

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

**NRIS Reference Number: 04000142**

**Date Listed: 03/05/04**

**Mala Compra Plantation Archeological Site**  
**Property Name**

**Flagler**  
**County**

**FL**  
**State**

**N/A**  
**Multiple Name**

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**This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.**

*for Erik K. Martin Subert*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of the Keeper**

*3/5/04*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date of Action**

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**Amended Items in Nomination:**

\*Cultural Affiliation is amended to include "Hispanic".

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 04000142

Date Listed: March 5, 2004

Property Name: Mala Compra Plantation Archaeological Site

County: Flagler

State: Florida

N/A  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

March 5, 2004  
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 2. Location

The street and number is hereby changed to approximately 1,000 feet west of the intersection of N. Oceanshore Boulevard (State Route A1A) and Mala Compra Drive.

The city and town is hereby changed to vicinity of Palm Coast.

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The Florida State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

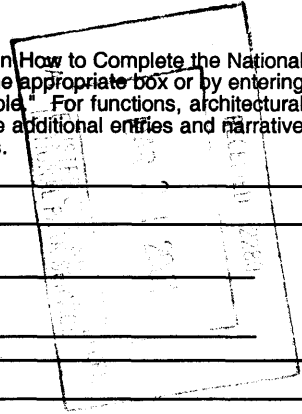
**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.



1. Name of Property

historic name Mala Compra Plantation Archaeological Site

other names/site number 8FL26

2. Location

street & number 5880 N. Oceanshore Boulevard (Highway A1A) n/a  not for publication

city or town Palm Coast n/a  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Flagler code 035 zip code 32137

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara E. Mattick, DSHPO for Survey & Registration 1/23/04  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Office, Division of Historical Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
  - See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Carla K. Martin Sabert 3/5/04

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)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	total

Name of related multiple property listings

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

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape: county park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

n/a

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Coquina shellstone

walls

roof

other Tabby

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Archaeology: Historic--Non-aboriginal
Politics/Government
Military

Period of Significance

- 1792-1802
1816-1836

Significant Dates

- 1836

Significant Person

Hernandez, General Joseph M.

Cultural Affiliation

- Second Spanish Period (1783-1821)
American Period (1821--)

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of Repository
#

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Less than 1

**UTM References**

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	4 8 0 2 6 0	3 2 7 5 9 7 0	3															
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing													
2				4															

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Susan R. Parker, Ph.D., historian & Greg Smith, Ph.D., archaeologist/Barbara E. Mattick, DSHPO for S & R

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date December 2003

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-0250

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional Items**

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Flagler County Board of County Commissioners, c/o S. Lauren Kornel, Environmental Planner III

street & number 1200 E. Moody Boulevard, P.O. Box 787 telephone (386) 437-7484

city or town Bunnell state FL zip code 32110

**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 amend 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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section number 7 Page 1 **MALA COMPRA PLANTATION SITE  
Flagler County, FL**

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**SUMMARY**

The archaeological remains of the residence building, a kitchen/washhouse building, and a well compose the Mala Compra Plantation Archaeological Site (8FL26), the residence and plantation of Joseph Martin Hernandez and his family from 1816 to 1836. Hernandez was Florida's first voice in Congress as a territorial delegate in 1822 and 1823 and the first person of Hispanic background to serve in Congress. The two buildings and well are made out of local coquina shellstone and oyster-shell cement mortar. A non-contributing pavilion shelters the site. The ruins are located at Bing's Landing County Park in the extreme northeast corner of Flagler County, Florida, between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway. Washington Oaks State Gardens lies to the north, encompassing land that was also part of the Hernandez plantation complex. Bing's Landing Park is a recreational park with picnic areas, children's playground equipment and a boat ramp. At this time, there is no other apparent evidence of the cotton plantation that belonged to the Hernandez family.

**SETTING**

Mala Compra lies within the Coastal Lowlands physiographic zone on the Atlantic Beach Ridges. The landscape in the area is relatively level and at a low elevation of 10 feet above sea level or less. The sandy soils of the area support a variety of oak, cabbage palm, hickory and southern magnolia trees. The understory includes saw palmetto, creeping bluestem, wild grape, and grasses. Live oaks covered with Spanish moss are present in addition to palm trees and occasional cedars.

**WORK AT SITE**

The earliest known evaluation of Mala Compra was conducted during the late 1970s by former State Archaeologist James J. Miller. He visited the park in response to an informant's report of coquina in the vicinity and inspected the well and building remains. Martin Dickinson and Lucy Wayne (1998) conducted an assessment survey of a small parcel of Bing's Addition and recommended more intensive testing than their 25-meter shovel tests. From December 1998 to March 1999 archeological surveying, testing and historical research were conducted by Ted Payne and Patricia Griffin of MAAR Associates, Inc. A surface collection was conducted to identify artifact concentrations and structural foundations. Artifacts were collected within 20 by 20 meter grids, resulting in 38 shovel tests. Formal excavations units were dug within or directly adjacent to the two known structures: the residence and kitchen-washhouse. During 1999, 46 units were excavated to investigate the foundations of the two buildings. Thirty-three were dug at the residence, 13 at the kitchen-washhouse. The excavations most commonly measured one-meter square, although narrow trenches (0.5 by 4 meters) and units of 0.5 by 1 meter were also employed.

Building on the understanding of the kitchen and main house layout that was revealed in the 1999 investigations, the 2001 excavation by Environmental Services, Inc. (ESI) was designed primarily to investigate

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areas within the site where artifacts and features reflecting daily life and use of space through material culture were expected (ESI Figure 5.1). Shovel testing, first at 10-meter intervals, then at more reduced spans, was conducted. A four-inch diameter soil auger tests supplemented shovel tests. Areas suggesting intact cultural deposits and/or artifact concentration were subjected to formal excavation.

The known structural features were subjected to additional testing as well. Several excavations units were placed directly adjacent to the two known structures and excavated to recover additional architectural information and to sample a dense occupational refuse midden on the south side of the kitchen (TU's 6 & 7).

The 2001 archaeological investigations were designed primarily to recover information related to day-to-day life and the use of space. Excavations at the Bing's Landing portion of 8FL26 involved less emphasis on the previously revealed structural foundations and more on identifying and understanding aspects of behavior. This was approached through an investigation of refuse deposits, work areas, possible outbuilding locations, etc.

Reduced interval shovel testing, coring, and probing provided needed information on disturbances, artifact density, and the locations of possible structures and activity areas. Additionally, one-meter square units were excavated to evaluate the proposed locations for posts to support a pavilion covering the residence, well, and kitchen-washhouse. Additional excavation to address questions related to the two structures was also conducted. In all, over 81.5 square meters were excavated near the residence, well, kitchen-washhouse, and in outlying portions of Bing's Landing Park.

## **RESOURCES**

### **Plantation Dwelling House Site**

Based on archaeological investigations, the one and one-half story plantation dwelling house (Structure 1, Photos 1 & 2, ESI Figure 5.29) appears to measure approximately 27.5 by 33.5 feet, including what is believed to have been an exterior, tabby-surfaced porch, or "piazza." Those who knew the plantation described the house in 1838 affidavits as 18 feet wide and 30 feet long with a piazza about 10 feet wide.<sup>1</sup> Despite gaps in the coquina foundation walls in the northern and western parts of the residential structure, elements that remain intact provide a great deal of architectural detail. The western part of the residence is marked by tabby supports that appear to have formed the northwest and southwest corners of the buildings. The eastern tabby layer may have been an exterior surface, probably the piazza, with its edge-laid coquina blocks and downward sloping of the tabby pours, sloping away from the structure. Posts suggest additional construction of another piazza along the west side of the structure.

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<sup>1</sup>Claim for Damages by Joseph Hernandez in Report no. 104, House of Representatives, January 26 1843, page 34.



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The absence of tabby flooring in the western half of the structure suggests this portion of the residence had the documented "floors planed tongued and grooved."<sup>2</sup> A coquina-block, double chimney remains intact (Photos 3 & 4), and documented features that do not survive included a stairway, six apartments (rooms), a cellar, and other structural elements, such as windows, shutters, and shingles, which were itemized in Hernandez's claim for damages suffered during the Second Seminole War.

The remains of the Hernandez residence incorporate and overlay elements of a structure that was probably associated with the Josiah Dupont family, who was located on the property from 1792 to 1802 (ESI Figure 5.29). Large coquina blocks outline the central portion of the Hernandez residence. These blocks appear to have been associated with the structure during the occupation of the DuPont family. The earlier tabby floor was also probably associated with the DuPonts' tenure. Payne and Griffin (1999:59-61) suggest that irregularities in the building's dimensions indicate that more than one structure was constructed at the same location. The presence of coquina-block foundations and tabby floor underlying wooden floors in the central part of the structure suggested a smaller, earlier structure. A mean ceramic date of 1802.9 suggests Dupont's period of residence. Hand-wrought nails, the principal nail type available in 1792, when DuPont applied for his grant, also attest to an earlier residence. Hand-wrought nails, which continued to be used in the first decades of the nineteenth century but with decreasing popularity during Hernandez's time, may also be evidence of DuPont's period of occupation. The overall building dimensions date to the period of c. 1815-1830 because the associated nail assemblage is dominated by early machine-headed nail types, which were coming into use about the time Hernandez acquired Mala Compra. Hernandez probably incorporated part of the DuPont structure as he enlarged and "modernized." Wooden floors may indicate "modernization" as found in the one-and one-half story contemporary structures at 57 Treasury Street in St. Augustine, with a construction date of c. 1807, and at the Sabate Plantation north of St. Augustine with a construction of c. 1814.

