

---

National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
2007



ROLLINS' GROVE (25 ACRES), NEAR FORT GEORGE HOTEL.  
FROM PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN MIDDLE JANUARY.

Kingsley Plantation  
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

---

---

## **Table of Contents**

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Concurrence Status

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

---

## Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

### Inventory Summary

#### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

##### CLI General Information:

###### Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is an evaluated inventory of all significant landscapes in units of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire any enforceable legal interest. Landscapes documented through the CLI are those that individually meet criteria set forth in the National Register of Historic Places such as historic sites, historic designed landscapes, and historic vernacular landscapes or those that are contributing elements of properties that meet the criteria. In addition, landscapes that are managed as cultural resources because of law, policy, or decisions reached through the park planning process even though they do not meet the National Register criteria, are also included in the CLI.

The CLI serves three major purposes. First, it provides the means to describe cultural landscapes on an individual or collective basis at the park, regional, or service-wide level. Secondly, it provides a platform to share information about cultural landscapes across programmatic areas and concerns and to integrate related data about these resources into park management. Thirdly, it provides an analytical tool to judge accomplishment and accountability.

The legislative, regulatory, and policy direction for conducting the CLI include:

*National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)).* Each Federal agency shall establish...a preservation program for the identification, evaluation, and nomination to the National Register of Historic Places...of historic properties...

*Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003.* Sec. 3(a)...Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall prepare an assessment of the current status of its inventory of historic properties required by section 110(a)(2) of the NHPA...No later than September 30, 2004, each covered agency shall complete a report of the assessment and make it available to the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Secretary of the Interior... (c) Each agency with real property management responsibilities shall, by September 30, 2005, and every third year thereafter, prepare a report on its progress in identifying... historic properties in its ownership and make the report available to the Council and the Secretary...

*The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998.* Standard 2: An agency provides for the timely identification and evaluation of historic properties under agency jurisdiction or control and/or subject to effect by agency actions (Sec. 110 (a)(2)(A))

*Management Policies 2006*. 5.1.3.1 Inventories: The Park Service will (1) maintain and expand the following inventories...about cultural resources in units of the national park system...Cultural Landscape Inventory of historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes,... and historic sites...  
*ural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22 issued pursuant to Director's Order #28*. As cultural resources are identified and evaluated, they should also be listed in the appropriate Service-wide inventories of cultural resources.

Responding to the Call to Action:

The year 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. A five-year action plan entitled, “*A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement*” charts a path toward that second century vision by asking Service employees and partners to commit to concrete actions that advance the agency’s mission. The heart of the plan includes four broad themes supported by specific goals and measurable actions. These themes are: Connecting People to Parks, Advancing the NPS Education Mission, Preserving America’s Special Places, and Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence. The Cultural Landscape Inventory relates to three of these themes:

**Connect People to Parks.** Help communities protect what is special to them, highlight their history, and retain or rebuild their economic and environmental sustainability.

**Advance the Education Mission.** Strengthen the National Park Service’s role as an educational force based on core American values, historical and scientific scholarship, and unbiased translation of the complexities of the American experience.

**Preserve America’s Special Places.** Be a leader in extending the benefits of conservation across physical, social, political, and international boundaries in partnership with others.

The national CLI effort directly relates to #3, Preserve America’s Special Places, and specifically to Action #28, “Park Pulse.” Each CLI documents the existing condition of park resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to improve condition. This information can be used to improve park priority setting and communicate complex park condition information to the public.

Responding to the Cultural Resources Challenge:

The Cultural Resources Challenge (CRC) is a NPS strategic plan that identifies our most critical priorities. The primary objective is to “*Achieve a standard of excellence for the stewardship of the resources that form the historical and cultural foundations of the nation, commit at all levels to a common set of goals, and articulate a common vision for the next century.*” The CLI contributes to the fulfillment of all five goals of the CRC:

- 1) *Provide leadership support, and advocacy for the stewardship, protection, interpretation, and management of the nation’s heritage through scholarly research, science and effective management;*
- 2) *Recommit to the spirit and letter of the landmark legislation underpinning the NPS*

- 3) *Connect all Americans to their heritage resources in a manner that resonates with their lives, legacies, and dreams, and tells the stories that make up America's diverse national identity;*
- 4) *Integrate the values of heritage stewardship into major initiatives and issues such as renewable energy, climate change, community assistance and revitalization, and sustainability, while cultivating excellence in science and technical preservation as a foundation for resource protection, management, and rehabilitation; and*
- 5) *Attract, support, and retain a highly skilled and diverse workforce, and support the development of leadership and expertise within the National Park Service.*

#### Scope of the CLI

CLI data is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries, archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance. The baseline information describes the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in the context of the landscape's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit and generates spatial data for Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The CLI also identifies stabilization needs to prevent further deterioration of the landscape and provides data for the Facility Management Software System

#### **Inventory Unit Description:**

Kingsley Plantation is a cultural landscape located completely within the boundary of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve and within the city limits of Jacksonville, Florida, approximately twenty-three (23) miles east of downtown.

The fifty-eight (58) acre site encompasses a former plantation house, support buildings and slave quarters that were constructed during the site's primary agricultural use period. These structures, located on the northwestern tip of Fort George Island, are believed to have formed the nucleus of the antebellum plantation activities of the island. The site also includes buildings and features from the site's period of recreational and resort era development, as well as modern improvements.

The historic boundary of the plantation differs from the current boundaries of the property currently managed by the National Park Service. The original plantation estate encompassed the whole of Fort George Island—an area of approximately 1,040 acres—that is herein referred to as the Historic Context Area. Of the over 1000 acres of the original plantation estate, the National Park Service manages approximately fifty eight (58) acres on the most northwestern part of the island; this area is herein referred to as the NPS-managed property. The focus of this study is an approximately twenty (20) acre site within the NPS-managed property that includes the plantation and recreation-era structures and landscape features of the site. This area will be referred to herein as the Core Area.

The rough site boundaries used for this study are as follows: Fort George River, west to the marsh border of the Kingsley site, south to Beatty Avenue, east to the Evans Road Right of Way, and north to the river.

Characteristics within the Core Area that convey a sense of the history of the events and individuals that shaped the land and contribute to its potential significance include structures, a circulation system, and vegetation. Based on this and prior investigations, there are thirty (30) standing structures that are considered contributing to the significance of the historic landscape. The plantation era home, herein referred to as the Main House, is located on the bank of the Fort George River, facing north over the marshes and tidal waterways. Associated dependencies include the kitchen building (Kitchen House), barn (Barn or Tabby Barn), and two wells. Located approximately 1,000 feet south of the Main House are the remains of twenty-five (25) of an original thirty-six (36) slave quarters (Slave Cabins). The Slave Cabins are constructed of tabby and are arranged in an arc, or crescent, that opens towards the Main House. The surviving Fort George Club Clubhouse and bungalow are two structures within the landscape that are associated with the twentieth century recreational/resort development on the island. The existing pump house is non-historic. Currently, the contributing plantation-era structures are used for interpretation and the clubhouse for staff housing and offices. The bungalow is unoccupied. The primary focus of interpretation on the site is the plantation era from 1760 to 1895.

