

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 type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" 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"/> 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> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

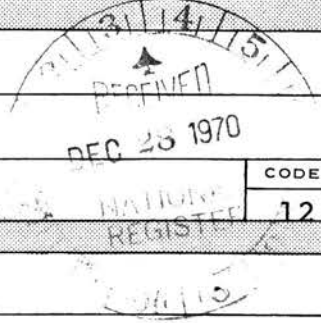
OWNER'S NAME: Division of Recreation and Parks
Department of Natural Resources

STREET AND NUMBER: Larson Building

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee

STATE: Florida

CODE: 12



STATE: Florida
COUNTY: Duval

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Duval County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Jacksonville

STATE: Florida

CODE: 12

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 Archives, History and Records Mgt., Dept. of State

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

 Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

 Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

 Moved 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

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Florida	
COUNTY	
Duval	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.9.09.0019	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



8. SIGNIFICANCE

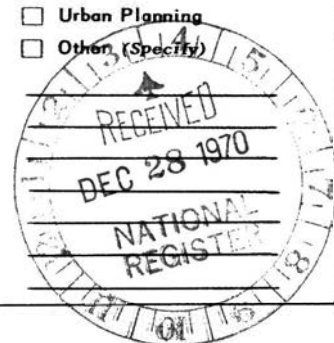
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input checked="" 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The island's history begins in 1562 when Ribault, with his band of Frenchmen landed on the island and (1564) when Jacques LeMoynes, 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

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 Williams

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: December 18, 1970

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

15/9/29/70

Date: _____

ATTEST:

William Kuntz
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7/1/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

Kingsley Plantation
Significance, Page 2

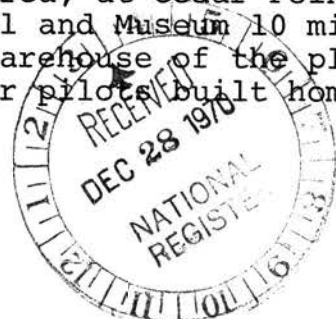
vessels in which he took his products to market and carried on a lively trade in slaves from Africa. By carefully training the slaves in the plantation skills he fitted them for life in the cotton growing states of the United States. His treatises on the treatment of slaves and the social order in Florida 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.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

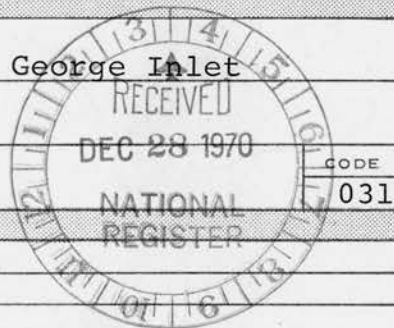
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Duval	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-9-09-0019	DATE 9/29/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT: Bureau of Historic Preservation		
DATE OF PHOTO: July 1, 1970		
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Bureau of Historic Preservation, Department of State		
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Madam Jai House (foreground) Kingsley Plantation		
NPS Number 70-9-09-0019		
Title: Kingsley Plantation		



cc. Duval Co., Fla. ①
Madam Jai House

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

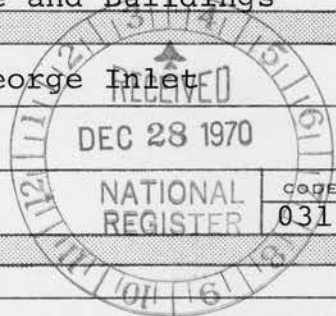
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Duval	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-9-09-0019	DATE 9/29/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT: Bureau of Historic Preservation		
DATE OF PHOTO: July 1, 1970		
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Bureau of Historic Preservation, Department of State		
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Kingsley Plantation House, viewed from northwest		
NPS Number 70-9-09-0019		
Title: Kingsley Plantation		



... Duval Co., Fla (2)
viewed from northwest



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

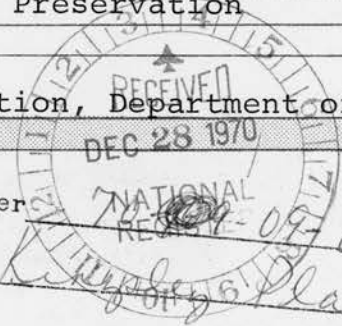
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Bureau of Historic Preservation			
DATE OF PHOTO: July 1, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Bureau of Historic Preservation, Department of State			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Tabby Slave Cottages NPS Number _____ Title: Kingsley Plantation			

Loc. Duval Co., Fla. (3)
Tabby Slave Cottages



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 30 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 20 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Grand Site

AND/OR COMMON

Mound A, South end of Talbot Island

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Jacksonville

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Duval

STATE

Florida

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE USGS Mayport

SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1964

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Planimetry compiled from USC&GS charts, (1947)
Topography by planetarium surveys 1948. Revised by
photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1963
Field checked 1964
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts
569, 577, and 1243 (1963)
This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Florida coordinate system, east zone
100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1970. This information not field checked
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 4.7 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty —————
- Light-duty - - - - -
- Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- State Route ○

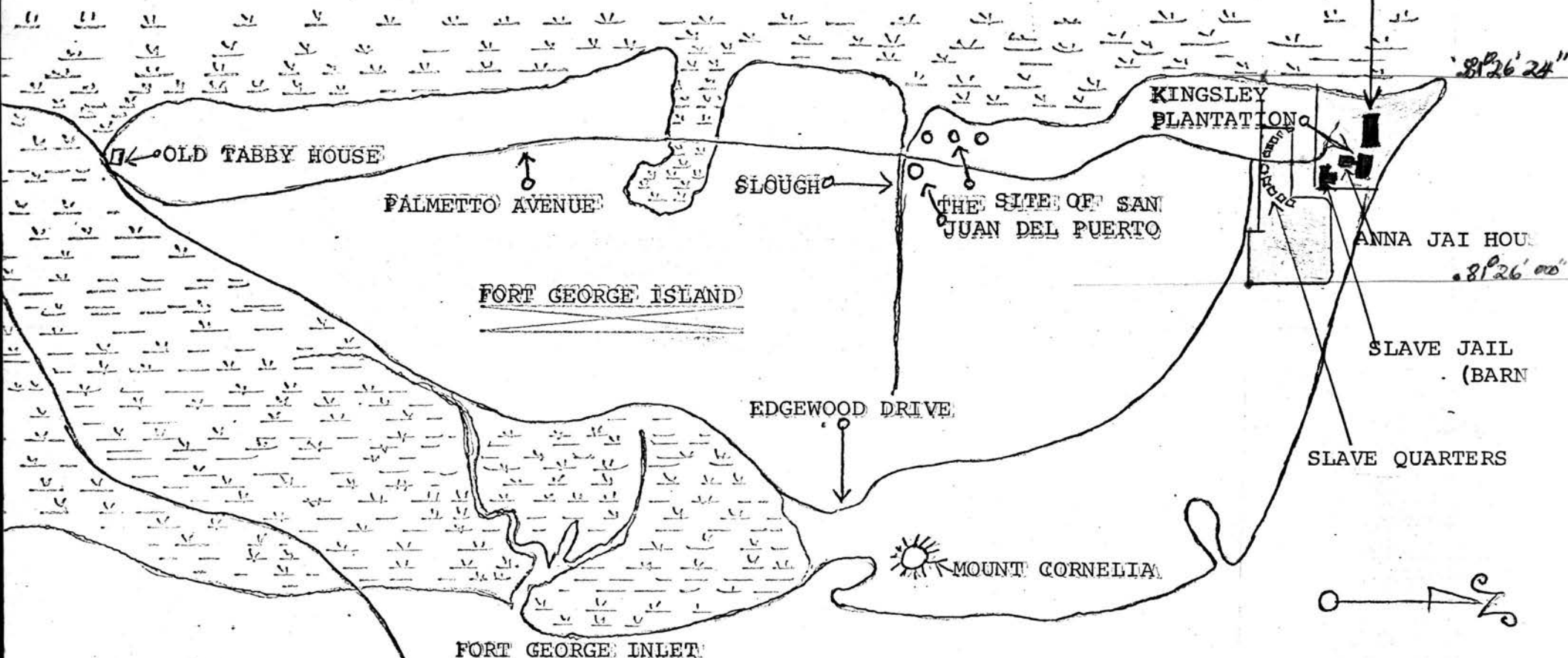
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

MAYPORT, FLA.
N3022.5—W8122.5/7.5
1964
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 4744 IV NW—SERIES V847

HISTORIC PLACES, FORT GEORGE ISLAND

OLD FORT GEORGE CL
PARK HEADQUARTERS

DUVAL COUNTY

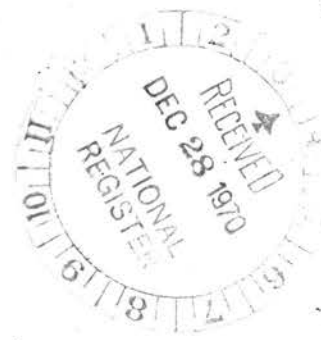


81° 26' 24"

81° 26' 00"

30° 26' 12"

30° 26' 42"



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	DATE
70.4.09.0019	9/29/70

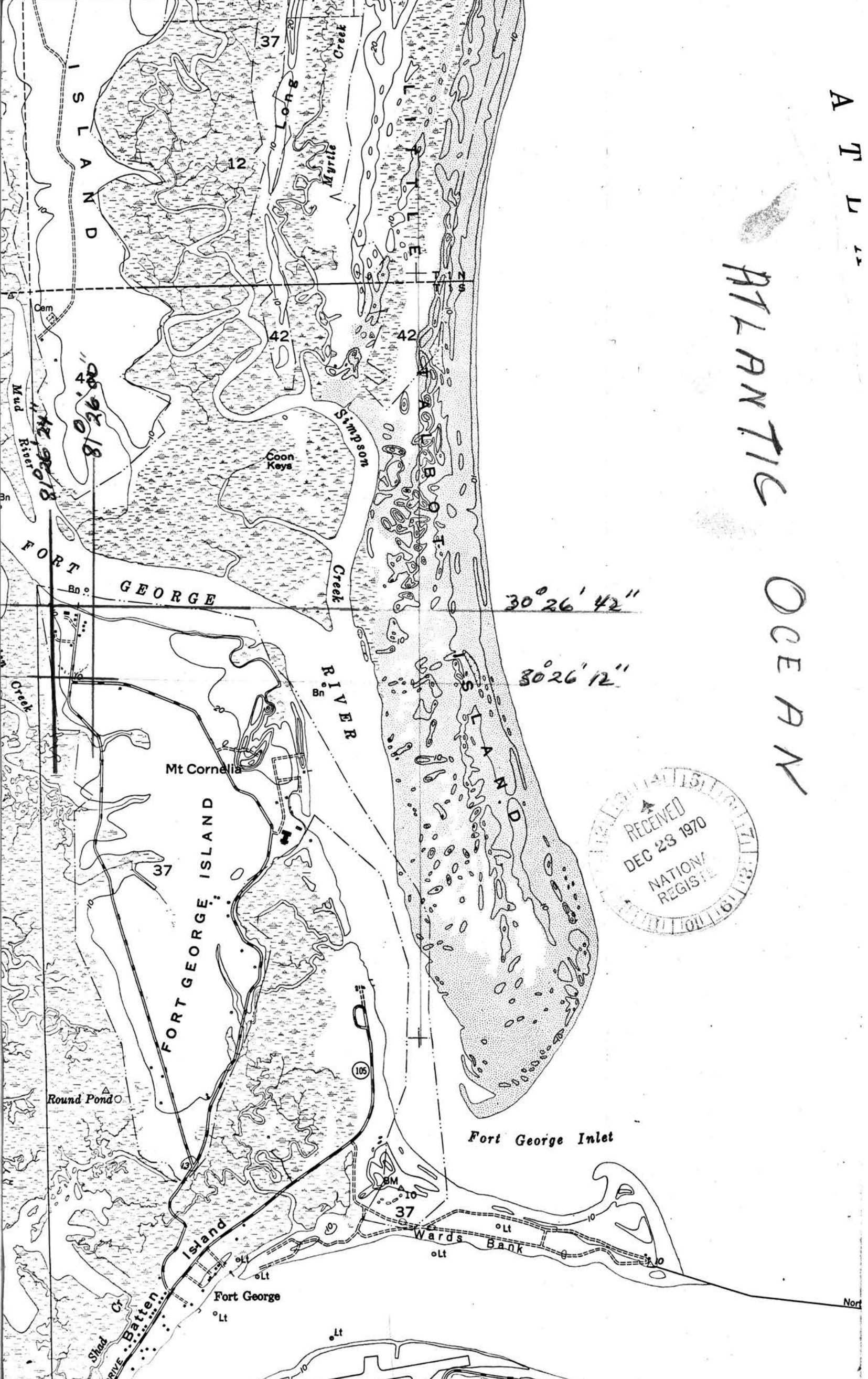
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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.			



A T L A N T I C

O C E A N



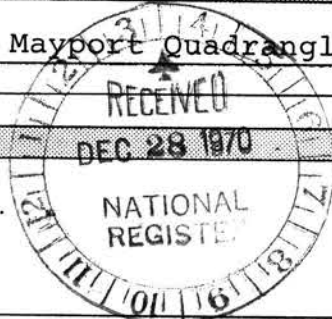
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

STATE	Florida
COUNTY	Duval
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
10.9.04.0019	9/29/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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.			



National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2016



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in the National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Kingsley Plantation Historic District Additional Documentation

Other names/site number: McQueen Homestead

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 11676 Palmetto Avenue

City or town: Jacksonville State: FL County: Duval

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

X national X statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A X B X C X D

<u>Gary Bealmy</u>	<u>9/20/2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>NPS FPO</u>	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

3 **National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

4
5 This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register
6 Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being
7 documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only
8 categories and subcategories from the instructions.
9

10 **1. Name of Property** Kingsley Plantation Historic District (Additional Documentation)

11 Historic name: McQueen Homestead

12 Other names/site number: Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

13 Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

14 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

15
16 **2. Location**

17 Street & number: 11676 Palmetto Avenue

18 City or town: Jacksonville

State: Florida

County: Duval

19 Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

20
21 **3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

22 As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


23 I hereby certify that this nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the
24 documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places
25 and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

26 In my opinion, the property meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I
27 recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
28 level(s) of significance:

29 national statewide local

30 Applicable National Register Criteria:

31 A B C D

		<u>7/25/2016</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

32
33 In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title : _____
or Tribal Government State or Federal agency/bureau

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

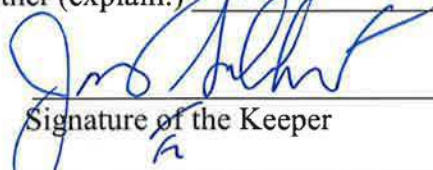
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

other (explain: Additional Documentation Accepted)


Signature of the Keeper

11-8-2016

Date of Action

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

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>7</u>	structures
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	objects
<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 28¹

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE: national park

¹ This number is an interpretation of the narrative information afforded in the 1970 nomination. At the time the property was listed, the National Register nomination forms did not require that contributing and non-contributing resources be tabulated.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood, shingle, tabby, tabby brick, clay brick,
coquina block

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Kingsley Plantation, which lies along the Fort George River at the northern tip of Fort George Island in northeast Florida, twenty-three miles northeast of downtown Jacksonville, features surviving evidence of late-eighteenth-century buildings, structures, and landscape features, and constitutes the oldest extant plantation complex within the state of Florida. The 51-acre property is preserved and protected by the National Park Service as part of Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, a unit of the National Park System. It is bounded by the Fort George River to the north, marshland to the west, land administered by the State of Florida as part of Fort George Island Cultural State Park to the east, and Fort George Road (also referred to as Beatty Road and Edgewood Drive) to the south. Several of the roads that pass through the Kingsley Plantation property are owned by the City of Jacksonville.

The property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970. This nomination constitutes additional documentation to reflect current scholarship and the findings of archeological investigations that have revealed new information about the history and material culture associated with the property.

Kingsley Plantation constitutes a historic district significant at the national level under Criteria A, B, C, and D for the period 1791–1955 for its association with early settlement within northeast Florida, antebellum plantation agriculture, postbellum farming adaptations to a new economy, and the twentieth-century transition to recreational use that took advantage of an emerging tourism economy. It is also significant for its association with Zephaniah Kingsley, whose 1828 treatise on slavery reached a national audience, and his wife, Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley, who was born into nobility in Africa, sold into slavery and relocated to the Americas, and eventually married her owner, bore his children, was emancipated, and went on to manage two plantations, including oversight of numerous African slaves. For these associations, the property is significant between 1791, the year John McQueen acquired the land and began to develop the plantation domestic precinct, and 1955, when the property was acquired by Florida for inclusion in the state park system.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

The Kingsley Plantation Historic District is comprised of four contributing sites—the plantation’s domestic precinct that encompasses the extant landscape comprised of the main house, kitchen house, covered walkway, barn, two well heads, views, and plantings, as well as archeological evidence of former roads and buildings; the archeological site of a nineteenth-century sugar mill; a slave cabin precinct that contains the ruins of twenty-five structures as well as archeological evidence of antebellum lifeways; and the archeological site of a slave cemetery. Also associated with the property are four contributing buildings—the plantation house, built circa 1797–1798, a frame kitchen house, built circa 1798 and enlarged by Zephaniah Kingsley circa 1814; a tabby barn built by Kingsley circa 1814; and the frame Fort George Club, built in 1926–1927 to accommodate recreational use of the property, which also entailed adaptive reuse of the earlier plantation structures. The two contributing structures associated with the property include Palmetto Avenue, which dates to the plantation era, and L’Engle Avenue, developed during the early twentieth century as part of the Fort George Club. The four contributing objects located on the property include two nineteenth-century well heads that relate to the plantation era, and a pair of mid-twentieth-century gate posts, and a flagpole base that relates to twentieth-century club use of the property.

The agricultural heritage of the property extends between 1791 and 1923, and reflects evolving farming practices beginning with the plantation era that was closely associated with a reliance on slave labor, through the Civil War, and the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when land owners experimented with various crops and farming methods in order to make a living off of their property. This heritage conveys significance within the areas of agriculture, historic archeology, and architecture during the following periods of ownership:

- John McQueen (1791–1804)
- John McIntosh (1804–1817)
- Zephaniah and Anna Kingsley (renters between 1814 and 1817; owners 1817–1839)
- Kingsley Beatty Gibbs and Ralph King (1839–1842)
- Kingsley Beatty Gibbs (1842–1853)
- John Lewis (1853–1854)
- Charles A. Thomson (1854–1860)
- Charles H. and Charlotte Barnwell (1860–1866)
- George W. Beach and Abner C. Keeney (1866–1869)
- John Rollins (1869–1906)
- Gertrude Rollins Wilson (1906–1923)

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Surviving evidence of the Fort George Club is significant at the local level for recreation, for the 1923–1955 period of club ownership.

The property also includes features that post-date the period of significance associated with National Park Service administration and management of the plantation as a unit of the National Park System. These include utility and maintenance features—a complex of maintenance buildings accessed by a service road, a pump house, storage structure, and a bulkhead along the river to protect against erosion—interpretive features such as a demonstration garden, and wayside exhibits; visitor access features that include an entry gate, fencing, bollards, pedestrian walk system; and directional, wayfinding, and regulatory sign systems. All together these features total one non-contributing building, one non-contributing site, seven non-contributing structures, and two non-contributing objects. Although these contemporary features diminish the integrity of the property to a degree, they are either compatible with the historic setting or generally screened from view within the historic plantation precincts.

Narrative Description

Setting

Kingsley Plantation is administered as part of Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, a unit of the National Park System established in 1988 to contribute to the protection, preservation, and management of the Nassau River/lower St. Johns River drainage basin of northeast Florida. The preserve extends over an area that measures approximately 46,000 acres, 75 percent of which is composed of open water or estuary. Kingsley Plantation is located on Fort George Island, a landform edged by Sisters Creek to the west, St. Johns River to the south, and Fort George River to the north and east.

Fort George Island falls within an area of Florida referred to as the “Sea Islands,” which also includes portions of coastal Georgia and South Carolina. The Sea Islands encompass a system of sandy barrier islands, inlets, sounds, rivers, and coastal marshland that extends between the St. Johns River, south of Fort George Island, and the Santee River in South Carolina. The Sea Islands also fall within the southern extension of the St. Marys Meander Plain, a subdivision of the Atlantic Coastal Plain. The Fort George River drains into the Fort George Inlet, located south of Little Talbot Island. The inlet in turn empties into the Atlantic Ocean.²

² Hartrampf and the Jaeger Company, *Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Kingsley Plantation Cultural Landscape Report* (Atlanta, Georgia: National Park Service, n.d.), 64.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

The Kingsley Plantation domestic precinct faces the Fort George River, and is set atop a broad, level plateau that has an elevation of 10 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The plateau is approximately 7 feet higher than the river level at the base of the bulkhead that fronts the Fort George River, although the river fluctuates due to tidal influences. Portions of the island are underlain by Ortega Fine Sand soils, which are well-suited to the cultivation of Sea Island cotton, one of the principal crops grown within the region prior to the Civil War.

Overview Description of the Property

Visitors arrive at Kingsley Plantation in two ways: by boat or by car. The National Park Service maintains a dock to the northwest of the Kingsley Plantation property for those arriving by boat along the Fort George River. Those traveling by car arrive along Palmetto Avenue, a historic plantation road that arises from Fort George Road to the south. Fort George Road, also known as Edgewood Drive and Beatty Avenue, is accessed from State Road A1A, which connects the island to the mainland.

Visitors approach the property from the south along Palmetto Avenue. A metal entry gate marks the edge of the property. Once within the property, Palmetto Avenue extends through the center of the plantation slave cabin precinct, a semi-circular arrangement of tabby structure ruins. Along the road is a small pull-off where visitors can park in order to examine and learn about the slave cabins from wayside exhibits that convey interpretive information about the history of the plantation domestic precinct. North of the slave cabin precinct, the road continues through a wooded area before entering a gravel parking area. A trailhead is located at the northwestern edge of the parking area that provides access to paths leading to the historic features of the plantation domestic precinct. Kiosks and wayside exhibits provide visitors with orientation and interpretive information about the plantation. The paths lead to the kitchen house, barn, and main house. Paths also lead to restroom facilities located to the west of the main house in the Fort George Clubhouse building, which houses also a visitor center and bookstore.

The plantation's main house faces the Fort George River approximately 120 feet from the riverbank. Extensive views are afforded to the north from the house. These encompass the river, estuary areas and marshlands, and nearby Big and Little Talbot Islands. To the north of the house, rows of palm trees direct views, while also indicating the route of a walk that led to a former dock location. The main house is connected with an eighteenth-century kitchen building to the south via a 65-foot-long covered walkway. To the east of these two buildings and the covered walkway, the domestic precinct is characterized by turf lawn dotted with mature cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), cabbage palms (*Sabal palmetto*), and live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*), and

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

thickets of live oak with an understory of saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), and yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*). Several rows of trees mark historic circulation routes, such as Cedar Avenue, a shell walkway, the path to the river, and Palmetto and L'Engle avenues. Set within the lawn are two historic wellheads, one near the kitchen house to its south, and one in the center of the lawn to its east. To the southeast of the house is a tabby barn that also survives from the early plantation period. Southeast of the barn are the ruins and archeological remains of a sugar mill. Many of the features of the plantation domestic precinct are interpreted through wayside exhibits located near the kitchen house and in the barn. There is also a contemporary demonstration garden south of the kitchen house that was established by the National Park Service. Crops displayed in the garden include Sea Island cotton, derived from seed collected from the plantation, indigo, sugarcane, and a variety of seasonal vegetables.

West of the domestic precinct is the Fort George Clubhouse, a two-story mid-twentieth-century building that currently houses National Park Service offices. Associated with the clubhouse are ornamental tree, shrub, and hedge plantings that can be traced to club use during the early to mid-twentieth century. As noted, the National Park Service operates a visitor center and bookstore in the building.

To the northwest of the plantation domestic precinct are structures that support National Park Service administration of the property. These include a cluster of maintenance buildings arranged along a service road. There is also a pump house and a barn located in the woodlands east of the plantation domestic precinct that are accessed from L'Engle Avenue, with Palmetto Avenue, one of the two surviving historic road corridors on the property.

Additional evidence of the club that was developed on the property during the early twentieth century is located southeast of the maintenance area. This includes foundations of former cabins along Cedar Avenue and a flagpole base. In a clearing south of the maintenance complex are several mature orange trees that may survive from orchards planted during the late nineteenth century by the Rollins family.

Integrity

The landscape as a whole, and the numerous surviving plantation and recreation-era features, possess sufficient integrity to convey the historic associations of the property during the period of significance. The property possesses integrity of location as the original site of the eighteenth-century plantation, and ongoing use of earlier buildings and structures throughout the period of significance to support agricultural and recreational activities. The Kingsley Plantation Historic

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

District also possesses integrity of feeling due to the ongoing presence of the eighteenth-century main house, kitchen house, and barn, and nineteenth-century additions, as well as the presence of the ruins of a unique collection of nineteenth-century tabby slave cabin ruins. These historic features convey a connection to an antebellum system of agriculture. Views of the river, which constituted a principal travel and transportation route, and later a recreational feature, help to convey integrity of feeling. Integrity of setting is also present due to the undeveloped nature of the landscape within view of and abutting the historic district. Integrity of association is conveyed through the ongoing presence of the buildings, structures, and landscape features known to McQueen, McIntosh, the Kingsleys and others, as well as supported the activities of the Fort George Club. Integrity of design, workmanship, and materials are diminished to a degree by the various changes that have occurred on the property since the features were first constructed. The specific alterations associated with each resource are discussed in more detail below.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Resource Descriptions

Contributing Sites

Plantation domestic precinct

As noted, the plantation domestic precinct occupies the upland knoll that overlooks Fort George River at the north end of Fort George Island (Photograph 1). It contains several historic features that include the main house (Photographs 2 and 3), kitchen house (Photographs 4 and 5), covered walkway, barn (Photographs 6 and 7), two well heads (Photographs 8 and 9), the trace of Cedar Avenue (Photograph 10), a shell walkway trace, and rows of cedar and live oak trees near the house and along Palmetto (Photograph 11) and L'Engle avenues. (Refer to the attached sketch map for a diagram of the plantation domestic precinct and its features.) Archeological investigations and review of historic maps, particularly the 1853 Coastal Survey Map, suggest that in addition to these surviving built features, archival records indicate that there was a blacksmith shop, a sugar mill, and nineteen other unidentified structures associated with the precinct when the property operated as a plantation. Eleven of these structures were located along Cedar Avenue. Archeological investigations conducted in 1983, and in 2007–2012, have revealed the presence of several foundations and confirmed the locations of the road traces listed above.

For example, in 1985 archeological investigations conducted by Henry A. Baker revealed several areas of high shell concentrations, which he concluded were shell pathways, within the domestic precinct. This conclusion is supported by photographic data showing walks parallel to the sides of the main house.³ Baker also revealed evidence of the trace of Palmetto Avenue, as it extended from the club era gates to the river, and a second trace road—Cedar Avenue—that extended east from Palmetto Avenue, near the kitchen house, toward Point Isabella, the deep water access point for the island. Baker described Cedar Avenue in a report detailing the investigations: “Two rows of mixed cedar and palm trees . . . mark the route of an east-west carriageway having its western remains at the juncture east of the kitchen house with the former north-south main entrance road. This road was called the ‘Avenue of Cedars’ by Gertrude Rollins Wilson.” The trace remains lined with cedar trees thought to be over 200 years old, placing their origin to the

³ Henry A. Baker, *Roads and Walkways at the Kingsley Plantation: An Archaeological Study* (Tallahassee, Florida: Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Florida Department of State, for the Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Department of Natural Resources, September 30, 1985), 30.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

McQueen or McIntosh period.⁴ Archeological investigation has indicated that both Palmetto and Cedar avenues were surfaced with shell and were similar in width.⁵

The Kingsley Plantation domestic precinct constitutes a single contributing site composed of extant features, traces, and belowground archeological evidence that contributes to the significance of the Kingsley Plantation.

Archeological investigations conducted by the University of Florida in 2007 and 2008 revealed evidence of cabin foundations along Cedar Avenue road trace consistent with buildings shown in this location on an 1853 United States Coastal Survey map. The foundations were revealed through excavation of twelve one-meter-square units. Foundation remains located during these excavations were composed of red brick and mortar, with a whitewash finish. Evidence also suggested that the foundations had supported wood frame structures. Based on review of documentation, these structures were thought to have served as guest cottages for visiting friends and family of Zephaniah and Anna Kingsley, or possibly their nephew Kingsley Beatty Gibbs, or residences for white plantation employees. Ceramics recovered during the project suggest an early nineteenth-century period of occupation. The structures were no longer present in 1869 when the property was described by John Rollins, and also do not appear in a series of photographs that date to the 1870s and 1880s.⁶

Sugar/grist mill archeological site

Located southeast of the barn is belowground evidence of a former sugar mill site. The site was investigated archeologically in 2008–2009 to determine its use, date of origin, and associated features. Based on these investigations, the mill site is composed of a circular depression approximately 33 to 45 feet across. Excavations revealed an intact and well preserved tabby wall, very similar in appearance to the standing tabby slave cabins. The eastern side of the mill exhibited a tabby wall that averaged between 14 and 16 inches in thickness. Excavations also revealed a portion of the prepared floor of the mill. Three different paved surfaces were identified: a simple “sterile” dirt, compacted dirt and crush shell surface; an in situ tabby surface; and a surface apparently composed of broken tabby brickbats, embedded in the subfloor. The

⁴ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 82, from Mike Schneggenburger to Lt. Keeth, October 4, 1977, Kingsley Plantation Collection.

⁵ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 99.

⁶ James M. Davidson, PhD, *Interim Report of Investigations of the University of Florida; 2008 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation, (8DU108); Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve National Park, Duval County, Florida* (Tallahassee, Florida: National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center, September 2008), 27–28.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

floor pattern, along with the overall circular layout of the structure, is suggestive of an animal-powered mill, with centrally mounted, stationary mill machinery and a horse or other draft animal walking in a circular course and driving the engine. Such constant walking in circles would have produced wear patterns on the floor requiring repair. Over time, these repairs would have appeared as banded differences in the flooring.⁷

Excavations later revealed the mill to have been octagonal in its wall configuration, with an overall symmetry. The west side, facing the domestic precinct, contained a large gap where a large wooden door or gate was likely present. The distance between the eastern and western extent of the mill's walls measures 36 feet.⁸

Later evaluation of the findings, and the evidence resulting from a second year of investigations, have suggested that the mill might well predate Kingsley ownership.⁹ Evidence of a massive circular pit feature below the tabby floor in the center of the sugar mill, which was later filled with tabby rubble and debris, suggests that the mill underwent a major refit or reconfiguration at some point in its life, possibly a change from animal power to steam power. In a report prepared to document the findings of archeological investigations, James Davidson suggests that

It may well be that the mill was a McIntosh (1804–1814) or even a McQueen (1792–1804) era structure, which had its wooden roof and upper walls burned by the Seminoles in their 1812 raid on the island, with Kingsley later just rebuilding within the ruins of the old tabby walls, filling in the old and likely ruined animal-powered mill works in the center of the floor with rubble, and placing in its stead a steam-powered mill.¹⁰

Prior to these discoveries, historical research conducted in conjunction with the investigations yielded evidence of the mill as known to the Rollins family after the Civil War. The first mention of a mill in documentation of the property was provided by Hannah Rollins, wife of John Rollins, who described an “octagonal gin mill” on the island at the time of her arrival in 1869.¹¹ Gertrude Rollins Wilson, daughter of John Rollins, later described the feature as: “the circular

⁷ Preliminary [Interim] Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2011 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation, (8DU108) Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve National Park, Duval County, Florida (Tallahassee, Florida: National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, March 2012), 66–67.

