De Soto National Memorial

Shaw's Point or De Soto Point

End of 75th St. NW

Bradenton, Florida 33073

Shaw's Point or De Soto Point

Florida 12

8th

Manatee 081

AGENCY

National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

1895 Phoenix Blvd.

Atlanta, Georgia

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Manatee County Courthouse

Manatee Avenue West

Bradenton, Florida

2314

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Manatee County Florida, Section S\(\frac{1}{2}\) - 13/18

1961

Manatee County Courthouse

Bradenton, Florida
The De Soto National Memorial commemorates the landing of Hernando De Soto in Florida in 1539. Locally called Shaw's Point, it was established by the United States De Soto Expedition Commission in 1939 as the general area in which De Soto disembarked. In 1948, the National Park Service acquired 30 acres of Shaw's Point to establish the De Soto National Memorial.

Although there is no agreement among reputable historians that the Point was the actual landfall of the De Soto expedition, it is generally accepted that Shaw's Point, situated at the mouth of the Manatee River, would have been a convenient landing place. De Soto himself made no reference to the landing point, but went on to describe the immediate wooded area as swampy and thick with vast and lofty forests.

Presently, the De Soto National Memorial encompasses 30 acres of landscaped area and tidal mangrove swamp. The swamp does not contain a "virgin" mangrove growth of 400+ years of replenishment; almost all growth is only 31-36 years old or less. The water's edge is naturally buttressed with different types of surface materials and a ridge of deposit shell atop the beach face.

Located within the Memorial are remnants of shell mounds and walkways, apparently left by groups of Indians during the period of approximately 400 AD to 1700 AD. Also within the park, a "tabby house" was built in 1843 by William Shaw, one of the first settlers in Manatee County. The house fell into ruin after Shaw moved away in 1856. It was excavated in 1964 and remains an archaeological site.

In 1939, the Colonial Dames of America erected a commemorative marker to De Soto on an acre of land near what is now the parking lot. Since it's establishment as a National Memorial in 1948, the National Park Service has installed administrative, interpretive, and maintenance facilities all of which are currently in excellent condition.

Approximately 4 acres containing the parking area, residence, maintenance area and landscaping are composed of modern fill dredged from the Manatee River in the mid 1950's. The remainder of the area is in its natural state.
SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD
—PREHISTORIC
—1400-1499
X1500-1599
—1600-1699
—1700-1799
—1800-1899
—1900

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW
—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
—AGRICULTURE
—ARCHITECTURE
—ART
—COMMERCE
—COMMUNICATIONS
—COMMUNITY PLANNING
—CONSERVATION
—ECONOMICS
—EDUCATION
—ENGINEERING
—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
—FINANCE
—INDUSTRY
—INVENTION
—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
—LAW
—LITERATURE
—MILITARY
—MUSIC
—PHILOSOPHY
—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
—RELIGION
—SCIENCE
—SCULPTURE
—SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
—THEATER
—TRANSPORTATION
—OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The De Soto National Memorial commemorates the landing of the De Soto expedition in Florida in 1539 and the first extensive organized exploration of the interior of the southeastern part of the United States. However, the Memorial or Shaw's Point cannot be administered as a historic site with respect to the De Soto journey because of the disagreement among historians as to the exact location of De Soto's landfall. But, it is generally accepted that he landed in the vicinity of Tampa Bay.

After their disembarkment, the Spanish began their march through 4000 miles of unknown land. They penetrated as far north as present Tennessee and as far west as Texas. De Soto died in 1542 and was buried in the Mississippi River. The remnants of the expedition built ships at the confluence of the Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers where they were set afloat in the spring floods of 1543. They sailed into the Gulf to civilized Mexico.

1539

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

BUILD/ARCHITECT
**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**


**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY</th>
<th>30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UTM REFERENCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>De Soto NM is bounded by the Manatee River to the north and east, private property to the west and SW, Catholic church property to the southeast.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**FORM PREPARED BY**

**NAME / TITLE**

Anne D. Castellina

**ORGANIZATION**

National Park Service

**STREET & NUMBER**

P.O. Box 1377

**CITY OR TOWN**

Bradenton

**STATE**

Florida

**DATE**

4/2/75

**CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YES____ NO____ NONE___</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**

Deputy Assistant Secretary

**DATE**

OCT 4, 1976

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

**DATE**

7/4/77

**DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

**ATTEST:**

**KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
<th>COMMON</th>
<th>AND/OR HISTORIC</th>
<th>NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Center</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. LOCATION</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>TOWN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Manatee</td>
<td>Bradenton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</th>
<th>PHOTO CREDIT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NEGATIVE FILED AT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paul Bartley</td>
<td>4/3/75</td>
<td>Paul Bartley Photography Bradentont, Fla.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. IDENTIFICATION</th>
<th>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visitor Center looking from the north. Shows VC with gumbo-limbo and southern red cedar in front. Water of Manatee River and beginning of interpretive trail in center background.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GPO 932-009
NEAR HERNANDO DE SOTO WITH HIS MEN HEREBY LIES ON MAY 30, 1539 AND BEGAN HIS JOURNEY TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER. HE COMPLETED THE 400 MILE JOURNEY ON THE 8TH OF JUNE, 1539. DE SOTO DIED IN FLORIDA IN 1542.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. NAME</th>
<th>COMMON</th>
<th>AND/OR HISTORIC</th>
<th>NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>De Soto trail marker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STATE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COUNTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOWN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

De Soto National Memorial, end of 75th St. N.W.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHOTO CREDIT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. IDENTIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trail marker looking east. Surrounded by gumbo-limbo and southern red cedar trees. Living history camp can be seen in background.