

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY
NOMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet Item Number Page

Name Historic Fort Pringle Location Riverland Drive, James Island
Common Classification Structure
Owner R.A. Dill Estate
19 Legare St.
Charleston, SC 29401

Representation in Existing Surveys Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina, 1981

Description Fort Pringle is located in rural western James Island on the Stono River. This large enclosed earthwork is in an agricultural setting and is currently covered with a heavy growth of secondary vegetation. The earthwork itself is polygonal with the river face measuring approximately 360 feet, the right or upstream face 160 feet, the left or downstream face 400 feet, and the rear or inland face approximately 520 feet in length. The downstream and the river front parapet ranges from about 7.5 feet to 12.5 feet in height. The bombproof is approximately 15 feet high and the powder magazine about 12.5 feet tall. The rear parapet is about 7.5 feet in height. The water battery has heavy traverses between the gun platforms. Fort Pringle is in a remarkable state of preservation.

Significance Fort Pringle was constructed in 1863 by General P.G.T. Beauregard as part of the James Island Siege Line.⁵⁶ As the western terminus of this line, Fort Pringle commanded the Stono River, John's Island and lower James Island. It was designed to prevent naval forces from ascending the Stono River as well as land forces from attacking up James Island or along the Stono River on John's Island. Fort Pringle was named for Capt. Pringle, Lucas Battalion South Carolina Regular Artillery, killed on Morris Island in 1863.⁵⁷ In 1863 Fort Pringle became the site of some of the heaviest artillery attacks made by the Union fleet during the battle for James Island.⁵⁸ A pivotal James Island position which was the key to the siege line and crucial in the defense of the Stono River, Fort Pringle mounted nine heavy cannons at the war's end.⁵⁹

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Verbal Boundary Description The nominated property is shown as the red line on the accompanying Charleston County Tax Map #337-0-0, scaled at 1"=400'. This boundary includes all significant structures, while excluding adjacent marshlands.

UTM Reference Point 17/595100/3619820 (James Island quadrangle)

Other Information