**Kitchen-Washhouse Site**

The kitchen/washhouse remains lie south of the residence and measure approximately 17 by 27.5 feet (ESI Figure 5.29a). This building was also one and one-half stories with a double chimney of coquina and brick (Photo 6). The damage claims indicate that there were two rooms at ground level and a wooden loft for curing tobacco. The coquina foundations are intact and tabby flooring is well preserved in the kitchen portion of the building. Portions of the double hearth also remain.

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<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

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**Well**

A round coquina-block well is located between the two buildings (Photo 7). The subsurface portion of the well is coquina block bonded with mortar and is in an excellent state of preservation. The well has been partly reconstructed above ground. The 2001 excavation adjacent to the well was conducted on the exterior to look for evidence of construction activities. No excavations were conducted inside the well, which remains unfilled, is quite deep and contains water at the bottom.

**Other Features at Sites**

During the 2001 excavations 16 cultural features were revealed and numerous artifacts were recovered that date to the Mala Compra occupation (Photos 8-17). The features included six pits that contained artifacts (pottery, glass, metal, etc.) associating them directly with the plantation. Other features included six postholes, two construction related features, one exterior paved surface or floor, and one dog burial.

**Non-contributing Pavilion**

Subsequent to the 2001 excavations, a pavilion was erected to span the historic site for protection from weather damage (Photos 18 & 19). The pavilion roof is supported by 39 posts whose installation was monitored by archaeologists. Their placement did not impact archaeological remains.

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**SUMMARY**

Mala Compra Plantation Archaeological Site is significant at the **national, state, and local levels** under **Criterion D** in the area of **Archeology: Historic-Non-Aboriginal**, and under **Criterion B** for its association with **Joseph Hernandez** in the areas of **Politics/Government**, and **Military**. Mala Compra Plantation was the residence of José Mariano Hernández from 1816, the year of Hernández's acquisition, to 1836, when he and his family abandoned the site during the Second Seminole War. It was subsequently damaged by militia troops and after the war Hernandez did not attempt to revitalize his enterprise at his plantation to its former situation. Hernandez was Florida's first voice in Congress, the first Hispanic to serve in the U.S. Congress, a militia general in the Second Seminole War (part of the Wars of Indian Removal) and was simultaneously reviled and praised at the national level as the captor of the Seminole leader Osceola. His residence, Mala Compra, was one of many coastal plantations in the coastal southeast that grew long-staple cotton. The archaeological remnants of the main house, well and kitchen at Mala Compra Plantation offer vestiges of a coastal plantation that, as the residence of Joseph Hernandez, is associated with an individual significant to the political and military history of Florida and the nation. In addition, the physical evidence serves as a rare representative example of the many plantations of the region that were repeatedly destroyed. Many other such plantations occupied locations that years ago became developed urban and suburban areas.

**HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

**First Spanish Period (1565-1763)**

Although there is evidence of European contact with Florida before 1513, Ponce De Leon's landing in 1513 is considered the official European discovery of Florida. Ponce de Leon's explorations were followed by several others, including those of Narvaez, DeSoto, and de Luna. Resistance from the Indians, poor living conditions, and the absence of precious metals quelled the Spanish fervor for settlement, however, and by the 1560s, Florida was virtually abandoned by the Spanish. French efforts to settle in northeast Florida in the early 1560s revived Spanish interest, however, for the Spanish realized the strategic importance of Florida's location along Spanish shipping routes from the New to the Old World. St. Augustine was established by the Spanish as a garrison and mission site in 1565, and became the first permanent European settlement in what became the United States.

Missions were a major component of Spain's renewed efforts to settle Florida. The earliest Florida missions were established near St. Augustine in northeast Florida, but spread west by 1633. The seventeenth century is considered the "Golden Age" of Franciscan missions in Florida. The Spanish were motivated to establish missions not only by a sincere desire to see Indians converted to Christianity, but also by the realization that missions could create stability, facilitate acculturation, and provide a source of food for St. Augustine.

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By the eighteenth century, English colonies were established north of Florida in Georgia and the Carolinas. The struggle for colonial power between Spain and England led to the destruction of the mission system. Colonial James Moore of Carolina led an invasion into Florida from 1702-1704 to capture St. Augustine and destroy the missions that supported the settlement. Although St. Augustine was never captured, the missions never recovered.

Struggles for colonial power continued in the eighteenth century. France's loss of the Seven Year War (1754-1763) resulted in the transfer of ownership of colonial lands. According to the terms of the peace treaty, Spain gained Havana, Cuba from England in exchange for Florida.

**The British Period (1763-1784)**

When England took over Florida, there were only a few settlements: St. Augustine; St. Marks, on the central northern Gulf coast; and Pensacola. The interior was inhabited by Indians (then mostly Seminoles), and French and British traders. The British divided the vast territory of Florida into two separate colonies: East Florida, governed out of St. Augustine; and West Florida, governed out of Pensacola. The Apalachicola River formed the boundary between the two.

By 1763 the native Florida Indians north of the Everglades were virtually extinct due to the combined effects of disease, warfare, and slave raids on the Florida colony by the English in Georgia and the Carolinas. Repopulation of Florida by non-Europeans began during the First Spanish Period by Creek Indians known in Florida as the Seminoles, and this repopulation accelerated during the British period.

The British strategy for settlement was based on trade with the Indians, and the establishment of plantations along the St. Johns River. Through royal land grants, plantations were established along the St. Johns River in East Florida. One of the most elaborate settlement efforts was led by Dr. Andrew Turnbull who brought Minorcans, Italians, and Greeks from the Mediterranean to his New Smyrna colony on the east coast of Florida in present day Volusia County. The colony was a disaster, however, and many of the Minorcans fled to St. Augustine in 1777.

Tensions between England and her colonies north of East and West Florida led to the American Revolution in 1776. Neither of the Florida colonies had any quarrel with the mother country, and therefore remained loyal to the crown. Loyalists in Georgia and the Carolinas fled from their homes, many finding a haven in Florida, the Bahamas, or Bermuda. With England's defeat in 1783, the Florida colonies reverted to Spain, which had been allied with the Americans.

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**The Second Spanish Period (1784-1819)**

The Spain that regained control of Florida was not the great colonial power it had been during the First Spanish Period. Years of European war and rebellion among its colonies in South and Central America crippled Spain's efforts to control its regained domain, which was now filled with Seminoles, runaway slaves, and renegade whites from the United States.

In 1790 the Spanish emulated the English and began to give land grants to encourage resettlement. They made free land available by homestead grants to immigrants as well as to residents who were already in Florida. Homesteaders could acquire acreage apportioned by the number of household members: 100 acres for the head of household and 50 for additional members, including slaves. Settlers had to establish and maintain a farmstead for ten years, build adequate structures, raise crops and keep cattle to fulfill the grant requirements. The importance of water travel was affirmed by the practice of granting tracts with the longer dimension running inland (ideally two-thirds more than the water frontage) to maximize the number of settlers having access to waterways. At the completion of a ten-year occupation, Florida's governor could convert the settlement grant into private property.<sup>1</sup>

In its weakened condition, Spain was unable to effectively counter foreign, particularly American, attempts to take over its Florida holdings. Americans were land hungry and anxious to maintain their security from foreign powers. The most destructive of the incursions into Florida during the second Spanish period took place in 1795 and 1812, with less damaging disturbances by Native Americans who were backed and goaded into action by British entrepreneurs in 1798 and 1800-1802. In January 1794, East Florida's governor learned of invasion plans by expeditionaries from American Georgia. He ordered buildings in the northern countryside between the St. Mary's and St. Johns rivers to be burned, crops harvested, and plantations abandoned to deprive the invaders of supplies and support. The invasion did not come until the summer of 1795 and destruction did not reach as far south as the area of Mala Compra. But the pattern of invasion and abandoned or destroyed plantations had begun. Native Americans used the disruptions or the rumors of potential invasions to their advantage. In 1788 and then in 1800, Native Americans supported by British traders raided East Florida plantations. In March 1812, an expeditionary force from Georgia crossed into Spanish Florida, beginning the two-year Patriot War. Plantations and farmsteads were burned and looted throughout northeast Florida. Many planters left Florida after 1812, discouraged and disgusted. Such intrigues and rebellion, often unofficially sanctioned by the American government, eventually led to Spain's relinquishment of Florida to the United States.

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<sup>1</sup>Works Progress Administration, *Spanish Land Grants in Florida* (Tallahassee: State Library Board, 1941), 1: xx-xxv.

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**The American Period (1819-present)**

Through the 1819 Adams-Onís Treaty, Spain ceded Florida to the United States in return for the settlement of American claims against Spain. The treaty was ratified in 1821. After Florida became a part of the United States, property owners wishing to retain land titles acquired during colonial times had to apply to U.S. Land Commissioners to assess the validity of ownership claims. The Land Commission affirmed many of the applications, but denied others because claimants had not fulfilled the requirements for ownership under prior, colonial governments. Some settlers whose occupation was for an inadequate period or whose claims were otherwise impaired never bothered with the confirmation process. These individuals and families who lived and worked lands in the region are absent from the documentation and thus remain absent from the region's history, making the region appear less settled than it indeed was.

