

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 8 1976

DATE ENTERED 3-11-78
(10-15-66)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
* *

De Soto National Memorial

AND/OR COMMON

Shaw's Point or De Soto Point

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

End of 75th St. NW

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Bradenton

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
8th

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida

CODE

12

COUNTY

Manatee

CODE

081

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

1895 Phoenix Blvd.

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Georgia

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Manatee County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Manatee Avenue West

CITY, TOWN

Bradenton

STATE

Florida

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Manatee County Florida, Section S $\frac{1}{2}$ - 13/18

DATE

1961

__ FEDERAL __ STATE COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Manatee County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Bradenton

STATE
Florida

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The De Soto National Memorial commemorates the landing of Hernando De Soto in Florida in 1539. Locally called Shaw's Point, it was established by the United States De Soto Expedition Commission in 1939 as the general area in which De Soto disembarked. In 1948, the National Park Service acquired 30 acres of Shaw's Point to establish the De Soto National Memorial.

Although there is no agreement among reputable historians that the Point was the actual landfall of the De Soto expedition, it is generally accepted that Shaw's Point, situated at the mouth of the Manatee River, would have been a convenient landing place. De Soto himself made no reference to the landing point, but went on to describe the immediate wooded area as swampy and thick with vast and lofty forests.

Presently, the De Soto National Memorial encompasses 30 acres of landscaped area and tidal mangrove swamp. The swamp does not contain a "virgin" mangrove growth of 400+ years of replenishment; almost all growth is only 31-36 years old or less. The water's edge is naturally buttressed with different types of surface materials and a ridge of deposit shell atop the beach face.

Located within the Memorial are remnants of shell mounds and walkways, apparently left by groups of Indians during the period of approximately 400 AD to 1700 AD. Also within the park, a "tabby house" was built in 1843 by William Shaw, one of the first settlers in Manatee County. The house fell into ruin after Shaw moved away in 1856. It was excavated in 1964 and remains an archaeological site.

In 1939, the Colonial Dames of America erected a commemorative marker to De Soto on an acre of land near what is now the parking lot. Since its establishment as a National Memorial in 1948, the National Park Service has installed administrative, interpretive, and maintenance facilities all of which are currently in excellent condition.

Approximately 4 acres containing the parking area, residence, maintenance area and landscaping are composed of modern fill dredged from the Mantee River in the mid 1950's. The remainder of the area is in its natural state.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input 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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

1539

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The De Soto National Memorial commemorates the landing of the De Soto expedition in Florida in 1539 and the first extensive organized exploration of the interior of the southeastern part of the United States. However, the Memorial or Shaw's Point cannot be administered as a historic site with respect to the De Soto journey because of the disagreement among historians as to the exact location of De Soto's landfall. But, it is generally accepted that he landed in the vicinity of Tampa Bay.

After their disembarkment, the Spanish began their march through 4000 miles of unknown land. They penetrated as far north as present Tennessee and as far west as Texas. De Soto died in 1542 and was buried in the Mississippi River. The remnants of the expedition built ships at the confluence of the Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers where they were set afloat in the spring floods of 1543. They sailed into the Gulf to civilized Mexico.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McDuffee, Lillie. The Lure of the Manatee. Foote & Davies, Inc., Atlanta, Georgia, 1961.

Swanton, John. Final Report of the United States De Soto Expedition Commission. United States Government Printing Office, 1939.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 30

UTM REFERENCES

A	17	338090	3045650	B	17	338090	3045650
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	17	337380	3045650	D	17	337380	3045650
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

De Soto NM is bounded by the Manatee River to the north and east, private property to the west and SW, Catholic church property to the southeast.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Anne D. Castellina

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service

DATE

4/2/75

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1377

TELEPHONE

813-746-1592

CITY OR TOWN

Bradenton

STATE

Florida 33506

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ___ NO ___ NONE ___

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ___ National ___ State ___ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE

OCT 4 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

2/4/77