

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 10 1979

DATE ENTERED SEP 13 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Fort Lyttelton Site

AND/OR COMMON

Fort Lyttelton (38BU149)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Beaufort

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

045

COUNTY

Beaufort

CODE

13

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT  
 BUILDING(S)  
 STRUCTURE  
 SITE  
 OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC  
 PRIVATE  
 BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
 IN PROCESS  
 BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED  
 UNOCCUPIED  
 WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
 YES: RESTRICTED  
 YES: UNRESTRICTED  
 NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE  
 COMMERCIAL  
 EDUCATIONAL  
 ENTERTAINMENT  
 GOVERNMENT  
 INDUSTRIAL  
 MILITARY  
 MUSEUM  
 PARK  
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
 RELIGIOUS  
 SCIENTIFIC  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

10/25/79

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Beaufort County Courthouse; Deed Book 140, p. 200

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Bay Street

CITY, TOWN

Beaufort

STATE

South Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Fort Lyttelton: Site Survey Record -- Submitted by L. Lepionka to the Statewide

DATE

December 11, 1978

Inventory

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDSS.C. Department of Archives and History/  
Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

## 7-DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Prior to excavation the ruins of Fort Lyttelton were virtually hidden [REDACTED]. At the conclusion of excavation the ruins were once more covered over [REDACTED].

As excavated, the fort proved to consist of:

- (1) A semicircular front wall, 175 feet in length, 8 feet in depth, and 8 feet in breadth, convex towards the river, and pierced by at least 6 and possibly 8 gunports. This wall was constructed entirely of tabby, an oyster shell and lime concrete commonly used in 18th Century architecture in the region. The southern third of the wall was broken up [REDACTED] course made it possible to trace the full arc of the wall. Four gunports and a possible lateral port are intact. The assumption that the wall was symmetric in construction provides the full complement of gunports listed above.
- (2) Immediately behind (i.e., on the concave side of) the wall and following its curvature are the remnants of thin tabby platforms and an overlying wood layer which served as a gun platform. The breadth of this platform is unknown as full excavation was not possible but period maps indicate 18 feet. No further excavation was possible in the half circle delimited by the arc of the wall.
- (3) Behind the half circle (i.e., to the west or on the landward side) and roughly parallel with its chord lie two parallel walls, 70 feet long and 20 feet apart. These are connected to one another by five cross walls, subdividing the area into a series of discrete rooms. This is the presumed barracks area. These are foundation walls built of tabby and lying 3.93 feet below the top of the front wall. The eastern parallel wall and cross walls are ca. 16" in square cross-section whereas the west parallel wall is 5 feet in breadth and depth and may have originally been intended as the lower course of a rear wall to the fort. No other evidence of a rear wall was found. The south end of the barracks area was, like the front wall, destroyed, having lost up to 20 feet of its original length.

[REDACTED] Artifacts from these periods were recovered from the upper levels while at lower levels artifacts were consistently of late 18th and early 19th Century date.

The reburial of the fort has provided for its complete protection and preservation, while evaluative excavation has provided detailed information can be attributed to a high degree of cooperation between the landowner, the Mayor of Beaufort and the archeologist who performed the excavations. Financial support for the work done was jointly provided by the City of Beaufort and a matching grant from U.S. Department of the Interior, Historic Preservation Survey and Planning funds, administered by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historic Archaeology: The site of Fort Lyttelton is a multi-component one, containing artifacts and structural remains from two centuries (the fort period, 1760-1780; the post-fort period, late 18th and early 19th Centuries; [redacted], late 19th Century; [redacted] early 20th Century; and the modern period). As such it is a fascinating document of continued land use since colonial times. It provides concrete evidence for theories of military fortification in vogue at the time and for the methods employed in building with tabby (see architecture and military sections below). Finally, the fort yields a valuable check on the available documentary evidence. It demonstrates that the period maps (ca. 1758, 1775), heretofore accepted as accurate representations, bear little resemblance to the actual fort in either form or scale. The presence of early 19th Century artifacts proves that the fort was at least visited at a time long after its alleged abandonment and raises the possibility that reconstruction may have been considered in the War of 1812 period.