⁸ Ibid., 65–66.

⁹ Davidson, Preliminary Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2012 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation, (8DU108) Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve National Park, Duval County, Florida (Tallahassee, Florida: National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, March 2013), 34.

¹⁰ Ibid., 35.

¹¹ Hannah Rollins, diary. Excerpts transcribed by unknown person, probably Gertrude Rollins Wilson. (Copy of handwritten document in Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Archives.)

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

tabby building on the S.E. of the stable called the ‘Grist Mill,’ the foundations of which are now buried but not destroyed.”¹² John Rollins appears to have razed the mill at some point in the late nineteenth century. The HABS documentation of the property prepared in 1934 labeled the site as a sugar mill based on an interview with Gertrude Rollins Wilson, and in the endpaper’s map to Corita Doggett Corse’s book on Fort George Island, *The Key to the Golden Islands*, published in 1931.¹³

The specific purpose of the mill remains unsubstantiated, however. Current archival evidence for the cultivation of sugar cane on the island is limited. There are no confirmed records that Zephaniah Kingsley grew sugar cane during his tenure on Fort George Island, although it was a common crop in East Florida during the early nineteenth century. However, Kingsley Beatty Gibbs does record sugar cane as a crop he was growing on the island in the early 1840s. In December 1841, Gibbs notes that he planted 8 acres in sugar cane, and made 600 pounds of sugar and 260 gallons of syrup. There is also a very odd reference on January 29, 1842, where Gibbs states: “good weather and warm – buried [?] the Sugar Mill.”¹⁴

In 1868, John Rollins left \$20 with instructions for local resident Andrew Fielding to plant “cane.” In addition, his daughter, Gertrude Rollins Wilson, noted in an interview: “We grew our own sugar cane and made our own syrup.”¹⁵

The sugar mill site survives with sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations, and has the potential to yield important information about the history of the property. As such it contributes to the significance of the Kingsley Plantation.

Slave cabin precinct

Located approximately 1,200 feet south of the plantation domestic precinct is a semi-circular arrangement of slave cabin ruins (LCS ID #s 090105 through 090129) (HS #s S01E through S16E, S01W through S07W, S15W, and S16W) (Photographs 12 and 13). These structures are believed to have been constructed circa 1814 under the direction of Zephaniah and Anna

¹² Gertrude Rollins Wilson, Notebook. Entry for 25 November 1868 in “Memoirs of Mrs. Millar Wilson,” 1952. Transcript in Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Archives.

¹³ Davidson, *Preliminary Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2011 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation, (8DU108) Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve National Park, Duval County, Florida* (Tallahassee, Florida: National Park Service, Southeast Archaeological Center, March 2012), 64–65.

¹⁴ Jacqueline K. Fretwell, *Kingsley Beatty Gibbs and His Journal of 1840–1843* (St. Augustine, Florida: St. Augustine Historical Society 1984), 25.

¹⁵ Gertrude Rollins Wilson, “Notes Concerning the Old Plantation on Fort George Island, 1868–1869.” Unpublished, typewritten manuscript. n.d. (ca. 1956), 14. Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Archives.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
 Name of Property

Duval County, FL
 County and State

Madgigine Jai Kingsley immediately after they moved to the property.¹⁶ Palmetto Avenue passes through the center of the cabin arrangement. The site, which originally included thirty-two cabins, sixteen to the east and sixteen to the west, is composed of twenty-five ruinous structures and archeological evidence of a well and trash midden, in addition to artifacts relating to the material culture of antebellum slave life.¹⁷

A summary of cabin conditions as presented in the 1996 Historic Resource Study follows:

<i>Cabin</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>	<i>Wall height</i>	<i>No. of rooms</i>	<i>Rear door</i>	<i>Fireplace</i>	<i>Windows, _____ front/rear¹⁸</i>
E1	25 by 19 feet	7 feet	2	Yes	No	2/2
E2	20 by 12 feet	7 feet	1	No	No	1/1
E3	20 by 12 feet	7 feet	1	No	No	1/1
E4	20 by 12 feet	7 feet	1	Yes	No	1/0
E5	20 by 12 feet	3 feet	2	No	No	Undetermined (U)
E6	20 by 12 feet	7 feet	2	Yes	Yes	1/0
E7	20 by 12 feet	7 feet	2	Yes	Yes	1/0
E8	20 by 12 feet	7 feet	2	No	Yes	1/0
E9	20 by 12 feet	3 feet	2	No	No	1/0
E10	20 by 12 feet	3 feet	2	U	U	U
E11	20 by 12 feet	7 feet	2	Yes	No	1/1
E12	20 by 12 feet	7 feet	2	No	Yes	1/0
E13	20 by 12 feet	7 feet	2	No	Yes	1/0
E14	20 by 12 feet	7 feet	2	No	Yes	1/0
E15	20 by 12 feet	7 feet	2	No	Yes	1/0
E16	25 by 19 feet	4 feet	2	Yes	No	1/1
W1	25 by 19 feet	7 feet	U	No	No	1/1
W2	20 by 12 feet	3 feet	2	Yes	No	U
W3	20 by 12 feet	3 feet	2	Yes	Yes	U
W4	20 by 12 feet	7 feet	1	No	Yes	1/0
W5	20 by 12 feet	3 feet	1	Yes	No	U
W6	20 by 12 feet	1 to 2 feet	2	Yes	Yes	U
W7	20 by 12 feet	3 feet	2	Yes	Yes	1/1
W15	(only NE corner)	3 feet	U	U	U	U
W16	25 by 19 feet	4 feet	U	U	No	1/U

The cabins are set within a clearing with a wooded area south of the domestic precinct, and just north of the entrance into the Kingsley Plantation property. The National Park Service maintains

¹⁶ Davidson, *Preliminary Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2012 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation*, 15.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 11–14; also James M. Davidson, *Interim Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2010 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation (8DU108), Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve National Park, Duval County, Florida* (Tallahassee, Florida: Southeast Archeological Center, September 2011), 48–52.

¹⁸ Daniel W. Stowell, *Timucuan Ecological and Historic Reserve Historic Resource Study* (Atlanta, Georgia: National Park Service, October 1996), A-9–A-10.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

the area around the cabins in mown turf grass for visitor and park personnel access. Wayside exhibits convey information about the history of the slave cabin site to visitors.

The slave cabin ruins form a north-facing arc with a radius of 360 feet; the cabins extend for approximately 540 feet to either side of the road. The seven missing cabins are located within the center of the western segment of the arc. The ruins that remain vary in the amount of original structural fabric that survives, with wall heights ranging from 1 foot above grade to approximately 7 or 8 feet above grade. The cabins are set approximately 12 feet apart, although the cabins near the center and at either end of the arc are spaced 26 feet apart.¹⁹ The slave cabins were also built in two sizes. Most of the slave cabins measure approximately 20 by 12 feet in plan. The cabins that edge Palmetto Avenue, as well as the cabins located at either end of the arc, are larger than those built within the middle of the row, which are all identical in size. The larger cabins may have been designed to house those involved in overseeing other slaves. The cabin ruins were assigned an alphanumeric designation by archeologist Charles Fairbanks in the 1960s based on their orientation to the road. Cabins east of Palmetto Avenue are numbered E1 through E16, with E1 lying closest to the road. Cabins west of the entry road are labeled W1 through W7, and W15 through W16.²⁰ Cabins W8 through W14 are missing.

The cabin walls, originally 14-1/2 inches thick, are constructed of tabby, which was poured into molds to the height of the finished walls. Today, the walls are generally 6-1/2 inches thick. They were built with a single chimney and fireplace, wood-frame roofs covered with shingles, and centered doors. The roofs did not survive. The interiors otherwise have hall and parlor plans associated with central doorways on both long-dimension walls. The cabins included one or two rooms. Windows often framed the doors. There were sometimes two doorways.²¹ Remains of tabby floors are evident in some of the cabin ruins.

Cabin E1, located adjacent to Palmetto Avenue to its east, was rehabilitated circa 1971 by the State of Florida to interpret the finished character of the slave cabins.²² Work on the rehabilitation was preceded by investigations conducted by Charles E. Fairbanks, Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Fairbanks worked closely with architect Herschel Shepard on the design of the rehabilitated cabin. In a 1969 letter to Fairbanks,

¹⁹ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 74.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 74.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² According to information provided by Timucuan Ecological and Historic Reserve personnel, reconstruction of the cabin began in 1971. The roof was rebuilt as part of that project. Other features of the cabin, including the fireplace and doors, were not reconstructed at that time; documentation was not available for purposes of this study to confirm the date of reconstruction of those features.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Shepard notes that the goal for the project was to “restore the cabin located on the east side of the entrance road in a minimal manner; that is, the new construction will protect the building from the elements and give the public an idea of the original appearance, but no attempt will be made to re-plaster the wall, provide interior finishes or interior doors, whitewash, and so forth. I feel strongly that as much of the original construction as possible should remain visible; the “real thing,” even if badly weathered, seems much more interesting than new surfaces and materials. However, a more basic reason in this instance is that our work is largely conjectural; we simply don’t have a great deal to go on. I would hate to compound possible errors by going further.” He also noted that the design of the roof was based on a slave cabin near the airport on St. Simon’s Island, Georgia.²³ After completion of the work, Shepard also noted that the “work has been accomplished in such a manner that everything that has been done can be undone if necessary if future information indicates different construction.”²⁴

Cabin E1 was again rehabilitated in 2004–2005, including removal of the earlier roof and replacement with a more historically accurate framing system and new cedar shingles and siding, and rehabilitation of the door and window openings to be more accurate, and repair of the tabby wall surfaces.²⁵ The rehabilitated cabin measures 23 by 18 feet in plan, with the long dimension oriented east-west. The walls are 7 feet in height, topped by a wood-frame gable roof. The one-story tabby structure features a hall and parlor plan, with central doors located in the north and south walls. Windows edge the doors to either side. The cabin also features a rebuilt firebox in the east wall, a reconstructed wood shingle roof, and a dirt floor.

Since 2002, several of the other cabin ruins have undergone stabilization treatments to prevent further deterioration of the tabby and other original building materials. Stabilization projects were initiated in 2002–2003, and continued through 2011. The approach to treatment changed over time. During the first two years, thin coats of lime putty were applied to the cabin walls after a thorough cleaning using a chlorine solution and an application of herbicide to remove fungus, lichens, and mosses. Later, natural hydraulic lime and thin layers of lime sealant were

²³ Letter from Herschel E. Shepard, AIA to Dr. Charles H. Fairbanks, Chairman, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida, May 8, 1969, regarding the restoration of slave cabin, Kingsley Plantation. Timucuan Preserve archives at Kingsley Plantation, TIMU 8411, Box 10, Folder 47, “52-09-200-KING1434-Restoration of Slave Cabin 1969-1971.” TIMU/FOCA Resource Management Records, Series I: Division of Administration, Subseries D: Kingsley Plantation State Ownership Files.

²⁴ Letter from Herschel E. Shepard to Harrison M. Butler, Construction Coordinator, Bureau of Land Acquisition and Development, Division of Recreation and Parks, State of Florida, October 13, 1971, regarding slave cabin, Kingsley Plantation. Timucuan Preserve archives at Kingsley Plantation, TIMU 8411, Box 10, Folder 47, “52-09-200-KING1434-Restoration of Slave Cabin 1969-1971.” TIMU/FOCA Resource Management Records, Series I: Division of Administration, Subseries D: Kingsley Plantation State Ownership Files.

²⁵ *Superintendent’s Annual Narrative Report*, Fiscal Year 2005.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

used to treat the walls.²⁶ By 2006, stabilization treatments involved the application of a lime wash on the horizontal surfaces and NHL2 to the vertical surfaces via spray application to stabilize the friable materials.²⁷

In 2003–2004, Cabin E15 was completely stabilized.²⁸ Two additional cabins were stabilized the following year. In 2005–2006, cabins E1, E5, E6, W1, and W3 were the focus of preservation efforts, while the remaining ruins were cleaned. In 2006–2007, the fireplace in cabin E1 was stabilized.²⁹ In 2007–2008, cabin E16 was stabilized using three lime wash coats and a top cap applied to the walls.³⁰ In 2009–2010, four additional cabins were treated in this same way.³¹ In 2010–2011, the park re-leveled and secured a failing wall with lintels. Fireplaces in four cabins—E7, E12, E14, and E16—were re-leveled, with the voids created by the failing fireplaces stabilized. The park also removed vegetation growing in the vicinity of the cabins, cleaned exterior walls, and treated twelve cabin ruins with lime wash and capping.³²

The slave cabin site contains significant ruins, and has already yielded and is expected to continue to yield important information about the plantation era of the Kingsley property. It survives with sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations, and contributes to the significance of the Kingsley Plantation.

Kingsley era slave cemetery archeological site

In 2010, archeological investigations conducted at Kingsley Plantation revealed evidence of a Kingsley era slave cemetery. Six graves were documented as part of the investigations. The efforts were supported by documentary research, which yielded the following description of a burial ground on the property:

The grave-yard where several hundred slaves were buried in the old plantation days, was between the house and the Negro quarters, and is now ploughed over, and yields heavy crops. It was a short shrift and a hurried burial the poor slave received. The graveyard was placed there by Captain Kingsley, as tradition states,

²⁶ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 74.

²⁷ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, Fiscal Year 2006

²⁸ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, Fiscal Year 2004.

²⁹ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, Fiscal Year 2007.

³⁰ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, Fiscal Year 2008.

³¹ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, Fiscal Year 2010.

³² *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, Fiscal Year 2011.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

in order to prevent the slaves, who were exceedingly superstitious, from leaving their cabins at night to steal corn from the barn.³³

A graveyard was later described by Hannah Rollins in a document likely written circa 1904 that suggests the character of the landscape when the Rollins family first arrived on the island in 1869. The description of the cemetery is brief and fragmentary, but suggests a specific location on the property: “Tabby quarter houses. 36 in half circle beginning to decay. 9 families remained – a swarm of children (to come out?)... open sandy road to house from quarters except large oak [possibly says “oaks”] – under it a still visible darky graveyard.”³⁴

One large live oak tree, located between the slave cabins and the barn, was identified by the archeological team as the possible location of Rollins’ description. Excavation of an area near the tree led to the discovery of the graves. This site contributes to the significance of the historic property.

Non-Contributing Sites

Demonstration garden

Located to the south of the kitchen house is the demonstration garden, a fenced plot that is cultivated as part of the interpretive program available to visitors at the site (Photograph 14). Two wayside exhibits provide information about the crops grown within the garden, which are representative of those cultivated as part of the antebellum plantation: Sea Island cotton, sugarcane, indigo, and a variety of seasonal vegetables. Adjacent to the garden are vats and a drying shed that interpret indigo processing. The demonstration garden was started in 1996, and expanded in 1998–1999.³⁵ As such, it postdates the period of significance and constitutes a non-contributing resource.

Contributing Buildings

Kingsley Plantation’s buildings and structures are perhaps the most prominent elements in the cultural landscape. Historic development of the plantation era landscape began circa 1791 with

³³ S. G. W. Benjamin, “The Sea Islands” in *Harper’s New Monthly Magazine* 57 (November 1878; issue 342, Harper & Brothers, New York).

³⁴ Davidson, *Interim Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2010 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation (8DU108)*, *Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve National Park, Duval County, Florida*, 79, from Hannah Rollins, Handwritten notes on Fort George Island, n.d. (circa 1904), Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Archives.

³⁵ Date of establishment of the demonstration garden provided by Timucuan Ecological and Historic Reserve personnel.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

construction of a house by John McQueen. After the first house was lost to fire, McQueen built the existing dwelling in 1797–1798, as well as the lower portion of the kitchen house. The barn and slave cabins are believed to date to the Kingsley period, circa 1814. Other outbuildings no longer present are thought to have included a blacksmith’s shop and possibly a cotton house or gin, as well as other agricultural support structures. The locations of these outbuildings may have been consistent with the structures shown on the 1853 Coastal Survey Map. In addition to the missing outbuildings, several of the original thirty-two slave cabins were demolished and the materials used to construct a boat house during the Rollins period. The covered walkway between the main house and the kitchen house was also constructed during the Rollins period. Rollins also added a carriage house north of the barn that is no longer extant.³⁶

Additional structures were added to the site during the twentieth-century club era. The Fort George Clubhouse was constructed west of the main house in 1926–1927. The upper floor of the Clubhouse burned in 1936 but was reconstructed, with some changes, in 1938. Six bungalow cottages were also constructed by club members during the Club era. One was removed during state ownership of the property, while the other five were removed by the National Park Service—four in 1994 and one circa 2009. The maintenance complex is a contemporary addition to the landscape that is non-contributing.

Kingsley Plantation Main House (ID LCS 090102; HS-K001)

The main house (refer to Photographs 2 and 3) is a two-story wood-frame dwelling constructed on a full masonry basement composed of tabby, clay, and coquina brick. The house is set back approximately 125 feet from a bulkhead at the edge of the Fort George River, and faces north towards the water. Rows of palm trees mark a central corridor between the front door and the river that formerly marked a path to a boat dock. Palmetto Avenue also formerly extended to the riverfront parallel with this path and a second dock. Neither dock survives.

Likely built circa 1797–1798 in the Federal style, the house was modified extensively in 1869 and 1886. The Fort George Club added electricity, a bathroom (which has since been removed), and a heating system between 1926 and 1938.³⁷ The State of Florida removed original wood flooring and replaced it with parquet flooring between 1955 and 1988. Since 1991, the National Park Service has endeavored to repair and restore portions of the main house. The parquet floors have been removed, the framing of the north wall and northeast pavilion has been repaired, the tabby flooring and steps at the south entrance to the basement have been reconstructed, and the

³⁶ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 98.

³⁷ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 11.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

chimney cap of the eastern chimney has been replaced. The north porch floor and framing have been reconstructed, while the brick front stairs, a later addition, have been replaced with wood steps. Shoring was added in the basement to support the first floor of the house.

In 1997, a termite monitoring system was instituted at the site through a partnership with the University of Florida.³⁸ In 1998, the north and south porches of the main house were painted; ventilation grilles were installed in the basement; all historic door locks and door hardware were replaced; and the cedar roof on the main house was replaced to replicate their historic appearance. This work was completed by the National Park Service Historic Preservation Training Center.³⁹

In 2002, the exterior of the main house was painted. In the following year, a structural inspection revealed significant termite damage and general deterioration of the wood beams supporting the first floor of the structure.⁴⁰ The main house was closed to the public in 2003 due to structural problems. As part of the program to stabilize the house and restore and preserve the site and its features, a Historic Structures Report for the main house and a Cultural Landscape Inventory and Report for the property were begun in 2004. In that year, following a design by a National Park Service Southeast Regional Office with a local architectural and engineering firm, Eagle Scouts shored the first floor of the main house.⁴¹

In 2005, structural stabilization of the main house began with assistance from crews from the Historic Preservation Training Center and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Also during the same year, the Historic American Buildings Survey completed on-site work for measured drawings and photographs of the main house, as well as the kitchen house, barn, and site plan for Kingsley Plantation.⁴²

In 2006, preservation and stabilization of the main house continued, including installation of additional bracing (lateral cross-ties) to the existing shoring, replacement of a sill beam on the south elevation, and repairs to vertical wall framing on the southeast wing.⁴³

³⁸ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, 1997.

³⁹ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, 1998.

⁴⁰ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, 2003. The report also notes that Congressman Andre Crenshaw obtained over \$700,000 in funding, beginning in Fiscal Year 2004, to repair the house so that it could be reopened to the public.

⁴¹ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, 2004.

⁴² *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, 2005.

⁴³ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, 2006.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

In 2007, stabilization of the first floor wall framing in the main house was begun, with sill beams and vertical framing members sistered or replaced. The Historic Preservation Training Center performed a condition assessment of the first floor structural system to determine further stabilization required for the floor framing. Rehabilitation of the second floor windows at the main house was completed by Historic Preservation Training Center and park staff. To address dry wood termites discovered during the stabilization work, tent fumigation of both the main house and kitchen house was completed.⁴⁴

In 2008, new shutters were constructed by a contractor and park staff, and installed on both floors of the main house. Stabilization of the main house and slave cabins continued.⁴⁵ In 2009, park staff completed installation of the shutters and repaired leakage and damage to the breezeway and shutters caused by Tropical Storm Fay. Park staff also removed the dilapidated accessibility ramp from the south porch of the main house, and rehabilitated the sump pump system in the crawl space of the house. The main house was wired for installation of a new fire and security system. On October 17, 2009, the main house reopened to the public for guided tours.⁴⁶

In 2010, preparation began for painting of the house exterior. Repairs undertaken in conjunction with the painting project included extensive repairs to the north porch; repair of masonry along the building foundations by the park staff using traditional tabby methods; replacement of localized rotted wood siding throughout the structure; and repair and painting of interior plaster.⁴⁷

In 2011, a contractor completed exterior work at the main house including stripping, priming, and repainting of the wood. At the same time, park staff replaced rotted wood exposed during the stripping process, and also removed, refinished, and reinstalled the gutter system on the house and replaced shutter hardware. The main house interior stair support beams were found to be bowing due to the weight of the stairway, and were replaced by park staff with new beams sized to support the load. As part of the same project, plaster damaged by settlement related to the undersized beams was repaired.⁴⁸

⁴⁴ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report, 2007.*

⁴⁵ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report, 2008.*

⁴⁶ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report, 2009.*

⁴⁷ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report, 2010.*

⁴⁸ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report, 2011.*

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

In 2011, the park also installed a new mulched rubber walkway to replace the existing walkway on the Kingsley Plantation grounds.⁴⁹ In 2015, the park planned to repair the widow's walk.

The main house measures 76 by 52 feet in plan, with the long edge generally lying parallel to the riverfront. The main body of the house is a two-story rectangular block, with one-story porches on the north and south side that feature shed roofs. The north porch is supported by four Tuscan wood columns. Set between the columns are wooden railings. The house has a shingled hipped roof with a widow's walk. Four one-story pavilions mark the corners of the porches. These have pyramidal roofs. They are connected to one another in a north-south direction by one-story rooms that flank the main block of the house, sheltered beneath side-facing gable roofs. These were added circa 1877–1878. The roofs are clad with Alaskan yellow cedar shingles. Wood steps provide access to the center of the north porch. The columns, handrails, stairs, and flooring of the north porch are contemporary replacements. The south porch also has a wooden railing set between chamfered wood posts. The posts were added to the house circa 1886. The wood steps that link the porch and the rear lawn also provide access to the covered walkway that connects the main house and the kitchen house.

The first and second stories of the house are clad primarily with novelty siding. Beaded siding is used on the north wall of the south porch. The exterior basement walls are finished with stucco. The exterior is painted white.

The first floor of the main block is divided into two rooms. There is also a closet at this floor level. A curved staircase, added to the house in 1886, leads to the second floor hallway. Like the first floor, the second floor has two rooms and a closet. It also features a central hall. These room arrangements have been modified from the original plan of the house. An attic sits above the second floor. Access occurs via a rectangular hatch in the ceiling of the central hall. The attic is divided into three small rooms. The hatch provides access to the central room, which also contains a staircase and hatch in the room leading to the widow's walk. The existing widow's walk or lookout is not original, although there was likely such a feature associated with the early house. The basement is divided into several rooms similar to the first floor plan. There is one entrance to the basement, consisting of double doors at the south elevation.

The main house features forty-nine window openings.⁵⁰ The windows were originally six-over-six double-hung sashes. Today, thirty-four have double-hung six-over-six and two-over-two

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Hartrampf Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, *Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Kingsley Plantation, Main House, Historic Structure Report* (Atlanta, Georgia: National Park Service, February 4, 2005). 121–123.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

sashes and fifteen have been infilled with modern louvered wood panels. The remaining three openings are interior to the basement due to later additions to the building and are no longer fitted with windows. Most of the six-over-six windows are original to the house. The two-over-two windows were added between 1878 and 1886. On the east elevation of the house, the two-over-two windows are grouped together to form a series of bay windows.

The main house also features a total of twenty-three door openings (exterior and interior).⁵¹ Of these, fifteen are fitted with doors. The others are simple cased doorways, some of which apparently never held a door. There are several door types represented, including four-panel, three-panel with lights, two-panel with lights, and board-and-batten. The four-panel and board-and-batten types are the oldest; some may be original to the house. The house originally featured four exterior chimneys serving six fireplaces. Today, there are two chimneys located on the building, one at the eastern end of the two-story block, penetrating the eastern addition, and one at the western end of the southwestern pavilion. The eastern chimney is original to the house and serves the brick fireplaces on the east walls of rooms on the first and second floor. The western chimney, added to the house circa 1920s, likely served a stove once located in the basement beneath one of the corner rooms.⁵² All rooms have wood flooring over a dirt substrate.

The covered walk that connects the porch of the kitchen house with the south porch of the main house was added to the property by John Rollins in 1877. It measures 65 feet in length by 7 feet in width. It is 10 feet 5 inches from the finished floor to the ridgeline. The roof is clad in cedar shingles.

There are six entrances to the covered walkway: two are located on both the east and west elevations and one additional entrance is located at either end. The walls are finished with wood lattice in the upper section and butt-jointed, horizontal boards that range in width from 5 to 11-1/2 inches in the lower section. The lower section measures approximately 3 feet in height to the base of the wood-framed lattice.

The ceiling of the interior is the exposed roof framing, composed of rafters, collar ties, and arched tie beams, as well as the shingle roofing. In 1998, the cedar roof on the covered walkway was replaced to replicate its historic appearance.⁵³

⁵¹ Ibid., 109–111.

⁵² Ibid., 96.

⁵³ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, 1998.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

The rafters are nailed together at the ridge without a ridge board. The tie beams are notched into the top plates of the walls and connected to the exposed wall studs. The flooring is poured tabby scored to resemble randomly-sized triangular slabs. It measures 5 feet 4 inches in width.⁵⁴

Although it has been altered several times since 1798, the main house possesses sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and contributes to the significance of the Kingsley Plantation. As noted above, preservation work at the main house conducted by the National Park Service over the past several years has primarily involved stabilization and structural repairs, localized replacement of rotted wood cladding members, plaster repairs, exterior and interior repainting, and maintenance-type repairs to the foundation.

Kingsley Plantation Kitchen House (ID LCS #090103; HS-K002)

The kitchen house (refer to Photographs 4 and 5), also referred to as the Anna Madgigaine Jai House, is a two-story tabby and wood building believed to have been constructed circa 1798 by John McQueen. The building is located approximately 65 feet south of the main house. The two structures are connected by a 65-foot-long, 7-foot-wide, tabby-floored covered walkway partially enclosed with lattice and wood siding. The kitchen house was expanded circa 1814 by Zephaniah Kingsley, altered circa 1870–1879, and altered again in 1971 when air conditioning was added by the State of Florida.⁵⁵ During state administration, a new roof was added in 1975, and replaced again in 1988.⁵⁶ In 1987, the upper floor of the kitchen house was converted to office use.⁵⁷ During the 1990s, the National Park Service maintained the building through painting and general upkeep. In 1996–1997, a new HVAC system was installed in the building. To guide future preservation, a Historic Structures Analysis Report was prepared in 1997. In the following year, the roof was replaced with more historically accurate cedar shakes with the assistance of the Williamsport Preservation Training Center.⁵⁸ In 2000–2001, the north wall of the building was found to be in poor condition. A Historic Structure Report for the building was initiated in 2004 to guide repairs, which were initiated in the same year, including repairs to the second floor wall framing.

The building was closed in 2005 while the National Park Service further stabilized the structure and worked on upgrading the first floor framing to accommodate planned interpretive exhibits.

⁵⁴ Harttrampf Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, *Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Kingsley Plantation, Kitchen House, Historic Structure Report* (Atlanta, Georgia: National Park Service, January 31, 2005), 75.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 9, 16, 20, and 70.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, 20.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, 1998.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Stabilization work proceeded with assistance from crews from the Historic Preservation Training Center and Great Smoky Mountains National Park.⁵⁹ The first floor flooring was removed and replaced with more historically correct heart pine. The National Park Service also conducted selective replacement of sill beams, repair and stabilization of framing, and the installation of custom-milled siding to replace deteriorated exterior fabric. Interior wood trim and doors were also repaired, including the removal of the paint to reestablish the stained finish on the baseboard, doors, and other interior trim. An interior door was removed and replaced with a dutch door to provide visual access to the tabby-floored room in the southwest corner of the house. Electrical work in the structure was also improved while wall and floor framing was exposed. The tabby walls of the structure were also found to be in need of repair. In 2006, exterior tabby and interior plaster were repaired. The failing exterior tabby surface was removed to a sound surface and replaced with traditional lime coatings. The interior plaster walls received the same treatment, including selective replacement of wood lath and reinstallation of traditional lime plaster, with a shadow box revealing all layers of the interior plaster walls. The tabby porch was resurfaced with naturally hydraulic lime mortar. Additional work on the structure included exterior painting of siding and other wood components, rehabilitation of six first-floor windows and installation of a perimeter drainage system to further protect the building envelope. The work was completed in 2005. Work on the flooring and other stabilization efforts supported the reopening of the building in August 2006.⁶⁰ Interpretive exhibits were installed in 2009.

The kitchen house measures 38 feet 1 inch wide (north to south) by 22 feet 2 inches deep east to west. The structure is side-gabled with a full-length verandah on the east (principal) facade that projects 11 feet 4 inches from the east side of the house.⁶¹ The verandah features decorative millwork detailing. The first floor is primarily tabby brick construction covered with stucco, although there are sections that are tabby and wood frame. The foundation is primarily framed runners supported by dirt. The second story is faced with novelty siding. The exterior walls are painted white. The earliest walls are located on the east end of the house and are constructed of tabby brick. Formed tabby walls are located on the west end of the kitchen house.

The building features a north-south gable roof with west and east extensions. It is clad with Alaskan yellow cedar shingles. The west end of the roof covers the western first floor rooms and an attic, while the east extension covers the porch. A single square red brick chimney is set

⁵⁹ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, 2005.

⁶⁰ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, 2006.

⁶¹ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 72.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

within the center of the roof. There are two fireplaces located on the first and second floors. The fireboxes are also of red brick.

The floors, originally dirt, with the exception of the southwest room, which was and remains tabby, are now pine board. Flooring is also pine on the second floor except in the southernmost room, which is carpeted. Interior room partitions are a later addition. On the first floor there are four rooms, two closets, and a rear hall. The second floor has two rooms and one closet. There are also two attics, one dating to an early phase of construction, and the other, located above the western first floor rooms, a later addition.

There are seven exterior doors, four on the first floor, two on the second floor, and one in the attic at the south gable, and ten interior doors, five on the first floor and five on the second floor. All of the first floor doors are board-and-batten. The second floor doors are four-panel, except for the two sets of double doors located in the wainscoting on the west wall of one of the rooms, which are board-and-batten.

