

PH001 2220 1/3/73

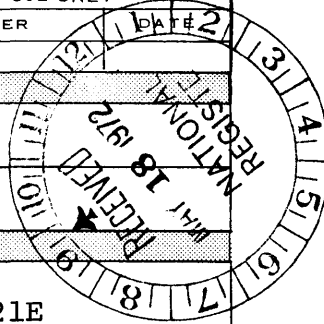
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Florida
COUNTY:	Hillsborough
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	



1. NAME

COMMON:  
Fort Foster

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Fort Foster, Camp Foster, Fort Alabama

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
C. 9 miles south of Zephyrhills, SE 1/4, S.9, T27S, R21E

CITY OR TOWN:  
Zephyrhills Vicinity

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
<u>Florida</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>Hillsborough</u>	<u>057</u>

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>part of cattle ranch</u>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>part of cattle ranch</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. Robert Thomas

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P. O. Box E

CITY OR TOWN:  
Tampa

STATE:  
Florida

CODE:  
12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Tampa

STATE:  
Florida

CODE:  
12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Florida Archaeological Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Division of Archives, History, and Records Management

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Department of State - The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN:  
Tallahassee

STATE:  
Florida

CODE:  
12

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida

COUNTY: Hillsborough

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

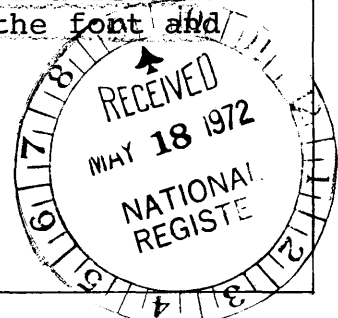
The site of Fort Foster is located on the south bank of the Hillsborough River, approximately 21 miles northeast of Tampa. The extant vegetation on the site includes pine, cypress, live oak and other hardwoods and scrub palmetto. The area on the north bank of the Hillsborough River, facing the site of Fort Foster, exhibits typical hammock vegetation. The overstory of the pines and hardwoods on the site has effectively reduced the understory growth, producing an environmental setting very similar to the original situation. A contemporary plat of Fort Foster indicates the presence of the fort and a dense hammock on the north bank of the river. Cypress stands of varying density were also reported for the area. (Sprague, 1848; 368-371).

Very little disturbance has been noted for the Fort Foster site since its abandonment in the mid-19th Century. The major disruptive activities within the site area occurred during the early part of the Twentieth Century, but apparently did not affect the cultural data contained in the site. These activities included the grazing of large sheep herds on the site, timbering of the pine and cypress stands, and the construction of the railroad immediately west of the site area. The railroad is located approximately ¼-mile west of the site and the tracks are currently being removed.

Fort Foster appears to have been a square fortification, with the corners roughly oriented to the four cardinal directions. The east and west corners possessed opposing bastions and the main gate was in the southeast wall. The fort also contained a magazine and storehouse, probably constructed of either pine or cypress. The fort palisades were also probably constructed of the same material. A bridge was built across the Hillsborough River directly opposite the north corner of the fort. This replaced an earlier bridge which had been burned by the Seminoles. (Foster, M.S.)

The construction camp was situated south and east of the fort, covering an area of over 300 yards. Whether or not this adjacent camp continued to function after the fort was completed is not known, but there are references to both Fort Foster and Camp Foster during the same time span. (Sprague, 1848;368-375). The camp consisted of a line of wagons on a southwest-northeast axis between the fort and barrack positions. Approximately 100 yards

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Foster was erected in December, 1836, by the command of Lt. Col. William S. Foster under orders from General T.S. Jesup. This fort was located on the south bank of the Hillsborough River, immediately west of the old Ft. King Road. In an order dated July 3, 1837, Foster enumerates those forces instrumental in the construction of Fort Foster. An excerpt from this order reads:

"With the work itself, the commanding officer is completely satisfied, and he unhesitatingly pronounces it one of the strongest and best field fortifications ever erected (against Indians) on this continent.