Architecture: Fort Lyttelton is one of the most massive tabby structures in existence. Its form of construction is clearly evident in the remaining walls which demonstrate that, for the front wall, a circular arc was laid out and a trench dug along this line, in which were built wooden forms to receive the tabby mixture. These forms resulted in rectilinear blocks or "sections" of tabby; when set, a new form was built adjacent to the first section and at a slight angle, using the first section as part of the form. This process was continued until a full course was built. Subsequent sections were laid upon this to form upper level courses. At the highest level sections were left out of the course to provide the gunports. Board marks and hollow channels in the wall show the structure of the forms employed. While these methods of construction are visible in other tabby structures (e.g., Fort Frederick) they are most clearly represented in Fort Lyttelton.

Military: Fort Lyttelton was clearly a naval fortification. Its prime function was to command the river approach to the City of Beaufort. If the structure of the intact wall section was followed out consistently six naval guns were concentrated on a narrow section of river directly in front of the fort. This concentration on naval requirements was apparently to the detriment of landward defenses. Though complete investigation was not possible, no evidence was found for a rear wall to the fort. This situation, if correctly analyzed from incomplete data, provides an obvious explanation for the swift abandonment of the fort by colonial forces when threatened in 1779 by an overland British attack. The fort was essentially indefensible from that direction. The "D" shaped structure is similar to later coastal fortifications of the 19th Century (South, personal communication).

Industrial: The site provides limited information on 19th and early 20th Century industry in the region. Phosphate mining and processing was the major industry and vital to the economy in the late 19th Century in the coastal region. The ship building, an early experiment in using concrete hulls, was a brief phenomenon but nevertheless an example of a sporadically recurring industry of the region.

See Continuation Sheet.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

L. Lepionka, Fort Lyttelton: Excavations 1978 A Report Submitted to the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, March 1979.

The above work contains full documentation of the fort; most references are scattered and brief and there are none that contain extensive information on the fort.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY [REDACTED]

UTM REFERENCES

A [REDACTED]  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

[REDACTED]

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY** Dr. Donald Sutherland, S.C. Dept. of Archives & History  
 NAME / TITLE Adjunct Professor of Anthropology, USC, Beaufort  
 Larry Lepionka Associate, Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, USC, Columbia

ORGANIZATION University of South Carolina DATE April 4, 1979

STREET & NUMBER Carteret Street TELEPHONE 803/777-6930

CITY OR TOWN Beaufort STATE South Carolina

# 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 *Charles E. Lee*  
 TITLE Charles E. Lee  
 State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE July 2, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION *Charles Shull* DATE 9-13-79

ATTEST: *[Signature]* KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 1-13-79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 10 1979
DATE ENTERED	SEP 13 1979

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

General History of Fort Lyttelton

Fort Lyttelton, named for William Henry Lyttelton, royal Governor of South Carolina from 1756-1760, was first petitioned for in 1757 by the residents of Beaufort as a replacement for the abandoned and deteriorated Fort Frederick. It was intended to help defend Port Royal Sound from naval attack.

Work on the fort began in 1758 with the clearing of land [REDACTED]. Progress on construction, however, was so slow that by 1762 it was reported to be only two thirds completed. In that year, the Commons House recommended immediate completion of the fort and provided the necessary funds. Fort Lyttelton was ready to be manned in 1764, but by this time the threat for which it had been prepared, the French and Indian War, had ended. The fort, therefore, was never fully garrisoned, though a caretaker garrison was stationed there throughout the 1760s.

When the American Revolution began, Fort Lyttelton was seized by South Carolina forces. It was used to store some of the gunpowder captured off the Georgia coast by John Joyner and John Barnwell in 1775. The fort saw no action until after Savannah fell to British Col. Archibald Campbell in December, 1778. Brigadier General Augustine Prevost from East Florida moved his 3,000 regular forces to Savannah and determined to attack South Carolina. One of his first obstacles was Fort Lyttelton, guarding the inland passage. Prevost sent the 74 gun ship H.M.S. Vigilant with 200 British infantry under Major Gardiner to attack Beaufort on February 2, 1779. The Battle of Port Royal Island on February 3, 1779, drove Major Gardiner from Port Royal Island, but the garrison of Fort Lyttelton had already spiked the cannons and blown up the fort on the arrival of the H.M.S. Vigilant in Port Royal Sound. Fort Lyttelton was not used as a military installation after its abandonment in 1779.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Fort Lyttelton / Fort Marion

and/or common Fort Lyttelton (38BU149)

