

PH0002763

1st Congressional District

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia	
COUNTY: Bryan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-5-10-0007	DATE 5/13/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort McAllister

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
East of U.S. 17 - 10m. E of

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond Hill Ga. 67

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Bryan CODE: 029

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Georgia Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
116 Mitchell Street, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Office of Clerk, Superior Court of Bryan County

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bryan County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Pembroke STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

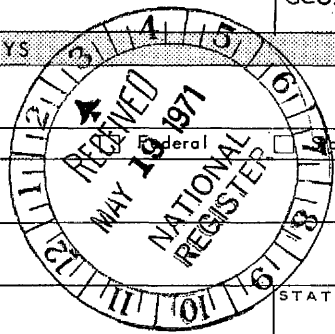
TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Bryan

ENTRY NUMBER: 70-5-10-0007

DATE: 5/13/70

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7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort McAllister, a Civil War earthworks fortification on the south bank of the Great Ogeechee River, has been restored to look as it did about 1864. Restoration was actually begun in the 1930's when Henry Ford bought the property as part of a large plantation. When Ford acquired the land, years of growth obscured the basic outlines of the "sand dune" fort. He uncovered and repaired the bombproofs and hot-shot furnace in an attempt to restore faithfully what the Confederacy lost in hand to hand combat December 13, 1864.

In 1958 the International Paper Company donated the site to the Georgia Historical Commission which has taken up where Ford left off. The unusual natural beauty of the site has been enhanced as the historically accurate restoration has proceeded. The earthenworks have been given their original shapes and have been covered with a special variety of coastal Bermuda to prevent erosion. Some of the volunteer trees with years of growth were left though they were obviously not there during the War. Near the ramparts, the Commission has built a museum and caretaker's house in the style of late 18th century coastal dwellings. The ground floor contains exhibits which explain the history of the site. Throughout the restored area small markers have been placed at points of interest. A newly-cast Columbiad cannon set on a wooden gun carriage now looks out over the mouth of the Ogeechee River. The restored bombproofs, banquettes, and parapets are accessible to visitors.

"Sand and Grit", a monograph written for the National Park Service in 1938 describes essentially what the visitor sees today:

"Fort McAllister had five irregular sides; the one directly on the river measuring about 650 feet; another, facing Ossabaw Sound, about 750 feet; the lower right side, about 400 feet; the left about 650 feet; and the rear, about 750 feet. The rear was protected by a deep dry ditch or moat, and by an infantry line equipped with a series of ramps for mounting field artillery. The right flank faced swamp-land and so needed no such exterior protection. The guns of the fort were all mounted en barbette.

High traverses, raised some 20 feet above the river stood between the guns and afforded the gun crews a degree of protection against shot and shell. Within the fort were several large earthen mounds, called bombproofs, in which the garrison ate and slept and where in times of battle the wounded found shelter. The largest of these occupies an area of about 41,250 square feet, and rises to a height of some thirty feet. In a position near the left flank stood a hot shot furnace....Entrance to the fort was through the sallyport on the left flank; there may have been other entrances but no mention of them has been found."



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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1861-1864

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 type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u>
<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	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

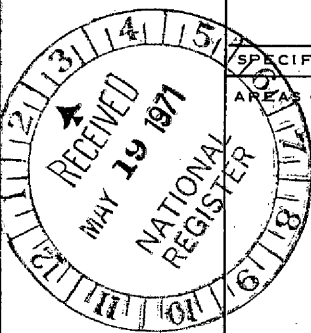
Fort McAllister, located on the south bank of the Great Ogeechee River, is an outstanding example of Confederate earthwork fortifications. Its historical significance is two-fold: first it demonstrated that earthen fortifications could withstand the heaviest naval ordnance of that time and secondly, its capture by Gen. William T. Sherman in 1864 enabled the Union Army to obtain supplies from its offshore vessels thus ending the "March to the Sea."

Begun in 1861, Fort McAllister was the southernmost in a series of fortifications guarding Savannah from attack by sea as well as protecting nearby rice plantations and a vital trestle of the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad. Although some recommendations were made by Gen. Robert E. Lee, the fort's design is largely attributed to Capt. John McCrady, a skilled Confederate engineer. Massive earthworks were erected rather than a conventional masonry fort because of lessons learned from the fall of Fort Pulaski, a Confederate masonry fortification, and because of lack of time. The Fort was named in honor of the McAllister family who owned a nearby plantation.

In June 1862 the famed Confederate blockade-runner Nashville eluded a Union pursuer and slipped into the Ogeechee River. Union strategy called for silencing Fort McAllister in order to capture the ship. After months of futile bombardment, the Union Navy, on January 27, 1863, employed the USS Montauk against the fort - this was first use of a U.S. ironclad against land fortifications. Despite five hours of bombardment from the largest guns ever mounted on a naval ship, Fort McAllister still stood. In attempting to escape the blockade, the Nashville was destroyed by the Montauk on February 28, 1863; however, the union ironclad was destroyed during the day by a river mine. Fort McAllister had not seen the end of this particular engagement for on March 3 three ironclads and three wooden gunboats waged another assault - the heaviest in which the fort had yet been involved. Again, the earthworks proved impregnable, the sand absorbing the shot.

It was not until December 1864 that Fort McAllister was silenced. Witnessed by Gen. Sherman, the fort was assaulted from the rear and fell after 15 minutes of hand to hand fighting. The fall of Fort McAllister marked the end of Sherman's "March to the Sea" and rendered the defense of Savannah useless.

During the late 1930's Henry Ford who owned the site of the fortification undertook extensive work in the way of restoration. In 1958 the International Paper Company which purchased the property from Mr. Ford's estate conveyed the site to the State of Georgia. Under the supervision of the Georgia Historical Commission the earthworks and bombproofs have been restored and an interpretative museum built nearby.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cooke, R. Jervis, Sand and Grit. (Savannah, Ga.: National Park Service, 1938).
 Files and Documents, Georgia Historical Commission.
 Julian, Col. Allen P., "Historic Fort McAllister," Georgia Magazine, Vol. IV,
 No. 1, (June-July 1960).
 Kirkpatrick, W.S., "Where the Confederacy Made Its Last Stand in Georgia,"
Atlanta Journal-Constitution Magazine, August 24, 1958.
 Naval History Division, Civil War Naval Chronology, 1861-1865. (Washington:
 Navy Department, 1971).

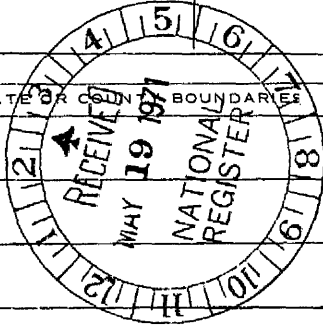
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	31 ° 53 ' 37 "	81 ° 11 ' 52 "		0	0	
NE	31 ° 53 ' 37 "	81 ° 11 ' 31 "				
SE	31 ° 53 ' 24 "	81 ° 11 ' 31 "				
SW	31 ° 53 ' 24 "	81 ° 11 ' 52 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 30 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NOUTM
CX

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Ga. Historic Sites Survey
Nancy O'Hare, Carole Summers

ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission DATE: May 14, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 116 Mitchell St., S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Mary Gregory Jewell</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>May 17, 1971</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Cassinelly</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation 5/13/70</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST: <u>William R. Mitchell, Jr.</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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