

KINGSLEY PLANTATION
Fla. Ala, ~~Fort George~~
Duval County

The colorful planter and slave trader Zephaniah Kingsley came to Florida from Africa, Brazil and the West Indies in 1803, and remained here to play a prominent role in the commercial and political affairs of Florida as a Spanish colony and later as a U.S. territory.

At the turn of the 19th century, Spain was encouraging colonists to till Florida's fertile soil, and Zephaniah Kingsley realized this as the perfect opportunity to obtain a base from which slaves could be smuggled across the U.S. border to Southern planters.

He obtained a Spanish land grant in 1814, but did not wait for his claim to be allowed before building a home on Fort George Island. This home still stands today, and contains 19th century furniture typical of the period when Zephaniah Kingsley lived there. Adjacent are the original coquina slave quarters.

Though Kingsley was primarily a slave trader, he engaged extensively in shipping to facilitate the importation of slaves, and in agriculture to furnish a training school for them. Thus he got the raw material in Africa, and eventually delivered to his purchaser a highly prized artisan, profiting from the agricultural byproducts in the process.

Despite Kingley's unconventional life, his leadership ability was recognized by four different governmental authorities under whose dominion he lived in Florida. Among other honors, he was selected by the President of the United States to serve as one of 13 members of the second Legislative Council of the Florida Territor

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

Ernest Allen Connolly

ATTEST:

SEP 20 1970

William J. Murtagh
Keeper of The National Register

JUL 1 1970

PH0012149

ADVANCE NOMINATION - 1970

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: Florida	
COUNTY: Duval	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.9.09.0019	DATE 9/29/70

HZ
NO
Map

1. NAME

COMMON:

Kingsley Plantation

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Zephaniah Kingsley Plantation Home and Buildings

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Northern tip of Fort George Island at Fort George Inlet

CITY OR TOWN:

Jacksonville vicinity

STATE

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY:

Duval

CODE

031

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input 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	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"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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) <u>State Park and museum.</u>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

Larson Building

CITY OR TOWN:

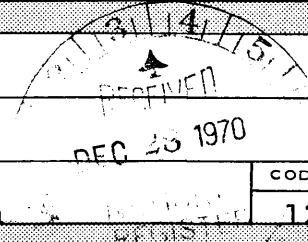
Tallahassee

STATE:

Florida

CODE

12



STATE: Florida

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Duval County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Jacksonville

STATE

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY: Duval

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Florida Historic Sites Survey, 1940 & HABS (Fla. 15-1)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936-40

Federal

State

County

Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Division of Archvies, History and Records Mgt., Dept. of Stat

STREET AND NUMBER:

The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN:

Tallahassee

STATE:

Florida

CODE

12

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: 70.9.09.0019

DATE: 9/29/70

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" 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

The Kingsley Plantation House on the northern end of Fort George Island ^{may} be the oldest plantation house in Florida, built shortly after 1800. Related buildings are a large brick and tabby barn, tabby ruins of 24 slave cabins, a tabby-brick house and a tabby house ruin. These buildings were the center of a working plantation island, headquarters for several other Kingsley plantations in Spanish East Florida.

The plantation house is two-story with an attic and basement. The foundation and basement are of stuccoed tabby and the remainder of the house is wood frame construction, hipped roof, wooden shingles, a widow's walk at the peak. A wide porch with a sloping roof is set between two single-story wings front and rear. The house faces north. It has been recently furnished with appropriate pieces, some of them from early owners of the home.

Nearby is Anna's House, named for Anna Madagegine Jai, Kingsley's wife, daughter of an African chief,

The house is presently connected to the Kingsley house by an open covered walkway. It is two-story with a gable roof sloping to the first story on the west, and a porch facing east. The roof is wood shingled and the first story is stuccoed brick made of tabby, reinforced by conventional brick. This is a rare type of construction and only one other use of tabby brick is known in northeast Florida. The second story is of wood. A central chimney allows a fireplace in each of the four main rooms. Plans are underway to furnish this house.

Documentary evidence indicates strongly that Anna's House was built in 1791 by John McQueen, Philadelphia born, friend of Washington and Lafayette, who found refuge in Spanish Florida from his creditors. McQueen's letters also mention the house at the south end of the island, likely the tabby ruin there now. This is in a location isolated from the main house but owned by the state of Florida.