The remaining elements of the circulation system retain a high degree of historic integrity and contribute to an understanding of the historic spatial organization and use of the island. Palmetto Avenue travels the entire length of the island along its western edge and provides access to the cluster of structures in the Core Area. Historically, the road bisected the arc of Slave Cabins, passed beside the Main House, and ended at the water's edge. Today the northern terminus of the roadway is at a parking lot located between the Slave Cabins and the Main House. A double row of eastern red cedars marks the route of the historic roadbed, extending from the parking lot north to the water's edge. An approximate half-mile section of the road south of the Slave Cabins is bordered by an allée of palms. A second allée of mature cedars is evident leading eastward from the Kitchen House and eventually disappearing into the surrounding successional woodland. A map prepared in 1822, during Zephaniah Kingsley's ownership of the island, suggests that there has been little alteration to the alignment of these primary roadways. Noncontributing elements of the existing circulation system include the visitor parking lot, the newly-constructed dock, a bulkhead along the river, and the modern network of roads and temporary walkways used for access to the property.

The vegetation immediately surrounding the Main House is manicured in appearance and is dominated by regularly mown grasses and scattered mature deciduous and evergreen trees. There are few foundation plantings and very few flowering species of trees or shrubs. Vegetation is cleared from the area immediately surrounding the Slave Cabins, but views from the Main House to the Slave Cabins are blocked by successional woodland growth.

## Site Plan

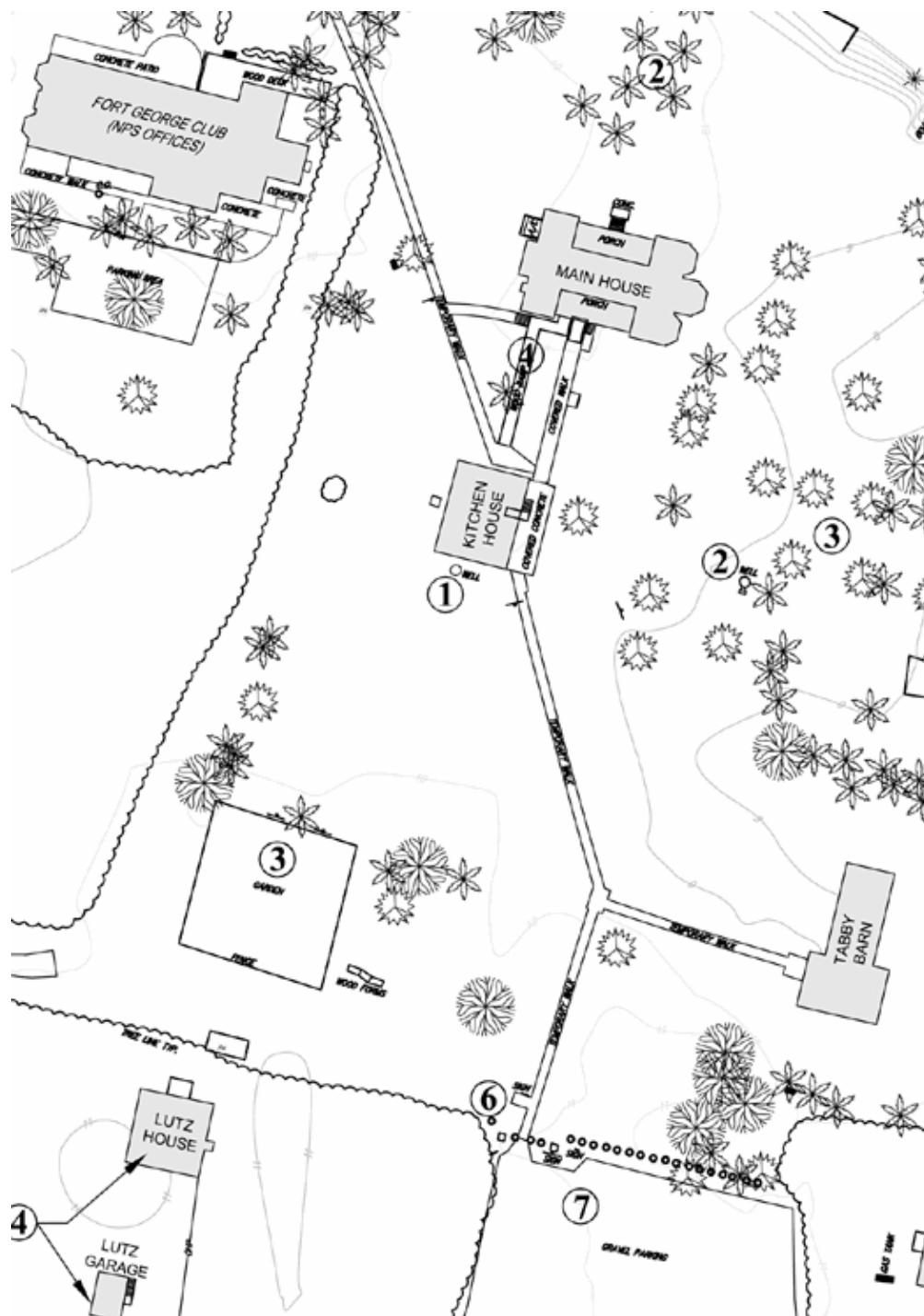


Figure 1: A portion of the Site Plan showing current site conditions. [Full-sized print of drawing of entire landscape will be attached to final document].

### Property Level and CLI Numbers

|                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Inventory Unit Name:</b>       | Kingsley Plantation |
| <b>Property Level:</b>            | Landscape           |
| <b>CLI Identification Number:</b> | 550110              |
| <b>Parent Landscape:</b>          | 550110              |

### Park Information

|                                  |                                                 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Park Name and Alpha Code:</b> | Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve -TIMU |
| <b>Park Organization Code:</b>   | 5308                                            |
| <b>Park Administrative Unit:</b> | Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve       |

### CLI Hierarchy Description

Kingsley Plantation is an approximate fifty-eight (58) acre landscape within the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

**Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:**

A CLI was completed by The Jaeger Company (TJC) which was awarded a contract through Hartrampf, Inc. (Prime) in FY 2004. Fieldwork, data collection, and data entry were performed by TJC in 2004 and 2005.

**Concurrence Status:**

|                                                 |                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Park Superintendent Concurrence:</b>         | Yes                                      |
| <b>Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:</b> | 08/01/2007                               |
| <b>National Register Concurrence:</b>           | Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination |
| <b>Date of Concurrence Determination:</b>       | 09/17/2007                               |

**Concurrence Graphic Information:**



**United States Department of the Interior**



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Southeast Regional Office  
Atlanta Federal Center  
1924 Building  
100 Alabama St., SW.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
H22 (SERO-CRD)

13 August 2007

David Ferro  
Division of Historical Resources  
Bureau of Historic Preservation  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Dear Mr. Ferro:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Kingsley Plantation, located in Duval County at Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.

The CLI is an evaluated list of landscape properties in the National Park System considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or that contribute to an existing historic property. In order for CLI data to become certified, National Park Service regulations require concurrence from the SHPO on the eligibility of these properties. We are requesting your review of the Kingsley Plantation CLI and ask that you return the enclosed concurrence form.

Kingsley Plantation was first listed on the National Register in September 1970, prior to Federal ownership. Other than the Slave Cabins, and a brief mention of cotton as an agricultural commodity of the plantation, cultural landscape features are not mentioned. Later periods of significance are also not mentioned. We suggest that the existing nomination be amended to include later periods of significance and additional cultural landscape features such as vegetation, land use, circulation, small scale features, and views. We believe that these features contribute to the significance of the property through all aspects of integrity, especially feeling, setting, location and association. The enclosed inventory includes a statement of significance, written history, analysis and evaluation of cultural landscape features, and associated graphics.

With concurrence from your office, the findings become certified in the CLI database. Your concurrence also gives us justification to submit proper additional documentation to you at a future date.



