

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Fort Matanzas NM Headquarters and Visitor Center (HQ/VC)

Other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 8635 A1A South not for publication

city or town St. Augustine vicinity

State Florida code FL county St. Johns code 109 zip code 32080

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

NPS

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

Barbara C. Mattick / FL Deputy SHPO 8/15/2008

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 12-31-08

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
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not incl. previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
2	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
3	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Florida's New Deal Resources

0

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE

DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE

DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: NPS Rustic Architecture

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls STONE, coquina/ WOOD

roof WOOD, shingle

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property.)

PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property.) PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.) PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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 Engineering
- Record# _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1936-1937

Significant Dates

1936- Building constructed

1937- Landscaped and road constructed

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation**Architect/Builder**

NPS, Eastern Division Branch of Plans and Design

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property** 17.34**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM References on a continuation sheet.) PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.) PLEASE SEE SITE MAP.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.) PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Cynthia Walton, Internorganization National Park Service, SERO date 06/17/2008street & number 100 Alabama St. SW, 1924 Building telephone 404-562-3117 ext. 616city or town Atlanta state GA zip code 30303**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 the SHPO or FPO.)name National Park Servicestreet & number 1201 Eye Street NW telephone _____city or town Washington state DC zip code 20005

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Geographical Data

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	17	476881	3287480
2.	17	477263	3287296
3.	17	477401	3287473
4.	17	477639	3287513
5.	17	477484	3287391
6.	17	477484	3287391
7.	17	477296	3287197

See Map 4, UTM Reference Key

Boundary Description

Please see site map.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries selected correspond to the boundaries of the 17.34 acre tract donated by Ada D. Corbett, widow of George W. Corbett, to the National Park Service in 1934. The donation of this land allowed for road access and the development of necessary visitor facilities, including the Headquarters and Visitor Center. This land was acquired and developed by the National Park Service as a unit.

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Description of Resources

Summary

The Fort Matanzas National Monument (FOMA) Headquarters and Visitor Center (HQ/VC) is located on Anastasia Island in St. Johns County, Florida. Two buildings make up the HQ/VC: a multi-use building that serves as both the primary visitor contact point and a ranger residence, and a secondary utility building that now serves as a ranger office. The main building is two-stories, intersected by an arched breezeway on the ground level. The exterior walls on the first floor are constructed of coquina block masonry. The second floor is of wood frame construction faced with wood siding. The building has a hipped roof and shallow eel facing east. The secondary utility building, located 50 feet to the north of the main building, it is a hipped roof, one-story coquina-block building; a coquina stone wall runs between and is attached to each the two structures. To visit historic Fort Matanzas, located west across the Matanzas Inlet on Rattlesnake Island, visitors take a five-minute boat ride from a dock adjacent to the HQ/VC to Rattlesnake Island.

The HQ/VC and the surrounding landscape was designed by the National Park Service's Eastern Division, Branch of Plans and Design, and constructed with funds provided by the federal government. The designed landscape around the HQ/VC includes an exterior staircase, a retaining wall, a stone culvert headwall, and other features such as sidewalks, curbing, flagstone walks, parking areas, and roads (figs. 1-7). Planned in 1935, the HQ/VC illustrates early National Park Service design philosophy and is an example of NPS Rustic Architecture.

Since their construction in 1936, the two buildings have been in continual use and have undergone only modest alterations. In addition, the surrounding landscape remains largely unchanged since its initial development in 1937. Both the HQ/VC and its designed setting continue to reflect the intentions of the original development plans and retain their original character and integrity to a high degree.

Setting

Fort Matanzas NM is located approximately 15 miles south of St. Augustine and is reached via Florida State Highway A1A. In an area where the dense growth recedes to form a circular expanse, A1A is intersected at a right angle by a park-built access road. The eastern segment of the park road leads to a beach, beach ramp, and parking area; the western section leads to the HQ/VC (figs. 6-7). The HQ/VC and beach area are accessible only by way of the park road.

Turning west from A1A, the park road gently curves as it approaches the HQ/VC; the curve of the road leads into a one-way, elongated loop, with the HQ/VC located at the top of the loop. The looped road expands on the southern side to include a 29-car visitor parking area that features sidewalks finished with coquina curbing; after parking, visitors approach the HQ/VC by way of a pedestrian pathway. The pathway leads to the visitor entrance of the HQ/VC, located in an arched breezeway of the main building, and then continues through the breezeway to the dock where visitors board the boat to Fort Matanzas.

A service road which branches off the northern portion of the looped road leads park employees to the garages (now enclosed) of the utility building (fig. 8). Park vehicles once used the service road, which forms a wide arc, to arrive at the garages, formerly located on the end of the building. The roadway's path maximizes the distance between the visitor use and employee use roads, thereby concealing, behind dense vegetation, the service road from the visitor's sightline.

The above-mentioned elements combine to create a residential atmosphere around the HQ/VC. Furthermore, these elements are skillfully designed to complement the natural landscape of mature live oaks, native vegetation, and gently rolling dunes. The original plans demonstrate that the developed area was conceived as a unified group. The planners' comprehensive approach to design is evident in the elements' harmonious relation to one another and in the overall flow of the area. Development around the HQ/VC has been limited, and the original atmosphere of the setting remains unchanged.

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Main Building Exterior

The roughly rectangular, 66' x 26', two-story main building features an asymmetrical plan, combination coquina-stone and framed-construction, arched-breezeway, hip-roof surfaced with wood-shingles, brick-chimney, and projecting-arcaded-portico (figs. 9-10 and 13-14). The southern end of the building is built into a dune so that the upper-story is longer than the lower-story. The walls, aside from the second-story of the building, are made of dressed coquina-stone blocks; the second story of the main building is wood-framed and faced with grey siding. However, the southern portion of the upper-story, which is built into a dune and therefore only one-story, is made entirely of coquina stone. There are several entrances to the main building; the primary visitor entrance is located inside a central, barrel-vaulted breezeway that bisects the building on its north/south axis. The visitor use area can also be entered through an entrance in the portico located on the southern end. The resident ranger can access the upper-level apartment through an entrance on the building's southern end; this entrance is approached by a flagstone walk in the rear and by exterior stairs built into the dune which wind from the front of the building to the rear (fig. 10). Entrances to the former restroom facilities, a boiler room, and an interior staircase to the upper level apartment, are located in the central breezeway opposite the visitor center entrance. The cross-hipped roof is finished with wood shingles and features copper gutters and a brick chimney. The irregular fenestration includes six-over-six, double-hung sash windows, with and without shutters.

