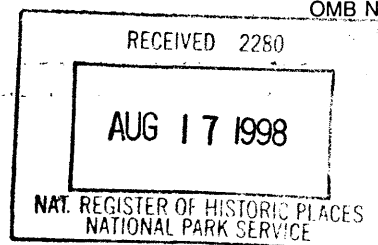


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1169

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Naval Live Oaks Reservation

other names/site number 8SR48; Deer Point Live Oaks Reservation; Deer Point Plantation;
Naval Live Oaks Plantation

2. Location

street & number Gulf Islands National Seashore - Naval Live Oaks Area ☐ not for publication

city or town Gulf Breeze ☒ vicinity

state Florida code FL county Santa Rosa code 113 zip code 32561

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☒ nationally ☒ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald M. Greenberg EPO 8-17-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
U.S. Department of the Interior - National Park Service
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Julius L. Pettiford, DSHPO 7-1-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State Historic Preservation Office/Bureau of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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): _____

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Bertram Pitt

9/28/98

JUL 1998

Received
Survey &
Registration

Naval Live Oaks Reservation
Name of Property

Santa Rosa, FL
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Prehistoric & Historic Archeological Properties
of the Naval Live Oaks Reservation

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE / horticultural facility
LANDSCAPE / conservation area

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE / outdoor recreation
LANDSCAPE / forest

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls

roof

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☒ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHEOLOGY

MARITIME HISTORY

CONSERVATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE / BLACK

Period of Significance

AD1828 - AD1861

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

American

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Southeast Archeological Center (NPS)

Naval Live Oaks Reservation
Name of Property

Santa Rosa, FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1337 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	484859	3359293
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	16	485196	3358160

3	16	486907	3360606
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	16	488707	3359358

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Norma Harris, Research Associate; Reviewed by Judith A. Bense, PhD
organization Univ. of West Florida Archeology Institute date April 1997
street & number 11000 University Parkway, Building 80 telephone (850) 474-3015
city or town Pensacola state FL zip code 32514

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name U.S. Department of the Interior; National Park Service; Gulf Islands Nat'l Seashore
street & number 1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway telephone (850) 934-2606
city or town Gulf Breeze state FL zip code 32561

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

Naval Live Oaks Reservation (8SR48)

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8SR48 Naval Live Oaks Reservation

Section 7. Narrative Description

Summary

The Naval Live Oaks Reservation (8SR48) was purchased for the purpose of conserving live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) and experimenting with the cultivation of live oaks from acorns by the United States Government in 1828 and remained in operation until 1861. It covers all of T3S R29W, sections 2 and 3; and T2S R29W, sections 33 and 34 (see attached map). Live oak was the wood of choice of shipbuilders before the Civil War, and was the primary wood selected for protection on public lands to build the ships of the newly formed U.S. Navy. Adjoining tracts of private lands were added to the public lands owned on the Gulf Breeze (called “Deer Point”) peninsula, accumulating between 1828 and 1830 to a total of 15,953.28 acres from the tip of the peninsula separating Pensacola Bay from Santa Rosa Sound in Santa Rosa County, Florida.

The tract of land remaining intact from this conservation effort is approximately 1337 acres (see attached map). It is now owned by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, and is part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore complex located in Florida, Alabama and Mississippi. The administrative offices of the Gulf Islands National Seashore are located within the boundaries, and an interpretive museum and trail system illustrate the types of tree formations that 19th century shipwrights needed for specific parts of vessels. The shores along the northern and southern borders, and live oak/magnolia forests are also open to the public for recreational purposes.

Environmental Setting

The Naval Live Oaks Plantation is located on the Gulf Breeze Peninsula between Pensacola Bay and Santa Rosa Sound. Live oaks and magnolia dominate the sandy soils ranging from very poorly drained Rutlege loamy sand (0-2% slope) to excessively drained Lakeland sands (5-12% slope). Pine, hickory and water oaks also make up a significant element of the vegetation on the property. Secondary vegetation includes wax myrtle, yaupon holly, saw palmetto, and scrub oak.

Topography ranges from upland ridge-tops to hardwood swamps and low-lying coastal plain areas. There are erosional bluffs located on the northern and southern edges of the peninsula, ranging in height from three to fifty feet above the surrounding water level.

Modern improvements include the construction of State Highway 98 cutting through the

reserve from east to west; an interpretive center and administrative offices of the Gulf Island National Seashore; two picnic areas; observation platforms; and parking facilities. Fire breaks cut through the park north/south, and footpaths crisscross the property. The remnants of the 1824 Road discussed in this nomination are also visible to the north of Highway 98, paralleling the modern road.

Periods of Site Occupation

Based on historic documentation and artifacts recovered from surface and subsurface investigations, the Plantation is associated with the historic time period listed below. The actual dates of operation of the Plantation were from A.D. 1828 to A.D. 1861.

Early American Period
Antebellum

A.D. 1821 - A.D. 1860

Physical Description

The Naval Live Oaks Plantation and Reservation originally encompassed more than 15,000 acres on the Gulf Breeze Peninsula. Today the reservation totals approximately 1337 acres and boundaries are delineated on the enclosed map. Archaeological deposits associated with the site of the plantation are located in the extreme southwestern section of the modern tract (see Naval Live Oaks Site Locations map). Most of the reservation is covered with dense vegetation, including live oaks, magnolia and hickory trees, palmettos, wax myrtle and yaupon hollies. State Highway 98 cuts the reserve in half from east to west, and remnants of the First American Road (8SR66) parallel the modern road to the north.