*Letter to SHPO*

If you have any questions about this document, please contact David Hasty, CLI Coordinator, Southeast Region (SER), at (404) 562-3117 extension 630 or by e-mail at [david\\_hasty@nps.gov](mailto:david_hasty@nps.gov). The concurrence form can be returned by fax at (404) 562-3202, or mailed to the address above.

We greatly appreciate your office's assistance with the project.

Sincerely,



Dan Scheidt  
Chief, Cultural Resource Division  
Southeast Region

Enclosure

We have reviewed the submitted documentation that identifies cultural landscape features at Kingsley Plantation, located in Duval County at Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. We concur with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory, and understand that these features have the potential to contribute to the existing National Register of Historic Places nomination for Kingsley Plantation.

Barbara E. Mattick, DSHPO  
Florida State Historic Preservation Officer

9/17/2007  
Date

*2nd page of letter to SHPO; SHPO Signature of Concurrence*

Kingsley Plantation  
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

---

05/01/2007 10:20 007444 0490

14700001 1 00000000

00000000

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY  
CONDITION ASSESSMENT CONCURRENCE SHEET

Park Information

Park: Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve  
Name: Kingsley Plantation  
Location: Florida  
County: Duval  
CLI#: 550110

Cultural Landscape Condition Information

Landscape Condition:

Good X

Fair     

Poor     

Management Category:

Must be preserved and maintained     

Should be preserved and maintained X

May be preserved and maintained     

May be released, altered or destroyed     

Park Superintendent Concurrence

Concur X

Do Not Concur     

Barbara Goodman 8/1/07  
Superintendent Date

*Superintendent Signature of Concurrence*

## Geographic Information & Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The rough site boundaries used for this study are as follows: Fort George River, west to the marsh border of the Kingsley site, south to Beatty Avenue, east to the Evans Road Right of Way, and north to the river.

### State and County:

**State:** FL

**County:** Duval County

**Size (Acres):** 58.33

### Boundary Coordinates:

**Source:** USGS Map 1:24,000

**Type of Point:** Point

**Latitude:** -81.4383685324

**Longitude:** 30.4401702470

**Location Map:**

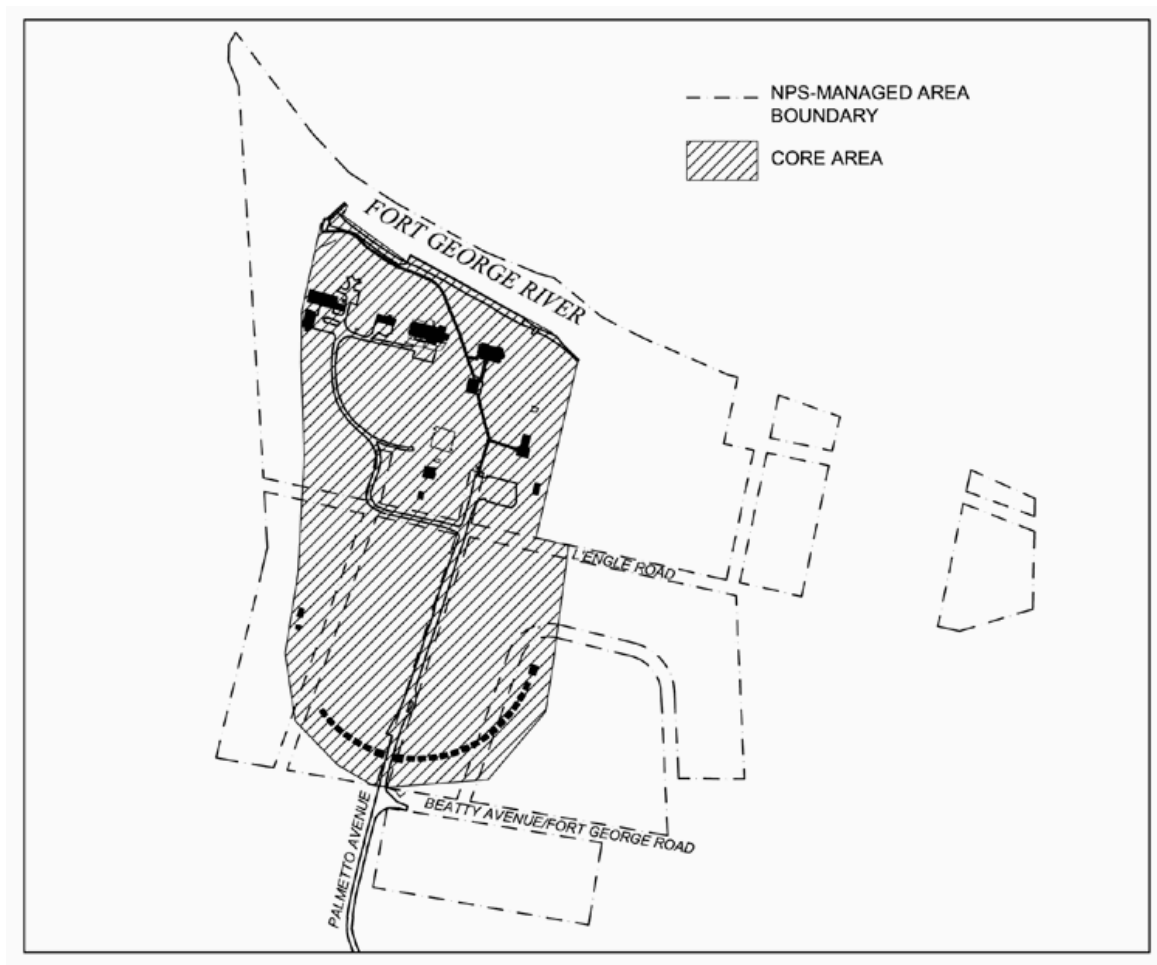


*Figure 2: Kingsley Plantation Enlargement (Adapted from Information from Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve).*

