

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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 MENENDEZ ENCAMPMENT SITE

other names/site number Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park FMSF#SJ 31

2. Location

street & number 11 Magnolia Street N/A not for publication

city or town St. Augustine N/A vicinity

state Florida code FL county St. Johns code 109 zip code 32084

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.)

Glissa Glade Sobane 8/4/16
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation
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) _____

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Janeh K. S. Amin 9/27/16

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	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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: camp

DEFENSE: fortification

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION and CULTURE: outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls N/A

roof N/A

other _____

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration and Settlement
 Ethnic Heritage - Hispanic
 Archaeology - Historic & Aboriginal & Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

1565-1570

Significant Dates

1565
 1566

Significant Person

Pedro Menendez de Aviles

Cultural Affiliation

Spanish
 Timucua

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

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 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

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

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

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 Dr. Kathleen Deagan/Robert O. Jones, Historic Preservationist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date August 2016

street & number 500 South 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 John Walter Fraser

street & number 11 Magnolia Avenue telephone 904.377.7977

city or town St. Augustine state Florida zip code 32084

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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 7 Page 1 **MENENDEZ ENCAMPMENT SITE,
ST. AUGUSTINE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY,
FLORIDA**

SUMMARY

The Menendez Encampment Site, the first permanent European settlement in the United States, St. Augustine, in the territory of the Timucua Indians, is today a portion of the grounds of the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, a tourist destination that interprets sixteenth-century Spanish exploration and settlement in Florida. The Park is located at 11 Magnolia Street, in St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida. The Menéndez encampment is an open grassy field. The Park encompasses 12 acres, however Menéndez-era materials are restricted to the eastern portion of the property, covering an area of approximately 80 meters east-west by 120 meters north-south (2 acres or .96 hectares). To aid interpretation to the public, the Park has outlined the footprints of several of the archaeologically-defined Spanish structures in white sand, and several wood structures replicate these buildings.

SETTING

The land at the Menendez Encampment Site is flat (Photo #1) as is the city scape around it, and mature trees are scattered throughout the neighborhood. The Park and the eastern boundary of the site is an inlet known as Hospital Creek that connects to the Mantanzas River that runs south past the City of St. Augustine, and eastward through an inlet to the Atlantic Ocean (**Figures #1 & 2**). On a separate parcel of land directly south and separated by a short inlet is a portion of the encampment site, on land known at the Nombre de Dios, owned by the Catholic diocese. This portion of the archaeological site is not a part of this nomination. To the north and west of the Park are residential neighborhoods, and three blocks to the west is the San Marco Avenue, a main north/south road that to the south skirts the waterfront of downtown St. Augustine. A block west of San Marco Avenue is the north/south US 1, locally named the Ponce De Leon Boulevard. The Menéndez 1565 Encampment Site is about one mile north of the city's town plaza and the Bridge of Lions.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Occupation Periods: The land encompassed by site 8SJ31 has been occupied by people at least intermittently for more than 2,500 years. The principal occupations are outlined below, however the current nomination is specifically for the Menéndez encampment site.

Pre Columbian era ca. 3,000 BPE – AD1565: The earliest use of the area appears to have been intermittently during the final stage of the ceramic Archaic Orange period (1000-500B.C.) (B.P.E. 3000-2500) (dates for the pre-Columbian occupations follow Milanich 1994:94, 247). The principal and most intensive occupation of the Fountain of Youth Park property took place between about A.D. 950 and AD 1566, during the St. Johns II period (Goggin 1952). Analysis of faunal remains and particularly fish otoliths from St. Johns II contexts suggests that occupation was probably year-round after ca. A.D. 1000 (Hales and Reitz 1992; Reitz 1991; Young 1988).

The St. Johns II culture is associated with the historically known Eastern Timucua people who inhabited the region when the Spaniards arrived in 1565. The people living in northeastern and north central Florida during the mid-sixteenth century were members of the Timucua socio-linguistic community, which was comprised of multiple tribes loosely confederated into independent and often competitive chiefdoms. Considered archaeologically, this region incorporated at least seven distinct but interacting cultural subdivisions with distinctive material assemblages (see Milanich 1996:44-55). St. Augustine is located in what is often characterized as the Timucua “heartland”, a region extending from the mouth of the St. Johns River southward along the river and the Atlantic coast to Lake Harney and the north end of the Indian River (approximately the same area called the “Northern St. Johns region” by John Goggin (1952).

The principal defining archaeological characteristic of the Timucua heartland is the production and use of St. Johns Series pottery: a smooth, chalky-textured ware using spiculate-containing clays. The only major change and chronological division in the 2,000 year-long St. Johns ceramic tradition was marked by the introduction of check stamping as a ceramic design motif, at approximately 1200 years, BPE A.D. 800. This marks the initiation of the archaeological St. Johns 2 period. Whatever provoked this change also led

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to larger and more sedentary populations.

Several Timucua political divisions and linguistic subdivisions were recorded by early Spanish and French chroniclers (for synthetic ethnohistorical works on the sixteenth-century Timucua see Hann 1996; Milanich 1996, Worth 1995). According to these, the people in the vicinity of St. Augustine were part of the *Agua Salada* (saltwater) division. These coastal people appear to have subsisted principally on estuarine resources with limited reliance on farming. The cacique of the St. Augustine area, Seloy (or Soloy), was subject to the regional chief Saturiwa, whose seat was near present day Jacksonville. Saturiwa was a bitter enemy of the Spaniards, and remained combative well after other Timucua caciques had treated with Menéndez (Barrientos 1965:140).

Contact Period AD 1565-ca.AD 1567: Pedro Menéndez de Aviles had been preceded by a number of unfortunate European expeditions that tried to settle *La Florida*, which extended in the sixteenth century north to Virginia and westward to the Mississippi. Among them were those of Juan Ponce de Leon (1513) who died trying to conquer Florida; Lucas Vázquez de Allyón, who founded the short-lived settlement of San Miguel de Gualdape in 1523; Panfilo de Narvaez, who trekked through Florida in 1526 and lost all but 4 men; the infamous Hernando de Soto in 1540-44, who also died trying to claim the land; and Tristan de Luna, who tried unsuccessfully to establish a settlement at Pensacola in 1562 (see Gannon 1996). By the 1560's French Huguenots were establishing their settlements at Port Royal and Fort Caroline in La Florida, and this set the stage for Menéndez (on the French colonization efforts, see Laudonniere 2001; McGrath 2000).

Admiral Pedro Menéndez de Aviles was the Captain General of the Spanish fleet stationed in the West Indies to protect trade and shipping. He was also a privateer and had a troubled history of tax evasion, but the Protestant French presence in Florida convinced Phillip II of Spain to enter into a joint venture with Menéndez to both settle Florida and expel the French. After arriving in Florida, Menéndez quickly, decisively and by some accounts cruelly, vanquished the French efforts at colonization. He and his 800-person expedition established a settlement at or near a village under the jurisdiction of the Timucua Cacique Seloy. Archaeological work since 1976 supports the location of that site at site 8SJ31 (Fountain of Youth Park) in St. Augustine.

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The circumstances at the St. Augustine settlement deteriorated within a month. After the capture of Ft. Caroline, Menéndez renamed the fort San Mateo, and left a garrison of 300 men there. Those who remained in St. Augustine were obligated to build the settlement and its defenses. Most of the supplies had been lost in shipwrecks and storms, and there was insufficient food to sustain the colonists (Menéndez de Aviles 1979). In the following months, Menéndez established small forts and outposts on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, diverting another 300 or so soldiers to man those outposts (see Hoffman 2002:51-55 for in-depth discussions of Menéndez's frontier forts). Additionally, a considerable number of soldiers and seamen accompanied Menéndez on his explorations and voyages, which took place almost continuously for the first five months after settlement. Just two months after their arrival it is likely that only between 100 and 200 people remained at the St. Augustine settlement. They continued to suffer from hunger, illness and Indian attacks, and it was reported in January of 1566 that more than 100 people had died in the Florida forts from hunger and cold (Lyon 1976:140).

These conditions, exacerbated by the failure to find wealth, led to mutinies against Menéndez by the soldiers in both St. Augustine and San Mateo (the former Fort Caroline) in the spring of 1566. The mutinies were ultimately quelled, but a month later the St. Augustine fort burned, either as a result of Indian attack or accident. In either case, relations with the Timucua in the area had deteriorated badly, and Menéndez decided to move the settlement across to the east side of the Matanzas River separated from the Timucua of Seloy. In May of 1566 they moved the settlement and built the fort at the (then) north end of Anastasia Island (Lyon 1997). That site has not been located.

By the end of 1566, peace treaties were established between the Spaniards (now headquartered on Anastasia Island) and the Timucuan groups to the west and north of the St. Johns River. In Sauriwa's domain, however, which included the vicinity of St. Augustine, hostilities continued and accelerated. In 1567 Menéndez ordered the construction of a series of blockhouses, or *casas fuertes*, to guard against and combat Sauriwa's forces, and to "overawe the unfriendly Indians who had never desired alliance with the Christians" (Barrientos in Quinn 1979:532). One of these was at "Old St. Augustine" (*San Agustín el Viejo*). Archaeological evidence (discussed below) suggests

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that this blockhouse may correspond to sixteenth-century archaeological features at 8SJ34, the Nombre de Dios/Nuestra Señora de la Leche Shrine/site which is immediately to the south of the Fountain of Youth Park (Deagan 2012).

Mission Period ca. 1590-ca. 1650: Organized efforts to convert the Timucuan in the St. Augustine vicinity did not begin until after 1577, when the first Franciscans came to the Florida mission field (Gannon 1965:36-37; Hann 1996:138-140). A number of Native inhabitants of the area were baptized, including the *Cacica* (Chieftainess) of the town of Nombre de Dios, the name given to a Native American town about a kilometer north of St. Augustine. These first Christian Timucuan attended Mass in the Spanish town until after 1587, when the first Franciscan mission *doctrina* in what is today the United States was established at Nombre de Dios (Arnade 1959:29). The town and mission of the Nombre de Dios have been archaeologically identified as extending across the modern properties of both Nombre de Dios (8SJ34) and the Fountain of Youth Park (8SJ31) and beyond (see Deagan 2008:93-101). Remains of the Mission-era occupation have been located in the southwestern periphery of the Fountain of Youth Park, however Mission period (post-1590) remains are very rare in the Menéndez encampment area (Deagan 2008:333-337). The Nombre de Dios mission occupation, mission site, although highly significant, is not a focus of this nomination.

In 1934 a gardener at the Fountain of Youth Park uncovered human remains at the Fountain of Youth Park while planting orange trees, and subsequent excavations under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution uncovered more than 100 Christian graves. These are located in the southwestern corner of the Fountain of Youth Park about 130 meters southwest of the Menéndez occupation area. Associated beads dated the remains to the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries (Goggin 1952; Seaberg 1951). The position of the remains, as well as their orientation and tightly packed distribution, clearly indicates that this was the site of the initial Nombre de Dios mission church (Deagan 2008; Dickson 1934; Hahn 1953; Merritt 1977; Seaberg 1951). Excavations (in 2001) in the vicinity of the church uncovered remains of a Timucua village occupation dating to the first half of the seventeenth century, however no sixteenth-century deposits have been located so far in this area, or in any part of the western half of the Park property (Waters 2001; 2005). In 1595 the population of Nombre de Dios was about 200 people (Arnade 1959:57). A smallpox

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epidemic was reported to have virtually wiped out the population of Nombre de Dios in 1654-55, and ten years later the town's population consisted of only 35 people (Hann 1996:308-323; Worth 1995:147-155). It is probable that the major part of the Nombre de Dios mission community shifted southward toward the Spanish town at this point.

Post-1763 Occupation: There has been no documented domestic occupation or building activity in the Menéndez occupation area since the end of the first Spanish period in 1763. It became part of the British period Governor Grant's farm, which was an agricultural plantation until the 1780s (see Schaefer 2000). The properties remained in farmland until the late nineteenth century. After the Civil War, the property was purchased by H.H. Williams, a florist who cultivated flowers and fruit there (Adams et. al 1980; Corse 1933). Williams opened his gardens to the public in 1874 as the "Paradise Grove and Rose Gardens." The property was purchased in 1900 by Louella Day McConnell (a.k.a. "Diamond Lil"), who developed the Park as the supposed site of Ponce de Leon's landing place and the Fountain of Youth (ibid.). The site has remained a tourist attraction since passing in 1927 into the ownership of Walter B. Fraser, a Florida State Senator, Mayor of St. Augustine and an early preservation advocate. The Fraser family continues to operate the site as a tourist attraction, and the Park is today committed to educational programming centered on the Menéndez-era occupation.
(www.fountainofyouth.com).

Present Environmental Setting and Landscape Alteration: The Fountain of Youth Park encompasses 12 acres, however Menéndez-era materials are restricted to the eastern shoreline, covering an area of approximately 80 meters east-west by 120 meters north-south (2 acres or .96 hectares). The eastern boundary of the area is defined by a raised pathway along Hospital Creek, and other sides of the area were determined by the distribution of sub-surface sixteenth-century materials and features (**Figure #3**).

The western boundary is indicated not only by the absence of sixteenth-century remains, but also by clayey soils marking a low-lying, formerly inundated area. This inundated area was in existence from at least the sixteenth century (and possibly earlier) into the nineteenth century. The area is today periodically inundated, and supports such saltwater marsh plants as *Salicornia bigelovii* (Glasswort), *Batis maritima* (Salt Wort) and areas of

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algae matting (marsh and waterways visible in **Figure #4**). Soil cores, magnetometry survey and shovel tests have shown that this part of the site contains very few cultural remains, and wet black-brown marsh deposits appear at ca. 15 cm. below present ground surface (Deagan 2012; Schultz 2000; Woods 2000, 2002). The causes and dates of infilling to this area are undocumented.

The occupation site itself lies in a dry hammock within a Saltwater Lagoon-Marsh environmental zone. The soils throughout the sites are classified as St. Augustine-Urban Land Complex, characterized as “somewhat poorly drained level soils that are formed as a result of dredging and filling activities (**Figure #5**). It is subject to periodic flooding and a high water table, and is not considered suitable for cultivated crops (Readle 1983:32). The site is bordered on the east and south (the tidally-inundated marsh zones along Hospital Creek) by Pellicer Silty Clay Loam (Readle 1983), which are clayey tidal sediments more than 40 inches thick.

A cement pathway extends west to east along what was the northern end of the sixteenth-century occupation area (Photo #2). There is a statue of Ponce de Leon at the western edge, and an obelisk commemorating Ponce’s voyage at the east end. The area to the south of the path is an open field planted in grass, with palm trees established along the eastern border (Photo #3). The Menéndez-era settlement remains are concentrated in this area, and the Park has outlined the footprints of several of the archaeologically-defined structures in white sand as an aid to interpretation (Photo #4). A concrete bulwark, seawall and dock were built by the Park along the southeastern shoreline of the property in 2006 (**Figure #6**). These are in a zone of modern fill adjacent to, but outside of, the archaeologically-defined Menéndez occupation area. Interpretive pole structures (Photo #5) in this adjacent zone include a palm thatch shelter in which a Spanish *chalupa* (shallop) is being built (Photo #6), and a wooden watchtower replica. Cannon firing demonstrations take place adjacent to the watchtower. The portion of the Menéndez occupation area to the north of the central pathway is presently planted in grass, and contains 36 oak and cedar trees. It is used today as a picnic area and wedding venue. This part of the site is far less well-studied than the southern area, and is thought to contain the remains of sixteenth-century defensive structures.

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The volatile nature of coastal waterways in the face of human activity and hurricanes has altered the landscape configuration of the over the past 400 years, and especially during the last century. Major changes in the immediate waterscape of Hospital Creek undoubtedly occurred when the present St. Augustine inlet was dredged by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1942. That year, the Corps made a 200 meter wide cut some 400 meters north of the then-existing inlet, almost directly east of the mouth of Hospital Creek and the Menéndez occupation area. Maintenance dredging of the channel has continued since that time, undoubtedly altering the water flow and sand deposition patterns in this area.

The Menendez Encampment Site itself borders the mouth of a tidal inlet known today as Hospital Creek, which has also historically been referred to as Macariz Creek. The creek faces the confluence of the old St. Augustine inlet (to the east), the entrance to the Matanzas River (to the south) and the entrance to the Tolomato, or North River (to the north). Such a position offered not only a series of rich ecotones, but also an excellent position for water travel, communication and defense. This strategic location was undoubtedly critical to the more than 2,000-year long human habitation of the area, making it equally attractive for Native American fishers and farmers, sixteenth-century military strategists, seventeenth century missionaries and twentieth century developers. The west and north sides of the Park are surrounded today by post-1850 residential and commercial development.

The occupation site itself lies in a dry hammock within a Saltwater Lagoon-Marsh environmental zone. The soils throughout the sites are classified as St. Augustine-Urban Land Complex, characterized as “somewhat poorly drained level soils that are formed as a result of dredging and filling activities. It is subject to periodic flooding and a high water table, and is not considered suitable for cultivated crops (Readle 1983:32). The site is bordered on the east and south (the tidally-inundated marsh zones along Hospital Creek) by Pellicer Silty Clay Loam (Readle 1983), which are clayey tidal sediments more than 40 inches thick.

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During the 1950's a bulkhead comprised of nearly two meters of modern construction debris and concrete block was built along the shoreline of the creek to support a narrow roadway (John R. Fraser, personal communication to Kathleen Deagan, 11/1991; Deagan 2008:34-36). Test excavations and ground penetrating radar studies (Schultz and Gidusko 2015) have located the marshy edge of the sixteenth-century settlement at about 10 meters inland from the existing shoreline. Although the bulkhead construction and perimeter pathway obscure portions of the original marsh edge beach on the east side of the site, it has also served to protect the sixteenth-century and earlier deposits to the west

Despite these changes, the Menéndez-era occupation area has remained largely undisturbed by cultural activities over the intervening centuries. No buildings have ever been constructed on the site, and its function as a tourism destination since the late nineteenth century has spared it the kinds of development experienced by the rest of the St. Augustine's shoreline.

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SUMMARY

The Menéndez Encampment Site is nationally significant under Criteria A, B, and D, in the areas of Exploration & Settlement, Historic Archaeology, and for its biographical association with Pedro Menéndez de Aviles. The site initiated the first permanent European occupation in the United States; its association with a nationally significant historical figure, Pedro Menéndez de Aviles; and its historic archaeological significance, which includes the intact remains of the 1565 settlement of St. Augustine and its defensive works. It is also the first place in the nation where Native Americans lived in sustained daily contact with Europeans, and those experiences shaped the course of all subsequent Spanish–Native American relations throughout the southern United States. The site has, and is likely to yield information important to our understanding of this time in history. The entire occupation site is located on site 8SJ31, as well as 8SJ4 which is located on a parcel directly to the south. This National Register nomination is for the 8SJ31 site only.

ARCHAEOLOGY CONTEXT

Archaeological Investigations at 8SJ31: Twenty-three separate archaeological investigations have taken place between 1934 and 2014 at 8SJ31. These are summarized below in table form:

Date	Institution	Excavator(s)	Site Location	Report reference	Location of field records and artifact collections
1934	Smithsonian Institution	Ray Dickson/ Mathew Stirling	8SJ31 western periphery in seventeenth century mission burial area	Dickson 1934; Seaberg 1951	Records-FOY archive; Collections-unknown

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1935	Florida Geological Survey	Vernon Lamme	8SJ31Unknown	Lamme 1935	Unknown
1951	University of Florida Anthropology	John Goggin/ Lillian Seaberg / Paul Hahn/	8SJ31 Entire property tested	Seaberg 1951	Records– Unknown Collections- FLMNH-UF
1951	University of Florida Anthropology	John Goggin/ Marguerite Porter/ Richard Cooper	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Porter 1952	Records – Unknown Collections- Unknown
1953	University of Florida Anthropology	John Goggin/ Paul Hahn	8SJ31 Western periphery in seventeenth century mission burial area	Hahn 1953	Records – Unknown Collections- Unknown
1976	Florida State University Anthropology	Kathleen Deagan/ Donald Merritt	8SJ31SE and NE quadrants	Merritt 1977	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH- UF
1977	Florida State University Anthropology	Kathleen Deagan/ Nicholas Lucchetti	8SJ31 and 8SJ34 Auger survey	Lucchetti 1977	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH- UF
1985	University of Florida- FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Ed Chaney	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Chaney 1987	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF

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1987	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Ed Chaney	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	None	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
1990	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Gardner Gordon	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Gordon 1992	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
1994	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Robin Shtulman	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Shtulman 1995	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2000	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Cheryl White	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	White 2001	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2000	University of Florida-FLMNH	Gifford Waters	8SJ31 SW quadrant sub surface survey; mission village area excavation	Waters 2005	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2000	University of Florida-FLMNH	Gifford Waters/ Korinn Braden/Kim Lewis	8SJ31 Shovel test survey NE sector	Lewis,/Wright 2000, Barrett/Braden 2000	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2001	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Jamie Anderson	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Anderson 2002	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF

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2002	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Al Woods	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Woods 2004, Deagan 2004	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2005	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan Ingrid Newquist	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Newquist 2007	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2006	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Deagan 2008	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2007	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Gifford Waters	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Deagan 2008	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2009	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Gifford Waters	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area		Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2011	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Gifford Waters	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area		Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2013	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Deagan 2014	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2014	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Deagan 2014	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF

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Occupation Periods: The land encompassed by site 8SJ31 has been occupied by people at least intermittently for more than 2,500 years. The principal occupations are outlined below, however the current nomination is specifically for the Menéndez encampment site.

Precolumbian Era (ca. 3,000 BPE – AD1565): The earliest use of the area appears to have been intermittently during the final stage of the ceramic Archaic Orange period (1000-500B.C.) (B.P.E. 3000-2500) (dates for the precolumbian occupations follow Milanich 1994:94, 247). The principal and most intensive occupation of the Fountain of Youth Park property took place between about A.D. 950 and AD 1566, during the St. Johns II period (Goggin 1952). Analysis of faunal remains and particularly fish otoliths from St. Johns II contexts suggests that occupation was probably year-round after ca. A.D. 1000 ((Hales and Reitz 1992; Reitz 1991; Young 1988).

The St. Johns II culture is associated with the historically known Eastern Timucua people who inhabited the region when the Spaniards arrived in 1565. The people living in northeastern and north central Florida during the mid-sixteenth century were members of the Timucua sociolinguistic community, which was comprised of multiple tribes loosely confederated into independent and often competitive chiefdoms. Considered archaeologically, this region incorporated at least seven distinct but interacting cultural subdivisions with distinctive material assemblages (see Milanich 1996:44-55). St. Augustine is located in what is often characterized as the Timucua “heartland”, a region extending from the mouth of the St. Johns River southward along the river and the Atlantic coast to Lake Harney and the north end of the Indian River (approximately the same area called the “Northern St. Johns region” by John Goggin (1952).

The principal defining archaeological characteristic of the Timucua heartland is the production and use of St. Johns Series pottery: a smooth, chalky-textured ware using spiculate-containing clays. The only major change and chronological division in the 2,000 year-long St. Johns ceramic tradition was marked by the introduction of check stamping as a ceramic design motif, at approximately 1200 years BPE (A.D. 800). This marks the initiation of the archaeological St. Johns 2 period. Whatever provoked this change also led to larger and more sedentary populations.

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Several Timucua political divisions and linguistic subdivisions were recorded by early Spanish and French chroniclers (for synthetic ethnohistorical works on the sixteenth century Timucua see Hann 1996; Milanich 1996, Worth 1995). According to these, the people in the vicinity of St. Augustine part of the *Agua Salada* (saltwater) division. These coastal people appear to have subsisted principally on estuarine resources with limited reliance on farming. The cacique of the St. Augustine area, Seloy (or Soloy), was subject to the regional chief Saturiwa, whose seat was near present day Jacksonville. Saturiwa was a bitter enemy of the Spaniards, and remained violently hostile well after other Timucua caciques had treated with Menéndez (Barrientos 1965:140).

Contact Period (AD 1565-ca.AD 1567): Pedro Menéndez de Aviles had been preceded by a number of unfortunate European expeditions that tried to settle *La Florida*, which extended in the sixteenth century north to Virginia and westward to the Mississippi. Among them were those of Juan Ponce de Leon (1513) who died trying to conquer Florida, Lucas Vázquez de Allyón who founded the short-lived settlement of San Miguel de Gualdape in 1523, Panfilo de Narvaez, who trekked through Florida in 1526 and lost all but 4 men; the infamous Hernando de Soto in 1540-44, and also died trying to claim the land, and Tristan de Luna, who tried unsuccessfully to establish a settlement at Pensacola in 1562 (see Gannon 1996). By the 1560's French Huguenots were establishing their settlements at Port Royal and Fort Caroline in La Florida and this set the stage for Menéndez (on the French colonization efforts, see Laudonniere 2001; McGrath 2000).

Admiral Pedro Menéndez de Aviles was the Captain General of the Spanish fleet stationed in the West Indies to protect trade and shipping. He was also a privateer and had a troubled history of tax evasion, but the protestant French presence in Florida convinced Phillip II of Spain to enter into a joint venture with Menéndez to both settle Florida and expel the French. After arriving in Florida, Menéndez quickly, decisively and by some accounts cruelly, vanquished the French efforts at colonization. He and his 800-person expedition established a settlement at or near a village under the jurisdiction of the Timucua Cacique Seloy. Archaeological work since 1976 supports the location of that site at site 8SJ31 (Fountain of Youth Park) in St. Augustine.

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The circumstances at the St. Augustine settlement deteriorated within a month. After the capture of Ft. Caroline, Menéndez renamed the fort San Mateo, and left a garrison of 300 men there. Those who remained in St. Augustine were obligated to build the settlement and its defenses. Most of the supplies had been lost in shipwrecks and storms, and there was insufficient food to sustain the colonists (Menéndez de Aviles 1979). In the following months, Menéndez established small forts and outposts on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, diverting another 300 or so soldiers to man those outposts (see Hoffman 2002:51-55 for in-depth discussions of Menéndez's frontier forts). Additionally, a considerable number of soldiers and seamen accompanied Menéndez on his explorations and voyages, which took place almost continuously for the first five months after settlement. Just two months after their arrival it is likely that only between 100 and 200 people remained at the St. Augustine settlement. They continued to suffer from hunger, illness and Indian attacks, and it was reported in January of 1566 that more than 100 people had died in the Florida forts from hunger and cold (Lyon 1976:140).

These conditions, exacerbated by the failure to find wealth, led to mutinies against Menéndez by the soldiers in both St. Augustine and San Mateo (the former Fort Caroline) in the Spring of 1566. The mutinies were ultimately quelled, but a month later the St. Augustine fort burned, either as a result of Indian attack or accident. In either case, relations with the Timucua in the area had deteriorated badly, and Menéndez decided to move the settlement across to the east side of the Matanzas River separated from the Timucua of Seloy. In May of 1566 they moved the settlement and built the fort at the (then) north end of Anastasia Island (Lyon 1997). That site has not been located.

By the end of 1566, peace treaties were established between the Spaniards (now headquartered on Anastasia Island) and the Timucuan groups to the west and north of the St. Johns River. In Sauriwa's domain, however, which included the vicinity of St. Augustine, hostilities continued and accelerated. In 1567 Menéndez ordered the construction of a series of blockhouses, or *casas fuertes*, to guard against and combat Sauriwa's forces, and to "overawe the unfriendly Indians who had never desired alliance with the Christians" (Barrientos in Quinn 1979:532). One of these was at "Old St. Augustine" (*San Agustín el Viejo*). Archaeological evidence suggests that this blockhouse may correspond to sixteenth century archaeological features at 8SJ34, the Nombre de

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Dios/Nuestra Señora de la Leche Shrine/site which is immediately to the south of the Fountain of Youth Park (Deagan 2012).

Mission Period (ca. 1590-ca. 1650): Organized efforts to convert the Timucuan in the St. Augustine vicinity did not begin until after 1577, when the first Franciscans came to the Florida mission field (Gannon 1965:36-37; Hann 1996:138-140). A number of Native inhabitants of the area were baptized, including the *Cacica* (Chieftainess) of the town of Nombre de Dios, the name given to a Native American town about a kilometer north of St. Augustine. These first Christian Timucuan attended Mass in the Spanish town until after 1587, when the first Franciscan mission *doctrina* in what is today the United States was established at Nombre de Dios (Arnade 1959:29). The town and mission of the Nombre de Dios have been archaeologically identified as extending across the modern properties of both Nombre de Dios (8SJ34) and the Fountain of Youth Park (8SJ31) and beyond (see Deagan 2008:93-101). Remains of the Mission-era occupation have been located in the southwestern periphery of the Fountain of Youth Park, however Mission period (post-1590) remains are very rare in the Menéndez encampment area (Deagan 2008:333-337). The Nombre de Dios mission occupation, mission site, although highly significant, is not a focus of this nomination.

In 1934 a gardener at the Fountain of Youth Park uncovered human remains at the Fountain of Youth Park while planting orange trees, and subsequent excavations under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution uncovered more than 100 Christian graves. These are located in the southwestern corner of the Fountain of Youth Park about 130 meters southwest of the Menéndez occupation area. Associated beads dated the remains to the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries (Goggin 1952; Seaberg 1951). The position of the remains, as well as their orientation and tightly packed distribution, clearly indicates that this was the site of the initial Nombre de Dios mission church (Deagan 2008; Dickson 1934; Hahn 1953; Merritt 1977; Seaberg 1951). Excavations (in 2001) in the vicinity of the church uncovered remains of a Timucua village occupation dating to the first half of the seventeenth century, however no sixteenth century deposits have been located so far in this area, or in any part of the western half of the Park property (Waters 2001; 2005). In 1595 the population of Nombre de Dios was about 200 people (Arnade 1959:57). A smallpox epidemic was reported to have virtually wiped out the population of Nombre de Dios in 1654-55, and ten years later the town's population consisted of only 35 people

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(Hann 1996:308-323; Worth 1995:147-155). It is probable that the major part of the Nombre de Dios mission community shifted southward toward the Spanish town at this point.