Modern improvements include administrative offices for the Gulf Islands National Seashore, picnic areas, and observation platforms along interpretive trail systems throughout the park. These areas are cleared; however, other environments are allowed to develop naturally. One grassland area adjacent to the site of caretaker's cottage of the plantation may have been an agricultural field during the period of occupation.

Other modern remnants include cleared areas associated with the Boy Scout and Girl Scout camps built in the 1940s that were present on the site until the late 1970s. These structures were demolished by the National Park Service, and resulting debris removed.

The plantation site in the southwest corner of the site has not received much attention, but was examined by Tesar in 1973, and subsequent investigations by Houston and Stoutamire in 1980 revealed significant disturbances in the area of the plantation structures; however, no large scale testing has been completed to date. The remains of a wharf extending into Santa Rosa Sound are still visible in the water at low tide. Surface shell may be associated with prehistoric sites located in the area, or may be the result of historic activity from the Antebellum occupation.

Appearance of the Site During the Historic Occupation

Since live oaks were a part of the natural environment on the reservation, the young and maturing trees would have remained standing, although Brackenridge does mention clearing around these standing trees, as well as removing some of the water oaks, pines and hickories that might interfere with live oak growth. A significant amount of underbrush would also have been removed from around the bases of the trees. Small saplings and acorns were planted in some open grassy areas.

Peter Alba made a claim against the land in 1818 during the Second Spanish Period; however there is no evidence of any structures on the property. Henry Brackenridge began altering the land in 1822, constructing a residence for himself and clearing around the house to plant oranges, lemons, peaches and other crops. Commodore John Rogers, Chairman of the Board of Navy Commissioners wrote to the Secretary of the Navy in 1829 regarding the appearance of the Plantation, and included descriptions of some of the structures built by Brackenridge:

“The improvements on the two tracts are as follows: on that purchased of Judge Brekenridge, a frame dwelling, one story high (not plastered) containing two large, and four small rooms, with a large passage running through the centre, having a portico in front and another in the rear of the house; a log kitchen, a stable, and other small out-houses; two gardens, the large one having in it several hundred small orange and peach trees; the other used principally as a vegetable garden, has some small fruit trees and shrubbery. In addition to these, there are two new rough log buildings, sufficiently capacious to accommodate 20 negroes. On the tract purchased of Colonel White, there are no improvements other than the remains of two small log buildings, said to have been built by General Call. At the time I visited these lands, there were twenty hands employed in cutting down, and clearing out from among the young live oaks, all the undergrowth and other trees, such a white bay, black jack, scrub, black and water oaks, magnolia, &c.; and in this way it was judged by Mr. [Samuel] Davis, the overseer, who accompanied me, that nearly or quite 200 arpents had already been cleared, in addition to the two avenues in a north and south direction, and another in the centre, running east and west, that had been cut through the woods to give free circulation to the air, and prevent injurious effects from fires, such as these lands had previously been subjected to from Indian hunters and others (Snell, 1983:183-184).

Brackenridge sent progress reports to Secretary Branch in April and September of 1829. These brief letters illustrate the state of the land and alterations made by plantation activities:

“The groves already assume a beautiful appearance. We have transplanted only a few trees, and as there were no acorns last year — the live oak bearing only every

other year — it was impossible to commence a nursery from them, which, according to the opinion of some writers, is most advisable. Much of the time has been taken up in erecting comfortable cabins and cutting and protecting roads; that is, wide avenues grubbed smooth, so as to stop the progress of the fires, whose destructive effect in those hammocks is inconceivable... Deer Point has been a common for the supply of fuel to the town, and it is extremely difficult to prevent the practice of cutting wood here for sale (April, 1829; Snell, 1983:185)."

He writes again on September 1, 1829:

"There are now upwards of 40,000 trees pruned and cleared, 10,000 more than I expected to clear during the year. I think I may safely calculate on at least 60,000 at the close of the year, which will probably complete the whole border of thrifty young trees along the margin of the water. The thickets occupying the middle ground will still remain, and I have always been confident that, if attended to, they will in time equal those on the borders. For the present, the mere precaution of keeping out the fires will be sufficient. The necessary buildings, consisting of three double cabins, with enclosures, have been completed, and about six miles of avenue handsomely opened (Snell, 1983:186)."

Past and Current Impacts

The plantation was occupied by Confederate troops in 1861, ending its operation. The impact of their occupation, as well as their associated artifacts and alterations, likely affected the site. There is evidence of some late 19th century occupation on the site: Tesar (1973) reported several chimney falls with artifacts from this period on the reservation. Brackenridge complained in 1829 about local people taking firewood from the reservation, and that practice likely continued. The abundance of prehistoric sites has always attracted looters who dig to recover artifacts.

In 1880, the government began to sell public timber lands in West Florida. Most of the 15,000 acres was released for public sale, and approximately 1337 acres remained in the hands of the government. In 1947, the last of the land was transferred to the State of Florida under the "Surplus Property Act of 1944." Some conditions did restrict the land use; it was to be open to the public for recreational purposes. Illegal homesteading prompted the U.S. to exercise their option for retaking the property in 1970. The extent to which these homesteaders impacted the land is unknown.