The slave quarters are a semicircular row of 24 cabins in ruins, built of tabby. Tabby is a mixture of lime, crushed oyster shell, water and sand, poured into frames. Each cabin had an open fireplace for cooking and a tabby floor. The road entering the plantation bisected the row of cabins about midway on the semicircle. The two cabins nearest this road were occupied by the Negro leaders who helped train and oversee the slaves.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

REC-25 1911
 NATIONAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHIVES
 UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LIBRARY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Florida	
COUNTY	
Duval	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70,909,0019	9/29/70

(Number all entries)

Kingsley Plantation
7. Description - page 2

Legal description of property:

The Division of Recreation and Parks, Department of Natural Resources, acquired Kingsley Plantation by the following deeds:

Deed - February 10, 1955

All of Block "T", according to the Fort George Corporation's Replat of the Northern Portion of the Army and Navy Country Club's Plat of the Rollins Homestead on Fort George Island, Florida, as recorded in Plat Book 14 pages 43, 44, and 45, current public records, Duval County, Florida.

Deed - February 16, 1955

All of Block "U", and all of Block "Y", according to the Fort George Corporation's Replat of the Northern Portion of the Army and Navy Country Club's Plat of the Rollins Homestead on Fort George Island, Florida, as recorded in Plat Book 14 pages 43, 44 and 45, current public records, Duval County, Florida.

Deed - April 8, 1966

All of Lot 7 and the west half of Lot 6, Block F, Fort George Corporation's Replat of the northern portion of Army and Navy Country Club Plat of Rollins Homestead on Fort George Island, Plat Book 14, pages 43-45, of the Public Records of Duval County, Florida, and

All of Lot 2, Block G, Fort George Corporation's Replat of the northern portion of Army and Navy Country Club Plat of Rollins Homestead on Fort George Island, Plat Book 14, pages 43-45, of the Public Records of Duval County, Florida



SIGNIFICANCE

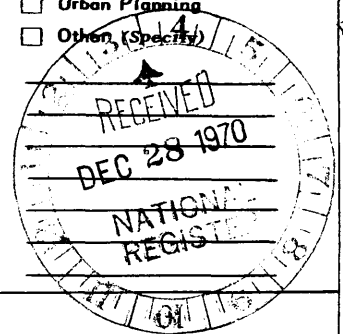
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The island's history begins in 1562 when Ribault, with his band of Frenchmen landed on the island and (1564) when Jacques LeMoyne, the first European artist of America, painted the Timuquan and mapped the land. In the 1580's, the Spaniards built the Mission San Juan del Puerto of wattle and daub on the island near its center. Father Pareja served here and wrote scholarly works (still extant) in the language of the Timuquan. In 1696 the Quaker missionary, Johnathan Dickinson passed through the island and recorded his visit in his diary. In 1702 the British colonials destroyed the Florida missions and in the early 1730's Oglethorpe constructed Fort St. George, probably of earth, thus giving the island its name.

The first plantation on the island was during British days (1763-83) when Indigo, rice and cotton were grown there. McQueen, in 1791, was more interested in lumbering but also grew cotton and had a water-operated cotton gin on the island.

McIntosh, owner of the island from 1804-1817, grew all the plantation crops here. Zephaniah Kingsley bought the island in 1817.

Kingsley was born in Scotland, reared and educated in Charleston, South Carolina. The Kingsley family were descendants of England's lesser nobility. Little is known of Kingsley's early life but in 1803 he arrived in St. Augustine with his unusual menage, which was less than welcome there. He bought land on the St. Johns River and established Laurel Grove, a large cotton plantation. Eventually he bought land at all strategic points along the St. Johns and had others on the St. Mary's and on Kingsley Lake. Fort George Island became Kingsley's home. Whether he built the large house there today, or whether his predecessor, John Houston McIntosh built it, is not known and awaits full research.

Kingsley raised cotton, sugar, rice and other food crops; and experimented successfully in citrus growing. He owned
(continued...)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Connor, Jeannette Thurber, ed. Jean Ribaut. DeLand, Florida State Historical Society, 1927
 Arnade, Charles W. The Siege of St. Augustine, Gainesville, University of Florida Press, 1959.
 Dickinson, Jonathan. Jonathan Dickinson's Journal; or God's Protecting Providence. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1961.
 Hartridge, Walter C., ed. The Letters of Don Juan McQueen to His Family, Columbia, S. C. 1943.

(continued...)

