

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

OCT 31 1991

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name French Warehouse Site
other names/site number GUIS 98; 22 Hr 638

2. Location

street & number Gulf Islands National Seashore ☐ not for publication
city, town Ocean Springs ☒ vicinity
state Mississippi code 28 county Harrison code 047 zip code 39564

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☐ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	
	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)**

Domestic - Single Dwelling

Commerce/Trade - Warehouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Landscape - Archeological Site

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls

roof

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☒ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Archeology - Historic

Commerce

Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance

1700 - 1799

Significant Dates

Probably

1717 - 1725

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Not Applicable

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Southeast Archeological Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 8 acres

UTM References

A 16 318150 33463000
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The site includes the entire pond, the land area for 60 meters north of the pond and the land area from the Sound shoreline and 120 meters south. In addition, an area 60 meters wide extends from the shoreline 50 meters northwest into the Mississippi Sound.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Hammersten, Archeological Technician

organization Southeast Archeological Center date _____

street & number 35 Montgomery Gym, FSU telephone (904) 561-9106

city or town Tallahassee, state Florida zip code 32306

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7. Description

The French Warehouse site is the remains of the warehouse complex established on Ship Island in 1717 or 1718 which served as the principal port for the capital of New Biloxi. As such it is related to the establishment of the French colony of Louisiana. The site is located on the north shore of East Ship Island, Mississippi, near a sheltered anchorage and a small pond. The site area encompasses the pond, a small clearing, and some offshore land. The known physical remains of the site consist of a terrestrial artifact concentration and two mostly submerged ballast piles. Although the site has been impacted by vandalism, erosion and overwash, it has the potential to yield valuable information.

Context

During the later years of the seventeenth century, following LaSalle's journey to the mouth of the Mississippi River, King Louis XIV of France was urged to establish a colony on the Gulf coast of North America. The advantages of such a colony would be twofold. First, the colony would serve to establish French control of the Mississippi River and most of its drainage. Secondly, a strong French outpost on the Gulf coast would create a barrier between the Spanish colonies of Pensacola to the east and New Spain (Mexico) to the west and south, effectively preventing Spain from gaining control of the entire Gulf coastal area.

The first attempt to establish a French colony on the Mississippi was led by LaSalle himself in 1684. Unfortunately, LaSalle was unable to recognize the mouth of the river when he approached from the Gulf of Mexico. After failing to find the river entrance, LaSalle was killed when his men mutinied. The remains of his expedition were discovered by Spanish Governor Alonso de Leon in 1689 at Matagora Bay in what is now Texas. The outbreak of war in North America and Europe prevented any further efforts toward colonization until 1697 when the Treaty of Ryswick ended hostilities.

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Pierre LeMoyne D'Iberville was selected to head the second expedition by Louis Phélypeaux, Conte de Pontchartrain, the French Minister of Marine (McWilliams 1981). A Canadian by birth, Iberville had proven himself during the Wars in North America. Iberville's instructions were clear; he was to locate the mouth of the Mississippi, "occupy the harbour, and prevent other Nations from entering the River" (Higginbotham 1968:20). He was given three ships, supplies, and colonists and set sail from Brest, France, in November 1698 (Higginbotham 1968). On January 26, 1699, Iberville's fleet sailed into Pensacola Bay. Finding it already occupied by Spain, he stayed only three days before sailing again. After exploring several rivers and Mobile Bay, Iberville reached the Ship Island anchorage on February 10 (McWilliams 1981). He described the anchorage at Ship Island in his journal:

We came in, under shelter of an island or the point of an island, where we are protected from winds from the south-southwest, south-southeast, and east by the island and from the northeast and the north and the northwest by the mainland, three and a half leagues from us, and from the west and southwest by an island two leagues away. We have found no less than 23 feet of water, and we are anchored a cannon's shot off the island in 26 feet of water (McWilliams, 1981:42).

