

FORT PICKENS MILITARY RESERVATION

Escambia County, Florida

WAA Registry No. W-FLA-148

REPORT ON APPLICATION BY THE FLORIDA BOARD OF FORESTRY
AND PARKS

for

Transfer of Surplus Properties

for Historic Monument Purposes

Requested by

WAR ASSETS ADMINISTRATION
Region 6
Atlanta, Georgia

Submitted by

National Park Service
Region One
Richmond, Virginia

Synopsis of Significance:

As one of the key harbor defenses of the important naval base of Pensacola, Florida, Fort Pickens on the western extremity of Santa Rosa Island became a focal point of conflict between the North and South after the transfer of the Union garrison from Barrancas to Pickens in January, 1861. The great strength of the fort, the arrangement of a so-called "armistice" between the opposing forces at Pensacola, and the subsequent reinforcement of the garrison probably prevented the capture of the fort during the days of the crisis. Despite its early importance in the Civil War, Fort Pickens was soon eclipsed by the more important events to the north. Following the evacuation of Pensacola by the Confederates in May, 1862, the port served as a base for the Union blockade of the Gulf coast. The fort had little use during peace time, but functioned as an active military post during the various wars of this nation, and played an important, but much less important role in each conflict.

Identification of Property:

No tangible remains of the Spanish forts erected on the western extremity of Santa Rosa Island exist, and their sites cannot be definitely ascertained. The existing fort was constructed between 1829 and 1834, and was the fortification to which Lieutenant Slemmer transferred his small garrison in January, 1861.* Although Fort Pickens remained an important Federal stronghold throughout the Civil War, its importance was greatly lessened

*The War of the Rebellion...Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series 1, Vol. 1, pp. 334-36.

by the development of more active warfare to the north. In the closing years of the nineteenth century, the defensive works on Santa Rosa Island were greatly augmented by several outlying batteries, viz., Batteries Cullum, Van Swearingen, Payne, and Trueman.**

**War Department, Annual Report of the Chief of Engineers for the year 1900.

Historical Narrative:

Pensacola, Florida, is built on the north shore of Pensacola Bay, the largest natural, landlocked, deep-water harbor in the state.¹ The entrance to this capacious harbor is narrow, and is bounded by the extremity of Santa Rosa Island on the east side, and by the mainland on the west side.

Since the harbor is commanded by the western end of Santa Rosa Island, this important point of land, named Punta de Siguenza by the Spanish, was the site of several fortifications.

The first fort on the point was begun by Matamoros in 1718.² This unfinished fort was captured by the French, and then recaptured by the Spanish in 1719. Before the end of the year the fort, built in the form of a square and mounting 15 guns, was³ practically completed. In October 1719, the French again attacked

¹
Federal Writers' Project, Florida A Guide to the Southern most State, 235.

²
The fort was to be called San Luis de Valero. Albert Manucy, "Report on Historic Sites at Pensacola, Florida," 22. A settlement of short duration was made by the Spanish at Pensacola in 1559. Spanish-French rivalry led to a second settlement in 1698.

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Ibid., 24.

Pensacola, and the fort was destroyed.⁴ In each attack the initial landing was made on Point Siguenza.

With the restoration of the site of Pensacola to the Spanish in 1723, the new settlement was established on Santa Rosa Island about two miles east of Point Siguenza. This small town existed until 1754 when a hurricane destroyed it. The survivors then moved the town to the present site of Pensacola.⁵

Pursuant to the terms of the peace of Paris in 1763, Pensacola fell into British hands. The British found upon the point of Santa Rosa Island a small, square, stockaded fort with two guns in it, which the Spaniards had maintained rather as a signal than as an actual defense. In fact, Santa Rosa Island had been used as a place of banishment for Spanish convicts.⁶ Apparently this was the fort described by William Bartram in 1776 as a "block-house built on the extremity of that point /Point Siguenza/, which at the same time served the purpose of a fortress and look-out tower."⁷

⁴ The fort was named Principe de Asturias. Ibid., 24. It is not clear if this fort was the same as that mentioned above, but it seems probable.

⁵ W. T. Cash, *The Story of Florida*, 1, 124.

⁶ C. N. Howard, "The Military Occupation of British West Florida," *The Florida Historical Society Quarterly*, V. 17, p. 184.

