

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Fort Jesup

AND/OR COMMON
Fort Jesup

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 7 miles northeast of Many on La. 6, Fort Jesup State Monument

CITY, TOWN Many VICINITY OF 4th NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Louisiana CODE 22 COUNTY Sabine CODE 085

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME State of Louisiana, administered by State Parks and Recreation Commission

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Drawer 1111

CITY, TOWN Baton Rouge VICINITY OF Louisiana STATE Louisiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Sabine Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Main and Capitol Streets

CITY, TOWN Many STATE Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	(rebuilt)	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

After the sale of the lots and buildings of Fort Jesup at the auctions of 1850, 1875, 1880, and 1885, the great stone and log garrison structures were torn down, removed or gradually deteriorated. By 1929, only one building remained, a kitchen. The roof and floor were nearly all gone, and the crumbling foundation threatened the collapse of the entire structure. Local interest in the history of Fort Jesup provided funds for the restoration of this building. In replacing the roof, hand riven cypress boards were used and the original handwrought hinges and nails reused. The old rock chimney was rebuilt and decaying members were replaced with hewn logs and sills were replaced where needed. A new floor of rough oak boards was laid and the stone foundation was also replaced. The extent of the park around this structure was 3 acres.

In 1957, Fort Jesup State Monument was established, consisting of 20.5 acres. The original restored building was refurnished with period reproductions and authentic pots, pans and utensils. One of the officers' quarters has been reconstructed for use as a visitor center and park administrative office, with exhibits designed to tell the story of the fort. The area has also undergone extensive landscaping.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1822

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Jesup, on the Sabine River in Sabine Parish, Louisiana, was established in 1822, by the United States Government as its farthest military frontier post in western Louisiana.

For twenty-six years it held first place in importance as the focal point in military operations through the epochal events of the southwest which so materially expanded the possessions of the United States. Although the center of all military activities of the western border it had no spectacular participation in any battle, combat or siege.

Erected to hold one frontier, as the outcome of the diplomatic controversy between the United States and Mexico, which continued through two decades, its usefulness and existence as a military fort ended when the western frontier of the United States was advanced 600 miles to the southwest after the annexation of Texas. This was too distant for Fort Jesup to be useful in any measures of protection for that frontier.

Established by Lt. Col. Zachary Taylor in 1822, General Taylor return to its command in later years to literally begin the Mexican War from its peaceful seclusion, and when his "Army of Observation" marched away, July 1845, to the Nation's third war, Fort Jesup was abandoned as a fort, and its buildings and grounds placed on sale at auction, on April 28, 1850.

HISTORY

The history of Fort Jesup, twenty-four miles west of Natchitoches, in Sabine Parish, marks the advancing frontier of the West. When Louisiana was purchased by President Jefferson in 1803, there was a dispute between the French of Louisiana and the Spanish of Mexico as to the western boundary. The French claimed to the Sabine and the Brazos rivers, while the Spanish claimed to the Red and the Aroyo Hondo, a small creek four miles west of Natchitoches. This dispute was left unsettled by the transfer, and recognizing it General Wilkinson made an agreement with General Herrers, of the Spanish Government, that, pending a settlement, there would be established between the two territories a "Neutral Strip," thirty to forty miles in width, extending eastward from the Sabine, including most of what is now the western Louisiana Parishes. This Neutral Strip, over which neither government exercised dominion or police power, soon became a No Man's Land, the home of outlaws, who attacked the trains of ever increasing numbers of emigrants into Texas.

(Continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20.5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	4 6 2 0 0 0	3 4 9 7 6 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 5	4 6 1 9 5 0	3 4 9 6 9 7 5

B	1 5	4 6 2 3 2 5	3 4 9 7 2 2 5
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	1 5	4 6 1 6 0 0	3 4 9 7 1 7 5

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project; original form prepared by Frank Sarles, 1958.

ORGANIZATION	DATE
<u>Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service</u>	<u>August 1975</u>
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
<u>1100 L Street NW.</u>	<u>202-523-5464</u>
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
<u>Washington</u>	<u>D.C. 20240</u>

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-663), 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

Landmark JULY 4 1961
Designated by 89-663, date
Boundary Certified:
George F. ...
APR 10 1978 date

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

11/24/78

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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The boundary dispute between the two nations was finally adjusted in 1819, when the Sabine was agreed to by the treaty of Washington. The United States moved swiftly to occupy and police its newly acquired strip of territory and to safeguard its new frontier. On March 28, 1822, Lt. Col. Zachary Taylor was ordered to occupy Shields' Spring, 25 miles south-southwest of Fort Selden, on the watershed between the Sabine and Red rivers. By November of 1823 the garrison at Cantonment Jesup, as it was known, was the largest of any post in Louisiana, comprising four companies of the 7th Infantry. In 1827-28, a military road was constructed to link Jesup with Cantonment Towson in Arkansas Territory, 262 miles northwest. On June 3, 1833, an order by Secretary of War John C. Calhoun formally established the Post of Fort Jesup. The Fort Jesup Military Reservation contained nearly 16,000 acres. It was also situated a short day's march from the Sabine, and on the great San Antonio Trace. This international highway between the colonies of France and Spain, had been the major connective link between the Louisiana territory and Mexico and was therefore strategic in the defense of the area.