Beginning at Christmas 1835, the Second Seminole War once more destroyed plantations in northeast Florida. This Seminole War, however, mostly spared those enterprises north of Julington Creek, a tributary of the St. Johns River. The several invasions and intermittent raids not only destroyed the physical aspects of agriculture, they also discouraged and drove out planters, some of whom had lost assets in more than one disruption. A Third Seminole War occurred in the 1850s, after which the American policy of Indian containment and removal effectively ended the aboriginal presence in Florida except for refugee populations in the Everglades. By the end of the 1850s American homesteaders had settled in areas throughout the entire peninsula, and a number of towns were established away from the traditional coastal locations.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Mala Compra's first recorded grantee under the British headrights policy was not the first to occupy the site. Four villages of Christian Indians stretched along this area known as *Las Rosas de Ayamón* in 1725. Remnant groups of Jororo, Lactama, Timuqua, Jospo and Pocotalaca from today's Florida, Georgia and South Carolina occupied this area. They were moved into St. Augustine for protection, shelter and food following a 1725 raid and later ordered back to this location.<sup>2</sup> In 1739 Governor Manuel de Montiano moved the Pocotalaca group back to the countryside, near their earlier location at Ayamón. A *circa* 1742 Spanish map depicts the village near this location. By 1763 the village, then known as Pocotalaca, had returned to the outskirts of St. Augustine.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup>Statement of Agustin Guillermo de Fuentes y Herrera, 1729 October 2, enclosed with petition of 1734 April 29, Archivo General de Indias (Archives of the Indies), Sevilla, Spain, Stetson Collection microfilm (originals at P. K. Yonge Library, University of Florida), 86-7-21/6.

<sup>3</sup>*Mapa de la costa de la Florida desde el Cabo Canaveral salida de la canal de Bahama hasta la Carolina . . . Cartografía de Ultramar, Carpeta II: Estados Unidos y Canada, circa 1742* (Madrid: Impr. de

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After Florida became a British colony in 1763, large land grants were often made to absentee land owners. It appears that the Mala Compra land was settled in the British period by a Loyalist, Alexander Paterson, who entered East Florida in 1776 to escape retribution for his loyalty to the British crown during the American Revolution. He reported that in 1781 he settled in the area and had it surveyed, but never made application for a grant. Paterson reported that there was a small house on the land when he settled and that he built some outbuildings. He also reported a supply of lumber and turpentine and that slaves were stolen from him at this location.<sup>4</sup>

In 1784 Great Britain returned Florida to Spain. José Mariano Hernández was born a Spanish subject in the Spanish colony of East Florida in May 1788. Hernandez's ancestral and cultural background was Spanish. His parents were natives of Minorca, an island that was culturally, linguistically and politically Iberian. Hernández's parents were born in Minorca while it was out of Spanish control after European wars had forced Spain to cede Minorca with its good harbor to its enemies.

Minorcans in British Florida retained their Iberian identity and dialect and their Roman Catholic religion. The Minorcan immigrants who arrived in then-British East Florida in 1768 likewise continued to retain their Iberian identities and chose to remain in East Florida when the colony was transferred back to Spanish control in 1783, rather than relocate with other British citizens. It was this historically Spanish cultural background into which José Mariano Hernández was born. Hernández was a citizen of Spanish East Florida until the colony's transfer to the United States in 1821, at which time he became a U.S. citizen and Anglicized his name José to Joseph and his name Mariano to Martin rather than Marion. Hernandez was a member of a core population group, the Minorcans, of Florida that persisted through British, Spanish and ultimately American sovereignty.

In 1792 Governor Juan Nepomuceno de Quesada made a headrights grant of what would become known as Mala Compra to Josiah DuPont, who immigrated from South Carolina. The grant's location on the estuary provided transportation for its residents, supplies and products. DuPont received another grant across the Matanzas River. DuPont, his wife, seven children and 27 slaves began to grow cotton, a crop just then coming

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Servicio de Geográfico del Ejército, 1949), map no. 50. Manuel de Montiano Letterbook, 1740 January 31, Bundle 37 (bnd.), no.180, East Florida Papers (EFP), Library of Congress Manuscript Collection (microfilm copies); Pablo Castelló, *Plano del presidio de San Agustín de la Florida y sus contornos . . .*, 1763 July 21. Library of Congress #LM8a-1a (original in the Spanish Ministry of War).

<sup>4</sup>Wilbur Henry Seibert, *Loyalists in East Florida*, (Deland: The Florida State Historical Society, 1929), 2:124-29.

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to the fore in East Florida, and to fulfill the decade of homesteading required by the terms of the grant. As was usual, besides cotton, they also grew corn and other provision crops.<sup>5</sup>

In the summer of 1800 East Florida Governor Enrique White ordered regular soldiers and militia to the Matanzas River area as part of the defense against disruptions. A free black militia led by Jorge Biassou was posted to the plantation of Josiah DuPont. The Spanish government had relocated Biassou from the Spanish colony of Santo Domingo (today's Dominican Republic) to East Florida, accompanied by what was for the most part his personal army and their families. Biassou's troops were charged with reconnoitering the Matanzas area, detaining any Indians seeking to come to St. Augustine and to allow to pass through only those who were friendly. But there was little or no fighting. The 1802 Treaty of Amiens between Great Britain, France, Spain, and Holland brought a period of peace among European powers. One result of the treaty, however, was the end of British support for Native American raids.<sup>6</sup>

But the treaty came too late for Josiah DuPont. In February 1802 Indians sacked his house and carried off about a dozen slaves and an English boy. DuPont's family was in St. Augustine at the time of the raid. Fearful and disheartened, they left Florida for Georgia. The Spanish government considered the DuPont grant abandoned.<sup>7</sup>

Father Miguel Crosby, a parish priest in St. Augustine, was granted the abandoned DuPont lands in 1804 and another homesteading period began. On March 6, 1816, Crosby petitioned for confirmation of his title, declaring that he had cultivated and inhabited the land for the requisite period except for "the rebellion of this province when he had to take his workers to the capital," referring to the Patriot War. Two days later Governor José Coppinger granted Crosby full ownership. Three days thereafter Crosby sold Mala Compra to José Mariano Hernández for 1500 *pesos* cash.

The 1816 deed transferring the property to Hernández described the land as "800 acres with its adjoining marshes on the Matanzas River," but did not mention any buildings. The plantation was called "Mala Compra," (Spanish for bad buy or bad purchase), so named by Hernandez. On September 4, 1818, Robert McHardy

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<sup>5</sup>Spanish Land Grants, Confirmed Claim H40 (Florida Dept. of State, R. A. Gray Building) (microfilm copies).

<sup>6</sup>Jane Landers, "Jorge Biassou, Black Chieftain," *El Escribano* 25 (1988): 85-100; J. Leitch Wright, *Anglo-Spanish Rivalry in North America*. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1971), chapters 12 and 13.

<sup>7</sup>Governor of Florida to the Captain General, 1802 February 1, bnd. 28B3, no. 459; Governor to Christobal Bravo, 1802 June 24, bnd. 137G11, no. 406, EFP.



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produced a survey of Mala Compra with a representational two-story structure corresponding to the residence building. Three outbuildings surrounded the residence. A row of workers' residences stretched along the Matanzas River south of the passage (*camino*) that ran from the river to the ocean beach. The passage separated the residence and its outbuildings from the workers' (slaves) residences. McHardy prepared a subsequent "copy of the original" survey which depicted two additional building south of the mainhouse and a row of three workers' cabins parallel to the *camino*, but the revised version retained the date of the first drawing. Whether the renderings of the plantation's buildings were actual or representational is difficult to know as Hernandez was concerned with establishing the boundaries of the grant, not with detailing any improvements, the latter required to establish a complete a homestead claim. In 1823 Charles Vignoles reported that Mala Compra produced "luxuriant" cotton crops that "command the first prices in the markets of Charleston and Savannah."<sup>8</sup> Hernandez also worked the tract north of Mala Compra, which grew oranges, and his sugar plantation, St. Joseph, across the Matanzas River.

Mala Compra Plantation was the Hernandez family residence. In recorded legal documents dated 1828 and 1829, Hernandez referred to himself as "of Mala Compra." In 1814 Joseph Hernandez had married Ana Maria Williams, who brought stepchildren into the family. An 1830 deed described the Mala Compra tract as the lands "on which he [Hernandez] presently resides." In order to work Mala Compra, Hernandez employed enslaved workers that his stepchildren had inherited in 1811 from their father, Samuel Williams. Ana Maria Williams (Hernandez) had purchased the slaves from her minor children and deferred payment until the Williams children reached adulthood. In 1829 and 1830, the Hernandezes began a sequence of mortgages and transfers of real and slave property to satisfy the Williams offsprings' demands of \$8469.21 per child, as well as to finance their agricultural activities. In 1835 Joseph and Ana Hernandez indebted themselves to the Union Bank for \$38,000, pledging as collateral Mala Compra and the other two plantations nearby, other lands located on the St. Johns River, and the slaves.

Joseph M. Hernandez was the first Hispanic to serve in the United States Congress. He was Florida's territorial delegate from September 30, 1822, to March 3, 1823, in the second session of the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.<sup>9</sup> Although other areas of Spanish America—Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana—had been admitted to the United States before Florida, the biographies of Congressmen in *Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1961*, do not list a member of Congress born in a Spanish area who served before Hernandez's legislative term. The other former Spanish colonies' earliest members of Congress had been born in the United States or in

<sup>8</sup>Spanish Land Grants, Confirmed Claim H40; *Observations Upon the Floridas* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1997 [facsimile edition]), 38, 96.

<sup>9</sup>*Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1961* (Washington, D.C.:U.S. Government Printing Office, 1961); Cathedral of St. Augustine Parish Records, White Baptisms.

