

District #1 - Congressman Mendel J. Davis

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Beaufort	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 7 1974

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Charles Forte (38BU51)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Ribaut Monument, San Marcos, San Felipe

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Beaufort vicinity

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY:

Beaufort

CODE

013

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY  
(Check One)

- District     Building  
 Site         Structure  
 Object

OWNERSHIP

- Public  
 Private  
 Both

Public Acquisition:

- In Process  
 Being Considered

STATUS

- Occupied  
 Unoccupied  
 Preservation work  
                   in progress

ACCESSIBLE  
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:  
 Restricted  
 Unrestricted  
 No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Agricultural     Government     Park  
 Commercial     Industrial       Private Residence  
 Educational     Military         Religious  
 Entertainment    Museum         Scientific

- Transportation  
 Other (Specify)

Comments

RECEIVED

MAY 30 1974

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE

CODE

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

A Basic Inventory of Archeological Sites in South Carolina

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973

 Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Institute of Archeology &amp; Anthropology

STREET AND NUMBER:

University of South Carolina

CITY OR TOWN:

Columbia

STATE:

South Carolina

CODE

045

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

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DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The first historically reported structure located on the [redacted] South Carolina was that of the 1562 French settlement, Charles Forte, established by Jean Ribaut. It was described as being a blockhouse of logs and clay, thatched with straw, with a ditch around it and having four bastions, by a member of the French expedition, Rouffi, who was captured by the Spanish after the fort had been abandoned (Salley 1964: 113). Rene Laudonniere, second in command of the Ribaut expedition states:

And considering that there stayed but six and twenty there, he Ribaut caused the fort to be made in length but sixteen fathoms and thirteen in breadth, with flanks according to the proportions thereof (Laudonniere 1562: 31).

Charles Forte was abandoned within a few months and was later burned by the Spanish (Salley 1964: 116).

In 1566 the Spanish built a fort, for which there is no description, near the location of Charles Forte. This first Spanish venture was named San Felipe and was manned until 1576 when an Indian uprising forced the Spanish to bury the heavier cannon and leave (Ross 1923: 255). From the records there appears to have been a town of sorts associated with this fort, for when Governor Miranda sent a supply ship to the stricken fort the "widowed senoras implored the governor to abandon the establishment and take them to the capital" (Ross 1923: 255).

Again in 1577 the Spanish relocated [redacted] The new fort was named San Marcos. It was "constructed solidly of cedar" (Ross 1925: 5). Like its predecessor San Marcos was also accompanied by a town. An excellent description of this community was provided in 1580.

This town is prospering very well, and as things are now, every house is a fortress against the Indians, because they are all of wood and clay, and are plastered outside and in with lime, and have their roofs of lime, which is good. As we have hit upon making lime of oyster shells, they are building their houses so that the Indians have lost their boldness. There are more than sixty houses here, of which thirty-one are of the kind which I have described to your Majesty (Ross 1923: 268-269).

Later in 1609 an oyster-shell embankment was noted by Andres

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1562, 1566, 1577-1586

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This site represents one of the most important historical sites in South Carolina. Here in a relatively small and fairly undisturbed and protected area are the localities of three well dated fort sites (two Spanish of 1566 and 1577 and one French of 1562) and two town sites, one at least of considerable size and with a time span of ten years. Not only does this represent the area of first European occupation, but the only French and Spanish attempts in South Carolina.

This site offers a great deal in the fact that the periods of each are well documented and could, if excavated properly, yield a store of information concerning life style, fortification techniques, etc. at these times which is not available any where else in South Carolina. The reference to the use of making lime of oyster shells may in fact be the beginnings of tabby buildings used later in the coastal area. This in itself is of major significance.

Other than the 1923 excavations done by Major Osterhout and the razing of the embankment and moat in 1919, the site has been protected and should continue to be so until that time when funding would be available to do work in the area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Loudonniere, Rene de  
 1562 Narrative of Ribault's Whole and True Discovery of Terra Florida. In The Genesis of South Carolina 1562-1670. William A. Courtenay (ed.). The State Company, Columbia, 1907.

Manucy, Albert  
 1957 Report on Relics from 1923 Excavation of Fortification Site on Parris Island, South Carolina. United States National Park Service Region One. Manuscript on file

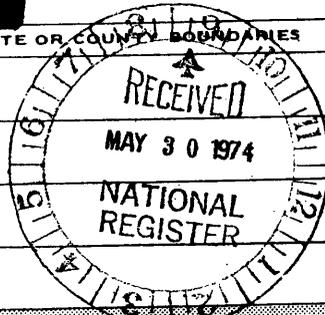
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: [REDACTED]

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Maryjane G. Rhett, Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Institute of Archeology & Anthropology DATE: 4/22/74

STREET AND NUMBER: University of South Carolina

CITY OR TOWN: Columbia STATE: South Carolina CODE: 045

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Charles E. Lee

Title State Historic Preservation Officer  
S.C. Dept. of Archives & History

Date May 29, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Al Courtenay  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/1/74

ATTEST:

W. Manucy  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5/1/74

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7. Gonzales (Ross 1925).

William Hilton's observation of 1663 describe the area in question.

Likewise we saw the Ruines of an old Fort, comprissing more than half an acre of land within the Trenches, which we supposed to be Charle's Fort, built, and so called by the French in 1562, etc (Hilton 1664: 41).

In 1917 Parris Island was obtained by the Marine Corps and the area was leveled, "the dirt parapet used to fill in the moat and level the place off." (Osterhout 1923: 105) Excavations were undertaken in the area in 1923 by Major George H. Osterhout. These excavations revealed portions of a cedar foundation of a stockade that was 82 by 89 feet (Osterhout 1936: 24), bastions at the corner measuring seven feet long and three feet wide, a moat which was twenty feet wide and about five feet deep, and an embankment to the front of the moat twenty feet wide and four feet in height sloping gently away from the fort (Osterhout 1923: 108).

An analysis of the artifacts recovered in the Osterhout excavations was undertaken in 1957 by Albert Manucy, Supervisory Historian, Castillo de San Marcos, National Monument. The results of that analysis stated that "none of the known relics are attributable to French occupation, but indicate a Spanish occupation during the latter half of the 1500's" (Manucy 1957).

Today the site of the Osterhout excavation is marked by a stone column with the inscription "ERECTED 1925 BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO MARK THE FIRST STRONGHOLD OF FRANCE ON THIS CONTINENT."



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Charles Forte (38BU51)

9. Manucy, Albert (cont'd)

at the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology,  
University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Osterhout, Maj. George H.

1923 After Three Hundred and Fifty Years. Marine Corps  
Gazette, June.

1936 The Sites of the French and Spanish Forts in Port  
Royal Sound. Transactions of the Huguenot Society  
of South Carolina. No. 41.

Ross, Mary

1923 French Intrusions and Indian Uprisings in Georgia and  
South Carolina (1577-1580). The Georgia Historical  
Quarterly. Vol. VII, No. 3, September.

1925 The Spanish Settlement of Santa Elena (Port Royal)  
In 1578. The Georgia Historical Quarterly. December.

Salley, A. S., Jr.

1919 Parris Island. Bulletins of the Historical Commissions  
of South Carolina. No. 5. Columbia.

1925 The Spanish Settlement at Port Royal, 1565-1586.  
South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine.  
No. 26.

1926 The Origin of Carolina. Bulletins of the Historical  
Commissions of South Carolina. No. 8. Columbia.