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	30° 26' 42"	81° 26' 24"				
NE	30° 26' 42"	81° 26' 00"				
SE	30° 26' 12"	81° 26' 00"				
SW	30° 26' 12"	81° 26' 24"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **50 acres**

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY Reviewed by: **J. P. Schuck, Chief, Bureau of**

NAME AND TITLE: **Historic Preservation, Dept. of State**
Miss Dena Snodgrass, Advisory Council

ORGANIZATION: **Kingsley Plantation State Park** DATE: **9/20/70**

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

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><i>Robert Williams</i></u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>December 18, 1970</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation <i>15/9/29/70</i></p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register <i>7/1/70</i></p> <p>Date: _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Duval	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 10.9.09.0019	DATE 9/29/70

(Number all entries)

Kingsley Plantation
Significance, Page 2

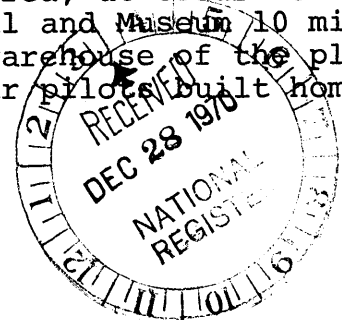
vessels in which he took his products to market and carried on a lively trade in slaves from Africa. By carefully training the slaves in the plantation skills he fitted them for life in the cotton growing states of the United States. His treatises on the treatment of slaves and the social order in Florida and in Haiti show an unusually advanced philosophy. But because his household was not acceptable, he moved them to live in Haiti where the name Kingsley is a common one today.

Kingsley was a prominent and worthy citizen of Spanish Florida and later of the U. S. Territory of Florida. He was described by Joseph M. White, Florida's delegate in Congress in 1825, as "a classical scholar...much above the governor in point of intellect and education." Small wonder then that the President of the United States had previously selected Kingsley to be a member of the Legislative Council describing him as one of "13 of the most fit and discreet persons in the territory."

Kingsley B. Gibbs, a son of Kingsley's sister, operated the plantation for his uncle while he was away and after his death in 1843. For generations the Gibbs family has been prominent in northeast Florida. Another sister of Kingsley married Dr. James McNeill of North Carolina and their daughter married a Whistler. She was made world renown by her artist son, James McNeil Whistler. Her visits to Florida add to the history of the old plantation house on Fort George Island.

The happenings on this small island run the gamut of Florida's history from 1513 down to the 20th century. Its history is made even more fascinating because so many of the physical evidences remain.

Other historic places nearby: Mount Cornelia, a high lookout mound 1/2 mile southeast; the site of the Spanish Mission San Juan del Puerto 1/2 mile south; an enormous, winding oyster shell mound cutting through the center of the island; the ruins of the Fitzpatrick House, probably the earliest in the area, at Cedar Point, 5 miles north; Fort Caroline National Memorial and Museum 10 miles up river; adjacent Batten Island, site of a warehouse of the plantation and, in the 1870's and 1880's, many bar pilots built homes here, one of which remains.



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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Duval	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 10.4.09.0019	DATE 9/29/70

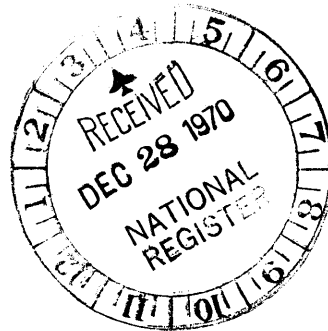
(Number all entries)

Kingsley Plantation
Bibliographical References - Page 2

The Territorial Papers of the United States, Volumes XXII through XXVI, the Territory of Florida, 1821-1845, Clarence E. Carter, ed. Washington, GPO, 1956-62.

Papers, Jacksonville Historical Society, Volumes IV and V, with special reference to additional sources in Volume V.

