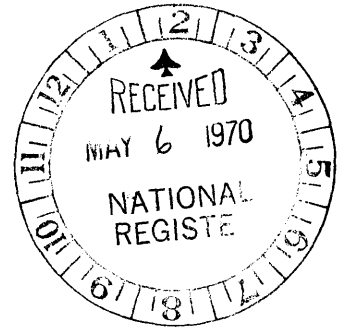


SPANISH COQUINA QUARRIES
(ANASTASIA STATE PARK)
Fla. ALA, St. Augustine Beach
St. Johns County



Although Anastasia State Park is best known now for its broad beach on the Atlantic Ocean and modern camping facilities in dense, virgin woodlands, it is closely involved in the history of St. Augustine, the oldest city in the United States.

The park is located just across the Matanzas River from this quaint city on a narrow strip of land known as Anastasia Island. The name "Anastasia" is Spanish and may be literally translated "of the resurrection."

Within the park's 1,035-acre boundaries are the original coquina, or shellrock, veins from which the Spaniards quarried rock in the 17th century for the construction of Castillo de San Marcos - a fortification vital to the protection of the very heart of Spanish holdings.

The quarrying was a slow and tedious task, for the coquina had to be cut into blocks of the desired size, hauled by oxen across the jungle and marshland to Matanzas River where the blocks were loaded onto large lighters and sculled across to the mainland. Because of its attractive color and texture, as well as its comparative durability, coquina also was used in other St. Augustine colonial architecture.

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Connolly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

AUG 12 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. Whitely
Keeper of The National Register

Date **JUL 6 1970**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida	
COUNTY: St. Johns	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Spanish Coquina Quarries

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Anastasia State Park, U.S. ALA on Anastasia Island

CITY OR TOWN:
St. Augustine Beach

STATE Florida	CODE 12	COUNTY: St. Johns	CODE 109
------------------	------------	----------------------	-------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Division of Recreation and Parks
Department of Natural Resources

STREET AND NUMBER:
Larson Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Tallahassee

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund

STREET AND NUMBER:
Elliott Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Tallahassee

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: _____

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

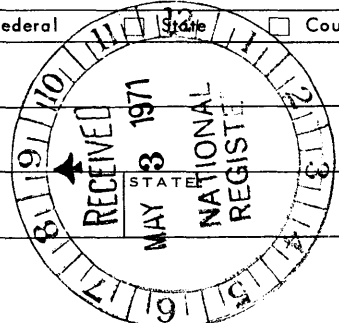
STATE: Florida

COUNTY: St. Johns

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE: FEB 23 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					and exposed		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unexposed		
	(Check One)			(Check One)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Anastasia Island, lying on the northeast coast of Florida, is separated from the mainland by the Matanzas River. The area behind the north end of the island forms a suitable harbor with access to the sea through the St. Augustine Inlet. The harbor offered adequate shelter from the Gulf Stream and was the reason for the settlement of the site. Unknown to its selectors, St. Augustine offered another advantage. Not long after settlement, coquina, in sufficient quantities for quarrying, was found on Anastasia Island.

The rock-like substance is a sandy composition of mollusks held loosely together by calcareous cement formed by the reaction of water, sand and calcium. This native shell rock is deposited in beds near the surface. Thickness varies from about six inches to approximately four feet with the center of the bed having the most depth. The geological type name "Anastasia formation" has been applied to these exposures of coquina rock which extend along the Atlantic coast from Anastasia Island southward for about 150 miles and are found in other sections of the state.

Within Anastasia State Park's 1,035-acre boundaries lie the original Spanish quarries from which the shell rock was obtained for the construction of the famed Castillo de San Marcos across the harbor on the western shore of the Matanzas River. Coquina can be seen today in many other buildings and structures primarily along the northeastern Florida coast.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

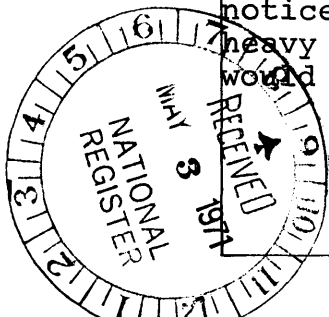
In the era of colonial rivalry on the southeastern seacoast, St. Augustine became increasingly important because of its strategic location on the Gulf Stream. While the idea of building a permanent fortification had been suggested as early as 1586, nine wooden forts were to be built before a stone structure was undertaken in the late 17th century. Construction was to finally begin in 1672 and advance by varying stages to relative completeness in 1696. The coquina quarries on Anastasia Island supplied the material for the structure.