Post-1763 Occupation: There has been no documented domestic occupation or building activity in the Menéndez occupation area since the end of the first Spanish period in 1763. It became part of the British period Governor Grant's farm, which was an agricultural plantation until the 1780s (see Schaefer 2000). The properties remained in farmland until the late nineteenth century. After the Civil War, the property was purchased by H.H. Williams, a florist who cultivated flowers and fruit there (Adams et. al 1980; Corse 1933). Williams opened his gardens to the public in 1874 as the "Paradise Grove and Rose Gardens." The property was purchased in 1900 by Louella Day McConnell (a.k.a. "Diamond Lil"), who developed the Park as the supposed site of Ponce de Leon's landing place and the Fountain of Youth (ibid). The site has remained a tourist attraction since passing in 1927 into the ownership of Walter B. Fraser, a Florida State Senator, Mayor of St. Augustine and an early preservation advocate. The Fraser family continues to operate the site as a tourist attraction, and the Park is today committed to educational programming centered on the Menéndez-era occupation. (www.fountainofyouth.com).

Several projects were undertaken at the Fountain of Youth Park site during the first half of the twentieth century, however none of those excavations located or recognized the (then unsuspected) 1565-1567 occupation sites. Excavations in the Hospital Creek region were renewed in 1976 by the Florida State University Field School under the direction of Kathleen Deagan. The first phase of this work was an auger survey of the north St. Augustine area (Lucchetti 1976, Chaney 1986) (Figure 13). The survey revealed that sixteenth-century Spanish artifacts occurred only in the southeastern corner of the Fountain of Youth Park (8SJ31) and at the northeastern corner of the Nombre de Dios/La Leche Shrine property (8SJ34). Since 1977, excavations have concentrated on these areas, which remain the only locations outside of downtown St. Augustine with evidence of sixteenth-century Spanish presence.

The archaeological work since 1985 has been carried out collaboratively with archival research by historians Eugene Lyon and the late Albert Manucy in sixteenth-century

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document collections and published sources (Chatelaine 1941:41; Lyon 1976; 1985; 1997a-b; Manucy 1978, 1985, 1997), as well as zooarchaeologist Elizabeth Reitz (Reitz 1988, 1991, 1992, 2004; Orr 2001; Orr and Colannino 2008); archaeobotanist Margaret Scarry (Scarry 1989); and historical architect Herschel Shepard (Shepard 2005).

Documentary work has shown that the location and geographic features represented at the mouth of Hospital Creek are highly consistent with what little was recorded about the location of the 1565 settlement, particularly in its relation to the sixteenth-century configuration of the bar and inlet of St. Augustine. The presence of an extensive Timucua occupation is consistent with descriptions of the settlement's establishment at a Native American town, and the absence so far of any archaeological or documentary evidence for any other sixteenth-century European settlement all directly support the identification of these sites as the 1565-66 Menéndez encampment (8SJ31).

1934-1954 Investigations: The first archeological investigation at the Fountain of Youth Park (and one of the first historical archaeology studies in the United States) was carried out in 1934 by Mr. J. Ray Dickson (under the supervision of Matthew Stirling of the Smithsonian Institution) after the discovery of human skeletal remains during gardening activities. These were located at the western side of the property, near present-day Magnolia Avenue, 130 meters west of the 1565-66 encampment area. Follow-up excavations were conducted the following year by then-Florida State archaeologist Vernon Lamme, although the locations and results of those excavations remain unrecorded. Dickson's excavations have been reported and summarized by Seaberg (1990:222-230), Merritt (1977:36-45) and Deagan (2008:52-57).

Dickson excavated more than 112 Native American burials in a 90 by 40 feet block. The majority of the burials were extended, with arms crossed on the chest in the traditional Christian pattern, and heads at the west, facing east. The tightly compacted and regular arrangement of the burials, the associated European artifacts and their highly consistent orientations all suggest that the burials were in the floor of an early church at the mission Nombre de Dios, established in 1587 (Hann 1990:426; Gannon 1965:27). The work in this part of the site revealed no evidence of Menéndez-era activity, and the remains pertain exclusively to the unrelated late sixteenth/early seventeenth-century Mission of Nombre de

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Dios.

John Goggin of the University of Florida directed excavations at the Fountain of Youth Park site between 1951 and 1954 in order to understand the Timucua occupation of the property. This work included eight five foot square test units located throughout the Fountain of Youth Park (Seaberg 1951). None of this work located evidence of the (then unsuspected) 1565 encampment.

Additional work was carried out in 1952 by University of Florida students Paul Hahn, Richard Cooper, and Marguerite Porter, but was not reported. Until 2013, no information about the location, extent, or results of that work could be found, despite exhaustive searches in various repositories and private collections. Several features thought to be associated with the 1951 excavations were located in excavations done between 1991 and 2012. These were identified by rectangular areas of backfill containing 1950's soda bottles, flash bulbs, and unmarked wood survey stakes. However no coherent or obvious pattern of excavation could be discerned.

In the summer of 2013, however, all of the records, maps, artifacts, photographs and notes from those excavations were found in Martinez, California by the daughter and granddaughter of Paul Hahn. Hahn, one of Goggin's students, had apparently been charged with completing the report on the project. He left for graduate school at Yale without completing the report, taking however, all the materials from the 8SJ31 excavations with him. He later left Yale and moved to Chicago, New Mexico and ultimately Martinez, California, where he died in 2012 (without having written the Fountain of Youth Park report).

Hahn's daughter, Julie Willsea, found the materials from the Fountain of Youth Park in their garage after his death, apparently untouched and in their original condition after 62 years. Willsea contacted archaeologists at the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida. The materials were shipped to the Museum, where they are now curated.

Hahn's maps and records show extraordinarily extensive excavation trenches encircling the

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periphery of the site area. If accurate, the maps indicate that the 1952 team excavated some 633 square meters of area, and mapped dozens of pits, postmolds and trench features. As noted above, the University of Florida excavations between 1985 and 2013 had located deposits of modern backfill that corresponded to some of the 1952 units (although this association was not known at the time). It was therefore possible, using the locations of those backfilled features, to georeference the 1952 maps to the Cartesian coordinate grid system currently in use, and to rectify the 1952 finds with those excavated subsequently.

In December of 2013, a Florida Museum of Natural History team re-opened two areas of the site that had been previously excavated both by the University of Florida and, if the 1952 maps were correct, also by the Goggin team. This was done to ground truth and verify the locations of the excavation units. These tests showed that the 1951-52 maps are in fact internally consistent, and that the units and features represented on them are locatable on the ground. (**Figure #7**)

The 1952 team also excavated 19 test pits to the north of the area with sixteenth-century Spanish occupation remains, in a part of the property that today contains a tourist walkway and picnic area. The 1951 notes and maps document long timber stains representing wall sills in a configuration that may potentially represent additional defensive works. These remain to be relocated and tested.

According to the 1951 records, the excavation units were excavated in arbitrary layers to sterile soil, and the features and intrusions at that level were mapped. The project ended, however, before the features could be excavated. The 2013 ground truth and 2014 excavations at the site have verified that the features encountered by the 1951 team had not, in fact, been excavated. There exists, therefore, a potential wealth of additional information about the Menéndez settlement that remains to be verified and incorporated. The following summary of results from the excavation of the Menéndez settlement at the Fountain of Youth Park can therefore only partially incorporate the newly revealed information from 1951.

State University Excavations of 1976-2014: The initial 1976-77 field school archaeological work in the southeastern portion of 8SJ31 was undertaken to learn more

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about Timucua lifeways and adaptive patterns during the very early historic period (Merritt 1977). During the 1985 season however, it became apparent that the area contained very early European features including a barrel well and what appeared to be rectangular structures made with cut timbers and iron nails (Chaney 1987; Chaney and Deagan 1988). Neither of these kinds of construction is known from Timucuan sites of the pre- or postcolumbian eras. The presence of barrel wells was considered particularly significant because there are four above-ground artesian springs within a hundred meters of the well itself, suggesting that the well may have been intended to serve as a water supply within a fortified area.

Since 1985, excavations at 8SJ31 have been concentrated in the southeastern corner of the property in efforts to reveal the configuration and components of the 1565-66 encampment. A total of 1,988 square meters of area (about twenty percent of the occupation site area and two percent of the Park property) has been excavated. In addition to extensive excavations, the entire area has been subjected to magnetometer survey, ground penetrating radar and electromagnetic resistivity (EM 31) surveys, as well as aerial infrared photography and systematic shovel testing (reported in Deagan 2008; LUCKETTI 1977; Newquist 2006; Schultz 2001; Woods 2002). This work has been carried out largely through the University of Florida Archaeological Field School program directed by Kathleen Deagan, and has been reported in a series of MA theses, published papers and technical reports. Many of these are available on line at www.flmnh.ufl.edu/histarch/research/menendez/reports .

Summary of Results:

Pre-1565 Occupations: The presence of Orange Fiber Tempered pottery and an Archaic period Lafayette point suggest at least an intermittent late Archaic occupation of the site. The earliest residential occupation, dated at approximately 800 B.C., occurred at the period of transition between the late Archaic Orange ceramic period and the subsequent early St. Johns I "Woodlands" periods of Florida prehistory (dates used here follow Milanich 1994).

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Occupation during the late Archaic period is thought to have been largely focused on intermittent shellfish collecting and fishing activities, but occurring through time during all seasons of the year.

The earliest sedentary occupation of the site began during the St. Johns II period, at between about A.D. 800-1000 (Appendix 1 reports the radiometric dates from the site). This is represented by two shell midden areas partially enclosing a low-lying open central area. The central area between the shell middens was relatively free of refuse and architectural features, and is assumed to have been a plaza or open space during both the pre- and post-contact periods.

Features (pits, hearths and postmolds) dating to the Timucuan pre-contact era are restricted primarily to the areas south and north of the open central zone. Two dog burials (both dated by AMS to between AD 800 and AD 1000) were associated with the initial stages of midden formation. Most of the structural evidence thought to be of Timucuan origin is comprised of postmolds arranged in round or oval patterns measuring between 3.7 and 4 meters in diameter. These presumably supported the walls of thatched structures. To date, remnants of 11 circular huts have been located, four of which were removed, repaired or reused after the arrival of the Spanish.

The dating of these structures is sometimes ambiguous, in that the fill of postmolds and wall trenches provides a date for the destruction and backfilling of these features, rather than for their construction. It is likely that many of the structures with assigned dates in the sixteenth century (based on the presence of an associated European item) may well have been constructed before 1565, and altered, disturbed or destroyed after 1565. The absence of precise dates for Timucuan artifacts that might serve as dating indices to the pre- and post-contact periods also hinders specific date assignments. Such materials as St. Johns pottery and chert projectile points continued to be produced well into the historic era. The frequent flooding and tidal water table fluctuations at the site makes it likely that fully pre-contact Timucua deposits have been disturbed by the percolation and migration of small European items (such as iron flakes, seed beads and glass fragments) through the sandy soils.

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There is some indication, however, that the Spaniards used and perhaps altered some of the Timucua structures for their own use. Several of the circular structures had more abundant European materials associated with both the architectural features and associated trash pits and hearths. These clearly dated to the post-1565 period and suggest re-use of Timucua buildings by Spanish colonists.

HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Exploration, contact and colonization: On September 8 of 1565, 800 weary Spaniards came on shore at St. Augustine, Florida, after enduring a storm-plagued voyage of more than 70 days. They attended Mass and a ceremony claiming *La Florida* for Spain, and afterwards invited the undoubtedly curious local Timucua people to join them in feast of thanksgiving.

The Spanish colonial settlement of St. Augustine resulted directly from the political and military rivalry in Europe over control of the Americas. The Spanish based their exclusive legal rights to the New World, which included La Florida, on a 1493 papal bull issued by Pope Alexander VI after Columbus's first voyage of discovery. Later confirmed by the Treaty of Tordesillas, the Bull established a north-south running global Demarcation Line, which gave Spain all of the territory west of the Line, including all of North America and most of South America. Portugal was given all of the territory to the west of the Demarcation Line which principally included Brazil. French and English monarchs, however, refused to recognize the authority of the Pope to grant Spain exclusive rights to the New World (Sauer 1971:94-95).

The initial Spanish exploration, conquest and settlement of the Americas (including Florida) was usually vested in a joint partnership between the crown of Spain and a crown appointed *adelantado*. The adelantado was financially responsible for the conquest of a new area, but if successful, he became the governor of the land, received title to a large amount of property, was assigned a certain percentage of the income generated in the province, received monopolies in trade, and was exempted from certain taxes. In return, the crown expected and often received new territories, taxes, wealth, new subjects and

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Catholic converts.

The first adelantado of La Florida was Juan Ponce de Leon, the former conquistador and Governor of Puerto Rico¹. As understood by Spain, "La Florida" included all of present-day Florida extending northward to the Chesapeake region and westward to the Mississippi River (Gannon 1996:21-22). Juan Ponce claimed and named La Florida in 1513, and returned in 1521 with Spanish settlers to establish a colony on the Gulf coast of Florida. The Calusa natives of the area, however, immediately repelled the settlers; drove the expedition away and mortally wounded Ponce (Fuson 2000; Sauer 1971:35). Five years later in 1526, Lucas Vásquez de Ayllón attempted to settle along the South Atlantic Coast in the vicinity of South Carolina, but cold weather and attacks by Native Americans caused abandonment of the settlement after only four months. Of the initial 500 people, only 80 survived (Hoffman 1990:60-80).

Pánfilo de Narváez was the next to inherit the vacant Florida adelantado title, and mounted an expedition in 1527 to explore and conquer the region. This effort failed within a year because of supply losses and Native attacks (Gannon 1996). Ten years later, in 1537, Hernando de Soto was appointed as the new adelantado. In four years of exploring the Southeast (1539-1543), de Soto got no further in conquering Florida than his predecessors, and like them he died in the attempt (see Galloway 1997 for a comprehensive assessment of this expedition).

The next effort to establish a foothold in La Florida took place in 1559, when Tristan de Luna y Arellano led an expedition of eleven ships and 1,500 settlers to Florida. Within a week of landing at present-day Pensacola on the Gulf coast, a hurricane sank eight of his ships and destroyed most of the colonists' provisions, ending any serious attempt to establish a settlement (Priestly 2010).

Privateers and Shipwrecks: Throughout the period of these unsuccessful conquest and colonization attempts, Spanish La Florida played an increasingly important role in the defense of the Spanish Caribbean. As noted, France and England did not recognize the Treaty of Tordesillas, or the exclusive right of Spain to own American territories. One of their primary means of attacking the Spanish empire and gaining its wealth was through

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privateer expeditions sanctioned by the governments and financed by private or governmental funds. From the 1530's onward these privateers attacked and plundered Spanish ships and coastal settlements throughout the Caribbean (Hoffman 1980:20-27).

To protect their Caribbean homeward bound fleets from French and English privateers, Spain needed to provide protection at certain strategic locations along the shipping lanes. Havana was the last port of call in the New World, with the Azores as the next chance of succor or supply [Sauer 1971:190]. Protecting the Straits of Florida, located between the Bahamian Islands and the South Atlantic Coast, was critical to the safety of the fleet. From whatever point of origin - New Spain, Peru, New Granada - shipping to Spain entered the Straits of Florida from the west, to ride the Gulf Stream out of the Gulf of Mexico, through the Bahama Channel, and on north into the Atlantic. At Cape Canaveral the Gulf Stream has a summer rate of flow of seventy mile a day, up to a point approximately fifty miles to the east of the Sea Islands of Georgia and South Carolina. Borne on the current, the ships sailed steadily into higher latitudes where they might expect to meet westerly winds to carry them to the Azores and Spain. This passage was, however, the most dangerous area for privateer attacks.

Privateers were not the only danger in the Straits of Florida; hurricanes had wrecked the homeward bound treasure fleets on the east coast of Florida in 1550 and 1553, killing more than a thousand mariners and passengers, and causing the loss of great quantities of treasure intended for the Crown of Spain. By 1565, when the final unsuccessful effort to colonize Florida was attempted, these economic and human losses had reached crisis proportions.

The French Threat to Spanish Florida: The final pre-St. Augustine settlement efforts in what is now the United States were organized by the French. During the 1560's France decided to intensify their efforts to control of the strategic coast of La Florida by establishing two settlements in Spanish territory. The settlements served the dual purposes of establishing a permanent French base along the Straits of Florida from which to attack Spanish shipping and possessions; and of creating a refuge for French Protestant Huguenots seeking to emigrate to a more liberal religious climate (McGrath 2000; Lyon 1984:1). This directly threatened Spain's claim to La Florida, and the security of Spanish

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shipping from the New World.

Charlesfort was a small fortification of 26 men, established in 1562 by Protestant Captain Jean Ribault at present-day Parris Island, South Carolina. Ribault returned to France for reinforcements, but left unsupplied, the Charlesfort garrison fell apart within a year. The survivors constructed a small boat to sail across the Atlantic back to France, and eventually reached home (McGrath 2000:79-83). The French colonization enterprise was resumed in the spring of 1564, when Captain Rene Laudonnière sailed with three ships and three hundred men to establish the new settlement of Fort Caroline near the mouth of the St. Johns River.¹ Laudonnière was under orders to prepare a fort and await Ribault's return with the bulk of the men and supplies that were to permanently establish a French presence in the Southeast (McGrath 2000). It was in this context of hostility and encroachment that Spain's' final (and first successful) effort to colonize the southeastern United States took place.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Pedro Menéndez and the Conquest of La Florida: The final adelantado appointed to La Florida was Pedro Menéndez de Aviles in 1565. Pedro Menéndez was an experienced seaman with a long service of history to the Spanish crown in both European and Caribbean waters, including many years spent as a privateer. France and England were not alone in issuing commissions to privateers, the Spanish crown also issued privateering commissions in retaliation, and one of the most successful Spanish privateers of the sixteenth century was Pedro Menéndez de Aviles.

Born in 1519 at Aviles, on the northern coast of Spain, Menéndez was the descendent of minor Asturian hidalgos and was connected by blood and marriage with several notable Asturian noble families. In 1543, after an early marriage to Doña María de Solís, Menéndez went to sea and entered the world of privateering (Lyon 1976:10-11). By 1548, he had received his first privateering commission from Charles V of Spain, who authorized

¹ The actual site of Fort Caroline has not been located. The National Park Service interprets the 1564 French colony of the northwest coast of Florida at Fort Caroline National Memorial.

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him in 1550 to extend his geographical area of privateering to include the West Indies during times of peace (Lyon 1976:11). With the outbreak of war with France in 1552, Menéndez again received a commission to seek French pirates in the West Indies with eight ships built at his own expense (Lyon 1976:12).

Although the peace of Cateau-Cambrésis (1559) ended fighting between France and Spain in Europe, the issue of France's incursions into the New World were still unresolved by 1560. As a result, Menéndez's proven skills earned him the position of Captain-General of the New Spain and Tierra Firme fleets (the *Carrera de Indias*), which earned him large sums from Crown charter fees, salary, commercial enterprises involving his own ships, and freight charges, and passenger fees (Lyon 1976:20). Perhaps because of his experiences, Menéndez was more mindful than his predecessors of the need to establish Spanish control of Florida's east coast.

In 1565 Menéndez submitted a proposal to the king in which he outlined the need to establish a Spanish colony in Florida. After due consideration and bargaining, King Philip signed a contract on March 22, 1565, with Menéndez's objectives in La Florida to be exploration of the land, establishment of a Spanish colony, and religious conversion of the local Native Americans (Lyon 1976:50). The reciprocal arrangements between the Castilian monarchs and their adelantados were formalized in their *asiento y capitulaciones* – or a series of negotiated contracts (Lyon 1976:5). In his contract with the king Menéndez agreed to the following terms (detailed by Lyon 1976:48-50):

To bring a force of five hundred men on his expedition, of which one hundred would be farmers, one hundred sailors, and the rest armed men and officers. He agreed to carry two clerics and to bring stonecutters, carpenters, farriers, blacksmiths, barbers, and surgeons.

To sail the coast of Florida and seek the most advantages places for settlement. He was also to search for traces of any corsairs or other unauthorized intruders in the lands of Phillip II and expel them, if such should exist.

Menéndez was to undertake a series of explorations of his area of governorship, which ranged from the northern "Gulf of Mexico around the Florida Keys and up the east coast to

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Terra `Nova” present-day Newfoundland, Canada (Lyon 1976:49).

After three years Menéndez was to bring an additional 400 settlers to Florida. He was to establish two or three towns, and to fortify each with a strong house of stone, adobe, or wood and with a moat and drawbridge (Lyon 1976:49).

The contract also said that every attempt should be made to bring the natives into the Christian faith and to loyal obedience to the King (Lyon 1976:50).

The Spanish King granted Menéndez and his heirs the title of adelantado of Florida in perpetuity and office of Captain-General of Florida for two lifetimes (his own and that of a son or son-in-law), 15,000 ducats to help finance the enterprise, an annual salary of 2,000 ducats, authority to grant land for plantations, a personal estate of more than 5,500 square miles of land, and the privilege of conducting conduct trade in his own ships between Spain and the West Indies, and between Florida and the Caribbean (Lyon 1976:51-52).

Menéndez also received unusual privileges as part of his contract with the Crown. These included a waiver of the customary licenses and fees for five hundred black slaves, as well as exceptional tax freedoms involving trade between the colonies and Spain.

Very shortly after Menéndez’s contract with the Crown was formalized, word reached the Spanish court at Seville that a new French settlement called Fort Caroline had been established in La Florida (located near present-day Jacksonville Florida) (Lyon 1976:37-41). Philip sent word of the French at Fort Caroline to Menéndez, who was making preparations in Madrid, for his own expedition to Florida, and encouraged him to leave as quickly as possible. The French threat shifted the priority of Menéndez’s mission from a private expedition of colonization to a joint venture between Menéndez and the Crown, focused on the expulsion of the French (Lyon 1976:56-66). The King amended the contract with Menéndez to provide him with an additional 300 soldiers outfitted at the expense of the crown to ensure success in dealing with the French (Lyon 1976:61).

Towards the end of May 1565, the Crown received confirmation that French military reinforcements were about to set sail for Fort Caroline under Jean Ribault, as well as their

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approximate sailing date. Even more troubling to the Catholic King of Spain was the information that the French expedition included “Lutheran” missionaries for the native population (Lyon 1976:68). This news not only added pressure to increase the size and strength of the Menéndez expedition, but also added urgency to the need for departure.

In addition to the support provided by the Crown, Menéndez was able to acquire the majority of the necessary ships, supplies and soldiers through investments made by Asturian friends and family. It was through these close knit personal connections that Menéndez also selected his leaders of the expedition and these leaders were to be paid in titles and land grants in La Florida (Lyon 1976:86). In addition to the soldiers provided by the Crown, Menéndez recruited militia men who also held licenses in the major trades of the time including blacksmiths, shoe makers, masons, carpenters, farmers, tailors and coopers. As Menéndez scholar Eugene Lyon notes (1976:92), the adelantado was preparing a full-scale transfer of Castilian civilization to the cities he planned to found in Florida (Lyon 1976:92).

The acquisition and loading of such a large contingent of ships, men and supplies required that preparations had to be made in both Asturias in the north and Cádiz in southern Spain. The fleets were to rendezvous at the Canary Islands and sail to the West Indies together (Lyon 1976:100). The northern ships, however, failed to make the rendezvous and Menéndez was forced to sail without them, leaving word that they should again reconnoiter in the Indies (Lyon 1976:101).

Eight vessels left the Canaries for the Indies. Within a few weeks weather had caused the small fleet to separate, and storms wreaked further havoc, forcing Menéndez to throw many of the heavy supplies overboard, including artillery, (Lyon 1976: 101-102). Reaching San Juan, Puerto Rico, Menéndez learned that only four of the original eight ships had made the trans-Atlantic journey, and he quickly set out to strengthen his diminished force. While awaiting completion of the repairs to the surviving four, Menéndez acquired another ship, two small boats and forty-two men to add to his enterprise. The five ships that ultimately comprised the fleet of Menéndez included the shallops *San Andrés* and *San Miguel*, the *bergantín La Esperanza*, the small ship acquired in Puerto Rico, and the flagship *San Pelayo*, a 900 ton galleass that carried most of the

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supplies and colonists (Lyon 1976:106). On August, 15, 1565 the small fleet left San Juan and made their way into the powerful Gulf Stream, sailing towards the northeast coast of Florida. At about the time that the Spanish ships sighted land at Cape Canaveral on August 28, Ribault's reinforcements for Fort Caroline were arriving at the mouth of the River May (the contemporary St. Johns River) (Lyon 1976:107-110). Ribault arrived at Fort Caroline on August 27, 1565, with seven large ships and another contingent of soldiers and settlers. Within a week, three of his smallest ships had been unloaded were light enough to pass over the bar and into the River May (McGrath 2000:135-137; Lyon 1976:111).

On September 4, 1565 the Spanish found a good harbor forty miles south of Fort Caroline, near an Indian town governed by the Timucua cacique, Seloy. They named the place St. Augustine to commemorate the day on which they first made landfall in Florida, near Cape Canaveral, which was on August 28th, the feast day of St. Augustine (Gannon 1983:24). Before establishing his settlement, however, Menéndez and his ships continued north, to attack the French at Fort Caroline. The Spanish and French ships engaged each other at long distance with their cannon, and after a brief but inconclusive skirmish, Menéndez and his fleet sailed back to St. Augustine on September 6.

The Spanish Settlement: Upon arriving at the site selected for his settlement, Menéndez sent 200 soldiers ashore to "throw up a trench in the place most fit to fortify themselves in.... When I go onshore we shall seek out a more suitable place to fortify ourselves in, as it is not fit where we are now" (Menéndez de Aviles 1565:397). Two days later, on September 8, 1565, Pedro Menéndez de Aviles stepped ashore with all the fanfare that accompanied taking formal possession of the land, including banners, trumpets and salutes of artillery. A Mass was then said, followed by a feast shared by the Indians and Spaniards alike. It was the first community act of religion and thanksgiving in the first permanent settlement in the country (Gannon 1983:26-27).

The events of those first days are unclear, and eyewitness accounts of the establishment of the settlement are ambiguous and often contradictory. Menéndez wrote that he sent his Captains ashore first to make an entrenchment, and that he would subsequently, once the immediate threats and uncertainties of arrival were past, more carefully select a site for the fort. Father Mendoza, Menéndez's chaplain, in contrast, wrote that upon landing, they took

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a house of a Timucuan chief, and made a fortification around it.

Very little is known through written accounts about the physical nature of Menéndez settlement and fort. Documents reveal that the first fort at St. Augustine contained a storehouse, or *casa de municiones*, as well as the lodgings of the expedition's officials. Inside the *casa de municiones* the Spaniards stored corn, meat, cassava, wine, oil, garbanzos, other foodstuffs, cloth, sails, and munitions. The storehouse also housed the ammunition, and there was considerable fear of fire: "...neither by day or by night was any flame lit in the said (storehouse) unless the said Camp-master ordered it. And when a candle was lit one person had it placed in a water jar" (in Lyon 1997a:134).

Another contemporary, Bartolomé Barrientos, stated that the fort's powder house was thatched with palmetto leaves: "they (*the Indians*) burned the powder magazine, which readily caught fire because it was thatched with palmetto leaves" (Manucy translation 1997:28). The Spaniards referred to the building as a *buhio*, the word used in the Caribbean to describe a thatched hut, and sometimes a large house of a cacique.

The Colonists: The colonists who actually arrived in Florida in 1565 represented only about half of those who set sail from Spain; they were survivors of shipwrecks and storms. They included some 500 soldiers, 200 seamen, and 100 "others", the latter comprised by civilians, clergy and the wives and children of 26 soldiers. All were from Spain. One hundred and thirty eight of these soldiers also held "office" (license) in various crafts and trades, including 10 stonemasons, 15 carpenters, 21 tailors 10 shoemakers, eight blacksmiths, five barbers, two surgeons, two lime makers, three swordsmiths, a gunmaker and a crossbow repairman. Other trades represented among the group included tanners, farriers, wool carders, a hatmaker, an embroiderer, a bookseller, coopers, bakers, gardeners, an apothecary, and a master brewer. Another 117 of the soldiers were also farmers, ready to settle and farm the land once the French were vanquished (Lyon 1976:92).

There were 26 women and several children at the initial site of St. Augustine, including Martinico de Arguelles y Morales, born to Martín de Arguelles and Leonor Morales in 1565 or 1566 at the first settlement, and is the first known European child born in what is

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today the United States (Lyon 1995:367; Manucy 1996:111).

In addition to Spaniards, several Native Americans and Africans lived at the first settlement of 1565-66, and became members of the community. A ration list of 1568 identifies those “*viejos*” (original settlers) who were with Menéndez in 1565-66, among them “Luis, mulatto” who was rescued from the Calusa and served as an interpreter, and “Juanillo, Negro”, who served in the same capacity as an interpreter for the Saturiwa Timucua (Lyon 1995:365-367). The names of any African slaves or servants who were present were not recorded.

The settlers’ circumstances deteriorated within a month. As Menéndez and the colonists began building the settlement in St. Augustine, Ribault and the French were preparing to retaliate. On September 8 the majority of the French forces boarded Ribault’s ships and sailed out to meet the Spaniards.

Fearing the loss of his most valuable possession to either the French or a storm, Menéndez sent his flagship *San Pelayo* to Cuba on September 10th, before it was completely unloaded (Lyon 1976:120). At the break of dawn that very morning, Ribault and the French fleet appeared off the coast of St. Augustine, but rather than attacking the Spanish camp, they continued south in pursuit of the *San Pelayo*. Although Ribault did not capture the flagship, it was taken by French prisoners being sent to Cuba on the ship, who mutinied and overpowered the Spanish captain and crew. During their attempt to sail it back to Europe, the *San Pelayo* was lost off the coast of Denmark later that year (Lyon 1995: 215). This was a serious blow to the Spanish colonists, since most of the supplies and tools for the colony had been aboard the *San Pelayo* and departed with her, since the artillery and munitions were given priority in the hasty unloading (Lyon 1976:120).

