

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Fort Jackson

AND/OR COMMON

Fort Jackson

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 2.5 miles southeast of Triumph on La. 23, on the west bank of
Mississippi River

CITY, TOWN

Triumph

 VICINITY OF

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

22

COUNTY

Plaquemines

CODE

075

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 MUSEUM
 COMMERCIAL
 PARK
 EDUCATIONAL
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 ENTERTAINMENT
 RELIGIOUS
 GOVERNMENT
 SCIENTIFIC
 INDUSTRIAL
 TRANSPORTATION
 MILITARY
 OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Plaquemines Parish Commission Council

STREET & NUMBER

Route 39 east bank of Mississippi River

CITY, TOWN

Pointe a la Hache

VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Registry of Deeds, ETC. Plaquemine Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Pointe a la Hache

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Jackson is located about thirty miles from the Gulf of Mexico. The foundations of the fort were made of three layers of cypress logs, topped by cypress planks which were used as a leveling device. This was made airtight by being submerged in water. A description by J. G. Barnard from 1862 describes the fort as it existed at the beginning of the Civil War:

Fort Jackson is a bastioned pentagon, with fronts of about 110 yards.

It is built of brick and is in good condition. Its scarp walls are 22 feet high, measured from the offset of the foundation, which is pretty nearly the bottom of the wet ditch. The work is surrounded by a wet ditch, which, at the lowest water of the ditches is 6 feet deep in the middle and about 5 feet at foot of scarp wall. (There is no counterscarp wall, the wet ditch being revetted with timber just up to the edge of the water, from where the earth slopes less than 45 degrees.) Thus the top of the scarp is 16 feet above the surface of water in ditch at low water, and 14 feet 8 inches at high water. The ditches are flanked by a 24-pounder howitzer in casemate in each of the 10 flanks.

Owing to the fact that the parapets are not carried around the flanks and faces of the bastions (for fear they would not sustain the weight), there is not much room for musketry fire on the flanks. The faces of the bastions may be lined with infantry, as the bastions are hollowed out, leaving the top of the scarp to serve as a parapet. Extending 450 or 500 yards below Fort Jackson is an old levee (made at the time of the commencement of the work), having a return or elbow running back to the swamp. This return is near 400 yards long. It serves to protect the rear of the fort from the backwater of overflow. This levee was repaired, I think, under my directions... The fort levee proper encloses the works and the grounds, passing within about 100 yards of the northern bastion salient, 150 from the two eastern, and 300 from the two western bastion salients. The backs of the casemate arches interfere very much with this arrangement along the flanks.

The two curtains bearing on the river are casemated for 8 guns each. As the traverse of a casemate gun is but 60 degrees, it follows there is a sector of 12 degrees in front of the central water bastion which is not touched by casemate fire.

The parapets of the two water fronts are arranged to receive 22 channel-bearing guns. The parapets of the other fronts receive 16 more barbette guns, a portion of which bear indirectly upon the

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 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	1862	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Jackson, about thirty miles from the mouth of the Mississippi River was built in 1822 to provide further protection for New Orleans and the Mississippi River after Andrew Jackson, for whom the fort is named, strongly emphasized this need. The fort saw little action until the Civil War, when along with Fort St. Philip on the opposite bank, it formed part of the most important link in the Confederate defense of New Orleans. When both fell after a six day battle ending April 24, 1862, the city was easily taken by Union forces, depriving the Confederacy of an important port and opening up the river for Union forces from Memphis to the Gulf of Mexico.

HISTORY

Because of the constant threat of Spain, it was felt that stronger fortifications were needed to protect the lower Mississippi River delta. General Andrew Jackson, familiar with the area because of his campaign in the War of 1812, strongly emphasized the need for another fort to protect the river from attack. It was largely because of these recommendations that the United States Government began the construction of Fort Jackson in 1822.

Fort Jackson was not the first fortification to be constructed on the west bank of the river. Earthen and timber breast works dated back to the middle 1700's. Later in 1792, Baron de Carondelet, Spanish governor of Louisiana, constructed Fort St. Philip, on the east bank. This eventually became the cornerstone from which Fort Jackson evolved.