⁷ Mark Van Doren, ed., *The Travels of William Bartram*, 332.

Pensacola was captured by the Spanish under the command of Galvez during the American Revolution, and the town, together with the Province of West Florida was ceded back to Spain in 1783.⁸ In 1814, and again in 1818, Pensacola was captured by General Andrew Jackson. Finally, in 1821, West Florida was transferred to the United States.

The United States was not slow in providing for more adequate defenses of Pensacola Harbor. In January, 1822, the harbor was visited by General Simon Bernard and Colonel Totten of the Board of Engineers, and Captain Elliot, naval commissioner, in order to examine the bay as a possible site for a naval depot and to recommend needed defenses. It was decided by the Board of Engineers that the proposed fort on Santa Rosa Island was of primary importance, and that it should be the first to be constructed.¹⁰ On February 7, 1827 the plans for the proposed fort "of considerable magnitude" were forwarded by the Chief of Engineers to the Secretary of War, together with an estimate of \$650,000 for the cost of construction.¹¹ Congress, thereupon, appropriated the sum of \$5,000 early in 1828 to be employed in beginning the work.¹²

⁸ Manucy, op. cit., 31. Galvez landed first on Point Siguehza and emplaced a battery from which he bombarded the harbor.

⁹ The British destroyed the fort on Santa Rosa Island on November 6, 1814. Ruth Anna Fisher, "The Surrender of Pensacola as Told by the British," The American Historical Review, Vol. LIV (Jan., 1949), pp. 326-29.

¹⁰ Bernard to Macomb, Sept. 19, 1825, in American State Papers, Military Affairs, III, 158.

¹¹ Macomb to Barbour, Feb. 7, 1827, in Ibid., III, p. 595.

¹² American State Papers, Military Affairs, Ibid., III, 686.

On May 28, 1828, the military reservation, comprising 1181 acres on the western end of Santa Rosa Island, conveyed to the United States by Joseph M. White, attorney for Henry Michelet,¹³ for the sum of \$4,000. This property extended four miles east from Point Seguenza. The remainder of Santa Rosa Island was reserved by the President for naval purposes on April 21, 1838. This part was restored to the public domain in 1880, and was then added to Fort Pickens Military Reservation by Executive Order¹⁴ dated July 2, 1888.

Some time elapsed after the appropriation was passed by Congress before actual work was started on the fort. The reason was that a qualified officer could not be spared for the project. In November, 1828 Captain W. H. Chase of the Corps of Engineers reached Pensacola and assumed charge of the work. In June, 1829 excavations for the fort were started, and by November, 1831 the construction had progressed to the point where it was thought¹⁵ that the fort could be completed within the next year. The fort was not completed, however, until October 21, 1834 when it was¹⁶ occupied by a garrison. Some additional work was carried on after that date, and the Chief Engineer reported that \$759,168¹⁷ had been expended in its construction through the year 1844.

¹³ Fort Pickens, Engineers Papers, National Archives, Washington, D. C. (File 123-F-1884).

¹⁴ War Department, Military Reservations Florida, 21.

¹⁵ American State Papers, Military Affairs, IV, 165, 729.

¹⁶ Ibid., V, 656.

¹⁷ Annual Report of Secretary of War, 1851, part 1, p. 332

The fort was named prior to its completion. In 1833, it was named Fort Pickens by General Orders No. 32 in honor of Brigadier General Andrew Pickens of South Carolina State Troops
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in the American Revolution.

The completed fort was pentagonal in shape, with a bastion at each of the five corners. The fort was complete with covert ways, a dry ditch, and flanking outworks. Its brick walls were forty feet in height and twelve feet in thickness, and were embrasured for one tier of guns in bomb-proof casemates, and one tier of guns on barbette. The guns of the fort covered every point of the horizon, with flank and enfilading fire in the ditches, and at every angle of approach. The peacetime garrison of the fort was set at 100 men, which was to be increased at time of war to 1,260 men. The armament of the fort was to consist of 252
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guns of various types and calibres.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Pensacola was considered the military key for control of the Gulf Region. The sole force of the United States Army in the harbor in January, 1861 consisted of 46 men and 2 officers of Company G, 1st United States Artillery,

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War Department, Military Reservations Florida, 21.

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B. La Bree, ed., The Confederate Soldier in the Civil War 1861-1865, p. 35; Federal Writers' Project, Florida 448; American State Papers, Military Affairs, VII, 580.