Two days after the departure of the *San Pelayo* a severe storm blowing from the north, possibly a hurricane, ravaged the coast of northeast Florida. Realizing that this storm would keep the French from returning to either St. Augustine or Fort Caroline, Menéndez decided to attack what he believed would be the depleted forces at Fort Caroline overland (Lyon 1975:120). On September eighteenth, with the storm still raging, Menéndez and approximately 500 men left St. Augustine and marched through the flooded swamps and

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forests of coastal northeast Florida to Fort Caroline. After spending the night crouching in a flooded pond, the Spanish attacked the almost defenseless French fort at dawn on September twentieth. They took the French fort almost without opposition, putting to death 132 men, but sparing the lives of 50 French women and children (Lyon 1976:121-122; McGrath 2000:145-47). Laudonnière, who was ill, and a few others, escaped to the three small ships and made their way back to France, while another forty other Frenchmen climbed the stockade and escaped into the woods (Lyon 1976:122). On September 23rd, Menéndez left a 300-man garrison at the newly acquired fort, renamed it San Mateo, and began his return journey south to St. Augustine (Lyon 1976:124).

Meanwhile, the French fleet under Jean Ribault had suffered tremendously from the fierce storm. All of the French ships, except Ribault's flagship the *Trinité* which had grounded intact near Cape Canaveral, were shipwrecked near Mosquito (Ponce de Leon) Inlet. The crew from the *Trinité* and the survivors from the other shipwrecks each headed north towards Fort Caroline, in two separate groups (Lyon 1976:124).

After returning to St. Augustine, Menéndez received word from local Timucua that Frenchmen were gathered on the south shore of a small inlet about eighteen miles south of St. Augustine. The next day Menéndez headed down to the inlet with some French prisoners to serve as translators. The first group of castaway Frenchmen surrendered to Menéndez, and almost all were put to the sword for their attempt to invade Spanish territory and for being heretics (Lyon 1976:125). Less than two weeks later, the other group of Frenchmen including Jean Ribault, were at the south shore of the same inlet. Again Menéndez headed to the inlet to deal with them. Menéndez made no promises of safety to the French in turn for their surrender, and half of the French turned around and headed south along the Florida shore. The other half of the group, including Jean Ribault, put their lives at the mercy of the Pedro Menéndez and the Spanish, only to be put to death (Lyon 1976:127). The small inlet, where the killing of the Frenchmen occurred is still called Matanzas (Massacre) Inlet today.

In October a fort built by the French survivors was located and burned by the Spanish, and seventy-five French were taken captive (Lyon 1976:128-129). Continuing south along the Florida coast, both on land and in ships the Spanish entered the territory of the Ais Indians.

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After establishing relations with the Ais, Menéndez built a fort in the Indian River area and manned the garrison with 200 Spanish soldiers and fifty French captives (Lyon 1976:130). Supplies quickly ran out and hostilities with the local Ais soon escalated to outright war. Mutiny soon followed and one hundred soldiers were eventually moved south to Jupiter Inlet, where they built a new fort in December of 1565, and named it Santa Lucía (Lyon 1976:140).

By this time the original contingent of people at St. Augustine had been greatly reduced, mostly to the 100 civilian women, children and clergy and a small contingent of soldiers. Of the original 500 soldiers, approximately 300 were at Ft. San Mateo (the former Ft. Carline), and 200 were sent to Santa Lucia. Most of the seamen were engaged in the ongoing voyages and explorations of Menéndez, as well as in efforts to send dispatches and to supply the Florida forts from Cuba and the Yucatan. Some of the colonists had died. Nevertheless, the remaining soldiers at the St. Augustine site were charged with building the settlement and its defenses. In October of 1565 Menendez wrote that “we are suffering for want of food, and the labors and dangers that we undergo are great, the fort that we erect here being built by the labor of every man, of whatever rank, of six hours every day, three hours before noon and three hours after, and if the men do not endure it well, many of us will be sick and die” (Menéndez 1979:401).

After establishing Santa Lucia, Menéndez continued on to Cuba to make arrangements for shipping supplies to the Florida colony (Lyon 1976:132-134). He returned to Florida in March of 1566, sailing first to the southwest coast of Florida in the domain of the Calusa Indians. Menéndez secured an alliance with the Calusa cacique, Carlos, by marrying the cacique’s sister, later christened as Doña Antonia (Reilly 1981, Lyon 1976:149). He also negotiated the release and return of more than a dozen Spanish shipwrecked prisoners in the area (Lyon 1976:149), including five mestiza women from Peru and at least one black woman (Lyon 1995: 369).

Upon arriving in St. Augustine on March 21, 1566, Menéndez learned that recent mutinies among the men at both St. Augustine and San Mateo (the former French Fort Caroline) were under investigation. Despite relief provided by supply ships, there was a scarcity of food at both settlements, and discontent among the settlers and troops grew daily. When a

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supply ship arrived during the first week of March, rebel forces seized the loyal Spanish officials and imprisoned them, then seized the supply ship and began loading it with munitions from the fort. The officials managed to free themselves, and regain control of the fort, while those on the supply ship prepared to sail. A total of 120 men fled St. Augustine, with a similar number leaving San Mateo in another stolen ship (Lyon 1976:152; 1997).

After restoring order at St. Augustine, Menéndez again took to the sea, this time to explore and chart the Atlantic coastline north of San Mateo in search of a deep and protected harbor upon which to establish another Spanish settlement. He found what he thought was an ideal harbor further to the north at present-day Port Royal Sound in South Carolina, on the site of the earlier French Charlesfort. It was here that Menéndez chose to establish the capital of his Florida enterprise by building Fort San Salvador and an adjacent town named, Santa Elena (Lyon 1984:9). Leaving a very small garrison of men there with orders to build a fort, Menéndez headed back south along the Atlantic coast, stopping at St. Augustine in late spring of 1566, this time receiving even more unpleasant news (Lyon 1976:158).

On April 19, just eight months after the colony's establishment, the storeroom, munitions storage and "half the fort" were destroyed, either as a result of Indian attack or accident. In either case, relations with the Timucua at Seloy had deteriorated badly, and Menéndez decided to move the fort and settlement of St. Augustine across to the east side of the Matanzas River. They first built an insubstantial fortification at the north end of Anastasia Island, and when a relief fleet of 17 ships finally arrived in June of 1566, they were able to build a more permanent fortification. This third fort, too, was across the bay from the original Seloy fort. The fort and town of St. Augustine remained in this location until 1572, when the settlement was moved again, back to the location of the present town and plaza.

The original site of St. Augustine was not completely abandoned, however. Relations with the Timucua under Saturiwa remained hostile, and in the following year Menéndez established a blockhouse or watchtower at or near the site of the original settlement on the west side of the inlet. It was manned by a contingent of soldiers. This *casa fuerte*, referred to as *San Agustín el Viejo* was still in use in 1568, seven suits of padded armor (*escaupiles*)

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were lost when a canoe was carrying thirty suits for the soldiers who were in the strong house (*casa fuerte*) of San Agustín Viejo, because warlike Indians had gathered there. The canoe turned over “in the arm of the sea over which one must cross to the said strong house...” (Lyon 1997:140). It is not known how long the *casa fuerte* of San Agustín Viejo was in use, but it may not have been needed after the third relocation of the town to its present location in 1572, since the Timucua of the region were largely pacified by that date. It is likely that the site of the San Agustín Viejo *casa fuerte* is represented by the archaeological remains located at the La Leche Shrine Nombre de Dios site (8SJ34) to the south of the Fountain of Youth Park (see Deagan 2012).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Archaeological research potential at the Menéndez encampment site: After more than 30 years of archaeological research, nearly twenty percent of the predicted Menéndez encampment area has been excavated. Sub-surface surveys, mapping and remote sensing define an area of Spanish activity covering approximately 9,600 square meters, of which 1,988 square meters (including site-wide shovel tests) have been excavated. Nevertheless, there remains a great deal of information about this first settlement that has yet to be understood, and given the absence of documentary accounts, archaeology is the only means by which to achieve such an understanding.

Research done so far at the site has established the spatial organization of the settlement area, the nature of the built environment, the range of material culture of the occupation, and the boundaries of Menéndez-era Spanish activity. Remaining to be done, however, are detailed studies of individual structures and the assessment of material variability across the site. None of the structures in the encampment area has been fully uncovered, so it is extremely important that individual structures, including the “barracks”, the individual bohios and the presumed *casa de municiones* be fully exposed and excavated.

The nature of the 1565-1566 defensive elements at the site are still not fully understood. The type of defensive construction represented by the 80 meter-long, continuous beam stain has not been determined, although it is likely that it involved fascine bundles and earth. Given the information in the rediscovered 1951-1952 field records, however, it is

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possible that this feature actually represents the southern end of a much larger structure. Investigating this is a principal priority for future investigation at the site.

Excavations to the north of the linear trench “wall” feature will be essential to assess the possibility that wood and/or earthen fortification elements are present in that area. Likewise, extensive excavations will be needed at the eastern periphery of the occupation area, where the 1951 project located what appears to be a large (about 12 meters in diameter) Timucua building. Testing the hypothesis that this was a chiefly house, and assessing the degree to which it was altered by Spaniards, would not only clarify an important element of Timucua and Spanish spatial organization, but could also help resolve some of the ambiguous and contradictory written accounts of the initial settlement.

There additionally are a number of anomalies within the settlement area detected through ground penetrating radar that have yet to be tested. These will undoubtedly add to the understanding of this first community’s elements.

Additional archaeological study is also needed to understand the initial engagements between the Timucua and the Spaniards at the site. It remains unclear whether the Timucua were living at the site when Menéndez arrived, whether or not they left the site when the Spaniards moved in, or whether the village site was already abandoned. This question could probably be clarified by fine grained tests outside and around the Spanish settlement area in order to try and detect changes that may have occurred in Timucua material culture, building construction and occupation zones after 1565.

It is clear from work done so far that the Spanish colonists at the Menéndez settlement seem to have quickly developed adaptive strategies for survival. The deposits from the Menéndez site reflect the minute details of daily life of those who chose to make their home in a little-known part of America, and those deposits document the colonists’ reliance on such Native American foods as corn, greenbriar tubers (*Smilax*) and acorns; the use of Timucua domestic material culture (pottery, shell cups) and their occupation of Timucua-style bohios. Although this may seem an obvious survival practice in the face of starvation and material impoverishment, it was not the case at other “first” Spanish settlements. At La Isabela in Hispaniola, for example, which was Columbus’s first

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Caribbean settlement of 1493, there is very little evidence that settlers adopted any elements of native Taíno culture, but instead chose to starve, leading to the failure of that settlement (Deagan and Cruxent 2002: 146-150, 296-99). More robust and controlled comparisons between the Menéndez settlement site and other early Spanish settlement efforts in the region should help reveal the degree to which local circumstances (as opposed to cultural preferences) shaped initial Spanish colonial society.

The Menéndez-Era: During the sixteenth century (and until the nineteenth century) the encampment area was surrounded by water on the east, south and west sides (Hospital Creek on the east and south and the now-filled tidal estuary on the west). The northern extent of the occupation area is marked by the cessation of sixteenth century Spanish artifact distributions, as well as a linear narrow trench feature extended E-W for nearly 80 meters. This latter feature (discussed below) is thought to be related to an earth, timber or fascine wall along the settlement's north side.

The residential area of the Menéndez encampment, containing Spanish structures and Spanish material remains, covers an area of 90 meters N-S and 75-80 meters E-W (**Figure #8**). If the extension of a defensive structure to the north, as indicated by the 1951 maps is accurate, the dimensions of the Spanish-occupied site area are 120 meters N-S and 75-80 meters E-W. The Spanish-built features are oriented at an alignment of 30 degrees west of magnetic north (roughly following the orientation of the eastern shoreline). A roughly oval space of 20-23 meters in diameter at the approximate center of the occupation area was free of residential constructions, and possibly served as a plaza, continuing the plaza tradition of the earlier Timucua occupation.

In addition to the circular Timucua-style huts, traces of at least six large rectangular buildings have been located along the interface between the central open area and the shell middens to the south, east and west (**Figure #9**). Trash pits and barrel wells were located outside of these structures. No European-style architectural features have been found in either the open central area, or in the shell middens themselves.

The rectangular buildings measured approximately 6 by 12 meters (72 m²), and some of them appear to have been divided into rooms of about 4 by 4.5 meters. These multi-

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roomed structures were probably thatched, with earth floors, and were presumably residential. Thatching is assumed because there is no burned or unburned clay daub at the site, and although nails are associated with the sill beam stains, they have not been recovered in numbers that would suggest board walls.

The dimensions of these structures are considerably larger than those documented for other sixteenth century Spanish vernacular residences known from St. Augustine and elsewhere. Spanish houses in later sixteenth century (1572-1600) St. Augustine, are suggested to have ranged from about 3.5 by 7 meters (24.5 m²) to 3.5 by 5.5 meters (19.3 m²) (Manucy 1997: 84-88). The two archeologically-exposed sixteenth century structures in the post-1572 town measured 3.5 by 5.5 (19.3 m²) meters, and 3.5 by 4 meters (14m²) respectively (Deagan 1985:13), and the exposed Spanish structure at Santa Elena, South Carolina (1566-1587) was a square of 7 meters to a side (South & DePratter 1996:101). The Santa Elena structure was believed to have been an elite, high status complex (ibid).

The Spanish-built rectangular structures were constructed on log sleeper sills laid directly on the ground, leaving distinctive linear stains. Iron fasteners (wrought nails and spikes) are consistently associated with these stains. The sill beam stains were approximately 50 centimeters wide, 15 to 20 centimeters in depth and had rounded bases characteristic of split tree trunks. Postmolds occurred somewhat randomly in association with the sill beam stains; some at the corners of structures and others placed intermittently (but irregularly) along the side of the sill beam. It is possible that uprights were notched directly into the sill beams. The practice of notching beams has been documented at the 1566 Berry site in North Carolina, the location of Juan Pardo's ill-fated Fort San Juan (1566-67), although at that site the beams are thought to be roof supports rather than sills (Beck, Moore and Rodning 2006:42; Best and Rodning n.d.).

Timber sill beam construction has been in use since Roman times for both public and domestic structures, in the Americas and in Europe (Carson et. al. 1980; Spies and Rushing 1983); and has been documented at other Spanish colonial sites in Florida such as the Spanish village at San Luis and sixteenth century St. Augustine (Deagan 1985:13; McEwan 1993:299-301; Manucy 1997:91).

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Two barrel wells associated with the Spanish structures were located, both containing only materials dating to the mid-sixteenth century in their backfill. The earliest of these is at the eastern edge of the site. It contained very little European material in its construction pit and appears to have been filled rapidly after its abandonment with burned boards and wood. A large trash deposit overlaying and partially filling the well also dates to the Menéndez era. The second well is located on the eastern edge of the central, presumed plaza area, and contains substantial amounts of European material in both the construction pit and the shaft fill (**Figure #10**). It is thought to have been abandoned and left open for a brief time during the spring or summer months, based on the presence of a “frog and toad” layer at its base (Reitz 1988). Tadpoles springtime maturation into frogs is consistent with the abandonment of the first settlement site in May of 1566. It is likely that additional, as-yet undiscovered wells are present at the site.

Casa de Municiones/Casa Fuerte: The largest Spanish-built structure at the settlement site is located at the northern end of the residential area and shares the same orientation as the smaller rectangular structures. A series of regularly placed linear stains are interpreted as floor joist stains for a large, rectangular, wood-floored building measuring some 25 by 15 meters (**Figure #11**). The building intruded upon and disturbed large postmolds, pits and smudge pits dating to the pre-1565 Timucua occupation. There was apparent burning of the floor, since the sill beam stains and associated postmolds are heavily charcoal-laden. Very few artifacts were recovered from within or around the stains themselves, but they included lead shot and iron flakes, indicating a post-1565 destruction date. Although the boundaries of the building have been established archaeologically, most of the interior space remains to be excavated. The nature of the short (north and south) facades also needs to be determined, since the joist/beam stains end abruptly on those ends, with little evidence for a wall enclosing the north or south sides.

The sill and joist stains from this building are larger than those supporting the residential structures. Those defining the presumed storehouse measure from 65-70 centimeters in width, 20-25 centimeters in depth and are positioned from 1.2 to 1.6 meters apart. All but one of them have pronounced, 20 centimeters-wide depressions along their eastern edges, extending some 1015 centimeters deeper than the rest of the feature, as though the eastern sides were load-bearing. Although the sill beam stains varied in their individual depths

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(i.e., thickness), they all consistently appeared at 1.81 meters below the site datum (approximately 1.9 meters above current mean sea level), suggesting a level surface for flooring.

As by far the largest- and only wood-floored- building at the site, the structure is currently interpreted as the *casa de municiones* described in documentary accounts and partially burned in April of 1566 (Lyon 1997a-b). It was consistently described as a *buhio* or thatched structure, and contained the colony's munitions and supplies. The building also served as housing for some of the colony's officials. It had a stout wooden door which the mutineers pounded on and broke into, seizing all the weapons inside. The *casa de municiones* was clearly part of the fort, and in fact there is some possibility that it may have been the principal element of the fort.

Defenses: It would have been traditional to build a moat and an earthwork around a sixteenth century frontier fort or settlement; however archaeological evidence for a ditch or moat has not yet been found. The only documentary descriptions of the 1565 settlement and fort are ambiguous, in that a hasty entrenchment seems to have been dug immediately upon landing, while a "more suitable" site for a fort was being determined. Menéndez reported that he ordered some of his soldiers to go on shore and "to throw up a trench in the place most fit to fortify themselves in.....When I go onshore we shall seek out a more suitable place to fortify ourselves in, as it is not fit where we are now....." (Ware 1894:419-425). There is no further mention of where that more suitable site might have been.

The expedition chaplain, Father López recorded that "They went ashore and were well-received by the Indians, who gave them a very large house of a cacique which is on the riverbank. And then Captains Patiño and San Vicente, with strong industry and diligence, ordered a ditch and moat made around the house, with a rampart of earth and fagots..." (Lyon 1997a:6).

It is possible that a moat or significant ditch was simply not present at the Menéndez settlement. At Menéndez's second town site of Santa Elena, which he established in 1566, their Fort San Felipe did not have a moat until four years after the fort itself was

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constructed (South 1983:43). And no trace of the first Santa Elena fort of 1566 (San Sebastian) or its moat has ever been found, despite an extensive program of testing and excavation over more than 20 years (South 1980, DePratter and South 1995; South and DePratter 1996).

The only apparent defensive work located and verified so far at the Menéndez site is a very long east-west linear stain or narrow trench thought to represent the timber base for a defensive wall of as-yet unclear construction. This linear sill or footing stain is located at eight meters to the north of the presumed *casa de municiones* building and extends across the northern end of the Spanish occupation area. It is encountered at approximately 40 centimeters below ground surface, and intrudes into sterile soil. The timber stain is 50-60 centimeters wide and 40 centimeters in depth, somewhat deeper and wider than the structural sill beam stains associated with the buildings at the site. Postmolds were located in the base and along the southern edge of the stain at very irregular intervals, indicating that the “wall” was not a traditional wood palisade formed of upright logs. Artifacts in the fill of the wall feature were scarce, consisting of Timucua St. Johns pottery, a few iron flakes, Spanish Olive Jar and two lead shot. Both the contents and the stratigraphic position of the feature are consistent with the Menéndez era.

As of 2014, the linear feature has been found to extend for 80 meters east to west along the northern edge of the settlement area, extending to the marsh deposits on both the eastern and western sides of the settlement. Given that the other three sides of encampment area were inundated marshland or water during the mid-sixteenth century, the Spaniards may have only required defensive fortifications on the northern side. The configuration of the large wood-floored structure and the linear bounding feature to the north suggest that the 1565-66 “fort” of St. Augustine may have consisted principally of a *casa fuerte* or *casa de munición*, and a defensive construction along the only non-water side of the settlement. The area immediately north of the presumed the wall feature (that is, from the wall feature to 30 meters northward) has not been systematically tested owing to the presence of walkways and interpretive tourism activities.

Two provocative alternatives for the settlement’s defensive organization, however, may be suggested by the recently discovered 1951 field data. That excavation also located long

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segments of the same east-west “wall trench” feature documented later by the University of Florida work, and detailed above. The 1951 excavation sketches, however, depict the linear wall trench feature as turning northward near its center, possibly describing one or more large structures to the north. Test excavations were done in this area in 2014, and although segments of these northern linear features were located and recorded, considerably more work will be required in order to delineate structural patterns.

A second alternative is offered by the 1951 excavations maps, which suggest that a large circular Timucua style building was, in fact, located on the eastern edge of the settlement. Ground truth testing in 2014-2015 has verified that the 1951 maps are accurate, and that the post and pit features they recorded do still exist. Uncovering the entire structure and excavating some of its features is a high priority for future work at the site.

Artifact Assemblage: The artifact assemblage from the living area to the south of that linear feature is particularly important to identifying and interpreting the Menéndez settlement. The dateable artifacts indicate a pre-ca.1580 date, which is critical both to identifying the Menéndez era occupation (1565-66) and to distinguishing it from the later, largely seventeenth century Franciscan mission period occupation to the west. The year 1580 is the approximate date at which the exportation of glazed majolica from Mexico City began (which was the only American majolica production center until the seventeenth century, Lister and Lister 1987:229). It was also at approximately 1580 that supplies from Mexico (including glazed majolica ceramics) routinely entered the St. Augustine colony, supplanting supplies brought directly from Spain via Cuba (Deagan 1987:77). Although Mexican ceramics are found quite commonly in downtown St. Augustine contexts dating to after ca. post 1572, none have been found in the sixteenth century features of the encampment area.

The material assemblage is also strikingly different from any excavated mission era settlements so far known. It reflects a strongly European composition, with a proportion of European to Native American artifacts that is considerably higher than that found at mission sites, or even at later domestic sites in St. Augustine (Stuhlman 1995; Chaney and Deagan 1988). The artifacts furthermore include large numbers of items that are rarely, if ever, found in early historic Native American mission communities, such as lead musket

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shot, brass straight pins, Spanish majolica tablewares, metal military buttons, clothing fasteners and domestic implements (Deagan 2008) (**Figures #13,14,15,17**).

Certain artifacts are particularly evocative of the Menéndez colony's military and colonization purposes. These include 128 lead musket shot ranging from .05 to .60 caliber, which is consistent with muskets of that era (Brown 1980:39-42). These comprised 1.3 percent of all artifacts of the Menéndez period. This is a significantly higher proportion of shot than that found at other sixteenth century Spanish occupation sites in La Florida, including Fort San Felipe at Santa Elena, South Carolina (1566-1587), where lead shot comprised .8 percent of the assemblage (South 1983:65), and post-1572 St. Augustine, where shot made up .9 percent of the sixteenth century artifact assemblage (Deagan 1985:12).

Brass and whitemetal buttons also attest to a Menéndez-era military presence. Identical buttons have been recovered at the site of Santa Elena, and correspond to the metal *autaxia* and *acero* metal buttons known to have been shipped to Florida by Menéndez for his soldiers' doublets (Lyon 1992). Other clothing related artifacts reflect the European clothing worn by the colonists at the site, including brass straight pins, hook and eye fasteners, and copper lace tips (aglets) used to lace up clothing. A fragment of gold metallic lace – the *bordado* used to garnish officers' and other expensive Spanish clothing – is another index of Spanish presence.

The 110 glass beads from Menéndez-era contexts included faceted, 7-layer chevron beads, which are considered diagnostic of the mid-sixteenth century. Seed or clothing beads, a molded and gilded bead and simple tumbled beads were also found (see Deagan 2008:197-203). They probably functioned as jewelry, as trade goods and in rosaries (several beads were still connected with metal links). Another Menéndez-era object related to Spanish spiritual life was a bone *figa* amulet; a small closed fist with a circle carved on one side (**Figure #16**). These were used in Spain as protective amulets against the evil eye, and were particularly associated with babies.

Other items reflecting Spanish domestic life included Columbia Plain, Santa Elena Mottled and Seville Blue on Blue Majolica, Olive Jar, Orange Micaceous pottery, a scale hook, a

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brass candleholder, medicine vial fragments and furniture tacks. Dietary remains are overwhelmingly from locally available foods, and pig, melon and wheat are the only European domesticates so far identified. The diet was principally one of fish and shellfish along with such indigenous plants as squash, maize, prickly pear and acorns (Orr 2001; Orr and Colannino 2008; Reitz 1988, 1991, 1992, 2004; Scarry 1989). An extended discussion of artifact and dietary remains can be found in Deagan 2008:158-216.

Given the very long Timucua occupation of the site, and the subsequent very short Spanish occupation, it is difficult to assess the full extent to which the Spaniards adopted Timucua material technology. It is likely that much of the Timucuan St. Johns pottery in Menéndez-era contexts occurs because of mixing and redeposition. Analysis of undisturbed closed contexts of the encampment era (wells, trash pits, wall trenches) shows a considerably lower proportion of Native American items (ranging from 30% to 56%) than is found in the overall occupation period assemblage (84% of which is of Native American origin). The Spanish colonists undoubtedly adopted some Timucua materials, including not only pottery, but busycon shell cups (three have been found in Spanish contexts) and shell beads. (**Figure #18**)

Site Comparisons: There are very few sixteenth-century Spanish colonial settlement sites documented in either the National Register or as National Historic Landmarks. Only one site in the southeastern United States falls into this category, that of Santa Elena, South Carolina (NHL 74001822). It is the only site that is comparable to St. Augustine as a fortified community of Spaniards. Santa Elena was established by Pedro Menéndez de Aviles in the year after St. Augustine's settlement (1566), at what is today Parris Island, South Carolina. The town was intended by Menéndez to be the capital of La Florida, and Santa Elena continued in that role until 1587 (with a brief interlude in 1576-77 when the town was briefly abandoned and rebuilt after a destructive attack by the local Native people). The town was finally abandoned and its inhabitants moved to St. Augustine in 1587, after repeated confrontations with and attacks by the regions' Native American groups (Lyon 1984).

Like St. Augustine, Santa Elena has been the focus of a decades-long archaeological program, carried out by Stanley South and Chester DePratter of the South Carolina

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Institute for Archaeology and Anthropology. Their work has revealed and documented Santa Elena's boundaries, fortifications, material culture, diet and more (DePratter and South 1995; South 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984; South and De Pratter 1988; South and Hunt 1986; South, Skowronek and Johnson 1988). The remains from Santa Elena are richer, more abundant and more abundant diverse than those from the Menéndez occupation of St. Augustine. This is not unexpected, given the longer time period, larger population, and abrupt abandonment of that town. The 1565-66 St. Augustine settlement in contrast was occupied by a few hundred people for only nine months, a large portion of their supplies had been lost during the journey, and the settlement was gradually relocated rather than being abandoned before any relief supplies arrived in La Florida.

Other documented sites of sixteenth century Spanish exploration the Southeast include the Governor Martin site in Tallahassee (8LE853), which has been identified as the Hernando de Soto expedition's encampment at the Apalachee town of Anhaica in the winter of 1539-1540 (Ewen and Hann 1988). Excavations at the site revealed that the soldiers occupied some existing Apalachee structures, and built others themselves. Artifact remains included early sixteenth century Spanish coins, chain mail fragments, crossbow bolt heads, glass beads and pig remains from the swine introduced to North America by de Soto.

The remains of Fort San Juan at the Catawba town of Joara were discovered in 1986 near Morganton, North Carolina, and have been excavated intermittently since then (Beck Moore and Rodning 2006; Best and Rodning n.d.). Fort San Juan was established by Juan Pardo, who was sent by Pedro Menéndez de Aviles to explore the interior Southeast in 1566, and to establish a string of outposts. A contingent of soldiers lived there and built a fort, but the settlement was burned by Indians 18 months later and abandoned. Excavations have uncovered four large, rectangular, burned, and apparently related structures. They were constructed using both Native American and European elements including nail fasteners and sill beams notched for uprights using metal tools (ibid). The European artifacts from the site are similar to those from the de Soto-related Martin site in Tallahassee, including chain mail, nails, lacing tips, and storage jar fragments, items not normally associated with trade or salvage.

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All of these sites were part of the earliest Spanish efforts to colonize the United States, however none of them endured for more than a few years. The Menéndez-era occupation site in St. Augustine not only represents this initial period of European colonial expansion into the region, but it also communicates the experiences and circumstances of the first permanent European presence in the country. (**Figure #12**)

The Menéndez Encampment Site is the location of the first successful and permanent European colonial venture in what is today the United States. As such, it set into motion the processes by which Native America was transformed into Euro-America, and that define the United States today. The events that took place here between 1565 and ca. 1572 also represent the first expression of the multi-ethnic and multicultural diversity, the flexible adaptation and the pioneering spirit that are hallmarks of the American experience.

People belonging to several of the cultural and ethnic groups that comprise our country's population today (some long considered minorities) first lived together in Menéndez-era Florida. They included people of Spanish heritage, both free and enslaved people of African heritage, and Native Americans of several tribal associations. They very quickly forged a way of life that was very different in its multicultural blending from life in the Anglo-American colonies. St. Augustine was the original – and in many ways the only true-American “melting pot”, a notion that figures large in our national identity. The Menéndez occupation site also represents the first efforts of Native Americans and Europeans in what is today the United States to engage with one another, often in experimental ways. Initial treaties of alliance and friendship between Spaniards and Southeastern Natives took place here. Some persisted, but most gave way to hostility, warfare and eventual domination by the Spaniards, presaging patterns of engagement that ultimately disenfranchised the Native inhabitants of the United States. Recognizing and acknowledging these very early events and the places in which they occurred offers an opportunity to help reintroduce Americans to our deepest colonial roots, and to impart new and more inclusive understanding of our origins as citizens of the United States. The site is directly related to Pedro Menéndez de Aviles, who played a central role in the international politics of the sixteenth century Americas (Lyon 1976:1995). Beyond his role in establishing the first successful European North American colony, Menéndez was influential in shaping the course of Spanish-American economic

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development as Admiral of the Spanish fleets in the Caribbean. He furthermore shaped the political landscape of the American colonial empires by defeating and removing the French settlement at Fort Caroline, thereby establishing the southeastern United States as a Spanish domain until the founding of English Jamestown 42 years later.