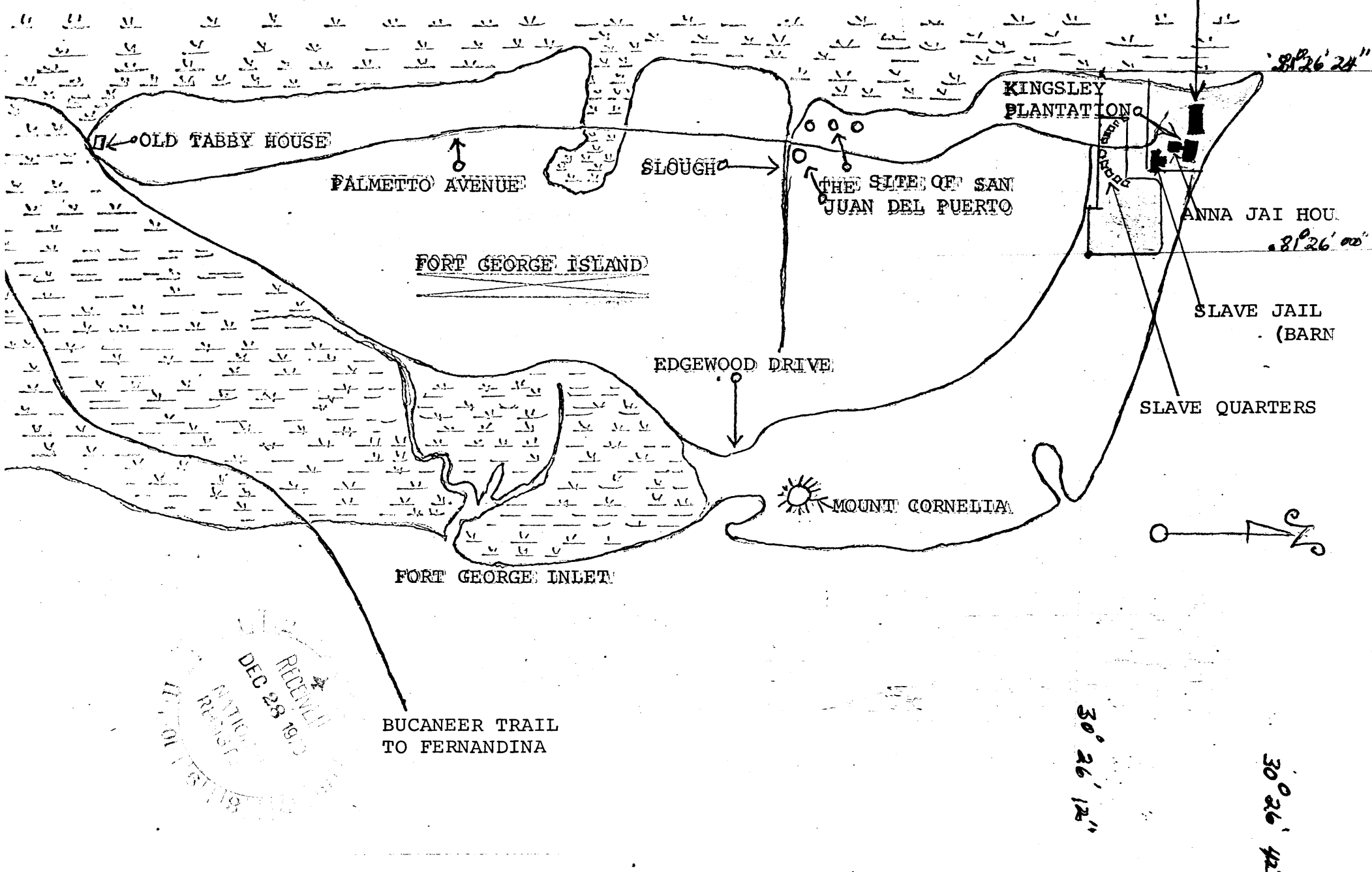
Family records of the Gibbs family of Jacksonville and St. Augustine.



HISTORIC PLACES, FORT GEORGE ISLAND

OLD FORT GEORGE CL
PARK HEADQUARTERS

DUVAL COUNTY



81° 26' 24"

81° 26' 00"

30° 26' 12"

30° 26' 42"

RECEIVED
 DEC 28 1913
 NATIONAL ARCHIVES
 COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND

BUCANEER TRAIL TO FERNANDINA

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

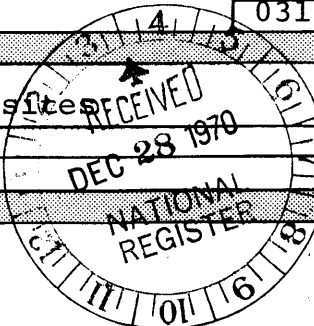
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Duval	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 76.9.09.0019	DATE 9/29/70

