UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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
CITY, TOWN
St. Augustine
STATE
Florida

CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION

STATUS
- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE
- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- MUSEUM
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

AGENCY
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office
STREET & NUMBER
1895 Phoenix Blvd.
CITY, TOWN
Atlanta
STATE
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
St. Augustine
STATE
Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE
Road and Traffic System Plan, Drawing No. NM-MAT 2003B
DATE
June 27, 1950
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Castillo de San Marcos NM
CITY, TOWN
St. Augustine
STATE
Florida
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.
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


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.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Same boundaries as Fort Matanzas National Monument

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

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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Luis R. Arana, Historian, Florida-Caribbean District

ORGANIZATION

DATE 6/16/73, '7 (REVISED 6/76)

STREET & NUMBER

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

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

St. Augustine

STATE 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

DATE SEP 23 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 5/14/77

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
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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