Pedro Menendez de Aviles is associated with numerous properties because of his mission for the monarch of Spain, King Phillip II, to establish settlements and outposts to aid Spanish expansion and influence in American territories claimed by Spain. Menendez's family home in Oviedo, Spain, and residence and headquarters in Havana, Cuba are outside the United States. His most notable settlements within the United States are St. Augustine, and Santa Elena. Santa Elena is now an archaeological site on Parris Island, South Carolina. The French Fort Caroline that Menendez captured in 1565, and renamed San Mateo, was important in securing for Spain the St. Johns River and what is now northeast Florida, but its present location and archaeological components are uncertain. He had established a now unknown fortified blockhouse among the Tequesta Indians in the Miami area, to promote Spanish engagement with the natives, and Christian missionary work. Also, the now vanished wooden fortified outpost of Matanzas (meaning "massacre"), located on Rattle Snake Island, and served as an outpost to secure the coastal inland waterway ten miles south of St. Augustine. From St. Augustine and Santa Elena the Spanish explored the east coast of North America, and protected their interests from pirates. St. Augustine was strategically located to safeguard the nautical Florida Current for Spanish shipping around the tip of the peninsula and up the east coast (Mercado 2010: p.2,3,129). For this reason this Menendez Encampment Site property is best suited to represent the biographical association with Pedro Menendez de Aviles.

The Menéndez-era occupation component of site (8SJ31, the Fountain of Youth Park site), is archaeologically significant at the national level. This site has revealed previously unknown information about the introduction of European colonization to America, but it also holds considerable archaeological potential for expanding and refining our understanding of that process. The site has already yielded information that is not present in written documents, revealing the circumstances and organization of the first settlement. This has included unexpected detail about the settlement layout,

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military architecture and strategy, architecture and building construction, domestic material life, diet, and patterns of integration of indigenous foods and material culture. The very long period of study at this site has also underscored the critical importance of long term, interdisciplinary archaeological research in understanding human places.

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Menendez founded a series of fortified settlements.
San Mateo / Ft Caroline on the St. Johns River, Manucy p.81
Santa Elena, South Carolina & Guale & Orista @ Point Royal
Mantanzas, “massacre” of French/ fortified outpost
Blockhouse and garrison with Tequestas (vicinity of Miami) p.79 Manucy
San Anton/Charlotte Harbor
Tocobago/Tampa Bay
Guale – early French fort Mercado p.129

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Section number 10 Page 1 **MENENDEZ ENCAMPMENT SITE,
ST. AUGUSTINE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY,
FLORIDA**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The archaeological remains of the Menéndez-era occupation area at 8SJ31 (Fountain of Youth Park) are concentrated along the eastern shoreline of the property, covering an area of approximately 80 meters E-W by 120 meters north-south (2 acres or .96 hectares). The eastern boundary is formed by Hospital Creek, and the southern, northern and western boundaries are defined by the absence of Menendez-era archaeological deposits. The western boundary is marked by a very low-lying former marsh deposit, as well as the absence of archaeological remains.

The archaeological site is a portion of the property known as the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, parcel #191600-0000 with the St. Johns Property Appraiser.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundary is determined by the extent of sub-surface distributions of archaeological remains as revealed through excavation and shovel testing.

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Section number Photos Page 1 **MENENDEZ ENCAMPMENT SITE, ST.
AUGUSTINE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST

1. Menendez Encampment Site at Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, 21 Magnolia Street
St. Augustine
2. St. Johns County, Florida
3. Kit Keating
4. April 2016
5. View of archaeological site, looking east
6. Photo #1 of 6

Items 1-4 are the same for photographs 1-3, 5, 6.

5. Fountain of Youth walkway at north edge of the site, looking west
6. Photo #2 of 6

5. Southeast edge of site and property, looking northeast
6. Photo #3 of 6

3. Chad Light, photo from a drone
4. January 2015
5. Aerial view of the site and sand marked excavated structures, looking west
6. Photo #4 of 6

5. Archaeological site and interpretive structures, looking east
6. Photo #5 or 6

5. South edge of site and property, looking southwest
6. Photo #6 of 6

Google Maps



MENENDEZ ENCAMPMENT SITE
St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida

LOCATOR MAP

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
#1	17	3308571	460650
#2	17	3308571	469697
#3	17	3308435	469663
#4	17	3308445	469723



MENENDEZ ENCAMPMENT SITE
St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida

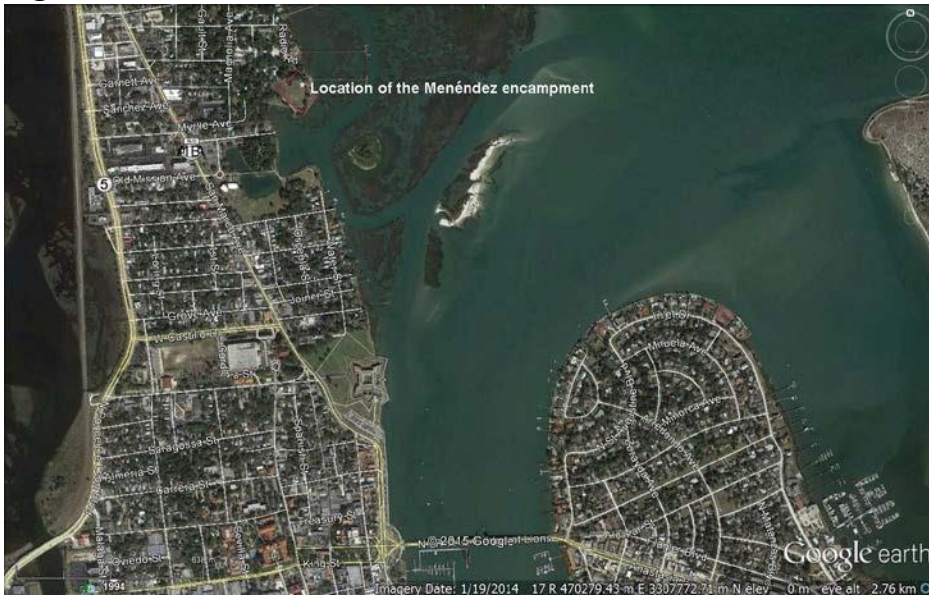
SITE & PHOTO DIAGRAM

APPENDIX 1: Radiocarbon Dates from 8SJ31

Sample ID	Field provenience	Material	Uncalibrated ¹⁴ C years ± σ B.P.	Cal A.D. Yrs. +/- 2σ	Cal A.D. Yrs. +/- 1σ	Intercept	• δ ¹³ C*
Beta 212875	FOY318	Marine shell	670±50 BP	Cal A.D. 1280 to 1430	Cal A.D. 1300±1400	Cal A.D. 1330	-2.7 o/oo
Beta 212876	FOY1811	Charcoal	2620±/-60 BP	Cal A.D. 620 to 590 (Cal BP 2560 to 2540)	Cal B.C. 820 to 790 (Cal BP 2770 to 2740)	Cal B.C. 800	25.8:lab. mult=1)
Beta 212877	8SJ31-2561 North midden level 4 base	Charcoal	2470±40 BP2	Cal B.C. 780 to 410 (Cal BP 2730 to 2360)	Cal B.C. 770 to 500 (Cal BP 2720 to 2450) and Cal B.C. 460 to 430 (Cal BP 2410 to 2380)	Cal B.C. 750 (Cal BP 2700) Cal B.C. 700 (Cal BP 2650) and Cal B.C. 540 (Cal BP 2490)	25.8:lab. mult=1)
Beta 212878 (AMS)	8SJ31-F42 Dog	Bone collagen	1140±40 BP2	Cal A.D. 790 to 990 (Cal BP 1160 to 960)	Cal A.D. 880 to 970 (Cal BP 1070 to 980)	Cal A.D. 900 (Cal BP 1060)	-14:lab. mult=1)
Beta 218357 (AMS)	8SJ31 F127 Dog	Bone collagen	980±40 BP2	Cal A.D. 990 to 1160 (Cal BP 960 to 790)	Cal A.D. 1010 to 1040 (Cal BP 940 to 910)	Cal A.D. 1030 (Cal BP 920)	-2.6:lab. mult=1)
Beta 232546 (AMS)	FOY3374 F153 Sub-floor	Wood Charcoal	3980±40 BP2	Cal B.C. 2580 to 2450 (Cal BP 4530 to 4400)	Cal B.C. 2560 to 2520 (Cal BP 4510 to 4470) and Cal B.C. 2500 to 2470 (Cal BP 4450 to 4420)	Cal B.C. 2480 (Cal BP 4430)	24.1:lab. mult=1)
Beta 232547	FOY 3411 Area2 Sub-midden shell pit	Marine Shell	2940±50 BP	Cal B.C. 840 to 710 (Cal BP 2790 to 2660)	Cal B.C. 800 to 740 (Cal BP 2750 to 2690)	Cal B.C. 770 (Cal BP 2720)	-1.6: Delta-R=0±0: Glob res=-200 to 500:lab. mult=1)
Beta 302871	FOY3699 Fea.180 Trash pit	Wood charcoal	780 +/- 40 BP	Cal A.D. 1280-1290 (Cal B.P. 1270-1050)	Cal AD 1240±1280 (Cal BP 700-670)	Cal AD 1280 (Cal BP 680)	-26.5:lab. mult=1) o/oo

Sample ID	Field provenience	Material	Uncalibrate ¹⁴ C years · σ B.P.	Cal A.D. Yrs. +/- 2σ	Cal A.D. Yrs. +/- 1σ	Intercept	· δ ¹³ C‰*
Beta 302870	FOY3664 Fea.179 Feasting (?) pit	Wood charcoal	920 +/- 40 B.P.	Cal A.D. 1020-1210 (Cal B.P. 930-740)	Cal AD 1040 – 1170 (Cal BP 920-780)	Cal AD 1060(Cal BP 900) <i>and</i> Cal AD 1080 (Cal BP 870) <i>and</i> Cal AD 1150 (Cal BP 800)	-25.5:lab. mult=1) o/oo
Beta 302869	FOY3662 Postmold	Wood charcoal	2560 +/- 50 BP	Cal BC 810 to 720 (Cal BP 2760 to 2670) <i>and</i> Cal BC 700 to 540 (Cal BP 2650 to 2490)	Cal BC 800-760 (Cal BP 2750- 2710) <i>and</i> Cal BC 680-760 (Cal BP 2630-2620)	Cal BC 780 (Cal BP 2730)	-25.8:lab. mult=1) o/oo
Beta302868	FOY3631 A12	Wood charcoal	1210 +/- 50 BP	Cal AD 680 to 900 (Cal BP 1270 to 1050)/ <i>and</i> Cal AD 920 to 960 (Cal BP 1040 to 990)	Cal AD 720-740 (Cal BP 1230- 1210) <i>and</i> Cal AD 770-890 (Cal BP 1180-1060)	Cal AD 780 (Cal BP 1160)	-26.2:lab. mult=1) o/oo

Figure #1

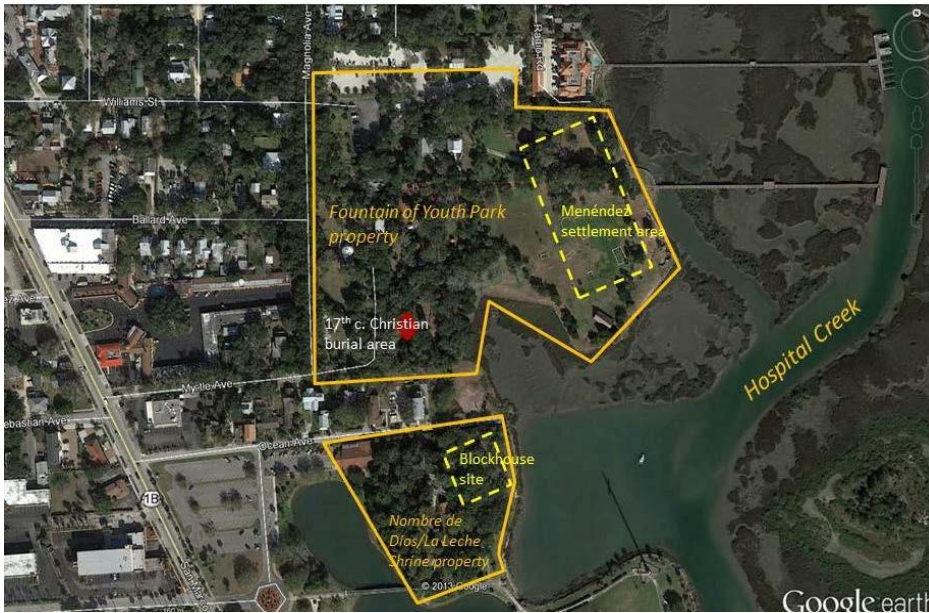


County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Google Earth **Date Photographed:** 1/19/2014

Description of Photograph: Aerial view of 8SJ31 location within St. Augustine

Figure #2



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Google Earth **Date Photographed:** 1/19/2014

Description of Photograph(s) Aerial view of encampment site and Fountain of Youth Park Boundaries. The potential 1567 blockhouse site is shown to the south

Figure #3

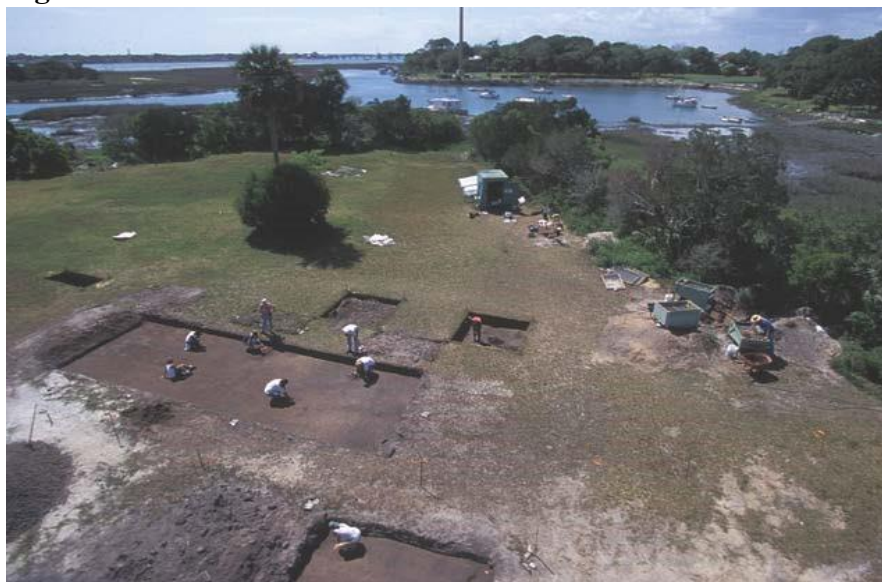


County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Google Earth **Date Photographed:** 1/19/2014

Description: Close up aerial view of encampment site

Figure #4



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Kathleen Deagan **Date Photographed:** 1/19/2014

Description: Site excavation facing southeast

Figure# 5



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Peter Larsen **Date Photographed:** 1/19/2014

Description : Central area excavations, facing west

Figure #6

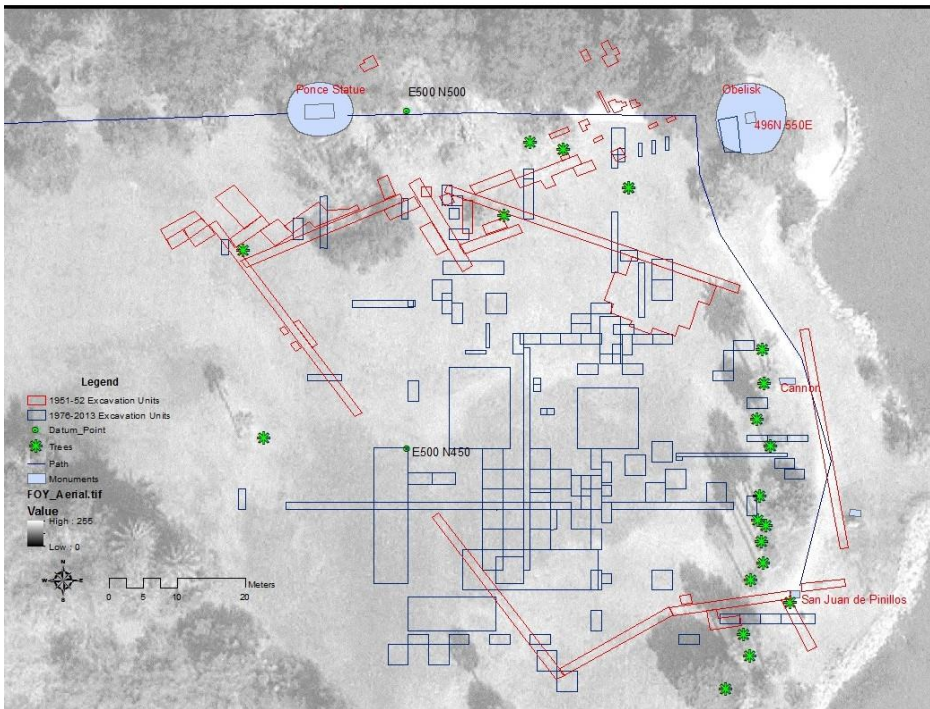


County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Kathleen Deagan **Date Photographed:** 1/19/2014

Description: Reconstructed watchtower in filled area to the east of site, facing east

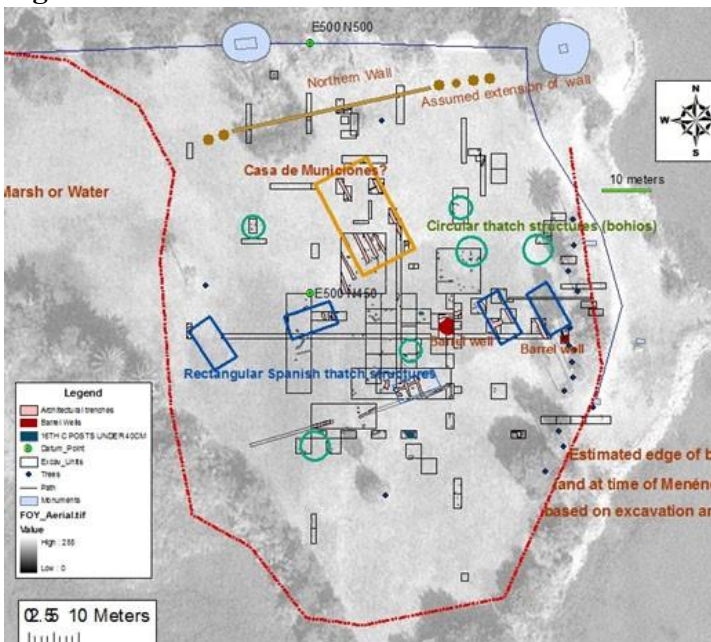
Figure #7



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida **Date:** 2014

Description of Photograph(s): Locations of excavation units at 8SJ31. Red trenches are those excavated in 1951-1952; blue units are those excavated between 1976 and 2014.

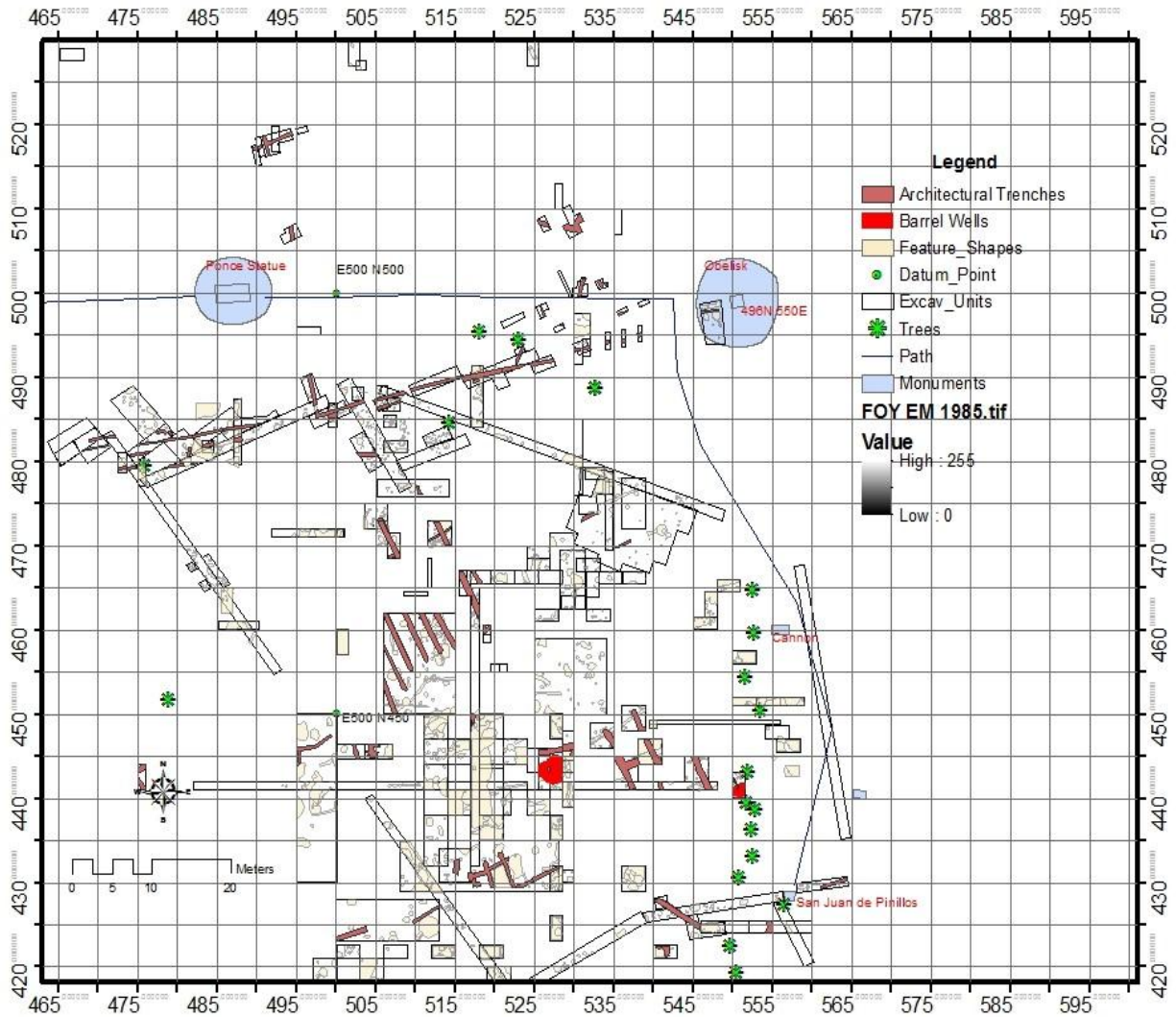
Figure #8



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida **Date:** 2012

Description: Locations of structures indicated archaeologically

Figure #9



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida **Date** 2014

Description: Features located and excavated at 8SJ31, emphasizing linear wall sill beam trenches

Figure #10



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Gardner Gordon **Date Photographed:** 1/19/1992, 12/1991

Description of Photograph(s) Linear wall trench features and associated corner posts and refuse deposits, facing north

Figure #11



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Kathleen Deagan **Date Photographed:** 4/2002

Description of Photograph(s): Charcoal-heavy sill beam stains and post molds in area thought to be the *casa de municiones*, facing south

Figure #12



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Florida Museum of Natural History **Date Photographed:** 11/2012 **Description of Photograph(s):** Artist's conceptual views of the Menéndez encampment, based on archaeological evidence, facing north

Figure #13



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Pat Payne **Date Photographed:** 2011

Description: Spanish Olive Jar from well

Figure #14



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Pat Payne **Date Photographed:** 2011

Description: Santa Elena mottled and Santo Domingo Polychrome

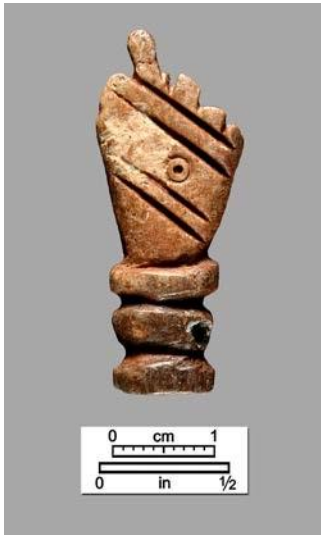
Figure #15



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Various, compiled by Kathleen Deagan **Date Photographed:** 2011 **Description of Photograph(s).** Artifacts from Menéndez-era contexts.

Figure #16



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Pat Payne **Date Photographed:** 2011 **Description.** Bone *figa* amulet

Figure: 17



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Pat Payne **Date Photographed:** 2011

Description Iron fasteners, awl from Menéndez-era contexts

Figure #18



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Pat Payne

Date Photographed: 2011

Description. Shell awls



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida

Photographer: Pat Payne

Date Photographed: 2011

Description: Timucua St. Johns pottery













National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Menendez Encampment Site

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, St. Johns

DATE RECEIVED: 8/12/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY:
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/27/16

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000295

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9/27/16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA A, B, & D

REVIEWER Julie A. S. Amis

TELEPHONE 202.354.2217

DISCIPLINE Archeology

DATE 9/27/16

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/ see attached SLR Y/



RECEIVED 2280

APR 15 2016

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

April 8, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
Department of the Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Menendez Encampment Site (FMSF #8SJ31), in St. Johns County**, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

Please do not hesitate to contact Bob Jones at Robert.Jones@DOS.myflorida.com or (850) 245.6333, if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alissa Slade Lotane".

Alissa Slade Lotane
Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation
& Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

R. A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250
Telephone: 850.245.6300 • Facsimile: 850.245.6436 • www.flheritage.com
Commemorating 500 years of Florida history www.vivaflorida.org



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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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

RECEIVED 2280

APR 15 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Menendez Encampment Site

Other names/site number: Fountain of Youth Park (8SJ31)

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 21 Magnolia Street

City or town: St. Augustine State: Florida County: St. Johns

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

x national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A x B C x D

<u>Missie Jack Stone, Deputy SAPO</u>		<u>4/8/16</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
Division of Historic Resources/ Bureau of Historic Preservation		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

Menéndez Encampment Site
Name of Property

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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ **Date** _____

Title : _____ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government** _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ___ removed from the National Register
- ___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Returned

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.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure

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Object



Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Domestic=camp
- Defense=fortification
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Recreation and Culture= outdoor recreation
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Returned

Menéndez Encampment Site
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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _____N/A_____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

On September 8, 1565, Pedro Menéndez de Aviles formally established the first permanent European settlement in the United States- St. Augustine- in the territory of the Timucua Indians. Archaeological and documentary research carried out since 1976 has identified and partially uncovered the site of Menéndez's original 1565 encampment about one mile north of present day town plaza. Today the site is on the grounds of the Fountain of Youth Park, a tourist destination dedicated to interpreting sixteenth century Spanish exploration and settlement in Florida.

The site itself borders the mouth of a tidal inlet known today as Hospital Creek, which has also historically been referred to as Macariz Creek. The creek faces the confluence of the old St. Augustine inlet (to the east), the entrance to the Matanzas River (to the south) and the entrance to the Tolomato, or North River (to the north). Such a position offered not only a series of rich ecotones, but also an excellent position for water travel, communication and defense. This strategic location was undoubtedly critical to the more than 2,000-year long human habitation of the area, making it equally attractive for Native American fishers and farmers, sixteenth century military strategists, seventeenth century missionaries and twentieth century developers. The west and north sides of the Park are surrounded today by post-1850 residential and commercial development, however the area comprising the Menéndez encampment is an open grassy field.

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Narrative Description

Occupation Periods. The land encompassed by site 8SJ31 has been occupied by people at least intermittently for more than 2,500 years. The principal occupations are outlined below, however the current nomination is specifically for the Menéndez encampment site.

Pre Columbian era (ca 3,000 BPE – AD1565) The earliest use of the area appears to have been intermittently during the final stage of the ceramic Archaic Orange period (1000-500B.C.) (B.P.E. 3000-2500) (dates for the precolumbian occupations follow Milanich 1994:94, 247). The principal and most intensive occupation of the Fountain of Youth Park property took place between about A.D. 950 and AD 1566, during the St. Johns II period (Goggin 1952). Analysis of faunal remains and particularly fish otoliths from St. Johns II contexts suggests that occupation was probably year-round after ca. A.D. 1000 ((Hales and Reitz 1992; Reitz 1991; Young 1988).

The St. Johns II culture is associated with the historically known Eastern Timucua people who inhabited the region when the Spaniards arrived in 1565. The people living in northeastern and north central Florida during the mid-sixteenth century were members of the Timucua socio-linguistic community, which was comprised of multiple tribes loosely confederated into independent and often competitive chiefdoms. Considered archaeologically, this region incorporated at least seven distinct but interacting cultural subdivisions with distinctive material assemblages (see Milanich 1996:44-55). St. Augustine is located in what is often characterized as the Timucua “heartland”, a region extending from the mouth of the St. Johns River southward along the river and the Atlantic coast to Lake Harney and the north end of the Indian River (approximately the same area called the “Northern St. Johns region” by John Goggin (1952).

