

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Bateria de San Antonio

AND/OR COMMON

Bateria de San Antonio/Battery San Antonio/Fort San Carlos (de Barrancas)

**2 LOCATION**

Pensacola Naval Air Station

STREET & NUMBER

northeast of corner of San Carlos and Hovey Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Pensacola

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

first

STATE

Florida

VICINITY OF

CODE

12

COUNTY

Escambia

CODE

033

**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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input 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:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME United States Government/ National Park Service / Gulf Islands National Seashore.

STREET & NUMBER

Fort Pickens (headquarters)

CITY, TOWN

Santa Rosa Island

VICINITY OF

STATE

Florida 32459

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

See U.S. Department of the Interior

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey (No. Fla-144)

DATE 1968

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

District of Columbia

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This semicircular masonry structure, designed as a shore battery, is a typical 18th century fortification with the major elements of a glacis, counterscarp, dry ditch, rampart, terreplein, and parade which contains vaulted bombproofs below a firing platform. A postern tunnel connects the parade to Fort Barrancas (HABS No. FLA-143). The condition of the fabric is good, through the south rampart of the firing platform has collapsed into the parade.

The bateria and the adjacent castillo, constructed in 1797-98, were possibly designed by Vincente Folch y Juan, the Commandant of Pensacola. A 1796 plan drawn by Francisco P. Gelabert, also possibly the designer, shows the original plan of the bateria and the stockade of the castillo.

Between 1839 and 1844 the U.S. Department of Engineers, under the supervision of W. H. Chase, altered the bateria with extensive additions to the earlier Spanish masonry, though the general plan was preserved. The firing platform was rebuilt and the terreplein was adapted for thirteen guns. The original Spanish structure, which was stuccoed, was embellished with ornamental architectural detailing including aileron enframements of roundel openings over the doors of the bombproofs and a moulded cornice above the roundels. The stucco also applied on the 19th century work has deteriorated. The south rampart of the firing platform has collapsed into the parade.

From the counterscarp to the traverse wall Bateria San Antonio measures, on a north-south axis, 138 feet. On an east-west axis it measures 230'- 6" from counterscarp to counterscarp. The retaining and bearing walls are built of brick of various sizes, colors, and consistencies and includes flat Spanish brick, standard 19th century brick and modern wire brick. In conjunction with the brick walling there are brick vaults and arches. Remnants of stuccoing survive, some having been scored to simulate ashlar. Tabby, a mixture of oyster shell and lime mortar, is used as infill in the rear walls of the bombproofs. In general, the masonry above the level of the terreplein is a product of American rebuilding from 1839 to 1844, as evidenced by the differences in brick work.

Bateria de San Antonio is located on the south side of the peninsula between Bayou Grande and the Pensacola Bay. It faces the entrance channel from the Gulf of Mexico into the bay. The bateria is situated on an incline above the shoreline approximately 60 feet south of Fort Barrancas. The terrain is sandy and has paths and markers laid out for tourists around the counterscarp from a parking area. There is no access for visitors into the fort. The dry ditch is filled with scrub growth and vines as is much of the enceinte.

Fort Barrancas was constructed between 1839-44, on top of old Fort San Carlos, at a time when Pensacola was becoming an increasingly important naval base and the defenses at the mouth of Pensacola Bay were materially strengthened.

Fort Barrancas is a large four-sided, kite shaped, brick and earth-filled structure. On the bay (south) side, Barrancas is connected to Battery Santonio by a brick-lined tunnel which runs from the upper level of Barrancas. The tunnel is now closed at both ends. Access to the fort is by way of a wooden bridge (non-historic) over the moat and through the entrance that leads to the upper level of the fort. The earth-filled upper level is covered with weeds and small bushes.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1797-1814 (Spanish occupation) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This semicircular masonry fort, consisting of typical elements of an 18th century fortification, was originally designed and constructed by Spanish engineers 1797-98 as a shore battery. In conjunction with Castillo de San Carlos, which backed it up, San Antonio was part of the late 18th century Spanish defense system of the entrance channel to Pensacola Bay from the Gulf of Mexico.