There are thirteen windows in the house, twelve of which are double-hung sash. There are eight nine-over-six windows on the first floor. Four six-over-six windows are located on the second floor. A six-light, fixed window is located at the north gable end of the attic. Another six-light, fixed window was once located on the south elevation at the first floor.⁶²

The kitchen house currently contains exhibits and a reproduction furnished kitchen. The south room of the second story is used for limited storage, while the north room is empty.

Although it has been altered several times since construction, the kitchen house possesses sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and contributes to the significance of the Kingsley Plantation.

Kingsley Plantation Barn (LCS ID 090104, HS #s K003)

The Kingsley Plantation Barn (refer to Photographs 6 and 7) is located approximately 222 feet southeast of the main house. The T-shaped structure exhibits evidence of two phases of construction. The original structure was likely built circa 1814 by Zephaniah Kingsley, with an addition completed a few years later. A separate carriage house building was constructed immediately adjacent to the barn circa 1870–1879, but was removed prior to 1955. The National Park Service stabilized the structure in 1988 and 2002, and replaced the roof in 2002, attempting

⁶² Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Kitchen House*, 75.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

to restore it to its historic character.⁶³ In 2008–2009, the park installed a wood floor in the barn to provide a suitable platform for interpretive exhibits and accommodate universal accessibility.⁶⁴

The northern portion of the barn is the newer section. It measures 38 feet 9 inches long by 20 feet 6 inches wide, and is oriented north to south. The one-and-one-half-story structure is covered by a gable roof clad with wood shingles. The walls of the barn are constructed of tabby bricks, 8-1/2 inches thick, and extend 9 feet 6 inches above the base course. The tabby bricks are covered with lime stucco scored to present the appearance of ashlar masonry. The attic is wood-framed. Within the gable end, the walls are covered with lapped weatherboard. A single wooden door, attached by hinges, is set within this wall. Below the door, there is a single window opening set within the tabby wall. A large door opening is set within the center of the east wall; a narrower door opening occurs in the west wall. The structure has a dirt floor interior; the National Park Service added a wood floor overlay to the south portion of the barn floor in 2009. Rollins added a concrete floor, which was removed by the Florida Park Service in the late 1950s. The barn is currently utilized by the National Park Service rangers for interpretive space. Long wooden benches occupy the shell and sand floor of the structure.

The southern portion of the barn extends perpendicularly from the northern section. It is a full two stories in height and measures 22 feet, 9 inches wide and 32 feet, 6 inches long. The walls are of poured and formed tabby.⁶⁵ The wood-framed roof is side-gabled and oriented east to west. Lapped weatherboard is set within the gable end, as well as within the second story juncture between the north and south sections. Door openings occur in the east and west walls north of center. Window openings are in the center on the upper floor of the south wall, south of center on the upper floor of the east wall, and within the gables of the east and west walls.

Although it has been altered several times since its original phases of construction, the barn possesses sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and contributes to the significance of the Kingsley Plantation.

⁶³ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report, 2002.*

⁶⁴ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report, 2009.*

⁶⁵ Tabby was historically composed of a mix of lime, sand, oyster shells, and water, poured into a form, tamped and leveled by hand, and allowed to harden. Lime was formed by burning oyster shells, and when mixed with water reacted to set the mixture. The formwork was removed and additional layers constructed until the height of the wall was achieved. The finished wall was coated with stucco or whitewash. After around 1880, the availability of manufactured portland cement led to construction in faux tabby, which typically includes shell aggregate but contains portland cement rather than lime formed from oyster shells. Faux tabby was also constructed by placement in forms. Both tabby and faux tabby are found in historical construction in the American Southeast.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Fort George Clubhouse

The Fort George Clubhouse was originally constructed in 1926–1927 based on plans prepared by New York architect and club member Theodore E. Blake to support the development of a recreational community on the island (Photograph 15). The original clubhouse burned in a 1936 fire, and was rebuilt on the original foundation in 1938. The building was adapted for housing and office use by the state of Florida. Today it is used by the National Park Service for offices, housing, a visitor contact station and bookstore, and a public restroom.⁶⁶

Surviving evidence of the club era includes privet (*Ligustrum japonica*) hedges associated with the clubhouse and former residential plantings. The two-story structure is located approximately 96 feet west of the main house. The rectangular clubhouse measures 87 by 38 feet in plan. It features a hipped roof oriented on an east-west axis, with one-story projections at each end. The roof is covered with cypress shingles.⁶⁷ The first story and gable projections are faux tabby concrete, while the second story is clad with lapped wood siding. The east and west ends of the building have one-story end-gable projections. As noted in the Timucuan Historic Resource Study:

The west end has an exterior brick chimney place between two three-sided bays. Each bay has a center, 8-light door with a 3-light transom and 4-over-4 double-hung, wood sash windows on either side. The north and south sides of the projection has a 6-over-6 double-hung wood sash window with wood shutters featuring a cut-out seahorse motif. The south side has one 6-over-6 double-hung wood sash window.

Each side of the east end projection's roof has end gable dormers with coupled, casement type windows with 3 lights each. The east end projection has two additions, on its north and east sides. On the north is a one-story, front-gable addition with a lapped wood siding exterior, one 6-over-6 double-hung wood sash window and a coupled lattice-covered window. A one-story flat roof addition is on the east end. The flat roof addition has a 4-light-over wood-panel door and a single 6-light, fixed sash window on the north, a boarded over door on the east, and two 6-light, fixed sash windows on the south. The south side of the east projection itself has a single, 8-light French door in the center flanked by 6-over-6 double-hung wood sash windows. A brick exterior chimney rises from the flat roof addition at the gable projection and is flanked by symmetrically placed fanlight windows and 6-over-6 double-hung, wood sash windows.

⁶⁶ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 76.

⁶⁷ Stowell, 110.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

The north-facing front of the main block has seven bays on each story, placed asymmetrically. The first story has a center door flanked by two 6-over-6 double-hung wood sash windows with seahorse motif shutters, a wood panel door at the east end, seahorse motif shuttered window on the west end, and two coupled casement windows.

The main block's south side has five asymmetrically placed bays on the first story. The east end has a 4-light-over-wood panel door with 3-light transom and an adjacent single 2-light fixed sash window. The westernmost window is a 6-over-6 double-hung wood sash with wood seahorse motif shutters. Two smaller windows are between this window and the door. The second story has a projecting shed-roof porch enclosed with screen. The porch has chamfered wood supports and an exterior wood staircase on the west end. The south side also has a front-gable projection adjacent to the porch on the east end. The projection has three coupled casement-type windows with 4 lights in each window and a 3-light transom over each. An oculus window with decorative wood framing is in the gable over the windows.

The roof on the west end of the main body is pyramidal hipped with shed-roof dormers on the north and south sides. The dormers have coupled windows covered by wood louver shutters. The roof on the east end of the hipped with an end gable.⁶⁸

The building has been adapted for use as housing and offices by the State of Florida and the National Park Service. As noted in the Timucuan Historic Resource Study:

The interior of the clubhouse has been extensively altered to accommodate office and housing uses. The clubhouse was significantly altered circa 1955. Changes to the clubhouse included replacement of a door with a window on the north side, removal of columns from the rear porch, addition of exterior stairs, addition of a second-story porch, and the installation of metal window awnings. Interior changes included the introduction of modern heating and ventilation systems.⁶⁹

The exterior of the building, however, possesses sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and contributes to the significance of the Kingsley Plantation property.

⁶⁸ Ibid., A-3. Note that the screen surrounding the projecting shed-roof porch has since been removed.

⁶⁹ Ibid., A-3.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Non-Contributing Buildings

Maintenance area shops

Three one-story maintenance buildings form a compound west of the Fort George Clubhouse (Photograph 16). The three buildings include a garage and workshop, office and maintenance operations facility, and a pole barn that was formerly referred to as a carport. These structures were developed between 1977 and 1993 by the State of Florida and the National Park Service.

The easternmost structure, located approximately 260 feet west of the main house, is the pole barn. It consists of a soil floor with a metal roof supported by wood posts, and measures 54 by 19 feet in plan. The long axis is oriented east to west.⁷⁰

The other maintenance buildings sit perpendicular to one another, and form a corner to the maintenance compound. The first building measures 105 feet 2 inches by 34 feet in plan, with the long axis oriented east-west. The building is an assemblage of several structures. It features a standing-seam gable roof, a concrete foundation, and vertical board siding. There is one garage door opening and one pedestrian door opening at the eastern end of the building, which is narrower than the western end. Four chain link gates limit access to the western end of the building. A shed roof extends from the west end of the building to provide shelter for stored equipment. Behind the building is a small wooden storage shed and a flammable materials metal shed.

The second maintenance building is located approximately 492 feet from the main house with its long axis oriented north-south. It measures 26 feet 1 inch by 50 feet 6 inches in plan. Two metal garage doors are set in the principal facade. A single door opening is also located at the north end of the principal facade, which faces east. There is also a small door and deck on the west side of the shop. This building houses park maintenance operations. A covered porch extends from the north facade, while a small addition, with its own door and shed roof, extends from the south facade.

Contributing Structures

Palmetto Avenue

Several tree-lined roads were part of the Kingsley Plantation historically (refer to Photograph 11). The most important was Palmetto Avenue. This road corridor currently extends for

⁷⁰ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 77–78.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

approximately 0.6 mile between the entrance gate near the intersection with Fort George Road and a gravel parking area south of the dwelling precinct that accommodates visitors to the property. Palmetto Avenue passes between slave cabins E1 and W1 near the gated entrance into the Kingsley Plantation property. Palmetto Avenue measures 15 to 20 feet in width and is surfaced with hard-packed earth and sand. The road is owned by the City of Jacksonville.

The road historically extended to a wharf along the river, and a trace of this section is evident on the property today. Sabal palm trees line the road as it approaches the dwelling precinct. These trees were a characteristic feature of the historic land approach to the main house. Trees were first planted during the Kingsley period, but the plantings were expanded by John Rollins.⁷¹ Although evidence of the allée of palm trees remains today, secondary woodland growth serves to partially obscure this feature.⁷²

The integrity of the road is diminished slightly by the loss of the historic shell surfacing, the change in the character of the tree plantings, and the fact that a portion of the road is now a trace. However, the road possesses sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and contributes to the significance of the property.

L'Engle Avenue

L'Engle Avenue, which is closed to the public, intersects Palmetto Avenue south of the gravel visitor parking area. The road corridor is owned by the City of Jacksonville. Within the historic district, the road corridor leads east from the maintenance road, and provides access to utility features, such as the Johnson barn and pump house, located southeast of the domestic precinct. L'Engle Avenue, thought to have been developed during the early twentieth century as part of the Fort George Club, is lined by cedars on both sides of the road. The size of these cedars suggests that they were planted during the club era. L'Engle Avenue retains its historic alignment and a partial row of cedar trees from the club era. As such, it retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations and contributes to the significance of the property.

Non-Contributing Structures

Pump house

The pump house is a one-story contemporary structure built by the National Park Service in 1994 to support water needs on site (Photograph 17). It is located approximately 370 feet southeast of

⁷¹ Ibid., 97, 99.

⁷² Ibid., 81–82.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

the main house and east of the visitor parking area. The long axis of the wood-frame structure is oriented north to south. The building measures 12 feet 8 inches by 30 feet 4 inches in plan. It has a wood-frame gable roof covered with wood shingles, wood clapboard siding, and a concrete block foundation. There is a single door in each gable end, and two windows on each of the longer dimension sides. A shed-roof covered porch on the west side protects a generator. The pump house postdates the period of significance and constitutes a non-contributing resource.

Johnson Barn

The Johnson Barn was constructed in 2013 as a tram maintenance and storage facility (Photograph 18).⁷³ It is set within the wooded area east of the dwelling precinct along a spur road that arises from L'Engle Avenue, and replaced a 1970s era structure. The Johnson Barn measures approximately 36 feet square in plan. The building features a two-story central bay, approximately 14 feet wide, with a gable roof covered with standing seam metal. The building is clad with fiber cement boards that resemble clapboards. They are painted grey. Four rectangular windows and one central square windows are set beneath the eaves of the roof. A metal door is set in the second story gable end. A second rolling metal garage door, painted green, is set within the center of the first floor gable end. To either side of the two-story central bay are one-story wings with shed roofs covered with green standing seam metal. A single door is set within the side wing to the left of the garage door in the gable end.

The east facade of the building also features four long rectangular windows set at the clerestory level set symmetrically about a central door. A metal vent stack pierces the roof. There are also four covered vents set on the shed roof. An air conditioning unit is set outside the building near the side door. The rear facade does not contain door openings. The west facade also features four rectangular windows, but does not contain a door opening. The Johnson Barn postdates the period of significance and does not contribute to the significance of the property.

Bulkhead

A wooden bulkhead edges the property to the north along the Fort George River (Photograph 19). The bulkhead, which ranges in height from 3 feet, 6 inches to 5 feet in height, extends for approximately 383 feet, including in front of the main house. It is used to prevent bank erosion from wave and wake action. The wood timbers that form the bulkhead are anchored with pile driven pilings. The bulkhead was replaced in 1997–1998 by the National Park Service. A timber

⁷³ National Park Service, *Kingsley Plantation-Ribault Club Interpretive Tram Tour Final Environmental Assessment*, July 2013.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

bulkhead was originally installed during the Club era. As such, it postdates the period of significance and is a non-contributing resource.

Service road

A sand, shell, and hard-packed earth service road links the maintenance area with L'Engle Avenue. The road initially follows the alignment of Washington Road, a right-of-way owned by the City of Jacksonville, before curving to the west toward the maintenance area. Beyond the maintenance area, the road continues east to provide access to the Fort George Clubhouse building. The service road appears to postdate the period of significance and is a non-contributing resource.

Pedestrian walk system

The National Park Service has formalized a system of hardened rubber mulch paths to allow visitors to access each of the historic features within the dwelling precinct. Paths extend from the dock northwest of the Kingsley Plantation property to the kitchen house, and between the kitchen house and the barn. A path also extends from the parking area along a portion of the Palmetto Avenue trace, connecting to the path between the kitchen house and the barn. Hard-packed earth paths extend to the east of Palmetto Avenue, providing a route for visitors through the woods to the slave cabin precinct. A second hard-packed earth path parallels Palmetto Avenue to the west, leading to slave cabins W15 and W16. These paths postdate the period of significance and are a non-contributing resource.

Fencing

A wooden screen fence limits views to the maintenance area from the pedestrian path leading from the National Park Service dock to the dwelling precinct. The privacy-style fence is constructed of chain link fencing covered with wood planks. The boards, which are painted brown, tightly abut one another. Split-rail fencing encloses the demonstration garden south of the kitchen house. Both of these fences were installed by the National Park Service and postdate the period of significance. As such, the fencing is a non-contributing resource.

Entry gate

The National Park Service limits access to the Kingsley Plantation after business hours. A hand fabricated, aluminum, chain driven sliding gate that can be slid into place to close off Palmetto Avenue is located south of slave cabins E1 and W1. A gate was first installed in this location in

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

1994 by the National Park Service. The current gate was installed in 2009.⁷⁴ As such, it postdates the period of significance and therefore constitutes a non-contributing resource.

Contributing Objects

Brick and stucco well heads (2)

The dwelling precinct includes two wellheads. Wellhead no. 1 edges the kitchen house 3 feet to its south, while wellhead no. 2 is located within the lawn area 93 feet east of the kitchen house near the former intersection of Palmetto Avenue and Cedar Avenue (refer to Photographs 8 and 9).

Wellhead no. 1 extends approximately 2 feet above the ground and measures approximately 4 feet in diameter. The wellhead, which is constructed of brick, is surfaced with stucco painted white, and topped with a wooden lid that is likely a replacement.

Wellhead no. 2 is similar in construction to well no. 1. Constructed of brick with a stucco finish, the wellhead extends approximately 2 feet above grade, and measures 4 feet 7 inches in diameter. It also has a wooden lid. Wellhead no. 2 also has a brick trough, covered with stucco, which extends from the south side of the well. The trough measures 3 feet by 2 feet 6 inches in plan, and sits slightly lower than the well itself. A hard-packed apron of shell and compacted sand, measuring approximately 2 feet in width, surrounds the wellhead. The apron has been formed through compaction resulting from visitor access to the well.

The wellheads are thought to date to Kingsley ownership of the property. They survive with good integrity, with the exception of the replaced lids, and contribute to the significance of the property.

Entry gate posts

A pair of square columns, faced with tabby, mark the entrance into the dwelling precinct of the Kingsley Plantation at the current terminus of Palmetto Avenue (Photograph 20). The entry gate posts edge the gravel parking area used by visitors to the property. The posts were erected during the club era, circa 1923–1935, by the Fort George Club to mark the entrance into the grounds. The columns measure 2 feet 4 inches square and are set approximately 20 feet apart on an east-west axis. Each column is capped with a 2-inch-thick concrete slab that overhangs the column by approximately 1 inch. Iron hooks, probably used to hang lanterns, extend from the front (south)

⁷⁴ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report, 2009.*

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

face of the columns. The park staff preserved the posts in 2011. The gate posts date from the club era and as such, fall within the period of significance. The posts retain a good degree of integrity and contribute to the significance of the property.

Flagpole base

The flagpole was installed in the lawn fronting the entrance to the Fort George Club in honor of Adm. Victor Blue and William A. Evans in 1940. The flagpole was 40 feet in height and the tallest object on the island. As such, it could be seen from the southern end of the island. Today, only the base of the flagpole remains within a stand of trees and shrubs. The base is octagonal in form and of cast concrete with a circular hole in the center for the flagpole. The base is inscribed "Adm. Victor Blue/William A. Evans/Erected by their Friends/1940."

Non-Contributing Objects

Sign systems

Several interpretive and informational signs exist on the site. Near the parking area there is a wood kiosk, protected under a shallow roof covered with wood shingles, which contains a single panel that provides orientation information for visitors. A brochure box is attached to one of the two wood posts that support the kiosk.

Additional informational signage directs visitors to restrooms, indicates roads closed to the public, and informs visitors of ongoing activities on the site. Directional signage is often composed of wood posts used to mount signs that point visitors to certain historical features. The posts were installed in 2009.

Wayside exhibits are located along the path that connects the National Park Service dock with the plantation dwelling complex that provide an overview of the Kingsley Plantation. The signs are mounted on metal bars anchored to wooden posts that are painted brown. The wayside exhibits were installed in 2009.

A four-panel exhibit set beneath a simple shelter composed of four wood posts and a wood cover, painted brown, is located along the edge of the river and the pedestrian path northeast of the Fort George Clubhouse. The exhibit interprets the role of the river in plantation life. A similar structure is located adjacent to the gravel parking area at the end of Palmetto Avenue. In addition, there is a single wayside exhibit mounted on wood posts nearby that discusses Fort George Island and the Kingsley Plantation.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Another wayside exhibit, composed of two panels mounted on wooden posts, painted white is located near the southeast corner of the kitchen house. The panels are mounted back to back. The panels are titled "Looking Back."

Wayside exhibits are also used to interpret the plants featured in the demonstration garden to the south of the kitchen house. A pair of exhibits, also mounted on wood posts painted brown, is set at the edge of the garden fence.

Several wayside exhibits are located within the lawn adjacent to the slave cabin arc. Single and double panel exhibits, mounted using metal bars anchored to wooden posts, provide information on tabby construction and slave life.

The interiors of the barn and the kitchen house are also used to display interpretive panels.

These signs and sign systems were installed by the National Park Service during the 2000s and postdate the period of significance. They therefore constitute a non-contributing resource.

Bollards

Bollards are used in several locations to prevent vehicles from leaving road and parking surfaces. These wooden posts, which stand approximately 3 feet in height and are painted brown, are located along Palmetto Avenue near the slave cabins. Bollards are also used along the northern edge of the gravel parking area to prevent cars from driving along the visitor pathway to the dwelling precinct. The bollards were installed by the National Park Service and postdate the period of significance. They therefore constitute a non-contributing resource.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
 Name of Property

Duval County, FL
 County and State

**KINGSLEY PLANTATION
 DATA SHEET**

RESOURCE NAME	LCS	ASMIS No.	DATE	PHOTO #
KINGSLEY PLANTATION				
SITES – 4				
Plantation domestic precinct			Circa 1791–1955	1 through 11
Sugar/grist mill archeological site			Circa 1792–1804	
Slave cabin precinct			Circa 1814–1865	12, 13
Kingsley-era slave cemetery archeological site			Circa 1817–1823	
NON-CONTRIBUTING SITES – 1				
Demonstration garden			1996; 1998-1999	14
BUILDINGS – 4				
Kingsley Plantation House (K001)	090102		1798–1839; altered 1870–1879; altered 1900–1910; rehabilitated 1968–1971, 1991–2014	1, 2, 3
Kingsley Plantation Kitchen House (K002)	090103		1798; enlarged 1814; altered 1870–1879; altered 1960–1969, rehabilitated 1991-2014	4, 5

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Kingsley Plantation Barn (K003)	090104		; Circa 1814; altered 1870– 1879; rehabilitated 1988–2003	6, 7
Fort George Clubhouse			1926–1927; burned 1936; rebuilt 1938, rehabilitated 2008	15
NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS - 1				
Maintenance area shops and pole barn			1977–1993	16
STRUCTURES – 2				
Palmetto Avenue			Circa 1814– 1839; extended 1877–1886	11
L’Engle Avenue			Circa 1923– 1955	
NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES – 7				
Pump house			1994	17
Johnson barn			2013	18
Bulkhead			1997–1998	19
Service road			Undetermined	
Pedestrian walk system			1993; 2002; 2011	4, 6, 20
Fencing			2001– 2002	
Entry gate			1994; 2009	

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
 Name of Property

Duval County, FL
 County and State

CONTRIBUTING OBJECTS - 4				
Brick and stucco well heads (2)			Circa 1798– 1869	8, 9
Entry gate posts			Circa 1923– 1935; preservation 2011	20
Flagpole base			Circa 1940	
NON-CONTRIBUTING OBJECTS - 2				
Sign systems			2009	4, 5, 14, 20
Bollards			post 1991	20

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Agriculture
- Archeology (Historic, Non-aboriginal)
- Architecture
- Exploration/Early Settlement
- Military History
- Recreation

Period of Significance

1791–1955

Significant Dates

- 1798
- 1814
- 1817–1839

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

- Zephaniah Kingsley
- Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley
- John McQueen
- John McIntosh

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

Kingsley Plantation Historic District is nationally significant under Criteria A, B, C, and D for its associations with early settlement within northeast Florida, antebellum plantation agriculture, postbellum farming adaptations to a new economy, and a twentieth-century transition to a tourism economy. For these associations, Kingsley Plantation is significant in the areas of Agriculture, Archeology (Historic, Non-Aboriginal), Architecture, Exploration/Settlement, Military History, and Recreation during the period 1791–1955.⁷⁵ The period of significance begins with acquisition of the property by John McQueen, and his subsequent construction of the extant main house and kitchen house as part of a larger agricultural complex by 1798, and encompasses important additions made to the property by Zephaniah and Anna Kingsley, such as enlargements to the kitchen house, a tabby barn, and thirty-two slave cabins circa 1814, and ends with the acquisition of the property by the state of Florida for the establishment of a historic park, following its use as a private club and recreational community.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District encompasses the oldest surviving plantation property in the state. Surviving historic resources contribute to the significance of the property by conveying its historic associations within three contexts—eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Florida settlement and antebellum Southern agricultural plantation development (1765–1865), the transition of the Florida coast from agricultural land uses to an emphasis on tourism (1865–1923), and early-twentieth-century recreational development along the Florida coast (1923–1955). These resources include the domestic plantation precinct site, which features the main house, kitchen house, barn, two wellheads, Cedar Avenue, Palmetto Avenue, and other road and walk traces; the sugar/grist mill archeological site; the slave cabin precinct site, which features twenty-five slave cabin ruins; the slave cemetery archeological site; and evidence of the Fort George Club, including the clubhouse and associated hedge plantings; L’Engle Avenue, and a pair of entry gateposts.

National Register Status of the Property

Kingsley Plantation was initially listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1970, based on documentation prepared by a representative of Kingsley Plantation State Park.⁷⁶ The nomination indicated the 50-acre property significant in the areas of Archeology (Prehistoric and

⁷⁵ Future consideration might be paid to evaluating the significance of the property in the area of Archeology (Prehistoric) for the information potential associated with sites relating to Native American activities. Insufficient information was available to evaluate the property in this area at the time this nomination was prepared.

⁷⁶ Dena Snodgrass, National Register nomination for Kingsley Plantation (Jacksonville, Florida: Kingsley Plantation State Park, 1970).

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Historic), Agriculture, Architecture, Commerce, Education, Industry, Military, and Politics/Government, during a period that spanned the sixteenth through the nineteenth centuries. This National Register nomination provides additional documentation and expands on the information afforded in the 1970 nomination by considering more recent scholarship and the findings of several archeological investigations in the refinement of the areas of significance, features contributing to the significance of the property, and the period of significance. It also reflects a boundary clarification from 50 to 51 acres. One area of significance—archeology (prehistoric)—is not addressed by this nomination. The expanded significance statement is conveyed below.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A

Agriculture

The plantation is nationally significant under Criterion A as a rare example of a substantially intact Sea Island plantation complex for the period 1791–1923. Kingsley Plantation is considered to be the oldest surviving example of an antebellum Spanish Colonial plantation in America.⁷⁷ Although several of the buildings, structures, and landscape features are no longer extant, including the cultivated fields, hedgerows, and shipping docks, the extant plantation house, kitchen house, barn, slave cabins, Palmetto Avenue, several road traces, wells, mill sites, and direct association with the riverfront evoke a strong sense of the plantation era. Kingsley Plantation is significant in the area of Agriculture for its long-standing history of cultivation beginning in the late eighteenth century. It is recognized as one of the earliest American plantations within the state of Florida, which generally remained under Spanish rule until 1821. Kingsley Plantation remained an agricultural property between early settlement circa 1791 and the Civil War, when the emancipation of slaves altered the economic viability of the antebellum lifeways. During the antebellum period, Kingsley Plantation grew crops such as Sea Island cotton, indigo, and sugarcane. Evidence of slave life on the property occurs in the form of a precinct of twenty-five cabin ruins of local tabby construction, arranged in a semi-circle. Material culture and construction methods have been revealed through archeological investigation of the slave cabin precinct.

⁷⁷ National Park Service, *Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Florida: Foundation Document* (December 2012), 9.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

The landscape of the Kingsley Plantation was extensively altered during European-American settlement in the late eighteenth century to accommodate plantation agriculture by John McQueen, erasing to a great degree evidence of occupation by the Timucua-speaking tribes and Spanish mission settlements. McQueen cleared extensive areas of land for crops and established a plantation house complex in close proximity to the river, which served as an important means for travel and transport of goods at the time.

Following the Civil War and the emancipation of slaves, the antebellum practice of large-scale plantation agriculture that was characteristic of many parts of the South was suddenly no longer economically viable. Postbellum land owners were forced to transition to new means of generating income from their properties, including the planting of crops that did not require as much labor. At Kingsley Plantation, John F. Rollins planted an extensive grove of orange trees after Reconstruction in hopes of generating enough income to support his family and ownership of the land. A period of bitter cold during the winter of 1894–1895 killed many of the trees, effectively ending large-scale agricultural production on the property. Owners of Fort George Island, including Rollins, transitioned to the selling of lots to attract tourists.

Recreation

Kingsley Plantation is also significant at the local level as an example of early-twentieth-century recreational development along the Florida coast for the period 1923–1955. The site is significant under Criterion A for its association with the transition of the Sea Island coast from an agricultural economy to an economy based on tourism and recreation. This transition of economies and land use fortuitously included the preservation of many historic elements of the property, but also eventually led to the loss of others, such as the fields used for cultivation during the plantation era.

During the 1920s, the Kingsley Plantation property was acquired for use by a private club, or community of residents interested in vacationing in the area. The Fort George Clubhouse, several bungalow structures, and other amenities were built on the property to accommodate the needs of the club. These coexisted with the plantation elements on the property. Despite early success, the club slowly declined in economic viability during the Great Depression due to a falling-off in membership. By the early 1950s the State of Florida had begun to recognize the historic value of the property. In 1955, the state purchased much of the existing Kingsley Plantation property from the club, although the land associated with the slave cabins was not acquired until 1966. In 1991, the Kingsley Plantation property was transferred to the federal government for inclusion in the

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

newly established Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, which also provides for the edification and recreational enjoyment of visitors.

Criterion B

Politics/Government

Kingsley Plantation is nationally significant under Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government for its association with Zephaniah and Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley, who rented the property beginning in 1814, and later owned the plantation between 1817 and 1839. Zephaniah Kingsley was not only an important land owner and slave trader in Spanish, and later American, Florida, but his publications on racial class systems were widely read throughout the country. Kingsley achieved national prominence as a pro-slavery theorist with the publication of his *Treatise on the Patriarchal or Cooperative System of Society as it Exists in Some Governments, and Colonies in America, and in the United States, Under the Name of Slavery, With Its Necessity and Advantages*. Kingsley's treatise was published in four editions between 1828 and 1834. To be significant under Criterion B, a property should generally be associated with a person's productive life, reflecting the time period when he or she achieved significance. Kingsley lived in the house from 1814 to 1831. It was during this period that Kingsley wrote his treatise and the first two editions were published.

Zephaniah's wife Anna Kingsley is also a significant person in Florida history. Born Anta Majigeen Ndiaye in 1793 in Jolof, a region in present-day Senegal, Anna Kingsley was descended from the founders of the Jolof Empire. As such, she was considered a person of noble status in her community. Captured into the slave trade at the age of thirteen, Anta was sold and married to Zephaniah Kingsley in Havana, Cuba. Zephaniah then moved Anta to his Laurel Plantation along the St. Johns River in Florida. Anta, who was now known as Anna, managed the household as well as a complex system of carpentry shops, millhouse, blacksmith shop, and store. Her cultural background allowed her to communicate and relate to the African slaves at the plantation, even though they spoke several different languages. Anna Kingsley proved to be an effective and successful plantation manager, and well suited to the responsibility of running the plantation's complex business and agricultural practices. At Laurel Grove Plantation, Anna distinguished herself to other land owners and Spanish governing officials.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

In 1811, Zephaniah Kingsley manumitted Anna and their three children, an act that solidified her status in managing the plantation.⁷⁸ After Zephaniah was captured and held for ransom during the Patriot Rebellion of 1812, Anna was left in charge of the plantation. Laurel Grove plantation soon came under attack by Seminole Indians, who with the American raiders sought to take control of the properties along the St. John's River. In an effort to prevent the seizure of the plantation, Anna burned the house after ensuring that the plantation occupants had successfully traversed the river. As compensation for her actions and losses, the Spanish government subsequently granted Anna 305 acres of land on Fort George Island, where Zephaniah and Anna built Kingsley Plantation. Anna resided at Kingsley Plantation until 1837, when she moved to Haiti. As a former slave of African descent who became a property owner and manager of a large plantation, Anna Kingsley was an anomaly in the antebellum south. Her remarkable life and achievements in overcoming slavery, managing a complex plantation, protecting her family from racism by moving to Haiti, the first independent black republic of the new world, and helping to start a new plantation there, has been the subject of many scholarly works.⁷⁹

Kingsley Plantation is also significant at the state level under Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government for its association with John McQueen during the period 1792–1804, and John Houston McIntosh during the period 1804–1817.⁸⁰

John McQueen was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but grew up in Charleston, South Carolina. He involved himself in a career as a land speculator and purchased thousands of acres of land in South Carolina and Georgia. At one point he owned half of Cumberland Island on the Georgia coast. As hostilities grew between the American colonies and Great Britain, McQueen supported the American cause, and in 1778 was commissioned a Captain in the Navy of South Carolina. In this role, McQueen served as a personal courier between George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette. In 1784, McQueen purchased land south of the Savannah River in Georgia, and built a plantation named “the Cottage.” In 1785 and 1788, McQueen lived in France where he was entertained by Thomas Jefferson and Lafayette. By 1789, he had become delinquent on his Georgia taxes and moved to Spanish Florida to avoid his debt.