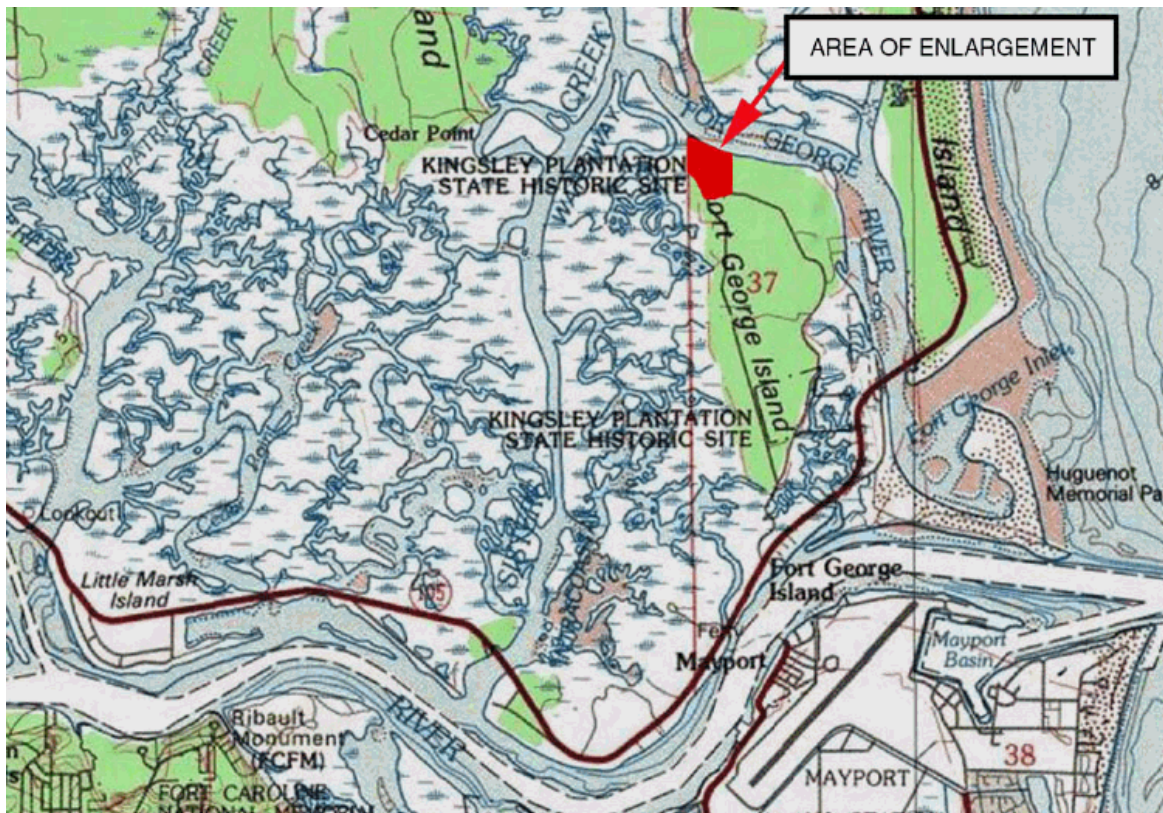


Figure 3: Kingsley Plantation Location Map (USGS Quadrangle: Mayport, Florida, 1994).

**Regional Context:**

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**

Fort George Island, located on the Fort George River in Duval County, Florida, has its earliest European cultural roots in the Spanish-French-British interaction of the early sixteenth century. Prior to the coming of the Spanish, the Timucua-speaking tribes controlled the area, as had their ancestors for thousands of years. Though the Spanish claimed Florida in 1513, activity on Fort George Island was not recorded until 1562 when Jean Ribault claimed the island for France. Fort Caroline was established on the river in 1564. A Spanish-French conflict for Florida ensued, resulting in the Spanish taking of the fort. British and Spanish conflict over Florida arose during the early-1700's and again in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century resulting in the eventual incorporation of Florida into the United States in 1845. During the Spanish and British/American wars, the island passed through several owners and was one of the southernmost plantations of the large network known as the Sea Island plantations from South Carolina to Florida. The majority of these plantations relied heavily upon slave labor until the end of the Civil War in 1865. Many of these plantations, including Kingsley, were not sustainable without slave labor, and many of the Sea Islands evolved from agricultural plantations to recreational properties as the tourism industry along the coast developed. Fort George Island was gradually subdivided and the plantation was ultimately purchased by the State of Florida in 1955, followed by its transfer to the National Park Service in 1991.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

Kingsley Plantation is situated on Fort George Island which is part of the greater Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. Fort George Island itself is primarily uplands surrounded by wetland areas and open water. The Kingsley Plantation site is bordered by marshland on the west and southwest and by the Fort George River to the north. Fort George Island is home to many migratory bird species, some rare. As stated in the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve General Management Plan, "the estuarine habitats of the preserve also provide important spawning grounds for many economically important fish and invertebrates" (US Department of the Interior, General Management Plan, 4).

Fort George Island is representative of a unique Florida area of "Sea Islands" which are typically associated with the coast of Georgia. Sea Islands are classified as "a chain of sandy barrier islands, occasional inlets, and a combination of sounds, rivers, and extensive coastal marshland" areas. The Sea Islands extend from the Saint Johns River (south of Fort George Island) north to the Santee River in South Carolina. The Fort George Island area is considered to be the southern extension of the St. Mary's Meander Plain (Florida Department of Environmental Protection, np).

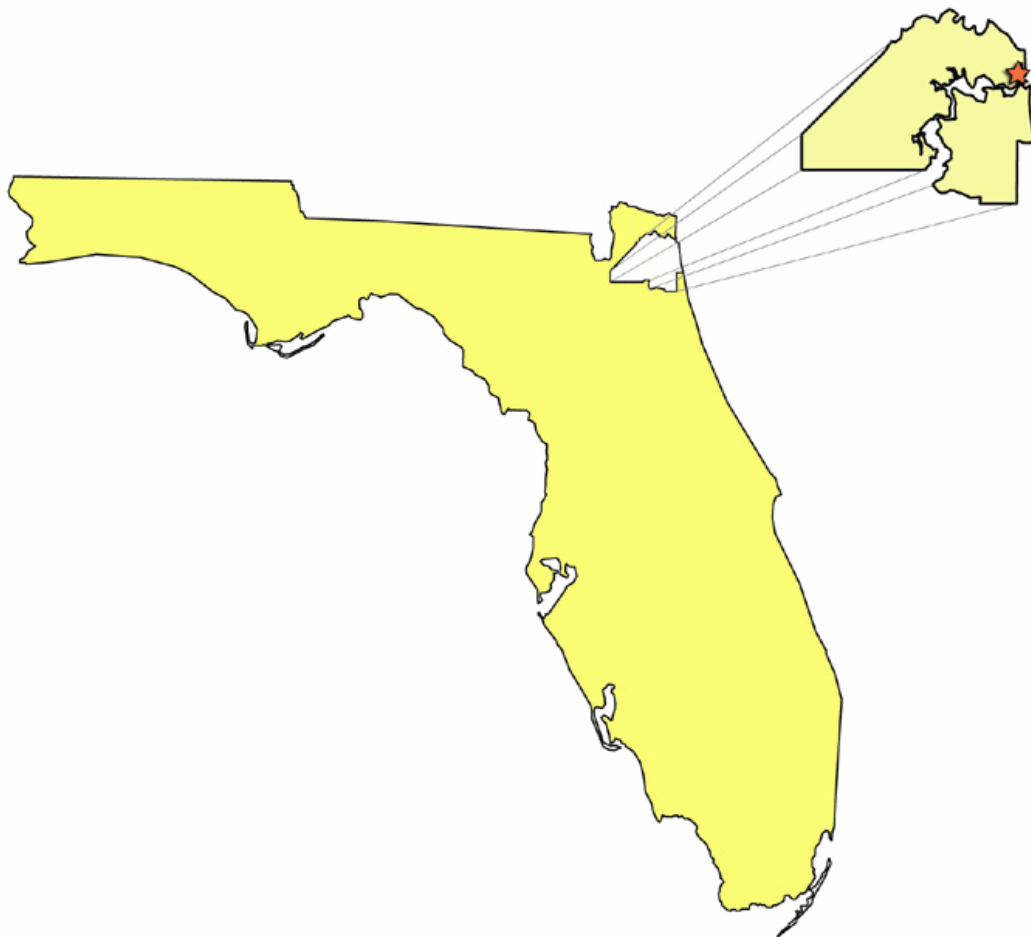
Topography on the site is relatively flat due to the coastal environment. One topographical anomaly on Fort George Island is Mount Cornelia located approximately one mile east of the Main House and

outside of the NPS-managed area. Due to its height, the sand dune was historically used as a lookout and observation point on the island. Within the NPS-managed area, elevations range from three feet above sea level at the base of the bulkhead adjacent to the Fort George River to approximately ten feet above sea level adjacent to the Main House.

