

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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AUG 22 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER

Determined Eligible
5/26/89

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Fort Fremont Battery
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Bay Point Rd., .3 miles from Land's End Road not for publication
city, town St. Helena Island vicinity
state South Carolina code 045 county Beaufort code 013 zip code 29920

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic Resources of St. Helena Island, c1740-c1935 Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
George L. Vogt, State Historic Preservation Officer, SC Department of Archives & History
Signature of certifying official Mary W. Edmunds Date 8/11/88
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. 5/26/89
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Defense/Fortification

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other/Coastal Fortification

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Concrete

roof

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This battery conforms to the general description under the property type "Structures Associated with Coastal Defense". It served as a battery of three 10-inch rifled guns and was the primary armament of this coastal fortification. An adjacent rapid-fire battery of two 4.7-inch guns is extant but has lost integrity due to the construction of a house, which has since burned, on its parapet. The 10-inch battery measures approximately 250 feet wide and fifty feet deep. The floors of the magazines at this battery are approximately thirteen feet above the low-water mark; the top of the parapet at the 10-inch battery is approximately twenty-five feet above the low-water mark, as is the top of the parapet at the rapid-fire battery. No guns or other equipment remain in place at either battery.(1)

B. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Military

Architecture

Period of Significance

1898-1911

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Fort Fremont Battery is significant as an intact example of late nineteenth and early twentieth century military architecture. It is also significant as the major armament at one of two surviving coastal fortifications in the United States intact from the Spanish-American War era. Fort Fremont was one of the fortifications built under the direction of the Endicott Board, a body created in 1886 to evaluate the coastal defenses of the United States and named for its head, Secretary of War William C. Endicott. After a thorough study and review of the defenses, the board determined that they were badly outdated. It made the construction of new fortifications and strengthening of existing fortifications a top priority of the United States Army. Although the board's plans were never fully implemented, there were twenty-six installations constructed or modified between 1890 and 1910 as a result of the recommendations. Of those twenty-six installations, six were constructed specifically as a result of the United States' war with Spain in 1898. Fort Fremont was one of those six fortifications.(2) It and Fort Dade, on Egmont Key at Tampa Bay, Florida, are the only two extant Spanish-American War fortifications which retain their character from that period; the others were extensively modified during World War I and/or World War II.(3)

Fort Fremont was authorized soon after the Spanish-American War began in April 1898. It was named for Major General John C. Fremont, explorer, first presidential candidate of the Republican Party in 1856, and Civil War general.(4) A strategic location, at Land's End across the Beaufort River and Port Royal Sound from Parris Island, was chosen to protect Beaufort from possible enemy incursions into the sound. Although the war ended in the fall of 1898 and the sound was never threatened, construction continued as planned. The complex was built by the Corps of Engineers with hired labor from the Beaufort area and was completed by 1900, when it was turned over to the Coast Artillery.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

SC Dept of Archives and History

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2.75 acres

UTM References

A

1	7	5	3	3	5	8	0	3	5	7	4	1	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nomination is shown as the black line on the accompanying Beaufort County Tax Map, St. Helena Sheet #35A, Parcels 318 and 321, drawn at a scale of 1" = 200'.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the 10-inch battery and its immediate setting.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Tracy Power, NR Historian

organization SC Dept of Archives & History date 15 February 1988

street & number 1430 Senate St., PO Box 11669 telephone (803) 734-8608

city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29211

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A notable feature of Endicott-era fortifications was their emphasis on THE guns rather than on the fortifications themselves. As a result THE se fortifications were made of concrete poured into forms, usually SIT uated so that they would be much less noticeable than their masonry PREdecessors. The batteries were placed on a ridge overlooking Port Royal Sound, set into the land side of the ridge and barely visible, if AT ~~THE~~ ^{ALL} to ships in the sound. The fort's armament, consisting of THREE 10-inch rifled guns on disappearing carriages and a rapid-fire BATTERY of two 4.7-inch guns, was standard for the period. The DISappearing carriages for the large guns were ingeniously designed, so THAT the recoil of the guns carried them down and back to a position BELOW the level of the parapet, where their crews could reload them in SAFETY. (5)