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the British colonies and then moved into the former Spanish colonies. Hernandez was one of the few territorial delegates in Congress who was a native son of the territory he represented.<sup>10</sup>

Typical of planters throughout the contemporary American South, Hernandez was active in politics. Hernandez ran for re-election to Congress in 1823, but lost to Richard Keith Call. In 1824 as a kind of consolation prize for losing the Congressional contest, U.S. President James Monroe named Hernandez to Florida's Territorial Legislative Council of which he was elected president. In 1825 he made another failed bid to win election as a Territorial Delegate to Congress. In 1837 he became Justice of the Peace, and was elected mayor of St. Augustine in 1848.<sup>11</sup> Hernandez was also an avid supporter of internal improvements, especially canals, for Florida. The opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 demonstrated to the nation the economic benefits of canals. Hernandez served as a director and appraiser for the Union Bank and an officer in the state militia. He also was a gracious host, as was expected of the planter class. At Hernandez's invitation John James Audubon arrived at Mala Compra on December 14, 1831, for a ten-day visit. Audubon was in Florida as part of his travels in the United States to gather information, collect birds, and make drawings for *The Birds of America*. Audubon drew the American coot (Plate CCXXXIX) while at Mala Compra, finding the bird "in every ditch, bayou, or pond" at the plantation. In the illustration the coot waits at the water's edge among marsh grass.<sup>12</sup>

When Florida passed into American possession in 1821, Seminole groups occupied much of the territory's desirable land. The policy of the United States was at first to restrict the Seminoles within a limited area, then later, to remove them altogether to western U.S. territories. In September 1823, thirty-two Seminole leaders signed the Treaty of Moultrie Creek in which they agreed to abandon 24 million acres in northern Florida and migrate to lands located south of the Withlacoochee and north of the Peace rivers. When sufficient food was not forthcoming from the U.S. Government and the Seminoles' new environment proved

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<sup>10</sup>St. Johns County public records, *passim.*, and particularly Deed Book H, pp. 161, 165, 236, 443, 457, 464 and Deed Book L., p. 151.

<sup>11</sup>Ted M. Payne and Patricia C. Griffin, "1999 Preliminary Archaeological Investigations at the Joseph Martin Hernandez Mala Compra Plantation Settlement at Bings Landing County, Park, Flagler County, Florida," (Newark, Del.: MAAR Associates, Inc., 1999), 22, 27.

<sup>12</sup>*Florida Herald* (St. Augustine), September 25, 1835 and November 13, 1837; Annette Blaugrund and Theodore E. Stebbins, Jr., eds., *John James Audubon: The Watercolors for The Birds of America*, (New York: Barnes & Noble Books, 1993).

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insufficiently productive, Seminoles began marauding beyond the "reservation's" limits.<sup>13</sup> Over time Seminoles attempted to return to their former lands, which were now occupied by white farmers. Two more treaties were negotiated, providing for removal of the Seminoles out of the Florida peninsula to the west. The Treaty of Payne's Landing of 1832 was subsequently denounced by Seminole leaders. In the Treaty of Fort Gibson signed the following year, 1833, the Seminoles agreed to move to the Arkansas Territory. U.S. officials tried to speed up the removal that was agreed to in the third treaty, while some Seminoles contended that they could remain on the "reservation" lands in Florida until 1843, when the twenty-year period referenced in the earlier Moultrie Creek agreement would terminate. These three treaties reflected the larger Indian removal policies and contemporary actions by the U.S. government. Historian John Mahon asserts that the Seminoles regarded the policies as unjust and had come not to expect justice. In the end "the Seminoles refused to abide by the documents and war came."<sup>14</sup>

In February 1835 a severe freeze devastated endeavors of both whites and Seminoles. The sugar enterprises along the Halifax River and in the Mosquitos area were afflicted and citrus trees were destroyed. The loss of profits and sustenance exacerbated existing tensions. Simultaneous strikes by Seminoles at Christmastide 1835 marked the beginning of concerted resistance. On Christmas Day Seminoles destroyed recuperating sugar plantations east of the St. Johns River. Three days later Seminoles ambushed Major Francis Dade's troops near today's Bushnell. The Second Seminole War had begun. (The First Seminole War took place in 1818 while Florida was still a Spanish colony.) At the time this "second" conflict was known as the "Florida War."

Florida Militia Brigadier General Hernandez was in charge of the forces east of the St. Johns River. He had been appointed a territorial militia brigadier general in 1823, but saw little service until the Second Seminole War. In January 1836 militia troops occupied his plantations on the Matanzas River. They used the cotton house at Mala Compra as their main defensive structure at the plantation. Later, Seminoles destroyed that building. Contemporaries conjectured that the cotton house was targeted by the Seminoles because it was the primary site of military activity. But the entire plantation suffered some destruction and deterioration and lay idle during the war. Unfortunately, just ten months before the occupation the Hernandezes had pledged Mala Compra and other lands as collateral for a large debt.

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<sup>13</sup>Michael Gannon, ed. *The New History of Florida* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1996), 216-17; John K. Mahon, *History of the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842* (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1985), 42-49.

<sup>14</sup>Mahon, 74-86.

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Despite his losses, Hernandez continued his military leadership. He may be best known for the capture near St. Augustine of Seminole leader Osceola under a white flag of truce in late October 1837. Hernandez was acting under orders from U.S. Army General Thomas Jesup. The seizure turned Osceola into a martyr and Jesup into a villain in the eyes of those living beyond the area of hostilities. White citizens of Florida praised the military for this action.<sup>15</sup>

Hernandez filed for reimbursement from the United States Government for the damages to his plantation. His claims leave a detailed description of the Mala Compra Plantation buildings, its residents and equipment before and after the military occupation and Indian damage. The cottonhouse, an adjacent kitchen and some outbuildings associated with the cottonhouse were burned. All the other buildings were "in a state of ruin and dilapidation—the fences down, and the orange grove overrun with grass." The dwelling house was damaged with loopholes cut into its clapboards for rifle holes, a window shutter broken, and a load of buckshot fired through the staircase. The occupying troops also wrote their names on the inside walls of the dwelling house. Horses were brought into the residence house and one observer compared its condition to a stable.<sup>16</sup>

In the 1840s Hernandez reactivated the plantation on a limited basis with his stepson William living there as manager. Hernandez himself was at Mala Compra on a seasonal basis, but apparently never regained his pre-war energy and interest in the plantation. Several of his children had died and he buried his wife in 1849. In the early 1850s Hernandez relocated to Cuba and the former plantation lay idle. Hernandez died in Cuba in 1857 and is buried there. In 1897 Venancio Sanchez, who had served as agent for Joseph Hernandez's heirs, purchased the property. During the Florida real-estate boom of the 1920s, the former Mala Compra Plantation was subdivided by Johnson-Hernandez, Inc., but not developed before the boom faltered. In 1962 the center part of Hernandez homestead tract was purchased by Bing and Geraldine Shows and became "Bing's Towncienda Motel and Fishing Resort." The coquina ruins of the plantation remained in place. Widow Shows sold the property in 1979 to Charles Yant and John Gesseldenz. In 1989 Flagler County used Environmentally Sensitive Lands funds to purchase the property.<sup>17</sup>

Typical of plantations in northeast Florida, Mala Compra was farmed during Florida's Second Spanish Period by settlers from the former British North American colonies. It was abandoned because of raids and the Spanish government granted the land anew. The Spanish Land Grants abound with examples of settlers of

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<sup>15</sup>Ibid., 214.

<sup>16</sup>U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, 27<sup>th</sup> Congress Rep. No. 104, 1843 and 28<sup>th</sup> Congress Rep. No. 58.

<sup>17</sup>Payne and Griffin, 26, 37.

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Northern European ancestry homesteading rural Spanish East Florida, only to be driven elsewhere.<sup>18</sup> Mala Compra was a typical barrier island plantation in its design and layout and in the buildings' relationships to each other; in its location near the banks of the waterway transportation route, and in its use of coastal building materials. The 1818 McHardy survey depicted a main house with three outbuildings nearby. The floor, chimney, and below-grade walls of the main house and washhouse-kitchen remain today. In typical plantation layout, workers' cabins were separated from the owners' space. Another two-story building was placed at a distance from all the living quarters and adjacent to a cleared field (*terreno desmontado*). This was probably the storehouse or cotton house mentioned in the claim for damages.

Plantations were working agricultural enterprises and the residence house of the owner was usually an ordinary, unpretentious building. The size of the buildings at Mala Compra reflects that the plantation was first an agricultural enterprise and that the residence building was part of the workings of the plantation, not primarily a building to make a statement about the wealth or status of the occupants. The dwelling house was no larger than the kitchen or corn house, which stood nearby. All three measured 30 feet by 18 feet according to testimony by those who had visited or worked there. The dwelling house offered six "apartments" (rooms) and a cellar, 16 windows, panel doors, a brick and stone chimney with two fireplaces. A ten-foot wide piazza offered views and breezes. With its "floors planed and tongued and grooved" and interior walls finished with lath and plaster, it might have been nicer than the average plantation, the latter often having "no ceiling, lathing, or plastering within," and floors constructed in an unworkmanlike manner, often revealing the ground beneath.<sup>19</sup> In keeping with the plantation's agricultural role, the cotton house was the largest building at Mala Compra, measuring 40 by 20 feet and described in the damages claim as two-story rather than the one and a half stories of the residence house.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The very history of northeast Florida deprives us of physical evidence of rural settlement and agricultural production in the region's past. Today's invisibility of northeast Florida's plantations owes to invasions by filibusterers and raids by Native Americans. These invaders and raiders destroyed the plantations in their paths, or government defensive decrees put plantation owners in the position to destroy their own

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<sup>18</sup>Susan R. Parker, "Men Without God or King: Rural Settlers of East Florida, 1784-1790," *Florida Historical Quarterly* 69 (1990), 135-55.