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**

The property is located within the City of Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida. Duval County is represented in the Florida Senate as part of District 12 and is in the 4th US Congressional District. Historically, Florida was a much contested land; prior to Florida becoming a state in 1845 Fort George Island had been previously claimed by France, Spain, and Great Britain.



*Map of Florida showing Duval County and the Kingsley Plantation Location (Red Star) within the county.*

**Management Unit:** TIMU 5308 Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve  
**Tract Numbers:** 107-01107-02107-03107-04107-05107-06107-07107-08107-09107-11107-131  
07-15107-16107-17107-18107-19107-20107-21107-22107-23107-24107-2610  
7-27107-28107-29107-77107-78107-79107-80  
**GIS File Name:** KP Base Info\GIS Info from Timucuan  
**GIS File Description:**

## Management Information

### General Management Information

**Management Category:** Should be Preserved and Maintained  
**Management Category Date:** 01/10/2007

### Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

#### Management Agreement:

**Type of Agreement:**

#### NPS Legal Interest:

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

#### Public Access:

**Type of Access:** Unrestricted

### Adjacent Lands Information

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

#### Adjacent Lands Description:

The land adjacent to the Kingsley Plantation property does contribute to the significance of the property. Since the entire island was part of the plantation during the Plantation Era period of significance, it can be considered a contributing resource, particularly Palmetto Avenue, currently under City of Jacksonville ownership and running through State of Florida property, and into the park site. This is a significant feature to the integrity of both the Plantation and Club Eras.

## National Register Information

### Existing National Register Status

#### National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

#### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Kingsley Plantation was listed in the National Register on September 29, 1970, prior to Federal-ownership. Cultural landscape features (except for the Slave Cabins and a brief mention of cotton as an agricultural commodity of the plantation) were not considered at the time of the listing, and later periods of significance are not mentioned.

#### Existing NRIS Information:

|                                       |                                              |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Name in National Register:</b>     | Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve    |
| <b>NRIS Number:</b>                   | 01000283                                     |
| <b>Primary Certification:</b>         | Listed In The National Register              |
| <b>Primary Certification Date:</b>    | 02/16/1988                                   |
| <b>Other Certifications and Date:</b> | Date Received/Pending Nomination - 2/19/1988 |

### National Register Eligibility

|                                          |                                          |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>National Register Concurrence:</b>    | Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination |
| <b>Contributing/Individual:</b>          | Contributing                             |
| <b>National Register Classification:</b> | District                                 |
| <b>Significance Level:</b>               | National                                 |

**Period of Significance:**

|                                |                                            |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>Time Period:</b>            | CE 1765 - 1865                             |
| <b>Historic Context Theme:</b> | Creating Social Institutions and Movements |
| <b>Subtheme:</b>               | Ways of Life                               |
| <b>Facet:</b>                  | Slavery And Plantation Life                |
| <b>Other Facet:</b>            | None                                       |
| <b>Time Period:</b>            | CE 1765 - 1865                             |
| <b>Historic Context Theme:</b> | Developing the American Economy            |
| <b>Subtheme:</b>               | Agriculture                                |
| <b>Facet:</b>                  | Plantation Agriculture                     |
| <b>Other Facet:</b>            | None                                       |
| <b>Time Period:</b>            | CE 1865 - 1923                             |
| <b>Historic Context Theme:</b> | Developing the American Economy            |
| <b>Subtheme:</b>               | Agriculture                                |
| <b>Facet:</b>                  | Plantation Agriculture                     |
| <b>Other Facet:</b>            | None                                       |
| <b>Time Period:</b>            | CE 1923 - 1955                             |
| <b>Historic Context Theme:</b> | Creating Social Institutions and Movements |
| <b>Subtheme:</b>               | Recreation                                 |
| <b>Facet:</b>                  | General Recreation                         |
| <b>Other Facet:</b>            | None                                       |
| <b>Time Period:</b>            | CE 1923 - 1955                             |
| <b>Historic Context Theme:</b> | Creating Social Institutions and Movements |
| <b>Subtheme:</b>               | Recreation                                 |
| <b>Facet:</b>                  | Tourism                                    |
| <b>Other Facet:</b>            | None                                       |

**Area of Significance:**

|                                          |                         |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Area of Significance Category:</b>    | Archeology              |
| <b>Area of Significance Subcategory:</b> | Historic-Non-Aboriginal |
| <b>Area of Significance Category:</b>    | Ethnic Heritage         |
| <b>Area of Significance Subcategory:</b> | Black                   |

**Statement of Significance:**

The Kingsley Plantation site represents three distinct historic themes. The site is an important example of an eighteenth- and nineteenth-century agricultural plantation (1765-1865), the transition of the Florida coast from an agricultural resource to a recreational/tourism resource (1865-1923), and the early-twentieth century recreational development along the Florida coast (1923-1955). The Plantation Era and Club Era cultural landscapes are depicted in Illustrations C and D, Period Plans. The site is significant under Criteria A, B, C, and D for listing in the National Register of Historic Places during the years the site was part of a larger plantation, and under Criterion A during the development of the site as a club and recreational resource. The site bore witness to the Patriots' Rebellion, a significant event in the territorial development of early Florida. Also, the site is specifically known for its association with Zephaniah Kingsley, a well-known Floridian slaveholder and slave trader and his African-born wife Anna. The property relates to the following historical themes: military history, slavery and plantation life, plantation agriculture, small-scale commercial agriculture, and tourism/general recreation. The following statement illustrates how the development of the cultural landscape at Kingsley Plantation supports the identified areas of significance.

During the Plantation Era (1765-1865), development of the property as the residential node or Core Area of a large agricultural operation resulted in major landscape changes, most of which contributed directly to the lives of the persons who lived and/or worked in the structures on the property. During the Club Era and the transition period from the Plantation Era to the Club Era (1865-1923), the property was still a Core Area of activity as the island transitioned from a working plantation to a recreational landscape. Changes to the landscape made during this period reflect this trend. Consequently, the cultural landscape is a contributing element to the site's historic significance during all periods of significance. The official National Register nomination should be updated to document the importance of the cultural landscape at Kingsley Plantation.

The landscape of the Kingsley Plantation and the surrounding property was extensively altered from its early history of occupation by the Timucua-speaking tribes and Spanish mission settlement. Clearing of the land for crops and the subsequent establishment of a residence on the northwest quadrant of the island established Fort George Island as an agricultural resource and the Core Area as the primary focus of residential development during this period. The eventual addition of other buildings in the Core Area including the Kitchen House, Barn, and Slave Cabins established a group of interrelated buildings

to support plantation activities. The organizational pattern of the buildings provided order and efficiency in the landscape and in the plantation's residential operations.

As large-scale plantation agriculture dissipated across the South after the Civil War, other agricultural practices were attempted at the Kingsley Plantation site. Orange orchards were planted near the Core Area; however, the Great Freeze of 1894 and 1895 ended this short period of agricultural production. Changes to the landscape became evident as fields and orchards gave way to successional growth forest, and owners began to subdivide the contiguous plantation property. The area immediately surrounding the Main House remained one parcel, even while other pieces of property were available for purchase.

The decline of large-scale agricultural operations on the island after the Civil War led to an alternate focus of activities within the Core Area of the property. Though the land use remained residential, it was so within the context of tourism and recreational development. The subsequent construction of the Fort George Clubhouse, bungalow structures, and other small-scale amenities added a new dimension to the Plantation Era landscape characteristics including spatial organization, circulation, and most prominently vegetation. The new buildings expanded into areas that were once cleared for agricultural uses and circulation patterns adjusted to connect new buildings and small-scale features, such as docks, to existing features such as the Main House.