THE complex at Fort Fremont, when completed, covered nearly seventy ACRES; the central portion of the installation, which included the ADMINISTRATION building, guard house, barracks, hospital, stable, ENGI neer building, carpenter shop, storehouse, pumphouse, coal house, MESS hall, bakery, commissary, post exchange, lavatory, and water tower, COVERED nearly nearly twenty-three acres. Of the complex, only the 10-1 nch battery, the rapid-fire battery, and the brick hospital built IN 1906 survive; the rest of the buildings were of frame construction AND Have since been demolished. (6) Fort Fremont's garrison in 1901 was THE 116th Coast Artillery, United States Army, under the command of LE UENANT Colonel Frederick Marsh. Forts Pulaski and Screven, at SAVANNAH, Georgia, were manned by the 78th, 144th, and 145th Coast ARTILLERY and Fort Screven served as the headquarters for all three FORTS. (7) The War Department planned to phase out the post at Fort FREMONT as early as 1906, but a garrison normally numbering some one HUNDRED officers and men was stationed there, usually conducting ARTILLERY practice and maintaining the fort and its guns, until 1911. OFFICERS and men from Forts Pulaski and Screven often came to St. HELENA to play baseball or hold dances atop the parapet. In early 1911 THE 127th Coast Artillery, which was then stationed at Fort Fremont, WAS ORDERED to Fort Crockett, at Galveston, Texas. When Fort Crockett BECAME the mobilization center for border patrols into Mexico not only FREMONT'S garrison but its guns were sent to Texas. The fort was DECOMMISSIONED and the new training center for the Marine Corps was ESTABLISHED at Parris Island instead of St. Helena, and after nineteen YEARS, the War Department sold the property at public auction in June 1930. (8) It has been privately owned since that time.

WAS ORDERED

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Although no archaeological survey has been conducted at the battery, the early and extensive occupation, limited amount of landscape disturbing activities, and historically and architecturally significant activities at the battery suggest that the site has the potential to yield valuable archaeological data.

NOTES

(1) Annual Reports of the War Department for . . . 1898. Report of the Chief of Engineers, Part 1 (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1898), pp. 703-05 (cited below as Chief of Engineers' Report with the year); Military Field Branch, Harbor Defense Files, Record Group 77, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (Including Q.M. 13W-3, Complete Report on Fort Fremont, and "Fort Fremont, S.C.," Plans from the Quartermaster General's Office, October 1906), copies in possession of Carl J. Dorr, Land's End Plantation, St. Helena Island, S.C.

(2) Graham A. Cosmas, An Army for Empire: The United States Army in the Spanish-American War (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1971), pp. 7, 38-41, 84-87; Emanuel R. Lewis, Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History (Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1970), pp. 74-80, 140-41.

(3) The nine installations, including eighteen forts, were Fort Rosecrans, San Diego Harbor, California; Forts Dade and DeSoto, Egmont Key, Tampa Bay, Florida; Fort Screven, Tybee Island, Georgia; Forts Mansfield, Michie, Terry, Tyler, and E.G. Wright, Long Island Sound, New York and Rhode Island; Forts Getty, Greble, Philip Kearny, and Wetherill, Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island; Fort Fremont, St. Helena Island, Port Royal Sound, South Carolina; Fort Crockett, Galveston Bay, Texas; and Forts Casey, Flagler, and Worden, Puget Sound, Washington. Information on the integrity of the forts was provided by the staffs of the Florida, Georgia, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Texas State Historic Preservation Offices; also Lewis, pp. 140-41; Anthony F. Turhollow, A History of the Los Angeles District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1898-1965 (Los Angeles: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1975), pp. 261, 270-71, 317-18; Aubrey Parkman, Army Engineers in New England: The Military and Civil Work of the Corps of Engineers in New England (Waltham, Massachusetts: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1978), pp. 117-19; Marshall Hanft, Fort Stevens: Oregon's Defender at the River of the West (Salem: Oregon State Parks and Recreation Branch, 1980),

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pp. 213-226; and Lynn M. Alperin, Custodians of the Coast: History of the United States Army Engineers at Galveston (Galveston, Texas: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1977), pp. 179, 181, 185, 195-96, 255-56.

(4) Chief of Engineers' Report, 1898, pp. 8, 25, 703-06; Ezra J. Warner, Generals in Blue: Lives of the Union Commanders (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1964), pp. 160-61.

(5) Lewis, pp. 74-80; Chief of Engineers' Report, 1898, pp. 8, 25, 703-06; Chief of Engineers' Report, 1899, pp. 27, 865-68; Chief of Engineers' Report, 1900, pp. 24-25, 915-17.

(6) "Fort Fremont, S.C.," Plans from the Quartermaster General's Office, October 1906.

(7) Q.M. 13W-3, Complete Report on Fort Fremont.

(8) Edith M. Dabbs, Sea Island Diary: A History of St. Helena Island (Spartanburg: The Reprint Company, Publishers, 1983), pp. 199; J.E. McTeer, Beaufort Then and Now (Beaufort: Beaufort Book Company, 1971), pp. 95-97.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Section number _____ Page 1

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of property: Fort Fremont Battery (Historic Resources of
St. Helena Island, c.1740-c. 1935 multiple
property listing)
Location of property: Beaufort County, South Carolina
Photographer: South Carolina Department of Archives and History
Staff
Location of negative: South Carolina Department of Archives and
History

Additional information for each photograph follows:

1. Fort Fremont Battery Disappearing Gun Placement
April 1987
View looking east.
2. Fort Fremont Battery
April 1987
Rear elevation, view looking east.