The principal defining archaeological characteristic of the Timucua heartland is the production and use of St. Johns Series pottery: a smooth, chalky-textured ware using spiculate-containing clays. The only major change and chronological division in the 2,000 year-long St. Johns ceramic tradition was marked by the introduction of check stamping as a ceramic design motif, at approximately 1200 years BPE (A.D. 800). This marks the initiation of the archaeological St. Johns 2 period. Whatever provoked this change also led to larger and more sedentary populations.

Several Timucua political divisions and linguistic subdivisions were recorded by early Spanish and French chroniclers (for synthetic ethnohistorical works on the sixteenth century Timucua see Hann 1996; Milanich 1996, Worth 1995). According to these, the people in the vicinity of St. Augustine part of the *Agua Salada* (saltwater) division. These coastal people appear to have subsisted principally on estuarine resources with limited reliance on farming. The cacique of the St. Augustine area, Selay (or Soloy), was subject to the regional chief Saturiwa, whose seat was

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near present day Jacksonville. Saturiwa was a bitter enemy of the Spaniards, and remained violently hostile well after other Timucua caciques had treated with Menéndez (Barrientos 1965:140).

Contact Period (AD 1565-ca.AD 1567) Pedro Menéndez de Aviles had been preceded by a number of unfortunate European expeditions that tried to settle *La Florida*, which extended in the sixteenth century north to Virginia and westward to the Mississippi. Among them were those of Juan Ponce de Leon (1513) who died trying to conquer Florida, Lucas Vásquez de Allyón who founded the short-lived settlement of San Miguel de Gualdape in 1523, Panfilo de Narvaez, who trekked through Florida in 1526 and lost all but 4 men; the infamous Hernando de Soto in 1540-44, and also died trying to claim the land, and Tristan de Luna, who tried unsuccessfully to establish a settlement at Pensacola in 1562 (see Gannon 1996). By the 1560's French Huguenots were establishing their settlements at Port Royal and Fort Caroline in La Florida and this set the stage for Menéndez (on the French colonization efforts, see Laudonniere 2001; McGrath 2000).

Admiral Pedro Menéndez de Aviles was the Captain General of the Spanish fleet stationed in the West Indies to protect trade and shipping. He was also a privateer and had a troubled history of tax evasion, but the protestant French presence in Florida convinced Phillip II of Spain to enter into a joint venture with Menéndez to both settle Florida and expel the French. After arriving in Florida, Menéndez quickly, decisively and by some accounts cruelly, vanquished the French efforts at colonization. He and his 800-person expedition established a settlement at or near a village under the jurisdiction of the Timucua Cacique Seloy. Archaeological work since 1976 supports the location of that site at site 8SJ31 (Fountain of Youth Park) in St. Augustine.

The circumstances at the St. Augustine settlement deteriorated within a month. After the capture of Ft. Caroline, Menéndez renamed the fort San Mateo, and left a garrison of 300 men there. Those who remained in St. Augustine were obligated to build the settlement and its defenses. Most of the supplies had been lost in shipwrecks and storms, and there was insufficient food to sustain the colonists (Menéndez de Aviles 1979). In the following months, Menéndez established small forts and outposts on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts, diverting another 300 or so soldiers to man those outposts (see Hoffman 2002:51-55 for in-depth discussions of Menéndez's frontier forts). Additionally, a considerable number of soldiers and seamen accompanied Menéndez on his explorations and voyages, which took place almost continuously for the first five months after settlement. Just two months after their arrival it is likely that only between 100 and 200 people remained at the St. Augustine settlement. They continued to suffer from hunger, illness and Indian attacks, and it was reported in January of 1566 that more than 100 people had died in the Florida forts from hunger and cold (Lyon 1976:140).

These conditions, exacerbated by the failure to find wealth, led to mutinies against Menéndez by

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the soldiers in both St. Augustine and San Mateo (the former Fort Caroline) in the Spring of 1566. The mutinies were ultimately quelled, but a month later the St. Augustine fort burned, either as a result of Indian attack or accident. In either case, relations with the Timucua in the area had deteriorated badly, and Menéndez decided to move the settlement across to the east side of the Matanzas River separated from the Timucua of Seloy. In May of 1566 they moved the settlement and built the fort at the (then) north end of Anastasia Island (Lyon 1997). That site has not been located.

By the end of 1566, peace treaties were established between the Spaniards (now headquartered on Anastasia Island) and the Timucuan groups to the west and north of the St. Johns River. In Saturiwa's domain, however, which included the vicinity of St. Augustine, hostilities continued and accelerated. In 1567 Menéndez ordered the construction of a series of blockhouses, or *casas fuertes*, to guard against and combat Saturiwa's forces, and to "overawe the unfriendly Indians who had never desired alliance with the Christians" (Barrientos in Quinn 1979:532). One of these was at "Old St. Augustine" (*San Agustín el Viejo*). Archaeological evidence (discussed below) suggests that this blockhouse may correspond to sixteenth century archaeological features at 8SJ34, the Nombre de Dios/Nuestra Señora de la Leche Shrine/site which is immediately to the south of the Fountain of Youth Park (Deagan 2012).

Mission Period (ca. 1590-ca. 1650): Organized efforts to convert the Timucua in the St. Augustine vicinity did not begin until after 1577, when the first Franciscans came to the Florida mission field (Gannon 1965:36-37; Hann 1996:138-140). A number of Native inhabitants of the area were baptized, including the *Cacica* (Chieftainess) of the town of Nombre de Dios, the name given to a Native American town about a kilometer north of St. Augustine. These first Christian Timucua attended Mass in the Spanish town until after 1587, when the first Franciscan mission *doctrina* in what is today the United States was established at Nombre de Dios (Arnade 1959:29). The town and mission of the Nombre de Dios have been archaeologically identified as extending across the modern properties of both Nombre de Dios (8SJ34) and the Fountain of Youth Park (8SJ31) and beyond (see Deagan 2008:93-101). Remains of the Mission-era occupation have been located in the southwestern periphery of the Fountain of Youth Park, however Mission period (post-1590) remains are very rare in the Menéndez encampment area (Deagan 2008:333-337). The Nombre de Dios mission occupation, mission site, although highly significant, is not a focus of this nomination.

In 1934 a gardener at the Fountain of Youth Park uncovered human remains at the Fountain of Youth Park while planting orange trees, and subsequent excavations under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution uncovered more than 100 Christian graves. These are located in the southwestern corner of the Fountain of Youth Park about 130 meters southwest of the Menéndez occupation area. Associated beads dated the remains to the late sixteenth and early seventeenth

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centuries (Goggin 1952; Seaberg 1951). The position of the remains, as well as their orientation and tightly packed distribution, clearly indicates that this was the site of the initial Nombre de Dios mission church (Deagan 2008; Dickson 1934; Hahn 1953; Merritt 1977; Seaberg 1951). Excavations (in 2001) in the vicinity of the church uncovered remains of a Timucua village occupation dating to the first half of the seventeenth century, however no sixteenth century deposits have been located so far in this area, or in any part of the western half of the Park property (Waters 2001; 2005). In 1595 the population of Nombre de Dios was about 200 people (Arnade 1959:57). A smallpox epidemic was reported to have virtually wiped out the population of Nombre de Dios in 1654-55, and ten years later the town's population consisted of only 35 people (Hann 1996:308-323; Worth 1995:147-155). It is probable that the major part of the Nombre de Dios mission community shifted southward toward the Spanish town at this point.

Post-1763 Occupation: There has been no documented domestic occupation or building activity in the Menéndez occupation area since the end of the first Spanish period in 1763. It became part of the British period Governor Grant's farm, which was an agricultural plantation until the 1780's (see Schaefer 2000). The properties remained in farmland until the late nineteenth century. After the Civil War, the property was purchased by H.H. Williams, a florist who cultivated flowers and fruit there (Adams et. al 1980; Corse 1933). Williams opened his gardens to the public in 1874 as the "Paradise Grove and Rose Gardens". The property was purchased in 1900 by Louella Day McConnell (a.k.a. "Diamond Lil"), who developed the Park as the supposed site of Ponce de Leon's landing place and the Fountain of Youth (ibid). The site has remained a tourist attraction since passing in 1927 into the ownership of Walter B. Fraser, a Florida State Senator, Mayor of St. Augustine and an early preservation advocate. The Fraser family continues to operate the site as a tourist attraction, and the Park is today committed to educational programming centered on the Menéndez-era occupation.

(www.fountainofyouth.com).

Present Environmental Setting and Landscape Alteration: The Fountain of Youth Park encompasses 12 acres, however Menéndez-era materials are restricted to the eastern shoreline, covering an area of approximately 80 meters east-west by 120 meters north-south (2 acres or .96 hectares). The eastern boundary of the area is defined by a raised pathway along Hospital Creek, and other sides of the area were determined by the distribution of sub-surface sixteenth century materials and features.

The western boundary is indicated not only by the absence of sixteenth century remains, but also by clayey soils marking a low-lying, formerly inundated area. This inundated area was in existence from at least the sixteenth century (and possibly earlier) into the nineteenth century. The area is today periodically inundated, and supports such saltwater marsh plants as *Salicornia bigelovii* (Glasswort), *Batis maritima* (Salt Wort) and areas of algae matting. Soil cores,

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magnetometry survey and shovel tests have shown that this part of the site contains very few cultural remains, and wet black-brown marsh deposits appear at ca. 15 cm. below present ground surface (Deagan 2012; Schultz 2000; Woods 2000, 2002). The causes and dates of infilling to this area are undocumented.

The occupation site itself lies in a dry hammock within a Saltwater Lagoon-Marsh environmental zone. The soils throughout the sites are classified as St. Augustine-Urban Land Complex, characterized as “somewhat poorly drained level soils that are formed as a result of dredging and filling activities. It is subject to periodic flooding and a high water table, and is not considered suitable for cultivated crops (Readle 1983:32). The site is bordered on the east and south (the tidally-inundated marsh zones along Hospital Creek) by Pellicer Silty Clay Loam (Readle 1983), which are clayey tidal sediments more than 40 inches thick.

A cement pathway extends west to east along what was the northern end of the sixteenth century occupation area. There is a statue of Ponce de Leon at the western edge, and an obelisk commemorating Ponce’s voyage at the east end. The area to the south of the path is an open field planted in grass, with palm trees established along the eastern border. The Menéndez-era settlement remains are concentrated in this area, and the Park has outlined the footprints of several of the archaeologically-defined structures in white sand as an aid to interpretation. A concrete bulwark, seawall and dock were built by the Park along the southeastern shoreline of the property in 2006. These are in a zone of modern fill adjacent to, but outside of, the archaeologically-defined Menéndez occupation area. Interpretive structures in this adjacent zone include a palm thatch shelter in which a Spanish *chalupa* (shallop) is being built, and a wooden watchtower replica. Cannon firing demonstrations take place adjacent to the watchtower. The portion of the Menéndez occupation area to the north of the central pathway is presently planted in grass, and contains 36 oak and cedar trees. It is used today as a picnic area and wedding venue. This part of the site is far less well-studied than the southern area, and is thought to contain the remains of sixteenth century defensive structures.

The volatile nature of coastal waterways in the face of human activity and hurricanes has altered the landscape configurations of the over the past 400 years, and especially during the past century. Major changes in the immediate waterscape of Hospital Creek undoubtedly occurred when the present St. Augustine inlet was dredged by the Corps of Engineers in 1942. That year, the Corps made a 200 meter wide cut some 400 meters north of the then-existing inlet, almost directly east of the mouth of Hospital Creek and the Menéndez occupation area. Maintenance dredging of the channel has continued since that time, undoubtedly altering the water flow and sand deposition patterns in this area.

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During the 1950's a bulkhead comprised of nearly two meters of modern construction debris and concrete block was built along the shoreline of the creek to support a narrow roadway (John R. Fraser, personal communication to Kathleen Deagan, 11/1991; Deagan 2008:34-36). Test excavations and ground penetrating radar studies (Schultz and Gidusko 2015) have located the marshy edge of the sixteenth century settlement at about 10 meters inland from the existing shoreline. Although the bulkhead construction and perimeter pathway obscure portions of the original marsh edge beach on the east side of the site, it has also served to protect the sixteenth century and earlier deposits to the west

Despite these changes, the Menéndez –era occupation area has been largely undisturbed over the past centuries by cultural activities. No buildings have ever been constructed on the site, and its function as a tourism destination since the late nineteenth century has spared it the kinds of development experienced by the rest of the St. Augustine's shoreline.

Archaeological Investigations at 8SJ31

Twenty three separate archaeological investigations have taken place between 1934 and 2014 at 8SJ31. These are summarized below in table form:

Date	Institution	Excavator(s)	Site Location	Report reference	Location of field records and artifact collections
1934	Smithsonian Institution	Ray Dickson/ Mathew Stirling	8SJ31 western periphery in seventeenth century mission burial area	Dickson 1934; Seaberg 1951	Records-FOY archive; Collections-unknown
1935	Florida Geological Survey	Vernon Lamme	8SJ31 Unknown	Lamme 1935	Unknown
1951	University of Florida Anthropology	John Goggin/ Lillian Seaberg / Paul Hahn/	8SJ31 Entire property tested	Seaberg 1951	Records– Unknown Collections- FLMNH-UF
1951	University of Florida Anthropology	John Goggin/ Marguerite Porter/ Richard Cooper	8SJ31 Menéndez encampment area	Porter 1952	Records – Unknown Collections- Unknown
1953	University of Florida Anthropology	John Goggin/ Paul Hahn	8SJ31 Western periphery in seventeenth century mission burial area	Hahn 1953	Records – Unknown Collections- Unknown
1976	Florida State University Anthropology	Kathleen Deagan/ Donald Merritt	8SJ31 SE and NE quadrants	Merritt 1977	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH- UF

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1977	Florida State University Anthropology	Kathleen Deagan/ Nicholas Lucchetti	8SJ31 and 8SJ34 Auger survey	Lucchetti 1977	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
1985	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Ed Chaney	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Chaney 1987	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
1987	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Ed Chaney	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	None	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
1990	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Gardner Gordon	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Gordon 1992	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
1994	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Robin Shtulman	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Shtulman 1995	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2000	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Cheryl White	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	White 2001	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2000	University of Florida-FLMNH	Gifford Waters	8SJ31 SW quadrant sub surface survey; mission village area excavation	Waters 2005	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2000	University of Florida-FLMNH	Gifford Waters/ Korinn Braden/Kim Lewis	8SJ31 Shovel test survey NE sector	Lewis,/Wright 2000, Barrett/Braden 2000	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2001	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Jamie Anderson	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Anderson 2002	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2002	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Al Woods	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Woods 2004, Deagan 2004	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2005	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan Ingrid Newquist	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Newquist 2007	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2006	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Deagan 2008	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2007	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Gifford Waters	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Deagan 2008	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF

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Name of Property				
2009	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Gifford Waters	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2011	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan/ Gifford Waters	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2013	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Deagan 2014 Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF
2014	University of Florida-FLMNH	Kathleen Deagan	8SJ31Menéndez encampment area	Deagan 2014 Records: FLMNH-UF Collections- FLMNH-UF

Several projects were undertaken at the Fountain of Youth Park site during the first half of the twentieth century, however none of those excavations located or recognized the (then unsuspected) 1565-1567 occupation sites. Excavations in the Hospital Creek region were renewed in 1976 by the Florida State University Field School under the direction of Kathleen Deagan. The first phase of this work was an auger survey of the north St. Augustine area (Luccetti 1976, Chaney 1986) (Figure 13). The survey revealed that sixteenth century Spanish artifacts occurred only in the southeastern corner of the FOY Park (8SJ31) and at the northeastern corner of the Nombre de Dios/La Leche Shrine property (8SJ34). Since 1977, excavations have concentrated on these areas, which remain the only locations outside of downtown St. Augustine with evidence of sixteenth century Spanish presence.

The archaeological work since 1985 has been carried out collaboratively with archival research by historians Eugene Lyon and the late Albert Manucy in sixteenth century document collections and published sources (Chatelaine 1941:41; Lyon 1976; 1985; 1997a-b; Manucy 1978, 1985, 1997), as well as zooarchaeologist Elizabeth Reitz (Reitz 1988, 1991, 1992, 2004; Orr 2001; Orr and Colannino 2008); archaeobotanist Margaret Scarry (Scarry 1989); and historical architect Herschel Shepard (Shepard 2005).

Documentary work has shown that the location and geographic features represented at the mouth of Hospital Creek are highly consistent with what little was recorded about the location of the 1565 settlement, particularly in its relation to the sixteenth century configuration of bar and inlet of St. Augustine. The presence of an extensive Timucua occupation is consistent with descriptions of the settlement's establishment at a Native American town, and the absence so far of any archaeological or documentary evidence for any other sixteenth century European settlement all directly supported the identification of these sites as the 1565-66 Menéndez

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1934-1954 The first archeological investigation at the Fountain of Youth Park (and one of the first historical archaeology studies in the United States) was carried out in 1934 by Mr. J. Ray Dickson (under the supervision of Matthew Stirling of the Smithsonian Institution) after the discovery of human skeletal remains during gardening activities. These were located at the western side of the property, near present-day Magnolia Avenue, 130 meters west of the 1565-66 encampment area. Follow-up excavations were conducted the following year by then-Florida State archaeologist Vernon Lamme, although the locations and results of those excavations remain unrecorded. Dickson's excavations have been reported and summarized by Seaberg (1990:222-230), Merritt (1977:36-45) and Deagan (2008:52-57).

Dickson excavated more than 112 Native American burials in a block of 90 by 40 feet. The majority of the burials were extended, with arms crossed on the chest in the traditional Christian pattern, and heads at the west, facing east. The tightly compacted and regular arrangement of the burials, the associated European artifacts and their highly consistent orientations all suggest that the burials were in the floor of an early church at the mission Nombre de Dios, established in 1587 (Hann 1990:426; Gannon 1965:27). The work in this part of the site revealed no evidence of Menéndez-era activity, and the remains pertain exclusively to the unrelated latesixteenth/early seventeenth century Mission of Nombre de Dios.

John Goggin of the University of Florida directed excavations at the Fountain of Youth Park site between 1951 and 1954 in order to understand the Timucua occupation of the property. This work included of eight five foot square test units located throughout the Fountain of Youth Park (Seaberg 1951). None of this work located evidence of the (then unsuspected) 1565 encampment.

Additional work was carried out later in 1952 by University of Florida students Paul Hahn, Richard Cooper, and Marguerite Porter, but was not reported (Seaberg 1951:34). Until 2013, no information about the location, extent, or results of that work could be found, despite exhaustive searches in various repositories and private collections. Several features thought to be associated with the 1951 excavations were located in excavations done between 1991 and 2012. These were identified by rectangular areas of backfill containing 1950's soda bottles, flash bulbs, and unmarked wood survey stakes. However no coherent or obvious pattern of excavation could be discerned.

In the summer of 2013, however, all of the records, maps, artifacts, photographs and notes from those excavations were found in Martinez, California by the daughter and granddaughter of Paul Hahn. Hahn, one of Goggin's students, had apparently been charged with completing the report

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on the project. He left for graduate school at Yale without completing the report, taking however, all the materials from the 8SJ31 excavations with him. He later left Yale and moved to Chicago, New Mexico and ultimately Martinez, California, where he died in 2012 (without having written the Fountain of Youth Park report).

Hahn's daughter, Julie Willsea, found the materials from the Fountain of Youth Park in their garage after his death, apparently untouched and in their original condition after 62 years. Willsea contacted archaeologists at the Florida Museum of Natural History at the University of Florida. The materials were shipped to the Museum, where they are now curated.

Hahn's maps and records show extraordinarily extensive excavation trenches encircling the periphery of the site area. If accurate, the maps indicate that the 1952 team excavated some 633 square meters of area, and mapped dozens of pits, postmolds and trench features. As noted above, the University of Florida excavations between 1985 and 2013 had located deposits of modern backfill that corresponded to some of the 1952 units (although this association was not known at the time). It was therefore possible, using the locations of those backfilled features, to georeference the 1952 maps to the cartesian coordinate grid system currently in use, and to rectify the 1952 finds with those excavated subsequently.

In December of 2013, a Florida Museum of Natural History team re-opened two areas of the site that had been previously excavated both by the University of Florida and, if the 1952 maps were correct, also by the Goggin team. This was done to ground truth and verify the locations of the 1951 excavation units. These tests showed that the 1951-52 maps are in fact internally consistent, and that the units and features represented on them are locatable on the ground.

The 1952 team also excavated 19 test pits to the north of the area with sixteenth century Spanish occupation remains, in a part of the property that today contains a tourist walkway and picnic area. The 1951 notes and maps document long timber stains representing wall sills in a configuration that may potentially represent additional defensive works. These remain to be located and tested.

According to the 1951 records, the excavation units were excavated in arbitrary layers to sterile soil, and the features and intrusions at that level were mapped. The project ended, however, before the features could be excavated. The 2013 ground truth and 2014 excavations at the site have verified that the features encountered by the 1951 team had not, in fact, been excavated. There exists, therefore, a wealth of additional potential information about the Menéndez settlement that remains to be verified and incorporated. The following summary of results from the excavation of the Menéndez settlement at the Fountain of Youth Park can therefore only partially incorporate the newly revealed information from 1951.

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State University Excavations of 1976-2014: The initial 1976-77 field school archaeological work in the southeastern portion of 8SJ31 was undertaken to learn more about Timucua lifeways and adaptive patterns during the very early historic period (Merritt 1977). During the 1985 season however, it became apparent that the area contained very early European features including a barrel well and what appeared to be rectangular structures made with cut timbers and iron nails (Chaney 1987; Chaney and Deagan 1988). Neither of these kinds of construction is known from Timucuan sites of the pre- or postcolumbian eras. The presence of barrel wells was considered particularly significant because there are four above-ground artesian springs within a hundred meters of the well itself, suggesting that the well may have been intended to serve as a water supply within a fortified area.

Since 1985, excavations at 8SJ31 have been concentrated in the southeastern corner of the property in efforts to reveal the configuration and components of the 1565-66 encampment. A total of 1,988 square meters of area (about twenty percent of the occupation site area and two percent of the Park property) has been excavated. In addition to extensive excavations, the entire area has been subjected to magnetometer survey, ground penetrating radar and electromagnetic resistivity (EM 31) surveys, as well as aerial infrared photography and systematic shovel testing (reported in Deagan 2008; Lucchetti 1977; Newquist 2006; Schultz 2001; Woods 2002). This work has been carried out largely through the University of Florida Archaeological Field School program directed by Kathleen Deagan, and has been reported in a series of MA theses, published papers and technical reports. Many of these are available on line at www.flmnh.ufl.edu/histarch/research/menendez/reports .

Summary of Results

Pre-1565 occupations: The presence of Orange Fiber Tempered pottery and an Archaic period Lafayette point suggest at least an intermittent late Archaic occupation of the site. The earliest residential occupation, dated at approximately 800 B.C., occurred at the period of transition between the late Archaic Orange ceramic period and the subsequent early St. Johns I “Woodlands” periods of Florida prehistory (dates used here follow Milanich 1994).

Occupation during the late Archaic period is thought to have been largely focused on intermittent shellfish collecting and fishing activities, but occurring through time during all seasons of the year.

The earliest sedentary occupation of the site began during the St. Johns II period, at between about A.D. 800-1000 (Appendix 1 reports the radiometric dates from the site). This is represented by two shell midden areas partially enclosing a low-lying open central area. The central area between the shell middens was relatively free of refuse and architectural features, and is assumed to have been a plaza or open space during both the pre- and post-contact periods.

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Features (pits, hearths and postmolds) dating to the Timucuan pre-contact era are restricted primarily to the areas south and north of the open central zone. Two dog burials (both dated by AMS to between AD 800 and AD 1000) were associated with the initial stages of midden formation. Most of the structural evidence thought to be of Timucuan origin is comprised of postmolds arranged in round or oval patterns measuring between 3.7 and 4 meters in diameter. These presumably supported the walls of thatched structures. To date, remnants of 11 circular huts have been located, four of which were removed, repaired or reused after the arrival of the Spanish.

The dating of these structures is sometimes ambiguous, in that the fill of postmolds and wall trenches provides a date for the destruction and backfilling of these features, rather than for their construction. It is likely that many of the structures with assigned dates in the sixteenth century (based on the presence of an associated European item) may well have been constructed before 1565, and altered, disturbed or destroyed after 1565. The absence of precise dates for Timucuan artifacts that might serve as dating indices to the pre- and post-contact periods also hinders specific date assignments. Such materials as St. Johns pottery and chert projectile points continued to be produced well into the historic era. The frequent flooding and tidal water table fluctuations at the site makes it likely that fully pre-contact Timucua deposits have been disturbed by the percolation and migration of small European items (such as iron flakes, seed beads and glass fragments) through the sandy soils.

There is some indication, however, that the Spaniards used and perhaps altered some of the Timucua structures for their own use. Several of the circular structures had more abundant European materials associated with both the architectural features and associated trash pits and hearths. These clearly dated to the post-1565 period and suggest re-use of Timucua buildings by Spanish colonists.

The Menéndez-era: During the sixteenth century (and until the nineteenth century) the encampment area was surrounded by water on the east, south and west sides (Hospital Creek on the east and south and the now-filled tidal estuary on the west). The northern extent of the occupation area is marked by the cessation of sixteenth century Spanish artifact distributions, as well as a linear narrow trench feature extended east-west for nearly 80 meters. This latter feature (discussed below) is thought to be related to an earth, timber or fascine wall along the settlement's north side.

The residential area of the Menéndez encampment, containing Spanish structures and Spanish material remains, covers an area of 90 meters N-S and 75-80 meters east-west (Figure 26). If the extension of a defensive structure to the north, as indicated by the 1951 maps is accurate, the

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dimensions of the Spanish-occupied site area are 120 meters N-S and 75-80 meters E-W. The Spanish-built features are oriented at an alignment of 30 degrees west of magnetic north (roughly following the orientation of the eastern shoreline). A roughly oval space of 20-23 meters in diameter at the approximate center of the occupation area was free of residential constructions, and possibly served as a plaza, continuing the plaza tradition of the earlier Timucua occupation.

In addition to the circular Timucua-style huts, traces of at least six large rectangular buildings have been located along the interface between the central open area and the shell middens to the south, east and west (Figure 27). Trash pits and barrel wells were located outside of these structures. No European-style architectural features have been found in either the open central area, or in the shell middens themselves.

The rectangular buildings measured approximately 6 by 12 meters (72 m²), and some of them appear to have been divided into rooms of about 4 by 4.5 meters. These multi-roomed structures were probably thatched, with earth floors, and were presumably residential. Thatching is assumed because there is no burned or unburned clay daub at the site, and although nails are associated with the sill beam stains, they have not been recovered in numbers that would suggest board walls.

The dimensions of these structures are considerably larger than those documented for other sixteenth century Spanish vernacular residences known from St. Augustine and elsewhere. Spanish houses in later sixteenth century (1572-1600) St. Augustine, are suggested to have ranged from about 3.5x7 meters (24.5 m²) to 3.5 x 5.5.meters (19.3 m²) (Manucy 1997: 84-88). The two archeologically-exposed sixteenth century structures in the post-1572 town measured 3.5 x 5.5 (19.3 m²) meters, and 3.5 by 4 meters (14m²) respectively (Deagan 1985:13), and the exposed Spanish structure at Santa Elena, South Carolina (1566-1587) was a square of 7 meters to a side (South & DePratter 1996:101). The Santa Elena structure was believed to have been an elite, high status complex (ibid).

The Spanish-built rectangular structures were constructed on log sleeper sills laid directly on the ground, leaving distinctive linear stains. Iron fasteners (wrought nails and spikes) are consistently associated with these stains. The sill beam stains were approximately 50 centimeters wide, 15 to 20 centimeters in depth and had rounded bases characteristic of split tree trunks. Postmolds occurred somewhat randomly in association with the sill beam stains; some at the corners of structures and others placed intermittently (but irregularly) along the side of the sill beam. It is possible that uprights were notched directly into the sill beams. The practice of notching beams has been documented at the 1566 Berry site in North Carolina, the location of Juan Pardo's ill-fated Fort San Juan (1566-67), although at that site the beams are thought to be roof supports rather than sills (Beck, Moore and Rodning 2006:42; Best and Rodning n.d.).

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Timber sill beam construction has been in use since Roman times for both public and domestic structures, in the Americas and in Europe (Carson et. al. 1980; Spies and Rushing 1983); and has been documented at other Spanish colonial sites in Florida such as the Spanish village at San Luis and sixteenth century St. Augustine (Deagan 1985:13; McEwan 1993:299-301; Manucy 1997:91).

Two barrel wells associated with the Spanish structures were located, both containing only materials dating to the mid-sixteenth century in their backfill. The earliest of these is at the eastern edge of the site. It contained very little European material in its construction pit and appears to have been filled rapidly after its abandonment with burned boards and wood. A large trash deposit overlaying and partially filling the well also dates to the Menéndez era. The second well is located on the eastern edge of the central, presumed plaza area, and contains substantial amounts of European material in both the construction pit and the shaft fill (see Figure 16). It is thought to have been abandoned and left open for a brief time during the spring or summer months, based on the presence of a “frog and toad” layer at its base (Reitz 1988). This is consistent with the abandonment of the first settlement site in May of 1566. It is likely that additional, as-yet undiscovered wells are present at the site.

Casa de Municiones/Casa Fuerte: The largest Spanish-built structure at the settlement site is located at the northern end of the residential area and shares the same orientation as the smaller rectangular structures. A series of regularly placed linear stains are interpreted as floor joist stains for a large, rectangular, wood-floored building measuring some 25 by 15 meters (Figures 35-36). The building intruded upon and disturbed large postmolds, pits and smudge pits dating to the pre-1565 Timucua occupation. There was apparent burning of the floor, since the sill beam stains and associated postmolds are heavily charcoal-laden. Very few artifacts were recovered from within or around the stains themselves, but they included lead shot and iron flakes, indicating a post-1565 destruction date. Although the boundaries of the building have been established archaeologically, most of the interior space remains to be excavated. The nature of the short (north and south) facades also needs to be determined, since the joist/beam stains end abruptly on those ends, with little evidence for a wall enclosing the north or south sides.