Despite early success in club development on the former plantation, a harsh economic climate after the Great Depression led to an eventual decline in membership. By the early 1950s the State of Florida recognized the historic value of the property and purchased the Main House, Fort George Clubhouse, and surrounding support buildings. Eventually, the majority of the Slave Cabins were added to state ownership. After the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve was established, the Plantation and Club Era structures were transferred to the federal government.

The Kingsley Plantation site in its current configuration holds significance as an example of an eighteenth- and nineteenth-century agricultural plantation. The site is significant under Criterion A for its association with the broad pattern of plantation agriculture in the South including crops such as Sea Island cotton, indigo, and sugarcane. The site also holds significance for its association with slaveholding and the lives of slaves in the American South. The site is significant under Criterion B for its association with Zephaniah and Anna Kingsley (residents and owners from 1814-1839). Mr. Kingsley himself was an important figure in history as he was a large land holder and slave trader in Spanish and later American Florida. His publications on racial class systems were widely read throughout the country. Kingsley's wife Anna is also a significant person in history. As a former slave and wife of a white plantation owner in Florida, Anna's life has been the subject of many scholarly works. She is an anomaly in the antebellum south as she was a female former slave who owned property and managed a large plantation. The site is significant under Criterion C as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the coquina block and tabby concrete construction methods. Coquina block was used to construct portions of the Main House basement walls. Tabby was utilized to construct many buildings on the site including the Slave Cabins, portions of the Main House basement walls, the first floor of the Kitchen House and part of the Barn. The Plantation Era landscape is significant under Criterion D as it has

yielded and may be likely to yield further information important in the history of plantation life. Archeological investigations around the slave quarters have revealed clues regarding plantation slave life and archaeological investigations around the Core Area have revealed (and future investigations may reveal) potential locations of plantation outbuildings. Future archeological investigations could pinpoint the location of a possible cemetery within the Core Area.

The Kingsley Plantation site is also significant as an example of early-twentieth century recreational development along the Florida coast. The site is significant under Criterion A for its association with the transition of the Sea Island coast from an agricultural economy to an economy based on tourism and recreational development. This transition of economies and land use led to the preservation of historic elements of the site, such as the view to the river from the main building complex, but also eventually led to the loss of other historic elements such as large expanses of open fields.

## Chronology & Physical History

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Ethnographic/Traditional  
Designed  
Historic Site  
Vernacular

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Single Family House

**Primary Current Use:** Administrative Office (HDQS)

| Other Use/Function               | Other Type of Use or Function |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Visitor Contact (Visitor Center) | Current                       |
| Maintenance Facility             | Current                       |
| Comfort Station (Latrine)        | Current                       |
| Interpretation Facility          | Current                       |
| Multiple Dwelling-Other          | Historic                      |
| Clubhouse (Social/Garden)        | Historic                      |
| Agricultural Field               | Historic                      |
| Farm (Plantation)                | Historic                      |
| Agriculture/Subsistence-Other    | Historic                      |
| Barn                             | Historic                      |

**Current and Historic Names:**

| <b>Name</b>                             | <b>Type of Name</b>       |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kingsley Plantation State Historic Site | Historic                  |
| Plantation, Fort George Island          | Historic                  |
| Kingsley Plantation                     | Both Current And Historic |
| The Homestead                           | Historic                  |

**Ethnographic Study Conducted:** No Survey Conducted

**Chronology:**

| <b>Year</b>    | <b>Event</b>     | <b>Annotation</b>                                                                               |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CE 1760        | Land Transfer    | Fort George Island is owned by John Tucker<br>Tucker                                            |
| CE 1765        | Land Transfer    | Fort George Island granted to Richard Hazard<br>Hazard                                          |
| CE 1765 - 1771 | Farmed/Harvested | Hazard operates an indigo plantation with labor provided by slaves of African descent<br>Hazard |
| CE 1771        | Purchased/Sold   | Governor Patrick Tonyn owns Fort George Island<br>Tonyn                                         |
| CE 1791        | Land Transfer    | The Spanish government grants John McQueen Fort George Island<br>McQueen                        |
| CE 1794 - 1798 | Farmed/Harvested | McQueen operates timber/lumber business on Fort George Island<br>McQueen                        |
| CE 1798 - 1804 | Farmed/Harvested | McQueen plants Sea Island cotton and corn on Fort George Island<br>McQueen                      |

Kingsley Plantation  
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

---

|                |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CE 1797 - 1798 | Built            | Probable construction of Main House<br><br>McQueen                                                                                                                                                            |
| CE 1797 - 1804 | Built            | Probable construction of the east half of the first floor of the Kitchen House.<br><br>McQueen                                                                                                                |
| CE 1804        | Purchased/Sold   | John Houstoun McIntosh purchases Fort George Island<br><br>McIntosh                                                                                                                                           |
| CE 1804 - 1814 | Farmed/Harvested | McIntosh maintains the island as a Sea Island cotton plantation<br><br>McIntosh                                                                                                                               |
| CE 1814 - 1839 | Inhabited        | Zephaniah Kingsley, Anna Kingsley, and their children occupy Fort George Island. Crops from the plantation include Sea Island cotton, sugarcane, and subsistence farming/provisions<br><br>Zephaniah Kingsley |
|                | Built            | Palmetto Avenue<br><br>Zephaniah Kingsley and Anna Kingsley                                                                                                                                                   |
| CE 1814 - 1831 | Built            | Slave Cabins E1-E16 and W1-W16 constructed on the plantation site<br><br>Zephaniah Kingsley                                                                                                                   |
| CE 1814 - 1820 | Built            | Probable date of construction of the remainder of the Kitchen House<br><br>Zephaniah Kingsley                                                                                                                 |
| CE 1817        | Purchased/Sold   | Sale of Fort George Island for \$7,000 from John Houston McIntosh to Zephaniah Kingsley, Jr. becomes final<br><br>Zephaniah Kingsley                                                                          |
| CE 1831        | Purchased/Sold   | Zephaniah Kingsley sells Fort George island to his son, George Kingsley                                                                                                                                       |

|                |                  |                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                |                  | George Kingsley                                                                                                                                       |
| CE 1836        | Purchased/Sold   | George and Anatoile Kingsley sell Fort George Island back to Zephaniah Kingsley.                                                                      |
|                |                  | Zephaniah Kingsley                                                                                                                                    |
| CE 1839        | Purchased/Sold   | Zephaniah Kingsley sells Fort George Island to two of his nephews, Kingsley Beatty Gibbs and Ralph King—sale includes forty of Kingsley’s slaves      |
|                |                  | Kingsley Beatty Gibbs and Ralph King                                                                                                                  |
| CE 1842        | Purchased/Sold   | Kingsley Beatty Gibbs purchases Ralph King’s share of Fort George Island                                                                              |
|                |                  | Kingsley Beatty Gibbs                                                                                                                                 |
| CE 1853        | Purchased/Sold   | Kingsley Beatty Gibbs sells Fort George Island to John Lewis                                                                                          |
|                |                  | John Lewis                                                                                                                                            |
| CE 1854        | Purchased/Sold   | John Lewis sells Fort George Island to Charles R. Thomson of South Carolina                                                                           |
|                |                  | Charles Thomson                                                                                                                                       |
| CE 1854 - 1855 | Farmed/Harvested | Charles Thomson sends fifty of his slaves to Fort George Island to cultivate the property                                                             |
|                |                  | Charles Thomson                                                                                                                                       |
| CE 1860        | Purchased/Sold   | The daughter of Charles R. Thomson and her husband, Charles Hayward Barnwell, purchase Fort George Island and settle there with their infant daughter |
|                |                  | Charles Hayward Barnwell                                                                                                                              |
| CE 1865        | Purchased/Sold   | Charles Barnwell sells half of his interest in Fort George island to his brother, Bower W. Barnwell                                                   |
|                |                  | Bower W. Barnwell                                                                                                                                     |
| CE 1866        | Purchased/Sold   | Charles and Bower Barnwell sell Fort George Island to northern investor George W. Beach and his partner Abner Keeney                                  |
|                |                  | George W. Beach and Abner Keeney                                                                                                                      |