⁷⁸ Daniel L. Schafer, *Anna Kingsley*. (St. Augustine, Florida: St. Augustine Historical Society, 1994; revised and expanded edition, 1997).

⁷⁹ Ibid. Schafer has also written *Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley: African Princess, Florida Slave, Plantation Slaveowner* (2003).

⁸⁰ Kingsley Plantation is the name used to refer to the property throughout this nomination for consistency and to avoid confusing the reader. The house was originally built by John McQueen, and later owned by John McIntosh. During these ownership periods, the house would have been referred to by the specific owner's name.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

McQueen converted to Catholicism and swore allegiance to Spain. He served as an important link between the Spanish rulers of East Florida and the Anglo-American rural settlers along the St. Mary's and St. Johns rivers during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In 1791, he led an expedition to capture British privateer William Augustus Bowles, who incited Native people to revolt against Spanish rule in West Florida. Despite his failure to capture Bowles, McQueen was granted Fort George Island as a reward by the Spanish Government. In 1798, McQueen built the structure which still stands on the north end of Fort George Island.

In 1804, McQueen sold Fort George Island to John Houston McIntosh. Prior to his arrival in Florida, McIntosh established a rice and cotton plantation named "the Refuge" outside of Woodbine, Georgia. After 1805, McIntosh cultivated between 300 and 400 acres of cotton on Fort George Island.

Both McQueen and McIntosh were involved in the political machinations in East Florida during the Patriot Rebellion of 1812 and contributed to the cause, although on different sides. Kingsley Plantation was a focal point for meetings in deciding what course of action would take place. McIntosh specifically became involved in a plot to overthrow the Spanish government in Florida and turn it over to the United States for annexation. Ultimately, the Patriot Rebellion failed, and McIntosh was forced to leave Florida and return to Georgia. Along with Zephaniah Kingsley these individuals helped to influence Spanish politics in East Florida and were a part of Florida's transition to a Territory of the United States.

There are no other known extant structures associated with John McQueen aside from the complex of buildings on Fort George Island, although an island on the south bank of the Savannah River just west of Fort Pulaski is known as McQueen's Island.

The only surviving property other than the plantation on Fort George Island associated with John McIntosh is the McIntosh Sugar Works located near St. Marys, Georgia. The tabby ruins of the industrial feature were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992 as a rare example of tabby construction, an early surviving example of the Georgia sugar industry, and for the archeological information it has already yielded and is anticipated to yield in the future.⁸¹ The sugar works, however, is not tied to McIntosh's political interests and activities during the critical era of the Patriot Rebellion.

⁸¹ National Register of Historic Places, Supplementary Listing Record, John Houston McIntosh Sugarhouse, April 2, 1992.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Military

Kingsley Plantation is significant at the state level for its association with John McIntosh and represents his role in the political and military history of the region during the period of the Patriot Rebellion of 1812. McIntosh played an important role in the unsuccessful rebellion, a significant event in the territorial development of early Florida that sought to secure East Florida for the United States by forcibly acquiring it from Spain. Along with McIntosh, both Kingsley and McQueen were influential in other developments associated with the Patriot Rebellion of 1812. McQueen was influential for his opposition to the rebellion against the Spanish government and attempts to encourage the local populace to remain calm, while Kingsley along with McIntosh held meetings at the plantation to strategize how to defeat the Spanish. Also, both Laurel Grove and Kingsley Plantation suffered extensive damage during the rebellion when Seminole Indians raided and burned a number of buildings. Although the main house was spared being set on fire, many items were stolen from inside, including interior hardware such as door knobs and hinges. Kingsley fought the Spanish as well as United States governments for reparations associated with these damages.

Criterion C

Architecture

Kingsley Plantation Historic District is nationally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for the distinctive design of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century plantation buildings constructed between 1798 and circa 1837. Of particular note is the precinct of slave cabins. Under Criterion C, the property embodies the distinctive characteristics of coquina block and tabby concrete construction methods. Coquina block was used to construct portions of the plantation house basement walls. Tabby was used to construct the slave cabins, the foundation of the plantation house, the first floor of the kitchen house, and part of the barn. The use of tabby was prevalent in Florida and coastal Georgia in the 1700s and early 1800s.

The plantation house is nationally significant under Criterion C for its unusual architectural style, marked by the inclusion of four corner pavilions. The design of the house has been noted to reflect the influence of Sebastiano Serlio (1475–1554), a contemporary of Andrea Palladio. Serlio was an Italian Mannerist architect, painter, and theorist who advocated the principles of ancient Roman architecture. Serlio was engaged by King Francis I of France to consult on construction of the palace of Fontainebleau. Although his buildings were not widely recognized,

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

his treatise *Tutte l'opere d'architettura, et prospetiva* (*Complete Works on Architecture and Perspective*) of 1537–1575, translated into English in 1611, was highly influential throughout Europe. The publication was an architectural handbook on Classical architecture, consisting of drawings with commentary; it was popular as an innovative practical guide for those wishing to design and construct buildings of a Classical character.⁸²

Historian Roger Kennedy describes the influence of Serlio's publications as follows:

. . . cosmopolitans such as [Don Henrique (Henry)] White, John Houstoun McIntosh and McQueen lavished upon the boggy landscape in and around St. Augustine a grand Palladian mansion, Bella Vista, on the Moultrie estate down Mantanzas Inlet from St. Augustine, Serlian mills, and convents and houses, a Gibbsean church, Chinese Bridges, and Dutch Water Gardens. This was a period of astonishing sophistication on the frontier The governor's fortified house in St. Augustine had a gateway straight from the pages of a Spanish translation of Vitruvius.

Regarding the main house, Kennedy also notes:

The Fort George estate was not the most ambitious of these achievements, but it was one of the most intellectually sophisticated. From the center point of the Great Hall of the House—proportioned, like the rest of the house, to a design of Serlio—its avenue of palms led (and leads) a thousand feet to a point from which an arc is drawn, one of thirty-two shell-cement (tabby) cabins⁸³

And further comments:

McQueen was acquainted from youth with border castles of Scotland and North England with “tourettes” and hipped roofs. In the course of his marketing expeditions across France in the 1780s, he made himself familiar with the vast chateaus, similarly massed. Later, he became acquainted with the plantation houses of the West Indies which were little closer in scale to what was built on Fort George Island., and many of those were also of wood. Though, the “fortified mansion” on Fort George Island was a mere kennel to a chateau, and to a Jamaican great house just a poor cousin, though it was a mere composite to the eye of an architectural wayfarer, of French, Scottish and West Indian appearance, it was remarkable for its Serilian floor plan.⁸⁴

⁸² “Sebastiano Serlio,” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, <http://www.britannica.com/biography/Sebastiano-Serlio>, accessed August 2015; Roger G. Kennedy, *Burr, Hamilton and Jefferson: A Study in Character* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 214–230.

⁸³ Roger G. Kennedy, *Burr, Hamilton and Jefferson: A Study in Character* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 216.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, 219–220.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

The corner pavilions of the main house are reminiscent of Palladian-inspired dwellings constructed during the eighteenth century, including the Mulberry Plantation main house (circa 1714) near Charleston, South Carolina, which while similar in form, is larger than the plantation house at Kingsley Plantation, and constructed of brick. Unlike the Kingsley Plantation main house, the central portion of the main house at Mulberry Plantation contains an attic level within a mansard roof. Other examples of the style include main house at Exeter Plantation (circa 1720s) in Berkeley, South Carolina; and the Kent House (circa 1800) in Alexandria, Louisiana. Like the main house at Kingsley Plantation, Kent House is a wood framed structure; however, Kent House is elevated on brick columns, and its central block is only one story in height. There are also several Jamaican and other West Indian great houses that survive from the eighteenth century that feature a hipped-roof central block with lower corner pavilions connected by a gallery. These houses, in turn, bear similarities in design to British gentry houses of the seventeenth century.⁸⁵

The kitchen house and barn are also significant works of vernacular architecture that were integral components of the plantation domestic precinct during the antebellum period. Both buildings are partially constructed of tabby and are significant for their design and construction features. Both buildings are also likely to yield more information about plantation life through architectural and archeological study.

The slave cabins are nationally significant under Criteria C. The slave cabins are the largest concentration of existing slave quarters constructed of tabby found in the United States.⁸⁶ Together they present a rare, well-preserved collection of slave quarters. The slave cabin group will undoubtedly yield more historical information through archeological and architectural investigation.⁸⁷

Criterion D

Archeology (Historic, Non-Aboriginal) and Architecture

Kingsley Plantation Historic District is nationally significant under Criterion D for the information potential that it has yielded, and is anticipated to continue to yield in the future,

⁸⁵ Stowell, 81; from Harold Kalman to Brian Peters, January 4, 1993, Harold Kalman to Brian Peters, April 21, 1993, letters on file at Kingsley Plantation; E. Mercer, "The Houses of the Gentry," *Past and Present* 5 (May 1954), 11–12; Samuel Gaillard Stoney, *Plantations of the South Carolina Low Country*, 2nd ed. (Charleston, South Carolina: Carolina Art Commission, 1939), 50–51, 53–54.

⁸⁶ National Park Service, *Foundation Document*, 9.

⁸⁷ Stowell, 81.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

about plantation life, architectural construction methods, and the transitional economy of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The archeological investigations conducted to date have yielded important information regarding plantation life, and further field study has the potential to produce more evidence of importance in the study of Sea Island agriculture and slave life. The plantation main house, kitchen house, barn, and slave cabin ruins are examples of aboveground resources that also exhibit archeological information potential. Archeological investigations around the slave quarters have revealed clues regarding plantation slave life, while investigations within the plantation domestic precinct have revealed the potential locations of plantation outbuildings.

Archeological sites identified to date include various features of the plantation domestic precinct, a sugar/grist mill associated with the processing of agricultural products during the nineteenth century, and a slave burial ground. Numerous foundations are either suspected or have been located along Cedar Avenue and south of the kitchen house during archeological investigations conducted by the University of Florida between 2006 and 2012.⁸⁸ The evidence of former structures along Cedar Avenue is in the form of in situ red brick foundation remnants, suggestions of a frame structure that rested above, and fragments of a finely made mortar with a whitewash exterior coat or finish reminiscent of the appearance of the main house. Excavations conducted by the University of Florida have also revealed evidence of former sugar/grist mill site southeast of the barn. It is speculated that the mill was constructed in the McIntosh or McQueen era and later rebuilt by Kingsley following the Seminole raid of 1812. The rebuilt mill was likely steam powered, replacing an earlier animal-powered mill.⁸⁹ While the specific purpose of the mill is unknown, records from January 29, 1842, reference a sugar mill. Other records describe sugar cane being grown in the area. The mill site has already yielded some historical information, and further archeological investigation is likely to produce more useful information about construction and operation of the mill. The same investigations have recorded the location of a slave burial ground on the property. This site has already yielded important information about a critical period of the property's history and has the potential to yield additional information particularly regarding how enslaved people conducted the memorialization of the dead.

⁸⁸ A summary of archeological studies conducted at Kingsley Plantation from 1967 through 2012, for reference in preparation of this nomination, was provided by John Whitehurst, Cultural Resources Specialist/Archeologist and Historian, and Anne Lewellen, Museum Curator, of Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve.

⁸⁹ Davidson, *Preliminary Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2012 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation*, 35.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

The earliest recorded archeological investigations on the property date to 1967 when Henry Baker, working on behalf of the Florida State Museum and Florida State Board of Parks, conducted test excavations in the cellar area of the Kingsley Plantation Main House. Baker recorded several major structural alterations made to the building over time, and described the associated construction phases, suggesting the period during which the earliest phases of masonry construction were completed.⁹⁰ Charles Fairbanks, working under the auspices of the University of Florida, later conducted additional study at Kingsley Plantation in 1968, completing the first historic archeological investigation into the lives of enslaved people in the United States.⁹¹ Fairbanks conducted formal excavations at Slave Cabins E-1 and W-1 as part of this effort. The investigations yielded initial insight into the daily lives and diet of the inhabitants of the cabins through faunal analysis of the animal remains discovered, and consideration of the ceramic wares that suggested what was available to the slave population and aided in dating use of the cabins.

An investigation conducted in 1979 by Marsha Chance and Carl McMurray with the Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, Division of Archives, History and Records Management for the State of Florida at the site of a proposed parking lot yielded construction refuse that suggested the location of a tabby processing area related to early construction of the plantation.⁹²

Several additional investigations were conducted in the 1980s. In 1982 Carl McMurray, Historic Sites Specialist with the Florida Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, conducted investigations of a proposed demonstration garden site to the south of the kitchen house. This study yielded little information of value about the plantation due to poor choices in methodology for data recovery. One section of a possible historic roadway was revealed.⁹³ In 1983, Carl McMurray and Darcie MacMahon with the Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties performed limited excavations at the corner of the southwest pavilion of the main house. McMurray identified and added clarification to the construction sequence of the pavilion and provided

⁹⁰ Baker, *Excavations at the Kingsley Plantation* (Florida State Museum, Florida State Board of Parks, 1967).

⁹¹ Charles H. Fairbanks, "The Kingsley Slave Cabins in Duval County, Florida," *Conference on Historic Site Archaeology Papers*, Stanley South, ed. (Columbia, South Carolina: The Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, 1968). Fairbanks's pioneering work has led to the development of an entire sub-discipline in historic archaeology related to plantation archaeology, "Africanisms," and slave culture. This work suggests an avenue for future evaluation.

⁹² Marsha Chance and Carl McMurray, "Archaeological investigations at the Kingsley Plantation State Historic Site, Duval County, Florida." Unpublished report on file, Florida Department of Natural Resources, Division of Recreation and Parks, Tallahassee, Florida, 1984.

⁹³ Carl McMurray, *Report on Archeological Investigations at the Kingsley Plantation Proposed Garden, Phase I* (Florida Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, December 1982).

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

interpretation of the construction event.⁹⁴ In 1985, Henry Baker with the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Archives, History and Records Management identified several possible road traces after conducting an extensive auger testing program across the plantation site.⁹⁵ In 1988, Karen Jo Walker, a graduate student at the University of South Carolina, wrote her Master of Arts thesis on Zephaniah Kingsley and his slaves, analyzing material recovered by John Bostwick at Cabins W-3 and W-6 in 1981. By comparing the architectural design of their quarters against those of other plantations and interpreting Kingsley's mechanisms for interacting with his enslaved peoples against other owners, Walker provides important initial insight into how the plantation was run and how its enslaved people were treated.⁹⁶

Several important investigations were conducted by the University of Florida between 2006 and 2012 under the direction of Dr. James Davidson. These investigations were completed as a series of summer field schools. Excavation units 1 through 250 were dug in slave cabin yards, the barn, the sugar mill, the cemetery, the area between the kitchen house and demonstration garden, and the extension of Cedar Avenue, over the seven years. Thirty-six discrete features were defined and assigned numbers. These features did not include cabins or extant structures. Thousands of objects have been recovered during the field schools and are currently being analyzed by the University of Florida.⁹⁷

Specific findings to date have included excellent insights into the cultural practices of the occupants of the slave cabins. For example, many unexpected aspects of slave life at Kingsley Plantation have been uncovered, including the fact Zephaniah Kingsley armed his slaves to be a standing militia, not only with long arms but also with pistols. In light of what happened to Kingsley's Laurel Grove plantation during the Patriot Rebellion (1811–1814), when factions from Georgia burned the plantation to the ground, this appears to be justified. In addition, many "Africanisms" were identified among the artifacts revealing how that the enslaved people remained close to the cultural and religious values of their countries of origin. Egg shaped stones related to fertility, blue beads of cultural significance, iron objects buried in specific places in the cabins and the ritual burial of a chicken in front of the door to cabin W-15 all demonstrate the

⁹⁴ McMurray (1983).

⁹⁵ Baker, *Roads and Walkways at the Kingsley Plantation: An Archaeological Study*.

⁹⁶ Karen Jo Walker, "Kingsley and His Slaves: Anthropological Interpretation and Evaluation," *Volumes in Historical Archaeology V* (Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina, The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, May 1988), 23.

⁹⁷ Davidson, *Preliminary Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2012 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation*.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

continued practice of African religious and cultural values.⁹⁸ Additional work conducted in 2009 revealed a chicken burial and two large iron concretions within the floor of cabin W-15. While the concretions could be items taken in as “found objects,” traditional African religious practices suggest they may be related to the practice of magic. The concretions may have been used as house charms as a positive control used against black magic. These iron charms are often found hanging above the doorway or buried in the floor of a house. A common form of house charm used by the Ibo and Yoruba people of Africa is made of iron.⁹⁹ In 2011, Dr. Davidson conducted excavations at the east arc, including the well behind Cabin E-11, the interior floor of Cabin E-10, the midden behind Cabin E-16 and the sugar mill. Objects indicate Cabin E-10 was occupied until the late 1850s, after the Kingsleys left Fort George Island. The location and context of a number of artifacts, including an iron hoe, iron concretions, and stones, indicate a supernatural rationale. The well revealed a water-polished stone that may have been dropped in for spiritual purposes. The archeologists determined the well was probably dug after 1814 and filled after 1880.

Within the plantation precinct, Dr. Davidson has revealed evidence of structures located along the old Cedar Avenue route east of the Kingsley main house. Zephaniah Kingsley apparently had several cabins built along the avenue to house guests. The remnant foundations were made of red brick and mortar and the artifacts recovered include an assemblage suggesting elite domestic residences with ceramics ranging from 1800 to 1850, within the Kingsley period of occupation.¹⁰⁰

Clearing and field testing of an area southwest of the barn revealed the existence of the “Sugar Mill” depicted on the 1853 Coastal Survey map of Fort George Island. The mill was also known to be extant from archival records related to the plantation. The result of excavations in this area revealed the remnant octagonal tabby wall and floor of this structure. Often referred to as the “Sugar Mill,” the research undertaken to date in this location has not revealed if this is an actual sugar mill or a grist mill. Of interest is the recovery of a John McIntosh wine seal from the floor

⁹⁸ Davidson, *Preliminary Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2006 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation (8DU108), Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve National Park, Duval County, Florida*, submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, in partial fulfillment of Permit for Archaeological Investigations TIMU 06-001, August 2006; Davidson, *Preliminary Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2007 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation (8DU108), Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve National Park, Duval County, Florida*, submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, in partial fulfillment of Permit for Archaeological Investigations TIMU 06-001, August 2007.

⁹⁹ Davidson, *Preliminary [Interim] Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2010 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation*.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

of the mill. This suggests the mill may antedate the Kingsley occupancy of the plantation. If so, it would have been among the first structures built at the plantation.¹⁰¹

In 2010, Davidson attempted to locate a reported slave cemetery to the east of Palmetto Avenue. His efforts resulted in the identification of six grave locations. Artifacts associated with the burials identify them as occurring within the time period the Kingsley/Gibbs families occupied the site, circa 1811 through 1850.¹⁰² National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center staff also conducted subsurface and geophysical surveys of the Kingsley Plantation grounds in 2010. Ground penetrating radar data revealed several anomalies, three of which may represent additional burials recommended for further investigation.¹⁰³

In 2012, the University of Florida field school conducted excavations in the yards of Cabins W-14 and W-15, around the barn, and between the kitchen house and the demonstration garden. They found gunflints and ammunition and a sixteenth-century button, as well as additional potential spiritual objects. Davidson discovered two distinctly different styles and time periods for the construction of the barn and proposes that the southern portion was built in 1814 or later and the northern portion was built after that, but prior to 1853.

The park has identified several archeological research topics related to the areas of significance addressed in this nomination, as listed below.¹⁰⁴

Plantation Agriculture (CE 1765--1895)

- In 1765 Richard Hazzard, a British subject, was granted Fort George Island. Is there any archeological evidence of whether he built a house or evidence of his indigo plantation within the boundaries of the Kingsley Plantation historic district?
- In 1791 John McQueen built his first home on Fort George Island. It was burned down by raiders. Is there any archeological evidence of this house within the boundaries of the Kingsley Plantation historic district?
- Where is the Kingsley family cemetery located?

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Davidson, *Preliminary Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2011 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation*.

¹⁰³ Michael Siebert, National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, "Geophysical Investigations at Kingsley Plantation, 2010, Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Jacksonville, Florida," 2011.

¹⁰⁴ Discussion with John Whitehurst, Cultural Resource Specialist/Archeologist and Historian, Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, 2015.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

- The enslaved people's cemetery has been located but research and archeological investigation are needed to define its boundaries. Further investigation may reveal the ethnological makeup of the present burials as related to the known historic record; would DNA studies help in making these distinctions? Who were the enslaved people and can they be tied to any living people in the local community area?
- Numerous buildings such as the carriage house are no longer extant at the plantation. Where are the remains of these buildings, and if archeologically present, can information be derived to help understand their functions?
- Can archeological studies help to define the particular eras of plantation ownership?
- Where are the artifact dump areas from the families who lived at the plantation, and can they be identified by each family era?
- Is there any way to archeologically compare the subsistence patterns of enslaved populations between family eras?

Recreational Development/Governmental Ownership (CE 1874–2015)

- Is there any way to archeologically compare how the cultural landscape changed between the Rolland era and the Fort George Club period? What changes can be discerned as relating to State of Florida ownership and National Park Service ownership?
- Can the architectural remains of the Fort George Club era be defined archeologically?
- Can archeological investigation help define subsistence patterns of the elite population that occupied the plantation for recreational purposes from those of the previous generation plantation families and the enslaved population?

Military Conflict and Defenses (CE 1564–1898)

- Archeological evidence has been presented that enslaved people were armed at Kingsley Plantation. How can this be related this to Patriot Rebellion or the Seminole Wars?
- Is there any archeological evidence suggesting that enslaved people left the plantation to participate in the Civil War?
- Is there any archeological evidence suggesting that Kingsley Plantation was a part of the Underground Railroad to help slaves escape to the North or Caribbean Islands?

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Overview of the Evolution of the Property

The Kingsley Plantation property has a long cultural history that extends over thousands of years from the Late Archaic period, circa 4000 BCE, to the present. Surviving aboveground evidence of early European-American settlement and plantation agriculture dates to the late eighteenth century. Although the focus of this nomination is the historic period that begins circa 1791 with the construction of the original plantation domestic precinct, cultural activities that precede John McQueen's ownership are summarized below for their influence on the physical use and development of the property during the period of significance.

Prehistory and Timucuan Indian Use of the Area at Contact

Kingsley Plantation is a federally protected property that falls within the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, a unit of the National Park System. Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve is named for the Timucua Indians who occupied northeast Florida at the time of European Contact during the sixteenth century. Archeological evidence suggests that humans have been hunting, fishing, and camping, at least seasonally, within this part of northeast Florida area for at least 6,000 years. Although the date is regularly debated, archeologists believe humans were present within the Americas, including Florida, by 13,000 BCE.¹⁰⁵ Paleo-Indian period (12,000 BCE–7500 BCE) peoples were likely hunters who lived in small nomadic bands, seeking Pleistocene-era megafauna and other prey including giant ground sloths, horses, bison, llamas, giant armadillos, and tortoises. Activities were likely seasonal, with bands spending more time along the coast in the winter and inland in the summer. The landscape at the time was far different than that present today. The Pleistocene era represents the end of the last Ice Age. With a large amount of the Earth's water present as ice, the seas were much lower and the Florida peninsula may have been twice as wide as it is today.¹⁰⁶

Circa 9000 BCE, the glaciers began to melt and sea levels to rise. Florida became wetter and the climate more conducive to the growth of a variety of plants that supported human needs. During the Archaic period (7500 BCE–1000/500 BCE), cultural groups increasingly focused their

¹⁰⁵ Correspondence with John Whitehurst, Cultural Resource Specialist/Archeologist and Historian, Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, 2015. Humans are thought to have lived in both North and South America as early as 15,000 years ago, based on radiocarbon dating of materials found at Meadowcroft Rock Shelter, the Monte Verde site, Cactus Hill, and other locations. Mr. Whitehurst also noted the likelihood of Pre-Clovis and Paleoindian cultural sites existing within the coastal and estuarine areas, and the Atlantic Continental Shelf, adjacent to and within the Timucuan Preserve. He also noted upland areas at Timucuan Preserve similar to those found at Cactus Hill, with Pleistocene sands that may contain Pre-Clovis and Paleoindian cultural sites.

¹⁰⁶ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 11.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

lifeways on riverine environments. By 4000 BCE, evidence suggests that cultural groups were living in villages along the St. Johns River for at least part of the year.¹⁰⁷ Archeologists place the St. Johns River area within a cultural collective identified as the St. Marys region, which stretches from the St. Johns River in northeast Florida to Camden County, Georgia. Fort George Island is thought to have been formed around this time through division from neighboring Talbot Island as part of the formation of the Fort George River.¹⁰⁸

Native Americans lived on Fort George Island during the Late Archaic period, considered to range from 2500 to 1000/500 BCE within the northeast Florida region.¹⁰⁹ It is also during this period that the inhabitants of the St. Johns River and adjacent Atlantic seaboard area became the first native peoples in North America to fashion fired-clay pottery and use it for cooking, serving, and storing food. The so-called “Orange” pottery produced in the region was made from clay mixed with the fibers of plants like palmetto leaves and Spanish moss.¹¹⁰ The fibers burned away during firing, leaving a distinctive pattern on the vessel.

Investigation of extant shell middens suggests that the diet of local cultural groups began to change circa 1,500 years BCE, with the inclusion of mollusk.¹¹¹ Around 1000 BCE, changes in the coastal and lagoon environments began to allow the growth of oyster beds.¹¹² Subsequently oysters became the primary shellfish in the local diet.¹¹³

By 500 BCE, the St. Marys region began to be influenced by Deptford culture, considered to end with the Woodland period (500 BCE–CE 100). Deptford culture arose near Savannah, Georgia, quickly spreading north and south along the Atlantic shoreline as well as the Florida panhandle. Deptford culture is associated with mound burial, permanent settlements, population growth, social and political complexity, and an increasing reliance on specific crops.

In general, the Woodland/St. Johns I period (CE100–1050) was characterized by the introduction of the use of pottery, which occurred earlier in this region as noted above, and increasing

¹⁰⁷ Ibid., 11.

¹⁰⁸ Walker, 23.

¹⁰⁹ James M. Davidson, *Interim Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2008 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation (8Du108), Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, National Park Service, Duval County, Florida* (Tallahassee, Florida: National Park Service, 2008), 25–26.

¹¹⁰ Keith Ashley, “Refining the Ceramic Chronology of Northeastern Florida,” in *The Florida Anthropologist* 61, no. 3–4 (September–December 2008), 125.

¹¹¹ Susan Hammersten, *An Archeological Overview and Assessment of Sites within and Adjacent to the Proposed Boundaries of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Duval County, Florida* (Tallahassee, Florida: National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, 1988), 9.

¹¹² Hammersten, 9.

¹¹³ Ibid., 11.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

community development revolving around early agriculture. The local culture appears to have participated in a larger trading network. Review of changes in ceramic character suggest that the following additional phases occurred within the region during the Woodland/St. Johns I period (CE 100–1050): Sand Tempered Plain (CE 100–300); Early Swift Creek (CE 300–500); Late Swift Creek (CE 500–850); Colorinda (CE 850–900); and St. Johns II (circa CE 900–1050).¹¹⁴

The Woodland period is generally followed by what archeologists term the Mississippi period (CE 900–1650) characterized by the widespread use of intensive agriculture. Within northeast Florida, the Mississippi period is divided into three phases based on settlement and trade network shifts: St. Johns II (CE 900–1250/1300); St. Marys II (CE 1250/1300–1450/1500); and San Pedro (CE 1450/1500–1625/1650). Trade became an increasing part of the local culture, with evidence that a variety of nonlocal metal, stone, and minerals were imported into the region.¹¹⁵

The San Pedro subperiod is marked by the introduction of San Pedro pottery, the signature ware of the Mocama-speaking Saturiwa and Tacatacuru Timucua of northeastern Florida and southeastern Georgia. The introduction of this pottery coincided with the first evidence of preserved maize in the archeological record, suggesting that corn farming was adopted relatively late within the estuarine environment of northeast Florida.¹¹⁶

The third of these, the San Pedro subperiod, overlaps with the Contact/Spanish Mission Period (CE 1562–1702), during which local cultures were increasingly influenced by European explorers and settlers.¹¹⁷

European Contact

The Timucua Indians who inhabited northeast Florida first encountered Europeans in 1562 when French settlers arrived at the St. Johns River. At this time, the inhabitants of Fort George Island and the surrounding region included the Saturiwa and Allicamany tribes of Timucua-speaking Indians. The term “Timucua” refers to several cultural groups who shared a common language. Because of this common language, Europeans assumed that the local groups were all of one tribe and called them Timucua. Archeologists suggest that the Timucua inhabited the interface between the land and the water, including coastal lagoons and estuaries, as well as the pine flatwoods. Food sources included fresh and saltwater shellfish, fish, game, wild plants, and

¹¹⁴ Ashley, 125; also discussion with John Whitehurst, Cultural Resource Specialist/Archeologist and Historian, Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, 2015.

¹¹⁵ Ashley, 127.

¹¹⁶ Ibid., 128.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

cultivated maize.¹¹⁸ They lived in large villages, with well-developed social and political systems.¹¹⁹ The Timucuan people generally used the waterways for local travel, employing hollowed out logs to fashion canoe-like boats. They also built extensive numbers of weirs within the rivers to catch fish.

Within present-day Duval County, which encompasses Kingsley Plantation and Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, it is believed that there were at least twenty Timucuan villages, each home to between 100 and 300 people. The villages were typically built along river margins and spaced approximately 2 miles apart. The residents lived in homes that were generally circular in form, and made of walls fashioned from woven vines caulked with clay and palm-thatched roofs.¹²⁰ Each was governed by a village chief, who reported to a regional chief. The regional chief resided in a large ceremonial city that served as the capital of the confederacy of villages. The regional chief and other important figures lived in elaborate dwellings within the city and met with village chiefs and others in a large oval-shaped council house built of whole logs. These villages were described by the Europeans who arrived in northeast Florida in the 1560s as being part of a thriving society.

The Europeans who visited and later settled the region quickly influenced the health and well-being of the local residents by introducing diseases for which the local people had no immunity, and enslaving them, or otherwise forcing them to serve as soldiers or heavy laborers. These hazardous occupations, coupled with the impact of disease, decimated the native peoples of northeast Florida.¹²¹

European Colonial and American Occupation of Florida, circa 1562–1821

Although Juan Ponce de León had laid claim to “La Florida” for Spain in 1513, a French expedition led by Jean Ribault, and sponsored by the Huguenot leader Gaspard de Coligny, Seigneur de Châtillon, traveled to the area in 1562 looking for settlement sites for Protestant refuge. Ribault, with a small fleet of ships and 150 men, arrived at the mouth of the Rivière de Mai (later the St. Johns River) on May 1, 1562. After exploring the area and making contact with the Timucua leader Chief Saturiwa on Fort George Island, Ribault’s party laid claim to the area

¹¹⁸ Hammersten, 14.