Some disturbance to the site occurred in the 1940s with the construction of two Scout Camps, one for girls and one for boys: Camp Inky and Camp Bigheart. These were closed after the reserve reverted to the U.S. Department of Interior from the State of Florida in the early 1970s, and in the late 70s, the Park Service demolished both camps and removed the debris.

In the 1980s the National Park Service began constructing a museum featuring the live oak plantation and its relationship to shipbuilding, and the administrative offices for the Gulf Islands National Seashore. An interpretive trail and observation platforms were also constructed within the park. Two picnic areas (one for individual families, and one for groups) were built, as well as parking facilities for visitors. Fire breaks and utility line construction are the major ground disturbing activities in the park today, and these are monitored by the Southeast Archaeological Center of the National Park Service in compliance with Section 106 regulations.

Previous Investigations

Louis Tesar of Florida State University surveyed the reservation in 1973 under contract with the National Park Service. He generally examined the surface of each reported site within the reserve, and did some limited subsurface testing. He also reported several unrecorded prehistoric sites (a complete list is included in the Multiple Properties application). Tesar described several features within the plantation complex (see attached map):

- Feature A. The Caretaker's House Ruins
- Feature B. The Caretaker's Trash Pit
- Feature C. The Old Field
- Feature D. Three concentrations of Old Live Oak Logs
- Feature E. The Wharf
- Feature F. Nearshore Western Historic Artifact Concentration
- Feature G. Pile of limestone Rocks

Tesar reported that Feature B, the Caretaker's Trash Pit has been partially excavated by the caretaker of 1973, Jon Manly and others. Tesar felt that some of the site still remained intact, and was worthy of future investigation.

Houston and Stoutamire (1982) of Florida State University did some limited testing on Features E and F for the National Park Service. Feature E, The Wharf, was relocated and mapped. Feature F, the Historic Artifact Concentration, was not relocated, and they assumed that it was either covered by, or destroyed by erosional forces.

Features A and B were relocated during the photographing of sites in preparation of this nomination. Although evidence of digging is present in Feature B, the Caretaker's trash pit, it appears to be dense enough to have survived amateur investigations. No subsurface testing was done; however, surface artifacts at the location of the house ruins and trash pit are evident.

Charles W. Snell of the National Park Service produced a special history study of the naval live oak reservation system in 1983 (Snell, 1983). It contains a political history of the reservations with a focus on the Deer Point Naval Live Oaks Plantation and Reservation.

8SR48 Naval Live Oaks Reservation

Section 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

The Naval Live Oaks Reservation was begun in 1828 by the United States Government to insure the continuing supply of live oak timber for the construction of ships for the U.S. Navy. In the late 1700s, the government saw the need to conserve lands that contained live oak and red cedar for shipbuilding, and experimented with the cultivation of live oak at this particular reserve, then known as Deer Point Live Oak Plantation.

Henry Marie Brackenridge, Judge of the Territory of Florida, and former Pensacola mayor, was instrumental in convincing the President and Congress to choose the public lands that they already owned, as well as two additional tracts of land owned by Brackenridge and Richard K. Call. The plantation operated until the beginning of the Civil War, when in 1861 Confederate soldiers occupied the reservation.

Brackenridge constructed several structures on the plantation, including his own house, quarters for slaves, a stable, and other small support buildings. The Naval Live Oaks Area of the Gulf Islands National Seashore is only a section of the original reserve that was not sold at public auction, and contains archaeological remains that were associated with the plantation.

This site is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A as the first federally funded tree farm, and under Criterion D, as having the potential to yield archaeological information relevant to the historic Antebellum and Early American period of Florida settlement.

Historic Context

In the late 1700s, United States officials recognized a need for the conservation of live oaks with which to build ships for the Navy. They began slowly, but by the end of the War of 1812, they were more convinced that a strong navy was needed for protection of the expanding coastlines. Surveys of the southern states were made to determine the availability of the trees on public lands, and in 1817, an act was passed to help protect these areas.

The first step in live oak conservation was the purchase of two Georgia barrier islands: Grover's Island in 1799; and Blackbeard's Island in 1800. But these two small islands could only begin to supply shipbuilders. Secretary of the Navy (1814) Benjamin W. Crowinshield estimated that one 74-gun ship required 2,000 large oak trees, equal to the production of approximately 57 acres (Snell, 1983:13).

In 1820, President Monroe created the first naval live oak reserve in Louisiana. It consisted of eight islands in Grand Lake, but the timber from these islands was never used in the

construction of naval vessels.

In 1822, only one year after the U.S. acquired Florida from the Spanish, an act was passed specifically for the protection of live oak forests in Florida territory. "An Act for the Preservation of the Timber of the U.S. in Florida" was established to prevent cutting or destruction of timber on public lands in the new territory. Spanish land claims, and insufficient surveys made it difficult for the government to enforce this act -- boundaries were disputed with private individuals and the old Spanish records were kept from U.S. officials. A survey of live oak forests was done between 1825 and 1827, and the best lands noted. A second timber reserve, rich in red cedar, was set aside in Monroe County, Alabama in 1827; however, its timber continued to be cut by others and it was more or less abandoned by the Navy shipbuilders.