Kingsley Plantation  
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

---

|                |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CE 1869        | Purchased/Sold | John Rollins and his partner Richard H. Ayer purchase Fort George Island<br><br>John Rollins and Richard H. Ayer                                                                                                                                                  |
| CE 1869 - 1877 | Built          | Rollins constructs a 65-foot covered walkway between the Main House and the Kitchen House<br><br>John Rollins                                                                                                                                                     |
|                | Planted        | One hundred acres of orange trees are planted for commercial production<br><br>John Rollins                                                                                                                                                                       |
| CE 1873        | Purchased/Sold | Rollins and Ayer begin to sell off portions of Fort George Island, which previously was passed intact from buyer to buyer. They have the southern portion of the island surveyed into eight lots and sell them<br><br>John Rollins and Ayer                       |
| CE 1877 - 1886 | Built          | Rollins expanded the Main House and remodeled the Kitchen House<br><br>John Rollins                                                                                                                                                                               |
| CE 1875 - 1879 | Purchased/Sold | Rollins sells 217 acres on the north side of Fort George Island to his brother, Edward Rollins. The Fort George Island Association is established, a hotel is opened and the remainder of the island is surveyed into approximately 786 lots.<br><br>John Rollins |
| CE 1879        | Purchased/Sold | John Rollins brother, Edward Rollins purchases the unsold portions of the island from the Fort George Island Association, including the Core Area<br><br>Edward Rollins                                                                                           |
| CE 1894 - 1895 | Destroyed      | “Great Freeze” eliminates orange crop on Fort George Island<br><br>Rollins                                                                                                                                                                                        |

Kingsley Plantation  
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

---

|                |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CE 1923        | Purchased/Sold | Admiral Victor Blue organizes the Army and Navy Club of Fort George Island on 203 acres of the former Rollins property, which includes the Core Area of the former plantation<br><br>Army-Navy Club                                                                                    |
| CE 1926        | Altered        | The Army-Navy Club is rechartered as the Fort George Club<br><br>Fort George Club                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| CE 1923 - 1935 | Built          | “Tabby” Entry Gate Posts constructed to mark entrance to Fort George Club Area<br><br>Fort George Club                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| CE 1926        | Built          | The Fort George Club builds a clubhouse and operates the Main House for overflow guests<br><br>Fort George Club                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                | Built          | Lutz House and Garage built on the site<br><br>??? Lutz                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| CE 1927        | Built          | At least four “bungalow” structures are constructed between the Slave Cabin arc and the Main House/Club House area<br><br>Various owners or Fort George Club                                                                                                                           |
| CE 1936        | Destroyed      | A fire destroys the second story of The Fort George Club<br><br>Fort George Club                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                | Built          | The Fort George Club clubhouse is rebuilt with insurance money from the fire<br><br>Fort George Club                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| CE 1955        | Purchased/Sold | The State of Florida purchases the Fort George Clubhouse & immediate surroundings, including Main House, Kitchen House, & Barn, but not the arc of Slave Cabins to the south of the Main House. This area forms new Park administered by the State of Florida.<br><br>State of Florida |

Kingsley Plantation  
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

---

|                |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CE 1966        | Purchased/Sold | All but two of the remaining Slave Cabins are added to the State Park Property at Kingsley Plantation<br><br>State of Florida                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| CE 1971        | Built          | Slave Cabin E1 receives roofing<br><br>State of Florida                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| CE 1975        | Built          | Entry gate built on south edge of property at Palmetto Avenue access point<br><br>State of Florida                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| CE 1977        | Built          | Two maintenance structures added to the area west of the Fort George Club House<br><br>State of Florida                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| CE 1978 - 1979 | Built          | Parking lot area constructed between the Slave Cabin arc and the Main House area<br><br>State of Florida                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| CE 1991        | Land Transfer  | The National Park Service takes possession of the Kingsley Plantation complex from the State of Florida. NPS purchases the final two Slave Cabins and other surrounding properties to enlarge the Kingsley Plantation portion of the Preserve.<br><br>United States of America, Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) |
| CE 1992 - 1994 | Demolished     | Four "bungalow" structures demolished<br><br>NPS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| CE 1992        | Built          | Entry sign to property constructed on south end of site<br><br>NPS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| CE 1993        | Built          | Access ramp for disabled visitors constructed adjacent to Main House<br><br>NPS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

Kingsley Plantation  
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

---

|                |       |                                                                                                       |
|----------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                | Built | Interpretive signage added in several locations throughout the site                                   |
|                |       | NPS                                                                                                   |
|                | Built | Bollards added along Palmetto Avenue adjacent to Slave Cabins to prevent vehicular access to the area |
|                |       | NPS                                                                                                   |
|                | Built | Carport added to the area west of the Fort George Club House                                          |
|                |       | NPS                                                                                                   |
| CE 1994        | Built | Pump House southeast of Tabby Barn                                                                    |
|                |       | NPS                                                                                                   |
| CE 1996        | Built | Installation of portable walkway system around Main House area                                        |
|                |       | NPS                                                                                                   |
| CE 1997 - 1998 | Built | New bulkhead on Fort George River constructed                                                         |
|                |       | NPS                                                                                                   |
| CE 2002        | Built | Modern dock constructed west of Main House area for water-based access to the site                    |
|                |       | NPS                                                                                                   |
| CE 2004        | Moved | Entry sign on south end of sight moved to present location                                            |
|                |       | NPS                                                                                                   |

## Physical History:

### Pre-Plantation Era ( -1765)

The physiographical history of the site now known as Kingsley Plantation begins with its formation during the Pleistocene era. Scholarly assumptions of the age of Fort George Island are based on similarities in soils between the island and neighboring Talbot Island. Scientists Dickenson and Wayne suggest that these two islands were once one before separation by the Fort George River (Walker 1988, 23). Karen Jo Walker analyzes the evolution of the island from barrier island to its present form in an archaeological report on the Kingsley Plantation site. She states: “The possibility that Fort George Island once faced the open sea is considered because of the presence of a single relict sand dune, Mount Cornelia, located in the northeast of the island (Dickenson and Wayne 1987:2-3)” (Ibid.) The rich soils and abundant flora and fauna provided by its estuarine and salt marsh surroundings made this location a desirable place for habitation for thousands of years.