332

Fort Fremont Hospital
Beaufort County Tax Map
St. Helena # 35A, Parcel 332
2.4 acres

6.65 AC

331 10N
330 9N
329 8N
328 7N
327 6N
326 5N
325 4N
324 3N
322 1N
WHARF RD
PARK 321

94
1.66 AC

93
.45 AC

92
3.33 AC

HOTEL RD
95 96 97 98 99

LAFFIT RD
100 101 102 103 104 105

RIBAULT
112 119 120 121 122
113 118 125 123
114 117 126 124
115 116 127

128
1 AC TOT.
129 130
142 143 144 145
135 136 137 138
131 132 133 134

147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155

SEASIDE
156 157 158 159
160 161 162 163
164 165 166 167 168
170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177

180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189

SHAMROCK RD
202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210
221 230 223 226 227 228 229 234 235

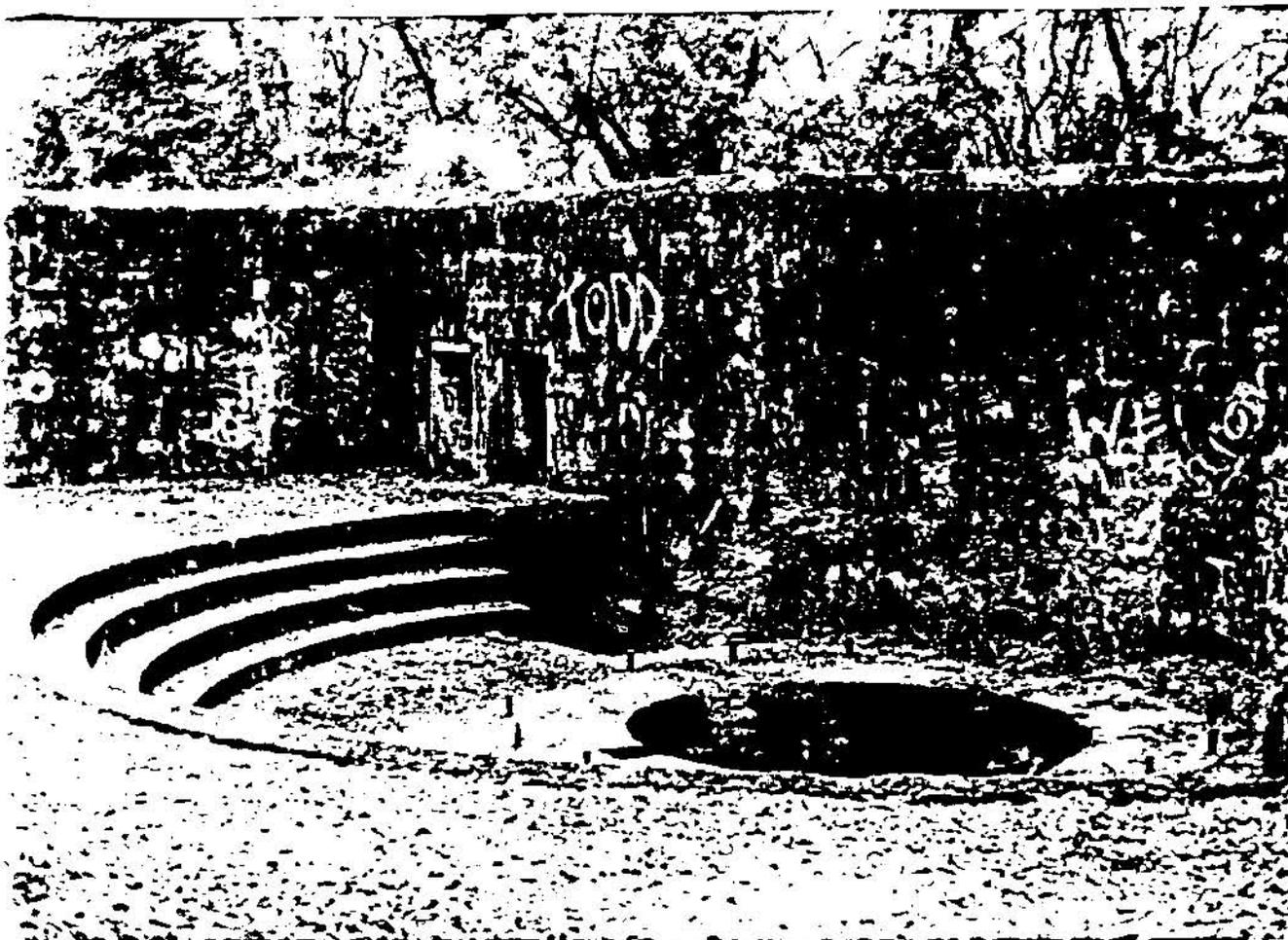
318
317

Fort Fremont Battery
Beaufort County Tax Map
St. Helena # 35A, Parcels
318 and 321
2.75 acres

236 237 240 241
251 254 255 256

MIXON ROAD
267 268 269 270 271 272
294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304

311 2 AC
312 2 AC
310



10/10/77
10/10/77