<sup>19</sup>Congressional Report; Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, *Within the Plantation Household: Black and White Women of the Old South* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988), 105-06.

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farmsteads in order to keep supplies and shelter out of enemy hands. Destruction and abandonment of the plantations also resulted in the loss of the planters' diaries, accounts and other records.

The Mala Compra Plantation Site offers a rare opportunity to examine vestiges representative of the numerous plantations that dotted the riverbanks of northeast Florida in the 1700s and 1800s. Many others have been absorbed and obliterated by modern development. The Mala Compra residence's location survives in an environment with minimal modern incursions and with a clear view of the historically important waterway and resembles its plantation-era setting. Mala Compra's remains illustrate that the rural areas of northeast Florida were indeed peopled and worked more than two centuries ago although the evidence and the memory of them has been lost. Because of minimal modern development at Mala Compra, not only does the site offer the obvious remnants of plantation buildings, but the building remains and surrounding grounds also offer data which, through professional archaeological investigation, can contribute to and expand our understanding of use of space, building evolution, labor and work, dietary practices, clothing and other personal possessions.

The archaeological significance of the Mala Compra Plantation site (8FL26) is evidenced in both artifactual and structural remains that contribute to an understanding of the 19<sup>th</sup> century history of the vicinity and region. Archaeological remains associated with the 800-acre Mala Compra Plantation have thus far been found in Bing's Landing County Park, which covers 3.9 acres and contains the foundations of the plantation residence, the kitchen-washhouse, and a coquina block well. A second county-owned land parcel, Bing's Addition, is directly to the south and covers 4.6 acres, but only minimal artifactual information associated with the plantation has been noted in this area thus far. Payne and Griffin noted cut coquina blocks being unearthed by large tree roots in the southern section of the county park and a buried cultural deposit with architectural remains dating to the time of the Mala Compra Plantation. They suggested that these stones might be evidence of the driver's house and that the workers' village could be nearby. McHardy's 1818 survey depicted two buildings standing north of the dwelling house. Based on the drawing, the northernmost building or perhaps both may lie within State land at Washington Oaks State Gardens. Additional archaeological remains that have not yet been identified may exist in other portions of the once 800-acre plantation.

Excavations within Bing's Landing Park have yielded several thousand artifacts associated with the plantation occupation, especially from a thick household midden outside the kitchen, in addition to several trash pits, postholes, and a dog burial. Artifacts recovered from the site include materials primarily associated with domestic, household activities. Pottery, glassware, and personal items were found that are consistent with the dates of the Hernandezes' plantation activity (1816 to 1836).

The artifacts recovered from excavations at Mala Compra reflect domestic activities associated with the planter's residence. The most common temporally diagnostic artifacts at the site are Pearlware and Creamware ceramics; these were made beginning in the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century, but recent research has shown that there

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was a continued preference for these wares in Spanish and Minorcan households throughout the Second Spanish Period.

Several observations can be made based on a consideration of the types of artifacts that were recovered, as well as those that were found in small numbers or not at all. For instance, despite the fact that the Hernandez family included a number of offspring, no children's toys were recovered. Circular gaming pieces have been recovered during both the 1999 and 2001 excavations, although adults could well have used these. The absence of toys may merely be the result of sampling, or it may reflect the fact that the children did not often visit the plantation, or that they left their toys at their house in St. Augustine.

Little evidence was found to support the documented occupation by military forces at Mala Compra during the Second Seminole War. But the militia often dressed in their own clothing with few militiamen at the enlisted level wearing uniforms. Militia officers had their own uniforms made to their order and might be dressed in full regalia or wearing only a portion of a uniform. One c.1821 Artillery Corps button is consistent with the documented military presence, while an earlier British Navy Captain button (c.1744-1787) is enigmatic. While there were a small number of gunflints and lead shot recovered, these accounted for a small percentage of the assemblage. Weaponry was apparently not heavily used around the residence, whether as protection from Indians or in the procurement of wild game.

Food remains were also recovered from plantation-era deposits that provide dietary evidence. The analyzed bone assemblage incorporated 1,024 fragments (1,026.4 grams). Only bone from closed contexts that did not contain intrusive material was included in the analysis. By far the majority of the bone came from the midden south of the kitchen, which yielded 73 percent of the bone recovered. The faunal assemblage from Mala Compra reflects a moderate range of taxonomic categories, all with fairly limited occurrence. These include bird, fish, mammal, reptile, and crustacean. The majority of the assemblage consisted of mammal bones (827 fragments, or 75 percent). Of those, 121 could be identified to represent opossum, small rodent, domestic dog, goat/sheep, cow, pig, and two human teeth (presumably lost in life). The fewest remains represent bird, fish, and reptile. Identified within these categories were domestic chicken, unidentified turtle, sea turtle, and unidentified fish. These remains were recovered from features and from the kitchen midden. Although few in number, these remains suggest that wild resources were used to supplement a diet of domestic food. Domestic animal remains accounted for 42.5 percent of the identified bone count while 57.5 percent were identified as wild. The pattern of domestic and wild animal remains from Mala Compra is similar to results from research that has focused on slave quarters of plantations in the region, although Mala Compra's faunal remains were associated with the planter's household, not the slave village.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup>Greg C. Smith et al, "Archaeology, History, and Recommendations for Architectural Conservation: Mala Compra Plantation, (8FL26) Flagler County, Florida," (Jacksonville: Environmental Services, Inc., 2002), 124.

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The archaeology of antebellum plantation settlements is a relatively recent development in historical archaeology. Most of the early excavations were conducted in coastal areas of Georgia and South Carolina. Substantive questions about housing, diet, and lifestyle have been investigated, as have the similarities and differences in the artifactual assemblages associated with planter, overseer, and slave occupants. Additional contributions to the study of antebellum plantation life in Florida, such as that at Mala Compra, are needed to gain a better understanding of this period of historical development. While much of the research to date has focused on slave settlements, the work at Mala Compra centered on the residence of the planter/owner.

Recent years have seen an increase in archaeological attention to Florida plantations. Many people are not aware that northeast Florida was once a prosperous sugar growing area. There were also rice plantations such as the antebellum White Oak Plantation of Zephaniah Kingsley along the banks of the St. Mary's River in Nassau County; indigo plantations such as that of James Grant at Mount Pleasant near Ponte Vedra Beach; and cotton plantations such as that of Joseph Hernandez at Mala Compra. Comparative studies contrasting the material culture and spatial arrangements that characterized different types of plantations would be one productive line of inquiry in any future investigations.

The artifacts recovered at 8FL26 provide a baseline for understanding the material culture associated with the residential complex at Mala Compra. The data from Mala Compra can also be used in drawing comparisons with other sites of the region and time period, regardless of plantation affiliation.

Well preserved structural foundations that remain in place include the one for the one and one-half story plantation residence, which had a double chimney, an exterior tabby surfaced porch, or "piazza," and possibly an additional covered porch. The kitchen-washhouse building was also one and one-half stories with a double hearth. Documentary information indicates there were two rooms at ground level, with a wooden loft for curing tobacco above, although Hernandez does not mention raising tobacco. There is also a canal or ditch running east to west that separates Bing's Landing from Bing's Addition. This canal correlates with the "camino" depicted in the 1818 survey of Mala Compra Plantation and appears to have served as a route for transporting products (cotton, oranges) from the plantation.

In summary, the building remains provide rare structural evidence of coastal plantation layout and residential construction in Florida during the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The artifactual remains provide contextual information regarding the temporal range and nature of the occupation, and also reflect some of the day-to-day activities of the inhabitants. Together, these factors suggest that the archaeological component of Mala Compra Plantation (8FL26) embodies characteristics that make the site eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*.



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**CONCLUSION**

Mala Compra qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under two criteria set forth by the Department of the Interior:

—under **Criterion B** for its association with the lives of persons significant in our past: Mala Compra is the only known remaining resource associated with Joseph M. Hernandez, (born José Mariano Hernández), the first person of Hispanic background to serve in Congress and Florida's first Territorial delegate to Congress; his Spanish and Minorcan lineage and as a member of one of the persistent population groups (Minorcans) whose presence spanned three national periods in Florida—British, Spanish, American; his role as a prominent planter; his role as a high-ranking militia officer during the Seminole Wars, which were part of the larger period of the Wars of Indian Removal, and his capture of Osceola—an event which caused nationwide reaction and has taken on legendary aspects. Furthermore, although buildings do not remain, the location, setting, and distinctive materials and workmanship of the remaining above-ground resources are intact, such that Hernandez would probably recognize the site of his plantation house if he were to see it today.