Interior

The central barrel-vaulted passage divides the first floor into two halves. The southern section contains separate, single stall, men's and women's restrooms (no longer in use), a boiler room, and a stairway leading to the ranger residence above. The northern side is divided into public use areas. The second floor ranger residence includes a kitchen, dinette, living room, two bedrooms, one bath, and a porch (now covered).

Utility Building Exterior

The projecting portico on the main building is attached to a 4' coquina stone wall that connects the main building to a 30' x 22' utility building fifty feet away; a brick walkway runs alongside the connecting wall (figs. 11-12). The one-story utility building features a rectangular plan, a hip-roof, and is constructed of coquina blocks. In 1990 the utility building was converted to an office; consequently, the two roll-up garage doors located on the northern elevation were removed and replaced with coquina blocks. The coquina stone used to fill the openings was blended successfully with the existing coquina walls, and the alteration is not obvious. A concealed oil tank storage area is located in the rear of the building; the space was created by abutting an L-shaped stone wall segment to the corner created by the intersection of the connecting wall and the utility building. The oil tank is no longer in place, but its storage space remains.

Interior

Originally the interior of the utility building was divided into three sections: a two-car garage, a workroom, and a generator room. When the utility building was converted to a ranger office in 1990, the interior partitions were removed. There is now a private office in the northwest corner; the rest of the interior is a common office space.

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Statement of Significance

Summary Significance

The Fort Matanzas HQ/VC building is significant at the local level under National Register Criteria A and C and is therefore eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Florida's New Deal Resources Multiple Property Submission (MPS) under the historic context "The New Deal in Florida, 1933-1943," as an example of the F.1 property type, "Buildings."

As a product of a New Deal Agency, the Public Works Administration (PWA), the building represents the efforts of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration to provide economic relief during the Great Depression and is therefore significant under criterion A. In addition to the building's significance as a product of the New Deal, it is also significant under criterion C as an exceptional example of NPS Rustic Architecture.

The National Park Service's ability to carry out its rustic architecture design philosophy by mounting major construction and park development projects between 1933 and 1942 is directly linked to federal relief initiatives enacted by the Roosevelt administration, specifically, the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) program, whose work was carried out by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) and Public Works Administration (PWA).¹ The relationship between the New Deal and National Park Service development links the building's two areas of significance. The Fort Matanzas HQ/VC illustrates early National Park Service design philosophy and underscores the crucial role of New Deal funding in the National Park Service's ability to implement a uniform, nationwide design policy.

Development of Visitor Services at Fort Matanzas National Monument

As relics of Spanish Colonialism, Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas, built in 1672 and 1740 respectively, have long been recognized as historically significant sites of interest to the public. Since their transfer from Spanish to American authorities in 1821, their historical importance has been noted by local citizens, politicians, military personnel and in tourist literature.² In the 19th century, the War Department, the first US agency to administer the forts, attempted to facilitate public interest by providing guides to Castillo de San Marcos,³ but little was done to promote visitation at Fort Matanzas, which by virtue of its isolated location on Rattlesnake Island, was effectively inaccessible to tourists. Visitor services were more fully developed in the 20th century when, in 1914, the War Department turned day-to-day operations of the two forts over to the St. Augustine Historical Society.⁴ At Castillo San Marcos, the St. Augustine Historical Society provided tours for a fee, displayed museum items, and operated a souvenir shop.⁵ This arrangement, however, proved contentious as complaints were voiced against the commercialization of the forts.⁶ Despite the opposition, this relationship persisted until 1935 when National Park Service Director Arno B. Cammerer informed the St. Augustine Historical Society that the National Park Service would be assuming direct supervision of the two forts "in order to maintain consistently the policy of education and development which this service [NPS] has established at the national historical parks and

¹ McClelland, Linda Flint. *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916 to 1942*. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1993), p. 195.

² Krakow, Jere L. *Administrative History of Castillo De San Marcos National Monument and Fort Matanzas National Monument*. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1986), p. 3.

Bearss, Edwin C. "The War Department Years, 1821-1933." *Historic Structure Report for Fort Matanzas National Monument St. Johns County, Florida*. (Denver: Denver Service Center, 1980), p. 92.

³ Krakow, 5.

⁴ Ibid, 13.

⁵ Ibid, 43.

⁶ Ibid, 18.

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monuments..."⁷ The National Park Service had taken over management of Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas two years earlier when President Roosevelt, in an effort to stimulate the crippled economy, signed executive order 6166.⁸ This order consolidated administrative functions of National Parks, buildings, and reservations, and resulted in the transfer of control of Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas from the War Department to the National Park Service.

New Deal funding was vital to the management of the former War Department properties from the beginning of NPS control. Within the first few months of the National Park Service administration, Herbert E. Kahler, the first NPS representative at Fort Matanzas, established a Civilian Works Administration (CWA) team to conduct historical research.⁹ Kahler, who would later become the first superintendent of Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas, worked quickly to initiate projects aimed at improving visitor services. His projects included historical research, restoration, land acquisition, and construction of park facilities.¹⁰

In 1934 the park acquired by gift of Ada D. Corbett, widow of George W. Corbett, 17.34 acres of land near the south end of Anastasia Island. This land was of vital importance to the development of visitor accessibility to Fort Matanzas as it allowed, for the first time, road access, parking, and a convenient location to launch ferry services to Rattlesnake Island, as well as space for visitor facilities. Before the acquisition of this land the National Park Service owned only land on Rattlesnake Island and had no system in place to ferry visitors to the island from other points.