The sill and joist stains from this building are larger than those supporting the residential structures. Those defining the presumed storehouse measure from 65-70 centimeters in width, 20-25 centimeters in depth and are positioned from 1.2 to 1.6 meters apart. All but one of them have pronounced, 20 centimeters-wide depressions along their eastern edges, extending some 10-15 centimeters deeper than the rest of the feature, as though the eastern sides were load-bearing. Although the sill beam stains varied in their individual depths (i.e., thickness), they all consistently appeared at 1.81 meters below the site datum (approximately 1.9 meters above current mean sea level), suggesting a level surface for flooring.

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As by far the largest- and only wood-floored- building at the site, the structure is currently interpreted as the *casa de municiones* described in documentary accounts and partially burned in April of 1566 (Lyon 1997a-b). It was consistently described as a *buhio* or thatched structure, and contained the colony's munitions and supplies. The building also served as housing for some of the colony's officials. It had a stout wooden door which the mutineers pounded on and broke into, seizing all the weapons inside. The *casa de municiones* was clearly part of the fort, and in fact there is some possibility that it may have been the principal element of the fort.

Defenses. It would have been traditional to build a moat and an earthwork around a sixteenth century frontier fort or settlement; however archaeological evidence for a ditch or moat has not yet been found. The only documentary descriptions of the 1565 settlement and fort are ambiguous, in that a hasty entrenchment seems to have been dug immediately upon landing, while a "more suitable" site for a fort was being determined. Menéndez reported that he ordered some of his soldiers to go on shore and "to throw up a trench in the place most fit to fortify themselves in.....When I go onshore we shall seek out a more suitable place to fortify ourselves in, as it is not fit where we are now....." (Ware 1894:419-425). There is no further mention of where that more suitable site might have been.

The expedition chaplain, Father López recorded that "They went ashore and were well-received by the Indians, who gave them a very large house of a cacique which is on the riverbank. And then Captains Patiño and San Vicente, with strong industry and diligence, ordered a ditch and moat made around the house, with a rampart of earth and fagots..." (Lyon 1997a:6).

It is possible that a moat or significant ditch was simply not present at the Menéndez settlement. At Menéndez's second town site of Santa Elena, which he established in 1566, their Fort San Felipe did not have a moat until four years after the fort itself was constructed (South 1983:43). And no trace of the first Santa Elena fort of 1566 (San Sebastian) or its moat has ever been found, despite an extremely extensive program of testing and excavation over more than 20 years (South 1980, DePratter and South 1995; South and DePratter 1996).

The only apparent defensive work located and verified so far at the Menéndez site is a very long east-west linear stain or narrow trench thought to represent the timber base for a defensive wall of as-yet unclear construction. This linear sill or footing stain is located at eight meters to the north of the presumed *Casa de Municiones* building and extends across the northern end of the Spanish occupation area. It is encountered at approximately 40 centimeters below ground surface, and intrudes into sterile soil. The timber stain is 50-60 centimeters wide and 40 centimeters in depth, somewhat deeper and wider than the structural sill beam stains associated with the buildings at the site. Postmolds were located in the base and along the southern edge of

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the stain at very irregular intervals, indicating that the “wall” was not a traditional wood palisade formed of upright logs. Artifacts in the fill of the wall feature were scarce, consisting of Timucua St. Johns pottery, a few iron flakes, Spanish Olive Jar and two lead shot. Both the contents and the stratigraphic position of the feature are consistent with the Menéndez era.

As of 2014, the linear feature has been found to extend for 80 meters east to west along the northern edge of the settlement area, extending to the marsh deposits on both the eastern and western sides of the settlement. Given that the other three sides of encampment area were inundated marshland or water during the mid-sixteenth century, the Spaniards may have only required defensive fortifications on the northern side. The configuration of the large wood-floored structure and the linear bounding feature to the north suggest that the 1565-66 “fort” of St. Augustine may have consisted principally of a *casa fuerte* or *casa de munición*, and a defensive construction along the only non-water side of the settlement. The area immediately north of the presumed the wall feature (that is, from the wall feature to 30 meters northward) has not been systematically tested owing to the presence of walkways and interpretive tourism activities.

Two provocative alternatives for the settlement’s defensive organization, however, may be suggested by the recently discovered 1951 field data. That excavation also located long segments of the same east-west “wall trench” feature documented later by the University of Florida work, and detailed above. The 1951 excavation sketches, however, depict the linear wall trench feature as turning northward near its center, possibly describing one or more large structures to the north. Test excavations were done in this area in 2014, and although segments of these northern linear features were located and recorded, considerably more work will be required in order to delineate structural patterns.

A second alternative is offered by the 1951 excavations maps, which suggest that a large circular Timucua style building was, in fact, located on the eastern edge of the settlement. Ground truth testing in 2014-2015 has verified that the 1951 maps are accurate, and that the post and pit features they recorded do still exist. Uncovering the entire structure and excavating some of its features is a high priority for future work at the site.

Artifact Assemblage: The artifact assemblage from the living area to the south of that linear feature is particularly important to identifying and interpreting the Menéndez settlement. The dateable artifacts indicate a pre-ca.1580 date, which is critical both to identifying the Menéndez-era occupation (1565-66) and to distinguishing it from the later, largely seventeenth century Franciscan mission period occupation to the west. The year 1580 is the approximate date at which the exportation of glazed majolica from Mexico City began (which was the only American majolica production center until the seventeenth century, Lister and Lister 1987:229). It was also

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at approximately 1580 that supplies from Mexico (including glazed majolica ceramics) routinely entered the St. Augustine colony, supplanting supplies brought directly from Spain via Cuba (Deagan 1987:77). Although Mexican ceramics are found quite commonly in downtown St. Augustine contexts dating to after ca. post 1572, none have been found in the sixteenth century features of the encampment area.

The material assemblage is also strikingly different from any excavated mission era settlements so far known. It reflects a strongly European composition, with a proportion of European to Native American artifacts that is considerably higher than that found at mission sites, or even at later domestic sites in St. Augustine (Stuhlman 1995; Chaney and Deagan 1988). The artifacts furthermore include large numbers of items that are rarely, if ever, found in early historic Native American mission communities, such as lead musket shot, brass straight pins, Spanish majolica tablewares, metal military buttons, clothing fasteners and domestic implements (Deagan 2008) (Figures 18-19; Appendix 4).

Certain artifacts are particularly evocative of the Menéndez colony's military and colonization purposes. These include 128 lead musket shot ranging from .05 to .60 caliber, which is consistent with muskets of that era (Brown 1980:39-42). These comprised 1.3 percent of all artifacts of the Menéndez period. This is a significantly higher proportion of shot than that found at other sixteenth century Spanish occupation sites in Florida, including Fort San Felipe at Santa Elena, South Carolina (1566-1587), where lead shot comprised .8 percent of the assemblage (South 1983:65), and post-1572 St. Augustine, where shot made up .9 percent of the sixteenth century artifact assemblage (Deagan 1985:12).

Brass and whitemetal buttons (N=7) also attest to a Menéndez-era military presence. Identical buttons have been recovered at the site of Santa Elena, and correspond to the metal *autaxia* and *acero* metal buttons known to have been shipped to Florida by Menéndez for his soldiers' doublets (Lyon 1992). Other clothing related artifacts reflect the European clothing worn by the colonists at the site, including brass straight pins, hook and eye fasteners, and copper lace tips (aglets) used to lace up clothing. A fragment of gold metallic lace – the *bordado* used to garnish officers' and other expensive Spanish clothing – is another index of Spanish presence.

The 110 glass beads from Menéndez-era contexts included faceted, 7-layer chevron beads, which are considered diagnostic of the mid-sixteenth century. Seed or clothing beads, a molded and gilded bead and simple tumbled beads were also found (see Deagan 2008:197-203). They probably functioned as jewelry, as trade goods and in rosaries (several beads were still connected with metal links). Another Menéndez-era object related to Spanish spiritual life was a bone *figa* amulet; a small closed fist with a circle carved on one side. These were used in Spain as protective amulets against the evil eye, and were particularly associated with babies.

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Other items reflecting Spanish domestic life included Columbia Plain, Santa Elena Mottled and Seville Blue on Blue Majolica, Olive Jar, Orange Micaceous pottery, a scale hook, a brass candleholder, medicine vial fragments and furniture tacks. Dietary remains are overwhelmingly from locally available foods, and pig, melon and wheat are the only European domesticates so far identified. The diet was principally one of fish and shellfish along with such indigenous plants as squash, maize, prickly pear and acorns (Orr 2001; Orr and Colannino 2008; Reitz 1988, 1991, 1992, 2004; Scarry 1989). An extended discussion of artifact and dietary remains can be found in Deagan 2008:158-216.

Given the very long Timucua occupation of the site, and the subsequent very short Spanish occupation, it is difficult to assess the full extent to which the Spaniards adopted Timucua material technology. It is likely that much of the Timucuan St. Johns pottery in Menéndez-era contexts occurs because of mixing and redeposition. Analysis of undisturbed closed contexts of the encampment era (wells, trash pits, wall trenches) shows a considerably lower proportion of Native American items (ranging from 30% to 56%) than is found in the overall occupation period assemblage (84% of which is of Native American origin). The Spanish colonists undoubtedly adopted some Timucua materials, including not only pottery, but busycon shell cups (three have been found in Spanish contexts) and shell beads.

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.

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Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Returned

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Exploration and Settlement

Ethnic Heritage=Hispanic

Archaeology-Historic—Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

1565-1570

Significant Dates

1565, 1566

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Pedro Menéndez de Aviles

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Cultural Affiliation

Spanish
Timucua

Architect/Builder

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Menéndez-era occupation site incorporating portions of sites 8SJ31 and 8SJ34 in St. Augustine is nationally significant under National Register Criteria 1, 2 and 6, as the first permanent European occupation in the United States; its association with a nationally significant historical figure, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés; and its historic archaeological significance, which includes the intact remains of the 1565 settlement of 1565 St. Augustine and its defensive works. It is also the first place in the nation where Native Americans lived in sustained daily contact with Europeans, and those experiences shaped the course of all subsequent Spanish –Native American relations throughout the southern United States.

Criterion 1 Events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of United States History.

The Menéndez occupation site is the location of the first successful and permanent European colonial venture in what is today the United States. As such, it set into motion the processes by which Native America was transformed into Euro-America, and that define the United States today. The events that took place here between 1565 and ca. 1572 also represent the first expression of the multi-ethnic and multicultural diversity, the flexible adaptation and the pioneering spirit that are hallmarks of the American experience.

People belonging to several of the cultural and ethnic groups that comprise our country's population today (some long considered minorities) first lived together in Menéndez-era Florida. They included people of Spanish heritage, both free and enslaved people of African heritage, and

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Native Americans of several tribal associations. They very quickly forged a way of life that was very different in its multicultural blending from life in the Anglo-American colonies. St. Augustine was the original – and in many ways the only true- American “melting pot”, a notion that figures large in our national identity.

The Menéndez occupation site also represents the first efforts of Native Americans and Europeans in what is today the United States to engage with one another, often in experimental ways. Initial treaties of alliance and friendship between Spaniards and Southeastern Natives took place here. Some persisted, but most gave way to hostility, warfare and eventual domination by the Spaniards, presaging patterns of engagement that ultimately disenfranchised the Native inhabitants of the United States. Recognizing and acknowledging these very early events and the places in which they occurred offers an opportunity to help reintroduce Americans to our deepest colonial roots, and to impart new and more inclusive understanding of our origins as citizens of the United States.

Criterion 2: *An important association with the lives of persons nationally important in the history of the United States.*

The site is directly related to Pedro Menéndez de Aviles, who played a central role in the international politics of the sixteenth century Americas (see Lyon 1976:1995). Beyond his role in establishing the first successful European North American colony, Menéndez was influential in shaping the course of Spanish-American economic development as Admiral of the Spanish fleets in the Caribbean. He furthermore shaped the political landscape of the American colonial empires by defeating and removing the French settlement at Fort Caroline, thereby establishing the southeastern United States as a Spanish domain until the founding of English Jamestown 42 years later.

Criterion 3: *A site that has yielded or is likely to yield information of major scientific importance*

The Menéndez-era occupation component of site (8SJ31, the Fountain of Youth Park site), is archaeologically significant at the national level. Not only has this site revealed previously unknown information about the introduction of European colonization to America, but it also holds considerable archaeological potential for expanding and refining our understanding of that process. The site has already yielded information that is not present in written documents, revealing the circumstances and organization of the first settlement. This has included unexpected detail about the settlement layout, military architecture and strategy, architecture and building construction, domestic material life, diet, and patterns of integration of indigenous foods and material culture. The very long period of study at this site has also underscored the critical importance of long term, interdisciplinary archaeological research in understanding human places.

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HISTORIC CONTEXTS

Exploration, contact and colonization

On September 8 of 1565, 800 weary Spaniards came on shore at St. Augustine, Florida, after enduring a storm-plagued voyage of more than 70 days. They attended Mass and a ceremony claiming *La Florida* for Spain, and afterwards invited the undoubtedly curious local Timucua people to join them in feast of thanksgiving.

The Spanish colonial settlement of St. Augustine resulted directly from the political and military rivalry in Europe over control of the Americas. The Spanish based their exclusive legal rights to the New World, which included La Florida, on a 1493 papal bull issued by Pope Alexander VI after Columbus's first voyage of discovery. Later confirmed by the Treaty of Tordesillas, the Bull established a north-south running global Demarcation Line, which gave Spain all of the territory west of the Line, including all of North America and most of South America. Portugal was given all of the territory to the west of the Demarcation Line which principally included Brazil. French and English monarchs, however, refused to recognize the authority of the Pope to grant Spain exclusive rights to the New World (Sauer 1971:94-95).

The initial Spanish exploration, conquest and settlement of the Americas (including Florida) was usually vested in a joint partnership between the crown of Spain and a crown appointed *adelantado*. The adelantado was financially responsible for the conquest of a new area, but if successful, he became the governor of the land, received title to a large amount of property, was assigned a certain percentage of the income generated in the province, received monopolies in trade, and was exempted from certain taxes. In return, the crown expected and often received new territories, taxes, wealth, new subjects and Catholic converts.

The first adelantado of La Florida was Juan Ponce de Leon, the former conquistador and Governor of Puerto Rico¹. As understood by Spain, "La Florida" included all of present-day Florida extending northward to the Chesapeake region and westward to the Mississippi River (Gannon 1996:21-22). Juan Ponce claimed and named La Florida in 1513, and returned in 1521 with Spanish settlers to establish a colony on the Gulf coast of Florida. The Calusa natives of the area, however, immediately repelled the settlers; drove the expedition away and mortally wounded Ponce (Fuson 2000; Sauer 1971:35). Five years later in 1526, Lucas Vázquez de Ayllón attempted to settle along the South Atlantic Coast in the vicinity of South Carolina, but cold weather and attacks by Native Americans caused abandonment of the settlement after only four months. Of the initial 500 people, only 80 survived (Hoffman 1990:60-80).

Pánfilo de Narváez was the next to inherit the vacant Florida adelantado-ship, and mounted an expedition in 1527 to explore and conquer the region. This effort failed within a year because of supply losses and Native attacks (Gannon 1996). Ten years later, in 1537, Hernando de Soto was

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appointed as the new adelantado. In four years of exploring the Southeast (1539-1543), de Soto got no further in conquering Florida than his predecessors, and like them he died in the attempt (see Galloway 1997 for a comprehensive assessment of this expedition).

The next effort to establish a foothold in La Florida took place in 1559, when Tristan de Luna y Arellano led an expedition of eleven ships and 1,500 settlers to Florida. Within a week of landing at present-day Pensacola on the Gulf coast, a hurricane sank eight of his ships and destroyed most of the colonists' provisions, ending any serious attempt to establish a settlement (Priestly 2010).

Privateers and shipwrecks. Throughout the period of these unsuccessful conquest and colonization attempts, Spanish La Florida played an increasingly important role in the defense of the Spanish Caribbean. As noted, France and England did not recognize the Treaty of Tordesillas, or the exclusive right of Spain to own American territories. One of their primary means of attacking the Spanish empire and gaining its wealth was through privateer expeditions sanctioned by the governments and financed by private or governmental funds. From the 1530's onward these privateers attacked and plundered Spanish ships and coastal settlements throughout the Caribbean (Hoffman 1980:20-27).

To protect their Caribbean homeward bound fleets from French and English privateers, Spain needed to provide protection at certain strategic locations along the shipping lanes. Havana was the last port of call in the New World, with the Azores as the next chance of succor or supply [Sauer 1971:190]. Protecting the Straits of Florida, located between the Bahamian Islands and the South Atlantic Coast, was critical to the safety of the fleet. From whatever point of origin - New Spain, Peru, New Granada - shipping to Spain entered the Straits of Florida from the west, to ride the Gulf Stream out of the Gulf of Mexico, through the Bahama Channel, and on north into the Atlantic. At Cape Canaveral the Gulf Stream has a summer rate of flow of seventy mile a day, up to a point approximately fifty miles to the east of the Sea Islands of Georgia and South Carolina. Borne on the current, the ships sailed steadily into higher latitudes where they might expect to meet westerly winds to carry them to the Azores and Spain. This passage was, however, the most dangerous area for privateer attacks.

Privateers were not the only danger in the Straits of Florida; hurricanes had wrecked the homeward bound treasure fleets on the east coast of Florida in 1550 and 1553, killing more than a thousand mariners and passengers, and causing the loss of great quantities of treasure intended for the Crown of Spain. By 1565, when the final unsuccessful effort to colonize Florida was attempted, these economic and human losses had reached crisis proportions.

The French Threat to Spanish Florida The final pre-St. Augustine settlement efforts in what is now the United States were organized by the French. During the 1560's France decided to

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intensify their efforts to control of the strategic coast of La Florida by establishing two settlements in Spanish territory. The settlements served the dual purposes of establishing a permanent French base along the Straits of Florida from which to attack Spanish shipping and possessions; and of creating a refuge for French Protestant Huguenots seeking to emigrate to a more liberal religious climate (McGrath 2000; Lyon 1984:1). This directly threatened Spain's claim to La Florida, and the security of Spanish shipping from the New World.

Charlesfort was a small fortification of 26 men, established in 1562 by Protestant Captain Jean Ribault at present-day Parris island, South Carolina. Ribault returned to France for reinforcements, but left unsupplied, the Charlesfort garrison fell apart within a year. The survivors constructed a small boat to sail across the Atlantic back to France, and eventually reached home (McGrath 2000:79-83). The French colonization enterprise was resumed in the Spring of 1564, when Captain Rene Laudonnière sailed with three ships and three hundred men to establish the new settlement of Fort Caroline near the mouth of the St. Johns River.¹ Laudonnière was under orders to prepare a fort and await Ribault's return with the bulk of the men and supplies that were to permanently establish a French presence in the Southeast (McGrath 2000). It was in this context of hostility and encroachment that Spain's' final (and first successful) effort to colonize the southeastern United States took place.

Pedro Menéndez and the Conquest of La Florida: The final Adelantado appointed to La Florida was Pedro Menéndez de Aviles in 1565. Pedro Menéndez was an experience seaman with a long service of history to the Spanish crown in both European and Caribbean waters, including many years spent as a privateer. France and England were not alone in issuing commissions to privateers., the Spanish crown also issued privateering commissions in retaliation, and one of the most successful Spanish privateers of the sixteenth century was Pedro Menéndez de Aviles.

Born in 1519 at Aviles, on the northern coast of Spain, Menéndez was the descendent of minor Asturian hidalgos and was connected by blood and marriage with several notable Asturian noble families. In 1543, after an early marriage to Doña María de Solís, Menéndez went to sea and entered the world of privateering [Lyon 1976:10-11]. By 1548, he had received his first privateering commission from Charles V of Spain , who authorized him in 1550 to extend his geographical area of privateering to include the West Indies during times of peace (Lyon 1976:11). With the outbreak of war with France in 1552, Menéndez again received a commission to seek French pirates in the West Indies with eight ships built at his own expense (Lyon 1976:12).

Although the peace of Cateau-Cambrésis (1559) ended fighting between France and Spain in

¹ The actual site of Fort Caroline has not been located. The National Park Service interprets the 1564 French colony of the northwest coast of Florida at Fort Caroline National Memorial.

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Europe, the issue of France's incursions into the New World were still unresolved by 1560. As a result, Menéndez's proven skills earned him the position of Captain-General of the New Spain and Tierra Firme fleets (the *Carrera de Indias*), which earned him large sums from Crown charter fees, salary, commercial enterprises involving his own ships, and freight charges, and passenger fees (Lyon 1976:20). Perhaps because of his experiences, Menéndez was more mindful than his predecessors of the need to establish Spanish control of Florida's east coast.

In 1565 Menéndez submitted a proposal to the king in which he outlined the need to establish a Spanish colony in Florida. After due consideration and bargaining, King Philip signed a contract on March 22, 1565, with Menéndez's objectives in La Florida to be exploration of the land, establishment of a Spanish colony, and religious conversion of the local Native Americans (Lyon 1976:50). The reciprocal arrangements between the Castilian monarchs and their adelantados were formalized in their *asiento y capitulaciones*— or a series of negotiated contracts (Lyon 1976:5). In his contract with the king Menéndez agreed to the following terms (detailed by Lyon 1976:48-50):

To bring a force of five hundred men on his expedition, of which one hundred would be farmers, one hundred sailors, and the rest armed men and officers. He agreed to carry two clerics and to bring stonecutters, carpenters, farriers, blacksmiths, barbers, and surgeons.

To sail the coast of Florida and seek the most advantageous places for settlement. He was also to search for traces of any corsairs or other unauthorized intruders in the lands of Phillip II and expel them, if such should exist.

Menéndez was to undertake a series of explorations of his area of governorship, which ranged from the northern "Gulf of Mexico around the Florida Keys and up the east coast to Terra `Nova" present-day Newfoundland, Canada [Lyon 1976:49].

After three years Menéndez was to bring an additional 400 settlers to Florida. He was to establish two or three towns, and to fortify each with a strong house of stone, adobe, or wood and with a moat and drawbridge [Lyon 1976:49].

The contract also said that every attempt should be made to bring the natives into the Christian faith and to loyal obedience to the King [Lyon 1976:50].

The Spanish King granted Menéndez and his heirs the title of adelantado of Florida in perpetuity and office of Captain-General of Florida for two lifetimes (his own and that of a son or son-in-law), 15,000 ducats to help finance the enterprise, an annual salary of 2,000 ducats, authority to grant land for plantations, a personal estate of more than 5,500 square miles of land, and the privilege of conducting conduct trade in his own ships between Spain and the West Indies, and

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between Florida and the Caribbean (Lyon 1976:51-52).

Menéndez also received unusual privileges as part of his contract with the Crown. These included a waiver of the customary licenses and fees for five hundred black slaves, as well as exceptional tax freedoms involving trade between the colonies and Spain.

Very shortly after Menéndez's contract with the Crown was formalized, word reached the Spanish court at Seville that a new French settlement called Fort Caroline had been established in La Florida (located near present-day Jacksonville Florida) (Lyon 1976:37-41). Philip sent word of the French at Fort Caroline to Menéndez, who was making preparations in Madrid for his own expedition to Florida, and encouraged him to leave as quickly as possible. The French threat shifted the priority of Menéndez's mission from a private expedition of colonization to a joint venture between Menéndez and the Crown, focused on the expulsion of the French (Lyon 1976:56-66). The King amended the contract with Menéndez to provide him with an additional 300 soldiers outfitted at the expense of the crown to ensure success in dealing with the French (Lyon 1976:61).

Towards the end of May 1565, the Crown received confirmation that French military reinforcements were about to set sail for Fort Caroline under Jean Ribault, as well as their approximate sailing date. Even more troubling to the Catholic King of Spain was the information that the French expedition included "Lutheran" missionaries for the native population (Lyon 1976:68). This news not only added pressure to increase the size and strength of the Menéndez expedition, but also added urgency to the need for departure.

In addition to the support provided by the Crown, Menéndez was able to acquire the majority of the necessary ships, supplies and soldiers through investments made by Asturian friends and family. It was through these close knit personal connections that Menéndez also selected his leaders of the expedition from this group of personal connections, and these leaders were to be paid in titles and land grants in La Florida (Lyon 1976:86). In addition to the soldiers provided by the Crown, Menéndez recruited militia men who also held licenses in the major trades of the time including blacksmiths, shoe makers, masons, carpenters, farmers, tailors and coopers. As Menéndez scholar Eugene Lyon notes (1976:92), the adelantado was preparing a full-scale transfer of Castilian civilization to the cities he planned to found in Florida (Lyon 1976:92).

The acquisition and loading of such a large contingent of ships, men and supplies required that preparations had to be made in both Asturias in the north and Cádiz in southern Spain. The fleets were to rendezvous at the Canary Islands and sail to the West Indies together (Lyon 1976:100). The northern ships, however, failed to make the rendezvous and Menéndez was forced to sail without them, leaving word that they should again reconnoiter in the Indies (Lyon 1976:101).

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Eight vessels left the Canaries for the Indies. Within a few weeks weather had caused the small fleet to separate, and storms wreaked further havoc, forcing Menéndez to throw many of the heavy supplies overboard, including artillery, (Lyon 1976: 101-102). Reaching San Juan, Puerto Rico, Menéndez learned that only four of the original eight ships had made the trans-Atlantic journey, and he quickly set out to strengthen his diminished force. While awaiting completion of the repairs to the surviving four, Menéndez acquired another ship, two small boats and forty-two men to add to his enterprise. The five ships that ultimately comprised the fleet of Menéndez included the shallops *San Andrés* and *San Miguel*, the *bergantín La Esperanza*, the small ship acquired in Puerto Rico, and the flagship *San Pelayo*, a 900 ton galleass that carried most of the supplies and colonists (Lyon 1976:106).

On August, 15, 1565 the small fleet left San Juan and made their way into the powerful Gulf Stream, sailing towards the northeast coast of Florida. At about the time that the Spanish ships sighted land at Cape Canaveral on August 28, Ribault's reinforcements for Fort Carolina were arriving at the mouth of the River May (the contemporary St. Johns River) (Lyon 1976:107-110). Ribault arrived at Fort Caroline on August 27, 1565, with seven large ships and another contingent of soldiers and settlers. Within a week, three of his smallest ships had been unloaded were light enough to pass over the bar and into the River May (McGrath 2000:135-137; Lyon 1976:111).

On September 4, 1565 the Spanish found a good harbor forty miles south of Fort Caroline, near an Indian town governed by the Timucua cacique, Seloy. They named the place St. Augustine to commemorate the day on which they first made landfall in Florida, near Cape Canaveral, which was on August 28th, the feast day of St. Augustine (Gannon 1983:24). Before establishing his settlement, however, Menéndez and his ships continued north, to attack the French at Fort Caroline. The Spanish and French ships engaged each other at long distance with their cannon, and after a brief but inconclusive skirmish, Menéndez and his fleet sailed back to St. Augustine on September 6.

The Spanish Settlement

Upon arriving at the site selected for his settlement, Menéndez sent 200 soldiers ashore to "throw up a trench in the place most fit to fortify themselves in.... When I go onshore we shall seek out a more suitable place to fortify ourselves in, as it is not fit where we are now" (Menéndez de Aviles 15.....). Two days later, on September 8, 1565, Pedro Menéndez de Aviles stepped ashore with all the fanfare that accompanied taking formal possession of the land, including banners, trumpets and salutes of artillery. A Mass was then said, followed by a feast shared by the Indians and Spaniards alike. It was the first community act of religion and thanksgiving in the first permanent settlement in the country (Gannon 1983:26-27).

The events of those first days are unclear, and eyewitness accounts of the establishment of the

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settlement are ambiguous and often contradictory (Table 2). Menéndez wrote that he sent his Captains ashore first to make an entrenchment, and that he would subsequently, once the immediate threats and uncertainties of arrival were past, more carefully select a site for the fort. Father Mendoza, Menéndez's chaplain, in contrast, wrote that upon landing, they took a house of a Timucuan chief, and made a fortification around it.

Very little is known through written accounts about the physical nature of Menéndez settlement and fort. Documents reveal that the first fort at St. Augustine contained a storehouse, or *casa de municiones*, as well as the lodgings of the expedition's officials. Inside the *casa de municiones* the Spaniards stored corn, meat, cassava, wine, oil, garbanzos, other foodstuffs, cloth, sails, and munitions. The storehouse also housed the ammunition, and there was considerable fear of fire: "...neither by day or by night was any flame lit in the said (storehouse) unless the said Campmaster ordered it. And when a candle was lit one person had it placed in a water jar " (in Lyon 1997a:134).

Another contemporary, Bartolomé Barrientos, stated that the fort's powder house was thatched with palmetto leaves: "they (*the Indians*) burned the powder magazine, which readily caught fire because it was thatched with palmetto leaves"(Manucy translation 1997:28). The Spaniards referred to the building as a *buhio*, the word used in the Caribbean to describe a thatched hut, and sometimes a large house of a cacique .

The Colonists The colonists who actually arrived in Florida in 1565 represented only about half of those who set sail from Spain; they were survivors of shipwrecks and storms. They included some 500 soldiers, 200 seamen, and 100 "others", the latter comprised by civilians, clergy and the wives and children of 26 soldiers. All were from Spain. One hundred and thirty eight of these soldiers also held "office" (license) in various crafts and trades, including 10 stonemasons, 15 carpenters, 21 tailors 10 shoemakers, eight blacksmiths, five barbers, two surgeons, two lime makers, three swordsmiths, a gunmaker and a crossbow repairman. Other trades represented among the group included tanners, farriers, wool carders, a hatmaker, an embroiderer, a bookseller, coopers, bakers, gardeners, an apothecary, and a master brewer. Another 117 of the soldiers were also farmers, ready to settle and farm the land once the French were vanquished (Lyon 1976:92).