The View is from the northwest and shows appearance of Fort Pickens during the Civil War. This is the portion of the fort walls destroyed prior to and during World War II. Copy of a sketch from A. H. Guernsey and H. M. Alden, Harpers' Pictorial History of the Great Rebellion, 1, 71.

at Barrancas Barracks. Early in the month of January, Lieutenant A. J. Slemmer, the commanding officer, heard rumors that the forts and other public property at Pensacola were to be seized by troops under the orders of the Governors of Florida and Alabama. He at once consulted with the commandant of the Pensacola Navy Yard, and it was decided that with the small forces at their command only one fort could be held. That fort was Fort Pickens "as it commanded completely the harbor and the forts, and also the navy-yard, and, in case of necessity could be more readily reinforced than in either of the others, and presented the best means of defense.²⁰ Arrangements were accordingly made for the transfer of Slemmer's Command to Fort Pickens. This operation was carried out, after some delay occasioned by Commodore Armstrong's reluctance to act, on the morning of January 10, 1861. Reinforcements of doubtful value, consisting of 30 ordinary seamen without arms or equipment, were made by Armstrong to Slemmer's command. At the same time, the stores were transported to Pickens, or destroyed, and²¹ the guns of Fort Barrancas facing the harbor were spiked.

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Slemmer's Report of February 5, 1861 in The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Series 1, Vol. 1, 334-41. Slemmer wrote that Fort Pickens commanded the harbor "and should that work be taken possession of our position would be useless as far as any protection to the harbor goes." Ibid., 333-4; also see J. H. Gilman, "With Slemmer in Pensacola Harbor," R. V. Johnson and C. C. Buel, eds., Battles and Leaders of the Civil War, 1, 26-32.

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Official Records, Ser. 1, Vol. 1, 334-41.

The transfer of the garrison to Pickens was a bold, but strategic move. It was possible that it would incite reprisals. Fort Pickens, however, commanded the harbor and it was most difficult to take by storm. The armament consisted of 201 sea-coast and garrison cannon, including 10 four-inch columbiads,²² 4 ten-inch mortars, 50 eight-inch and flanking howitzers. At the time Slemmer transferred his men to Pickens, however, only forty guns were mounted in the fort.

It was immediately obvious that Slemmer had acted none too soon, for within two days the Floridians were masters of the Navy Yard, and, shortly afterward, of Fort Barrancas, and Fort McRae.

Lieutenant Slemmer and his small force labored without ceasing to strengthen their position. On February 7, it was reported that fifty-four guns were mounted and in readiness for action, but 57 embrasures were still unprovided with cannon. In²⁴ addition, there was a serious shortage of ammunition.

On the 12th a delegation appeared and demanded, in the name of the Governors of Florida and Alabama, the peaceable surrender²⁵ of the fort. This demand was refused by Slemmer. On the 15th Colonel William H. Chase, who had originally superintended the

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J. S. Tilley, Lincoln Takes Command, 5-6; complete list of ordnance at Pickens in Official Records, Ser. 1, Vol. 1, p. 349.

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Vodges to Thomas, Feb. 7, 1861, in Ibid., 357.

²⁴

Ibid.

²⁵

Slemmer's Report, Feb. 5, 1861, in Ibid., Ser. 1, Vol. 1, p. 337.

construction of the fort but who was now in command of the Florida troops, held a conference with Slemmer. On the 18th Chase formally demanded the surrender of the fort, but this demand was also refused by Slemmer.²⁶

Conditions were then eased by negotiations. A so-called "armistice" was arranged which functioned satisfactorily and eased the tension for the time being. By the terms of the agreement, the United States government was to land provisions in Fort Pickens but was not to land additional troops; in return the Florida government agreed that its forces would not make an attack on the fort.²⁷

This armistice was adhered to by both sides for several months. In fact, Captain Vodge was ordered on January 12, 1861 to sail from Fort Monroe, Virginia, with Company A, 1st Artillery, and 40 other artillerymen to reinforce Pickens, but later he was ordered not to land when the terms of the armistice were learned by the U. S. Government.²⁸ Also, Slemmer was ordered on January 29 to act strictly on the defensive and to avoid a collision.²⁹

²⁶
Ibid., 337-39.

²⁷
J. G. Randall, The Civil War and Reconstruction, 220-1.