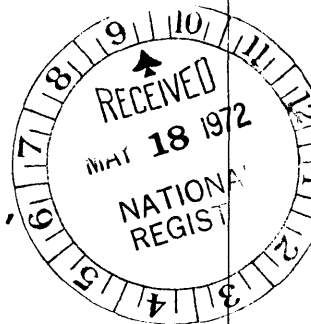
The troops composing the command which (under the orders of Lt. Co. Foster) erected Ft. Foster, on the Hillsborough River, in December, 1836, were 320 strong, and consisted of the following corps:

1st Battalion. 3 Companies of the 3rd Regiment of Artillery; and Lt. Irvin's Company Washington City Volunteers. Brevet Major W. L. McClintock, commanding.

2nd Battalion. 3 Companies 4th Infantry, Capt. G.W. Allen commanding in the first instance, and until relieved by Major George Birch, of the same Regiment.

Capt. Lyon's Company of the 3rd. Regiment of Artillery, commanded by himself, and doing duty as Artillery proper, Battery, one six pounder; the piece, while on the march, was extremely well horsed, and well conducted; it could keep pace with the 4th Regiment. At a later period, the whole left wing has performed a march from 17 to 22 miles by one,

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

see attached sheet

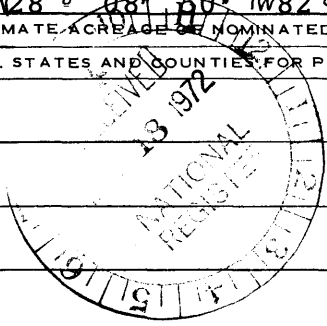
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	28 ° 09' 01"	W82 ° 13' 14"				
NE	28 ° 09' 01"	W82 ° 12' 59"				
SE	28 ° 08' 50"	W82 ° 12' 59"				
SW	28 ° 08' 50"	W82 ° 13' 14"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Approximately 30 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Daniel T. Penton, Historic Sites Specialist

ORGANIZATION: Division of Archives, History, Records Mgt. DATE: April 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Department of State - The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN: Tallahassee STATE: Florida CODE: 12

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: [Signature]  
Title: State Liaison Officer  
Date: May 10, 1972

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

[Signature]  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/13/72

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Ownership: Trustees of the Internal Improvement  
State of Florida  
Elliott Building  
Tallahassee, Florida

Maintained by: Division of Recreation & Parks  
Department of Natural Resources  
Larson Building  
Tallahassee, Florida

Public or Private? Public

5. Present Use: Historical research and archaeological  
excavation has just been completed and plans are  
now underway to develop the site as a state park  
with interpretive installations.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

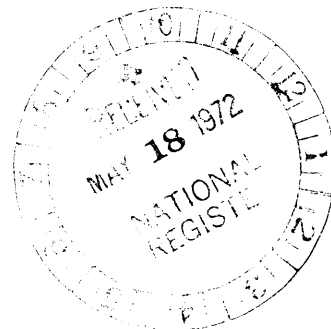
STATE Florida	
COUNTY Hillsborough	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 13 1972

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION.

southeast of the wagon line was the barrack area. This was composed of two lines of tents parallel with the axis of the wagon line. The outside tent line (i.e. the line furthestmost to the southeast) was more closely spaced than the interior line. Campfires were placed both between the two lines of tents and outside the exterior tent line. A log bastion was constructed at each end of the barrack position. This entire area appears to have been enclosed by some type of picket line which intersected the fort at the east and west bastions. Some distance southeast of the barrack lines was a row of fortified locations referred to as "sinques (sinks) fortified." These probably represent advanced breastworks of earth, possibly manned by sentries. Surrounding the entire encampment was a series of large fires which probably prevented night infiltrations of the defense system. (Foster, M.S.).

The original bridge across the Hillsborough River was located approximately 200 yards upriver from the Fort Foster bridge. This bridge was constructed at the same time the Fort King Road was opened, but was subsequently destroyed by the Seminoles. (McCall, 1868:189-190). The remains of this bridge are still visible.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Hillsborough	
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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE.

and half past one, in the afternoon (Army and Navy Chronicle, 1837:116)."