—under **Criterion D** for yielding information important to the history of 19<sup>th</sup> century coastal plantations; the use of unique, local building materials: coquina shellstone, and oyster-tabby cement. Mala Compra was one of many plantations along the estuaries and freshwater rivers of the coasts of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina that grew sea-island, or long-staple, cotton in the late 1700s and the first half of the 1800s. Devastation associated with expeditionary invasions from the United States and by Seminole groups destroyed many of the Florida coastal plantations in 1794, 1802, 1812 and the 1830s. Excavations at Mala Compra revealed information about the construction materials, evolution and enlarging of plantation residences. Coquina shellstone was used for construction of Castillo de San Marcos National Monument in St. Augustine (1672), for Fort Matanzas National Monument (1742) about six miles north of Mala Compra, and for 35 surviving colonial structures in St. Augustine. All of these structures are listed on the National Register, some individually, some as contributing structures to the St. Augustine National Register District the St. Augustine Town Plan National Historic Landmark District. Mala Compra's buildings also incorporated oyster-shell tabby concrete, which was used at plantations along the Georgia and Florida coasts, such as the slave residences at Kingsley Plantation, now incorporated into the Timucuan Preserve at Jacksonville, Florida, and buildings at Spaulding's Plantation on Sapelo Island, Georgia. As can be seen in other contemporary structures, wooden flooring replaced or was placed over the tabby floor of an earlier building; machine-produced nails appeared in the additions or renovations, replacing earlier hand-wrought nails; the dwelling house was enlarged, encasing an earlier structure; and piazzas enlarged the usable space. Excavations at Mala Compra yielded the sorts of artifacts associated with plantation sites; faunal remains illuminated plantation dietary practices. Mala Compra's relatively undisturbed and undeveloped setting offers a legacy of national importance and its lack of development offers the opportunity for further research about coastal plantations.

United States Department of the Interior  
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Section number 9 Page 1 **MALA COMPRA PLANTATION SITE  
Flagler County, FL**

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Flagler County, FL**

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**Flagler County, FL**

Mala Compra Plantation

Flagler, Florida

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION**

The Mala Compra Plantation Site is located at 5880 North Oceanshore Boulevard (Highway A1A), Palm Coast, Flagler County, Florida, at a Flagler County-owned recreation area known as Bing's Landing. The site is situated on a parcel with the legal description of Tracts 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23, Jose Park, according to Plat Book 3, page 20, in Section 40, Township 10 South, Range 31 East. Section 40 is a part of the Spanish land grant confirmed to Joseph Hernandez which was known as Mala Compra.

Known archaeological remains associated with the 800-acre Mala Compra Plantation are found in Bing's Landing County Park, which covers 3.9 acres and lies along the east side of the Intracoastal Waterway. The foundations of the plantation residence building and kitchen-washhouse in addition to a coquina-block well remain preserved on the property. A second County-owned parcel of land, Bing's Addition, adjoins on the south and covers 4.6 acres. Only minimal artifactual information associated with the plantation has been noted in this area thus far.

The National Register boundary in this nomination encompasses the structural remains of the Main Residence (Structure 1), Kitchen-Washhouse (Structure 2), and Well, along with test areas in the immediate vicinity where cultural resources were found. This 75-meter by 50-meter area, as defined on the grid laid out by Environmental Services, Inc., lies between 55N and 130N, 0E and 50E (See Figure 5.1).

It should be noted, however, that the park remains remarkably undisturbed, and the likelihood of discovering more cultural resources within its bounds is extremely high. For example, intact resources were found at TU#1, located between 40 and 50E and 170 and 180 N (See Figure 5.1). These resources were considered too separated from the main concentration of resources to be included in the boundary at this time. Furthermore, the 1818 survey of Mala Compra attests that the plantation extended much farther both north and south of Bing's Landing Park, as well as east to the Atlantic Ocean. It is likely, therefore, that the National Register boundary could be expanded in the future after additional, more intensive archaeological testing is performed.

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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photos \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1 **MALA COMPRA PLANTATION SITE**  
**Flagler County, FL**

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- 1      1) Mala Compra Plantation Site  
         2) Flagler County, Florida  
         3) Handley, Environmental Services, Inc.  
         4) September 2003  
         5) Environmental Services, Inc., Jacksonville, FL  
         6) Bird's eye view of Structure 1 (Main Residence), looking SE  
         7) 1 of 19

Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photographs.

- 2      6) Eastern tabby sloping away from Structure 1, looking S  
         7) 2 of 19
- 3      6) Southern hearth of Structure 1, looking N  
         7) 3 of 19
- 4      6) Northern hearth of Structure 1, looking S  
         7) 4 of 19
- 5      6) Bird's eye of Structure 2 (Kitchen/Washhouse), directly above  
         7) 5 of 19
- 6      6) North hearth and rubble of Structure 2, looking SE  
         7) 6 of 19
- 7      6) Well, located between Structures 1 and 2, looking S  
         7) 7 of 19
- 8      6) Weaponry artifacts  
         7) 8 of 19
- 9      6) Transfer printed pearlware  
         7) 9 of 19
- 10     6) Assorted pearlware  
         7) 10 of 19

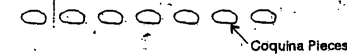
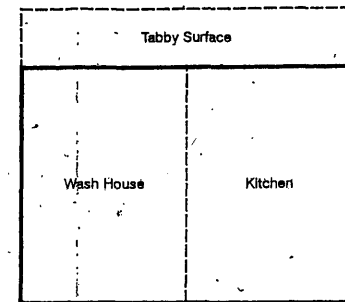
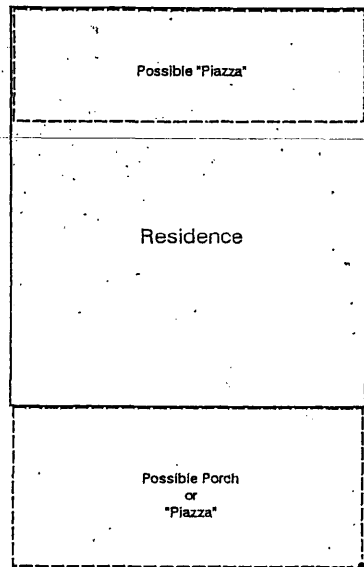
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Section number          Photos          Page   2   **MALA COMPRA PLANTATION SITE**  
**Flagler County, FL**

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- 11    6) Service artifacts  
      7) 11 of 19
  
- 12    6) Storage related artifacts  
      7) 12 of 19
  
- 13    6) Clothing related artifacts  
      7) 13 of 19
  
- 14    6) Brass buttons  
      7) 14 of 19
  
- 15    6) Brass tacks  
      7) 15 of 19
  
- 16    6) Personal items  
      7) 16 of 19
  
- 17    6) Aboriginal artifacts  
      7) 17 of 19
  
- 18    6) General view of site showing protective pavilion, looking NW  
      7) 18 of 19
  
- 19    6) General view of site, looking E  
      7) 19 of 19



Feature 13

Feature 16

Possible Covered Walk Alignment

3.65 meter

Possible Porch, Plaza, and Covered Walk



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

Mala Compra  
Flagler County, Florida

Project No. EJ01010





Date March 2002

Figure 5.29a

Pavillon Post  
Unit 15

Unit 3  
ESI

Legend:

-  - Tree Stump
-  - Excavated
-  - Dupont Structure 7
-  - Mala Compra Residence

Feature 13  
(Post)  
← Extends West  
← 80cm

Excavated ESI

Trench 3

Pavillon  
Post Test  
Unit #10

Cocaina Block

Lower, Dupont Floor

Edge-laid coquina

1 meter



ENVIRONMENTAL  
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Flagler County, Florida

Drawing of Structure 1 in Plan



Project No. EJ01010

Date March 2002

Figure 5.29



**TABLE 4.1: Functional Artifact Typology**

**1. Foodways**

- a. Procurement--ammunition, fishhooks, fishing weights
- b. Preparation--baking pans, cooking vessels, large knives
- c. Service--fine earthenware, flatware, tableware, drinking glass
- d. Storage--coarse earthenware, stoneware, glass bottles, canning jars, bottle stoppers
- e. Remains --floral, faunal

**2. Clothing**

- a. Fasteners--buttons, eyelets, snaps, hooks and eyes
- b. Manufacture--needles, pins, scissors, thimbles
- c. Other--shoe leather, metal shoe shanks, clothes hangers

**3. Household/Structural**

- a. Architectural/Construction--nails, flat glass, spikes, mortar, bricks, slate
- b. Hardware--hinges, tacks, nuts, bolts, staples, hooks, brackets
- c. Furnishings/Accessories--stove parts, furniture pieces, lamp parts, fasteners

**4. Personal**

- a. Medicinal--medicine bottles, droppers
- b. Cosmetic--hairbrushes, hair combs, jars
- c. Recreational--smoking pipes, toys, musical instruments, souvenirs
- d. Monetary--coins
- e. Decorative--jewelry, hairpins, hatpins, spectacles
- f. Other--pocketknives, fountain pens, pencils, inkwells

**5. Labor**

- a. Agricultural--barbed wire, horse and mule shoes, harness buckles, hoes, plow blades, scythe blades
- b. Industrial--tools