Once anchored at Ship Island, and his animals put ashore, Iberville left his ship and went off in a smaller boat to meet with the Biloxi Indians on the mainland of what today is Mississippi. Iberville had seen these Indians while exploring the bay and river. While ashore, Iberville asked about the great river and was given directions to find it by a Bayougoula who was in the area on a hunting trip. The Bayougoula lived on the Mississippi and called it the Malbanchya (McWilliams 1981:44). Iberville then returned to Ship Island, gathered a crew and set off to find the river leaving the three large ships anchored on the Island. Iberville successfully located the mouth of the river on March 2 (McWilliams 1981).

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Upon returning to Ship Island, Iberville decided to construct a fort on the mainland across from the anchorage. He named the fort Fort Maurepas and called the settlement Biloxi after the Indians who inhabited the area. Iberville also gave orders to have a warehouse built on Ship Island because the harbor at Biloxi was too shallow for anything but small ships to enter.

In 1701, the site at Biloxi was abandoned in favor of higher ground at Mobile. Fort La Louis de la Louisiane was constructed on the mainland and warehouses were built on Dauphine Island, across the bay from Mobile. With the shift in settlement, the importance of Ship Island declined. By 1702, Dauphine Island became the main harbor for the new French colony (Higginbotham 1968).

Although Ship Island was no longer the principal port for Louisiana, it continued to be used as a roadstead or anchorage (Rowland and Sanders 1929). It is not known whether the original warehouse structure itself remained intact after the Island was abandoned. There was a report that Ship Island was destroyed by a hurricane in August of 1701, if the structure were left, it probably did not survive the storm (Bearss 1984:17). Ship Island is mentioned in the reports of the Council after 1701 and in 1706 there was some discussion of building a fort on the Island (Rowland and Sanders 1929:229).

Fifteen years after it had been abandoned, attention turned to the island again. In 1716, a hurricane struck Mobile. The storm deposited large amounts of sand in the Dauphin Island harbor, trapping the ships which had sought safety there (Bearss 1984:17). The government of Louisiana soon realized that the harbour would remain blocked for years and in 1717 the Council made the decision to change the location of the capital (Rowland and Sanders 1929:237). The new capital was called New Biloxi and was located just a few miles upstream from Old Biloxi. With the capital back in Mississippi, the Ship Island anchorage returned to prominence and a warehouse was again placed on the island (Bearss 1984).

In 1718, Bienville established the city of New Orleans on the banks of the Mississippi and by 1722 the capital was moved to the new town (Bearss 1984). It is not clear how long after 1722 the warehouse at Ship Island remained in use. There are reports

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from the Council of 1722 that the warehouse keeper and his assistant were paid (Rowland and Sanders 1929:269). There are also reports that by 1750, the usefulness of the anchorage had declined (Rowland and Sanders 1929:55). In 1763 all of Louisiana east of the Mississippi River was ceded to Great Britain.

Although the historical particulars for the warehouse itself are sketchy, it can be demonstrated that the anchorage at Ship Island remained in use at least until the latter half of the eighteenth century. There is good documentary evidence for both earlier (1699) and the later (1717) establishments of the warehouse on the island (Rowland and Sanders 1929). However, there does not appear to be a documented date for the abandonment of the warehouse itself. The most likely explanation for this event is that it was simply allowed to fall into disrepair or was destroyed in a storm and simply never rebuilt.

Previous Research

Historical documentation of the existence of the French Warehouse site has been fairly complete for the last 50 years (Rowland and Sanders etc.) However, the archeological remains of the site were not officially recorded until 1973. In that year, Louis D. Tesar of Florida State University, received a contract to survey portions of the Gulf Islands National Seashore for archeological resources, in accordance with Executive Order 11593 and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Tesar located the site by using historic maps. While surveying what he proposed was the general area of the warehouse site, Tesar located a surface scatter of historic artifacts. From this scatter of artifacts, Tesar estimated that the site was 60 feet in diameter (1973:60). Tesar conducted a random surface collection of the site. Artifacts recovered included brick, tabby, iron fragments, glass, and ceramics. Tesar felt that the site dated to the 1699 to 1702 occupation of Ship Island, but he also stated that, at the very least, it was contemporaneous with the 1722 to 1752 Spanish Presidio at Pensacola. He based this assumption on the fact that the artifact assemblages from the two sites were almost identical except for the absence of Majolica and olive jar from the French Warehouse site (1973:58). Tesar also noted

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evidence of vandalism in the form of several pits dug into the site. He did not seem to think that they had been recently dug (1973).