Fort Foster was the second military fortification to be constructed adjacent to the Hillsborough crossing of the Fort King Road. The first was Fort Alabama, built during March, 1836, as a temporary place of deposit (Sprague, 1848:144). This post was garrisoned with a force of 70 or 80 men, with Capt. Marks commanding (Cohen, 1836:191):

"On the 27th March, this garrison was attacked simultaneously, on every side, by about two hundred Indians. They caught one man outside of the pickets, and killed and scalped him. A steady fire was kept up for two hours, during which they discharged as many (as a) thousand balls at the fort (Ibid)."

The vulnerability of this fortification was amply illustrated by the constant Indian attacks. As a consequence, Col. William Lindsay ordered the abandonment of Fort Alabama in April, 1836. This operation was undertaken on April 27, and included the removal or destruction of all supplies. The fort, however, was left standing, but the gate was booby-trapped with a cord connected to the trigger of a musket; the barrel of which had been placed in a keg of gunpowder. Approximately thirty minutes after Fort Alabama was abandoned, the garrison witnessed a loud explosion in the vicinity of the fort. A subsequent revisit of the fort revealed that the explosion had succeeded in knocking down all vestiges of the standing fortification, but exhibited no evidence of Indian casualties (Mahon, 1967:160-161; Cohen, 1836).

As previously stated, Fort Foster was constructed during December, 1836. The destruction of the insecure Fort Alabama, in March, 1836, had eliminated a crucial supply depot. In order to alleviate this need, Lt. Col. William S. Foster was ordered to build a series of fortifications which were to serve as garrisoned supply depots. The fortification, which was built on the site of old Fort Alabama, was evidently a model frontier fort. The quality of this post was impressive, and was named Fort Foster in honor of the commanding officer of the construction forces (Army and Navy Chronicle, 1837:106).

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Florida	
COUNTY	
Hillsborough	
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	JUN 13 1972

(Number all entries)

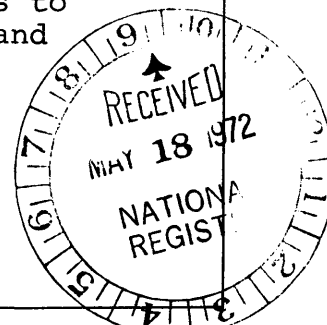
8. (b) SIGNIFICANCE.

Foster departed from Fort Foster on December 22, 1836, leaving Major W. L. McClintock in command of the post (Army and Navy Chronicle, 1837:10, 106). On December 23, 1836, Major General T. S. Jesup, Commanding Officer of the Army of the South, visited Fort Foster and stated that an "abundant depot" had been established there (Army and Navy Chronicle, 1837:47). The fort was continually occupied and maintained as a supply depot until August, 1837, when it was temporarily abandoned because of sickness. (Ibid:203). The fort apparently remained vacant until November, 1837, when it and Fort Dade were reoccupied by "a portion of the Artillery." (Op. Cit:381). Fort Foster ceased full-time service in July, 1838, but saw brief service in 1841-42 and 1849. (Historical Information Relating to Military Posts and Other Installations c. 1700-1900:284, 290). One of the the more unusual incidents to transpire at Fort Foster was the garrisoning of sailors under the command of Commodore Dallas to man the fort. This action released available Army personnel from post duty and allowed more intensive patrols into Indian strongholds. (Mahon, 1967)

Summary

Fort Foster is probably one of the best extant examples of a Second Seminole War post. The site location has been well documented, and it appears to contain a completely undisturbed archaeological component. In addition, the supportive archival materials are quite numerous. The combination of intensive archival research and competent archaeological excavations should result in a vivid picture of life at a frontier fort during the Second Seminole War.

The present environmental situation of the fort site enhances both the aesthetic and historical value. The physical remains of the two bridges are readily visible, as is the old Fort King Road. The vegetation also appears to approximate the description given by the occupants and visitors of the fort during the 1830's.





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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Florida
COUNTY		Hillsborough
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	JUN 13 1972	

(Number all entries)

8. (c) SIGNIFICANCE.