The Corbett tract was acquired in May of 1934. As early as January of 1935, superintendent Kahler, Deputy Chief Architect, Charles E. Peterson, and Deputy Chief Engineer, Oliver G. Taylor, had approved preliminary development plans for the newly acquired land.¹¹ The plan, drafted by the National Park Service's Eastern Division Branch of Plans and Design, depicts a developed area that is essentially intact today. Included in the plans are the HQ/VC, looped approach road and parking area, and a beach access road. Also included in the plans are docks on both Anastasia and Rattlesnake Islands (original structures no longer extant) which allowed visitors to reach Fort Matanzas.

By May of 1935 final architectural drawings for the HQ/VC buildings were also approved.¹² An invitation for bids was issued for the construction of the headquarters building, utility building, and a sewage disposal system in June of 1935.¹³ By August, O.P. Woodcock Construction Company of Jacksonville, Florida, had been selected as the contractor and was ready to begin work.¹⁴ On January 16, 1936, Deputy Chief Engineer Oliver G. Taylor reported to the O.P. Woodcock Construction Company that final inspection had been made and construction was found to be satisfactory and in accordance with specifications.¹⁵ However, the HQ/VC could not become operational until a road connecting it with A1A was constructed.

The National Park Service, in accordance with an inter-Departmental agreement, furnished the Bureau of Public Roads with a preliminary road plan to connect the HQ/VC and the beach area with A1A; the Bureau of Public Roads then prepared final plans and

⁷ Letter from Park Service Director Arno B. Cammerer to Judge Dunham, president of the St. Augustine Historical Society, June 7, 1935, National Park Service, RG 79, NA. Quoted in Krakow, 45.

⁸ Krakow, 39.

⁹ Ibid, 42.

¹⁰ Ibid, 42-46.

¹¹ See dated signatures on Preliminary Development Plan.

¹² See dated signatures on drawings.

¹³ Newspaper clipping: "Announce Bids for Buildings." St. Augustine Record. August 11, 1935. Found in Fort Matanzas Archives, Box 2, Fort Matanzas National Monument—General, 1935-1938.

¹⁴ Newspaper clipping: "Work to Begin Soon at Quaint Fort Matanzas." St. Augustine Record. June 1935. Found in Fort Matanzas Archives, Box 2, Fort Matanzas National Monument—General, 1935-1938.

¹⁵ Oliver G. Taylor to O.P. Woodcock, 16 January 1936, copy in Fort Matanzas Archives, Fort Matanzas National Monument—General, 1935-1938.

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specifications for the project.¹⁶ An invitation for bids for construction of the road, known as Project 1A1, was issued in November of 1936.¹⁷ The project, overseen by the Bureau of Public Roads and contracted to M.G. Caddell of Palatka, Florida, consisted of .545 miles of roads, pathways and incidental construction. Incidental construction included the original entrance sign (no longer extant), beach ramp, a retaining wall, a masonry headwall, an exterior staircase, guard rails (no longer extant), flagstone walk, and landscaping. The lack of railroad facilities required the use of as many local materials as possible, including crushed coquina. Construction on project 1A1 began in January of 1937 and was completed by July of the same year.¹⁸ However, the road was closed to traffic until a time when the temperature would be cool enough to allow the road to harden sufficiently. In a ceremony presided over by the first lady of Florida, Mrs. Fred Cone, the road was officially open to the public on October 12, 1937, a date chosen in part for its historic significance as Columbus Day.¹⁹

Fort Matanzas HQ/VC and the New Deal

The PWA provided essential funding for the construction of numerous facilities at Fort Matanzas.²⁰ The PWA was created in 1933 by Title II of the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) and operated until 1942. The PWA did not physically build or design projects but rather provided funds for projects of both federal and non-federal owners.²¹ Since the PWA was only a funding source, it did not dictate materials, architectural design, or construction techniques; all matters of planning and design were the responsibility of the individual owners. This relationship allowed the National Park Service to use monies provided by the PWA to further advance pre-existing, institutional building and development plans.

The principal purpose of the PWA was to "increase employment of labor in the construction of permanent and useful public projects..."²² New Dealers preferred work relief over public assistance because it maintained workers' skills, work ethic, and self respect and resulted in useful facilities. It was believed that building projects would fuel areas of the economy related to construction, and that workers' paychecks, once spent, would aid merchants and producers.²³

The primary aim of New Deal programs like the PWA was to put people to work; a secondary benefit was the useful and lasting improvements that came from their work. The Fort Matanzas HQ/VC stands as physical evidence of the New Deal, whose primary purpose, alleviating human suffering during the Great Depression, is no longer visible.

Architectural Significance of the Fort Matanzas HQ/VC

Designed and constructed during the formative years of the National Park Service, the Fort Matanzas HQ/VC building illustrates NPS efforts to forge a cohesive, system-wide aesthetic. This design philosophy, articulated in the 1938 NPS publication, Park Structures and Facilities, promoted architectural sympathy with the surrounding environment, the use of local materials, and deference to local architectural precedents. The historic context and significance of this design philosophy, alternately known as Parkitecture or Rustic

¹⁶ US Bureau of Public Roads. "Final Construction Report: Project 1A1, Fort Matanzas National Monument." Unpublished Report. U.S. Bureau of Public Roads, 1938. 6.

¹⁷ Newspaper clipping: "Bids Invited by Government for Fort Road." St. Augustine Record. November, 13 1936. Found in Fort Matanzas Archives, Box 2, Fort Matanzas National Monument—General, 1935-1938.

¹⁸ US Bureau of Public Roads, 5.

¹⁹ Newspaper clipping: "Entrance Road is Opened by Mrs. Fred Cone." St. Augustine Record. October 13, 1937, copy in Fort Matanzas Archives, Box 2, Fort Matanzas National Monument—General, 1935-1938.

²⁰ Krakow, 47. Also see various correspondences in CASA headquarters file.

²¹ Public Works Administration. *Public buildings: a survey of architecture of projects constructed by federal and other governmental bodies between the years 1933 and 1939 with the assistance of the Public Works Administration.* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1939), p. X

²² Public Works Administration, introduction, X.

²³ Leighninger, Robert D. Jr. "Cultural Infrastructure: The Legacy of New Deal Public Space." *Journal of Architectural Education* 94 no. 4, May 1996: 226-236.