²⁸
Official Records, Ser. 1, Vol. 1, 352, 355-56

²⁹
Holt to Slemmer, Jan. 29, 1861, in Ibid., 355.

When President Lincoln assumed office on March 4, 1861, a new line of policy was adopted. It was resolved to reinforce Fort Pickens. On April 1 Colonel Harvey Brown was designated to command an expedition to reinforce the fort and to assume its command.³⁰ On April 6, the U. S. Transport Atlantic sailed from New York with four companies of artillerymen, infantry, and engineers--a total of about 300 men.³¹

At about the same time orders were sent to Captain Vodges to land and reinforce Pickens. This order was carried out without opposition on April 12 when Captain Vodges's company of artillery and a detachment of one hundred marines and sailors were landed.³²

Colonel Brown reached Pensacola on April 16. He immediately landed his troops, and assumed command of the fort. Upon inspecting the fort, Brown described "the miserable state of its armament, the small supply of ammunition and stores" and stated that he was "almost discouraged at the task" before him.³³

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Brown's orders were signed by Gen. Scott and approved by President Lincoln. Ibid., 365-66. Brigadier General Braxton Bragg assumed command of the Confederate forces at Pensacola on March 11, 1861. Ibid., 449.

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Ibid., 368.

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Lieutenant Worden carried Vodges's orders to Pensacola, Ibid., 376. Previously, orders, dated March 12, 1861, had been sent Vodges to land, but they had not been carried out since the naval orders contradicted them. Tilley, Lincoln Takes Command, 34-35, 48-52.

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Ibid., 378-79.

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View of southeast bastion of Fort
Pickens during the Civil War show-
ing the dry moat.
Guernsey and Alden, Harper's
Pictorial History of the Great
Rebellion, 1, 70.

Brown was not completely discouraged, however, for he had nine full companies, about eight hundred and sixty men, after the troops had landed from the Illinois on the 19th and 20th. He believed that he could "repel any assault that may be made on the fort."³⁴

Colonel Brown immediately began to strengthen the defenses of Fort Pickens. He found "a great many guns in the fort" which were unmounted, and he concentrated his efforts on getting them ready for the service.³⁵ Brown proposed, as soon as he put the fort in a proper defensive state, to throw up field works. Within a few months after his arrival in 1861, Colonel Brown had built the following outlying works; Battery Scott at the southwestern point of the island opposite Fort McRae; Battery Cameron, about 580 yards east of the fort on the bay; and Battery Totten, about 400 yards east of the fort on the Gulf side. Brown also mounted guns in the "Spanish fort" about 2,612 yards east of the fort on the bay side. These batteries were armed with heavy guns, mortars, howitzers, and columbiads. In addition, he greatly strengthened³⁶ the defenses of the fort itself.

³⁴
Ibid., 390-91

³⁵
Ibid., 401

³⁶
Ibid., 390, 407, 414, 416, 429-30, Vol. VI, 441-42. It is possible that the "Spanish fort" was the site of the fort built by the Santa Rosa Island settlers in the eighteenth century.

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The imaginative sketch of the first bombardment, November 22, 1861, illustrates the relative positions of the Union and Confederate batteries and forts. Guernsey and Alden, Harpers' Pictorial History of the Great Rebellion, 1, 183.

At the same time that he was constructing the batteries and mounting guns in the fort, Colonel Brown continually asked for more ammunition and stores. The Secretary of War answered his demands by ordering the shipment of ample stores to the fort.³⁷

The uneasy quiet at Pensacola was disturbed by a succession of clashes in the fall. On the night of September 2, 1861, a party from Fort Pickens, under Lieutenant Shipley, burned the dry dock at the Navy Yard, and, on the night of September 13, about one hundred men, under Lieutenant Russell, attacked the Navy Yard and burned the Confederate schooner, Judah.³⁸

Early in the morning of October 9, 1861, a force of about 1,000 Confederates, under the command of General Anderson, crossed over to Santa Rosa Island and landed about four miles east of the fort. They marched down the island in three columns, attacked, and partly burned Camp Brown of the Sixth New York Volunteers. Reinforcements were sent out by the garrison at Fort Pickens, and the Confederates were forced to withdraw under heavy fire. The defenders lost 4 regulars and 9 volunteers killed, 20 regulars and 7 volunteers wounded, and 10 regulars and 11 volunteers missing. The Confederates lost 2 commissioned officers, 4 non-commissioned officers, 11 privates, and 1 citizen

³⁷

Ibid., Ser. 1, Vol. 1, pp. 422-23.