No further work was conducted at the French Warehouse site until 1986. In March of that year SEAC archeologists Robert C. Wilson and Allen Cooper visited East Ship Island. Wilson and Cooper relocated the site at 65 to 70 meters east of the Mississippi Sound side of the island and 50 meters east of the tree line. They conducted a surface reconnaissance of the site and made a random collection of artifacts. The surface reconnaissance revealed that the site was approximately 30 meters in diameter, slightly larger than Tesar had reported. Recovered artifacts consisted of white kaolin pipe fragments, brick, mortar, aboriginal pottery, tin enamelled earthenware, lead-glazed earthenware, salt-glazed stoneware, and metal fragments. Recommendations were that the site undergo further testing (Wilson 1986:3).

In response to the recommendation for further testing, Robert C. Wilson, of SEAC, conducted investigations at Ship Island, Mississippi from August 15 to September 9 of 1988. The purpose of the investigations was to gather the information necessary to prepare a National Register nomination for the French Warehouse site (GUIS 98). Several different archeological techniques were used to gather data from the site. The first task was to make a topographic map of the site, this was done using a transit, stadia rod, and tapes. Following the completion of the mapping, a grid was laid out over the site. The grid consisted of twelve 20 meter square blocks, six of these blocks were then further subdivided into 25 four meter square blocks. The controlled surface collection was conducted using the four meter square blocks over the core area of the site. Following the controlled surface collection, three remote sensing surveys were conducted over the core area of the site. The metal detector survey was done first, followed by a soil resistivity survey and finally a magnetometer survey. Shovel tests were dug at eight-meter intervals over the entire site. The results of these testing and surveying programs were used to determine the placement of the excavation units. Ten two-meter square units were excavated at the site.

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Data collected during the 1988 excavations revealed that the site was an early eighteenth century French habitation site occupied by someone with relatively high status. The material collection from the French Warehouse site was compared to the collections from other early eighteenth century French sites in the southeast and found to be more comparable to collections from sites dating to the period after 1715 than those from sites dated between 1699 and 1715. This comparison combined with historical records suggested that the site was the remains of the warehouse keeper's house and dates to the second warehouse complex established between 1717 and 1718 (Hammersten 1990). These excavations also established that despite the effects of erosion and some vandalism, the site could still yield valuable information.

In December of 1989, SEAC sent an archeologist to Ship Island to follow up on reports of exposed piles of mortar along the shore. The reported mortar concentrations were found to be ballast piles. Two ballast piles were mapped and photodocumented. Both piles were made of the same kind of igneous rocks and were found about 70 meters west of the previously excavated area. One was located approximately 5 meters below the high tide line and other was about 10 meters below the high tide line.

In addition to the documentation of the ballast piles, an inspection of the excavated area was made. No artifacts were visible on the surface of the site except for one brick fragment. The clearing area of the site was surrounded by tall pines and brush. The shore was not visible from the cleared area but the pond could be seen through the trees. The areas of excavation were visible as depressions. The ballast piles were visible due to an extremely low tide and probably remain submerged for most of the year. No artifacts were found in the area of the ballast piles.

Environment

East Ship Island is part of a chain of barrier islands that run the length of the Gulf Coast. Presently, East Ship is 2.6 miles long and varies in width from .09 to .5 miles. The island lies approximately ten miles offshore directly south of Ocean Springs,

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Mississippi. East Ship Island is separated from West Ship Island by an 8-to 20-foot deep channel called Ship Island Flats (USDI 1978:85).

Until recent times, East Ship and West Ship were joined together to make up one contiguous barrier island. In 1947, a hurricane cut a path through the island and split it into two parts. By the 1960s, the channel between the two parts had filled in with sand and the islands were joined again. In 1969, hurricane Camille, a Class One storm, cut a 1.6 mile wide path through Ship Island. This gap will probably never heal itself (USDI 1978a:89).

