

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia	
COUNTY: McIntosh	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.5.10.0006	DATE 5/13/70

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Fort King George

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
East of U.S. 17

CITY OR TOWN:  
Darien

STATE Georgia	CODE 13	COUNTY: McIntosh	CODE 191
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**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input 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 checked="" 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Georgia Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
116 Mitchell Street, S.W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Atlanta

STATE:  
Georgia

CODE:  
13

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Office of Clerk, Superior Court of McIntosh County

STREET AND NUMBER:  
McIntosh County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:  
Darien

STATE:  
Georgia

CODE:  
13

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:  
Federal  State  County  Local

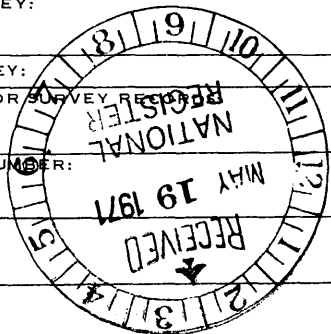
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input checked="" 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		

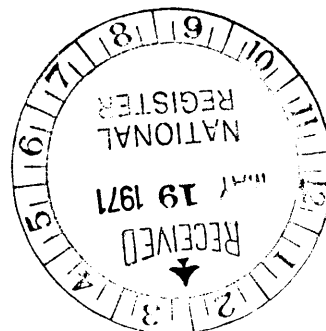
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The exact site of Fort King George was lost until interested McIntosh County historians in the mid-1930's located the historic spot and convinced the State to purchase the property - a 12 acre tract on a high bluff overlooking the Altamaha River. In 1961 the site was placed in the custody of the Georgia Historical Commission. It was a tangled swamp without visible vestiges of the 17th century mission or 18th century fort. Only remnants of the brick foundations of a sawmill remained. A marble monument honoring the English soldiers who died at the Fort and stones marking their graves were hidden by weeds and grass. After clearing the site of garbage and undergrowth, a modern museum, designed by Gunn and Meyerhoff, AIA, was built in 1968 to house exhibits interpreting the site's varied history - Indian occupation, Spanish mission, English fort and sawmilling. Commission markers have been erected throughout the site designating the location of the mission, fort and sawmilling operations.

From Col. Barnwell's journals we know that the outer defenses of Fort King George were in the shape of an irregular triangle. A banquette, two feet high and three feet wide, enclosed the parade grounds on all but the river side with a parapet, 11 feet at the base and 6 feet high, along the outside of the banquette. A 14-foot moat surrounded the fortifications. The fort was later palisaded and fascines placed along the river side. Inside the compound was a gabled blockhouse, 26 feet square, constructed of 4-inch cypress planks. On the first floor was the magazine and above it the gun room, 6 feet off the ground. A lookout window was positioned high in the gable, 23 feet above ground and providing a view of the river and marshes. Thatch-roofed barracks for the men and officers and other huts were also within the fort.

Archaeological investigation in 1952 had revealed the outline of a 17th century Spanish mission and evidence of Indian occupation. In the late 18th century a large sawmill - operated by impounding tidal water in a basin on flood tide and sawing with the ebb - was constructed on the site. A 5-gang, steam sawmill and later a circular sawmill were also constructed but all that now remain are remnants of the brick foundation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1650-1686; 1721-1727; c. 1736-c. 1920

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic    | <input checked="" 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

Georgia's first English settlement, Fort King George, was established upon a high natural bluff overlooking the northernmost mouth of the Altamaha River near present day Darien, Georgia. The construction of the fort was one of the most important single events in early 18th century America and as such attracted the Georgia Historical Commission to accept the site. It was the first effort to establish Britain's claim to "the debatable land" and the first step in a chain of events that brought the Southeast under the British flag.

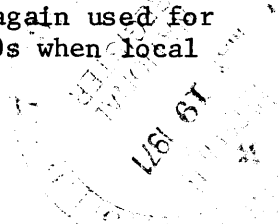
In 1720, the English upon the advice of John Barnwell, decided to establish a chain of English military outposts on the Southern frontier. These forts were meant to thwart any expansionist designs by the French (who had already stated their plans for the Altamaha) and to protect English holdings from the Spanish.

The first occupants of the site were the Guale or Yamasee Indians. During the 17th century the Spanish attempted to convert these tribes by establishing missions along the coast. Excavations in 1952 brought to light a great deal of Indian and Spanish artifacts with evidence indicating that the site may have also been that of Tolomato, a mission where the Yamasee rebellion began with the murder of Father Corpa. With the appearance of the English, the missions were abandoned and many Indians withdrew to the Carolinas and to Florida.

In 1721, Colonel Barnwell led his scouts to the Altamaha to begin the construction of Fort King George. Until 1727 the fort was garrisoned by provincial troupes and later by Royal soldiers. During these six years 140 soldiers died from the hardships of fort life. The Spanish were a constant threat and provisions sent by the Crown were meager and inadequate. During excavations the skeletons of 81 of these men were found adjacent to the fort, all laid out with military precision.

In 1726, the fort was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in a makeshift fashion. Dissatisfaction increased until the final removal of the garrison to Port Royal. Only two lookouts remained until the settlement of Savannah in 1733. Three years later Oglethorpe sent 177 Scots and their families to reestablish the military settlement. The hardy Highlanders founded the present town of Darien and established saw-mill operations which lasted until the early 20th century. The location was never again used for military purposes and was largely forgotten until the 1960s when local interest was rekindled by various writers and historians.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Caldwell, Sheila, Preliminary Report on Fort King George, c. 1952, copy on file at Georgia Historical Commission.  
 Files and Documents, Georgia Historical Commission.  
 Griffith, Ben W., Jr., "Georgia's First English Settlement Now a Forgotten State Park," Atlanta Journal-Constitution Magazine, October 9, 1960.  
 Lewis, Bessie, Report on Fort King George, copy on file at Georgia Historical Commission, 1964.

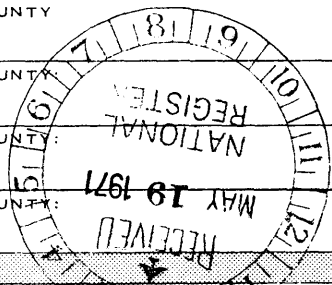
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	31° 22' 00"	81° 25' 03"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	31° 22' 00"	81° 24' 53"				
SE	31° 21' 50"	81° 24' 53"				
SW	31° 21' 50"	81° 24' 03"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **12 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NO ATM  
CX

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director of Georgia Historic Sites Survey**  
**Nancy O'Hare, Carole Summers**

ORGANIZATION: **Georgia Historical Commission** DATE: **May 17, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER: **116 Mitchell St., S.W.**

CITY OR TOWN: **Atlanta** STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **13**

**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: Mary Gregory Jewett

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: May 17, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connally  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
**DEC 9 1971**

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

ATTEST:  
William R. Mitchell, Jr.  
 Keeper of The National Register  
**NOV 22 1971**

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