The Deer Point Naval Live Oak Plantation (now known as the Naval Live Oaks Reservation) was established in 1828 by Secretary of the Navy, Samuel L. Southard. Property adjacent to previously owned public lands on the Gulf Breeze peninsula were purchased from Henry Marie Brackenridge and Richard K. Call, securing the western end of the peninsula for the U.S. (See attached map). This reserve was not only to protect live oaks, but also to experiment with their cultivation from acorns and cut tree stumps, making it the first federal tree farm. Henry Brackenridge was one of the biggest supporters of this program, and offered his services as superintendent at no cost as long as he was allowed to keep his residence on the western end of his 400 arpents of the property. He proposed clearing around young trees; cutting away pines, water oaks and hickories from live oaks; and clear vegetation around the roots of maturing trees. He also proposed planting young seedlings and acorns in the open savannah areas of the property.

Brackenridge boasted that the Deer Point location was the best choice for the plantation because of its easy access to water for transportation, its thick live oak forest, and its close proximity to the newly established Pensacola Navy Yard. Most of the timber taken from the reservation was used in the repair of ships, not new ship construction. Only two ships were built at the Navy Yard from local live oaks before the outbreak of the Civil War. He requested two or three "poor" families, and 20 laborers (slaves) for the first year, and 10 for the years following. Samuel Davis already lived on the land, and Brackenridge recommended him for the overseer position. Once the plan was approved, he hired Davis, four of his slaves, and an additional ten slaves from other Pensacola settlers and began constructing the needed buildings for the plantation enterprise.

Brackenridge made improvements to his property beginning in 1822. He planted an orange grove, peach trees, and other citrus trees. Structures on the plantation included his one-story frame dwelling, a log kitchen, a stable and three double cabins. There were also two rough log buildings to house the twenty slaves (Snell, 1983:182-184).

Henry Brackenridge was a former aide to Andrew Jackson while he was territorial governor of Florida. In 1822, he served as mayor of Pensacola, and by 1823, he had secured an

appointment as “Judge of the Territory of West Florida.” He served as Judge until 1831 when he was not re-appointed by President Andrew Jackson. The lack of personal support and support for the plantation at the beginning of the Jackson administration led Brackenridge to resign, embittered and angry (Pokrant, 1995).

Suspicion of former President Adams’s programs prompted withdrawal of support for the reservations and Deer Point Plantation between 1829 and 1831. Allegations of fraud and mishandling of resources were brought by the Secretary of the Navy, John Branch, in an attempt to discredit the program. No wrongdoing was discovered, and Congressional support for the reservation was reinstated.

Additional lands were added to the Deer Point Reservation in 1838, bringing the total to 15,953.28 acres. Other lands to the east were purchased along Choctawhatchee Bay and St. Andrews Bay, bringing the total in West Florida to almost 90,000 acres. By 1861, the U.S. government had reserved 241,673.94 acres of timberland in the southern states for purposes of shipbuilding (Snell, 1983).

Although the government began selling public timber lands between 1843 and 1853, the Deer Point Reservation remained intact until January of 1861 when Confederate troops took possession of the plantation. The Civil War marked the end of the need for large supplies of naval live oak with the construction of ironclad warships. In 1880, the Navy transferred the remaining reservation lands to the Department of the Interior, making them subject to public sale (Snell, 1983).

In 1947, the Deer Point Naval Live Oak Reservation was conveyed to the State of Florida through the “Surplus Property Act of 1944.” Certain conditions had to be met or the land reverted to the federal government. The land was to be used exclusively for public park activities, or the U.S. would retake possession. Because of illegal homesteading, in June, 1970, the U.S. exercised its option for regaining the property. The homesteaders complained in the court system, but the government won all appeals and expelled the illegal residents (Tesar, 1973).

Archaeological and Historical Significance

The Naval Live Oaks Reservation affords researchers with the opportunity to investigate both the historical and archaeological records. Using both disciplines to study a site can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the Antebellum period in Florida. Some of the research questions appropriate to this site are presented below.

The Live Oak Reserve system is important to the history of U.S. maritime heritage, and the initial construction of the U.S. Naval fleet. Live oak trees from the reservation continue to be important to one of the first vessels launched by the Navy in 1797, the *USS Constitution*. The U.S. Navy and National Park Service maintain the 200-year-old vessel with live oak timbers

from various sources, including the Naval Live Oak Reservation in Gulf Breeze where trees were cut and used in 1927 to repair the historic ship (Snell, 1983).

The Naval Live Oaks Reservation was not only a reserve, but the first federally funded tree farm. The administrators of the plantation were responsible for clearing around existing trees and planting new trees from seedlings and acorns. The experimental cultivation of live oak trees was the first of its kind, and one of the earliest examples of governmental conservation of a natural resource.

The archaeological aspect of this site can yield information about the architecture of the early 19th century; as well as the life-ways of the people associated with the plantation complex. Material culture studies of stratified societies can provide data about the relationships of the different classes of people who lived on the site. Large scale agriculture did not develop in most of Florida during the Second Spanish (A.D. 1783 - 1821) and Antebellum (A.D. 1821 - 1860) periods as it did in other parts of the southeast; however, slavery was important to the economic system of West Florida. Slaves were used as mill workers, domestics, and provided a skilled and unskilled labor force for the construction of the Pensacola Navy Yard in 1825. The more well-known slave labor systems of the tidewater and interior plantations were altered in West Florida to suit the needs of the specific types of economic enterprises that were more profitable in the region. This site provides archaeologists and historians with the opportunity to study that unique form of slavery during the Antebellum period.