The soils on East Ship are sands underlain by weathered Pleistocene age sub-strata. The area of the French Warehouse site is characterized by St. Lucie sands. The beaches of Ship Island are St. Lucie hummocky sands. There are several brackish water ponds on the island. Sands belonging to the Handsboro association can be found near these ponds (USDA 1975).

Vegetation on the island is dominated by pine scrub with a few oaks interspersed. There are large numbers of water fowl of various species. Also, a variety of fish species, plus shark and dolphins can be found in the waters surrounding the island. The principal attractions of Ship Island during the historic period were the sheltered harbor and the freshwater (probably brackish water) ponds found on the lee side of the island. These two resources provided a place where ships could anchor safely for relatively long periods of time.

Intrusions and Data Limitations

As stated above, Tesar did find evidence of vandalism of the site in 1973. This evidence consisted of the remains of five pits dug into the site at some unknown time in the past. Wilson also saw the remains of the pits and mapped them in 1988. The only other evidence of vandalism was an amateurishly built shaker screen found in the bushes in 1988. While the screen did not appear to be very old, no evidence of new ground disturbance was visible.

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The only other serious threat to the site is erosion. Barrier islands are dynamic geologic systems. On northern Gulf coastal islands, currents constantly erode sands from the eastern ends of islands and deposit sands on the western end of islands. Over time this process results in a westward migration of the islands. This process may not always result in a loss of shoreline, but the constant cycle of erosion and deposition churns up and destroys archeological sites. The artifact concentration area of the site is located at least 60 meters from the shoreline and does not appear to have been effected by this particular process, however, the ballast piles are already underwater and may be adversely effected in the future. Overwash is the other erosional threat. Overwash occurs during intense storms and is the result of tidal surges. The high winds combined with high tides create large waves which may overrun the island. This has happened at least twice in this century during hurricanes. Both hurricanes severed the island in two, the cut from hurricane Camille in 1969 will probably never heal. Depending upon the severity of the storm surge, overwash has the potential to effect the entire area of the site.

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Object Collection

NUMBER

CERAMICS

COARSE EARTHENWARE/COARSE

UID COARSE EARTHENWARE	125
UID LEAD GLAZED EARTHENWARE	12
FRENCH GREEN LEAD GLAZED TYPE A	13
FRENCH GREEN LEAD GLAZED TYPE B	16
FRENCH GREEN LEAD GLAZED TYPE C	98
FRENCH GREEN LEAD GLAZED TYPE D	30
FRENCH GREEN LEAD GLAZED TYPE E	7
FRENCH GREEN LEAD GLAZED TYPE F	34
UID LEAD GLAZED REDWARE	<u>24</u>
Subtotal	359

COARSE EARTHENWARE/TIN ENAMELED

FAIENCE, WHITE PLAIN	106
FAIENCE, BLUE ON WHITE	59
FAIENCE, LIGHT BLUE ON WHITE	6
FAIENCE, POLYCHROME	<u>3</u>
Subtotal	174

STONEWARE

WESTERWALD, STAMPED BLUE	3
UID BROWN SALT GLAZED STONEWARE	<u>6</u>
Subtotal	9

CONTAINER GLASS

AMBER GLASS	1
AMETHYST GLASS	2
AQUAMARINE GLASS	12
BLUE GREEN GLASS	14
COLORLESS GLASS	55

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CONTAINER GLASS (CONT.)

NUMBER

DARK GREEN (BLACK) WINE BOTTLE GLASS	42
UID PATINATED GLASS	62
GREEN BLUE GLASS	6
GREEN GLASS	41
PALE GREEN GLASS	<u>23</u>
Subtotal	258

OTHER GLASS

LIGHT BULB	1
JEWELRY	1
BEAD	<u>27</u>
Subtotal	29

KAOLIN PIPES

UNDECORATED PIPE STEM 1/16 IN. BORE	8
UNDECORATED PIPE STEM 3/32 IN. BORE	8
UNDECORATED PIPE STEM 5/64 IN. BORE	36
ROULETTE DESIGN PIPE BOWL	18
MOLDED AND ROULETTED PIPE BOWL	1
UNDECORATED PIPE BOWL	42
UID DECORATED PIPE FRAGMENT	1
CROWNED 16 PIPE STEM 5/64 IN. BORE	<u>2</u>
Subtotal	116