Spain was first attracted to Pensacola Bay by the value which she placed on its harbor as an easily defensible anchorage and for the location of a military outpost to protect their imperial lifelines. After an early failure, Spain planted a permanent settlement on Pensacola Bay in the closing decade of the 17th century. A three-cornered rivalry between Spain, France and England throughout most of the 18th century saw their American possessions involved and made pawns in a world-wide imperial struggle. The present Bateria San Antonio was constructed in 1797 during the closing days of Spanish authority over Florida.

Bateria de San Antonio was redesigned by the U.S. Army in 1834-44, to accommodate 13 cannon mounted on the terreplein and it was connected to Fort Barrancas, constructed at that time on the site of Castillo de San Carlos. After the Civil War the battery was abandoned and deteriorated. Today it is an element of the Gulf Islands National Seashore of the National Park Service, and is located within the Pensacola Naval Air Station.

### History

Pensacola Bay was discovered by the Spanish adventurer, Panfilo de Narvaez, who landed on the south shore of Santa Rosa Island in October of 1528. Don Tristan de Luna y Arellano attempted to establish a permanent settlement in 1559, which was abandoned in 1561. In 1698, after a 1693 expedition by Don Carlos de Siguenza y Gongora, Spaniards resettled on the shores of Pensacola Bay and Austrian engineer Jaime Brannck built a pine log, field redoubt, San Carlos de Austria, on the bluff called la barranca which overlooked the entrance channel of the bay.

After contesting for the bay in 1719, the French destroyed the Spanish fortification in 1720 and occupied the area until 1722. When the Spanish returned a new fortification was built on Santa Rosa Island, which was maintained until a hurricane destroyed the site in 1752. The survivors built a new blockhouse at a slightly higher elevation on Santa Rosa, though some established themselves at the blockhouse called Fort San Miguel at the present site of the city of Pensacola.

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bolton, Herbert E., The Spanish Borderlands; A Chronicle of Old Florida and the Southwest (New Haven, 1921).
- Dunn, William E., "Spanish and French Rivalry in the Gulf Region of the United States, 1678-1702," University of Tennessee Bulletin No. 1705 (Austin, 1917).
- Lowery, Woodbury. "Florida MSS." (10 vols., Library of Congress).

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 30.25 acres  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	47,1	4,30	3,3	5,7	5,8,0	B	1,6	47,1	6,2,0	3,3	5,6	9,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C	1,6	47,0	8,10	3,3	5,7	1,1,0	D						

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bateria San Antonio and Fort Barrancas are part of the Gulf Islands National Seashore of the National Park Service, an isolated unit of 30.25 acres located within the Pensacola Naval Air Station. The national historic landmark boundary is coterminous with the boundary of this section of land surrounding the two forts which is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. As seen on the sketch map (SERO-5/10/72) the National Park Service boundary runs 50 feet from the curbs of the roads which ~~nearly surround the triangular area, San Carlos Road on the south, Hovey Road on the~~

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: Frank B. Sarles, Jr., 1958  
 Blanche Higgins Schroer, Landmark Review Project; Horace J. Sheely, Jr., 1963

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service  
 DATE: 8/6/75

STREET & NUMBER: 1100 L Street NW  
 TELEPHONE: 523-5464

CITY OR TOWN: Washington  
 STATE: District of Columbia

# 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.

Designated: Aug 21, 1967  
 Date

Boundary Certified: Aug 4, 1977  
 Date

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE  
 TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE: 8/10/77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 DATE

ATTEST:  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

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Large soft-burned brick was used in its construction, but some granite was employed for stair treads, gun mounts, and at the main entrance. The interior is galleried with brick barrel-arches.