The Naval Live Oaks Plantation was home to 20 slaves for the first year of operation, then the number was reduced to 10 Blacks for successive years of operation. Historic documents state that there were two structures built specifically to house these slaves. As non-free members of society, African slaves were generally not educated, and did not leave a written record of their lives. For this reason, archaeology can provide undocumented clues to the history of African-Americans.

8SR48 Naval Live Oaks Reservation

Section 9. Bibliography

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- 1982 "The Archaeology of the Naval Live Oaks Reservation, Gulf Islands National Seashore." Archaeological Research Reports No. 13; Southeast Conservation Archaeology Center, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

Pokrant, Marie E.

- 1995 "Live Oak: Pride of the Southern Forest." Paper submitted to Roger C. Smith, State of Florida Marine Archaeologist, copy on file, Naval Live Oaks Area, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Gulf Breeze, Florida.

Snell, Charles W.

- 1983 *A History of the Naval Live Oak Reservation Program, 1794-1880: A Forgotten Chapter in the History of American Conservation.* Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida/Mississippi. U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

Tesar, Louis Daniel

- 1973 "Archaeological Survey and Testing of Gulf Islands National Seashore Part I: Florida." Ms. on file, Southeast Archaeological Center, National Park Service, Tallahassee, Florida.
- 1973 Field Notes from "Archaeological Survey and Testing of the Gulf Islands National Seashore/Florida." On File with the Southeast Archaeological Center, National Park Service, Tallahassee, Florida.

8SR48 Naval Live Oaks Reservation

Section 10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The Naval Live Oaks Plantation and Reservation is located within the city of Gulf Breeze, Florida, on the Gulf Breeze peninsula in Santa Rosa County, Florida. The eastern boundary of the site is also the eastern limit of the city of Gulf Breeze. This boundary is marked by Bayshore Drive, north of State Highway 98 that cuts through the property east/west. The northeast boundary is marked by Reservation Road, from Bayshore Drive west to Pensacola Bay. The southeastern section, south of Highway 98 is bounded by the *Villa Venyce* residential housing development. The western boundary is marked by private development of the city of Gulf Breeze.

The property is bounded on the north by Pensacola Bay; and on the south by Santa Rosa Sound (see attached map).

The Reservation originally encompassed over 15,000 acres from the tip of the Gulf Breeze peninsula. The Naval Live Oaks Area of the Gulf Islands National Seashore contains the remaining property that was not subjected to public sale in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Boundary Justifications

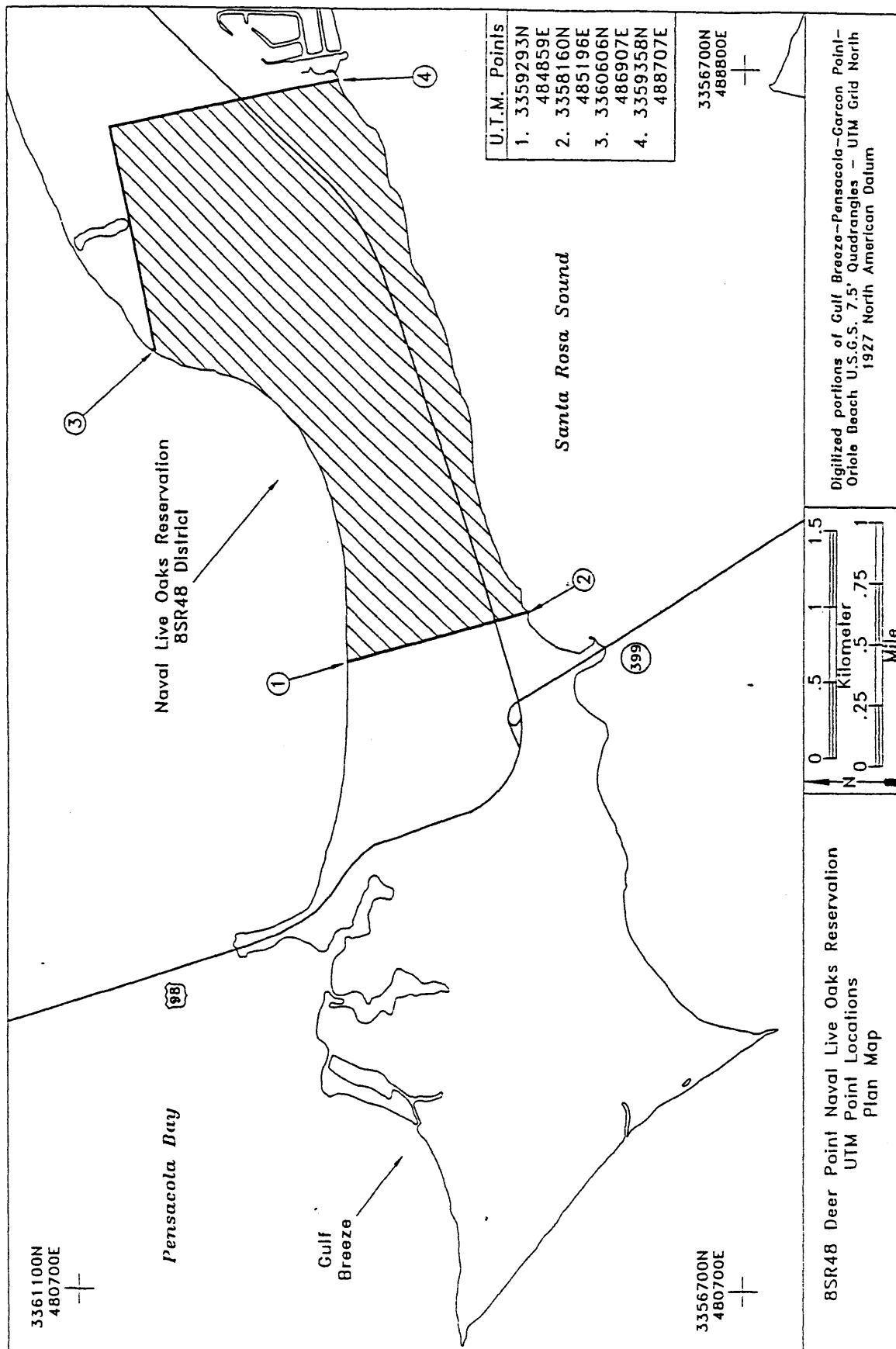
The northern and southern boundaries are clear, bounded by Pensacola Bay and Santa Rosa sound respectively. The eastern and western boundaries of the site are represented by the official property lines drawn by the Santa Rosa County Appraisers and the Department of the Interior, National Park Service.