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Architecture, is addressed in Linda F. McClelland's 1993 study, Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916 to 1942. As outlined below the Fort Matanzas HQ/VC conforms to the conventions of Rustic Architecture in its relation to the surrounding environment, use of local materials, and references to local architectural precedents.

Relation to Surrounding Environment

The landscape surrounding the Fort Matanzas HQ/VC features gently rolling grassy dunes, mature live oak trees, and other native vegetation. The building blends in with its surrounding landscape by employing a low profile, asymmetrical plan, natural materials, and being partially built into a hill. Similarly the access road and parking lot were designed to complement the natural landscape. As the curved access road nears the visitor center it gently circles around in front of the HQ/VC to form a loop with an island. The island showcases mature live oaks which serve to shield the visitor center from view of the road. The visitor center's placement, set far back from the access road and accessible only by pedestrian pathways, further protects it from roadway intrusions.

The above-mentioned elements create harmony between the built and natural environment and contribute to the site-specific nature of the structures. By approaching the design of the HQ/VC building and the surrounding landscape simultaneously, planners were able to seamlessly blend the built and natural landscape.

Materials

In following the tenets of NPS design philosophy, the architects of the Fort Matanzas HQ/VC employed local materials; chief among the building materials was coquina stone, the same stone used in the construction of both Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas. Coquina stone is a historically significant building material that was widely used in the St. Augustine area from the time of Spanish Colonists until the 1930s.²⁴ A soft, sedimentary limestone composed of mollusk shells and quartz sand, coquina is found only on the eastern coast of peninsular Florida. It was prominently used not only in the construction of the HQ/VC, but also in supporting details such curbing, a retaining wall, and the exterior stairway.

Architectural Precedents

NPS architects acknowledged the stylistic traditions of the St. Augustine area in the design of the Fort Matanzas HQ/VC NPS by creating a combined masonry and wood-frame building similar in profile and plan to many buildings in and around the Colonial Spanish settlement.

In his 1962 publication, The Houses of St. Augustine, 1565-1821, National Park Service historian Albert Manucy established the defining characteristics of what he termed a "St. Augustine Plan" residential building. His definition was based on exhaustive research that examined graphic images, written accounts, maps, and surviving structures. Manucy's initial comparison of Spanish architecture of the Iberian Peninsula with contemporary colonial construction in St. Augustine led him to argue that the "St. Augustine Plan" was the natural adaptation of Spanish building traditions to suit a new environment. In his study he identified a "St. Augustine Plan" building as rectangular in floor plan, one- or two-story masonry, or two-story masonry and wood. These types of dwellings were built with their long sides flush to the street line and with attached courtyard walls, also built flush to the street line, that extend from the façade of the building to the edges of the property to enclose an interior courtyard. The entrances of "St. Augustine Plan" buildings were most often located in a courtyard; the buildings generally could not be accessed directly from the street.²⁵

²⁴ Scott, Thomas M. "The Coquina Resources of Florida's East Coast." Paper presented at the symposium *The Conservation and Preservation of Coquina*, 24 Jan. 2000, Florida Division of Historical Resources, Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, and the National Park Service.

²⁵ Manucy, Albert. *The Houses of St. Augustine 1565-1821*. 2nd ed. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1992.

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The design of the HQ/VC references a “St. Augustine Plan” building, but does not attempt to re-create one. For example, there is no courtyard, but an attached wall, lack of an obvious entrance, and an arched breezeway suggest that there is a protected space behind the building. Like a “St. Augustine Plan” building, the HQ/VC is oriented so that it is approached first on its long side, has a roughly rectangular plan, and is composed of a first floor of coquina stone and a wood-framed second-story. The HQ/VC’s wood shingled hipped roof is also historically appropriate to the St. Augustine area.²⁶ Other allusions to the architecture of St. Augustine featured in the design of the HQ/VC include a covered portico, arches, and a second-story porch (now enclosed). The treatment of the ground floor window in the portico also references local building traditions; the bannistered grating on the widow is a variation of the *reja*, an architectural trope commonly used in St. Augustine.²⁷ An obvious departure from the St. Augustine style is the treatment of the coquina stone on the HQ/VC. Stone and tabby walls in St. Augustine were consistently plastered for purposes of waterproofing.²⁸ By contrast, the coquina stone of the Fort Matanzas HQ/VC is exposed and, as result, resembles the ashlar masonry construction visible at Fort Matanzas and Castillo de San Marcos.

It is important to note that NPS architects did not attempt to mimic an existing structure, but instead, in keeping with the aims of rustic architecture, they alluded to local architectural precedents while simultaneously conforming to the principles of rustic design. In this way the design of the Fort Matanzas HQ/VC is appropriate to the architectural programs of both the St. Augustine region and nationwide National Park Service design.

²⁶ Ibid, 111.

²⁷ Ibid, 87.

²⁸ Ibid, 70.

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Bibliography

National Park Service Publications

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9

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**Figures 1-13
and
Maps 1-4**



Fig. 1 FOMA HQ/VC. St. Johns County, Florida. Photographer: Cynthia Walton. March 18, 2008. Original image stored at NPS SERO, Atlanta. Exterior coquina staircase and retaining wall. View looking Southwest.



Fig. 2 FOMA HQ/VC. St. Johns County, Florida. Photographer: Cynthia Walton. March 18, 2008. Original image stored at NPS SERO, Atlanta. Coquina retaining wall. View looking Southwest.



Fig. 3 FOMA HQ/VC. St. Johns County, Florida. Photographer: Cynthia Walton. March 18, 2008. Original image stored at NPS SERO, Atlanta. Coquina headwall. View looking Northwest.