Fort Jesup was first occupied by troops of the 7th Infantry in May, 1822, and during that summer and winter the barracks were constructed, from stone quarried nearby and from logs hewn on the spot. It was named for Brigadier General Thomas Sidney Jesup, then Quartermaster-General of the Army, and later famous in the Seminole War. Laid out by Zachary Taylor, he was to return to it more than twenty years later, in 1845, as a General, here to concentrate the American Army for the invasion of Mexico and the liberation of Texas.

With the outbreak of the Texas Revolution in 1835, Maj. Gen. Edmund P. Gaines, commanding the Western Department, was ordered to take personal command of all troops in western Louisiana, and reinforcements were sent to Fort Jesup. Gaines reached that post in April, 1836. Being authorized by subsequent orders to advance if necessary, he marched thirteen companies of infantry to the Sabine River, where they established a temporary post designated as Camp Sabine. Hostile Indian activity along the frontier caused Gaines to occupy Nacogdoches, beyond the Sabine, and begin preparations for an extensive campaign. With the independence of Texas assured, however, President Andrew Jackson adopted a policy of "watchful waiting" along the southwestern frontier. Gaines was removed from immediate command in that area, and in November, 1836, Nacogdoches was evacuated.

After several years of relative calm, international attention again was focused on the Louisiana frontier by the question of the annexation of Texas, a major issue of the 1844 presidential election. In May, 1844,

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Brigadier General Zachary Taylor was ordered to Fort Jesup to take command of the Army of Observation then concentrating there. He arrived on June 15, coming by steamboat to Grand Ecore, and thence to Fort Jesup along the San Antonio Trace. When in March, 1845, President Tyler offered Texas admission to the Union as a state, orders were given to Bvt. Brig. Gen. Zachary Taylor, commanding the First Department of the Western Division at Fort Jesup, to hold his troops ready to march into Texas. Taylor's "Army of Observation" consisted of seven companies of the 2nd Dragoons, the 3rd Infantry, and eight companies of the 4th Infantry. Among the junior officers were Bvt. 2nd Lt. Ulysses S. Grant and Capt. William J. Hardee.

On June 15, Taylor was informed that the Texas Convention probably would accept the United States offer on July 4, and that, in anticipation of that action, he should move his force to a point on or near the Gulf of Mexico. Upon favorable action by the Texans, he was told, he should move by water to western Texas. His mission was to be limited to the defense of that new state "unless Mexico should declare war against the United States."

Having selected New Orleans as the point of embarkation, Taylor sent the dragoons overland and embarked the infantry on steamers at Grant Ecore, the 4th Regiment on July 2 and the 3rd on July 7. No longer garrisoned, and with the frontier moved far to the west by the annexation of Texas, Fort Jesup was inactivated on November 29, 1845. The buildings and some 6,400 acres of the military reservation were offered at public auction on April 23, 1850, and most of the remaining lands were transferred to the Department of the Interior and disposed of by public sale between 1875 and 1884.

At the time of its abandonment, Fort Jesup consisted of some fifty buildings, about one-third of which were rated as "old and worthless." Total value was estimated in 1849 at \$3,500. In 1889 the Fort Jesup Masonic Institute was established on the site, and became one of the leading educational institutions of North Louisiana, and later became the first public high school in Sabine Parish. In 1929 the one remaining building, a kitchen, was restored. Then in 1957, the state took over the site and developed it into a twenty-two acre park.

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Because all of the original fort with the exception of one heavily restored and minor building is no longer existing, the major importance of this site lies in its commemoration of a significant historical site, and any archeological remains which may exist. The original large acreage was established to protect trees for the use of the fort and no documented building extended beyond the fort compound. This land was divided for settlement as early as the 1850's and has been gradually altered from its wilderness condition. For this reason the landmark boundary has been drawn to coincide with that of the state park as shown on the USGS Map dated 1957 for Many, Louisiana which provides sufficient acreage to protect any unexcavated archeological remains. Buildings on the site, other than the old kitchen do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.