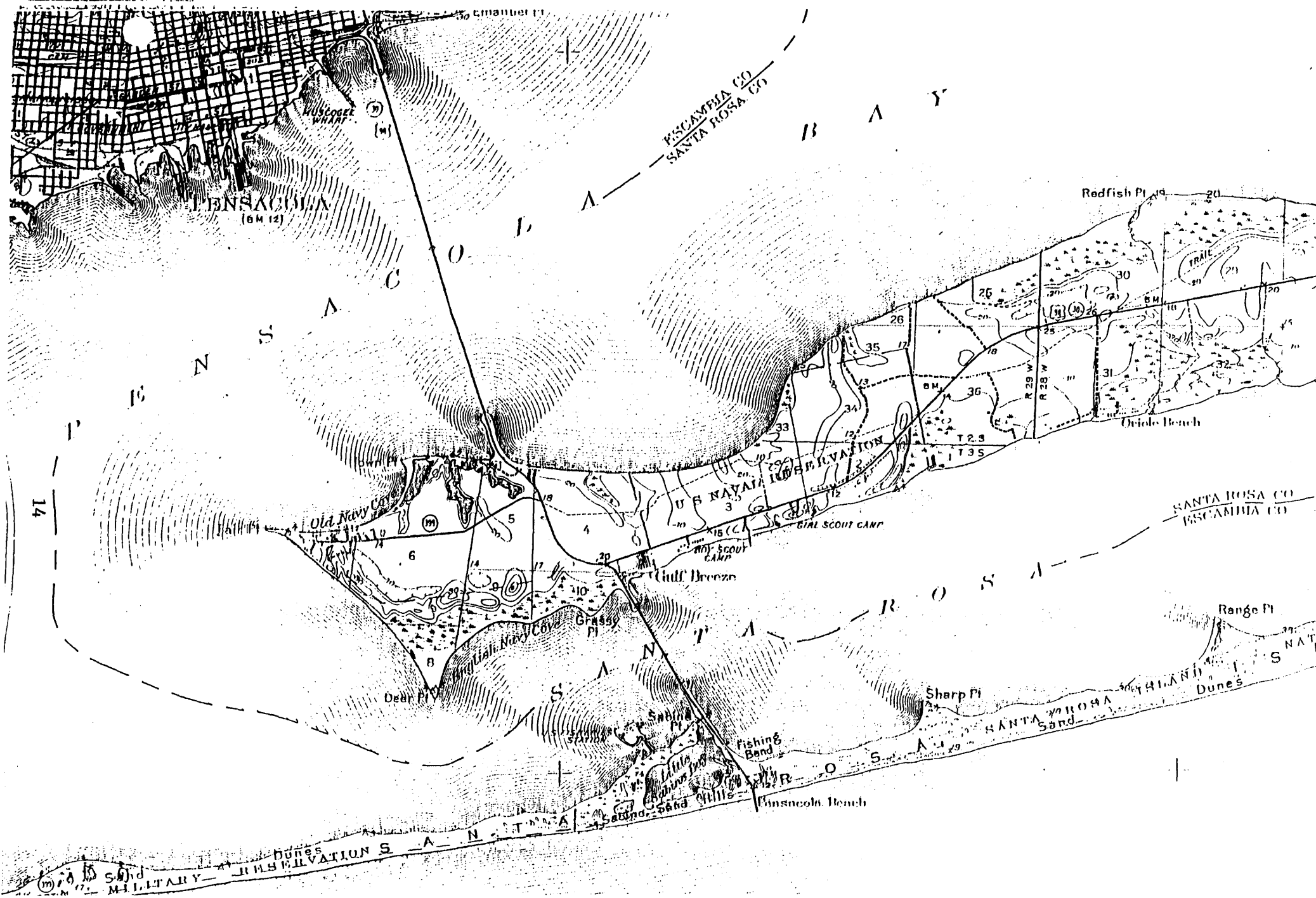
SR48 Naval Live Oaks Reservation

Photographs

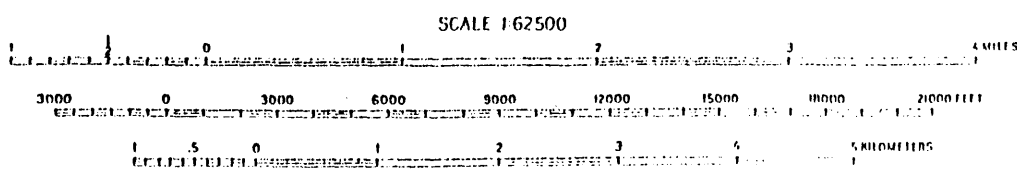
1. 1) Naval Live Oaks Reservation (8SR48)
 2) Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, FL
 3) Norma J. Harris
 4) March 8, 1997
 5) Naval Live Oaks Area, Gulf Islands National Seashore
 6) General view to north of caretaker's cottage site; Jeff Parsons, GUIIS cultural resource specialist; camera facing south.
 7) 1 of 2