The proximity of the fort's chosen location to the quarries on Anastasia Island was most significant considering the laborious transportation methods used. The quarried rock was moved over the loose sandy soil by oxen to Escolta Creek, where it was loaded aboard square-end dugouts with planking laid over to form a platform on which the stone rested. After being floated across to the western shore they were unloaded and stockpiled until used in the structure. Anastasia Island and the surrounding area also supplied the oyster shell for the limekilns producing the lime used in making the mortar.

The actual quarrying process was simple, although extremely arduous. After the overburden of vegetation and loose sand was removed to expose the coquina rock, trenches were dug with picks and stonemason's hatchets until the desired size and shape was achieved. Then the blocks were pried loose from the bed itself. In its natural state, coquina is relatively soft and workable. Once it dries and ages, it becomes much harder and offers a very durable structural material with a high compression factor. It made an ideal building material for fortification for another reason. An Englishman, with Oglethorpe's invading force in 1740, noticed that the native rock did not splinter when struck with heavy cannon balls but would rather give away "as though you would stick a knife into cheese."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Continued



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Manucy, Albert C. "Report on a Field Trip to the Probable Site of Spanish Quarries on Anastasia Island, Near St. Augustine, Florida", Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, 1945.
 ----- . The Building of Castillo de San Marcos. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1942.
 Puri, Harbans S. and Robert O. Vernon. Summary of the Geology of Florida and a Guidebook to the Classic Exposures. Tallahassee: Florida Geological Survey, 1964.

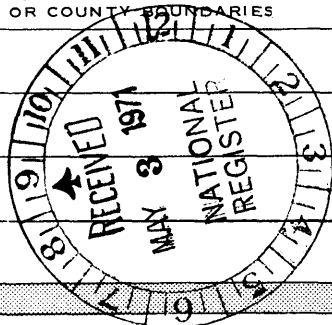
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	29 ° 52 ' 45 "	81 ° 17 ' 12 "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	29 ° 52 ' 45 "	81 ° 15 ' 52 "				
SE	29 ° 51 ' 32 "	81 ° 15 ' 52 "				
SW	29 ° 51 ' 32 "	81 ° 17 ' 12 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1,035 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Randy F. Nimnicht, Historic Preservationist

ORGANIZATION: **Division of Archives, History and Records Mgt.** DATE: **4/16/71**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of State, The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: **Tallahassee** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **12**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Robert William*

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: April 29, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connally
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

FEB 23 1972

Date: _____

ATTEST:

William H. Huntley
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **FEB 8 1972**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY St. Johns	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 23 1972

(Number all entries)

Spanish Coquina Quarries - Significance - Page 2

The quarries on Anastasia Island furnished building material for many other structures down through the period of Spanish occupation. On the Juan Elixio de la Puente map of 1771, it is noted that, "Anastasia Island has in its center a quarry of best rock for building, especially for fortifications, which extends 3 1/2 leagues (approximately 10 miles) in length and 4 to 5 squares (about 400-500 feet) in width." The rock has been quarried in modern times, although due to high labor costs, it is little used except for decorative purposes.



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE

Florida

COUNTY

St. Johns

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FEB 23 1972

1. NAME

COMMON: Spanish Coquina Quarries
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Anastasia State Park, U.S. ALA on Anastasia Island

CITY OR TOWN:

St. Augustine Beach

STATE:

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY:

St. Johns

CODE

109

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, St. Augustine
and St. Augustine Beach Quadrangles (7.5 minute series)

SCALE: 1:24000

DATE: 1956

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