¹¹⁹ Stowell, 5.

¹²⁰ National Park Service, “Timucua Daily Life,” available at http://www.nps.gov/foca/learn/historyculture/timucua_dailylife.htm (accessed March 15, 2015).

¹²¹ National Park Service, “Timucuan; Life in Northeast Florida, 1000 C.E.”

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

for France, erecting a carved stone marker as evidence. They group continued onward, however, sailing north toward present day South Carolina as it continued its search.¹²²

Two years later, King Charles IX of France determined to establish a French colony within the region. Based on Ribault's report, the settlement would be located along the south bank of the St. Johns River, a few miles inland from the mouth. On June 25, 1564, René de Laudonnière, a lieutenant of Jean Ribault, reached the St. Johns River with a party of 300 who were prepared to settle the new colony; this would be the first French settlement within the present day United States. The colonists, who were mostly Huguenots, named their colony "la Caroline" in honor of King Charles.

One of the deciding factors in the selection of this region for the settlement was the friendly nature of the Timucuan as noted by Ribault in 1562. The colonists were in fact assisted in their efforts to build a palisaded fort for the settlement by the Timucua, who also shared food with the French. Relations between the Timucua and the French later deteriorated, however, when the colonists, faced with starvation, used force to secure food from the local people.¹²³ In addition to problems securing enough food, several other problems plagued the colony, such as a lack of leadership, homesickness, and disappointment in the lack of opportunities for securing material wealth.

By August 1565, the colonists were ready to abandon their efforts. Before they could leave, Jean Ribault arrived with reinforcements. Unfortunately, he was soon followed by a Spanish party, led by Pedro Menéndez de Aviles in September 1565, which had been ordered by King Philip II to remove the French from Spanish-claimed lands. After establishing a base of operations—the settlement of St. Augustine—Menendez and his forces captured the colony and massacred most of its inhabitants. Menendez then rebuilt the French fort and renamed it San Mateo. The Spanish forces also established two additional forts—San Gabriel and San Esteban—nearby. A second French expedition, under the command of Dominique De Gourgue, later attacked the Spanish and recaptured the fort in April 1568; the French never again attempted to colonize the area, however.¹²⁴

¹²² Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 12.

¹²³ *Ibid.*, 12–13.

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Spanish Mission on Fort George Island, circa 1580s

The Spanish began to expand their influence within the region during the 1580s. In 1587, they established the San Juan del Puerto mission on what is now Fort George Island (formerly San Juan Island). The mission occupied a portion of the northwestern section of the island that included the future Kingsley Plantation. The Spanish imposed tribute on the Timucuan and forced them into missions such as San Juan del Puerto, which was sited within an extant Timucuan village. San Juan del Puerto is generally thought to have served as a mission *doctrina*, or central administrative hub, for *visitas* constructed around 1602 in nine locations within an area of northeast Florida. The missions focused on the same area that was considered the territory of the Timucuan Saturiwa confederation at the time of European Contact.¹²⁵ Due to the often harsh treatment of the local people by the Spanish, coupled with the introduction of disease for which they had no immunity, the Timucua culture rapidly disintegrated between 1587 and the late seventeenth century.¹²⁶ From a population possibly numbering tens of thousands at the time of Contact, there were only an estimated 550 Timucuan alive in the region by 1698.¹²⁷

By the late seventeenth century, the British had begun regularly raiding Spanish missions in the area that is now Georgia. In 1686, the Spanish persuaded the Guale Indians to move south to Santa Maria Island and San Juan del Puerto, after which they abandoned all of the missions north of Santa Maria Island.¹²⁸ In 1702, the British moved southward, attacking and destroying the San Juan del Puerto mission.

Establishment of American/British Fort George, circa 1730s

After the British prevailed against the Spanish in their attack on the San Juan del Puerto mission in 1702, they laid claim to the region. To reinforce their claim, James Oglethorpe constructed Fort St. George on the island, which he renamed Fort George Island, in 1732. The fort appears to have been short-lived, based on the 1753 account of Jonathan Dickinson: “. . . here the General built his last fort, by which he intended to secure both the Passes. [T]he pass up St. John’s River, and a back passage which leads from the North End of Talbot into the St. John’s River, but after he had built the Fort and placed a command in it, he again withdrew the command and

¹²⁵ Stowell, 45.

¹²⁶ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 13.

¹²⁷ National Park Service, “Who Were the Timucua?” printed brochure.

¹²⁸ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 26.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

demolished the Fort, but for what Reason I never knew, perhaps he thought it too distant from the Main Body of his Troops to be supported.”¹²⁹

Fort George Island Plantation under British Rule, 1763–1783

With the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763 by the Spanish, French, and English, control of Florida was ceded to Britain. British occupation of Florida led to a new system of land ownership. The new governor, James Grant, encouraged settlement within the province by distributing large land grants to Protestant families offering to move to the region. He also provided tracts to absentee owners in England. Grant’s land policies ushered in the era of plantation agriculture.¹³⁰

Fort George Island’s first English owner was John Tucker. Records are not clear as to whether he ever resided there. It is possible that Tucker was responsible for the clearing of land and the cultivation of crops. Tucker is known to have raised indigo and rice for export to England until 1783. Records are not clear, however, regarding how much of his output originated on Fort George Island.¹³¹

Tucker quickly sold Fort George Island to Richard Hazard, Sr., on June 5, 1765. Hazard was a planter and slave owner, and is known to have produced indigo for commercial sale. Hazard had settled on Fort George Island by the time naturalist John Bartram and his son William visited the island on February 10, 1766.

The accounts of the Bartrams suggest that Fort George was “a large rich island” that included “the curiosities, both natural and artificial, of the Indians and Spaniards.” William Bartram noted “numerous heaps of oyster shells, which one may reasonably suppose were many hundred years in collecting” by Native Americans, as well as remnants of the Spanish mission that included “cedar posts on each side of their fine straight avenues, pieces of hewn live-oaks, and great trees girdled round to kill them.”¹³² John Bartram’s observations reveal that Richard Hazard had already begun to make improvements to the property.

¹²⁹ Jonathan Dickinson, *Journal of a Visit to the Georgia Islands of St. Catherines, Green, Ossabaw, Sapelo, St. Simons, Jekyll, and Cumberland with Comments on the Florida Islands of Amelia, Talbot, and St. George in 1753*, in Virginia Steele Wood and Mary R. Bullard, eds. (Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 1996), 32.

¹³⁰ Stowell, 21.

¹³¹ Baker, *Roads and Walkways at the Kingsley Plantation: An Archaeological Study*, 6.

¹³² John Bartram, *Diary of a Journey Through the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida, from July 1, 1765 to April 10, 1766*, annotated by Francis Harper. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1942: 26, 48, 76.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

By 1771, Richard Hazard, Jr., also a planter, appears to have assumed responsibility for the island from his father. That year, Governor Patrick Tonyn acquired several thousand acres in eastern Florida, including Fort George Island. Little is known about the agricultural activities that occurred on the island during the decade that followed.¹³³

Spanish Rule, 1784–1821

The Treaty of Paris that ended the American Revolution in 1783 resulted in the transfer of Florida back to Spain and ended twenty years of British rule. Many British colonists, however, elected not to leave Florida after it reverted to Spanish ownership. During the second period of Spanish ownership, Spain's management of Florida evolved from a military and religious focus to the encouragement of settlement and commercial growth. According to census records, William Harris and his family lived on Fort George Island in 1784 as the territory reverted to Spanish control. They are thought to have left Florida by 1789 in response to the change in administration.¹³⁴

In 1790, King Charles IV of Spain issued a Royal Order that instituted a land grant system in Florida through which land was issued to any Spanish citizen who petitioned for it. The petitioner was responsible for making certain improvements to the property in order to become the registered owner. The King also offered land grants to foreign nationals who would swear allegiance to Spain in return for land.

McQueen Ownership, 1791–1804

American John McQueen served as a courier between Gen. George Washington and Maj. Gen. Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, during the Revolutionary War. In 1784, McQueen purchased land south of the Savannah River in Georgia, and built a plantation named "the Cottage." McQueen lived in France in 1785 and 1788, where he was entertained by Thomas Jefferson and the Marquis de Lafayette. In 1791, heavily in debt from his land purchases in Georgia, McQueen moved to Florida. He soon formed a timbering operation on the St. Johns River. Fort George Island was granted to him on November 21, 1791, as a reward for his efforts to capture the British privateer William Augustus Bowles.¹³⁵ In 1792, McQueen built

¹³³ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 14, 17.

¹³⁴ Stowell, 31.

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*, 34.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

a house on the island, likely on the St. Johns River close to his sawmill.¹³⁶ The Spanish set fire to McQueen's house in 1794 to prevent it from being seized by French-inspired revolutionaries.¹³⁷

McQueen appears to have rebuilt on the property by 1798, quickly establishing a main dwelling house along with a kitchen house. In 1798, McQueen's son wrote to his sister that she should come see the newly constructed house.¹³⁸ The wood-framed dwelling was constructed over a full basement enclosed by coquina block and brick walls. It was two stories in height, with an attic and a lookout.¹³⁹

In addition to timbering, McQueen practiced agriculture on the island. McQueen's letters to his family indicate that he had begun planting cotton on the island by 1798.¹⁴⁰ In a letter to his sister, McQueen's son also states that there were "a great number of Fruit Trees of different kinds planted out."¹⁴¹ His letters indicate that the crop yields were far below McQueen's expectations.¹⁴²

In 1801, John McQueen was named Judge of the "Banks of the St. Johns and St. Mary's Rivers," with the inhabitants of the area ordered to obey him as if he were Governor.¹⁴³

In 1802, McQueen's sawmill was destroyed by bad weather and high tides.¹⁴⁴ Due to poor crop yields and the loss of his sawmill, McQueen fell into debt.

McIntosh Ownership, 1804–1817

In 1804, McQueen sold Fort George Island to Georgia planter John Houston McIntosh, who moved to the property with his wife, Eliza, soon thereafter. The McIntoshes expanded the cotton operation begun by John McQueen. Using the labor afforded by their 200 slaves, the McIntoshes placed between 300 and 400 acres of the island under cultivation, focusing on Sea Island cotton. They housed their slaves in wooden buildings, often located near the fields.¹⁴⁵ Sea Island cotton was well-suited to the long growing season, frequent rain and well-drained soils of the coastal

¹³⁶ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 16.

¹³⁷ *Ibid.*

¹³⁸ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 18.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁰ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 16.

¹⁴¹ Stowell, 36.

¹⁴² Walter Charlton Hartridge, ed., *The Letters of Don Juan McQueen to His Family Written from Spanish East Florida, 1791–1807* (Columbia, South Carolina: Bostick and Thornley, Inc., 1943).

¹⁴³ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 16.

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁵ Stowell, 39.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

areas of the southeastern United States, such as that found at Fort George Island. The fields were made more productive using the natural fertilizers found in the organic marsh soil and the lime-rich shell middens that dotted the river shores.¹⁴⁶ These same midden piles were also used as road surfacing and as part of the building material known as tabby during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The McIntosh plantation on Fort George Island was consistent with the broader settlement pattern in northeast Florida, where wealthy landowners carved fields out of existing woodland areas located in close proximity to waterways that could serve as transport systems for goods and agricultural products. After 1805, McIntosh cultivated between 300 and 400 acres of cotton on Fort George Island. Land in the region was relatively inexpensive and the soils were fertile and productive. The St. Johns River and nearby St. Mary's River attracted agricultural investment and plantation development focused on growing indigo, rice, and Sea Island cotton. This plantation culture relied on a forced labor system; for the most part, slaves were imported through the interstate slave trade to work the plantations.¹⁴⁷

The Patriot Uprising, 1811–1812

In 1811, local residents began to grow restless under Spanish rule. By 1812, they had formed an alliance determined to seize the colony of Florida from the Spanish and turn it over to the United States for annexation. The Patriot War or Patriot Rebellion of 1812 resulted from their discontent. The patriots expected generous grants of land in East Florida from the United States government in return for their efforts. John McIntosh was heavily involved in the effort. The alliance elected him Commissioner and tasked him with negotiating with the United States to accept the territory should they successfully wrest it from the Spanish.

During the armed conflict that ensued, Fort George Island was the target of destructive actions in which Native Americans, patriots, and bandits “ransacked” the plantation, burning everything except the plantation house, which they stripped, “to the extent of taking the locks from the doors.” They also stole five or six boats from the plantation and “sixty foot cotton gins” from the island to prepare the plantation cotton for market.¹⁴⁸ All along the banks of the St. Johns River, plantations were destroyed and lay in ruins, with buildings damaged or destroyed, crops,

¹⁴⁶ Baker, *Roads and Walkways at the Kingsley Plantation: An Archaeological Study*, 29–30.

¹⁴⁷ Julia Floyd Smith, *Slavery and Plantation Growth in Antebellum Florida, 1821–1860* (Gainesville, Florida: University Press of Florida, 1973), 9–10.

¹⁴⁸ Stowell, 42; Daniel L. Schafer, *Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley: African Princess, Florida Slave, Plantation Slave Owner* (Gainesville, Florida: University Press of Florida, 2003), 46.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

livestock, and possessions plundered, and slaves stolen or killed. Wood buildings formerly used for housing overseers, slaves, and livestock were left as charred ruins.

After the failed rebellion, McIntosh and his family fled the island and moved to Georgia in 1813. After leaving Florida, McIntosh remained a successful planter in Georgia. In the late 1820s, McIntosh built the first animal-powered sugar mill in Georgia.

Once McQueen and other local patriots withdrew from the island and surrounding area, bands of criminals continued to roam the countryside, destroying property between the Georgia border and St. Augustine, and as far south as New Smyrna.

United States Acquisition of Florida and Early Settlement, 1821–1860

Kingsley Ownership, 1817–1839

In 1814, McIntosh began renting his plantation to Zephaniah Kingsley, Jr. Kingsley, who had previously resided at his 2,600-acre Laurel Grove plantation in East Florida, relocated to Fort George Island soon thereafter. After renting the property for several years, Kingsley purchased the plantation on January 27, 1817. Soon after Kingsley's purchase of Fort George Island, Spain and the United States signed the Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819 (also known as the Transcontinental Treaty), in which Spain ceded East and West Florida to the United States. The treaty was made in exchange for the assumption of responsibility by the United States government for \$5 million in claims by American citizens against Spain. The United States would take control of the territory once the treaty was ratified in 1821.

Zephaniah Kingsley moved to the island with his family, which included wife Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley. Anna Kingsley was of African descent. She had been captured in a slave raid in her native village in Senegal and transported to Goree Island on the West African coast, where she was sold into slavery and placed on a ship bound for the Americas. Anna was sent to Havana, Cuba, and was purchased by Zephaniah Kingsley in 1806. Following the slave exchange, Anna and Zephaniah traveled by boat to Florida. By the time they arrived, they were married and expecting a child.¹⁴⁹ Five years later, in 1811, Zephaniah granted his wife her freedom.

Zephaniah Kingsley was a planter and slave owner. Kingsley continued the practice of growing Sea Island cotton on Fort George Island using slave labor. He is also known to have planted sugarcane as well as food crops such as corn, beans, and potatoes, and possibly orange trees,

¹⁴⁹ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 17.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

known to have been part of his other plantations. According to Kingsley's nephew, Kingsley Beatty Gibbs, who himself later owned the plantation, cotton and food stuffs again became profitable crops for the plantation; the addition of sugarcane fields and citrus groves were instrumental in increasing the economic viability of the property.¹⁵⁰

The Kingsleys managed the island with the goal of "restoring the barrier-island plantation to its former prosperity."¹⁵¹ During their period of ownership, Zephaniah and Anna Kingsley made many improvements to the property. They built the barn and expanded the kitchen house. The kitchen house is thought to have been expanded with a second story to accommodate Anna's expectation of separate living quarters at the plantation. At Laurel Grove, Anna is known to have lived above the store. Anna Kingsley managed the plantation, including directing all daily operations. In addition to her husband, Anna Kingsley owned slaves and land, which was permitted in Florida while the territory remained under Spanish rule.

Historian Daniel Schafer writes that "Kingsley [made] use of the task system of labor organization. The task system emerged in the eighteenth century among rice plantations in low-country areas of the South."¹⁵² It involved assigning each slave a specific task for the day, such as hoeing a specific portion of a field. When the task was complete, the slave was free to spend the rest of the day meeting his or her own needs, such as fishing, hunting, and tending to crops. Kingsley's nephew wrote that his uncle preferred to allow his slaves to use this time uninterrupted by other plantation duties. The system increased slave productivity by giving them a positive motivation to work quickly and well, and making plantation operations more efficient. Allowing the slaves time to tend their own crops likely decreased the amount of foodstuffs the Kingsleys needed to supply the slaves for their sustenance.¹⁵³ Kingsley also allowed his slaves a half day off on Saturday and a full day off on Sunday to be used for their own purposes, and encouraged "dancing, merriment, and dress."¹⁵⁴

To house the slaves, the Kingsleys built a complex of thirty-two tabby quarters set in an arc formation approximately 1,200 feet south of the plantation domestic precinct.¹⁵⁵ According to historian Schafer, the arc formation was "part of a grand plan devised by Zephaniah Kingsley" to provide privacy to the families living within while still promoting a sense of community among the slaves. The arrangement included several larger cabins possibly built for slaves involved in

¹⁵⁰ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 28, citing Fretwell.

¹⁵¹ Stowell, 45.

¹⁵² Schafer, 43.

¹⁵³ Walker, 44.

¹⁵⁴ Schafer, 72.

¹⁵⁵ Tabby is a local material made from a concrete-like mixture of water, sand, lime, and oyster shell.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

managing other slaves. These cabins were located in the middle of the arc and at either end. Others have suggested that the circular form of the slave complex at Fort George Island is reminiscent of the composition of the African communities Anna Kingsley knew in Africa.¹⁵⁶ Based on review of several late 1800s photographs, historian Karen Jo Walker suggests that the area north of the slave cabins was used for subsistence farming. Walker also indicates that because the slaves at Kingsley's Laurel Grove Plantation kept hogs and fowls near their quarters, the slaves at Fort George Island may have kept similar livestock near the cabins.¹⁵⁷

The Kingsleys also built the land approach to the plantation domestic complex now known as Palmetto Avenue. Descriptions of Palmetto Avenue lined with stately palmetto trees date to the mid-nineteenth century. Most historical accounts presume that Anna Kingsley planted the stately palms during her residence on Fort George Island. In an 1877 *Scribner's Magazine* article about Fort George Island, Julia Dodge observes:

Beyond the "quarters," through fields reclaimed from their wildness and once more under cultivation, curves a magnificent avenue of palms, the boast of the island and unequaled upon the continent. For more than a thousand feet the two rows of stately trunks lift their rounded tops fifty or sixty feet in air, and here and there in the neighboring field, still older ones tower up and up above them. There are several of these whose age can scarcely be guessed, but an inhabitant of a neighboring island, now nearly eighty years old, remembers that in her earliest childhood they looked just as they do now.¹⁵⁸

Kingsley otherwise accessed the island via the water at two points: one to the north of the plantation house and another at a deep water access on the eastern side of the island.

In 1823, Kingsley was appointed a member of the Legislative Council of Florida by President James Monroe.¹⁵⁹ In 1828, while living at his plantation at Fort George Island, Kingsley published what was to become a notable famous pro-slavery work, *Treatise on the Patriarchal, or Cooperative System of Society, as it Exists in Some Governments, and Colonies in America, and in the United States, under the Name of Slavery, with its Necessity and Advantages*. Reprinted three times, in 1829, 1833, and 1834, the treatise was widely read and influential on a national level.

¹⁵⁶ Schafer, 54–55.

¹⁵⁷ Walker, 74.

¹⁵⁸ Julia B. Dodge, "An Island by the Sea," *Scribner's Magazine* 17 (September 1877), 659.

¹⁵⁹ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 17.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

In the work, Kingsley outlined his thoughts regarding slavery, including the notion that freed people of color should hold nearly the same freedoms as whites, including property ownership and ownership of slaves. Kingsley defined three tiers of citizens in Florida: whites; free people of color, including freed blacks, whether from Africa or native to the Americas, and mulattos; and slaves. Kingsley believed that, in order to keep slaves in subjugation, free people of color must be encouraged to ally with whites by allowing them personal freedoms, such as in the choice of a marriage partner, and the opportunity to participate in the civil affairs of the territory, excluding holding office. This would require separate policies in order to maintain order in Florida: treating the “slave with justice, prudence, and moderation” and keeping the “free coloured population interested in preserving peace and good order among the slaves and being firmly attached to the side of whites by having the same interest.”¹⁶⁰

In 1837, Zephaniah Kingsley relocated to Haiti, where he had begun a colony for members of his family and freed slaves. Kingsley established this separate plantation after becoming frustrated by laws being enacted in Florida to similarly restrict the activities of both free and enslaved blacks. Laws were passed in Florida that forbade interracial marriages and prevented the children of mixed-race couples from inheriting their parents’ property. He and Anna chose to free fifty of their slaves in protest. Kingsley’s move to Haiti was in part a reaction to the increasing racism in territorial Florida but also a response to President Jean Pierre Boyer’s plea for free blacks to relocate to the island, which had become the only free black republic in the Western Hemisphere in 1804.¹⁶¹

In 1831, Zephaniah Kingsley sold Fort George Island to his son, George Kingsley. However, George Kingsley sold the island back to his father in 1836 before himself leaving for his father’s new plantation in Haiti. Anna Kingsley moved to Haiti with her son in 1837. Following her move, the plantation house and kitchen remained unoccupied for several years.¹⁶²

King and Gibbs Ownership, 1839–1842

In 1839, Zephaniah Kingsley sold the Fort George Island plantation to his nephews Kingsley Beatty Gibbs and Ralph King.¹⁶³ The sale of the property included forty of Zephaniah Kingsley’s slaves. Gibbs and King continued to grow cotton on the island, although they are also known to have grown sugarcane for commercial purposes. Kingsley Gibbs was involved in regional

¹⁶⁰ Stowell, 44.

¹⁶¹ Ibid., 45.

¹⁶² Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 18.

¹⁶³ Ibid.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

politics, serving on the Legislative Council of the Territory of Florida for St. Johns County in 1839–1840. Gibbs supported the minority view that favored organizing separate territories in East and West Florida. Following his resignation from his post as Clerk of Superior Court in 1841 and marrying Laura M. Williams of Savannah, Gibbs moved to Fort George Island.

Gibbs Ownership, 1842–1853

In 1842, Gibbs purchased Ralph King’s share of the island, while also satisfying the remaining mortgage held by Zephaniah Kingsley on the island.¹⁶⁴ As indicated in his journal, Gibbs continued to grow crops similar to those cultivated by Zephaniah Kingsley. In his journal, Gibbs mentions cotton, corn, sugarcane, potatoes, arrow root, and peas. In December of 1840, for example, Gibbs recorded his yields for the year as follows:

<u>I planted</u>	<u>I gathered</u>
80 acres Cotton	In Cotton 39,000 seed
70 acres Corn	In Corn 1,250 bush
3 acres Cane	
3 acres R. potatoes	In Potatoes 725 bush
12 acres Slip potatoes	
22 acres Peas	In Peas 10 bush ¹⁶⁵

During his early years of ownership, Gibbs lived for part of the year in Saint Augustine, Florida. After marrying for a second time, he moved to the island full time. It was around this time, on March 3, 1845, that Florida was admitted as the twenty-seventh state of the United States.

By 1850, Gibbs owned fifty-four slaves and was “both the largest landowner and largest slaveholder in the St. Johns District of Duval County, Florida.”¹⁶⁶ His attitude toward his slaves appears to have been less paternal and more proprietary than was that of Zephaniah Kingsley, based on his assignment of generic ages to the slave children in the 1850 census list.¹⁶⁷

Plantation staff also included workers other than slaves, including John L. Williams, plantation carpenter between 1841 and 1850, and overseer W. H. Fitzpatrick. The 1850 census also lists engineer, Edward J. Johnson; ship builder, John Bell; inspector, Hardie H. Philips; pilot, John Daniels; and Mary Wallis as members of the Gibbs household.

¹⁶⁴Ibid.

¹⁶⁵ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, citing Fretwell, 17–19.

¹⁶⁶ Stowell, 53.

¹⁶⁷Ibid.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

In 1850, Kingsley Beatty Gibbs established a steam-powered sawmill on the south bank of the St. Johns River, which he called Mayport Mill. He is also thought to have established a blacksmith and repair shop on the property.¹⁶⁸ In 1852, however, Gibbs and his wife relocated to St. Augustine, leaving the house generally unoccupied between 1853 and 1859.¹⁶⁹

Lewis Ownership, 1853–1854

In 1853, Gibbs sold several of his properties at once, suggesting financial strains. These included Fort George Island, Big Sister Island, Little Sister Island, Batton Island, and Fanning Island, all sold to John Lewis in 1853 for \$12,500.

Thomson Ownership, 1854–1860

Nearly immediately, John Lewis sold Fort George Island and the other holdings to Charles A. Thomson of South Carolina for the same price. Thomson was one of the largest slaveholders in the South at the time. According to historian Daniel Stowell, it is not clear whether Thomson ever lived on the island, although he sent approximately fifty slaves to cultivate the plantation, with J. A. Breeden as overseer.¹⁷⁰

In 1855, Thompson died intestate. His son, John H. Thomson, administrator for his father's estate, listed the island for sale.¹⁷¹ In the 1857 advertisement, Thomson noted:

FOR SALE. THE PLANTATION known as Fort George, situated at the mouth of the River St. John's, East Florida. The place has been well and favorably known for many years, and a detailed description is therefore unnecessary.

Upon the principal Island there are upwards of 1,060 acres of high land, of which 400 are in a state of cultivation. The soil is fertile, and produces excellt [sic] crops of Cotton and Sugar. Besides the high land, there is a large body of marsh land belonging to the Plantation, easily susceptible of drainage and high cultivation, or being used for manuring purposes. There is a vast amount of shells, from which the best lime could be obtained in abundance. There is a comfortable Dwelling House, with all necessary out buildings and quarters for 60 Negroes. The climate is also perfectly healthy for Whites and Blacks during the whole year. The line of

¹⁶⁸ Carl D. McMurray, *Report on Archaeological Investigations at the Kingsley Plantation Garden, Phase II* (Tallahassee, Florida: Bureau of Historic Preservation, State of Florida, 1983), 12–13.

¹⁶⁹ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 18.

¹⁷⁰ Stowell, 58.

¹⁷¹ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 18.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Steamers from Charleston pass [sic] twice a week, thus offering the best transportation and market facilities.¹⁷²

In 1858, the slaves from the estate were delivered to Charles Thomson's heirs, leaving the buildings on the island empty.

In 1860, Thomson's daughter, Charlotte, and her husband, Charles H. Barnwell, purchased the property for \$6,280 and moved to the island. They brought with them twenty slaves.¹⁷³ Photographs from the 1860s illustrate the character of the property. For example, an 1860s photograph of the eastern portion of the plantation house indicates the presence of walkways and roads, including a shell road that appears to be an extension of Palmetto Avenue heading north to a wharf/dock at the river. Paths extend along the front of the house in an east-west direction, as well as behind. A shell road lined with cedar trees also appears in this photograph; this is present day Cedar Avenue.

The Civil War, 1861–1865

Barnwell Ownership, 1860–1866

The Barnwell family owned the island throughout the tumultuous Civil War period. By the time Florida seceded from the Union, the Barnwells had only managed the property for one growing season. Charles and Charlotte Barnwell likely occupied the property with slaves they had inherited from their parents. Little is known about farming operations on the property during the war. In March 1862, Federal soldiers captured nearby Fernandina and St. Augustine, and established a base at Fort Steele near the mouth of the St. Johns River at Mayport Mills. Both sides fought to maintain control of the river, which was important to the Confederacy for shipping supplies in and out of the state. In October 1862, Federal forces took control of the St. Johns River by successfully attacking Confederate artillery positions on St. Johns Bluff. Once the Federals were in command of the river, their gunboats patrolled the river to enforce a blockade of northeast Florida. Many slave owners began to move their slaves inland, away from the river and Union forces. Nonetheless, many slaves were able to escape their bondage by crossing the river. More than 1,000 slaves and free blacks from northeast Florida are known to have joined the Union forces or refugee camps.¹⁷⁴ Some of the slaves who gained their freedom during and after the Civil War settled within the region afterwards. Some of those of West and

¹⁷² *The Florida Republican*, March 18, 1857.

¹⁷³ Stowell, 59.

¹⁷⁴ National Park Service, *The River War: The Timucuan Preserve in the Civil War; Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve*, pamphlet.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Central African ancestry became part of the Gullah/Geechee community, which continues to practice African traditions. The community extends between coastal South Carolina and northeast Florida.¹⁷⁵

In 1863, Charles H. Barnwell joined Company D of the 5th Battalion, Florida Cavalry, CSA, as a private.¹⁷⁶ It is likely that he moved the family away from the isolated island at the time, given the Federal presence in the region. He worked in a hospital until 1864 when he was transferred to the Medical Purveyor's Office in Quincy, Florida. On May 10, 1865, Barnwell was captured and became a prisoner of war when Confederate Maj. Gen. Sam Jones surrendered the region to Union Brig. Gen. E. M. Cook at Tallahassee. Barnwell was paroled and allowed to return home.

Post-Civil War Agricultural Activities, 1865–1895

Beach and Keeney Ownership, 1866–1869

The Civil War and the abolition of slavery served to destroy the plantation economy of the Old South, including that of the Kingsley Plantation. Many of the large landowners within the South, including those in northeast Florida, could no longer afford to maintain plantations after the war without slave labor. The Barnwells were no exception. In 1866, they sold a half interest in the property to Charles's brother, Bower W. Barnwell. However, deed records suggest that the brothers together sold the entire island later that year.¹⁷⁷ The property was purchased by George W. Beach and Abner C. Keeney of New York, reflecting a broad trend of northern investment in Southern property following the war. Despite the sale, the Barnwells financed the exchange, retaining title to the mortgage. Records suggest that Beach and Keeney were absentee landlords. Between 1866 and 1869, "the only inhabitants of Fort George Island appear to have been freedpeople who farmed small plots of land."¹⁷⁸ The plantation house likely remained uninhabited during this period. Freedmen's Bureau reports indicate that several freed families remained on the island and continued to cultivate the land, which was divided into a series of small plots.¹⁷⁹ For example, in July 1868 the Freedmen's Bureau issued rations to Lou Wallace, his wife, and four children, and to William Bradley, his wife, and two children. Each family was

¹⁷⁵ Although no direct connection has been identified between Kingsley Plantation and the Gullah-Geechee community, the plantation (and all of eastern Duval County) are included in the Gullah-Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. (<http://www.gullahgeecheecorridor.org/>).

¹⁷⁶ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 19.

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁸ Stowell, 61.

¹⁷⁹ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 19.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

indicated as cultivating 10 acres of land.”¹⁸⁰ Life for freed slaves may have changed little following Emancipation. Ethnographical studies of the Kingsley Plantation and its descendants suggest that the harsh conditions of subsistence farming and the expectations of former owners, many of whom were now employers, still dictated the lives of many freed slaves.¹⁸¹

Rollins Ownership, 1869–1906

In 1868, Florida was readmitted into the United States after submitting a successful application. Northerners continued to express an interest in the area. During the Reconstruction period, a new type of investor began to purchase property along the Florida coast. Primarily from the northern states, these investors sought to capitalize on the opportunity to acquire the relatively inexpensive agricultural land that resulted from the collapse of the plantation economy, and worked to revitalize agricultural activities while considering ways to develop recreational amenities that might attract tourists.

One northern investor who fit this mold was John F. Rollins, a New Hampshire native and pharmacist. During the late 1860s, Rollins began looking for property to acquire in the region. Rollins described his trips to the area, which included visits to Fort George Island. On December 17, 1868, Rollins described hiring a boat with a companion and visiting nearby Pilot Town before walking to the north end of Fort George Island where they encountered Andrew Fielding, who showed them around. After ten days of inspecting other properties, Rollins investigated the feasibility of purchasing Fort George Island. Rollins observed in his notebook that it would “. . . be hard to get title as it is under mortgage, [and] has to be sold, which can’t be done until next Dec.” However, he likely instructed the land agency to begin inquiries for him about purchasing the property.¹⁸² On January 3, 1869, he and two companions again traveled to Fort George Island, this time spending two days exploring the property. They camped out in the abandoned plantation house during part of their visit. Before leaving for home in New Hampshire, Rollins “. . . left \$20 with Denny for Andrew Fielding to plant cane on Fort George.”¹⁸³ During his trip home, Rollins indicated in his notebook the tools and supplies he might need to purchase to work the property, and the workers he would need to hire. In March 1869, Beach and Keeney sold the island to Rollins and his partner, Richard H. Ayer.

¹⁸⁰ Stowell, 61.

¹⁸¹ Antoinette T. Jackson, and Allan F. Burns, *Kingsley Plantation: EthnoHistorical Study of the Kingsley Plantation Community* (Gainesville, Florida: University of Florida, January 2006), 83.

¹⁸² John F. Rollins, “1868–1869 Notebook,” copied from the original by Dena Snodgrass, 1953, 5. Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Archives.

¹⁸³ John Rollins, 4–6.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Following the purchase, John Rollins and his wife, Hannah, moved to the island in 1872. At the time of their arrival, Hannah Rollins noted in her diary that the kitchen house was being used as a stable and hen house.¹⁸⁴ She described the plantation house as painted yellow, with the piazzas enclosed in green blinds. Stairs ascended from the south piazza of the house to access the second floor. She also recorded the fact that “alligators roared constantly.”¹⁸⁵

Within the domestic precinct Hannah Rollins described several outbuildings, including an octagonal gin house, a cotton house of vertical planks, log mule sheds, a well, and the tabby barn, which was surrounded by a mule yard. Another structure on the east lawn, she speculated, was either a prison or a smokehouse. She stated that a two-board white fence with capped posts surrounded the house. Crape myrtle and oleander lined the walk to the kitchen house. There was an avenue of water oaks and young cedar trees in front of the house, although it was described as overgrown.¹⁸⁶

She also suggested that the roads on Fort George Island were in poor condition, while the fields were overgrown. The tabby slave cabins were indicated as in a state of decline, despite the fact that there were several families occupying them. Several cabins were without roofs. Mrs. Rollins also noted that a slave tenant graveyard, located under an old oak tree, was visible from a sand road that connected the plantation house with the slave cabins. During their tenure on the property, the Rollinses used the remains of seven of the original thirty-two slave cabins as construction material to build a dock.¹⁸⁷

The Rollinses made many improvements and changes to the property during their tenure. John Rollins planted about 100 acres of orange trees for commercial production, while replanting sugarcane and cultivating corn, sweet potatoes, and oats in the overgrown fields.¹⁸⁸ He also oversaw construction of a 65-foot-long covered walkway between the plantation house and kitchen house, which the family used as a dining room, kitchen, laundry room, and office.¹⁸⁹ Before this, “There was no covered walk between the two houses, but a tabby pavement after 1860–1869 connected them bordered by oleanders, crape myrtle, and orange trees.”¹⁹⁰ He also built a two-story wood structure on the north side of the tabby barn between 1870 and 1878 that

¹⁸⁴ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 19.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, 55.

¹⁸⁶ Hannah Rollins, diary. Excerpts transcribed by unknown person, probably Gertrude Rollins Wilson. Copy of handwritten document in Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Archives.

¹⁸⁷ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 4.

¹⁸⁸ Gertrude Rollins Wilson, Notebook. Entry for 25 November 1868 in “Memoirs of Mrs. Millar Wilson,” 1952. Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Archives.

¹⁸⁹ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 19.

¹⁹⁰ Wilson, 4.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

was likely a carriage house.¹⁹¹ This building was no longer standing when the State of Florida purchased the property in 1955. Circulation patterns associated with the plantation house also evolved during the Rollins period, including the extension of Palmetto Avenue to the edge of the river on the east side of the house. By the 1880s, this road may no longer have been in use, while a separate walkway to the river seems to be established from a set of stairs off the north end of the house.

In 1877, Rollins also began expanding the main house. An article penned by Julia Dodge and published in *Scribner's Magazine* in 1877 offers a detailed description of the plantation during the Rollins period, including the cedar-lined avenues that approached the house and the impressive shell-paved roads that crisscrossed the island. In the article, Dodge writes, “. . . passing westward we emerge from a grove of tall pines into a broad avenue of enormous ancient cedars. . . . Before us stands the old mansion-house of the island plantation approached on three sides by these stately avenues, while the western front overlooks the smaller islands and inlets which lie between Fort George and the main shore.”¹⁹²

Other developments on the property followed. Gertrude Rollins Wilson remembered that around the time that her father developed a second hotel company, in 1886, “. . . a fence was placed around the Homestead and three gates erected which were locked occasionally to maintain rights over the avenues.” When completed, this:

. . . white picket fence [extended] all around the two houses, its extent being the line of cedars on the east, turning west about where the small garage or school house now stands, the west line was inside of the old hickory tree. On the north of the ‘big House’ a tabby walk ran to the river which was probably three times as far from the house as present. In the center of this walk was a circular erection about three feet high said to be used for smudges or for signal fires The picket fence may have crossed the front of the house near this place.¹⁹³

She also indicated that the road referred to as Palmetto Avenue was “completed from the quarters to the Southern gate of the Homestead soon after the gate was erected at that point.”¹⁹⁴ Wilson also described the ruins of an earlier mill as “the circular tabby building on the southeast of the stable called the ‘Grist Mill,’ the foundations of which are now buried but not destroyed.”¹⁹⁵

¹⁹¹ Stowell, 69.

¹⁹² Dodge, 658–659.

¹⁹³ Wilson, 5.

¹⁹⁴ Stowell, 76; McMurray, 5.

¹⁹⁵ McMurray, 1.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Wilson also described the slave cabins on the property during her childhood, noting that there was “a fig tree in front of every cabin and a well for every two cabins,” and small gardens behind each cabin. Wilson also indicated the presence of a cemetery when describing the larger landscape of the property: “. . . west of Ma-am Anna’s House were orange trees and the remains of a flower garden screened from the cemetery by a thick hedge of bitter-sweet orange trees. In the cemetery grew narcissus, jonquils, old rose bushes and a very tall date palm tree.”¹⁹⁶ She also noted that “. . . the cemetery contained the graves that were understood to be those of white persons who had died on the Island and possibly some from Batten Island. It was probably the private burying ground of the different owners of the plantation All marks and stones remaining about the cemetery were carefully buried on the site by Mr. Rollins.”¹⁹⁷ The cemetery has not been located.

In 1875, John Rollins sold 217 acres on the north side of Fort George Island to his brother, Edward H. Rollins. The sale included the domestic precinct of the eighteenth-century Kingsley Plantation.¹⁹⁸ It appears that John, Hannah, and Gertrude continued to live in the house after the sale.

A pamphlet issued by the Fort George Island Association in 1878 describes the area around the main house as having “a beautiful lawn, dotted with handsome trees and shrubs.” Further, it describes “an avenue of very old and weird-looking red cedars with moss pendent from the boughs, twisted in every shape, forms the approach to the grounds, in which are now standing thrifty orange trees loaded with their golden fruit, lemon trees, very large, and old fig trees, peach, grape and other fruit trees, and an immense young orange grove which will soon be bearing.”¹⁹⁹ It is clear from descriptions in this pamphlet that cultivation continued in some of the fields on the western part of the island. “The whole western part of the Island is of the same soil; is clear of woods, and is ready for the plow, while the central and eastern part is covered with a dense growth of trees”²⁰⁰

In 1886, John Rollins significantly modified the main house and the roof of the kitchen house. Alterations to the house included installation of new drop and beaded exterior siding and window cornices and changes to the front porch stairs and railing. In addition, the stairs from the south porch were removed and an interior staircase constructed and walls that divided the main first

¹⁹⁶ Stowell, 5.

¹⁹⁷ Ibid., 9.

¹⁹⁸ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 19.

¹⁹⁹ Fort George Island Association, *Fort George, Florida*, a pamphlet created to promote the island (Jacksonville, Florida: Sun and Press Job Rooms, 1878), 10.

²⁰⁰ Fort George Island Association, 10.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

floor room into two rooms and a closet. Large windows matching those previously installed in the bay windows were added to the north and south elevations at the first floor, and new doors were installed opening to the north and south porches. The door was removed from the south elevation at the second story, and a window to match the adjacent windows. The second story floor plan was modified to allow for the new staircase, and a closet was added to west room. In addition, existing door hardware was replaced.²⁰¹

Severe freezes during the winters of 1894 and 1895 destroyed Rollins's citrus crop. The loss of the citrus crop signaled the end of large-scale agricultural production on the island.²⁰²

Tourism and Recreational Use, 1874–1955

Despite Rollins's investment in the agricultural viability of his property, it appears that he was unable to make a sufficient living. During the early 1870s, Rollins began to “[make] a variety of efforts to draw northern visitors to Fort George Island”²⁰³ In 1873, Rollins and his partner, Richard Ayer, began to sell off portions of Fort George Island as lots for development. After surveying the southern portion of the island, they divided it into eight lots, which they later sold. Approximately 170 acres of the island were purchased by various individuals or family groups.

Rollins later formed a partnership with Dr. George R. Hall and William F. Porter. Together, they built the Fort George Hotel on the east side of the island in 1875. Rollins also formed the Fort George Island Association in 1877 to promote the sale of more lots on the island. The Fort George Island Association soon had the entire eastern and southern portions of the island platted into various sized parcels for sale. Road improvements were made as development increased. On the south end of the island, shell mounds as high as 40 feet were described as being used as a source of road building material. Prehistoric artifacts were found in the mounds as they were excavated to pave the roads, and the mounds quickly began to disappear.²⁰⁴ Despite the development of island roads, however, primary entry to the island was still via water.

By this date, two steamboats operated “. . . between Jacksonville and the Island, making the trip in two hours, affording a delightful ride on the river.”²⁰⁵ An 1878 advertisement for the Georgia

²⁰¹ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 10–11.

²⁰² Stowell, 63.

²⁰³ *Ibid.*, 62.

²⁰⁴ Wilson, 2.

²⁰⁵ Fort George Island Association, 3.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

and Florida Inland Steamboat Company shows the route routinely traveled by its vessels, which afforded access to Fort George Island and other river-fronting properties.²⁰⁶

George Barbour's 1884 publication, *Florida for Tourists, Invalids, and Settlers*, describes the popularity of the St. Johns River for steamboat touring and details the:

. . . large estates, having commodious residences, with wide, room verandas, standing in the midst of neatly cleared house grounds, and surrounded by broad fields and thrifty, green-leaved orange-groves, the home pier projecting into the river (for every one residing on the St. John's River *must* have a pier and a fleet of boats to complete his happiness), are everywhere in sight, lining the shores on either hand and charming the traveler with their manifest evidences of comfort and content.²⁰⁷

Barbour specifically mentions Fort George Island, ". . . which is a favorite summer resort of inland Floridians, and which has an hotel, several handsome residences, an observatory, a lighthouse, a quaint old Pilot Town, and some fine shell-roads." Barbour continues, ". . . a good view of the lower St. John's [River] is obtained from the steamers which run from Charleston and Savannah to Jacksonville. A better plan, however, affording an opportunity for a short visit to Fort George Island, is to take a little steamer which runs down the river from Jacksonville every afternoon, returning next morning."²⁰⁸

In 1884, Edward Rollins sold his properties on Fort George Island to Jonathan C. Greeley and Charles Holmes, who formed the Fort George Island Company in Boston. It assumed the mortgage held by the Rollins family and purchased about 650 acres of land on the island.²⁰⁹ The Fort George Hotel burned in 1888.²¹⁰ It was not rebuilt.

Wilson Ownership, 1906–1923

John Rollins died in 1905. His wife, Hannah Rollins, died the following year. Their daughter Gertrude, with her husband, John Millar Wilson, purchased the remaining family interests on the island, which included the plantation house complex. They also undertook the management of the Fort George Island farm, possibly attempting to bring it back into commercial production.

²⁰⁶ Stowell, 98.

²⁰⁷ George Barbour, *Florida for Tourists, Invalids, and Settlers: Containing Practical Information Regarding Climate, Soil, and Productions; Cities, Towns, and People; The Culture of the Orange and Other Tropical Fruits; Farming and Gardening; Scenery and Resorts; Sport; Routes of Travel, Etc. Etc.* (New York, New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1884), 108.

²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, 110.

²⁰⁹ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 20.

²¹⁰ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 51.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

The Rollinses' stay on the island, however, was short lived, and the couple moved to Jacksonville in 1912.²¹¹ The Wilsons maintained ownership of the property, possibly using the plantation house as a vacation home. The buildings otherwise remained vacant until circa 1920.

Fort George Club, 1923–1955

Parts of the island were further developed during the 1920s and 1930s, including the construction of a series of clubhouses and hotel buildings. During this period, much of the agricultural use ceased, and former agricultural fields were replaced by successional woodland growth.

In 1923, Millar and Gertrude Rollins Wilson sold their interest in the property, totaling 208 acres and including the plantation house complex, to retired Rear Admiral Victor Blue and a group of investors that had formed the Fort George Corporation. The group also established the Army and Navy Country Club of Florida, chartered in 1923, and leased 58 acres from the Fort George Corporation.²¹² The group used the plantation house as the club headquarters until 1926, when they built a new facility approximately 100 feet to the west. The clubhouse was built under a new charter whereby the Army and Navy Country Club of Florida became the Fort George Club. The faux tabby and wood building was completed in 1927. At the same time, the organization further subdivided and platted the land, and the road that connected the island to Jacksonville was also completed.²¹³

To support additional club needs, six bungalow structures were built within the vicinity of the new clubhouse; these cottages were constructed either by the club itself or by individual club members.²¹⁴ Other improvements made to the property to enhance the club included the planting of hedges around individual lots, construction of a large circular driveway in association with Palmetto Avenue south of the plantation house, lining of the road with a hedge, and construction of two tabby-like concrete columns to mark the entrance into the clubhouse area along Palmetto Avenue. Ornamental plantings present on the site today likely date from this period.

The stock market crash in 1929 and the deepening financial downturn that followed began to affect the club by the mid-1930s. Although club operations generally showed a net profit, over time an accumulation of bond interest became problematic.²¹⁵ Bonds that the Fort George Club sold to pay for construction of the new clubhouse became due on January 1, 1933, but the club

²¹¹ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 20.

²¹² Stowell, 96.

²¹³ *Ibid.*, 98.

²¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 100.

²¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 104.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

was not in a position to meet this obligation. It also reached a point where it was unable to pay the interest on the bonds.

In 1935, Gertrude Rollins Wilson was interviewed regarding her life at Kingsley by representatives of the Federal Writers' Project, a New Deal era program designed to record local stories of historical interest around the United States initiated in 1934. At the same time, architects associated with the Historic American Buildings Survey, a new federal architectural recordation program, conducted a survey of the plantation house, kitchen house, and one of the slave cabins.²¹⁶ Wilson's descriptions of the property for the Federal Writers' Project appear to have served as the basis for the written portion of the Historic American Buildings Survey report. The report describes the white picket fence around the plantation house and kitchen house, a small garage building, a tabby walk to the river, and a grist mill site.²¹⁷

In March of 1936, the Fort George Club clubhouse caught fire. Although the wooden second story was destroyed in the fire, the tabby walls of the first floor survived the blaze. Much of the furniture in the building was also saved.²¹⁸ After the fire, club guests were housed in the Kingsley plantation house, which had previously been used as overflow quarters when the clubhouse was full.²¹⁹ The club was able to rebuild the clubhouse using insurance money.

Changes to the property during the club era included removal of two fishing piers or docks, one located west of the plantation house, and the other on axis with the front stairs of the house. The pier in front of the house had been connected to a pathway leading between the house and the river, which was lined with young palm trees. A timber bulkhead was constructed in a location similar to the present-day bulkhead.

By the mid-1940s, membership in the Fort George Club was so reduced that the club could no longer continue to operate. To offset its financial difficulties, including declining membership associated with the age of the members, the club opened its facilities to the general public in 1947–1948.²²⁰ After the attempt failed to generate sufficient revenue, the members voted to cease club operations in 1948, and authorized Mrs. William Alexander Evans, whose husband had served as president of the club between Victor Blue's death in 1928 and his own death in

²¹⁶ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 20.

²¹⁷ Historic American Buildings Survey, "Fort George Island, near Fort George, Florida; House of Anna Madagegine Jai and Slave Quarters – Driver's Cabin," HABS-FLA 16-FO GEO (Jacksonville, Florida: Historic American Buildings Survey, 1934), 2.

²¹⁸ Stowell, 103.

²¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²²⁰ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

1938, to dispose of club property.²²¹ However, the sales agent with whom the property was listed failed to find a buyer.

State Park Development, 1955–1991

By the early 1950s, the Florida's State Park Board had begun to express an interest in the property due to its historical and recreational value. The sales price of \$45,000, however, was considered too high by the state legislature. Acquisition of the property continued to be debated for several years; in the meantime, no other offers were made that were acceptable to the owners. In 1955, "the Governor and Cabinet ordered the Park Board to purchase the Fort George Clubhouse and immediate surroundings" for the full asking price of \$45,000.²²² The property at this time included the plantation house complex, but not the slave cabins. The majority of the cabins were purchased by the State in a separate sale in 1966. Research and investigative work conducted by archeologist Charles Fairbanks led to the design by local architect Herschel Shepard of a reconstructed roof for one of the cabins in 1971.²²³ As a first phase of rehabilitation, the roof was added, and walls were reconditioned and patched, with concrete lintels added above window and door openings, by the end of 1971.

In 1958, the Florida Department of Natural Resources Division of Recreation and Parks repaired deteriorated elements within the plantation and opened it to the public for tours.²²⁴ Work on the buildings continued throughout the state park period of ownership. In 1969, air conditioning was installed in the main house, involving the addition of insulation and wiring changes.²²⁵ In 1971, repairs were made to the kitchen house in order to open it to the public, including the addition of air conditioning. In 1975, new roofs were installed on the plantation house, kitchen house, and covered walkway. In 1976, underground electrical service was installed and the overhead service removed.²²⁶ To support public access and use of the property, the state undertook several projects within the landscape. Between 1978 and 1979, a gravel parking lot was constructed south of the tabby barn to accommodate visitors.

In 1975, the state added a formal entry gate south of the slave cabins. The need for a gate was articulated in correspondence between the City of Jacksonville Department of Public Works, and the State of Florida Department of Natural Resources. Because the city owns the road and

²²¹ Stowell, 103.

²²² Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 59.

²²³ Ibid., *Cultural Landscape Report*, 60.

²²⁴ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 21.

²²⁵ Ibid.

²²⁶ Ibid.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

associated right-of-way, the state was required to seek permission to close the road at night, and to work with local property owners to approve the change. At the time, the road was known as Admiral Blue Road.²²⁷ In 1977, maintenance facilities, composed of a cluster of sheds, a long garage/workshop structure, and an office/workshop, were constructed west of the Fort George Clubhouse. State Park rangers utilized the Fort George Clubhouse for on-site housing. The second story of the kitchen house was utilized for administrative purposes and storage. The state also removed the Club-era circular driveway south of the plantation house, as well as a row of hedges along Palmetto Avenue.

In 1981, local architect Herschel Shepard investigated the plantation house foundation and first floor framing and made recommendations for stabilization measures. His recommendations were implemented in 1981 through 1983 by the Florida Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, Division of Recreation and Parks, Department of Natural Resources.²²⁸ In order to appropriately paint the plantation buildings, the state used color samples taken from the plantation house, kitchen house, and covered walkway. In 1988, these structures were also re-roofed.

In 1981, work was also conducted in association with the barn. The concrete floor and shell fill were removed. The soil beneath the shell was left undisturbed to allow investigation by archeologists.²²⁹

The state also took steps to document and protect the historic significance of the property. In the early 1960s, archeologist Charles Fairbanks began investigative work in the area around the slave cabins. In 1967, archeologist Henry A. Baker conducted excavations in the basement of the plantation house, recording several major structural alterations made to the building over time. Baker later completed a study of the circulation systems associated with the plantation titled *Roads and Walkways at the Kingsley Plantation*.²³⁰ Fairbanks continued working at the property, studying four of the slave cabins in detail in 1974. Through his investigations, Fairbanks identified many “Africanisms” among the artifacts and contributing to an understanding of how the enslaved people remained close to the cultural and religious values of their countries of

²²⁷ Timucuan Preserve archives at Kingsley Plantation, TIMU 8411, Box 10, Folder 28, “51-03-200-KING1435-Gate Relocation 1974-1975.” TIMU/FOCA Resource Management Records, Series I: Division of Administration, Subseries D: Kingsley Plantation State Ownership Files.

²²⁸ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 21.

²²⁹ Memorandum, Lt. W.C. Keeth, Superintendent, Kingsley Plantation State Historic Site, to Major E.E. Hardee, Manager, District III, State of Florida, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Recreation and Parks, March 6, 1981. Timucuan archives at Kingsley Plantation. TIMU 8411, Box 10, Folder 46. “52-08-100-KING1454-Removal of Stable Floor 1980-1981.” TIMU/FOCA Resource Management Records, Series I: Division of Administration, Subseries D: Kingsley Plantation State Ownership Files.

²³⁰ Henry A. Baker, *Roads and Walkways at the Kingsley Plantation, An Archaeological Study*.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

origin. According to Walker, the work conducted by Fairbanks had “a far reaching impact on the anthropology of plantation and slave life.”²³¹

Following the construction of the new parking lot south of the tabby barn, Carl McMurray and Marsha Chance of the Florida Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, Division of Archives, History and Records Management, conducted archeological investigations in 1979. Although the extent of the investigations was limited due to budget and time constraints, the report on their studies indicates that the area had been used as a dump or a general work yard, perhaps for tabby processing, during the Plantation era and was the location of a Club-era bungalow. These conclusions were based on the materials found in excavations as well as the location of the area to the “rear” of the plantation house, noted by the archeologists as an area in which mixed activities would be expected to have occurred.²³²

In 1981, archeologist Carl McMurray began limited excavation of the exterior foundation of the plantation house. McMurray also conducted investigations in 1980–1981 of an area to the south of the kitchen house where the State of Florida proposed to plant an interpretive garden, and where the demonstration garden is located today. Although McMurray determined that the antebellum garden was likely located further west, discoveries made during the investigations included the uncovering and mapping of the road to the Fort George Club and a large hedge planting behind the kitchen house. It was also determined that a large wood structure may have been located south of the kitchen house at one time.²³³

Limited excavations at the corner of the southwest pavilion of the main house were performed by Carl McMurray and Darcie MacMahon of the Florida Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties in 1983, identifying the construction sequence of the pavilion. In 1985, Henry Baker conducted an archeological investigation to locate the roads and walkways historically associated with the plantation infrastructure. Several possible linear features were identified based on an extensive auger testing program across the plantation site. In 1988, Karen Jo Walker, then a graduate student at the University of South Carolina, analyzed material recovered by John Bostwick at Cabins W-3 and W-6 in 1981 and compared the architectural design of the slave quarters to those of other plantations. Also in 1988, an archeological overview of sites in and adjacent to the proposed Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve boundary was undertaken by Susan Hammersten. The overview addressed known prehistoric and historic resources of the area and

²³¹ Walker, 16.

²³² Chance and McMurray, 22.

²³³ Carl McMurray, *Report on the Archeological Investigations at the Kingsley Plantation Proposed Garden, Phase I* (Gainesville, Florida: Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, December 1982), 2.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

also provided recommendations for obtaining further archeological information to fill in data gaps in local knowledge.²³⁴

Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, 1991–2015

On February 16, 1988, the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve was established by Congress in passing Public Law 100-249.²³⁵ The 46,000 acre preserve was established “to administer those lands . . . within the preserve in such a manner as to protect the natural ecology of such land and water areas in accordance with this Act and the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park System.” With designation of the preserve, Congress sought to protect the complex salt marsh and estuarine ecosystem, as well as several important historic and prehistoric sites in the valley between the lower St. Johns and Nassau rivers in Florida. The preserve, which was to become a unit of the National Park System, was also “to provide opportunities for the public to understand, enjoy, and appreciate these resources.”²³⁶

The preserve as established included the Kingsley Plantation on Fort George Island. In 1991, the National Park Service took possession of the Kingsley Plantation complex from the State of Florida. The National Park Service also purchased the last two surviving slave cabin ruins that had not been acquired by the state, as well as other surrounding properties to serve as a buffer for the Kingsley Plantation portion of the Preserve, over the course of several years between Fiscal Year 1992 and 1997.²³⁷

In 1993, a Phase III archeological study of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve was conducted by Michael Russo of the Florida Museum of Natural History. The study was designed to locate unrecorded archeological and historic sites in the Preserve. In addition, several known sites were revisited to provide updated information, including Kingsley Plantation. Also in 1993, Michael Meyer of the National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center undertook

²³⁴ Summary of archeological studies conducted at Kingsley Plantation from 1967 through 2012, provided by John Whitehurst, Cultural Resources Specialist/Archeologist and Historian, and Anne Lewellen, Museum Curator, of Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve.

²³⁵ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 21.

²³⁶ National Park Service, *Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve General Management Plan, Development Concept Plans, and Environmental Impact Statement* (Denver, Colorado: U.S. Department of the Interior, December 1996), iii.

²³⁷ Superintendent’s Annual Reports, Fort Caroline National Memorial and Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, fiscal years 1992 through 1997. The specific tracts acquired are not indicated. Several reports indicate “Additional tracts were acquired surrounding Kingsley Plantation...”

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

archeological investigations for the installation of a proposed water line and demonstration garden at Kingsley Plantation.²³⁸

Changes to the landscape continued under federal ownership and management by the National Park Service. A new pole barn was added to the maintenance compound in 1993. Interpretive signage was also added to the property to benefit the public in 1993—one sign was located north of one of the slave cabins, while the other was placed at the gate posts at the edge of the visitor parking area. Due to structural deterioration, four club-era bungalows were removed from the property between 1992 and 1994. A pump house was constructed in 1994 in a vegetated area south of the tabby barn. Also in 1994, the state era gate was moved further south. The gate was replaced with an automated system in 1996–1997. The current gate was installed in 2009. The State Park era bulkhead was replaced in 1997–1998.

In 2000, John Whitehurst, Timucuan Preserve Cultural Resources Specialist/Archeologist and Historian, and Tammy Cooper and Jodi Skipper of the Southeast Archeological Center, conducted archeological and historical investigations for two proposed boat docks within Timucuan. The first was to be located at Fort Caroline National Memorial and the second was to be constructed at Kingsley Plantation. A scatter of historic and prehistoric archeological materials were located and evaluated along the path route and entrance area to the proposed dock at Kingsley Plantation. The scatter was found to be limited and yielded little in the way of significant information to the interpretation of Kingsley Plantation.²³⁹

In 2002, a second visitor entry point was established to allow for access for boaters to a new dock constructed near the extreme northwestern point of the property. The dock was designed to accommodate boat shuttle service from nearby National Park Service properties as well as individuals wishing to visit the property. A portable walkway system was built to connect the dock to the lawn surrounding the main house around the same time. In 2011, walks on the property were replaced with a new hardened rubberized surface.

The plantation house has been repaired in stages over the years since 1991. Between 1991 and 2003, the National Park Service painted the house, installed a new roof, repaired and painted the covered walkway, installed a flush wood door to the basement and louvers in the basement windows, replaced the entrance deck and porch railings, repaired the tabby brick entrance to the

²³⁸ Summary of archeological studies conducted at Kingsley Plantation from 1967 through 2012, provided by John Whitehurst, Cultural Resources Specialist/Archeologist and Historian, and Anne Lewellen, Museum Curator, of Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve.

²³⁹ Ibid.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

basement and the porch entrance steps, added a ramp to accommodate handicap access, repaired termite damage on the northeast side of the building, painted the interior, and installed vent grills in the basement. The agency also reconstructed the framing of the north porch of the main house, changing it from joist lumber to log joists.

In 2003, inspection of the house by a structural engineer revealed extensive termite damage and deterioration of the support beams. The engineer raised concerns about the capacity of the flooring to support the weight of visitors and exhibits. Following this report, the National Park Service closed the house to visitors, and engaged a consulting firm to prepare a Historic Structure Report for the house.

To address the structural deficiencies, the National Park Service, with the help of an Eagle Scout candidate, installed supplemental floor framing and bracing for the first floor in the basement.²⁴⁰ Several structural members required replacement, including the sill beams, vertical supports, and other framing members. Historic materials were repaired or replaced in kind. Work continued with additional bracing of the long-term shoring with lateral cross-ties in 2005–2006, as well as structural repair of the south elevation, replacement of a deteriorated sill beam, and repair of the vertical wall framing on the southeast pavilion.²⁴¹ In 2006–2007, the first floor wall framing was stabilized. Sill beams and vertical framing members were replaced or had new materials sistered to them. Windows on the second floor of the house were rehabilitated to make them operable. In 2007–2008, shutters were installed on the building. The access ramp was found to be dilapidated and was removed. After being closed for six years, the plantation house was reopened to visitors in 2009.²⁴² In 2009–2010, the north porch and the steps to the porch were repaired to address rotten floorboards, while masonry along the building foundation was repaired using traditional tabby wall construction methods. Rotten, warped, and deteriorated wood siding was also replaced prior to painting the building. Interior walls with plaster damage were also repaired.²⁴³ In 2010–2011, the building exterior was stripped to wood, primed, and repainted. The gutter system was also repaired at the time.²⁴⁴ In 2011, the interior stairwell support beams were found to be bowing under the weight of the stairwell. The beams were replaced with new beams engineered to support the load. Plaster that had cracked due to the settling caused by the bowed beams was also repaired.²⁴⁵

²⁴⁰ Hartrampf, *Historic Structure Report, Main House*, 22.

²⁴¹ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, 2006.

²⁴² *Superintendent's Annual Report*, 2010, 7.

²⁴³ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, 2010.

²⁴⁴ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, 2011.

²⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Stabilization of the slave cabins was initiated in 2002 and continued until 2011. Work focused primarily on the deterioration of the tabby walls, flooring, and chimneys. Protection efforts addressed problems with water infiltration of the unprotected tabby, wind erosion, encroaching roots, and biological growth. Initially, in order to protect the historic tabby concrete, the park applied thin coats of lime putty to the cabin walls after a thorough cleaning using a chlorine solution and application of an herbicide to remove fungus, lichens, and mosses. Later, natural hydraulic lime and thin layers of lime sealant were used instead to protect the tabby.²⁴⁶ By 2005, the process involved the application of a lime wash on the horizontal surfaces and NHL2 to the vertical surfaces via spray application to stabilize the friable materials.²⁴⁷

Cabins were stabilized in turn. In 2003–2004, Cabin E15 was completely stabilized.²⁴⁸ Two additional cabins were stabilized the following year. In 2005–2006, cabins E1, E5, E6, W1, and W3 were stabilized, while the remaining ruins were cleaned. In 2007–2008, cabin E16 was stabilized through application of three lime wash coats and a top cap.²⁴⁹ In 2009–2010, four additional cabins were treated with lime washing and capping of the walls.²⁵⁰ In 2010–2011, the park re-leveled and secured a failing wall with lintels. Fireplaces in four cabins were re-leveled, with the voids created by the failing fireplaces stabilized. In addition, exterior walls were cleaned, and twelve ruins were lime washed and capped.²⁵¹

Cabin E1, the ruin that had been covered with a roof in 1971 and had undergone wall repairs, was rehabilitated in 2004–2005. This project involved the removal of the earlier roof and its replacement with a more historically accurate framing system. New cedar shingles and siding were added, while the door and window openings were modified to be more historically accurate.²⁵² That year, National Park Service personnel completed archeological excavation of materials at Slave Cabins E7 and E12 for a project to stabilize the cabin chimneys, collecting numerous artifacts as part of the effort.²⁵³

From 2006 through 2012, a public archeology field school associated with the University of Florida's Department of Anthropology conducted investigations at Kingsley Plantation that resulted in a better understanding of the area's history, including the conditions of daily life and

²⁴⁶ Hartrampf, *Cultural Landscape Report*, 74.

²⁴⁷ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, Fiscal Year 2006

²⁴⁸ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, Fiscal Year 2004.

²⁴⁹ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, Fiscal Year 2008.

²⁵⁰ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, Fiscal Year 2010.

²⁵¹ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, Fiscal Year 2011.

²⁵² *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, Fiscal Year 2005.

²⁵³ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, Fiscal Year 2011, 9–10.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

retention of African ideology and practices by enslaved people during the early nineteenth century based on the discovery of artifacts.²⁵⁴ Led by Dr. James M. Davidson, the field school focused efforts on the slave cabins and the sugar mill site.²⁵⁵ The mill was located in 2008, with investigations continuing during the 2009 field season. In 2010, investigations focused on the possible site of a slave cemetery described by Rollins family members. The work resulted in the discovery of the cemetery site.²⁵⁶ Excavation units 1 through 250 were dug in slave cabin yards, the barn, the sugar mill, the cemetery, the area between the Kitchen House and demonstration garden, and the extension of Cedar Avenue. Thousands of objects have been recovered during the field schools and subsequently analyzed by the University of Florida.

In 2009, new wayside exhibits were installed on the property, including near the slave cabins, the parking lot, and the kitchen house. In 2010, the 1930s Lutz House, which was in poor condition, and an associated garage were demolished. The plantation house porch and associated stairs were repaired, as was masonry along the building's foundation using traditional tabby wall methods. Four of the slave cabins were lime-washed to protect against deterioration, and the walls capped.²⁵⁷

²⁵⁴ Karen E. McIlvoy, "The Ceramics Assemblage from the Kingsley Plantation Slave Quarters" *National Park Service Archeology Program: Research in the Parks*.

²⁵⁵ James M. Davidson, PhD, *Preliminary [Interim] Report of Investigations of the University of Florida (2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2012) Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation*, (8DU108) Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve National Park, Duval County, Florida (Tallahassee, Florida: National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, August 2006, August 2007, September 2011, March 2012, and March 2013).

²⁵⁶ *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report*, Fiscal Year 2010, 10.

²⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, 12.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Ashley, Keith. "Refining the Ceramic Chronology of Northeastern Florida." In *The Florida Anthropologist* 61, no. 3-4 (September-December 2008): 123-132.
- Baker, Henry A. *Excavations at the Kingsley Plantation*. Florida State Museum, Florida State Board of Parks, 1967.
- _____. *Roads and Walkways at the Kingsley Plantation: An Archaeological Study*. Tallahassee, Florida: Bureau of Archaeological Research, Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Florida Department of State, for the Division of Recreation and Parks, Florida Department of Natural Resources, September 30, 1985.
- Barbour, George. *Florida for Tourists, Invalids, and Settlers: Containing Practical Information Regarding Climate, Soil, and Productions; Cities, Towns, and People; The Culture of the Orange and Other Tropical Fruits; Farming and Gardening; Scenery and Resorts; Sport; Routes of Travel, Etc. Etc.* New York, New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1884.
- Bartram, John. *Diary of a Journey through the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida, from July 1, 1765 to April 10, 1766*. Annotated by Francis Harper. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1942.
- Benjamin, S. G. W. "The Sea Islands." In *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* 57 (November 1878; issue 342, Harper & Brothers, New York).
- Chance, Marsha and Carl McMurray. "Archaeological investigations at the Kingsley Plantation State Historic Site, Duval County, Florida." Unpublished report on file, Florida Department of Natural Resources, Division of Recreation and Parks, Tallahassee, Florida, 1984.
- Cusick, James G. *The Other War of 1812: The Patriot War and the American Invasion of Spanish East Florida*. Athens: The University of Florida, 2007 (paperback edition).
- Davidson, James M., PhD, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida. *Preliminary Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2006 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation (8DU108), Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve National Park, Duval County, Florida*. Submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, in partial fulfillment of Permit for Archaeological Investigations TIMU 06-001, August 2006.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

_____. *Preliminary Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2007 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation (8DU108), Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve National Park, Duval County, Florida.* Submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, in partial fulfillment of Permit for Archaeological Investigations TIMU 06-001, August 2007.

_____. *Interim Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2008 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation (8DU108), Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, National Park Service, Duval County, Florida.* Tallahassee, Florida: National Park Service, 2008.

_____. *Preliminary Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2010 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation (8DU108), Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve National Park, Duval County, Florida.* Submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, in partial fulfillment of Permit for Archaeological Investigations TIMU 2009-02, September 2011.

_____. *Preliminary Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2011 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation (8DU108), Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve National Park, Duval County, Florida.* Submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, in partial fulfillment of Permit for Archaeological Investigations TIMU 2009-02, March 2012.

_____. *Preliminary Report of Investigations of the University of Florida 2012 Historical Archaeological Field School: Kingsley Plantation (8DU108), Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve National Park, Duval County, Florida.* Submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, in partial fulfillment of Permit for Archaeological Investigations TIMU 2009-02 (amendment of 5/15/2012)TIMU 2009-02, March 2013.

Dickinson, Jonathan. *Journal of a Visit to the Georgia Islands of St. Catherines, Green, Ossabaw, Sapelo, St. Simons, Jekyll, and Cumberland with Comments on the Florida Islands of Amelia, Talbot, and St. George in 1753*, in Virginia Steele Wood and Mary R. Bullard, eds. Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 1996.

Dodge, Julia B. "An Island by the Sea." In *Scribner's Magazine* 17 (September 1877): 653–659.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

- East Florida Claims: Zephaniah, Kingsley Jr., 1843.* B131 F16. The East Florida Papers.
- Fairbanks, Charles H. "The Kingsley Slave Cabins in Duval County, Florida," *Conference on Historic Site Archaeology Papers 1972*. Stanley South, ed. Columbia, South Carolina: The Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, 1968.
- The Florida Republican*, March 18, 1857.
- Fort George Island Association. *Fort George, Florida*. Pamphlet created to promote the island. Jacksonville, Florida: Sun and Press Job Rooms, 1878.
- Fretwell, Jacqueline K. *Kingsley Beatty Gibbs and His Journal of 1840–1843*. St. Augustine, Florida: St. Augustine Historical Society, 1984.
- _____, ed. *El Escribano*, 21. St. Augustine: St. Augustine Historical Society, 1984.
- Hammersten, Susan. *An Archeological Overview and Assessment of Sites within and Adjacent to the Proposed Boundaries of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Duval County, Florida*. Tallahassee, Florida: National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, 1988.
- Hartrampf Engineers, Architects, Surveyors. *Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Kingsley Plantation, Kitchen House, Historic Structure Report*. January 31, 2005.
- _____. *Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Kingsley Plantation, Main House, Historic Structure Report*. February 4, 2005.
- Hartrampf Engineers, Architects, Surveyors, and The Jaeger Company. *Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Kingsley Plantation, Cultural Landscape Report*. Atlanta, Georgia: National Park Service, undated.
- Hartridge, Walter Charlton. *The Letters of Don Juan McQueen to His Family, Written from Spanish East Florida, 1791–1807, with a Biographical Sketch and Notes by Walter Charlton Hartridge*. Columbia, South Carolina: Bostick & Thornley, 1943.
- Historic American Building Survey. *House of Anna Madagegine Jai and Slave Quarters – Driver's Cabin, Fort George Island, Duval County, Florida*. HABS-FLA 16-FO GEO. Jacksonville, Florida: Historic American Buildings Survey, 1934. Addendum, 1936.
- Jackson, Antoinette T., and Allan F. Burns. *Kingsley Plantation Ethnohistorical Study of the Kingsley Plantation Community*. Gainesville, Florida: University of Florida, January 2006.
- Keeth, Lt. W. C. Superintendent, Kingsley Plantation State Historic Site, memorandum to Major E. E. Hardee, Manager, District III, State of Florida, Department of Natural

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Resources, Division of Recreation and Parks, March 6, 1981. Timucuan archives at Kingsley Plantation. TIMU 8411, Box 10, Folder 46. "52-08-100-KING1454-Removal of Stable Floor 1980-1981." TIMU/FOCA Resource Management Records, Series I: Division of Administration, Subseries D: Kingsley Plantation State Ownership Files.

Kennedy, Roger G. *Burr, Hamilton and Jefferson: A Study in Character*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Kennedy, Stetson. *Palmetto Country, 1942*, accessed at <http://www.stetsonkennedy.com/palmetto.htm>.

Kingsley, Zephaniah. Full text of papers concerning the will of Zephaniah Kingsley. Florida Memory Project. Accessed online at http://www.floridamemory.com/Collections/kingsley/full_text.cfm.

_____. "The best we can do in this world is to balance evils judiciously." July 1842.

Landers, Jane. "Black Community and Culture in the Southeastern Borderlands." In *Journal of the Early Republic* 18, no. 1 (Spring 1998): 117–134.

_____. *Black Society in Spanish Florida*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1999.

_____, ed. *Colonial Plantations and Economy in Florida*, Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2000.

McIlvoy, Karen E. "The Ceramics Assemblage from the Kingsley Plantation Slave Quarters" *National Park Service Archeology Program: Research in the Parks*.

McMurray, Carl D. *Report on Archaeological Investigations at the Kingsley Plantation Garden Phase II*. Tallahassee, Florida: Bureau of Historic Preservation, State of Florida, 1983.

Mercer, E. "The Houses of the Gentry." *Past and Present* 5 (May 1954): 11-32.

Meyer, Michael J. *Archeological Investigations Conducted for the Installation of a Water Line and Demonstration Garden at Kingsley Plantation*. Tallahassee, Florida: National Park Service Southeast Archeological Center. 1994.

National Park Service. *General Management Plan, Development Concept Plans, Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Florida*. Denver, Colorado: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Denver Service Center, March 1996.

_____. Historic Preservation Training Center, Frederick, Maryland. *Kingsley Plantation Reroofing Project, Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, Kingsley Plantation, Jacksonville, Florida*. 1997.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

_____. Historic Preservation Training Center, Frederick, Maryland. *Kingsley Plantation Reroofing Project, Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Jacksonville, Florida: Historic Structures Record of Treatment*. 1997.

_____. *Kingsley Plantation-Ribault Club Interpretive Tram Tour Final Environmental Assessment, July 2013*.

_____. List of Classified Structures entries for Kingsley Plantation, including Main House, Kitchen House, Barn, and Slave Cabins, June 12, 2014.

_____. Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. Superintendent's Annual Narrative, Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve and Fort Caroline National Memorial, 1997 through 2011.

_____. *Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Florida: Foundation Document*. December 2012.

_____. Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. *Park Atlas: Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve*, Florida. September 2012.

_____. Historic Preservation Training Center, Frederick, Maryland. *Preservation of Historic Windows on the Kingsley Plantation House and Kitchen House, Timucuan Ecological and Historical Preserve, Jacksonville, Florida: Historic Structures Record of Treatment*. June 23, 2006.

_____. Historic Preservation Training Center, Frederick, Maryland. *Preservation of the Kingsley Plantation Kitchen House Masonry, Timucuan Ecological and Historic [sic] Preserve, Jacksonville, Florida: Historic Structures Record of Treatment*. 2006.

_____. Historic Preservation Training Center, Frederick, Maryland. *Preservation of the Kingsley Plantation Kitchen House Masonry, Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, Jacksonville, Florida: Historic Structures Record of Treatment*. 2006.

_____. Historic Preservation Training Center, Frederick, Maryland. *Re-roofing & Stabilization, Kingsley Barn Roof, Timucuan Ecological & Historical Preserve, Kingsley Plantation. Historic Structures Record of Treatment*. 2002.

_____. *The River War: The Timucuan Preserve in the Civil War; Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve*, pamphlet.

_____. "Timucua Daily Life," available at http://www.nps.gov/foca/learn/historyculture/timucua_dailylife.htm (accessed March 15, 2015).

_____. "Timucuan; Life in Northeast Florida, 1000 C.E."

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

- _____. "Who Were the Timucua?" printed brochure.
- _____. Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. Rollins Family and Recreation Era. Summary of information. (No author, no date.) Includes "Notebook of John Rollins," transcribed by Betty Jones, National Park Service Kingsley Plantation, March 13, 2009, from a 1939 transcription by Gertrude Rollins Wilson. Also includes several sets of memoirs and notes of Gertrude Rollins Wilson, transcribed by National Park Service Kingsley Plantation.
- _____. Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. *Timucuan Civilization and European Colonization: Summary of Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve*. No author, no date.
- _____. "Timucua Daily Life." Available at http://www.nps.gov/foca/learn/historyculture/timucua_dailylife.htm (accessed March 15, 2015).
- _____. "Timucuan; Life in Northeast Florida, 1000 C.E." Pamphlet, no author, no date.
- _____. Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. *Kingsley Plantation Historic Background*. Narrative, no author, no date.
- _____. Timucuan Preserve archives at Kingsley Plantation, TIMU 8411, Box 10, Folder 28, "51-03-200-KING1435-Gate Relocation 1974-1975." TIMU/FOCA Resource Management Records, Series I: Division of Administration, Subseries D: Kingsley Plantation State Ownership Files.
- _____. "Who Were the Timucua?" Pamphlet, no author, no date.
- Price, Eugenia. *Don Juan McQueen*. Philadelphia and New York: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1974.
- Proctor, Samuel, ed. *Eighteenth-Century Florida: The Impact of the American Revolution*. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1978.
- Raab, James W. *Spain, Britain, and the American Revolution in Florida, 1763–1783*, McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, Jefferson, North Carolina, 2008.
- Rollins, Hannah. Diary. Excerpts transcribed by unknown person, probably Gertrude Rollins Wilson. Copy of handwritten document in Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Archives.
- _____. Handwritten notes on Fort George Island. N.d. (circa 1904). Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Archives.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Rollins, John F. "1868–1869 Notebook," Copied from the original by Dena Snodgrass, 1953. Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Archives.

Russo, Michael, Ann S. Cordell, and Donna L. Ruhl. *The Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Phase III Final Report*. NPS, Southeast Archeological Center Technical Report. 1993.

Schafer, Daniel L. *Anna Kingsley*. St. Augustine, Florida: St. Augustine Historical Society, 1994; revised and expanded edition, 1997.

_____. "A Class of People neither Freemen nor Slaves": from Spanish to American Race Relations in Florida, 1821–1861." In *Journal of Social History* (Spring 1993): 587–607.

_____. *Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley: African Princess, Florida Slave, Plantation Slaveowner*. Gainesville, Florida: University of Press of Florida, 2003.

Schafer, Dan. "“One Altogether Unaccountable”": The Life of Zephaniah Kingsley, Jr." Presented to the Florida Historical Society at Kingsley Plantation, May 30, 1997.

"Sebastiano Serlio," Encyclopedia Britannica, <http://www.britannica.com/biography/Sebastiano-Serlio>, accessed August 2015; Roger G. Kennedy, Burr, Hamilton and Jefferson: A Study in Character (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 214–230.

Shepard, Herschel E. AIA. Letter to Dr. Charles H. Fairbanks, Chairman, Department of Anthropology, University of Florida, May 8, 1969, regarding the restoration of slave cabin, Kingsley Plantation. Timucuan Preserve archives at Kingsley Plantation, TIMU 8411, Box 10, Folder 47, "52-09-200-KING1434-Restoration of Slave Cabin 1969–1971." TIMU/FOCA Resource Management Records, Series I: Division of Administration, Subseries D: Kingsley Plantation State Ownership Files.

Siebert, Michael. National Park Service, Southeast Archeological Center, "Geophysical Investigations at Kingsley Plantation, 2010, Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Jacksonville, Florida," 2011.

Smith, Julia Floyd. *Slavery and Plantation Growth in Antebellum Florida, 1821–1860*. Gainesville, Florida: University Press of Florida, 1973.

Snodgrass, Dena, Advisory Council, Kingsley Plantation State Park, Jacksonville, Florida. *Kingsley Plantation, National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form*. September 20, 1970. (Certified by State Liaison Officer, December 18, 1970; copy not verified by National Register.)

Stoney, Samuel Gaillard. *Plantations of the South Carolina Low Country*, 2nd ed. Charleston, South Carolina: Carolina Art Commission, 1939.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Stowell, Daniel W., ed. *Balancing Evils Judiciously: The Proslavery Writings of Zephaniah Kingsley*. Gainesville, University of Florida Press, 2000.

_____. "A Southern Home of the Old Type": *The Williams and Gibbs Family Letters, 1944–1955*.

_____. *Timucuan Ecological and Historic Reserve Historic Resource Study*. Atlanta, Georgia: National Park Service, October 1996.

Thornton, John. *Africa and Africans in the Making of the Atlantic World, 1400–1800*, second edition. Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Walker, Karen Jo. "Kingsley and His Slaves: Anthropological Interpretation and Evaluation." *Volumes in Historical Archaeology V*. Columbia, South Carolina: University of South Carolina, The South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, May 1988.

Whitehurst, John C. *Archaeological and Historical Investigations of Proposed Boat Dock Construction at the Kingsley Plantation, Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve and the Fort Caroline National Memorial, Jacksonville, Florida*. National Park Service, Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Technical Report: TIMU-00-2000. Jacksonville, Florida, 2000.

_____. *Phase I Cultural Resource Inventory of Proposed French Drain Installation around the Kingsley Plantation Kitchen House*. National Park Service, Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Technical Report: TIMU-01-2007. Jacksonville, Florida, 2007.

Whitehurst, John C. and Barbara P. Prettyman. *Kingsley Plantation Proposed Tram Maintenance and Storage Facility Cultural Resource Inventory*. National Park Service, Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Technical Report: TIMU-2011-0001. Jacksonville, Florida, 2011.

Wilson, Gertrude Rollins. Notebook. Entry for 25 November 1868 in "Memoirs of Mrs. Millar Wilson," 1952. Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Archives.

_____. "Notes Concerning the Old Plantation on Fort George Island, 1868–1869." Unpublished, typewritten manuscript. n.d. (circa 1956). Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Archives.

Files. Kingsley Plantation. National Park Service offices.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

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 #FLA 16-FO GEO (1934)
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #FL-478 (2003) FL-478A, C, (2003–2005)
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 51 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

1927 or

NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17 | Easting: 457707 | Northing: 3367836 |
| 2. Zone: 17 | Easting: 457828 | Northing: 3367725 |
| 3. Zone: 17 | Easting: 458025 | Northing: 3367659 |
| 4. Zone: 17 | Easting: 458231 | Northing: 3367585 |
| 5. Zone: 17 | Easting: 458228 | Northing: 3367544 |
| 6. Zone: 17 | Easting: 458200 | Northing: 3367545 |
| 7. Zone: 17 | Easting: 458198 | Northing: 3367532 |
| 8. Zone: 17 | Easting: 458227 | Northing: 3367530 |

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

9. Zone: 17	Easting: 458221	Northing: 3367447
10. Zone: 17	Easting: 458263	Northing: 3367271
11. Zone: 17	Easting : 458192	Northing: 3367257
12. Zone: 17	Easting: 458201	Northing: 3367210
13. Zone: 17	Easting: 457786	Northing: 3367220
14. Zone: 17	Easting: 457804	Northing: 3367416
15. Zone: 17	Easting: 457789	Northing: 3367492
16. Zone: 17	Easting : 457717	Northing: 3367789



Points for UTM reference



1

16

2

3

4

6

5

7

8

9

15

14

10

11

12

13



Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

A USGS map annotated with the points identified above, and a USGS map with site boundaries indicated for context, are attached.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.) The northwest corner of the historic district boundary begins at the edge of the river and marshland northwest of the National Park Service dock. The boundary follows the river's edge to the east-southeast, for a total distance of approximately 7,150 feet, until it reaches the edge of National Park Service ownership along the western margin of the Evans Road right of way. The historic district boundary subsequently turns south for a distance of approximately 135 feet and follows the western margin of Evans Road until it jogs west or approximately 92 feet, south for a distance of 43 feet, and east for a distance of 95 feet, to avoid an extension of Stuart Avenue. South of the Stuart Avenue right of way, the boundary continues south for a distance of 273 feet, crossing L'Engle Avenue before turning slightly to the southeast and continuing to follow the western edge of the Evans Road right of way for a distance of approximately 594 feet. The boundary turns southwestward and continues for approximately 237 feet before turning southeastward again for a distance of 157 feet. Where the boundary meets the northern edge of the Fort George Road/Edgewood Drive right of way, it turns due west, and follows the road past the Washington Road right of way for another 1,362 feet. The boundary then turns in a northerly direction for approximately 646 feet. Just south of the L'Engle Avenue right of way, the boundary turns northwestward and continues along this line, and then curves slightly more westward to meet the northwest corner of the property, for a total distance of approximately 1,414 feet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the Kingsley Plantation Historic District encompasses the physical area that contains all known surviving resources associated with the antebellum plantation on Fort George Island. These resources fall within current National Park Service ownership, with the exception of the road corridors and rights-of-way, which are owned by the City of Jacksonville.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Deborah Slaton, Liz Sargent, and Tim Penich
organization: Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.
street & number: 330 Pfingsten Road
city or town: Northbrook state: IL zip code: 60062
e-mail: dslaton@wje.com
telephone: 847-272-7400
date: July 11, 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

[Annotated USGS map attached.]

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

[Included below.]

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

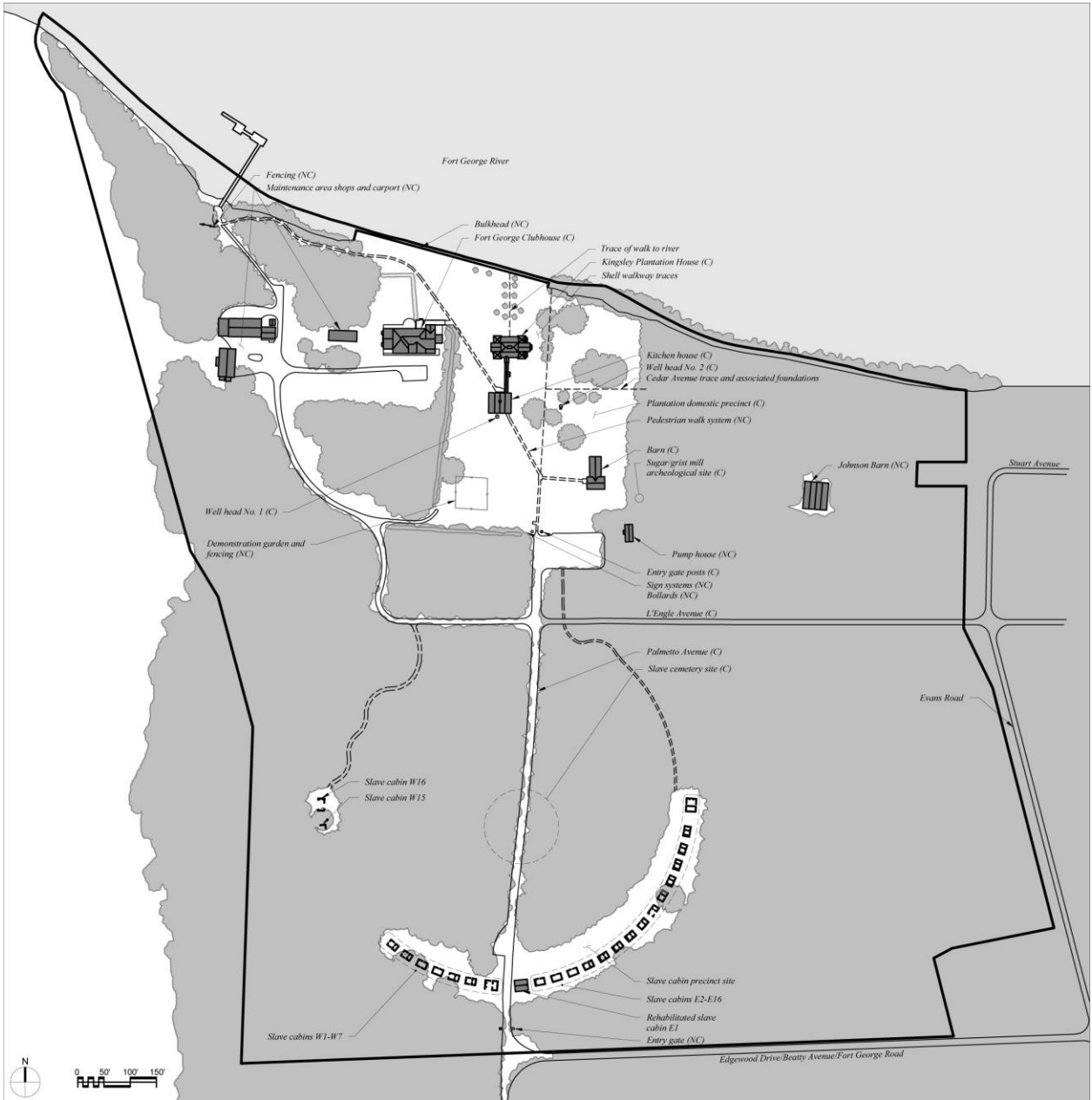
Duval County, FL
County and State



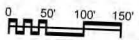
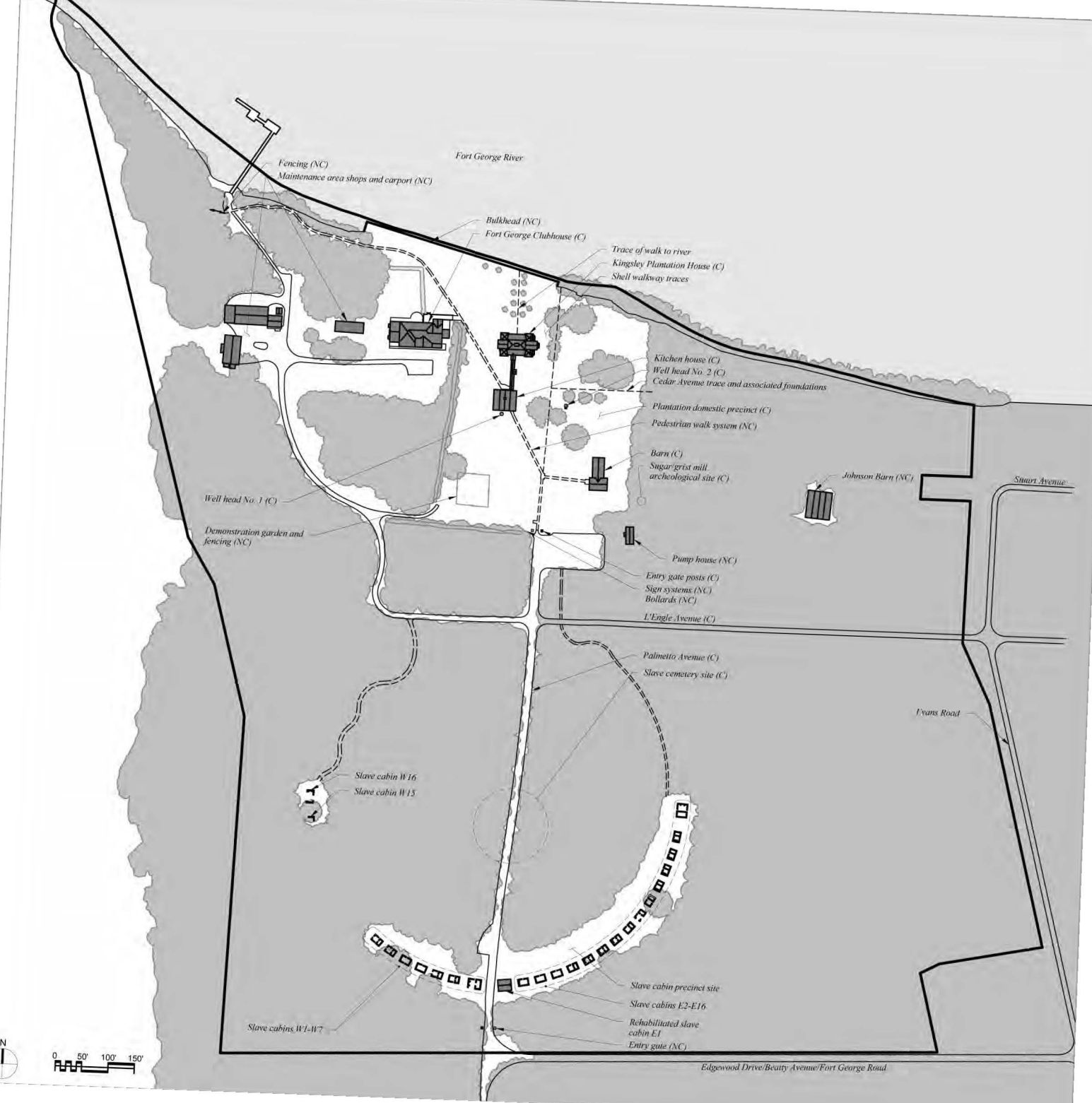
Kingsley Plantation Boundary Map

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Kingsley Plantation Sketch Map



Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

Documentation Photographs



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval

State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View northeast of the walk to the river and associated allées of trees.

1 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval

State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of the main house looking south-southeast.

2 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval

State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of main house interior.

3 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of the kitchen house looking north-northwest.

4 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval

State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of the kitchen house interior.

5 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of the barn looking northeast.

6 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of barn interior.

7 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval

State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of wellhead no. 1, looking southeast.

8 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval

State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of wellhead no. 2, looking northwest.

9 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval

State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View southwest across the Cedar Avenue shell road trace, with the barn and well head no. 2 in the background.

10 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View southwest along Palmetto Avenue.