SHELL TEMPERED ABORIGINAL WARE

NATCHITOCES ENGRAVED	5
BELL PLAIN	80
MISSISSIPPI PLAIN	124
UID RED FILMED	58
UID INCISED	7
UID SHELL TEMPERED PLAIN	<u>46</u>
Subtotal	320

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	<u>NUMBER</u>
SHELL/SAND TEMPERED ABORIGINAL WARE	
UID PLAIN	51
UID SMOOTHED AND POLISHED	42
UID SMOOTHED	22
UID SMOOTHED, POLISHED AND INCISED	29
UID RED FILMED AND ENGRAVED	8
UID RED FILMED	11
GLASSELL ENGRAVED (?)	<u>1</u>
Subtotal	151
 SAND TEMPERED ABORIGINAL WARE	
UID SAND TEMPERED PLAIN	34
 CONSTRUCTION	
 MORTAR	77.9 kg
BRICK	18.3 kg
SHELL	28.8 kg

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METAL

NUMBER

METAL ARTIFACTS

INDETERM. METAL FRAGMENT	IRON	1919
INDETERM. METAL FRAGMENT	BRASS	1
INDETERM. METAL FRAGMENT	COPPER	2
INDETERM. METAL FRAGMENT	LEAD	28
WROUGHT NAIL	IRON	118
GUN PART	IRON	4
SPIKE	IRON	2
KNIFE	IRON	6
WIRE	IRON	1
DOOR LOCK KEY	IRON	1
WROUGHT TACK	IRON	2
BUCKLE	IRON	1
RIVET	BRASS	1
THIMBLE	BRASS	1
GUNSHOT/BULLET	LEAD	157
SLAG	UID METAL	7
STRAIGHT PIN	UID METAL	9
BUTTON	UID METAL	1
TENT STAKE	STEEL	1
TIN CAN TOP	TIN	1
Subtotal		2263

LITHIC

CHERT

SHATTER/CHERT DEBITAGE	3
GUNSPALL	6
GUNSPALL FRAGMENT	5
Subtotal	14

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LITHIC (CONT)

NUMBER

QUARTZ

HAMMERSTONE

1

ROUGH ROCK

2

****Subtotal****

3

FAUNAL

NUMBER

FAUNAL REMAINS

UNALTERED DENTITION

COW

2

UNALTERED ELEMENT

COW

3

UNALTERED PHALANGE

COW

1

UNALTERED ELEMENT

CRAB LEGS

1

UNALTERED VERTEBRA

DRUM

3

BUTCHERED ELEMENT

DUCK

10

UNALTERED VERTEBRA

FLOUNDER

1

UNALTERED ELEMENT

FLOUNDER

1

UNALTERED ELEMENT

GAR

50

UNALTERED ELEMENT

UID LARGE MAMMAL

11

UNALTERED ELEMENT

INDETERM. MAMMAL

294

UNALTERED DENTITION

INDETERM. MAMMAL

10

UNALTERED PHALANGE

INDETERM. MAMMAL

1

UNALTERED ELEMENT

UID MED. MAMMAL

1

UNALTERED ELEMENT

INDETERM. BIRD

206

BUTCHERED UID LONGBONE

INDETERM. BIRD

26

UNALTERED ELEMENT

INDETERM. FISH

187

UNALTERED VERTEBRA

INDETERM. FISH

1

UNALTERED VERTEBRA

INDETERM. SNAKE

18

UNALTERED ELEMENT

INDETERM. SNAKE

7

UNALTERED ELEMENT

INDETERM. TURTLE

7

UNALTERED ELEMENT

PIG

6

UNALTERED DENTITION

PIG

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FAUNAL (CONT)

NUMBER

UNALTERED RIB	PIG	1
UNALTERED DENTITION	RACCOON	9
UNALTERED VERTEBRA	SAIL CATFISH	3
UNALTERED ELEMENT	SEA CATFISH	44
UNALTERED VERTEBRA	SHARK	2
UNALTERED DENTITION	SHARK	6
UNALTERED ELEMENT	SHARK	1
UNALTERED VERTEBRA	SHEEPSHEAD	9
UNALTERED ELEMENT	UID BONE	1659
UNALTERED ELEMENT	UID SHELL	<u>17</u>
Subtotal		2607