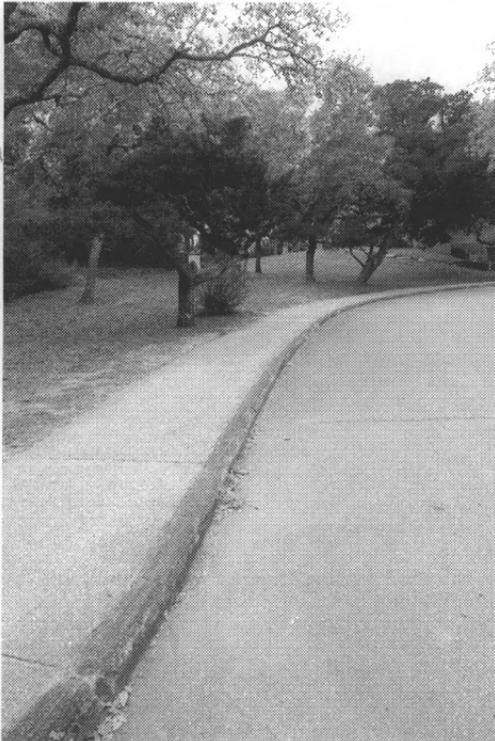


Fig. 4 FOMA HQ/VC. St. Johns County, Florida. Photographer: Cynthia Walton. March 18, 2008. Original image stored at NPS SERO, Atlanta. Sidewalk and coquina curbing. View looking Southwest.

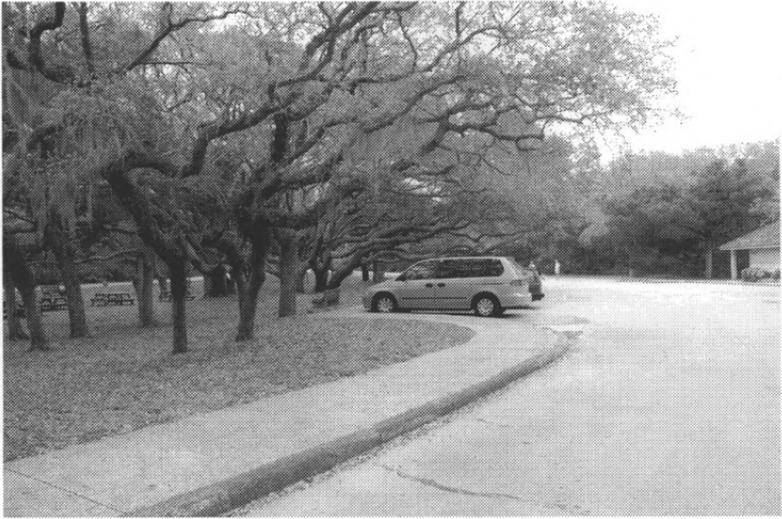


Fig. 5 FOMA HQ/VC. St. Johns County, Florida. Photographer: Cynthia Walton. March 18, 2008. Original image stored at NPS SERO, Atlanta. Parking Area. View looking North.



Fig. 6 FOMA HQ/VC. St. Johns County, Florida. Photographer: Cynthia Walton. March 18, 2008. Original image stored at NPS SERO, Atlanta. Entrance Road, with center island. View looking South.



Fig. 7 FOMA HQ/VC. St. Johns County, Florida. Photographer: Cynthia Walton. March 18, 2008. Original image stored at NPS SERO, Atlanta. Beach Road. View looking Northeast.



Fig. 8 FOMA HQ/VC. St. Johns County, Florida. Photographer: Cynthia Walton. March 18, 2008. Original image stored at NPS SERO, Atlanta. End of Utility Building . View looking Southeast.

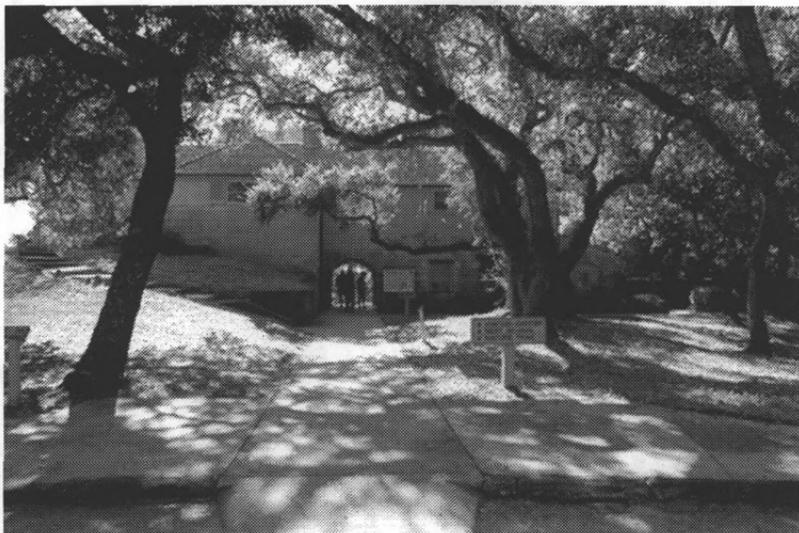


Fig. 9 FOMA HQ/VC. St. Johns County, Florida. Photographer: Brian Coffey. November 13, 2007. Original image stored at NPS SERO, Atlanta. Front of FOMA HQ/VC. View looking Southwest.

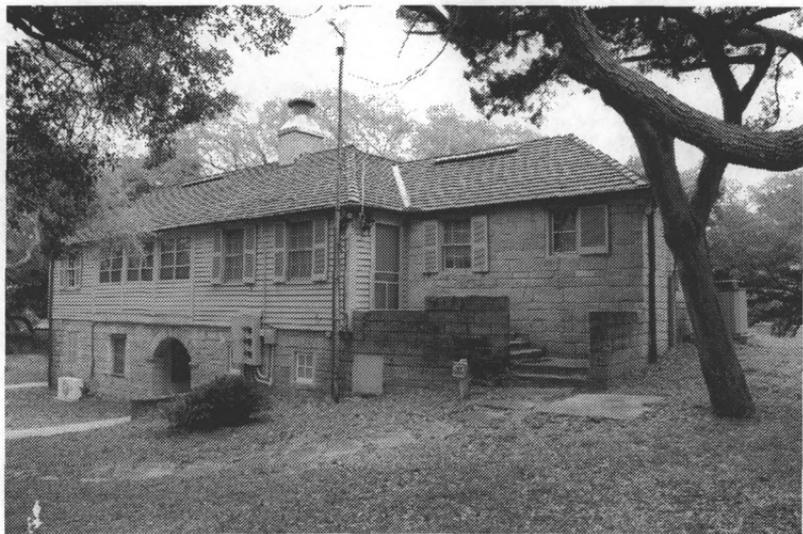


Fig. 10 FOMA HQ/VC. St. Johns County, Florida. Photographer: Cynthia Walton. March 18, 2008. Original image stored at NPS SERO, Atlanta. FOMA HQ/VC and flagstone walkway. View looking Northeast.