³⁸

Ibid., Ser. 1, Vol. VI, pp. 437-38; 665-70. Benson J. Lossing Pictorial Field Book of the Civil War in the United States of America, 11, 111.

volunteer, killed; 2 commissioned officers, 5 non-commissioned officers, and 32 privates wounded; and 5 commissioned officers,³⁹ 2 non-commissioned officers, and 23 privates taken prisoner.

This attack by the Confederates was answered by the Union forces on November 22. On that morning the guns of Fort Pickens and its outlying batteries, assisted by the USS Niagara and the USS Richmond, opened fire on Forts McRae and Barrancas and the fourteen Confederate batteries on the mainland. The bombardment was continued all day until darkness. It was resumed on the next morning and again continued until darkness, after which mortars continued firing until about 2 o'clock in the morning. On the second day of the bombardment, the buildings in Warrington, near the Navy Yard, caught fire and spread through the town and into the neighboring village of Woolsey. With the exception of the⁴⁰ fires, the engagement resulted in no advantage to either side.

A second bombardment occurred on January 1, 1862 when a small vessel came to the Navy Yard about 3 o'clock in the afternoon within range of the Union guns. The vessel was fired upon, and a few answering shells were fired by a Confederate battery. This apparently ended the episode, but about 4 o'clock the Confederate batteries on the mainland opened fire on the Union

³⁹

Ibid., 11, 111-12; Official Records, Ser. 1, Vol. VI, pp.

⁴⁰

Ibid., 469-495; Lossing, Pictorial Field Book, II, 112-13.

works. The engagement continued for the remainder of the day,
but the only serious damage was the burning of a building in the
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Navy Yard.

In February, 1862, General Bragg was transferred to Mobile
and General Jones was placed in command of the Confederate forces
at Pensacola. The latter was ordered to evacuate Pensacola as
soon as he could move the heavy guns, ammunition and supplies to
a place of safety. These orders were carried out, but the need
of secrecy and poor transportation slowed the process. By May 9
all was in readiness for the evacuation, and after setting fire
to the defenses from the Navy Yard to Fort McRee, the Confederates
left Pensacola. On the following morning, the deserted defenses
were occupied by the Union forces. Fort Barrancas was little in-
jured, but Fort McRee was seriously damaged, the Marine Hospital
was destroyed and several storehouses in the Navy Yard were
42
burned.

During the remainder of the war, Pensacola and its defenses
were a link in the Federal blockade of the coast of the Gulf of
Mexico. Fort Pickens appears to have been used during this period
as a military prison for military and political prisoners. In
1865 it was reported that Fort Pickens could accommodate not more
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than one hundred prisoners.

41
Official Records, Ser. 1, Vol., VI, pp. 495-98; lossing, Pictorial
Field Book, II, 113

42
Official Records, Ser. 1, Vol. VI, pp. 658-668; R.S. West, Jr.,
Gideon Welles Lincoln's Navy Department, 182.

43
Letters concerning the prisoners can be found in Adjutant General's
Office Letterbook, Department of Florida in 1864-65.

With the return of peace, Fort Pickens, although little injured by the war, was not garrisoned. The seven casements-rooms, which were finished as quarters, were in very poor condition because of dampness and were not considered fit to be occupied. An ordnance sergeant was placed in charge of the fort and he was allowed to build a small frame house outside the fort⁴⁴ as a residence for his family.

From the end of the war until 1875, little was done to the fort beyond general maintenance. In that year Congress appropriated \$25,000 for repairing and modernizing the fort.⁴⁵ It appears to have been garrisoned after that date, and to have been used again as a prison. When Geronimo was captured in 1886, he and his band were first sent to Fort Pickens as prisoners⁴⁶ of war.

The revolutionary changes in ordnance which had taken place in the Civil War prompted the government to consider proper defenses for the extensive coasts of the United States. In 1885 a board was authorized by the Congress to investigate the coastal defenses. This board, headed by Secretary of War Endicott, made a detailed study of the subject and made recommendations for⁴⁷ modernizing the defenses.