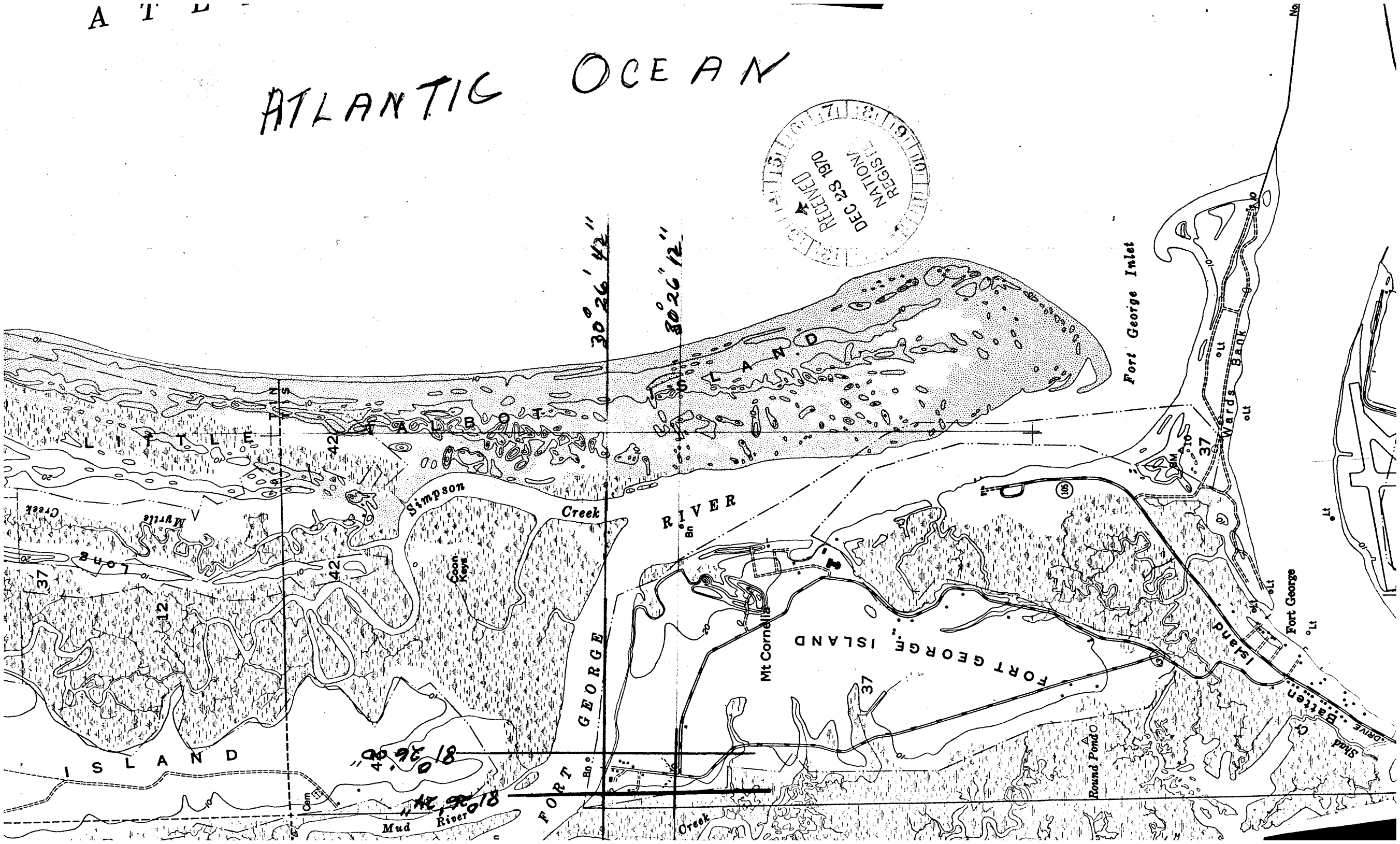
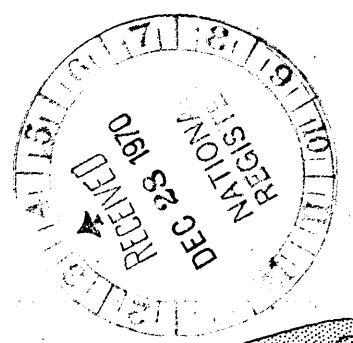
1. NAME			
COMMON: Kingsley Plantation			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Zephaniah Kingsley Plantation Headquarters			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Northern tip of Ft. George Island at Ft. George Inlet			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Jacksonville vicinity			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Florida	12	Duval	031
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: (J. P. Schuck)			
Diagram of Ft. George Island showing historic sites			
SCALE: 6 inches = 1 mile			
DATE: 1970			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

A T L

ATLANTIC OCEAN



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE	Florida
COUNTY	Duval
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
10.9.09.0019	9/29/70

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1. NAME			
COMMON: Kingsley Plantation			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Zephaniah Kingsley Plantation Headquarters			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Northern tip of Ft. George Island at Ft. George Inlet			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Jacksonville vicinity			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Florida	12	Duval	031
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S. Geological Survey, Mayport Quadrangle			
SCALE: 7 1/2 minute			
DATE: 1954			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