**2. Location**

street & number  N/A not for publication

city, town Beaufort N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state South Carolina code 045 county Beaufort code 013

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Don Fisher

street & number 136 Spanish Point Drive, Post Office Box 341

city, town Beaufort N/A vicinity of state South Carolina 29902

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Beaufort County Courthouse; Deed Book 140, p. 200

street & number Bay Street

city, town Beaufort state South Carolina 29902

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina  
title Carolina has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes N/A no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" 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 site consists of two distinct fortifications built in the same location. Prior to excavation the ruins were obscured [REDACTED] (the top of the highest intact structure) is considered in this nomination. As excavated or otherwise examined the forts consist of:

- (1) Overturned tabby blocks visible on the beach surface near the high tide line. These presumably pertain to the front (river) wall of Fort Lyttelton, purposefully damaged in the retreat of 1779 and then undermined by erosion, particularly in the hurricane of 1804. The outline of this wall may be sketched in Captain Guillaume Tell Poussin's 1821 map.
- (2) A semicircular wall, 175 feet in length, 8 feet in depth, and 8 feet in breadth, convex towards the river, and pierced by at least 6 and possibly 8 gunports. It is constructed from tabby (with brick inclusions for reinforcement), an oyster shell and lime concrete commonly used in the region in the 18th and 19th centuries. The southern third of the wall was (except for its lowest course) destroyed in [REDACTED] 20th century (this has also affected the fort sections discussed below). Four gunports and a possible lateral one are intact; assumption of symmetry provides the full complement listed above. This wall is the main feature of the Poussin map and is the Fort Marion front wall.
- (3) Following the curvature of the concave side of the above wall are a series of thin tabby sections and an overlying wood layer that served as a gun platform. The limit of the area in which excavation was possible is indicated in the accompanying map.
- (4) Behind the semicircle formed by the wall and roughly parallel with its chord (see map) are two parallel walls 20 feet apart and 70 feet in intact length, connected together by 5 cross walls that divide the area into discrete units. These tabby foundation walls are ca. 16" in square cross-section with the notable exception of the west parallel wall, which is 5 feet in depth and breadth. The upper surface of all the walls lie 3.93 feet below the top of the Fort Marion wall. The structure is not present in the Poussin map but is of suitable size and orientation to pertain to the earlier Fort Lyttelton barracks.

Lower levels consistently yielded 18th century (and rare early 19th) artifacts, while upper levels contained materials from all periods as well as late 19th and early 20th century structures. Reburial of the fort (the outline of the upper surface of the Fort Marion wall remains visible) has provided for complete protection and preservation. Considerable information has been obtained in excavation, greatly aided by excellent cooperation between the contracting archaeologist, the city of Beaufort, and the landowner. Financial support was provided by the city of Beaufort and a matching grant from the U. S. Department of the Interior, Historic Survey and Planning funds, administered by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates                      N/A                      Builder/Architect                      N/A

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Historic Archaeology: The site is a multi-component one, containing artifacts and structural remains from three centuries [Fort Lyttelton period, 1758-1781; interim 1781-1807; Fort Marion period, 1807-ca. 1821 (date of Poussin map); mid-19th century (utilization unknown); [redacted], late 19th; [redacted] early 20th; and the modern period]. As such it is a fascinating document of continued land use since colonial times. It provides concrete evidence for theories of military fortification in vogue at the time and for methods employed in building with tabby (see following sections).

Architecture: The Fort Marion wall is one of the most massive tabby structures in existence. Methods of building in tabby, while visible in other structures (e.g., Fort Frederick), are revealed with particular clarity in this wall and accompanying features. For the front wall a circular arc was laid out and a trench dug along this line in which wooden forms were built to receive the tabby mixture. The forms produced rectilinear blocks or "sections" of tabby; when set, a new form was built adjacent to the first section at a slight angle, using the first block as part of the form. This process was continued until a full course was built. Subsequently sections were laid upon this to form the gunports. Board marks and hollow channels in the wall show the structures of the forms employed.