⁴⁴
War Department, Quartermaster General's Office, Outline Description of U. S. Military Posts and Stations in the Year 1871, pp. 13-14;
War Department, Surgeon-General's Office, A Report on the Hygiene of the United States Army, with Descriptions of Military Posts, Circular No. 8, p. 168.

⁴⁵
War Department, Annual Report of Chief of Engineers, 1880, Part 1, p.46

⁴⁶
W. J. Ghent, "Geronimo", Dictionary of American Biography, VII, 220

⁴⁷
War Department, Annual Report of Chief of Engineers, 1886, part1, p. 50

Some years elapsed before Congress appropriated the necessary funds to carry out these recommendations. The first appropriations were made in 1890, and large sums were expended in the next ten years to strengthen Fort Pickens. The Spanish-American War hastened the construction of these defenses. A modern concrete battery containing two large guns on disappearing carriages was built (Battery Pensacola) inside the old Fort. In addition, several outlying batteries were constructed around Fort Pickens. Two large concrete batteries were placed about 3,000 feet east of the fort: Battery Worth on the bay side and Battery Cooper on the Gulf side. Five concrete batteries were built on the point of Santa Rosa Island, and were named Battery Cullum, and Battery Sevier, Battery Trueman, Battery Payne and Battery Van Swearingen. All of these batteries were completed by 1900.⁴⁸

During the Spanish-American War, Fort Pickens served as an active coastal defense fortification. The various batteries were completed and most of the guns were installed.

On the night of June 20, 1899 a fire and explosion destroyed the magazine in the northwest bastion of the old fort. This explosion almost totally demolished the bastion, but only one man was killed.⁴⁹

Constant erosion of the western end of the island caused great concern to the War Department, since it endangered the fortifications on the point. In 1906 the War Department included

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Ibid., 1900, part 1, pp. 26-7. the various batteries were named in War Department, General Orders No. 43(1900), General Orders No. 78 (1903), and General Orders No. 194 (1904).

⁴⁹

Adjutant General's Office Letterbook, Department of Florida, 1899

the sum of \$907,100.00 in its estimates "for building sea walls for the protection of the sites of the fortifications and of the necessary post buildings at Fort Pickens and McRee." Congress, however, appropriated only \$400,000 "toward the building" of the sea walls. The army requested the remainder in 1907, and Congress allowed the sum to be appropriated. The sea wall around Fort Pickens was completed in 1910.

Fort Pickens was the scene of much activity during both World Wars. Modern buildings, and enormous gun emplacements, were erected during these conflicts.

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War Department Annual Report on the Chief of Engineers, 1907, part 1, p. 9; Ibid., 1909, part 1, p. 15.

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Suitability or Adaptability of the Property

Extent of Surviving Historical Remains:

Fort Pickens, constructed between 1829 and 1834, is the oldest surviving historical structure in the historical area proposed for a state park. There are no visible traces of the earlier Spanish fortifications on Point Siguenza, nor of the outlying batteries constructed by the Union forces during the Civil War. Fort Pickens has been greatly altered in the past fifty years. The brick walls of the present fort are in a poor state of preservation. The north wall and northwest bastion of the original fort have been destroyed. Prior to the last war, the moat was destroyed except for the remains on the eastern and southern sides of the fort. At the turn of the century, a modern concrete battery was constructed inside the fort, occupying a portion of the original parade. (See aerial photograph, Exhibit D.) A complete restoration of the fort would require enormous expenditures, and such work does not seem to be justified. It is suggested that no major restoration work, other than that necessary for the preservation of the historical remains and to safeguard visitors, be undertaken before a complete and detailed study is made of the structure.

The outlying batteries, constructed in the 1890's proposed for inclusion within the historical monument; viz., Batteries Cullum-Servier, Payne Van Swearingen, and Trueman, are concrete

Coastal defense fortifications and are in an excellent state of preservation. Portions of the original ammunition-handling machinery may still be seen in these fortifications. As examples of the various types of batteries in vogue at that time, they will serve to illustrate the development of coastal defenses. Care must be taken to provide adequate safeguards for visitors to these fortifications.

It is believed that all of these surviving historical remains should be included within the boundaries of the proposed state park so that they may be adequately interpreted for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.

