

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **03 30** 1982
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Fort Toulouse / Fort Jackson

and/or common

2. Location

street & number SW of Wetumpka off AL 231 not for publication

city, town Wetumpka vicinity vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~ 3rd

state Alabama code 01 county Elmore code 051

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:
			<input type="checkbox"/> military

4. Owner of Property

name Alabama Historical Commission Corps of Engineers

street & number 725 Monroe Street Post Office Box 2288

city, town Montgomery vicinity of Mobile state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Elmore County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Wetumpka state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Fort Toulouse - Fort Jackson site is located in the fork of the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers and is surrounded by the Alluvial plain produced by these two river systems. It has a subtropical climate which provided a habitat for deciduous forests and fur-bearing animals as well as human settlement. All of the major prehistoric periods, except Paleo-Indian, are represented here. The remains of the French and American forts represent only two brief segments of a much longer sequence of occupation.

The original Fort Toulouse, 1717, has been described as a stockade of about one hundred yards square with four bastions. Four years after the initial construction repairs were needed. By 1736, a rebuilding using oak piles was contracted. Documentary evidence indicates that Fort Toulouse was being immediately threatened by river bluff erosion and that a new site, further back from the bluff, was chosen and a new fort built at that time, 1751.

Fort Toulouse II was nearly square with four corner bastions, all made of split hard wood posts set upright in a one, meter deep footing trench. The area outside the north curtain was also enclosed by a stockade. Inside the fort were at least three buildings, one with a central brick fireplace base. Gun platforms or sentry stations were placed in the flanking corners of the bastions.

Just west of the Fort Toulouse site is a prominent Indian mound. West of the mound is an 18th century Indian village. Two other Creek Village sites are located less than 500 yards to the northeast and southeast of the fort site. An old cemetery is located about 200 yards east of the fort site. The entire peninsula area has shown evidence of Indian occupation in scattered sherds.

Fort Jackson, on the other hand, had four picketed bastions. Curtain walls were earthen parapets built of clay dug from the encircling moat which had a line of pickets set into the floor. A communication trench led from the fort to a Demilune.

A demilune, consisting of a diamond-shaped moat, presumably with an associated earthen parapet has also been located as a result of archeological investigations.

Within the stockade walls were barracks for officers and men, a watchtower overlooking the north wall onto the Coosa River, and one or two iron cannon within each of the bastions.

The entire peninsula area has shown evidence of Indian occupation in scattered sherds. However, to date no archeological investigations are known to have been undertaken to precisely locate any of the Alabama villages of the Fort Toulouse period or to identify any other aboriginal remains of other items on the peninsula.

Pot-hunting was a considerable problem especially for the Indian mound, which has several large holes dug near its top.

Today the area is operated as a state park - Fort Toulouse Park. Located on the site is the partially reconstructed Fort Jackson.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1751-1764; 1814 - **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Fort Toulouse, nearly always called by the French "The Alabama Fort," was from 1717 until 1763 the easternmost outpost of French Louisiana territory. Situated strategically just below the southern tip of the Appalachian highland, at the junction of the Coosa and Tallapoosa Rivers, two main tributaries of the Alabama, the fort protected French settlements downstream from Mobile Bay west to New Orleans.

Fort Jackson was the site of the signing of the Treaty of Fort Jackson which officially ended the Creek War, 1813-1814. By the terms of the treaty, the Creeks ceded to the United States approximately 20 million acres of land which now comprise three fifths of the present State of Alabama and one fifth of Georgia. This cession opened to U.S. settlement a vast and rich domain and separated the Creeks from Spanish influences in Florida.

History

The French post was established soon after the conclusion of the Yemas War (1715-1716), at the urging of the Creek Indians, allies of the French in that war. The Indians feared reprisals from the British from settlements in the Carolinas, who had formerly monopolized the Indian trade in the Upper Creek territory. Erection of Fort Toulouse extended French activity about 100 miles to the northeast from its Gulf Coast settlements, and was part of the French effort to wrest control of southeastern North America from the English and Spanish.

The major function of Fort Toulouse was to cement an alliance with the Indians of the region through trade. Therefore, it was established in the heart of Upper Creek country, at a very defensible location and nearby to many villages of the Alabama tribe. Fort Toulouse for a half-century shared its peninsula with several Creek villages, built "within a musket shot" of the garrison for purposes of trade and mutual protection. In 1751, flooding and a crumbling riverbank forced the French to relocate the 1717 fort, probably only a short distance from its original site.

For 46 years of French occupation Fort Toulouse served primarily as a trading post, a meeting place and negotiating place for Indian chiefs, a sometime sanctuary, a listing post for information from the traders, missionaries and Indians who stopped there, and a base for diplomatic agents and missionaries sent to work with the Indian tribes.