11 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval

State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of Cabin E1 looking south.

12 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval

State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of slave cabin ruins E3 through E10 looking northeast.

13 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval

State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of the demonstration garden, looking west.

14 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval

State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of the Fort George Club looking southwest.

15 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval

State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of the maintenance complex looking northwest.

16 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval

State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of the pump house looking northwest.

17 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of the Johnson Barn looking southwest.

18 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval

State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View looking southeast, toward the bulkhead.

19 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Name of Property: Kingsley Plantation Historic District

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville

County: Duval

State: Florida

Photographer: Liz Sargent

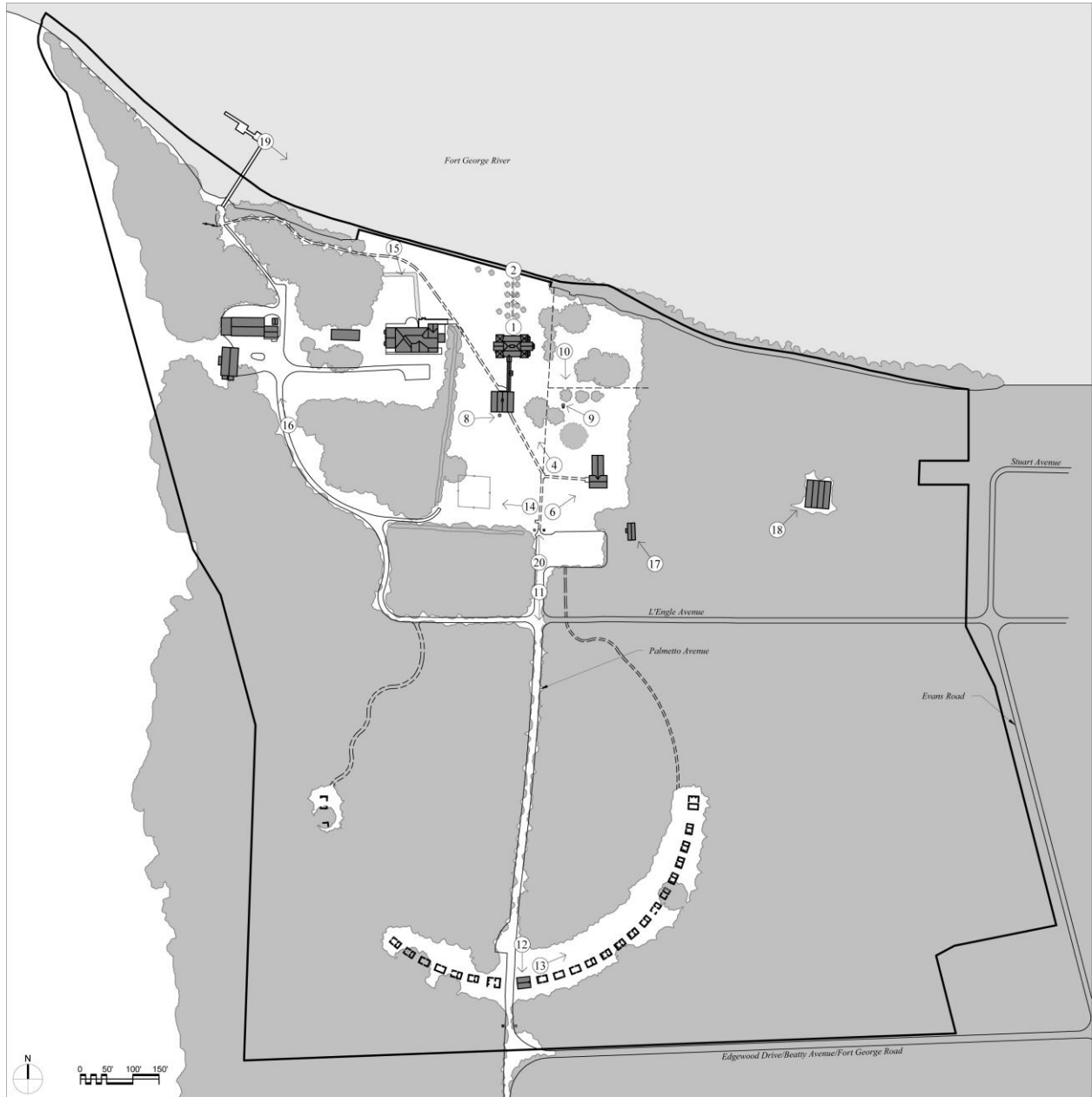
Date Photographed: September 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number: View of the entry gate posts, looking northeast.

20 of 20.

Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State



Kingsley Plantation Photo Points Map

Fort George River

Stuart Avenue

L'Engle Avenue

Palmetto Avenue

Evans Road

Edgewood Drive/Beatty Avenue/Fort George Road

19

15

2

1

10

8

9

4

14

6

20

17

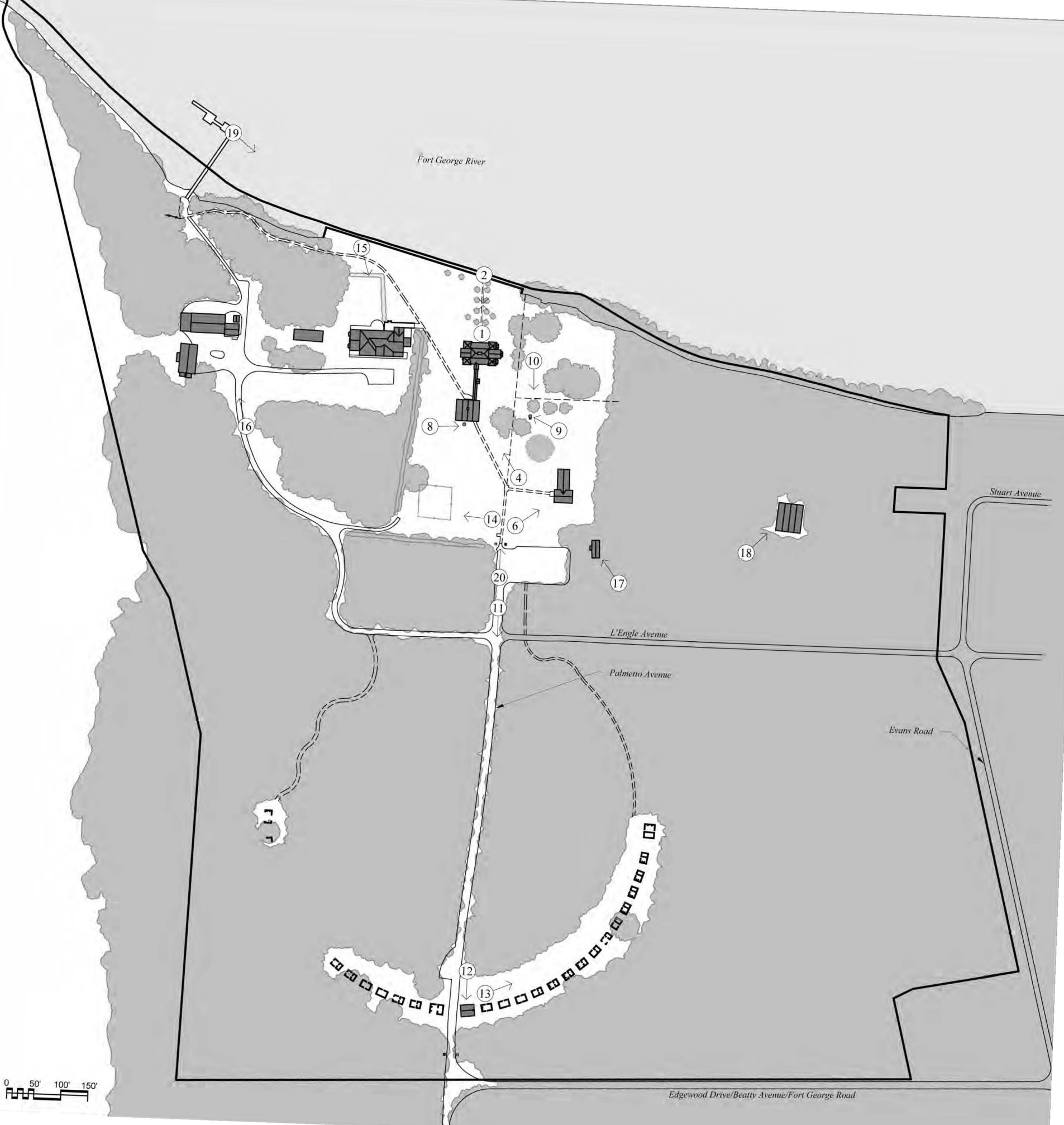
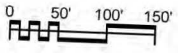
18

11

16

12

13



Kingsley Plantation Historic District
Name of Property

Duval County, FL
County and State

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

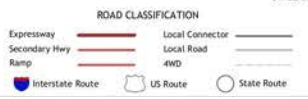
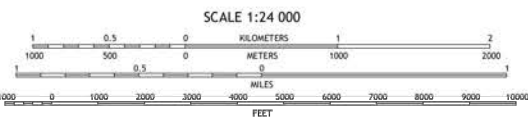
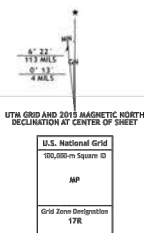


MAYPORT QUADRANGLE
FLORIDA-DUVAL CO.
7.5-MINUTE SERIES



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84). Projection and
1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 17R
10 000-foot ticks: Florida Coordinate System of 1983 (east zone)

This map is not a legal document. Boundaries may be
generalized for this map scale. Private lands within government
reservations may not be shown. Obtain permission before
entering private lands.



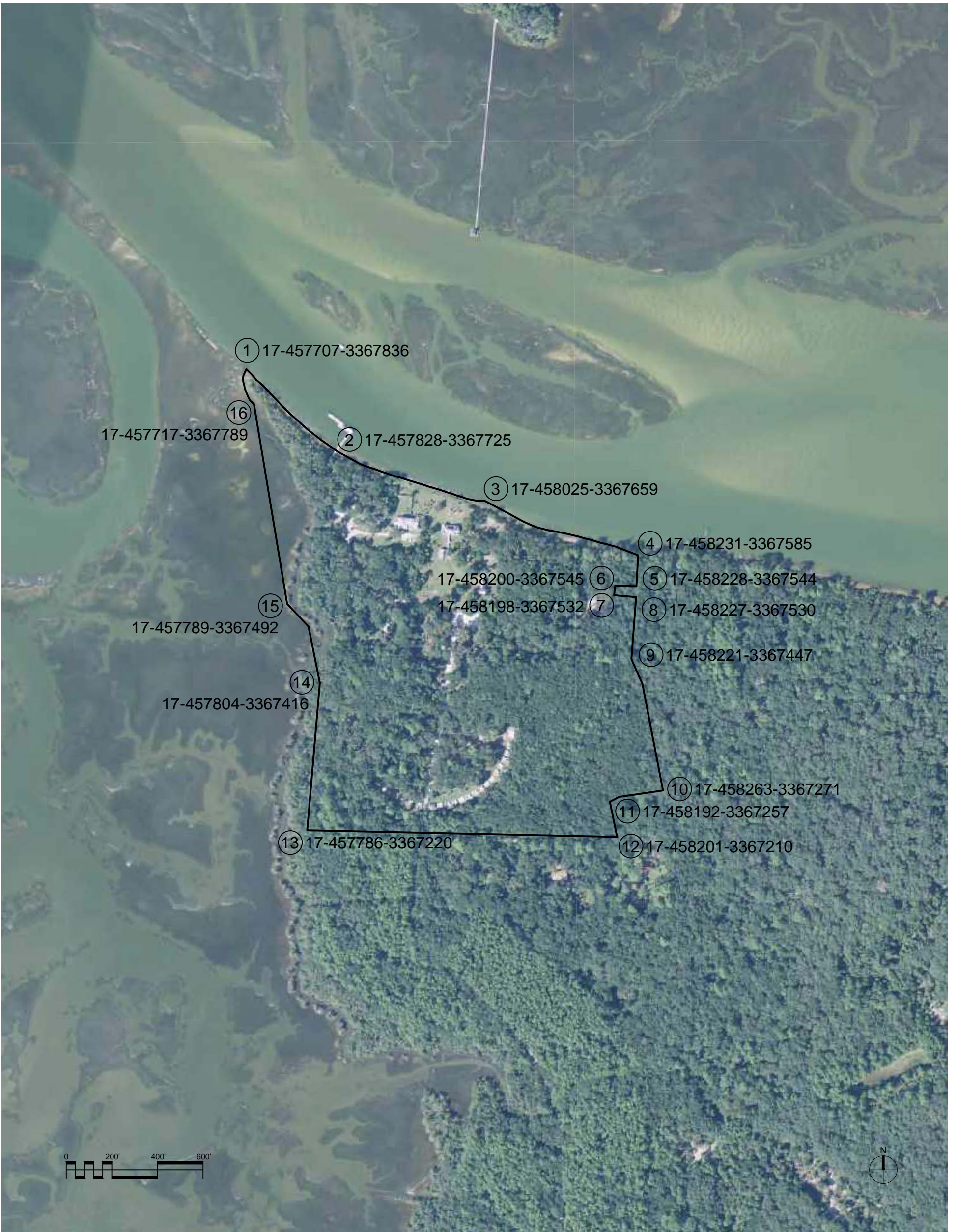
Imagery.....NAP, October 2013
Roads.....HERE, ©2013 - 2014
Names.....GNIS, 2015
Hydrography.....National Hydrography Dataset, 2013
Contours.....National Elevation Dataset, 2008
Boundaries.....Multiple sources; see metadata file 1972 - 2015
Public Land Survey System.....BLM, 2015

U.S. National Grid
100,000m System Q
MP
Grid Zone Designation
17R

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988
This map was produced to conform with the
National Geospatial Program US Topo Product Standard, 2011.
A metadata file associated with this product is draft version 0.6.18

1	2	3	1 Hedges
4	5	6	2 Amelia City
7	8	7	3 Eastport
		8	4 Arlington
		9	5 Jacksonville Beach

MAYPORT, FL
2015













Historic Plantation

HISTORIC PLANTATION
Historic Plantation
Historic Plantation
Historic Plantation

























GENERAC
POWER SYSTEMS







National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

PROPERTY Kingsley plantation STATE Fla.
 REGISTER NUMBER 70-9.09.0019
 DATE OF RECEIPT 12/28/70 YES
 DATA BASE ✓
 PHOTO (S) ✓
 PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S) ✓
 MAP ✓
 MAP DESCRIPTION (S) ✓
 LOCATION ✓
 ACKNOWLEDGE 12/28/70 ✓
 RESUBMIT

REVIEW OK 3/15/71 Nemick

HISTORIAN
 ARCHAEOLOGIST
 ok 57 Maxine 3/15/71
 ok Leroy 3/31/71

ARCHITECT
 ok Chambers 3-18-71

ASST. KEEPER

KEEPER ok Long 4/8/71

ENTRY

CHIEF, CAMP

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR HABS ok ED 3/23/71

Federal Register Entry Date

Annual Edition Entry

Logged 9/29/70
 Card 9/29/70
 WORKING NUMBER 5.1.70.17



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

H30-HR

SEP 29 1970

10
577
9/28/70

Mr. Robert Williams
Director
Division of Archives, History
and Records Management
Department of State
401 East Gaines Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Dear Mr. Williams:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Spessard L. Holland and Edward J. Gurney and the appropriate Representatives have also been notified. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ Ernest Allen Connally

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation

Enclosure

SEP 29 1970

Entered in the National Register

cc:

HR

9/24/70

SMarusin:drs

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

FLORIDA

Vizcaya
Yellow Bluff Fort
Kingsley Plantation
Bulow Plantation Ruins
Crystal River Indian Mounds
Turtle Mound
Battle of Natural Bridge
Cape Florida Lighthouse
Rawlings House
Pensacola Historical District
Ormond Garage

Miami, Florida
Duval County, Florida
Fort George, Florida
Flagler County, Florida
Citrus County, Florida
Volusia County, Florida
Leon County, Florida
Dade County, Florida
Cross Creek, Florida
Pensacola, Florida
Ormond Beach, Florida

Kingsley Plantation
Duvall Co., Fla.

OCT 8 1970

*37 Marston
9/25/70
C. Marston 9-25*

*Zuercher
10/6*

*T. Wood
10/6*

*Alabur 10/7
Eaton 10/24/70
Full
10/27*

HR-DR

Hon. Charles S. Bennett
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bennett:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Florida and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Spessard L. Holland and Edward J. Gurney have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. Robert Williams, Director, Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Department of State, 401 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32304, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the national Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

*W. B. HARTZOG, JR.
Director*

Enclosures

Entered in the National Register SEP 29 1970

cc: Mr. Robert Williams, Director, Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Department of State, 401 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Director, Southeast Region

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

SMarusin:drs

9/25/70

HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

FLORIDA

Yellow Bluff Port

Duval County, Florida

Kingsley Plantation

Fort George, Florida

OCT 8 1970

H30-HR

Hon. Spessard L. Holland
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Holland:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Florida and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator Edward J. Gurney and the appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. Robert Williams, Director, Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Department of State, 401 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32304, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTOG, JR.

Director

Enclosures

SEP 29 1970

Entered in the National Register

cc: Mr. Robert Williams, Director, Division of Archives, History and Records Management, Department of State, 401 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Duplicate letter sent to: Hon. Edward J. Gurney
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

SMarusin:drs

9/24/70

Director, Southeast Region

LL: Mr. Melvin

F
HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

FLORIDA

Viscaya

Yellow Bluff Fort

Kingsley Plantation

Bulow Plantation Ruins

Crystal River Indian Mounds

Turtle Mound

Battle of Natural Bridge

Cape Florida Lighthouse

Rawlins House

Pensacola Historical District

Ormond Garage

Miami, Florida

Duval County, Florida

Fort George, Florida

Flagler County, Florida

Citrus County, Florida

Volusia County, Florida

Leon County, Florida

Dade County, Florida

Cross Creek, Florida

Pensacola, Florida

Ormond Beach, Florida



TOM ADAMS
SECRETARY OF STATE

STATE OF FLORIDA
Department of State

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE 32304

DIVISION OF ARCHIVES, HISTORY
AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT

December 18, 1970

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Department of Interior
National Park Service
801 - 19 Street, Northwest
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Bill:

Transmitted herewith are the nominations of Florida historic places to the National Register of Historic Places. The properties nominated are as listed on an enclosure have the unanimous approval of the Florida Professional Review Committee and the State Liaison Officer as unquestionably worthy of entry into the National Register.

With warmest wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Williams".

Robert Williams, Director
and State Liaison Officer

RW/sps

Enclosures



FLORIDA PROPERTIES RECOMMENDED FOR NOMINATION TO THE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>NAME OF PROPERTY</u>
Citrus	Crystal River Indian Mounds
Duval	Kingsley Plantation
Escambia	L & N Marine Terminal
Escambia	Lavalle House
Leon	Bellevue
Leon	Columns
Leon	Escambe' (Spanish Mission and Apalachee Town)
Leon	Lake Jackson Mounds
Leon	Unión Bank
Manatee	Gamble (Robert), House
Monroe	Armory
Monroe	Baldwin House
Monroe	Key West District
St. Johns	Alcazar Hotel
St. Johns	Lewis Field
St. Johns	Lindsley House
St. Johns	Rodriguez-Avero-Sanchez House



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 Curran

ATTEST:

SEP 20 1970

William J. Hueston
Keeper of The National Register

Date JUL 1 1970

Reality Check: Interpreting the Plantation Life Hollywood Doesn't See

Brian Peters
National Park Service
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

Prepared for the Eighth Symposium of The George Meany Memorial Archives, "BUILDING HISTORY AND LABOR HISTORY," February 11-12, 1996

In 1803, Zephaniah Kingsley moved to Spanish Florida. He had been plying the waters of the Atlantic and Caribbean for at least six years. His Scottish father and English mother had emigrated to the colonies but remained loyal to the crown through the revolution, and were forced to move to Canada at war's end. Since then Zephaniah had travelled a great deal; he had hiked and ridden across the peaks of Haiti during another revolution, captained his own ships, and experienced the exotic coasts of Africa, arriving in Florida prepared to thrive in this land of growing opportunity. Kingsley quickly acquired the plantation Laurel Grove on the St. Johns River while his vessels continued, through the first few years, to bring African slaves to work his land and businesses. Ten years after arriving, Kingsley purchased Fort George Island and moved his family to the plantation known today as the Kingsley Plantation. Ultimately, he gained control of more than 30,000 acres scattered around the northeast quarter of Florida including fields of rice or Sea Island cotton, citrus groves, and forests of valuable timber. Along with agriculture, he had businesses ranging from local and Caribbean trading to shipbuilding and repair. Kingsley became one of Florida's most influential citizens, even gaining an appointment to the thirteen-member governing council -- appointed by President Monroe.

Today 40,000 people visit the plantation of Zephaniah Kingsley each year. The National Park Service acquired the plantation in 1991 as a unit of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. Located in Jacksonville, Florida, it includes the home of the plantation owner, the kitchen house, a large barn and 23 of the original 32 slave houses.

Many visitors bring with them images of what a nineteenth-century plantation should be -- a large mansion, fluted columns, sweeping staircases, fancy furniture -- an image often found in film and literature. This story would be easy to tell on that level. But the interpretive staff at Kingsley Plantation looked closely at the traditional view, believing that there are more far-reaching lessons to be learned from the lives and events associated with these original structures.

In the early nineteenth century many people came to Spanish Florida. Some, like Zephaniah Kingsley, sought to make their fortunes by obtaining land and establishing plantations. Others were forced to come to Florida to work on those plantations, their labor enriching the men who owned them. Some of the enslaved would later become free landowners, struggling to keep their footing in a dangerous time of shifting alliances and politics. All of these people played a part in the history of Kingsley Plantation.

In 1814, when Zephaniah Kingsley moved to Fort George Island, he brought a wife and three children. His wife, Anna Madgigine Jai, was from Senegal, West Africa, and was purchased by Kingsley as a slave. She actively participated in plantation management, acquiring her own land and slaves when freed by Kingsley in 1811.

The United States purchased Florida from Spain in 1821. The Spanish had relatively liberal policies regarding issues of race, but American territorial law brought many changes. At a time when many slaveholders feared slave rebellions, oppressive laws were enacted and conditions for Florida's black population, free and enslaved, deteriorated. Kingsley spoke against the restrictive laws, arguing that more humane treatment would ensure peace and the perpetuation of slavery. In 1829, he published his opinions in *A Treatise on The Patriarchal, or Co-operative System of Society As It Exists in Some Governments...Under the Name of Slavery*.

To escape what Kingsley called a "spirit of intolerant prejudice," Anna Jai and their sons moved to Haiti in 1837. There, Kingsley established a colony for his family and some of his former slaves. In 1839, Fort George Island was sold. Zephaniah Kingsley died in New York City in 1843.

Obviously, there is more here than the story of one wealthy, white man. We have started to look at the lives of all of the residents of the plantation, the way they lived and worked, how these discriminatory laws influenced their lives. Our interpretation attempts to give visitors a more balanced image of the plantation population. We also emphasize the skills and creativity of the enslaved African people, talents used in spite of their legal bonded condition. In our efforts we are attempting to find more details about the individuals who were enslaved on this plantation, not an easy task.

Perhaps the easiest individual to track is Zephaniah's wife, Anne Madgigine Jai. We know

that Anna was taken from her homeland, probably near the Senegal River, as a young girl. According to Kingsley, he purchased her in Havana and brought her to Spanish Florida. The first clear documentation comes with her legal manumission in 1811. This new legal freedom was accompanied by slaves given to her by Kingsley and a small land grant near St. Augustine. Anna quickly learned to operate in her economic surroundings, acquiring her own farm across the river from Zephaniah, managing it with her own slaves. This success came in spite of the obstacles of being African and female in the society dominated by European males.

She contended with an unusual political environment. The Spanish governor ruled Florida but many of Anna's most influential neighbors were not Spanish subjects; having moved to Florida from the United States, many of them pushed for U.S. control of the territory. In the resulting Patriot's Rebellion, an attempt that was supported with U.S. troops, Anna supported the Spanish government, even burning her own farm to keep it from falling into the hands of the "Patriots". As an astute business woman, she appealed to the Spanish government and, for her loyalty, was compensated for her losses. She later petitioned the United States government for compensation for the same losses.

In 1821, the new United States territory of Florida brought changes in laws, the rights of free people of color in U.S. Florida becoming more restricted every year. Anna's relationship with Zephaniah had no legal status, and the rights of her children to inherit the Kingsley wealth, and their very security was threatened. Other examples included a requirement that all free people of color, referring to Africans and mulatto, have a legal

guardian; with the guardian holding all of the rights and responsibilities of an owner of that person. Laws were passed permitting a free person of color to be sold into slavery to pay fines or debts. It is interesting to note that even though Anna and Zephaniah moved most of their family from this discriminatory environment, their two daughters stayed in Jacksonville, married to prominent white men. Anna even returned to Jacksonville prior to the Civil War staying until her death in 1870.

Anna Jai stands as an example of survival and business success in the face of tremendous racial obstacles. There are others who also demonstrate strength and courage, even while still enslaved. Kingsley often did not hire overseers on his plantations. His Laurel Grove Plantation, Kingsley's home prior to the purchase of Fort George, was run by a driver named Abraham Hanahan, and an assistant named Peter; both were slaves. In the summer of 1810, rumors of a slave insurrection in Georgia spread through north Florida. It was well known that the slaves on most of the plantations had firearms for hunting and security. The militia was sent to sweep through the plantations and take the guns of the Africans. When they arrived at Kingsley, the woman at the house (Anna?) refused to let them in, saying that she did not have the authority to let them in. The militiamen broke down the doors to the plantation houses and slave houses taking at least eleven rifles. When Abraham and Peter returned from the field, they confronted the militiamen, insisting that the rifles be returned, that the rifles belonged to Kingsley and the men had no right to take them. Getting no satisfaction, the two African men went the next day to the militia headquarters to protest and retrieve the weapons. The rifles had already been thrown in the river, but Abraham and Peter refused to back down. Finally, the militia captain ordered the men to be arrested and taken

before the court in St. Augustine. Even there, Abraham did not apologize under the charge of insolence, and both men were sentenced to 50 lashes and one month labor in chains.

Abraham was later freed by Kingsley and continued to maintain a relationship with Kingsley, although the exact nature is unclear. Peter was killed by Seminoles in the Patriot's Rebellion.

Zephaniah Kingsley, like other planters, utilized the labor of skilled African craftsmen to operate his plantations. After his death, court proceedings were initiated to sell off some of his former holdings and slaves who worked them. At issue was the management by the overseer including his practice of allowing two enslaved craftsmen, a carpenter and a mason to work very independently. In court testimony neighbors of the Kingsley property confirmed that under Zephaniah's management, the men were allowed to find their own work, travel as needed, negotiate terms and purchase supplies. The motion to sell the men was overturned.

Kingsley owned numerous properties, run almost entirely by enslaved supervisors. His seagoing ships were manned by enslaved African sailors. His substantial wealth was built on the labor of his slaves, but also the ingenuity, talent and experience of the African men and women under the status of slavery. The 200-year old buildings on the present-day Kingsley Plantation stand as simple monuments to the people too often overlooked.

Today, when a visitor arrives at Kingsley Plantation, they may bring comfortable notions of romantic plantation life. Others come with the horrors of slavery foremost on their mind. A few may come to validate prejudicial beliefs about one race or the other. In spite of our efforts, some visitors may leave with their stereotypes still intact. However, believe that this

site, and others, provide an opportunity to look beyond the stereotypes. Textbooks, film, literature and experience contribute to public opinion and education. Accurate, broad-based information and thoughtful, provocative interpretation are necessary to permit visitors to explore ideas often not available in the popular media. The actual historic site -- where real people lived with the policies and events of our past, and real-life stories serve to illustrate them -- is unmatched in its potential to help us to truly understand.

Brian Peters is East District Ranger of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, including the Kingsley Plantation site. This document is a summary for the George Meany Memorial Archive to reproduce and to sell, at cost, to participants in the February 11-12, 1996, Building History and Labor History Symposium. Please do not copy or distribute in any other form. This summary included information obtained through ongoing research.

Parties interested in precise citations or more information are asked to contact the author directly.

**Kingsley Plantation
National Park Service
11676 Palmetto Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32226
904-251-3537**




IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve
Fort Caroline National Memorial
13165 Mt. Pleasant Road
Jacksonville, Florida 32225



Memorandum

To: Federal Preservation Officer, National Park Service 

From: Superintendent, Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

Subject: Kingsley Plantation Historic District National Register Nomination

Enclosed for your review is the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination (additional documentation) for Kingsley Plantation Historic District, located within Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve in Jacksonville, Florida.

The enclosed nomination (additional documentation) presents that Kingsley Plantation is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criterion A at a national level of significance in the area of Agricultural History and at a local level of significance in the area of Recreation History.

Under Criterion B Kingsley Plantation is significant at a national level for its association with Zephaniah and Anna Madgigine Jai Kingsley in the area of Politics/Government. Kingsley Plantation is also significant at the state level under Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government for its association with John McQueen and John Houston McIntosh. Additionally, under Criterion B, Kingsley Plantation is significant at the state level in the area of Military History for its association with John McIntosh.

Under Criterion C Kingsley Plantation is nationally significant in the area of Architecture for the distinctive design of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century plantation buildings.

Finally, under Criterion D, Kingsley Plantation is nationally significant for the information potential that it has yielded, and is anticipated to continue to yield in the future, about plantation life, architectural construction methods, and the transitional economy of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Staff of the Southeast Regional Cultural Resources Division and of Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve have reviewed the nomination. The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer has also reviewed the document and indicated their approval by signing the nomination. A copy of the nomination was sent to the chief elected local official and he was given 45 days to comment. No comments have been received. The nomination is now being forwarded to your office for review and submission to the Keeper of the National Register.

Concerns or questions about this nomination should be directed to Timucuan Preserve Museum Curator Anne Lewellen at (904) 221-7567 extension 121.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240



September 19, 2016

Memorandum

To: Acting Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

From: Federal Preservation Officer, National Park Service *Joy Bailey*

Subject: National Register Nomination Additional Documentation for Kingsley Plantation Historic District, Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Duval County, FL

I am forwarding additional documentation for the Kingsley Plantation Historic District, located within the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, in Duval County, FL. The district was originally listed in the National Register in 1970; this additional documentation reflects current scholarship and the results of recent archaeological investigations conducted on the property. The Park History Program has reviewed the document and found the property eligible under Criteria A, B, C, and D. In addition to the Areas of Significance included in the 1970 nomination, the district is eligible at the national level of significance in the areas of Agriculture, Architecture, Archaeology (Historic: Non-Aboriginal), and Politics/Government; at the state level in the area of Politics/Government; and at the local level in the area of Recreation. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Spradley-Kurowski at 202-354-2266, or kelly_spradley-kurowski@nps.gov.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Kingsley Plantation
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, Duval

DATE RECEIVED: 9/23/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/08/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 70000182

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 11-8-2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Thoroughly updates old nomination & provides adequate justification
for all 4 criteria*

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER Jim Gilbert / Julie Ernst DISCIPLINE Hist / Archeo

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/~~N~~ see attached SLR Y/~~N~~

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.