A wealth of artifactual material has recently been recovered from that portion of the Hillsborough River which borders the site of Fort Foster. This material includes kaolin pipes, leather shoes, bone toothbrushes, eye glasses, military buttons (including Naval insignias), harness hardware, spurs, various types of ordnance, pocket knives, and tools. The provenience of this material, along with the remains of the two bridges, leaves little doubt that this was the site of Fort Foster. The Randolph Map of 1843 re-enforces this assumption by depicting Fort Foster in this same location.

The historic value of this site is well known among the professional community in Florida, and is currently being considered for state acquisition as part of our Bicentennial activities. The acquisition of this site will allow in-depth excavations and a thorough interpretation of this valuable segment of Florida's past. This site has produced much data in the way of artifacts, but it still contains the potential for producing structural as well as additional archaeological data.

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Hillsborough	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 13 1972	

(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES.

Army and Navy Chronicle. (No. 5, Washington, D. C., 1837),  
pp. 10, 47, 106, 116, 203.

Cohen, Myer M. Notices of Florida and the Campaigns,  
Facsimile of 1836 edition. Gainesville:  
University of Florida Press, 1964.

McCall, George A. Letters from the Frontiers.  
Philadelphia, 1868.

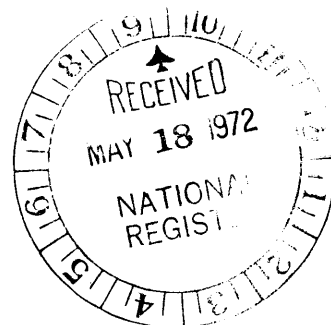
Mahon, John K. History of the Second Seminole War.  
Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1967.

Manuscript material relating to Fort Foster. Microcopy  
No. 661, Roll #2, C-E, Florida State Library,  
Tallahassee, Florida.

"Plat Map of Ft. Foster," (in the possession of  
William S. Foster, descendant of Col. Foster,  
Louisville, Kentucky.)

Randolph, A. M. "Survey Map of T.27S, R.21E," 1843.  
Tax Assessor's Office, Hillsborough County  
Court House, Tampa, Florida.

Sprague, John T. The Florida War, Facsimile of 1848  
edition. Gainesville: University of Florida  
Press, 1964.



Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

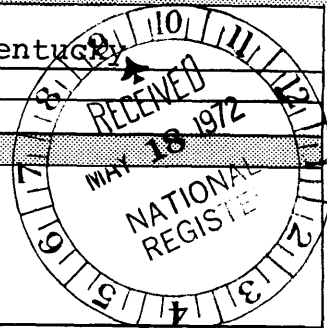
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