During the 1930's a large team of workers employed by the Works Progress Administration did some heavy-handed repair work on the brick walls of both forts which obscured some of the original or earlier detail and covered most of the openings. Both forts need considerable restoration work, although the exterior walls appear reasonably strong (though patches of repair work are very obvious), most of the interiors of both are in accessible because of their deteriorating structural condition.

\*\*\* This description was taken from a 1968 HABS survey report and drawings (No. FLA-144), supervised by F. Blair Reeves, AIA; a 1973 report by George Berndt, NPS historian for Gulf Shores National Seashore.

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In 1756 the viceroy of New Spain, the Marques de las Amarillas established the presidio calling it San Miguel de las Amarillas. Th induced the king of Spain in 1757 to proclaim by a royal order that the name "Panzacola" would be used. The village and the San Miguel and the Santa Rosa Island fortifications were turned over to the British in 1763 after the Treaty of Paris. The British built a small stockade with a ditch on Barrancas as part of their fortification of the bay.

All of Pensacola's defenses, including Fort George and its redoubts, were surrendered to Spanish forces in the seige of 1781 and were officially turned over to Spain in 1783. By 1796 it was necessary to refortify the deteriorating defenses of the bay. The masonry Bateria de San Antonio was constructed in conjunction with the stockade, Castillo de San Carlos at the rear of the battery.

After Spain ceded Louisiana to France in 1801 and France sold it to the United States in 1803, the stockade on Barrancas was strengthened to defend Pensacola, the provincial capital of Spanish West Florida, from an American invasion, which almost took place in 1813. In 1814 a British command, with the consent of the Pensacola commandant, occupied Fort San Miguel, and the Castillo de San Carlos. Following General Andrew Jackson's invasion of Florida in 1814 to quell Indian insurrections, Fort San Miguel and Pensacola were captured. The British retreated to San Carlos, destroyed it and spiked the guns of San Antonio, then sailed away leaving the area to Jackson.

The United States returned Pensacola to Spain. A stockade was rebuilt near the San Carlos site which, together with the bay, was surrendered again to American forces under Andrew Jackson in 1818 and was returned to Spain early in 1819. The deteriorating defenses of the bay were officially transferred to the United States in 1821 when East and West Florida were ceded by Spain. U.S. troops were garrisoned on Barrancas until 1825 when the area was turned over to the Department of the Navy.

The Territory of Florida offically sold the peninsula between Bayou Grande and the Pensacola Bay, which included Barrancas, to the United States for a Naval Reserve in 1832. On the site of Castillo de San Carlos, the U.S. Department of Engineers built, for the Department of the Navy, Fort Barrancas, which was connected to the Bateria de San Antonio, itself largely rebuilt. The Department of the Navy lands were transferred to the War Department in 1844. Fort Barrancas was held by the Confederates from January of 1861 to May of 1862 when it was recaptured by Union troops.

The brick fortifications on Barrancas were abandoned after the Civil War, though the U.S. Army maintained the area, collectively known as Fort Barrancas, until 1947 when it was turned over over to the U.S. Naval Air Station. The National Park Service acquired Bateria de San Antonio and Fort Barrancas as part of the National Seashore July 1, 1972.

\*\*\*The history is from the HABS report of 1968, prepared by Samuel Proctor and Linda V. Ellsworth and edited by Rodd L. Wheaton.

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Manucy, Albert. "Report on Historic Sites at Pensacola, Florida," Ms. research report, June 19, 1939.

Berndt, George D. "Fort San Carlos de Barrancas" (Fla #8Es17), State of Florida Historic Site Data Supplement Report, Gulf Islands National Seashore, June 10, 1973.

Historic American Buildings Survey. "Bateria de San Antonio," prepared by F. Blair Reeves, AIA, August 3, 1968.

National Park Service. "Master Plan: Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida and Mississippi." Denver Service Center, Jun3 1974.

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north, an unlabeled road on the east, then from the southern end of this road, east 200 feet, then south 592.21 feet to the southeast corner point of the boundary 50 feet from the curb of San Carlos Road.