Other Physical Characteristics:

The land requested by the State of Florida for historic monument purposes contains, in addition to the fort and outlying batteries, sixteen miscellaneous structures. At the present time other structures are within the boundaries of the proposed park, but these will be removed for off site disposal by the War Assets Administration. The remaining sixteen structures are, for the most part, of frame construction, and are in excellent condition.

Industrialization and civilization have not pressed in closely on the proposed area. There are no factors in existence which would impair the property's value for public use.

Accessibility and Location:

The surplus property requested for transfer by the State of Florida for historic monument purposes was formerly a part of the historic Fort Pickens Military Reservation. It is located on the western extremity of Santa Rosa Island, Escambia County, Florida. (See aerial photograph, Exhibit C.) The requested property is accessible to the public only by means of boats since no highway extends down Santa Rosa Island to the Point. The State of Florida, however, does have a right-of-way extending to the old fort. It is suggested that the possibility of completing the highway to Fort Pickens be investigated as soon as possible. This can be accomplished by constructing a road between the Coast Guard Station and Pensacola Beach so as to connect existing roads. The distance between these two points is about five miles.

Although accessibility will be a serious problem in the development of the area, the applicant agency has stated that it will make arrangements to provide boats on regular schedules for visitors. An excellent wharf is located near the historic site and can be utilized by the Florida Park Service for the visiting public.

The location of the proposed state park is advantageous from the viewpoint of population. In a study prepared by the Pensacola Municipal Advertising Board in October, 1948, it was determined that

936, 320 people lived within one hundred miles of Pensacola, 1,814,757 within two hundred miles, and 8,533,892 within three hundred miles of that city. According to the 1940 census, the city of Pensacola had an urban population of 37,449, while the population of Escambia County was 74,667. The city of Mobile, Alabama, with an urban population of 78,720, is located only fifty-eight miles from Pensacola, Montgomery, Alabama, with a population of 78,084 is only one hundred and seventy-six miles from Pensacola, and the city of Tallahassee, Florida, with a population of 16,240, is about two hundred and twenty-six miles distant. (See vicinity map, Exhibit B.)

Pensacola is also a very popular resort and attracts large numbers of out-of-state visitors. These visitors should also be considered in any study of possible visitation to the proposed state park.

Adaptability, Cost, and Feasibility of Development:

The portion of Fort Pickens Military Reservation, comprising about 87 acres, which the State of Florida has requested for transfer for historic monument purposes is well adapted to effective treatment in the interest of public use and enjoyment. In order to accomplish this end, the Florida Park Service has outlined in its application, a sound and practical five-year program of development. The development program provides for a general cleanup of the Fort Pickens area, repair work on the

historical structures necessary for preservation, preparation of quarters for the historical staff of the state park, and the preparation of facilities for the comfort and instruction of visitors.

In regard to the preparation of quarters for the historical staff, it is proposed to transfer the personal property listed in the application to the Florida Park Service. The machinery listed with the personal property will be used in the maintenance of the area.

The development program for the historic monument area at Fort Pickens should be considered in relation to the development of Forts San Carlos, Barrancas, and Redoubt. The Florida Park Service has entered into negotiations to acquire these historic sites as part of the proposed state park. Since no facilities are available at these sites, Fort Pickens will serve as a base of operations for the development of the entire state park.

The plan of development outlined by the Florida Park Service for the historic monument area at Fort Pickens is not too pretentious, but it is believed that it is adequate to develop the area for the use of the public. The cost of the proposed development should not be large, and it certainly should not be beyond the means of the State of Florida.

Estimated Cost of Proper Maintenance:

The development and maintenance of the historical monument property as outlined by the Florida Park Service in its application should not require large expenditures. The buildings to be retained are in an excellent state of repair, and the roads and walks in the area are in very good condition. After the cleanup program has been completed in the first year of operation, the cost of proper maintenance should be small.

Boundary Data:

That portion of the former Fort Pickens Military Reservation, Santa Rosa Island, Escambia County, Florida, containing approximately 87 acres, being all that land to the west of east coordinate 90.830 lying within the sea wall constructed by the War Department, as shown on the attached map labelled Exhibit A.
(See aerial photographs labelled Exhibits C and D.)

The land lying between the sea wall and the Gulf has been built up since the construction of the sea wall in 1910. This waste land is lowlying and swampy. It was not considered to be suitable for inclusion in the historic monument area, but, in order to protect the area, this waste land will be included in the property requested by the Florida Park Service for park and recreational use. It is proposed, therefore, to use the sea wall as the boundary line for the historic monument area. The proposed area will include all of the more important surviving historical remains on Santa Rosa Island.