Fig. 11 FOMA HQ/VC. St. Johns County, Florida. Photographer: Cynthia Walton. March 18, 2008. Original image stored at NPS SERO, Atlanta. Utility building and brick walkway. View looking South.

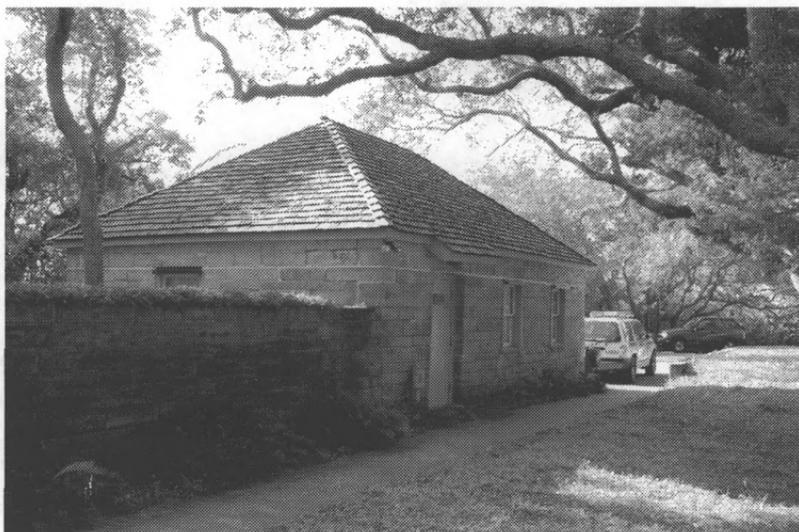


Fig. 12 FOMA HQ/VC. St. Johns County, Florida. Photographer: Cynthia Walton. March 18, 2008. Original image stored at NPS SERO, Atlanta. Utility Building and brick walk. View looking Northwest.