Construction of Fort Jackson began in 1822 and was completed in 1832. It was then garrisoned by a small force until 1842, when it was declared a military reservation by executive order of President Tyler. Both forts were prepared for the Mexican-American War but these defenses were not needed.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bragg, Jefferson., Louisiana in the Confederacy, Baton Rouge, 1941.
 Rush, Richard, et al., eds., Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion, 30 vols., Washington 1894-1914, Series I, vol. 18, pp. 17-18, 432.
 Scott, R. N., et al., eds., War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, 130 vols., Washington 1880-1901, Series I, vol. VI, pp. 550-552.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 63.35

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>16</u>	<u>261250</u>	<u>3249750</u>	B	<u>16</u>	<u>261850</u>	<u>3250100</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
c	<u>16</u>	<u>262000</u>	<u>3249650</u>	D	<u>16</u>	<u>261500</u>	<u>3249500</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at Point BM Omega, proceed 1500 feet in a northeasterly direction to Point B; thence southeasterly 1584 feet to Point C, thence westerly 1742 feet to Point D, thence northwesterly 1100 feet to Point A, thence northeasterly to the point of origin.

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

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

5/21/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

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 89-665), 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.

Landmark

Designated: Dec. 19, 1960

date: Sept 13, 1977

Boundary Certified: George F. Emery

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

9/13/77

DATE

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channel.

The three land fronts of the work are covered by a glacis coupe with a covert way, having places of arms in front of the curtains. The two terminating branches of this covert way look upon the channel, and are arranged for 8 or 9 guns in each.

The branches of the covert way of the west front bear well upon the channel above the fort, and are arranged to receive 31 guns.

To increase the fire down the (blank) and in passing, an external battery has been constructed, communicating with the covert way of east front. The earthwork had been entirely completed, parapets formed, etc., but at the time it went into rebel possession it is believed that neither the breast-height walls were built nor the gun platforms laid. It had capacity to receive 25 guns.

The glacis-coupe is surrounded by a wide wet ditch. This ditch has but little over 3 feet in it at low (ditch) water, and its bottom is firm enough to bear the weight of a man without sinking very much. Nevertheless it adds very greatly to the strength of the work against assault.

The salient of the north bastion is about 140 yards from the river bank, and, say, 110 yards from the levee, and the river is about 700 yards wide.

In the center of Fort Jackson is a defensive barrack of decagonal shape. It is intended to be made bombproof by covering the 1-foot-square timbers of the ceiling with earth. Probably the rebel garrison have done this. This building will accommodate 400 or 500 men. As there is beside, a great deal of bombproof shelter in the casemates and galleries, the garrison is well sheltered from a bombardment.

Fort Jackson was badly damaged by the heavy bombardment during the attack, the levees were broken and water flooded the casements. The drawbridge and all causeways leading from the fort were destroyed and the walls were cracked and broken in many places. After the Civil War, repairs were made to make the area useable as a prison. During the Spanish American War two large modern coastal guns were installed and the area was used as a minor training base in the First World War. After the war the site was sold to private owners, and the swamp gradually reclaimed the area.

In 1961 the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council, began the restoration

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program of the abandoned fort and its 82 acre reservation. The fort area had become a jungle with mud-filled tunnels infested with snakes and flooded with water. A protection levee was built to ring the fort and protect is against high water of the river, then an automatic pumping station was installed which drained the water. The mud and dense growth was removed, the area cleared and an access road was built to the fort, as well as a parking area. This was followed by the repairing and replacing of brick walls and the restoration of guns and gun placements, replanking bridges and walkways and the opening of the original fort moats and drains.

To complete the transformation of the area into a historic and recreational park, identifying markers were placed throughout the fort and an exhibition of retrieved objects has been established. A program has begun using electronic equipment to recover more of the war relics within the fort boundaries. Included in the renovation were two multicolored fountains on the turret in the Spanish American disappearing gun placements, and wrought iron picket guards placed on the top of the wall of the fort.

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Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, Vol II, New York 1887.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION FIRST PARAGRAPH

Although the area has been changed by the continual need to build and repair levees, the configuration of these levees today serves to protect any archeological and historical information which lies in the immediate fort area. The aerial photograph from 1935, prior to the restoration, indicates the outer wall line of the fort as drawn after the battle (sketch map A.) In the 1974 aerial photograph it can be seen how reservoir construction has disrupted this to the east, and landscaping has obliterated it to the west. However, remains may still be present for further investigation and the area is therefore included in the landmark boundary.