The garrison was never known to have been involved in any military engagement and when the French eventually lost the French and Indian War--and with it their Louisiana colony the major battles and defeats occurred far from the Alabama Fort. However, at the negotiations for the Treaty of Paris in 1763, in an unsuccessful French proposal to retain a large Louisiana territory, Fort Toulouse was an important element of the boundaries. The French proposed the boundaries of Louisiana to run north from the Perdido River to Fort Toulouse and from there to the westernmost part of Lake Erie.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 180

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References

A

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

B

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

C

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

D

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

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cecil McKithan, Historian

organization National Park Service date June 29, 1982

street & number 75 Spring St., S.W., Suite 1140 telephone 404-221-2651

city or town Atlanta, Georgia state Georgia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date 11/3/83

Keeper of the National Register

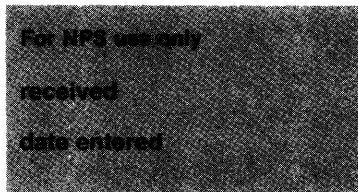
Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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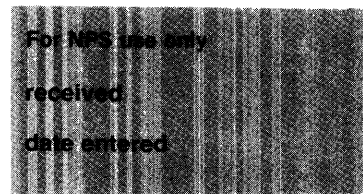
Also located in the historic area, but not contributing to the national significance of the landmark, is the William Bartram Arboretum, a visitor center, a pavillion, camping area, showers and restrooms.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for the National Historic Landmark was drawn so as to include all of the peninsula area. Because of the close proximity of the Indian villages to the Fort, they are all closely related and further enhance the national significance of the area. Furthermore, since some of the troops married Indian women, the relationship was further cemented.

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In accordance with the Treaty of Paris, the French evacuated Fort Toulouse in the winter of 1763-4, but the British did not garrison the post, and the fort fell into disuse. In 1814 Andrew Jackson occupied the abandoned fort site, after defeating the Creek Indians at Horseshoe Bend. A new fort, constructed on the site of the old French post was soon named Fort Jackson. The treaty which officially ended the Creek War was signed there August 9, 1814.

The day following the signing of the treaty, August 10, 1814, General Jackson took the 3rd Regiment and a company of the 44th Regiment and began a descent of the Alabama River. West Tennessee Militia was left to garrison Fort Jackson under the command of Phillip Pipkin. The journey would lead Jackson to Mobile, and Pensacola, and would culminate in New Orleans.

In the months following the departure of the regulars, dissension began to fester among the volunteers at the outpost. The disagreement as to whether the militias was engaged for six or three months service came to a head when approximately 100 men left to go home on September 20, 1814, the anniversary of the three months service. Malcontents were captured and some were carried to Mobile where several of the leaders of the uprising were executed.

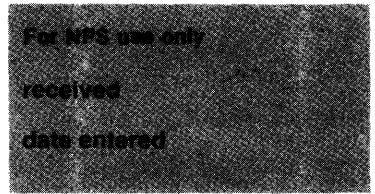
A garrison was kept at Fort Jackson after the cessation of hostilities. Construction on the defense continued through 1814 under the direction of Major Warren, and additional labor on the demilune and bastions was done in December of 1814. Major William Woodfolk was in command of the post in January 1815, when he wrote to General Nathaniel Taylor at Mobile concerning capabilities at the site for boat construction and listed artisans under his command and the tools available.

From this date forward, little is known about the activities at the Fort. A portion of the 7th Regiment, U. S. Infantry is listed as the garrison on January 1, 1817, but by the end of the year, official army returns show no troops stationed at Fort Jackson. The final military notation found dates to 1818 when Tennessee troops bound for the Seminole War were ordered to secure supplies at Fort Jackson.

An attempt was made to establish a town at this local lauded by Jackson and Bartram. Although Fort Jackson was the seat of the Courts of Montgomery County, Mississippi Territory from 1816 to 1818, the settlers relocated to the towns of present day Montgomery and Wetumpka. With this evacuation of the site, the lands regressed to agricultural pursuits.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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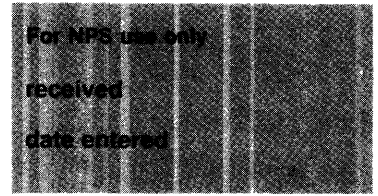
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Gregory A. Waselkon, Brian M. Wood, Joseph M. Herbert, Colonization and Conquest: The 1980 Archeological Excavations at the Fort Toulouse and Fort Jackson, Alabama Auburn University. 1980.

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Beginning at the center of the access gate, proceed northwest 130', more or less, to a point, thence northeast 375', more or less, to a point, thence north 1630', more or less, to a point, thence west 1000', more or less, to the east bank of the Coosa River. From this point follow the bank of the Coosa River as it moves from a southernly direction to a western direction, then around the sand bar, which is submerged most of the time, into the Tallapoosa River. Follow the north bank of the Tallapoosa River east to a point approximately 150', more or less, east of the Boat launch, thence northeast 1750', more or less, to a point, thence north 2000', more or less to a point, thence northwest to the point of origin.

Acreage: 180