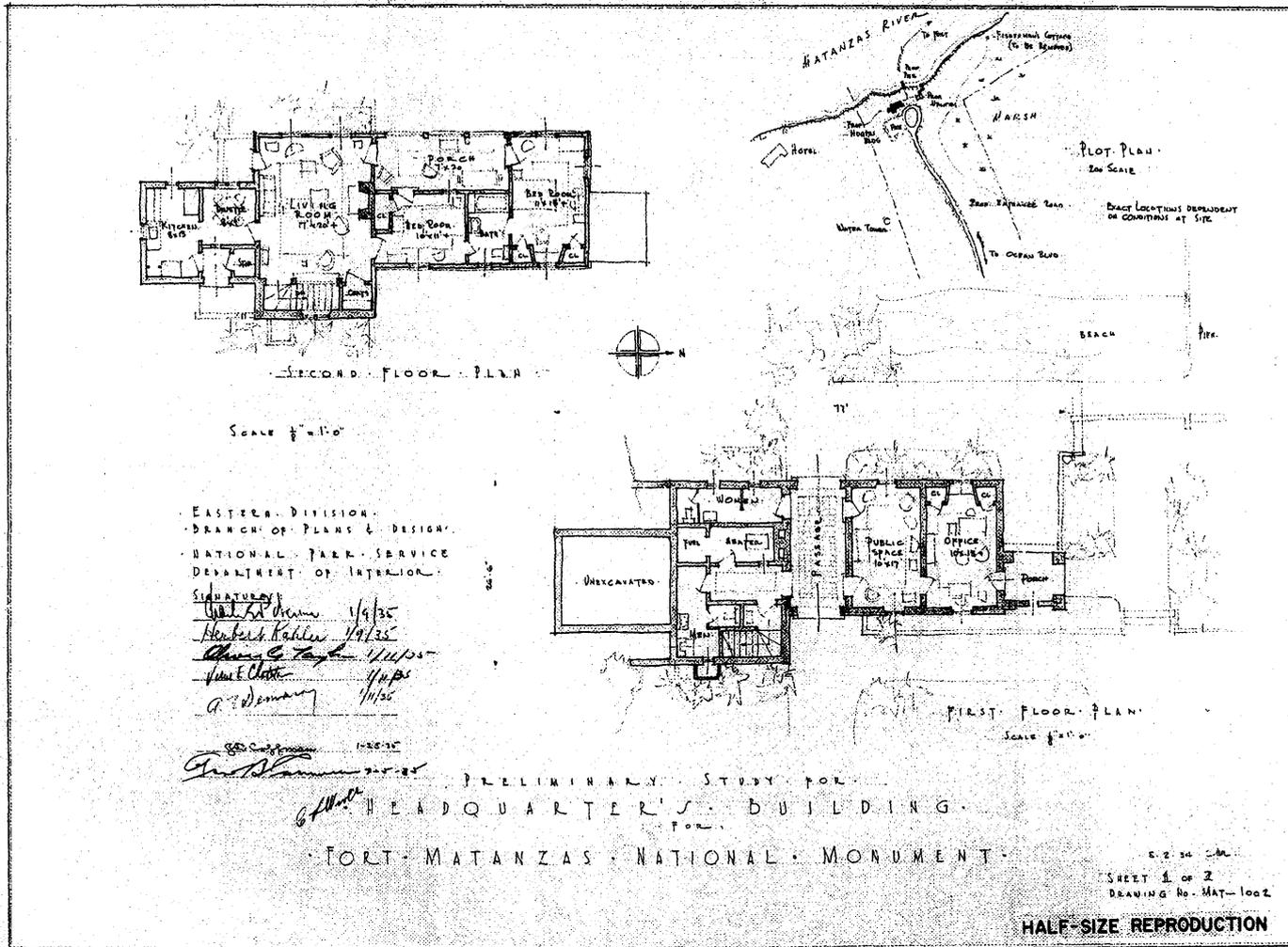


Fig. 13 Plan of FOMA HQ/VC

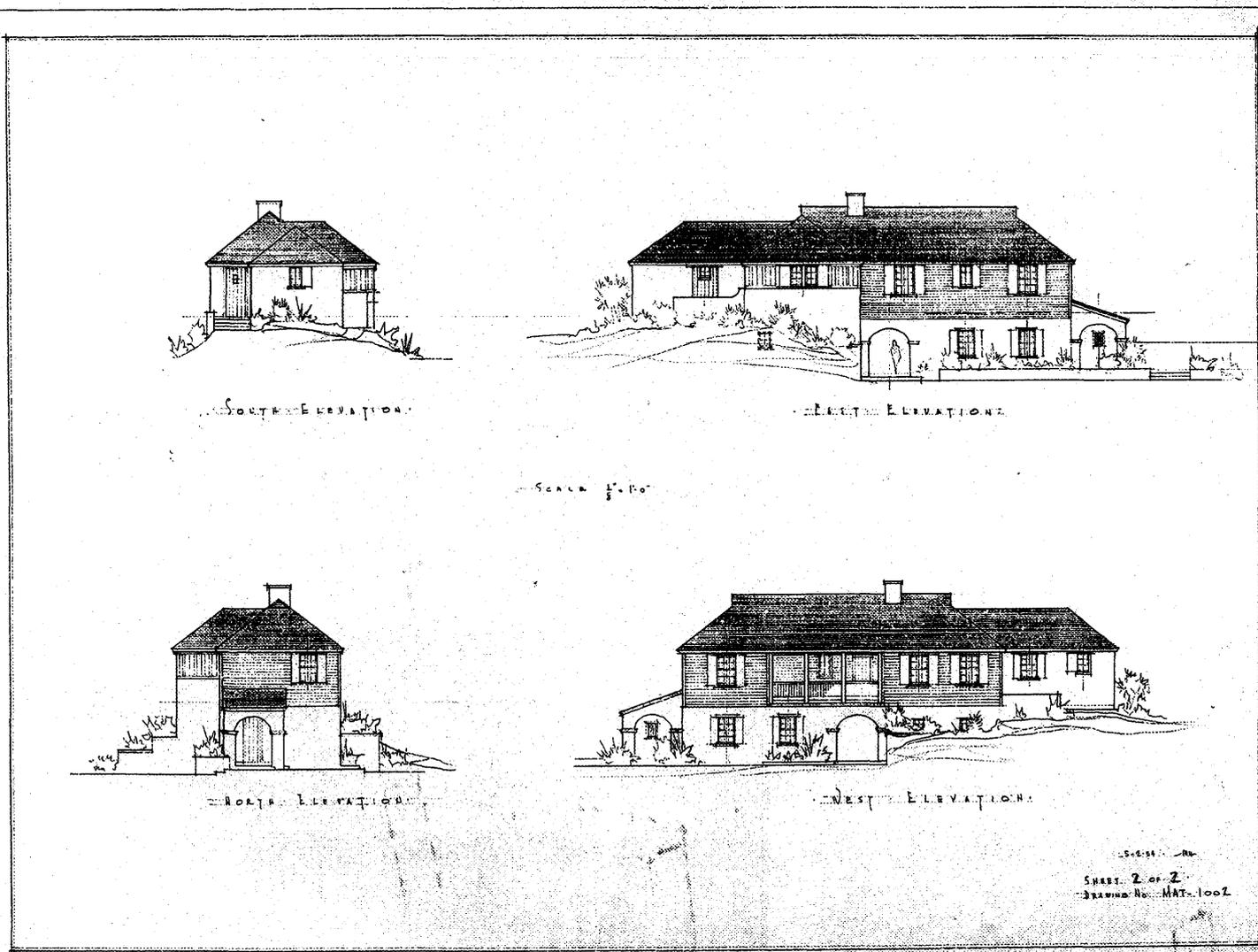
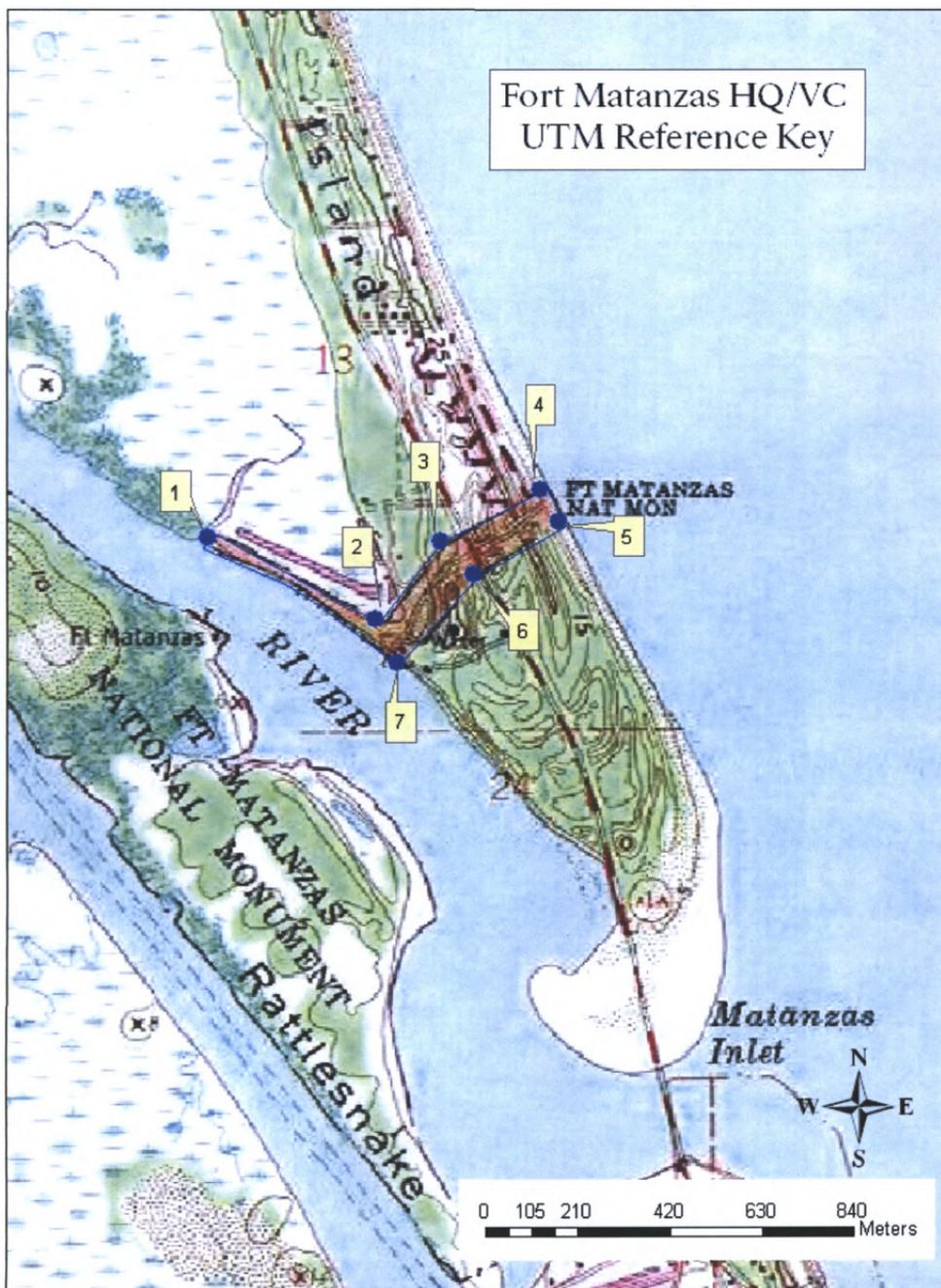


