Form No. 10-306 (Rev. 10-74)

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 10-15-76
(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

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Route 1, Box 105 — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
St. Augustine — VICINITY OF — 4th

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Florida	12	St. Johns	109

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
X DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM
BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	X PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	X EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*
National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER
1895 Phoenix Blvd.

CITY, TOWN — STATE
Atlanta — VICINITY OF — Georgia

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 — STATE
St. Augustine — Florida

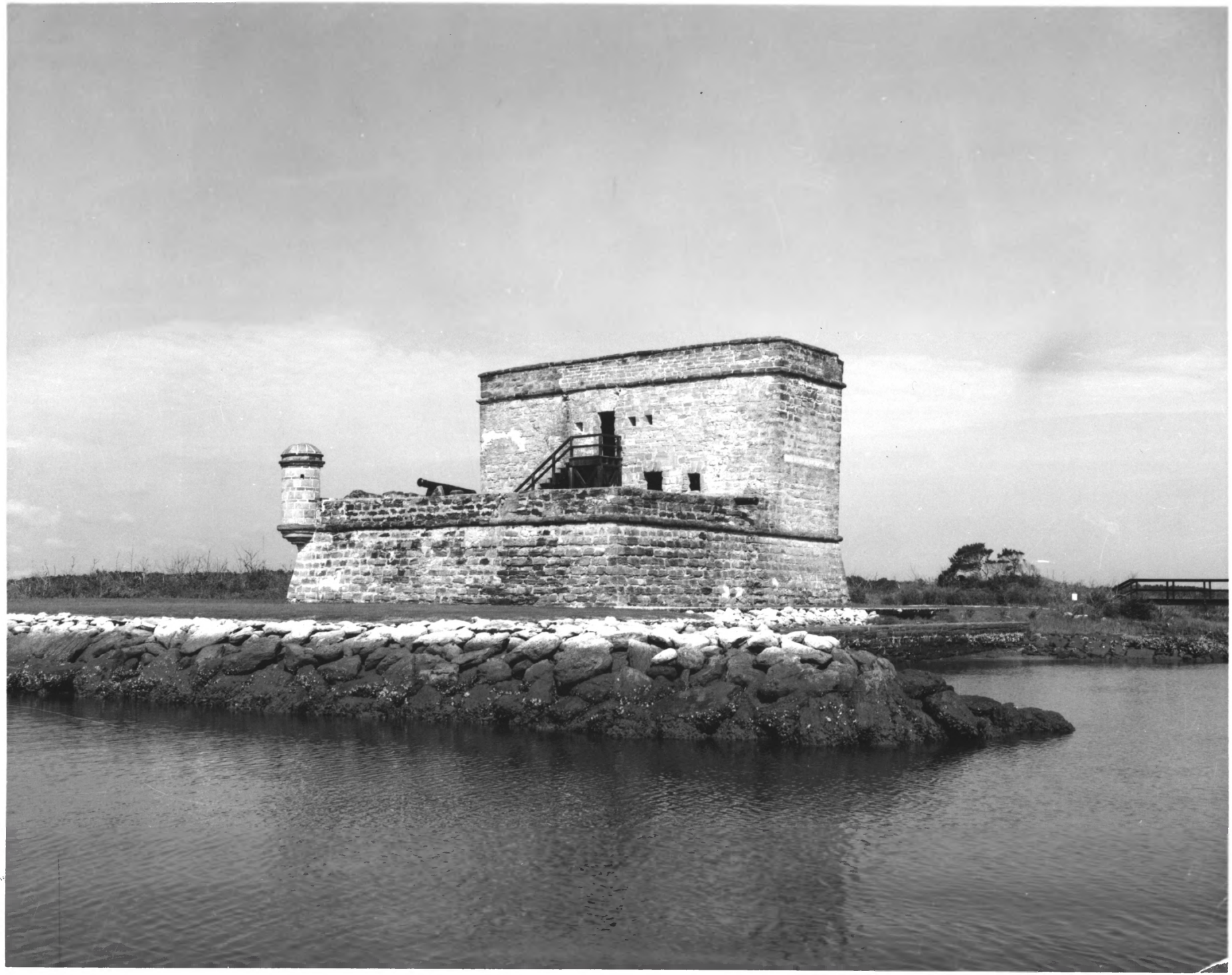
6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

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

DATE
June 27, 1950 — X FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Castillo de San Marcos NM

CITY, TOWN — STATE
St. Augustine — Florida



FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

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: St. Johns

1. NAME

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE *(Assigned by NPS)*
Fort Matanzas	Fort Matanzas	

2. LOCATION

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Florida	St. Johns	St. Augustine

STREET AND NUMBER

Route 1, Box 105

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
NPS	1968	Castillo de San Marcos NM

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Negative No. M-451. Fort Matanzas on Rattlesnake Island seen from southeast. At right, part of pier for the NPS boat and ferry from the visitor center on Anastasia Island.

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SEP 29 1976
NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 932-009

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__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				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
X 1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
X 1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	X MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
X 1700-1799	__ART	X ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__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~~ 299.31 - 9L

UTM REFERENCES

UTM References Listed on Continuation Sheet -OK

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A			
B			
C			
D			

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

6/16/73, '76 (REVISED 6/76)

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o Castillo de San Marcos NM, 1 Castillo Drive

CITY OR TOWN

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

ATTEST:

DATE 5/4/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Form No 10-300a
(Rev 10-74)

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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