There were 26 women and several children at the initial site of St. Augustine, including Martinico de Arguelles y Morales, born to Martín de Arguelles and Leonor Morales in 1565 or 1566 at the first settlement, and is the first known European child born in what is today the United States (Lyon 1995:367; Manucy 1996:111).

In addition to Spaniards, several Native Americans and Africans lived at the first settlement of 1565-66, and became members of the community. A ration list of 1568 identifies those "viejos"

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(original settlers) who were with Menéndez in 1565-66, among them “Luis, mulatto” who was rescued from the Calusa and served as an interpreter, and “Juanillo, Negro”, who served in the same capacity as an interpreter for the Saturiwa Timucua (Lyon 1995:365-367). The names of any African slaves or servants who were present were not recorded.

The settlers’ circumstances deteriorated within a month. As Menéndez and the colonists began building the settlement in St. Augustine, Ribault and the French were preparing to retaliate. On September 8 the majority of the French forces boarded Ribault’s ships and sailed out to meet the Spaniards.

Fearing the loss of his most valuable possession to either the French or a storm, Menéndez sent his flagship *San Pelayo* to Cuba on September 10th, before it was completely unloaded (Lyon 1976:120). At the break of dawn that very morning, Ribault and the French fleet appeared off the coast of St. Augustine, but rather than attacking the Spanish camp, they continued south in pursuit of the *San Pelayo*. Although Ribault did not capture the flagship, it was taken by French prisoners being sent to Cuba on the ship, who mutinied and overpowered the Spanish captain and crew. During their attempt to sail it back to Europe, the *San Pelayo* was lost off the coast of Denmark later that year (Lyon 1995: 215). This was a serious blow to the Spanish colonists, since most of the supplies and tools for the colony had been aboard the *San Pelayo* and left with her, since the artillery and munitions were given priority in the hasty unloading (Lyon 1976:120).

Two days after the departure of the *San Pelayo* a severe storm blowing from the north, possibly a hurricane, ravaged the coast of northeast Florida. Realizing that this storm would keep the French from returning to either St. Augustine or Fort Caroline, Menéndez decided to attack what he believed would be the depleted forces at Fort Caroline overland (Lyon 1975:120). On September eighteenth, with the storm still raging, Menéndez and approximately 500 men left St. Augustine and marched through the flooded swamps and forests of coastal northeast Florida to Fort Caroline. After spending the night crouching in a flooded pond, the Spanish attacked the almost defenseless French fort at dawn on September twentieth. They took the French fort almost without opposition, putting to death 132 men, but sparing the lives of 50 French women and children (Lyon 1976:121-122; McGrath 2000:145-47). Laudonnière, who was ill, and a few others, escaped to the three small ships and made their way back to France, while another forty other Frenchmen climbed the stockade and escaped into the woods (Lyon 1976:122). On September 23rd, Menéndez left a 300-man garrison at the newly acquired fort, renamed it San Mateo, and began his return journey south to St. Augustine (Lyon 1976:124).

Meanwhile, the French fleet under Jean Ribault had suffered tremendously from the fierce storm. All of the French ships, except Ribault’s flagship the *Trinité* which had grounded intact near Cape Canaveral, were shipwrecked near Mosquito (Ponce de Leon) Inlet. The crew from the *Trinité* and the survivors from the other shipwrecks each headed north towards Fort Caroline, in

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two separate groups (Lyon 1976:124).

After returning to St. Augustine, Menéndez received word from local Timucua that Frenchmen were gathered on the south shore of a small inlet about eighteen miles south of St. Augustine. The next day Menéndez headed down to the inlet with some French prisoners to serve as translators. The first group of castaway Frenchmen surrendered to Menéndez, and almost all were put to the sword for their attempt to invade Spanish territory and for being heretics (Lyon 1976:125). Less than two weeks later, the other group of Frenchmen including Jean Ribault, were at the south shore of the same inlet. Again Menéndez headed to the inlet to deal with them. Menéndez made no promises of safety to the French in turn for their surrender, and half of the French turned around and headed south along the Florida shore. The other half of the group, including Jean Ribault, put their lives at the mercy of the Pedro Menéndez and the Spanish, only to be put to death (Lyon 1976:127). The small inlet, where the killing of the Frenchmen occurred is still called Matanzas (Massacre) Inlet today.

In October a fort built by the French survivors was located and burned by the Spanish, and seventy-five French were taken captive (Lyon 1976:128-129). Continuing south along the Florida coast, both on land and in ships the Spanish entered the territory of the Ais Indians. After establishing relations with the Ais, Menéndez built a fort in the Indian River area and manned the garrison with 200 Spanish soldiers and fifty French captives (Lyon 1976:130). Supplies quickly ran out and hostilities with the local Ais soon escalated to outright war. Mutiny soon followed and one hundred soldiers were eventually moved south to Jupiter Inlet, where they built a new fort in December of 1565, and named it Santa Lucía (Lyon 1976:140).

By this time the original contingent of people at St. Augustine had been greatly reduced, mostly to the 100 civilian women, children and clergy and a small contingent of soldiers. Of the original 500 soldiers, approximately 300 were at Ft. San Mateo (the former Ft. Carline), and 200 were sent to Santa Lucia. Most of the seamen were engaged in the ongoing voyages and explorations of Menéndez, as well as in efforts to send dispatches and to supply the Florida forts from Cuba and the Yucatan. Some of the colonists had died. Nevertheless, the remaining soldiers at the St. Augustine site were charged with building the settlement and its defenses. In October of 1565 Menendez wrote that “we are suffering for want of food, and the labors and dangers that we undergo are great, the fort that we erect here being built by the labor of every man, of whatever rank, of six hours every day, three hours before noon and three hours after, and if the men do not endure it well, many of us will be sick and die” (Menéndez 1979:401).

After establishing Santa Lucia, Menéndez continued on to Cuba to make arrangements for shipping supplies to the Florida colony (Lyon 1976:132-134). He returned to Florida in March of 1566, sailing first to the southwest coast of Florida in the domain of the Calusa Indians. Menéndez secured an alliance with the Calusa cacique, Carlos, by marrying the cacique’s sister,

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later christened as Doña Antonia (Reilly 1981, Lyon 1976:149). He also negotiated the release and return of release of more than a dozen Spanish shipwrecked prisoners in the area (Lyon 1976:149), including five mestiza women from Peru and at least one black woman (Lyon 1995: 369).

Upon arriving in St. Augustine on March 21, 1566, Menéndez learned that recent mutinies among the men at both St. Augustine and San Mateo (the former French Fort Caroline) were under investigation. Despite relief provided by supply ships, there was a scarcity of food at both settlements, and discontent among the settlers and troops grew daily. When a supply ship arrived during the first week of March, rebel forces seized the loyal Spanish officials and imprisoned them, then seized the supply ship and began loading it with munitions from the fort. The officials managed to free themselves, and regain control of the fort, while those on the supply ship prepared to sail. A total of 120 men fled St. Augustine, with a similar number leaving San Mateo in another stolen ship (Lyon 1976:152; 1997).

After restoring order at St. Augustine, Menéndez again took to the sea, this time to explore and chart the Atlantic coastline north of San Mateo in search of a deep and protected harbor upon which to establish another Spanish settlement. He found what he thought was an ideal harbor further to the north at present-day Port Royal Sound in South Carolina, on the site of the earlier French Charlesfort. It was here that Menéndez chose to establish the capital of his Florida enterprise by building Fort San Salvador and an adjacent town named, Santa Elena (Lyon 1984:9). Leaving a very small garrison of men there with orders to build a fort, Menéndez headed back south along the Atlantic coast, stopping at St. Augustine in late spring of 1566, this time receiving even more unpleasant news (Lyon 1976:158).

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On April 19, just eight months after the colony's establishment, the storeroom, munitions storage and "half the fort" were destroyed, either as a result of Indian attack or accident. In either case, relations with the Timucua at Seloy had deteriorated badly, and Menéndez decided to move the fort and settlement of St. Augustine across to the east side of the Matanzas River. They first built an insubstantial fortification at the north end of Anastasia Island, and when a relief fleet of 17 ships finally arrived in June of 1566, they were able to build a more permanent fortification. This third fort, too, was across the bay from the original Seloy fort. The fort and town of St. Augustine remained in this location until 1572, when the settlement was moved again, back to the location of the present town and plaza.

The original site of St. Augustine was not completely abandoned, however. Relations with the Timucua under Saturiwa remained hostile, and in the following year Menéndez established a blockhouse or watchtower at or near the site of the original settlement on the west side of the inlet. It was manned by a contingent of soldiers. This *casa fuerte*, referred to as *San Agustín el Viejo* was still in use in 1568, seven suits of padded armor (*escaupiles*) were lost when a canoe was carrying thirty suits for the soldiers who were in the strong house (*casa fuerte*) of San Agustín Viejo, because warlike Indians had gathered there. The canoe turned over "in the arm of the sea over which one must cross to the said strong house..." (Lyon 1997:140). It is not known how long the *casa fuerte* of San Agustín Viejo was in use, but it may not have been needed after the third relocation of the town to its present location in 1572, since the Timucua of the region were largely pacified by that date. It is likely that the site of the San Agustín Viejo *casa fuerte* is represented by the archaeological remains located at the La Leche Shrine Nombre de Dios site (8SJ34) to the south of the Fountain of Youth Park (see Deagan 2012).

Archaeological research potential at the Menéndez encampment site

After more than 30 years of archaeological research, nearly twenty percent of the predicted Menéndez encampment area has been excavated. Sub-surface surveys, mapping and remote sensing define an area of Spanish activity covering approximately 9,600 square meters, of which 1,988 square meters (including site-wide shovel tests) have been excavated. Nevertheless, there remains a great deal of information about this first settlement that has yet to be understood, and given the absence of documentary accounts, archaeology is the only means by which to achieve such an understanding.

Research done so far at the site has established the spatial organization of the settlement area, the nature of the built environment, the range of material culture of the occupation, and the boundaries of Menéndez-era Spanish activity. Remaining to be done, however, are detailed studies of individual structures and the assessment of material variability across the site. None of the structures in the encampment area has been fully uncovered, so it is extremely important that individual structures, including the "barracks", the individual bohios and the presumed *Casa de*

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Municiones be fully exposed and excavated.

The nature of the 1565-1566 defensive elements at the site are still not fully understood. The type of defensive construction represented by the 80 meter-long, continuous beam stain has not been determined, although it is likely that it involved fascine bundles and earth. Given the information in the rediscovered 1951-1952 field records, however, it is possible that this feature actually represents the southern end of a much larger structure. Investigating this is a principal priority for future investigation at the site.

Excavations to the north of the linear trench “wall” feature will be essential to assess the possibility that wood and/or earthen fortification elements are present in that area. Likewise, extensive excavations will be needed at the eastern periphery of the occupation area, where the 1951 project located what appears to be a large (about 12 meters in diameter) Timucua building. Testing the hypothesis that this was a chiefly house, and assessing the degree to which it was altered by Spaniards, would not only clarify an important element of Timucua and Spanish spatial organization, but could also help resolve some of the ambiguous and contradictory written accounts of the initial settlement.

There additionally are a number of anomalies within the settlement area detected through ground penetrating radar that have yet to be tested. These will undoubtedly add to the understanding of this first community’s elements.

Additional archaeological study is also needed to understand the initial engagements between the Timucua and the Spaniards at the site. It remains unclear whether the Timucua were living at the site when Menéndez arrived, whether or not they left the site when the Spaniards moved in, or whether the village site was already abandoned. This question could probably be clarified by fine grained tests outside and around the Spanish settlement area in order to try and detect changes that may have occurred in Timucua material culture, building construction and occupation zones after 1565.

It is clear from work done so far that the Spanish colonists at the Menéndez settlement seem to have quickly developed adaptive strategies for survival. The deposits from the Menéndez site reflect the minute details of daily life of those who chose to make their home in a little-known part of America, and those deposits document the colonists’ reliance on such Native American foods as corn, greenbriar tubers (*Smilax*) and acorns; the use of Timucua domestic material culture (pottery, shell cups) and their occupation of Timucua-style bohios. Although this may seem an obvious survival practice in the face of starvation and material impoverishment, it was not the case at other “first” Spanish settlements. At La Isabela in Hispaniola, for example, which was Columbus’s first Caribbean settlement of 1493, there is very little evidence that settlers

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adopted any elements of native Taíno culture, but instead chose to starve, leading to the failure of that settlement (Deagan and Cruxent 2002: 146-150, 296-99). More robust and controlled comparisons between the Menéndez settlement site and other early Spanish settlement efforts in the region should help reveal the degree to which local circumstances (as opposed to cultural preferences) shaped initial Spanish colonial society.

Site comparisons

There are very few sixteenth recorded sixteenth century Spanish colonial settlement sites recorded in either the National Register or as National Historic Landmarks . Only one site in the southeastern United States falls into this category, that of Santa Elena, South Carolina (NHL 74001822). It is the only site that is comparable to St. Augustine as a fortified community of Spaniards. Santa Elena was established by Pedro Menéndez de Aviles in the year after St. Augustine's settlement (1566), at what is today Parris Island, South Carolina. The town was intended by Menéndez to be the capital of La Florida, and Santa Elena continued in that role until 1587 (with a brief interlude in 1576-77 when the town was briefly abandoned and rebuilt after a destructive attack by the local Native people). The town was finally abandoned and its inhabitants moved to St. Augustine in 1587, after repeated confrontations with and attacks by the regions' Native American groups (Lyon 1984).

Like St. Augustine, Santa Elena has been the focus of a decades-long archaeological program, carried out by Stanley South and Chester DePratter of the South Carolina Institute for Archaeology and Anthropology. Their work has revealed and documented Santa Elena's boundaries, fortifications, material culture, diet and more (DePratter and South 1995; South 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984 ; South and De Pratter 1988; South and Hunt 1986; South, Skowronek and Johnson 1988). The remains from Santa Elena are richer, more abundant and more abundant diverse than those from the Menéndez occupation of St. Augustine. This is not unexpected, given the longer time period, larger population, and abrupt abandonment of that town. The 1565-66 St. Augustine settlement in contrast was occupied by a few hundred people for only nine months, a large portion of their supplies had been lost during the journey, and the settlement was gradually relocated rather than being abandoned before any relief supplies arrived in La Florida.

Other documented sites of sixteenth century Spanish exploration the Southeast include the Governor Martin site in Tallahassee (8LE853), which has been identified as the Hernando DeSoto expedition's encampment at the Apalachee town of Anhaica in the winter of 1539-1540 (Ewen and Hann 1988). Excavations at the site revealed that the soldiers occupied some existing Apalachee structures, and built others themselves. Artifact remains included early sixteenth century Spanish coins, chain mail fragments, crossbow bolt heads, glass beads and pig remains from the swine introduced to North America by De Soto.

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The remains of Fort San Juan at the Catawba town of Joara were discovered in 1986 near Morganton, North Carolina, and have been excavated intermittently since then (Beck Moore and Rodning 2006; Best and Rodning n.d.). Fort San Juan was established by Juan Pardo, who was sent by Pedro Menéndez de Aviles to explore the interior Southeast in 1566, and to establish a string of outposts. A contingent of soldiers lived there and built a fort, but the settlement was burned by Indians 18 months later and abandoned. Excavations have uncovered four large, rectangular, burned, and apparently related structures. They were constructed using both Native American and European elements including nail fasteners and sill beams notched for uprights using metal tools (ibid). The European artifacts from the site are similar to those from the De Soto-related Martin site in Tallahassee, including chain mail, nails, lacing tips, and storage jar fragments, items not normally associated with trade or salvage.

All of these sites were part of the earliest Spanish efforts to colonize the United States, however none of them endured for more than a few years. The Menéndez-era occupation site in St. Augustine not only represents this initial period of European colonial expansion into the region, but it also communicates the experiences and circumstances of the first permanent European presence in the country.

Returned

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Museum of Natural History, Gainesville.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Returned

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property _____ 2 _____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

2. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

3. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

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4. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- 1. Zone: 17R Easting: E3308571 Northing: 460650 (NW)
- 2. Zone: 17R Easting: E3308571 Northing: 469697 (NE)
- 3. Zone: 17R Easting: E3308435 Northing: 469663 (SW)
- 4. Zone: 17R Easting : E3308445 Northing: 469723 (SE)

Center 17R **E3308479** **Northing 469688**

Returned

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The archaeological remains of the Menéndez-era occupation area at 8SJ31 (Fountain of Youth Park) are concentrated along the eastern shoreline of the property, covering an area of approximately 80 meters east-west by 120 meters north-south (2 acres or .96 hectares). The eastern boundary is formed by Hospital Creek, and the southern, northern and western boundaries are defined by the absence of Menendez-era archaeological deposits. The western boundary is marked by a very low-lying former marsh deposit, as well as the absence of archaeological remains.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Sub-surface distributions of archaeological remains as revealed through excavation and shovel testing..

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dr. Kathleen Deagan
organization: Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida
street & number: 18 Seminole Drive

Menéndez Encampment Site
Name of Property

St. Johns County, Florida
County and State

city or town: St. Augustine state: FL zip code: 32084
e-mail deagan@ufl.edu
telephone: 352-222-0165/ 904-469-4273
date: July 17 2015

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Archaeological Field Maps

Radiocarbon dates

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Menéndez Encampment Site
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APPENDIX 1: Radiocarbon Dates from 8SJ31

Sample ID	Field provenience	Material	Uncalibrated ¹⁴ C years <input type="checkbox"/> σB.P.	Cal A.D. Yrs. +/- 2σ	Cal A.D. Yrs. +/- 1σ	Intercept	<input type="checkbox"/> δ ¹³ C*
Beta 212875	FOY318	Marine shell	670+/-50 BP	Cal A.D. 1280 to 1430	Cal A.D. 1300-1400	Cal A.D. 1330	-2.7 o/oo
Beta 212876	FOY1811	Charcoal	2620+/-60 BP	Cal A.D. 620 to 590 (Cal BP 2560 to 2540)	Cal B.C. 820 to 790 (Cal BP 2770 to 2740)	Cal B.C. 800	25.8:lab. mult=1)
Beta 212877	8SJ31-2561 North midden level 4 base	Charcoal	2470±40 BP2	Cal B.C. 780 to 410 (Cal BP 2730 to 2360)	Cal B.C. 770 to 500 (Cal BP 2720 to 2450) and Cal B.C. 460 to 430 (Cal BP 2410 to 2380)	Cal B.C. 750 (Cal BP 2700) Cal B.C. 700 (Cal BP 2650) and Cal B.C. 540 (Cal BP 2490)	25.8:lab. mult=1)
Beta 212878 (AMS)	8SJ31-F42 Dog	Bone collagen	1140±40 BP2	Cal A.D. 790 to 760 (Cal BP 1060 to 960)	Cal A.D. 880 to 970 (Cal BP 1070 to 980)	Cal A.D. 900 (Cal BP 1060)	-14:lab. mult=1)
Beta 218357 (AMS)	8SJ31 F127 Dog	Bone collagen	980±40 BP2	Cal A.D. 990 to 1160 (Cal BP 960 to 790)	Cal A.D. 1010 to 1040 (Cal BP 940 to 910)	Cal A.D. 1030 (Cal BP 920)	-2.6:lab. mult=1)
Beta 232546 (AMS)	FOY3374 F153 Sub-floor	Wood Charcoal	3980±40 BP2	Cal B.C. 2580 to 2450 (Cal BP 4530 to 4400)	Cal B.C. 2560 to 2520 (Cal BP 4510 to 4470) and Cal B.C. 2500 to 2470 (Cal BP 4450 to 4420)	Cal B.C. 2480 (Cal BP 4430)	24.1:lab. mult=1)
Beta 232547	FOY 3411 Area2 Sub-midden shell pit	Marine Shell	2940±50 BP	Cal B.C. 840 to 710 (Cal BP 2790 to 2660)	Cal B.C. 800 to 740 (Cal BP 2750 to 2690)	Cal B.C. 770 (Cal BP 2720)	-1.6: Delta-R= 0±0: Glob res=-200 to 500:lab. mult=1)
Beta 302871	FOY3699 Fea.180 Trash pit	Wood charcoal	780 +/- 40 BP	Cal A.D. 1280-1290 (Cal B.P. 1270-1050)	Cal AD 1240-1280 (Cal BP 700-670)	Cal AD 1280 (Cal BP 680)	-26.5:lab. mult=1) o/oo

Menéndez Encampment Site

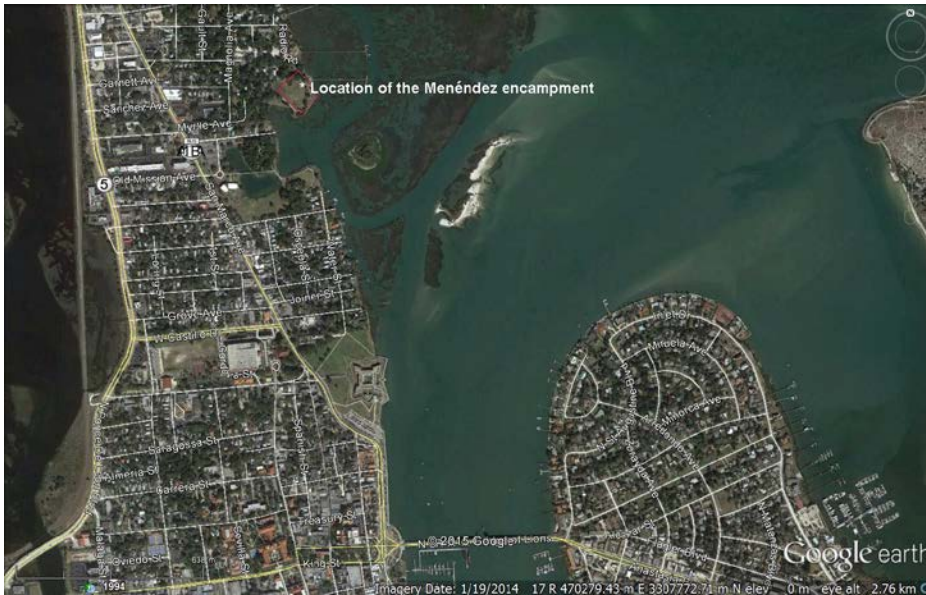
St. Johns County, Florida
 County and State

Name of Property

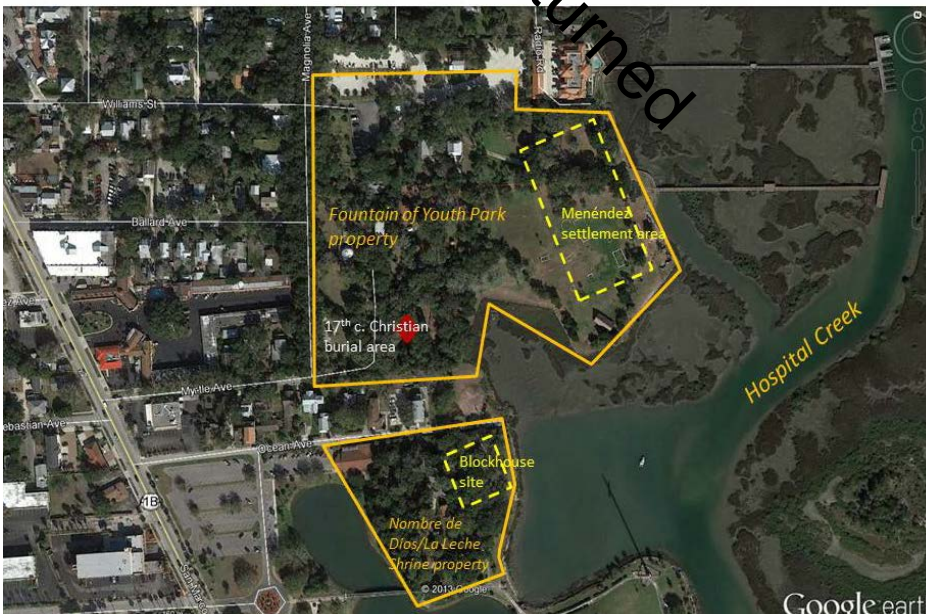
Sample ID	Field provenience	Material	Uncalibrated ¹⁴ C years <input type="checkbox"/> σ B.P.	Cal A.D. Yrs. +/- 2 σ	Cal A.D. Yrs. +/- 1 σ	Intercept	<input type="checkbox"/> $\delta^{13}C$ *
Beta 302870	FOY3664 Fea.179 Feasting (?) pit	Wood charcoal	920 +/- 40 B.P.	Cal A.D. 1020-1210 (Cal B.P. 930-740)	Cal AD 1040 – 1170 (Cal BP 920-780)	Cal AD 1060(Cal BP 900) <i>and</i> Cal AD 1080 (Cal BP 870) <i>and</i> Cal AD 1150 (Cal BP 800)	-25.5:lab. mult=1) o/oo
Beta 302869	FOY3662 Postmold	Wood charcoal	2560 +/- 50 BP	Cal BC 810 to 720 (Cal BP 2760 to 2670) <i>and</i> Cal BC 700 to 540 (Cal BP 2650 to 2490)	Cal BC 800-760 (Cal BP 2750- 2710) <i>and</i> Cal BC 680-760 (Cal BP 2630- 2620)	Cal BC 780 (Cal BP 2730)	-25.8:lab. mult=1) o/oo
Beta302868	FOY3631 A12	Wood charcoal	1210 +/- 50 BP	Cal AD 680 to 900 (Cal BP 1270 to 1050) <i>and</i> Cal AD 920 to 960 (Cal BP 1040 to 990)	Cal AD 720-740 (Cal BP 1230- 1210) <i>and</i> Cal AD 770-890 (Cal BP 1180- 1060)	Cal AD 780 (Cal BP 1160)	-26.2:lab. mult=1) o/oo

Menéndez Encampment Site
Name of Property

St. Johns County, Florida
County and State



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida
Photographer: Google Earth **Date Photographed:** 1/19/2014
Description of Photograph: Aerial view of 8SJ31 location within St. Augustine
1 of 20



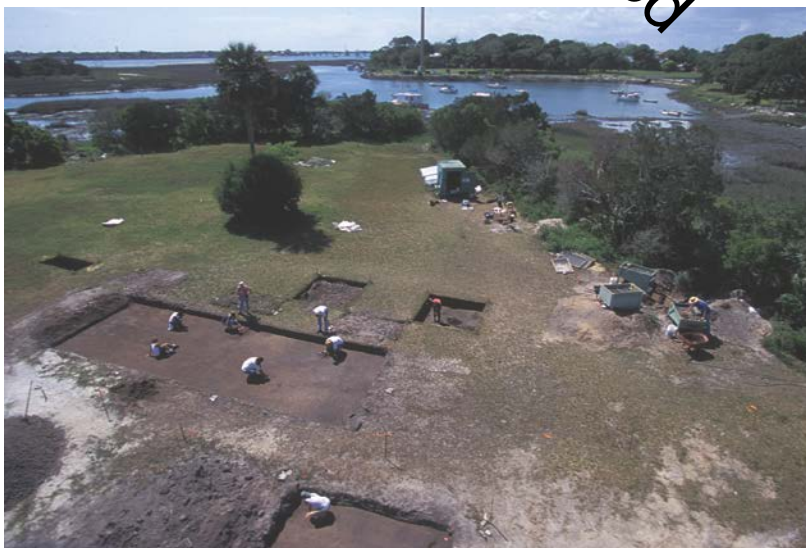
County: St. Johns **State:** Florida
Photographer: Google Earth **Date Photographed:** 1/19/2014
Description of Photograph(s) Aerial view of encampment site and Fountain of Youth Park Boundaries. The potential 1567 blockhouse site is shown to the south. location
2 of 20.

Menéndez Encampment Site
Name of Property

St. Johns County, Florida
County and State



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida
Photographer: Google Earth **Date Photographed:** 1/19/2014
Description: Close up aerial view of encampment site
3 of 20.



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida
Photographer: Kathleen Deagan **Date Photographed:** 1/19/2014
Description: Site excavation facing southeast.
4 of 20.

Menéndez Encampment Site

Name of Property

St. Johns County, Florida
County and State



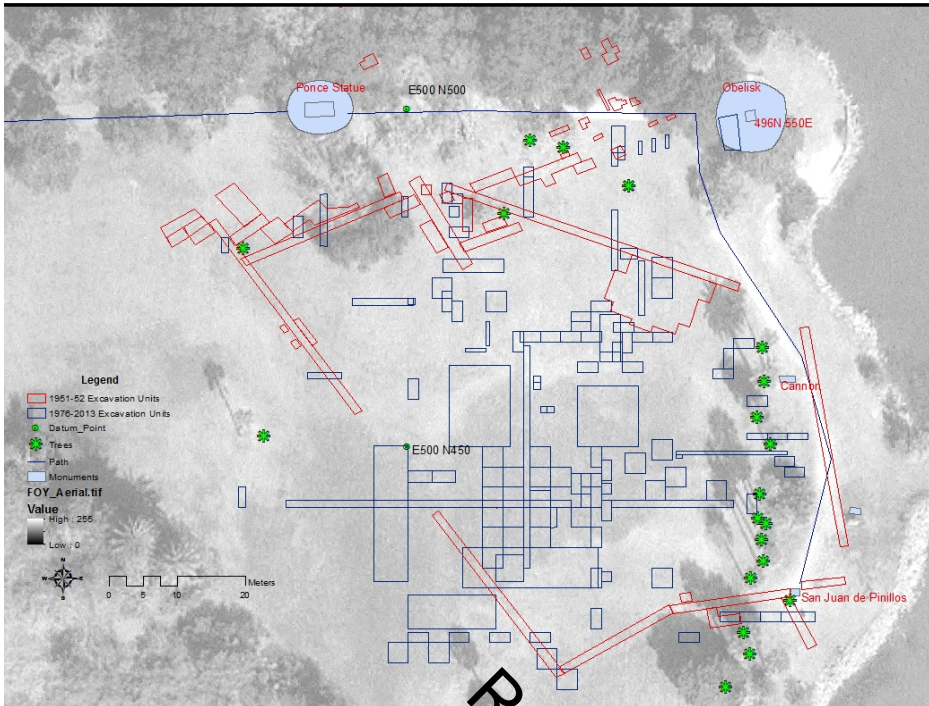
County: St. Johns **State:** Florida
Photographer: Peter Larsen **Date Photographed:** 1/19/2014
Description : Central area excavations, facing west
5 of 20 __.