To the best of the knowledge of this investigator, and after an examination of the historical and legal evidence, no parcel, or parcels, of land within the recommended area of the historic monument were acquired by the United States subsequent to January 1, 1900.

Place in State or Regional Plan:

The Florida Park Service has twenty park areas under its jurisdiction. The acquisition of Fort Pickens, together with the other defenses of Pensacola, by the Florida Park Service will create the most important historical area in the state park system. Although Fort Clinch is being developed as a state park, and is similar in some respects to Fort Pickens, it cannot be said to duplicate the story of Fort Pickens. At the present time, there is no major historical monument in western Florida. The proper development of Fort Pickens as an historic monument will provide an excellent means of interpreting the military history of west Florida.

Proposed Use Program:

General Objective--The recommended transfer of the requested area to the State of Florida will enable the Florida Park Service to preserve and interpret for the public the historical remains at Fort Pickens Military Reservation.

General Program of Development--The Florida Park Service has proposed a five-year development program to accomplish the general objective. (See Application of the Florida Park Service for Fort Pickens, dated April 28, 1949.)

Proposed utilization of Structures--The applicant proposes to retain only sixteen of the post buildings in the historic monument area. The War Assets Administration will dispose of the remaining buildings by off-site sale. (See layout plan labelled Exhibit A for buildings to be retained.)

The plans for utilization of the retained buildings were discussed with the director of Florida Park Service on March 30, 1949. He proposes to use these buildings in the following manner:

Building No. I (Administration Building) will continue to be used as an administration building. One wing of this building may be used to house a temporary museum exhibit.

Building No. 2, 3, 4, 18, 19, and 21 will serve as quarters for the state park staff.

Building No. 126 (fire station) will continue to house the fire fighting equipment of the area.

Building No. 5 will be retained temporarily as a garage and maintenance shop. The structures housing the water pump and power plant (Buildings No. 22 and 23) will also be retained as necessary utilities. Building No. T-505 is the pump house and the tank.

Buildings No. 24 and 25 will serve as general storehouses for the area, and Building No. 9 will be retained as a comfort station for the visiting public.

Building No. 35 should be removed as it is an intrusion on an historic structure.

Historical Utilization Program--The Florida Park Service proposes to open the historic monument as soon as the preliminary

cleanup program has been completed and adequate safeguards for the protection of the visiting public have been provided. The Director of the Florida Park Service did not give a specific date for this opening, but he believes that it will be possible to open the area within sixty days after the area is transferred to the State of Florida.

In order to protect the historic remains, as well as to provide for the safety and instruction of visitors, the Florida Park Service plans to carry out a general cleanup and repair program and to provide signs, markers, museum exhibits, and guide service in a limited way during the first year of operation. The five-year program will follow the general plan set up for the first year's program with increasing emphasis being placed on interpretation of the historic site. Work on the marker and sign program, the museum development, and the guide service will be emphasized. In addition, it is planned to prepare descriptive literature on the history of the fort.

Responsibility of Requesting Agency

Legal Authority:

The Florida Park Service was established in 1935 by the State Legislature as a division of the Florida Board of Forestry and Parks. The Florida Park Service operates under Section 589.23, Florida Statutes of 1941, as amended by Florida Statutes, of 1945,

which is quoted on page 4 of the application. This legal authority of the applicant agency appears to be definite and clear-cut.

Adequacy of Finances:

Legislative appropriations of the State of Florida for the Park Service have shown a steady increase from \$37,176.45 in the year 1935-36 to \$256,770.21 in the year 1947-48. There can be no question that the Florida Park Service will have sufficient funds to finance the proposed plan of development for the area requested for historic monument purposes.

Experience in Historical Work:

The Florida Park Service has made notable contributions to the field of archeology in the southeastern United States. It has also had experience in the development of historical areas at Fort Clinch State Park and Torreya State Park.

Adequacy of Staff:

The staff of the Florida Park Service includes Dr. Mark F. Boyd, Historian; Mr. John W. Griffin, Archeologist; and Mr. Ripley P. Bullen, Assistant Archeologist. The agency has had wide experience in the development of archeological and historical sites in the state of Florida.