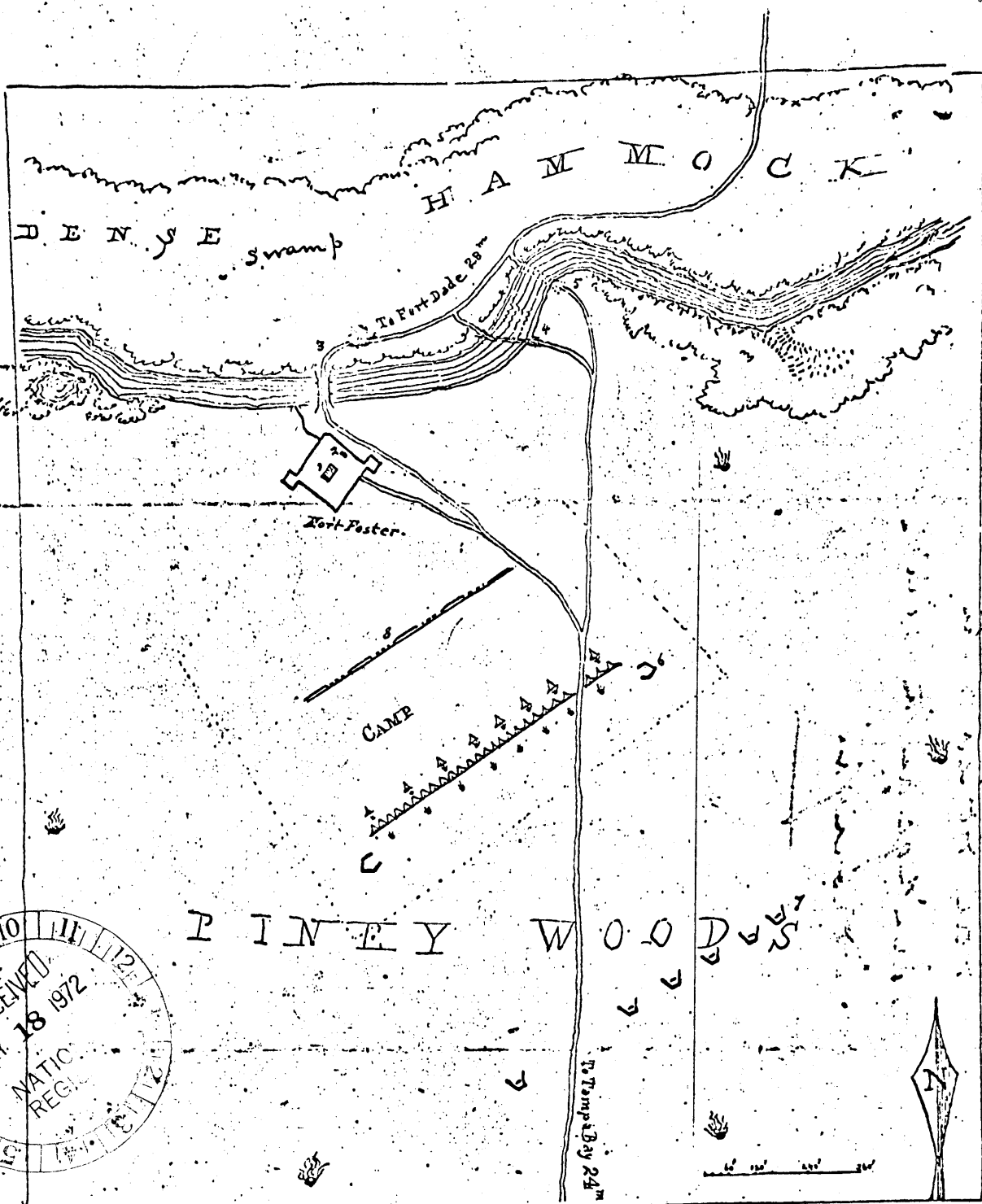
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	Florida	
COUNTY	Hillsborough	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		JUN 13 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: Fort Foster			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Ft. Foster, Camp Foster, Ft. Alabama			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: C. 9 miles south of Zephyrhills			
CITY OR TOWN: Zephyrhills Vicinity			
STATE: Florida	CODE 12	COUNTY: Hillsborough	CODE 057
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: Collection of William S. Foster, Louisville, Kentucky			
SCALE: 1" = 360 feet			
DATE: Unknown (probably 1836)			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





Reference

- 1 Stone Works
- 2 Magazine
- 3 Bridge
- 4 Ford
- 5 Situation of the old bridge (burnt by the Seminole Indians).
- 6 Log Bastion.
- 7 Six Pits fortified.
- 8 Mounds
- 9 Pines.

*Situation of Fort Foster on the Hills border  
 River & position of the bridge built by a  
 Detachment from the Army of the South under Col  
 Foster in December 1836 - and the Camp occupied  
 by the Troops while carrying on the works.*

Plat Map of Ft. Foster, Date unknown (prob. 1836).

Form 10-301  
(July 1969)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Hillsborough	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUN 13 1972	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Fort Foster  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Foster, Camp Foster, Fort Alabama

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
C. 9 miles south of Zephyrhills

CITY OR TOWN:  
Zephyrhills Vicinity

STATE: Florida	CODE 12	COUNTY: Hillsborough	CODE 057
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3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:  
U.S.G.S. Zephyrhills, Florida Quadrangle  
SCALE: 1:24,000; 7.5 minute  
DATE: 1947

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