Military: Both Forts Lyttelton and Marion were designed as naval fortifications with the prime function of protecting the river approach to the city of Beaufort. The earlier fort (as gathered from period maps and descriptions) concentrated its firepower downstream and consisted of 3 straight wall sections. The semicircle of the D-shaped Fort Marion front wall was of a shape that became typical of coastal fortifications later in the 19th century. If the structure of the intact wall section was followed out consistently 6 naval guns were concentrated on a narrow section of river directly in front of the fort, perpendicularly across the channel (the size of the gunports of course allowed for some flexibility).

Industrial: The site provides limited information on 19th and early 20th century industry in the region. Phosphate mining and processing was vital to the local economy in the late 19th century and the shipbuilding, an early experiment in using concrete hulls was a brief phenomenon but nevertheless an example of a sporadically recurring industry of the region.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

L. Lepionka, Fort Lyttelton: Excavations 1978. A Report Submitted to the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, March 1979.

A.P. Wade, Notes on Coastal Fortification (Unpublished Draft). (These notes, kindly provided by Colonel Wade for the preparation of this nomination, have been the (c

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 

Quadrangle name 

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A   
Zone Easting Northing

B 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification 

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

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Donald Sutherland, S. C. Department of Archives and History  
Dr. Larry Lepionka, Adj. Professor, University of South Carolina, Beaufort.

organization University of South Carolina at Beaufort date March 22, 1982

street & number Post Office Box 1007 telephone 803-524-5128

city or town Beaufort state South Carolina

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Charles E. Lee

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date May 4, 1982

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet 1

Item number 8

Page 1

Fort Lyttelton: History

Fort Lyttelton, named for William Henry Lyttelton, Royal Governor of South Carolina 1756-1760, was first petitioned for in 1757 by the residents of Beaufort as a replacement for the abandoned and deteriorated Fort Frederick and was intended to protect Beaufort from naval attack. Land was cleared in 1758 but work was so slow that it was reported to be only two-thirds complete in 1762. In that year the Commons House recommended immediate completion and provided the necessary funds. It was ready for occupation in 1764 but never fully garrisoned because of the termination of the French and Indian War. A caretaker garrison remained throughout the 1760's.

The fort was siezed by South Carolina forces at the beginning of the Revolution and was used for storage of gunpowder captured in 1775. It saw no action until after the fall of Savannah in 1778, at which time General August Prevost moved his 3000 regulars from Florida to Savannah and prepared to attack South Carolina. One of the first obstacles was Fort Lyttelton guarding the inland passage. H.M.S. Vigilant, 74, with 200 infantry under Major Gardiner was sent on February 2, 1779. The Battle of Port Royal Island on February 3 resulted in Gardiner's retreat, but the Fort Lyttelton garrison under Captain D'Etreville had already spiked the cannons and blown up the fort upon the arrival of H.M.S. Vigilant in Port Royal Sound. The fort saw no further action during the Revolution. In 1781 a commission was appointed to dispose of the land at public auction [S.C. Hist. Gen. Mag. 9, 1908, p. 94]. However, it evidently remained within the public domain.

Fort Marion: History

Strained relations with Britain led to a local attempt to repair the works in 1807 with palmetto log construction. An appeal to Secretary of War Dearborn was made to obtain artillery (see attached letter of William Elliott, August 22, 1807). This apparently assisted in the inclusion of Beaufort among a series of minor ports requiring protection, and on January 26, 1808, Dearborn ordered Alexander Macomb, Corps of Engineers, to attend to several coastal fortifications in the Carolinas and Georgia. [Dearborn to Macomb NA RG 107, Letters Sent by Sec. War, Military Book No. 3 (M6/3)]. Macomb reported on the status of Beaufort on September 28 (see attached letter of Macomb to Dearborn). His immediate recommendation was for the erection of works at the site of Fort Lyttelton, employing tabby because of its cheapness and permanency. Dearborn concurred and recommended the establishment of a small garrison in his annual report, noting that the land had not yet been ceded to the United States.