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8. Significance

The French Warehouse site is significant under criterion D because it has yielded and is likely to yield further information concerning research questions dealing with ethnicity studies, status, eighteenth century commerce, and reconstruction of past lifeways. The site is unique in that it has the potential to provide information relating to both personal and non-personal activities. As a habitation site, it contains data classes relating to household activities such as cooking, diet, and food acquisition. Also, because it is part of the warehouse complex, the site has the potential to provide data relating to early eighteenth century commerce.

As a habitation site, the French Warehouse site has the potential to yield data concerning ethnicity studies. Richard Carrillo studied refuse disposal patterns in order to determine if those patterns varied according to the ethnicity of the inhabitants of a site (Carrillo 1977). He found that refuse disposal patterns did vary according to sociocultural association. The French Warehouse site has yielded samples of all of the artifact classes used by Carrillo in his study except one. Even though the ethnicity of the inhabitant of the French Warehouse site is known, studying the pattern of refuse disposal at the site will add to the data needed to better understand sociocultural variation as it is expressed in the archeological record.

Another research question pertaining to historic sites concerns socio-economic status. John S. Otto worked on this question at an antebellum plantation site in Georgia by comparing the ceramic assemblages from separate areas occupied by the planter, the overseerer, and the slaves. He found that the assemblages varied according to status in types represented, percentage of each type, and vessel form (Otto 1977). Data from the French Warehouse site could be used in conjunction with data from other early French frontier sites to provide information as to how status is expressed in early French sites.

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The archeological potential of the pond is a significant asset to the site. Because they have remained submerged, any cultural remains recovered from the pond should be in an excellent state of preservation. This means that the potential for recovering samples of the more perishable data classes is higher and that more information can be gained from the more durable artifacts which may be found. Highly perishable data classes which could be recovered include fabrics, vegetal remains, and wooden artifacts. In addition, bone would be better preserved underwater than it usually is on land. Faunal remains, which have a high probability of recovery from the pond, can provide information concerning diet and status. Diet, of course, can be inferred directly from the remains themselves. Status can sometimes be determined from the percentages of different species represented (domesticated vs. nondomesticated) as well as from the cuts of meat used.

The artifacts and their distribution may also yield data concerning early eighteenth century commerce. A simple inventory of the artifacts recovered will help determine what kinds of goods were available to colonial people, which kinds were lacking, and what kinds of substitutions were made. Also, with data from other sites, it may be possible to tract the distribution of goods throughout the colony. On a more local level, studying the distribution and disposal pattern of artifact types at the French Warehouse site may yield clues as to the relative value of each of those artifact types.

The French Warehouse site is related to both personal and business activities and has the potential to provide information concerning early eighteenth century lifeways. It is representative of two of the themes defined in *History and Prehistory in the National Park System and the National Historic Landmarks Program*: French exploration and settlement on the Gulf coast (European Colonial Exploration and Settlement) and Import - Export Trade (Business).

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9. Major Bibliographic References