**6. Miscellaneous/Unidentified Substances**

- a. Glass
- b. Iron
- c. Modern
- d. Lead
- e. Other

**7. Aboriginal**

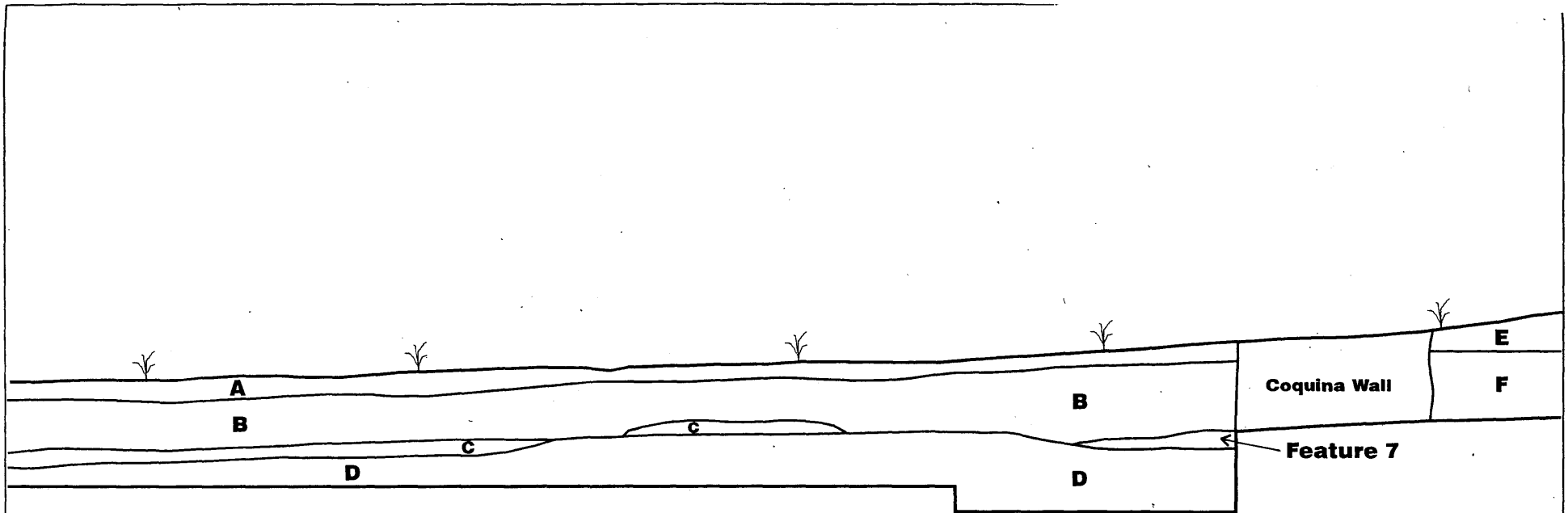
- a. Ceramics
- b. Lithic material

**Table 5.10: Functional Groups by Excavation Unit**

Unit #	Foodways		Clothing		Household Structural		Personal		Labor		Misc. UID		Aboriginal		TOTAL	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1	92	85.2			9	8.3	3	2.8					4	3.7	108	100.0
2	200	62.0	1	0.3	81	25.0	10	3.1			26	8.1	5	1.5	323	100.0
3	258	49.4			130	24.9	4	0.8			128	24.5	2	0.4	522	100.0
4	73	71.5	2	2.0	24	23.5	1	1.0			2	2.0			102	100.0
5	109	69.4			35	22.3	5	3.2			5	3.2	3	1.9	157	100.0
6	292	28.2	7	0.7	700	67.7	10	0.1	1	0.1	20	1.9	4	0.4	1034	100.0
7	695	39.1	11	0.6	920	51.8	38	2.1			112	6.3			1776	99.9
8	3	138.0			163	98.2									166	100.0
9	128	28.3			192	57.5	9	2.7			5	1.5			337	100.0
<b>Frequency</b>	1850		21		2254		80	1.8	1		298		18		<b>4522</b>	
<b>Percent</b>		40.9		0.4		49.8		49.8		0.1		6.6		0.4		<b>100</b>

**Table 6.1: Artifacts Grouped by Function**

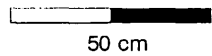
	Subtotals by Group	Total	%
<b>1. <u>Foodways</u></b>		<b>2712</b>	<b>47.3</b>
a. procurement	21 (0.8)		
b. preparation	4 (0.1)		
c. service	1967 (72.5)		
d. storage	719 (26.5)		
e. remains (peach pit)	1 (0.1)		
<b>2. <u>Clothing</u></b>		<b>38</b>	<b>0.6</b>
a. fasteners	37 (97.4)		
b. manufacture	1 (2.6)		
<b>3. <u>Household/Structural</u></b>		<b>2461</b>	<b>42.9</b>
a. architectural/construction	2441 (99.2)		
b. hardware	18 (0.7)		
c. furnishings/accessories	2 (0.1)		
<b>4. <u>Personal</u></b>		<b>102</b>	<b>1.8</b>
a. medicinal	16 (15.6)		
b. cosmetic	1 (1.0)		
c. recreational	83 (81.4)		
d. monetary	1 (1.0)		
e. other	1 (1.0)		
<b>5. <u>Labor</u></b>		<b>1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
b. tools	1 (100.0)		
<b>6. <u>Miscellaneous/UID Function</u></b>		<b>351</b>	<b>6.1</b>
a. glass	141 (40.2)		
b. iron	198 (56.4)		
d. lead	8 (2.3)		
e. other (UID metal)	4 (1.1)		
<b>7. <u>Aboriginal</u></b>		<b>70</b>	<b>1.2</b>
a. pottery	69 (98.6)		
b. lithics	1 (1.4)		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5735</b>	<b>100</b>



Legend:

- A** - Humus-Gray brown sand
- B** - Midden-Dark/very dark gray sand
- C** - Coquina/mortar rubble mixed with gray sand
- D** - Gray sand
- E** - Coquina/mortar rubble
- F** - Brown sand

**Feature 7** - Dark gray sand and coquina dust



Trench 6, West Profile



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Mala Compra  
Flagler County, Florida

Project No. EJ01010

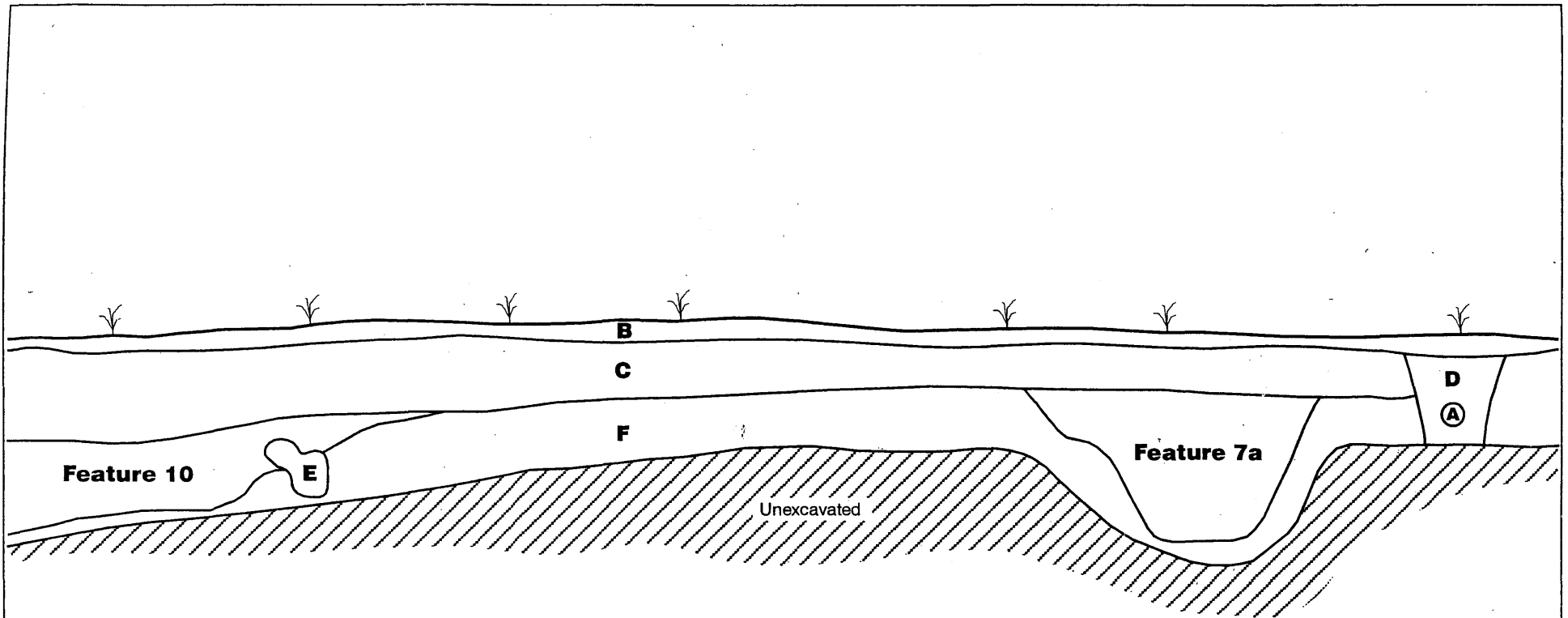
Date March 2002

Figure 5.12

Table 5.7: Artifacts Recovered from Unit 6

PROVENIENCE	ITEM	#	Wt./Vol.	CODE
Zone A	hand painted pearlware	3		1c
	plain pearlware handle	1		1c
	shell edged green pearlware	1		1c
	transfer printed pearlware	1		1c
	clear bottle glass	1		1d
	light green bottle glass	1		1d
	olive green wine bottle	7		1d
	fauna		2.7g	1e
	brick		143.5g	3a
	nail frags	9		3a
	uid metal frags	1		6b
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>25</b>		
Zone B/C	iron rings, cooking related	3		1b
	annularware	8		1c
	annular creamware	1		1c
	b/w porcelain	1		1c
	feather edge pearlware	3		1c
	flow blue pearlware	1		1c
	gaudy dutch	3		1c
	white salt glazed stoneware	1		1c
	hand painted pearlware	103		1c
	creamware	33		1c
	pearlware	33		1c
	royal edge creamware	1		1c
	shell edged pearlware	1		1c
	transfer printed pearlware	48		1c
	white salt glazed stoneware	2		1c
	yellowware	1		1c
	brown salt glazed stoneware	1		1d
	green bacín	6		1d
	lead glazed earthenware	1		1d
	olive green wine bottle	25		1d
	uid refined earthenware	1		1d
	fauna		325.5g	1e
	1 hole bone button	5		2a
	4 hole shell button	1		2a
	5 hole button bone	1		2a
	brick		364.1g	3a
	coquina/mortar		32 liters	3a
	nail frag	674		3a
	nail round head burned	1		3a
	iron spike	1		3a
	uid iron frags	6		3a
	window glass	6		3a

brass tack head	3	3b
kaolin bowl	3	4c
kaolin stem	6	4c
1810 Spanish coin	1	4d
uid iron tool	1	5b
clear curved glass	3	6a
curved yellow glass	1	6a
uid iron	12	6b
uid lead	3	6d
uid aboriginal pottery	3	7a
sand tempered plain pottery	1	7a
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,009</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,034</b>	