Robert Carter was placed in direct authority over construction at Beaufort and produced a cost estimate of \$16,727.77. William Eustis, the new Secretary of War, was horrified by this and other estimates and cost overruns and ordered construction to cease. Nothing was accomplished in 1809-10; collected materials were sold and an existing building rented. Only the foundations (some 4 feet high) and this house were in existence at the end of 1811 [Eustis to D.R. Williams, 12 December 1811, NA RG 107, Reports to Congress from Sec. War, Vol. 1 (M220/1)].

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet 2

Item number 8

Page 2

The local construction initiated in 1807 had been demolished in order to make way for new fortification; in its incomplete state Beaufort was left defenseless. Federal procrastination resulted in a letter from a Beaufort committee addressed to President Madison, pointing out this fact and requesting completion. [Robert Barnwell, Chairman, to President Madison, 9 May 1812, NA RG 107, Ltrs Recd by Sec. War, Aug 1811-Dec 1812 (P-T) (M221/48)]. On May 23 Governor Middleton proposed the addition of a unit of state militia to the local forces [Middleton to Eustis, NA RG 107, Ltrs. Rec. by Sec. War, Apr 1811-Dec. 1812 (M-P) (M221/47)]. On June 6 General Thomas Pinckney, Commander of the Southern Department, also proposed stationing militia units in the district [Pinckney to Eustis, Ibid.] and on July 1 recommended completion of the fort [Ibid.]. Following a series of transfers of Corps of Engineers personnel, Captain Prentiss Willard was given immediate superintendence of construction in Georgia and at Beaufort. Willard died in Beaufort on 12 October 1813; it is probable that the fort was near completion prior to his death since Federal troops were assigned to Beaufort in early 1813.

Federal Garrisons, 1813-1815:

On 9 June 1810 Secretary of War Eustis ordered that Beaufort be granted double rations. However, no garrison was present to partake of them and there is no evidence for any Federal troops prior to the beginning of 1813. This early 1813 detachment, of unknown size, was part of the 8th U.S. Infantry Regiment. A uniform button has been found at the fort, but otherwise it is not known if these troops were actually stationed at Fort Marion. [Pinckney to Sec. War Armstrong, 11 Feb 1813, NA RG 107, Ltrs. Recd., OSW, Dec 1812-May 1814 (P-R) (M221/56)]. The 8th was replaced within a year by at least one company of the 43rd Infantry and an artillery detachment. The latter was either the 1st or 2nd Artillery. [Pinckney to Armstrong, 21 Dec 1813, NA RG 107, Ltrs. Recd., OSW, Dec 1812-May 1814 (P-R) (M221/56)]. Two "Regiment of Artillerists" buttons were found at the Fort, but these are not definitive. Though part of the 1st Artillery uniform, the same button stock may have been used in supplying the 2nd Regiment.

Aside from Federal forces, South Carolina records include a petition for payment by members of the Orangeburg Militia (5th Brigade, 22nd Regiment), which had been stationed at Fort Marion in Beaufort for 2 months and 20 days, beginning 29 September 1814.

Fort Lyttelton/Marion: The Name Change

Up until 1807 (as in Elliott's letter) the fortifications were generally referred to by the earlier name; thereafter it was frequently referred to as "the fort" or in other generic terms. Presumably the name "Marion" was applied by the end of 1813, but the earliest documentary reference to the name located is dated 17 March 1814. [Col. Decius Wadsworth to Sec. War, A Collection . . . Relating to the Ordnance Department . . . (Washington, 1878, I, 7)]. In a survey of Beaufort defenses following the war it is referred to as Fort Marion [James Gadsden to J. G. Swift, 1 June 1815, NA RG 77,

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Buell Collection of Engineer Documents (M417/2)]. The name may therefore have been in general usage. However, Poussin's 1821 map has "Fort at Beaufort", to which has apparently been appended in a different hand "Littleton". The date of this addition is unknown, but it may reflect a persistent use of the earlier name.

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source for most of the historical data concerning the Fort Marion period.)