Fig. 14 Plan of FOMA HQ/VC

Fort Matanzas HQ/VC
UTM Reference Key

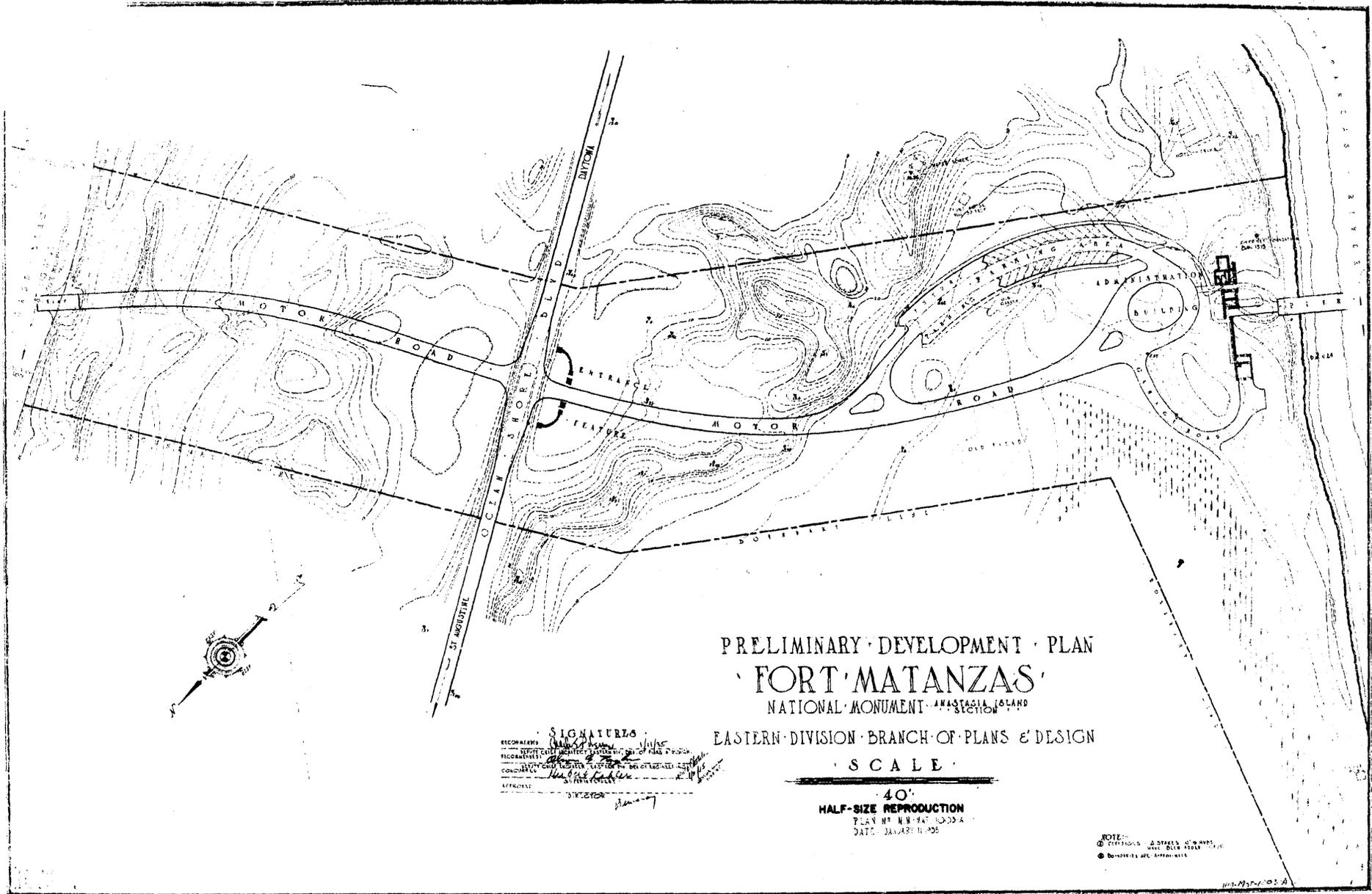


Map 4 Detail of USGS map showing points from which UTM references were taken

1. Main Building - Contributing
2. Utility Building - Contributing
3. Comfort Station - Non-Contributing



Map 1 FOMA HQ/VC Boundary Site Plan.



Map 2 1937 Fort Matanzas development Plans



Map 3 Aerial Photograph of FOMA developed area with overlay of georeferenced 1937 development plans