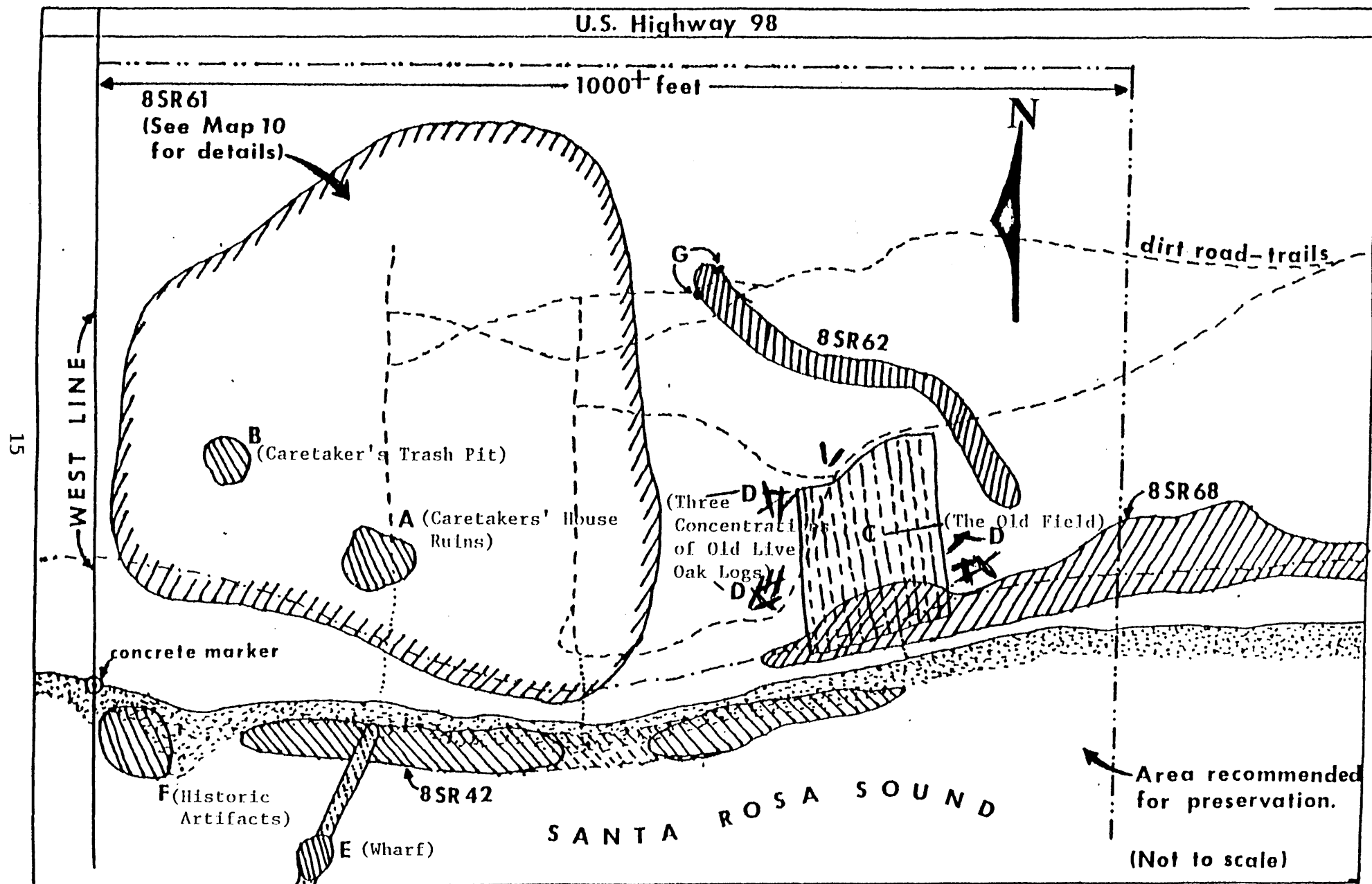
2. 1) Naval Live Oaks Reservation (8SR48)
 2) Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, FL
 3) Norma J. Harris
 4) March 8, 1997
 5) Naval Live Oaks Area, Gulf Islands National Seashore
 6) Shallow shell-filled depression near caretaker's cottage site, may be refuse pit; Jeff Parsons, GUIIS cultural resource specialist; camera facing east.
 7) 2 of 2