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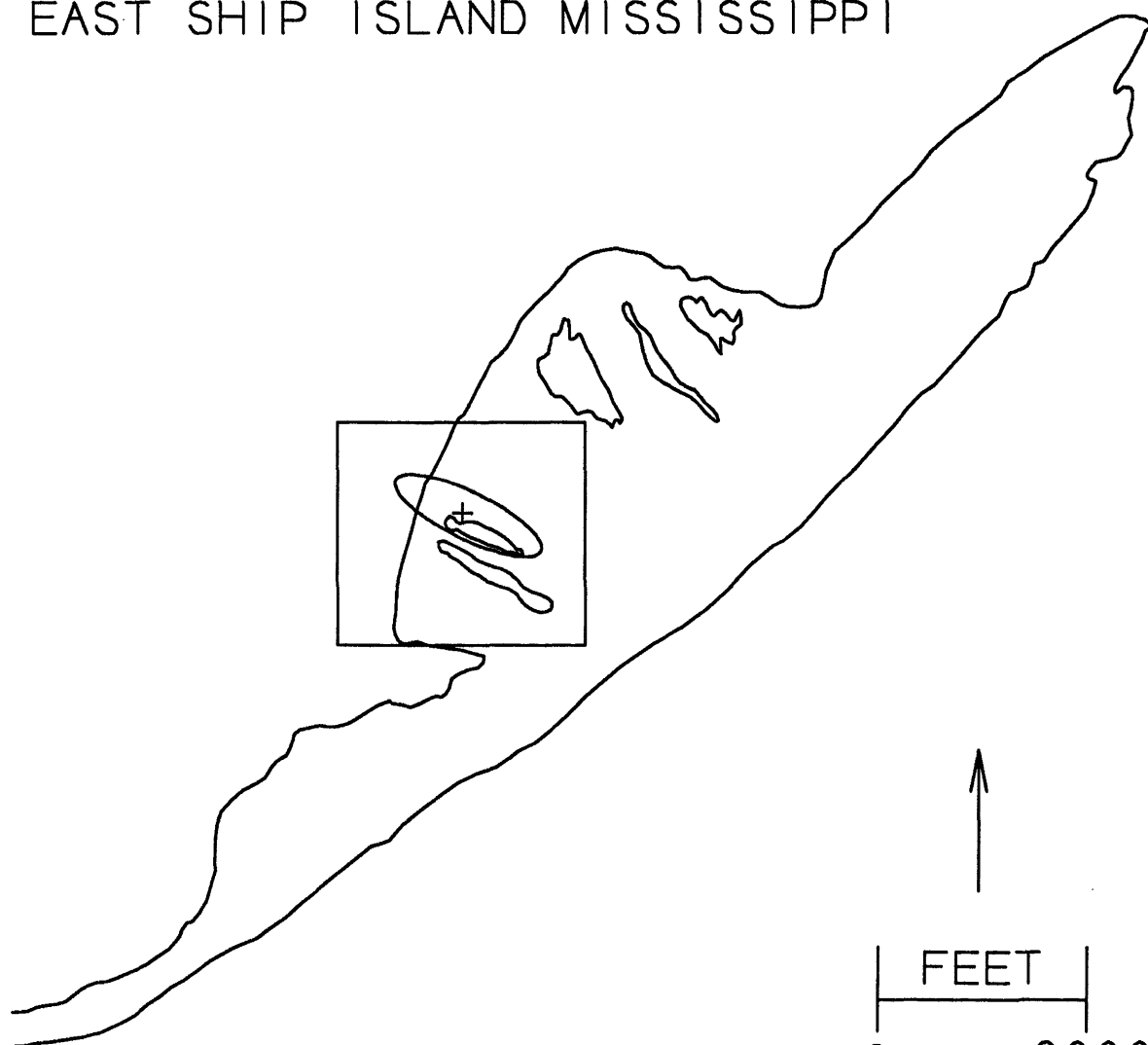
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Boundary Description and Justification

The French Warehouse site is represented by an artifact concentration in association with two submerged components. The extent of the terrestrial component was determined through subsurface archeological testing. It is located directly adjacent to the pond on the north side. Its north-south axis begins at the pond edge and extends north for 60 meters. The east-west axis begins at the high tide line and extends for 120 meters to the west. The underwater component containing the ballast piles begins at the high tide line and extends for an unknown distance into the Mississippi Sound; therefore the offshore boundary is arbitrary. The pond is included in the boundary of the site as it is highly probable that it was used as a water source and for refuse disposal during the warehouse occupation and may contains well preserved materials dating that occupation. This was determined based on the proximity of the pond to the artifact concentration, the location of a probable historic path from the artifact concentration to the pond, and historical descriptions of this pattern of refuse disposal at other sites.