Legend:

- A** - PVC Pipe
- B** - Humus-Dark gray and gray brown sand
- C** - Midden-Very dark gray sand
- D** - Trench for PVC Pipe-dark gray sand
- E** - Mixed gray and dark gray sand
- F** - Mixed gray, light gray, and gray brown sand
- G** - Light gray sand
- Feature 7a** - Mottled gray and gray brown sand
- Feature 10** - Mottled gray and gray brown sand

50 cm

Trench 7, East Profile



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Mala Compra  
Flagler County, Florida

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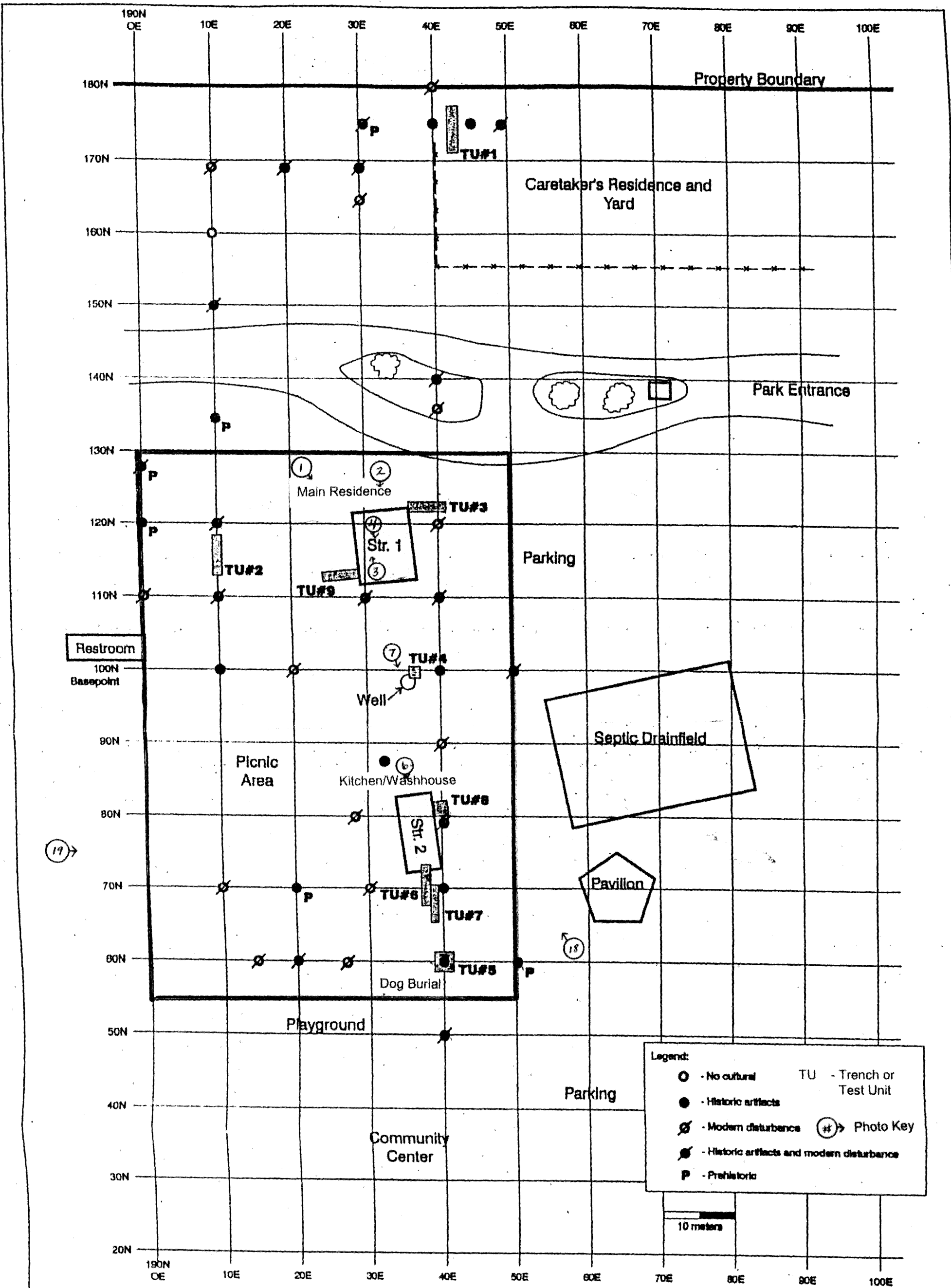
Figure 5.13

Table 5.8: Artifacts Recovered from Unit 7

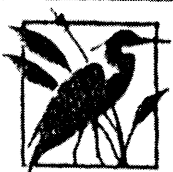
PROVENIENCE	ITEM	#	Wt./Vol.	CODE
Zone C				
	flint chip	1		1a
	lead shot	5		1a
	annular creamware	2		1c
	annularware	24		1c
	dendritic creamware	5		1c
	etched clear drinking glass	1		1c
	feather edge pearlware rim	8		1c
	frosted wine glass base	2		1c
	gaudy dutch	9		1c
	goblet base, frosted glass	1		1c
	hand painted porcelain rim	1		1c
	hand painted pearlware	133		1c
	kaolin bowl	1		1c
	molded pearlware	2		1c
	molded, green feather edged cw rim	1		1c
	molded/feather edged pearlware rim	7		1c
	creamware	123		1c
	porcelain b/w rim	1		1c
	iron fork tine	1		1c
	pearlware	30		1c
	red transfer print pearlware rim	1		1c
	shell edged pearlware	8		1c
	transfer printed pearlware	97		1c
	uid refined earthenware	1		1c
	white salt glazed stoneware	1		1c
	curved frosted bottle glass	1		1d
	green bacín	9		1d
	olive green wine bottle glass	86		1d
	reyware	5		1d
	fauna		444.3g	1e
	oyster		1 liter	1e
	peach pit	1		1e
	1 hole bone button	7		2a
	5 hole bone button frag	3		2a
	brass/ cloth button, loop eye	1		2a
	brass hook/eye	1		2a
	brass furniture tack	1		3a
	brick		27.7g	3a
	clear flat glass, window	8		3a
	flat glass	8		3a
	iron screw	1		3a
	iron spike (14 cm)	1		3a
	mortar		3 liters	3a



	nail frags	796		3a
	uid iron frags	5		3a
	window glass, aqua	3		3a
	hinge frag	1		3b
	brass furniture tack	1		3c
	bottle lip and neck, aqua	1		4a
	pharmaceutical			
	kaolin bowl	12		4c
	kaolin pipe stems	18		4c
	bone fan slat w/brass hardware	1		4e
	curved aqua glass	2		6a
	curved clear glass	4		6a
	curved frosted glass	2		6a
	etched frosted glass	1		6a
	uid iron	89		6b
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,533</b>		
<b>Zone F</b>	lead shot	1		1a
	el morro rim	1		1d
	annularware rim	1		1c
	feather edge pearlware	2		1c
	gaudy dutch	1		1c
	hand painted pearlware	36		1c
	molded edged creamware, green	1		1c
	molded edged white salt glazed	1		1c
	stoneware			
	creamware	12		1c
	pearlware	8		1c
	shell edged pearlware	1		1c
	transfer printed pearlware	24		1c
	crystal goblet base and stem	1		1c
	green bacin	5		1d
	olive green wine bottle glass	32		1d
	fauna		159.8g	1e
	nail frag	84		3a
	tabby		15 liters	3a
	brick		35.6g	3a
	window glass, aqua	5		3a
	window glass, clear	6		3a
	brass furniture tack	1		3c
	kaolin pipe bowls	2		4c
	kaolin pipe stem	4		4c
	curved frosted glass	3		6a
	iron strap frag	10		6b
	lead strap frag	1		6d
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>243</b>		
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1,776</b>		



Shovel Test and Excavation Locations (2001)



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

Mala Compra  
Flagler County, Florida

Project No. EJ01010

Date March 2002

Figure 5.1

**Table 6.2: Results from the Faunal Analysis**

<b>Taxonomic Classification</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>MNI</b>
alligator	6	4.8	1
blue crab	1	0.4	1
capra ssp.	36	90.6	2
catfish	1	0.2	1
domestic chicken	7	5.8	1
domestic cow	13	80.4	1
domestic dog	23	13.1	1
domestic pig	23	89.1	3
human	2	1.3	1
large mammal	15	45.3	
large to very large mammal	34	82.6	
medium mammal	65	27.1	
medium to large mammal	412	329.3	
opossum	9	5.6	2
rat	1	0.3	1
small mammal	12	2.5	
small rodent	16	0.5	
small to medium mammal	65	14.9	
unidentified bird Total	92	23.7	
unidentified bone	60	15.3	
unidentified fish	76	18.9	
unidentified mammal	13	3.3	
unidentified reptile	2	2.1	
unidentified turtle	12	7.2	
unidentified turtle (sea)	16	23.1	
very large mammal	12	139	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1024</b>	<b>1026.4</b>	<b>15</b>