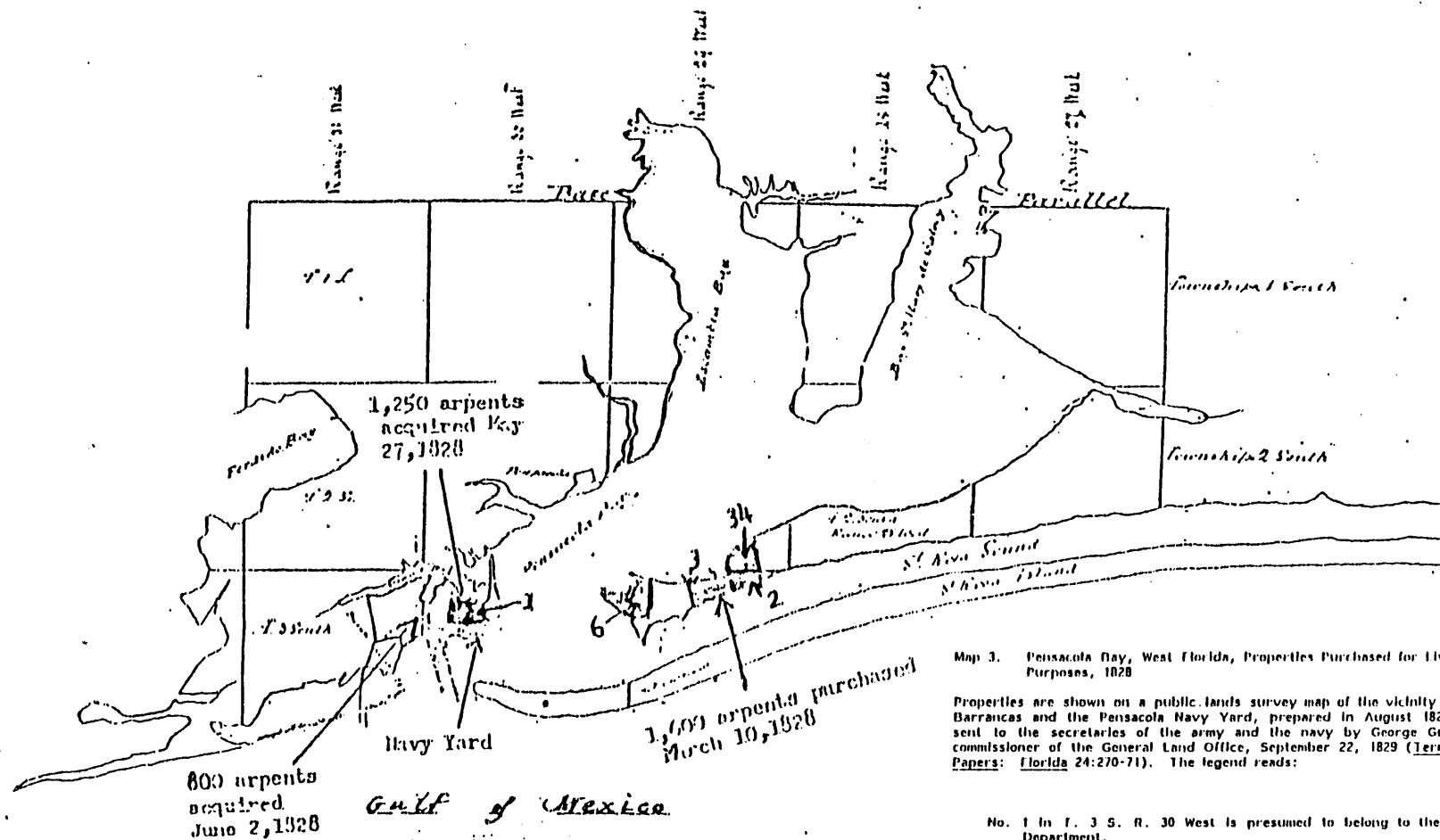
Naval Live Oaks Area, Gulf Islands National Seashore
 U.S.G.S. 15' Topographic Map
 Pensacola, Florida Quadrangle 1941





Map 9. Features of 8SR48 in the Southwest Corner of the Naval Live Oak Reservation.

(Tesar, 1973)



Map 3. Pensacola Bay, West Florida, Properties Purchased for Live Oak Purposes, 1828

Properties are shown on a public lands survey map of the vicinity of the Barrancas and the Pensacola Navy Yard, prepared in August 1829 and sent to the secretaries of the army and the navy by George Graham, commissioner of the General Land Office, September 22, 1829 (Territorial Papers: Florida 24:270-71). The legend reads:

No. 1 in T. 3 S. R. 30 West is presumed to belong to the Navy Department.
 No. 34 & 2 private claim in the name of H.M. Brackenridge
 No. 3 do do of H.M. Brackenridge and R.K. Call
 No. 6 do do of Wm. P. Anderson
 Claimed by V.S. Platado to the Line North & South four miles from the west end of St. Rosa Island, supposed to have been sold to the Navy Department by Mr. White.
 Fraction Township 3 S.R. 30 West contains 2346 Acres 1828
 Fraction Township 3 S.R. 31 West do 4174 Acres

(Snell, 1983)

Map 9. West Florida Live Oak Districts, From the Western Portion of District 2 Through District 5, and the Reservations Created from 1830 to 1834

Information added to a map prepared by the Surveyor General's Office, Tallahassee, October 1840 (Timber Reserves Book, plat following p. 15).

(Sne11, 1983)



NAVAL LIVE OAKS PLANTATION (11/1/51)
PHOTO #1
NAVAL LIVE OAKS, GULF BREEZE, SANTA ROSA Co., FL



NAVAL LIVE OAKS RESERVATION (85R418)

PHOTO #2

NAVAL LIVE OAKS: GULF BREEZE, SANTA ROSA CO., FL