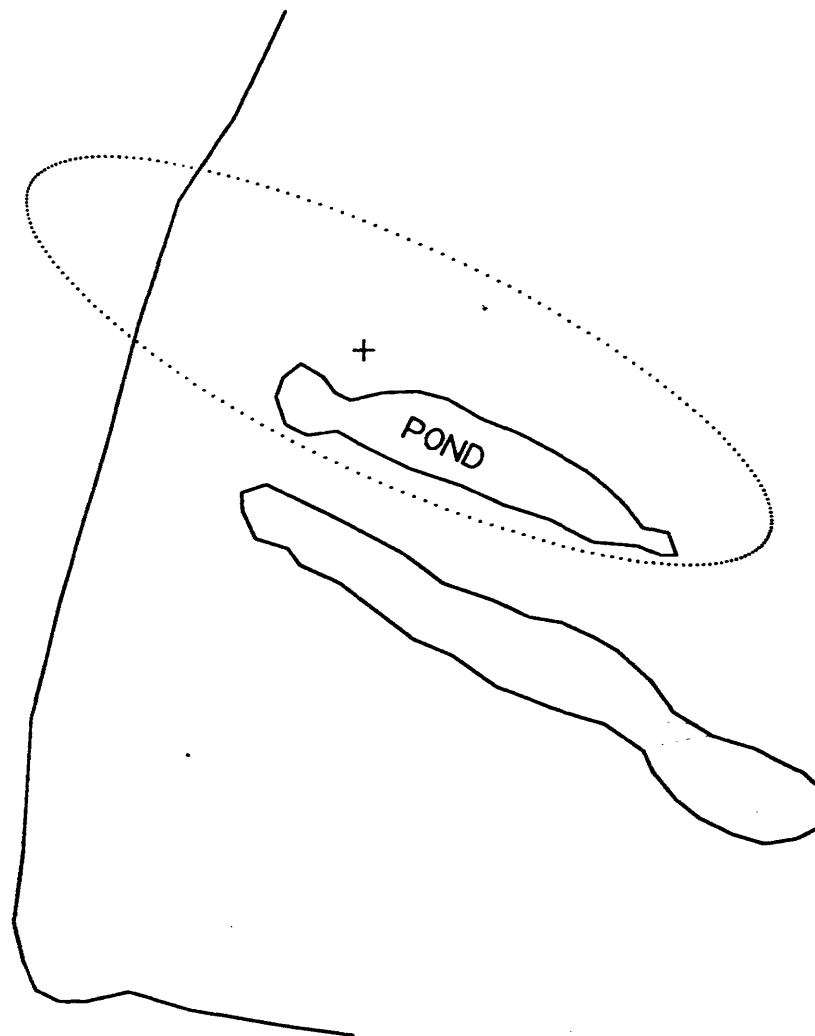
The UTM coordinates for the center of the site are Zone 16, Easting 318150, Northing 3346300. The site is approximately eight acres in area.

GENERAL AREA OF THE
FRENCH WAREHOUSE SITE
EAST SHIP ISLAND MISSISSIPPI



THE FRENCH
WAREHOUSE SITE
(GUIS-98/22HR638)

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001768

Date Listed: 12-13-91

French Warehouse Site

Harrison

MS

Property Name

County

State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Janet E. Townsend
for Signature of the Keeper

12-13-91
Date of Action

===== Amended Items in Nomination:

No level of significance is marked on the nomination form. The NPS History Division review letter states that the property is of state significance.

The form is amended to check the "State" level of significance.

Ben Levy of the History Division was consulted on 12-13-91 regarding this SLR.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



French Warehouse (22Hr638)
Ocean Springs (Vicinity), MS
Susan Hammersten: 12/28/89
Negative on File: SEAC Tallahassee, FL
Level View East
Photo No. SEAC Acc #849 BW1 Frame 19

*French Warehouse Site
Harrison @, MS*



French Warehouse (22Hr638)
Ocean Springs (Vicinity), MS
Ken Hoeck: 8/17/88
Negative on File: SEAC Tallahassee, FL
Aerial View NW
Photo No. SEAC Acc #806 BW1 Frame 16

*French Warehouse Site
Harrison Co, MS*

El Estero de San Juan



French Warehouse (22Hr638)
Ocean Springs (Vicinity), MS
Ken Hoeck: 8/17/88
Negative on File: SEAC Tallahassee, FL
Aerial View SE
Photo No. SEAC Acc #806 BW1 Frame 21

*French Warehouse Site
Ocean Springs, MS*