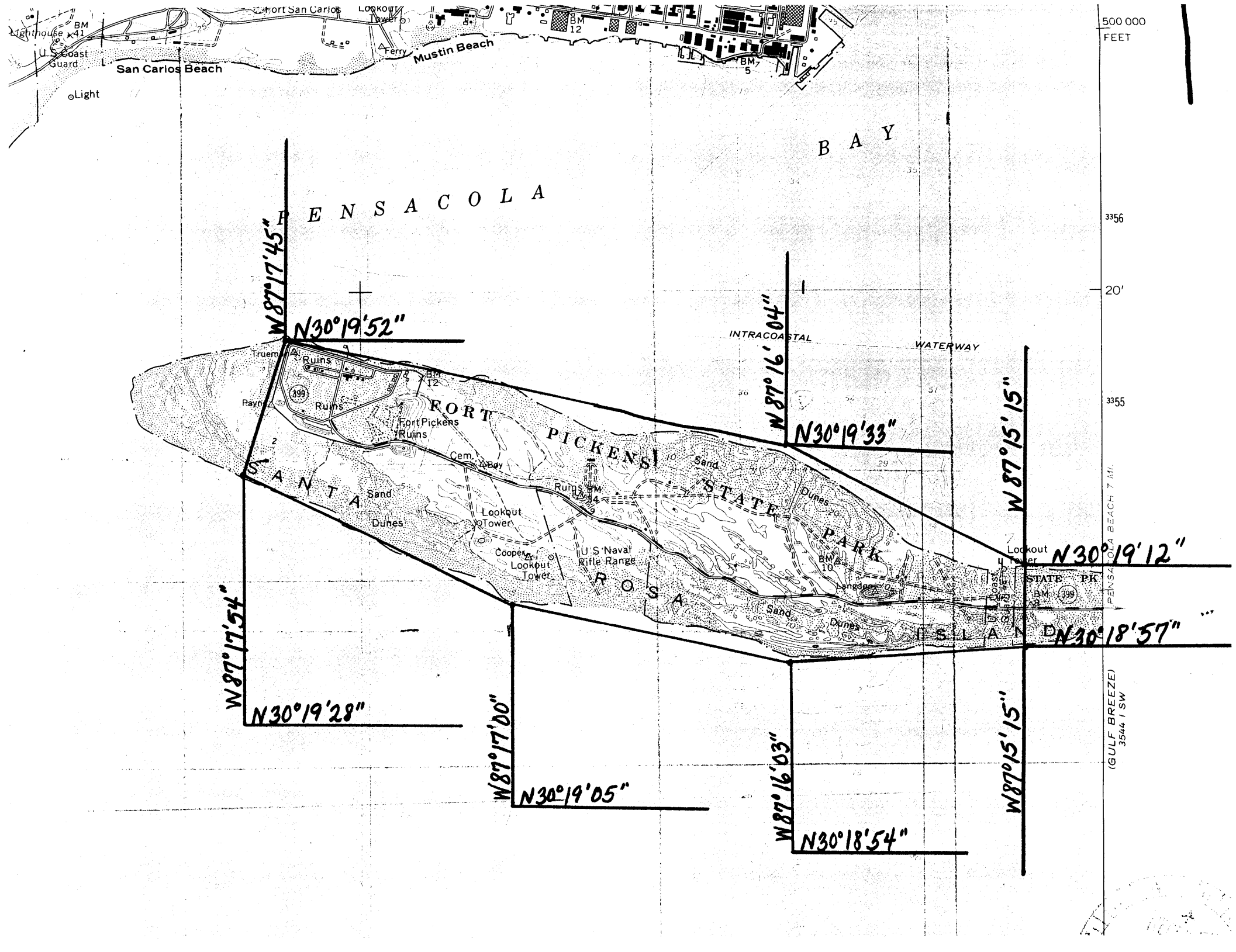
ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives, History and Records Mgt. DATE: 3/10/71

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u><i>Robert William Utley</i></u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>April 29, 1971</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u><i>Robert M. Utley</i></u>              Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>5/31/72</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u><i>William H. Stuebel</i></u>              Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: _____</p>
--	---



500 000  
FEET

3356

20'

3355

PENSA COLA BEACH 7 MI.

(GULF BREEZE)  
3544 1 SW



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Escambia	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 31 1972	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Fort Pickens

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

State Road 399A west of Pensacola Beach

CITY OR TOWN:

Santa Rosa Island

STATE:

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY:

Escambia

CODE

033

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Florida News Bureau, Department of Commerce

DATE OF PHOTO: 1970

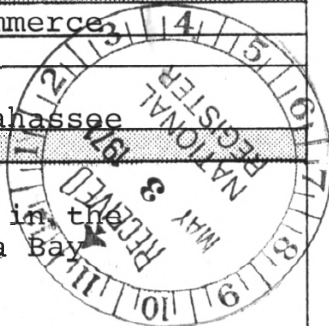
NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Department of Commerce, Collins Building, Tallahassee

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Aerial view looking northwest shows Ft. Pickens in the foreground overlooking the entrance to Pensacola Bay



SEE INSTRUCTIONS