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida
Photographer: Kathleen Deagan **Date Photographed:** 1/19/2014
Description : Reconstructed watchtower in filled area to the east of site. Facing east.
6 of 20

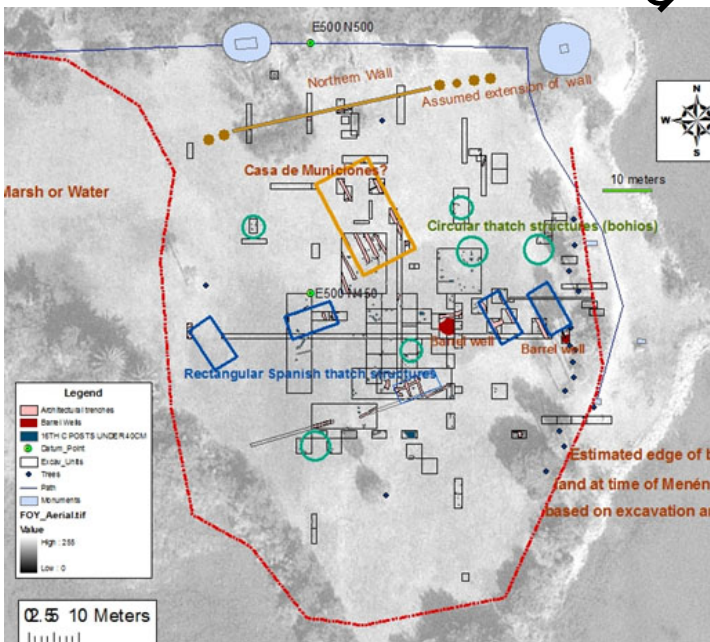
Menéndez Encampment Site
 Name of Property

St. Johns County, Florida
 County and State



County: St. Johns State: Florida Date: 2014

Description of Photograph(s) Locations of excavation units at 8SJ31. Red trenches are those excavated in 1951-1952; blue units are those excavated between 1976 and 2014.
 7 of 20.

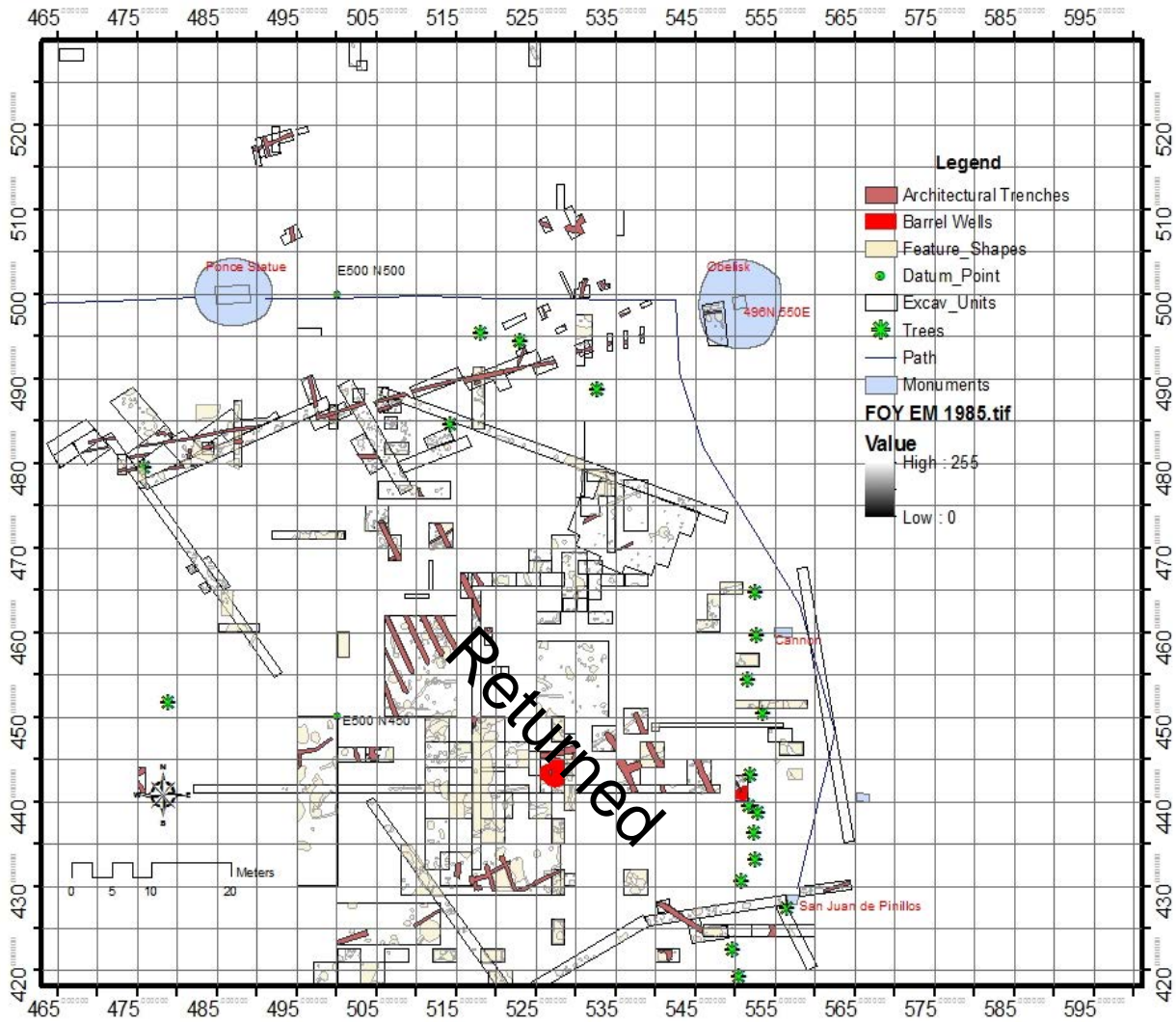


County: St. Johns State: Florida Date: 2012

Description Locations of structures indicated archaeologically
 8 of 20.

Menéndez Encampment Site
Name of Property

St. Johns County, Florida
County and State



County: St. Johns State: Florida

Date 2014

Description Features located and excavated at 8SJ34, emphasizing linear wall sill beam trenches.

9 of 20

Menéndez Encampment Site
Name of Property

St. Johns County, Florida
County and State

County: St. Johns

State: Florida

Photographer: James Quine

Date Photographed: 5/1985

Description of Photograph(s) Menéndez era barrel well, facing south 10 of 20.



Returned



County: St. Johns

State: Florida

Photographer: Gardner Gordon **Date Photographed:** 1/19/1992, 12/1991

Description of Photograph(s) Linear wall trench features and associated corner posts and refuse deposits. Facing north.

11 of 20

Menéndez Encampment Site
Name of Property

St. Johns County, Florida
County and State



County: St. Johns

State: Florida

Photographer: Kathleen Deagan **Date Photographed:** 4/2002

Description of Photograph(s). Charcoal-heavy fill beam stains and postmolds in area thought to be the *Casa de Municiones*
(Facing south) **12 of 20.**

Menéndez Encampment Site
Name of Property

St. Johns County, Florida
County and State



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida
Photographer: Florida Museum of Natural History **Date Photographed:** 11/2012
Description of Photograph(s). Artist's conceptual views of the Menéndez encampment,
based on archaeological evidence. (Facing north)
13 of 20.

Menéndez Encampment Site
Name of Property

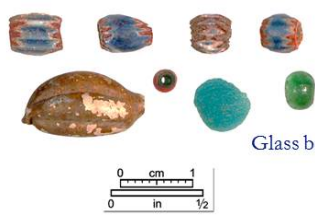
St. Johns County, Florida
County and State



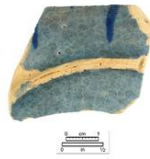
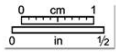
County: St. Johns **State:** Florida
Photographer: Pat Payne
Date Photographed: 2011
Description: Spanish Olive Jar from well
14 of 20



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida
Photographer: Pat Payne
Date Photographed: 2011
Description: Santa Elena mottled and Santo Domingo Polychrome Spanish Majolica
15 of 20.



Glass beads



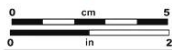
Spanish Majolica pottery



Lead shot



Candleholder



Buttons, pins and hooks

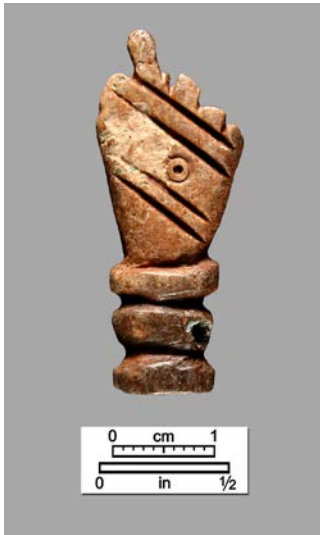


Timucua shell cup

County: St. Johns **State:** Florida
Photographer: Various, compiled by Kathleen Deagan **Date Photographed:** 2011
Description of Photograph(s). Artifacts from Menéndez-era contexts.
16 of 20

Menéndez Encampment Site
Name of Property

St. Johns County, Florida
County and State



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida
Photographer: Pat Payne
Date Photographed: 2011
Description. Bone *figa* amulet
17 of 20



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida
Photographer: Pat Payne
Date Photographed: 2011
Description Iron fasteners, awl from Menéndez-
era contexts 18 of 20



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida
Photographer: Pat Payne
Date Photographed: 2011
Description. Shell awls
19 of 20



County: St. Johns **State:** Florida
Photographer: Pat Payne
Date Photographed: 2011
Description Timucua St. Johns pottery
20 of 20

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 to amend existing 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.460 et seq.).

Menéndez Encampment Site
Name of Property

St. Johns County, Florida
County and State

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Returned

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number Photos Page 1

**MENENDEZ ENCAMPMENT SITE, ST.
AUGUSTINE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST

1. Menendez Encampment Site at Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, 21 Magnolia Street
St. Augustine
2. St. Johns County, Florida
3. Kit Keating
4. April 2016
5. View of archaeological site, looking east
6. Photo #1 of 9

Items 1-4 are the same for photographs 1-8.

5. Archaeological site and interpretive structures, looking east
6. Photo #2 of 9

5. South edge of site and property, looking southwest
6. Photo #3 of 9

5. Site and interpretive structures, looking north
6. Photo #4 of 9

5. Southeast edge of site and property, looking northeast
6. Photo #5 of 9

5. The Matanzas River's edge at the southeast edge of the site, looking northeast
6. Photo #6 of 9

5. Fountain of Youth walkway at north edge of the site, looking west
6. Photo #7 of 9

5. Fountain of Youth walkway facing the park entrance, looking west
6. Photo #8 of 9

Returned

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

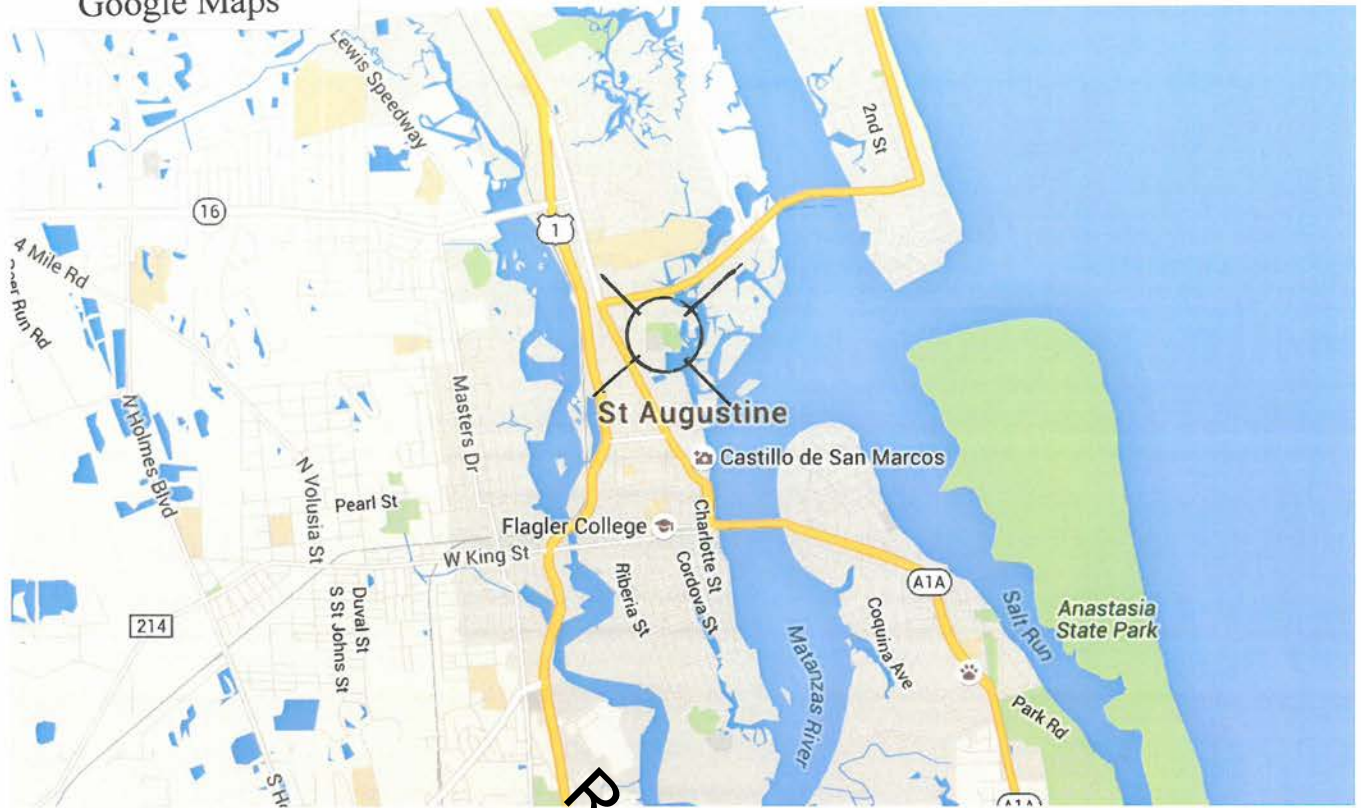
Section number Photos Page 1

**MENENDEZ ENCAMPMENT SITE, ST.
AUGUSTINE, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

-
3. Chad Light, drone used
 4. January 2015
 5. Aerial view of the site and sand marked excavated structures, looking west
 6. Photo #9 of 9

Returned

Google Maps



MENENDEZ ENCAMPMENT SITE
St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida

LOCATOR MAP

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
#1	17	3308571	460650
#2	17	3308571	469697
#3	17	3308435	469663
#4	17	3308445	469723



Returned

MENENDEZ ENCAMPMENT SITE
St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida

SITE & PHOTO DIAGRAM

Returned

Returned

A wide-angle photograph of an outdoor area, possibly a park or sports field, under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a light-colored gravel path curves from the bottom right towards the center. To the left, a long, rectangular wooden frame structure is under construction, consisting of vertical posts and horizontal beams forming a roof. In the middle ground, several other similar wooden frame structures are scattered across a grassy field. In the background, a line of palm trees and other greenery is visible. The word "Returned" is written diagonally across the center of the image in a large, black, sans-serif font.



Returned



Returned





Returned

Returned

A paved path leads through a lush, tree-filled park. On the left, a wooden fence runs alongside a small, square hut with a thatched roof. The path is dappled with sunlight and shadows from the surrounding trees. In the background, more trees and a few people can be seen.

Returned

A photograph of a paved path in a park. The path is wide and light-colored, leading into the distance. It is flanked by large, mature trees with thick trunks and dense green foliage. Sunlight filters through the leaves, creating dappled shadows on the path. In the background, a few people can be seen walking. A large, diagonal watermark with the word "Returned" is overlaid across the center of the image. On the right side, there is a small informational sign on a wooden post near a tree.



Returned

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Menendez Encampment Site

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: FLORIDA, St. Johns

DATE RECEIVED: 4/15/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/19/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/03/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/31/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000295

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: Y

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5-27-2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See attached Comments

RECOM./CRITERIA *Rehman*

REVIEWER *Jim Sahley*

DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____

DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

The United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Menendez Encampment Site, St. Johns County, FL
Reference Number: 160000295

Reason for Return

The Menendez Encampment Site House appears to meet National Register Criteria at the national level of significance, but the nomination is being returned for substantive and technical revision.

The nomination form claims national significance for the property, but the terminology used is confusing. This was submitted as a National Register of Historic Places nomination, but cites National Historic Landmark criteria in the narrative. Please replace the NHL criteria with the appropriate NRHP criteria in the form.

The test of Criterion B, association with persons significant in our history, requires that the property be directly associated with the person during their productive life. While there is no doubt that Menendez was a significant figure in the Spanish efforts to colonize what is now Florida, it is unclear from reading the nomination form how much time he actually spent at this location. Please provide additional information to support his direct association (beyond founding the colony) with the site. Were there other sites that he, himself, occupied during this period? Is this the best site to associate with Menendez and his activities?

We appreciate the opportunity to review this nomination and hope that you find these comments useful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (202) 354-2275 or email at James_Gabbert@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

Jim Gabbert, Historian
Julie Ernstein, Archeologist
National Register of Historic Places
6/6/2016

NRHP Nomination for Menendez Encampment (St. Augustine, FL) - 16000295

Significance Criteria identified = A, B & D at national level

POS = 1565-1570

Julie H. Ernstein, Ph.D., RPA

Comments Regarding Applicability of Significance Criterion D

After reading this nomination, my assessment is that the archeology discussion is sufficient to support invocation of Significance Criterion D at the national level.

My one substantive concern is that this is a National Register nomination yet, inexplicably, the discussion beginning in Section 7, p. 24 invokes the National Historic Landmarks criteria. This needs to be corrected by removing all NHL language and replacing it with relevant NRHP verbiage, and the revised nomination should then be submitted for formal designation. (While admittedly a conversation for another time, it appears that Criterion 3 is a typographical error and that it is actually Criterion 6 that is cited.)

Other Editorial Comments

Since the document is being revisited for more substantive matters, while it is open it might be worth addressing the following editorial items.

1. There are numerous places throughout the document where "sixteenth century" is used adjectivally and should be hyphenated. An example of this first appears in the second paragraph of Section 7, p. 4 and should be edited to read: "This strategic location was undoubtedly critical to the more than 2,000-year long human habitation of the area, making it equally attractive for Native American fishers and farmers, sixteenth-century military strategists, sixteenth-century missionaries, and twentieth-century developers." (Such global edits might most efficiently be identified using the find and replace features.)
2. Section 7, p. 5 –The final line of the section discussing the Precolumbian era has two open parentheses. One of them should be deleted.
3. Section 7, p. 5 – The end of the second paragraph in the section discussing the Precolumbian era uses parentheses inside of parentheses. The proper way of representing that is through the use of square brackets so as to read ". . . (approximately the same area called the "Northern St. Johns region" by John Goggin [1952])."
4. Section 7, p. 5 – There appears to be a word missing in the second sentence of the final paragraph on that page. It might be edited to read, "According to these, the people in the vicinity of St. Augustine were part of the *Agua Salada* (saltwater) division."
5. Section 7, p. 6 – The second line of text makes reference to the Saturiwa as having remained "violently hostile" toward the Spanish. That sounds redundant and perhaps might be phrased differently (e.g., vehemently hostile?).
6. Section 7, p. 6 – The series in the first paragraph of the section identified as Contact Period should be consistent in its use of the semi-colon to separate entries in the series. A couple other edits are in order in that same sentence. I would suggest the following: "Among them were those of Juan Ponce de Leon (1513) who died trying to conquer Florida; Lucas Vásquez de Allyón, who founded the short-lived settlement of San Miguel de Gualdape in 1523; Panfilo de Narvaez, who trekked through Florida in 1526 and lost all but four men; the infamous Hernando de Soto in 1540-44, who also died trying to claim the land; and Tristan de Luna, who tried unsuccessfully to establish a settlement at Pensacola in 1562 (see Gannon 1996). By the 1560s

French Huguenots were establishing their settlements at Port Royal and Fort Caroline in La Florida, and this set the stage for Menéndez . . . “.

7. As a rule, years do not contain apostrophes (e.g., 1560s). This can readily be corrected throughout the document using the find and replace feature.
8. Section 7, p. 6 – The word Protestant should be capitalized. (This might warrant a search and replace throughout the document.)
9. Section 7, p. 8 – The second sentence in the section labeled Post-1763 Occupation should insert a space between the s in 1780s and (see Schaefer 2000).
10. Section 7, p. 8 – The same paragraph reference above cites “Adams et. al” when the proper citation is “Adams et al.” This same paragraph uses a citation “(ibid).” which should appear as “(Ibid.)” because it is an abbreviation of the word *Ibidem*.
11. Section 7, p. 9 – The third line of the second paragraph should start “Complex, characterized as . . .”.
12. Section 7, p. 9 – The third paragraph makes incorrect use of the word “presently” (which does not mean “at present” and, instead, means “not now, but in a little while). It should be replaced with the word “currently.”
13. Section 7, p. 9 – The final paragraph should read as follows:
“The volatile nature of coastal waterways in the face of human activity and hurricanes has altered the landscape configuration over the past 400 years, and especially during the last century. Major changes in the immediate waterscape of Hospital Creek undoubtedly occurred when the present St. Augustine inlet was dredged by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1942. That year, the Corps made a 200-meter wide cut . . . “.
14. Section 7, p. 10 – The last sentence of the first paragraph should close the space up between the word “also” and the comma that follows that word.
15. Section 7, p. 10 – The first sentence of the second paragraph might benefit from slight rewording to read: “Despite these changes, the Menéndez-era occupation area has remained largely undisturbed by cultural activities over the intervening centuries.”
16. Section 7, p. 10 – The column headings (i.e., Date, Institution, Excavators, Site Location, Report Reference, and Location of Field Records and Artifact Collections) should be repeated when the table runs to multiple pages.
17. Section 7, p. 12 – Line 6 of the first paragraph should cite “Lucchetti” and not “Luccetti.”
18. Section 7, p. 12 –The first sentence of the final paragraph on this page appears to have a word missing, and should be edited to read: “Documentary work has shown that the location and geographic features represented at the mouth of Hospital Creek are highly consistent with what little was recorded about the location of the 1565 settlement, particularly in its relation to the sixteenth-century configuration of the bar and inlet of St. Augustine.”
19. Section 7, p. 12 – The last line on the page should read: “settlement all directly support the identification of these sites as the 1565-66 Menéndez”.
20. Section 7, p. 13 - The authors might wish to insert the word “Investigations” so that the header reads *1934-1954 Investigations* and doesn’t just have those dates hanging there. (This makes it clearer that this is a sub-heading.)
21. Section 7, p. 13 – The second paragraph should begin: “Dickson excavated more than 112 Native American burials in a 90 by 40-foot block.” That same paragraph should see the space between the word “east” and the period that follows closed, and the penultimate line should insert a letter space between the words “late” and “sixteenth/early”.
22. Section 7, p. 13 – The second sentence of the third paragraph should delete the word “of” so as to read: “This work included eight five foot . . . “.
23. Section 7, p. 13 – The fourth paragraph might include the following five edits so as to read:

“Additional work was carried out in 1952 by University of Florida students Paul Hahn, Richard Cooper, and Marguerite Porter, but was not reported (Seaberg 1951:34). Until 2013, no information about the location, extent, or results of that 1952 work could be found, despite exhaustive searches in various repositories and private collections. Several features thought to be associated with the 1951 excavations were relocated in excavations done between 1991 and 2012. These were identified by rectangular areas of backfill containing 1950s soda bottles, flash bulbs, and unmarked wood survey stakes. However, no coherent or obvious pattern of excavation could be discerned.”

- a. As a quick aside, Seaberg 1951 does not appear in the Bibliography at the end of the nomination.
 - b. In a related matter, it is unclear how something published/written in 1951 addresses excavations that did not happen until 1952. Is it possible that one of those dates is a typographical error?
24. Section 7, p. 14 – The third full paragraph might be edited so that “were” is replaced by “are” in the first sentence.
 25. Section 7, p. 14 – The fourth full paragraph should be edited so that “located” becomes “relocated.”
 26. Section 7, p. 14 – The first line of the final paragraph must replace the word “layers” with “levels,” and the fourth sentence in that same paragraph might be edited to read, “There exists, therefore, a potential wealth of additional information about . . .”.
 27. Section 7, p. 15 – The penultimate sentence of the second paragraph should see the space between the s in “reports” and the period at the end of the sentence deleted so that it reads “reports.”
 28. Section 7, p. 16 – There is a font change in the “M” in “Most” on the fourth line of this page. Also in that same paragraph, there are extra spaces between the last letter of a word and the terminal punctuation for that sentence (i.e., the r in “diameter” and the s in “structures”).
 29. Section 7, p. 16 – The last sentence in the second paragraph should be edited to read, “The frequent flooding and tidal water table fluctuations at the site make it likely that fully pre-contact Timucua deposits have been disturbed by the percolation and migration of small European items such as iron flakes, seed beads, and glass fragments through the sandy soils.”
 30. Section 7, p. 16 - There needs to be internal consistency between how directions are described. For example, the penultimate line on this page reads: “. . . material remains, covers an area of 90 meters N-S and 75-80 meters east-west (Figure 26). If the . . .”. Obviously, it should be either N-S and E-W or north-south and east-west. Please pick one usage and see that it is employed throughout the entire document. (It appears to me that E-W is the more frequent usage, so it might be quickest to change all references to this alphabetical formulation rather than spelling out the words—please see that this carries over into the Verbal Boundary Description, too.)
 31. Section 7, p. 17 – The first full paragraph has an extra letter space indentation before the word “In” which should be deleted.
 32. Section 7, p. 17 – The third full paragraph uses the symbol × when giving a dimension. All previous and subsequent dimensions have employed use of the word “by,” so that should be inserted here.
 33. Section 7, p. 18 – In the first full paragraph, it might be worth briefly (possibly parenthetically) explaining what a “frog and toad” layer is.
 34. Section 7, p. 18 – The second sentence of the second full paragraph should read, “A series of regularly placed linear stains is interpreted . . .”.
 35. There should be consistency of capitalization and plural usage of the *Casa de Municiones* and *Casa Fuerte*. Use of the find and replace feature can readily address this.

36. Section 7, p. 19 – The heading *Defenses* should be followed by a colon (:) and not a period.
37. Section 7, p. 19 –The fourth paragraph references an “extremely extensive” program of testing. As that is redundant, the word “extremely” might well be deleted.
38. Section 7, p. 26 – Is *aldentado-ship* a word?
39. Section 7, p. 28 – The second sentence in the section on Pedro Menéndez and the Conquest of La Florida should characterize him as an “experienced seaman with . . .”.
40. Section 9, p. 38 – The first sentence in the Site Comparisons section needs to be edited. There are repeated words and it is not quite clear whether the word “recorded” should be replaced with “documented” or “designated.” The authors should make this call as I am not quite clear on their intended meaning here.
41. Section 9, p. 38 – The formatting for DeSoto needs to be standardized as it sometimes appears as DeSoto and other times as De Soto. (This, too, is readily addressed using the find and replace feature.)
42. The Bibliographic formatting should be made internally consistent. As an example, the multiple Kathleen Deagan entries proceed from the oldest to the most recent while, in contrast, the DePratter and South references are stratified with the most recent listed first and the older reference below.
43. Also in the Bibliography, some of the dates are followed by period (e.g., see those for Milanich). The periods should be deleted.
44. Section 9, p. 51 – The Boundary Justification should be written as a complete sentence and the extra period at the end of that sentence should be deleted.



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AUG 12 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

August 4, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
Department of the Interior
1201 Eye Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Menendez Encampment Site (FMSF #8SJ 31), in St. Johns County**, to the National Register of Historic Places. The related materials (digital images, maps, and site plan) are included.

Please do not hesitate to contact Bob Jones at Robert.Jones@DOS.myflorida.com or (850) 245.6349, if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alissa Slade Lotane".

Alissa Slade Lotane
Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation
& Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



City of St. Augustine



St. Augustine, Florida
Nation's Oldest City

Planning/Building

1565 – 2015
450 years

Florida Division of Historical Resources
Attn: Desiree Estabrook
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

August 20, 2015

RE: National Register Nomination Proposal for the Menendez Encampment Site, St. Augustine

Dear Ms. Estabrook and the Florida National Register Review Board,

On August 20, 2015 the St. Augustine Certified Local Government represented by the Historic Architectural Review Board met and voted in support of the nomination of the Menendez Encampment Site at the Fountain of Youth property to the National Register of Historic Places. The City recognizes that this site is highly significant and has a high degree of integrity as documented in the proposal by Dr. Kathleen Deagan who has been working with this resource for nearly forty years.

Furthermore, the City concurs that this site is significant under the National Register Criterion 1 for its association with the event that led to the establishment of the first successful and permanent European colonial settlement along with the beginning of engagements between the Native Americans and Europeans; Criterion 2 for its association with Pedro Menéndez de Aviles who not only was the leading founder but also internationally established as Admiral of the Spanish fleets in the Caribbean; and Criterion 3 for the archaeological record that has already yielded a wealth of information and has the potential to continue to contribute information related to the European colonization of America.

We look forward to Board's evaluation of this site and hope that they make a positive recommendation for listing to the Keeper of the National Register.

Sincerely,

H. Randal Roark, Chair
Historic Architectural Review Board
City of St. Augustine