The area now known as Fort George Island was once part of the domain of the Timucua-speaking tribes described by early explorers. Although there is no firm date for the arrival of humans on the American continents, there is good evidence that humans inhabited Florida as early as 14,000 years ago, living in small bands of nomadic hunters. They may have occupied the coastline, at that time many miles east of its present location due to the much lower sea level during the Pleistocene age. Therefore, the camps of these early inhabitants of Florida, at that time along the coast, are now under water. About 6,000 years ago, settlement and subsistence patterns began to change in the area. As the glaciers melted and the sea rose, the indigenous population moved inland with the shoreline. Although settlement patterns still included seasonal migration, with winters on the coast and summers in the uplands, it appears that more time was spent along the river areas. The subsistence shift is apparent from the large freshwater shell middens found along the St. Johns River. Scientists estimate that more than 97 percent of the shells in these middens are from pond snails, although snails represented only about 24 percent of the total diet. About 3,500 years ago, the diet changed again. “Most shell mounds along the coast and in the coastal lagoons [from this period] are composed of coquina....” (Hammersten 1988, 9). About 3,000 years ago, “the coastal and lagoon environments changed to allow the growth and exploitation of oyster beds” (Ibid.). About 2,500 years ago, “oysters became the dominant shellfish” in the diet (Ibid.). Also about this time, exotic trade goods, such as mica, galena, and copper, began to enter the area, the result of trading goods with other cultures. Between 2,500 years and 1,500 years ago, “the Deptford culture [became] the dominant influence.... Deptford sites are located in coastal hammocks adjacent to lagoons. They are generally small, shallow, circular shell deposits arranged in a linear fashion along the marsh edge. These deposits sometimes overlap giving the appearance of being one long site” (Ibid.).

The native inhabitants of this area were several tribes of the Timucua-speaking Indians, including, by the 1560s, the Saturiwa and the Allicamany. Because of their common language, Europeans assumed they were all of one tribe and called them Timucua. The Timucua “inhabited the coastal lagoons and estuaries and the pine flatwoods. Their subsistence was based on fresh and saltwater shellfish collecting, fishing, hunting, gathering, and maize agriculture” (Ibid.).

European settlement of the area occurred soon after the Spanish claimed “La Florida” in 1513. A struggle for settlement of the area ensued with the Frenchman, Jean Ribault, claiming present day Fort George Island and its surrounds for France. Ribault also made contact with the Timucuan-speaking tribes near the mouth of the St. Johns River in 1562. Ribault, who was sponsored by the Huguenot leader, Gaspard de Châtillon, landed his small fleet with 150 men on the south bank of what is now called the St. Johns River. Ribault erected a carved stone marker on the south bank to commemorate the landing, then crossed the river to what eventually came to be called Fort George Island and met with a group of Timucua led by Paracousi (King) Allicamany. The group exchanged gifts with the Indians and then returned to the south side of the river, where they also met with another group of Timucua led by Paracousi Sauriwa. The French did not stay long in Florida, but sailed northward within a few days to present-day South Carolina, looking “for a place to establish a Protestant refuge” (Wood and Bullard, 1996 32).

By order of King Charles IX of France, the French established a settlement at the mouth of the St. Johns River at Fort Carolina. In 1564, Rene de Laudonnière, Ribault’s lieutenant on the first voyage, led a second French excursion to Florida. His fleet of three ships and about 300 colonists landed at the mouth of the St. Johns River on June 25 and established Fort Caroline there (this site has been reconstructed by the National Park Service, and it also falls within the boundary of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve). Although the French were aware of better sites to the north, Laudonnière decided that the best chance for survival of the group lay in establishing their colony in an area where the Native Americans appeared to be friendly. To ensure their friendliness, Laudonnière agreed to help Sauriwa fight his enemies the Utina. Food supplies and relations with the Native Americans deteriorated, and a relief expedition of four ships led by Jean Ribault was dispatched from France.

In the meantime, King Philip II of Spain, alarmed by the construction of the French Fort Caroline on land the Spanish claimed for their own, dispatched Pedro Menendez de Aviles to Florida to reclaim the land for Spain. Menendez was to colonize the territory, convert the natives to the Catholic faith, remove or destroy any settlers who were not subjects of Spain, build several forts and settlements in areas with good ports, and explore and map the coast of Florida. Menendez arrived in Florida, determined to wipe out the French.

Menendez first established his own base of operations, the settlement of St. Augustine, and then set about eradicating the French colony at Fort Caroline. He burned the fort to the ground. Laudonnière and a few others escaped. French ships rescued them, and they sailed to France. The Spanish hanged all of the French captured at Fort Caroline, sparing only women and children. John Ribault, in the meantime, progressed toward St. Augustine to attack. However, his ship turned aside to intercept a Spanish supply ship, and wrecked in a storm at the south end of the Florida peninsula. Menendez tracked down the survivors of the wreck and killed about 440 of 640 men, including Jean Ribault. Menendez then rebuilt Fort Caroline, and renamed it San Mateo. He also established two other forts, San Gabriel and San Esteban.

A Spanish mission was built on Fort George Island in 1587 and named San Juan del Puerto. The island and its mission underwent British attack in the early eighteenth century, and Fort Saint George was constructed on the island in 1732 by James Oglethorpe. In 1753 Jonathan Dickinson wrote about the fort location on Fort George Island. “Hre the General built his last fort, by which he intended to secure both the Passes. [T]he pass up St. John’s River, and a back passage which leads from the North End of Talbot into the St. John’s River, but after he had built the Fort and placed a command in it, he again withdrew the command and demolished the Fort, but for what Reason I never knew, perhaps he thought it too distant from the Main Body of his Troops to be supported” (Dickinson, 1996 32).

The 1763 Treaty of Paris made Florida a British Possession, temporarily removing all of Florida from Spanish control. The British occupation of Florida “brought a revolution in land ownership, as the new governor, James Grant, encouraged settlers to come to Florida by distributing large grants of land to Protestant families who would move to the province. He also provided even larger tracts to absentee owners in England. This new land policy...ushered in the era of Plantation Agriculture” (Stowell, 1991, 21.)

#### Plantation Era (1765-1865)

John Tucker owned Fort George Island in the early 1760s, but it is not clear whether he resided there. He probably began the clearing of land and cultivation of crops. Tucker “raised indigo and rice for export to England until 1783 but it is not known how much, if any, of these crops originated on Fort George Island” (Baker 1985, 6).

Fort George Island was surveyed to Richard Hazard, Sr. on June 5, 1765. Hazard owned slaves and produced indigo on the land they worked. Hazard settled on Fort George Island before February 10, 1766, when naturalist John Bartram and his son William documented a visit the island. The younger Bartram made notes about his observations on the island and wrote “the curiosities, both natural and artificial, of the Indians and Spaniards” were still quite apparent on the island. He noted “numerous heaps of oyster shells” which were observed and sketched by later visitors. He was also impressed by the remnants of the Spaniards including, “cedar posts on each side of their fine straight avenues, pieces of hewn live-oaks, and great trees girdled round to kill them.” Of the natural conditions of the island, he observed “this rich island, though it appears sandy on the surface, yet hath a clay bottom, above which in some places there is a dark-coloured strata of indurated sand-rock” (Bartram 1942, 48, 76). By 1771, Richard Hazard, Sr. was no longer on the island, but his son, Richard Hazard, Jr., a planter like his father, remained.

During this period, 1765-1865, Fort George Island was conveyed from buyer to seller as a single piece of property. The earliest map delineating property transfer to Richard Hazard is from 1787 (Figure 5). This map depicts the island with some degree of accuracy, detailing general areas of Oak Land, Hickory Land, Live Oak and Marsh. Due to the fact that the island is not depicted as cleared, it is not apparent from this map if the prior owner, Tucker, cultivated the land. The approximate area of the island is noted as 1000 acres. A portion of a map dated from 1791 depicts “Punta de la Isla San Jorge”(Figure 6). The area around what would become the Kingsley Plantation site appears undeveloped beyond the depiction of several roads on the island. An 1818 map depicts the island during the second Spanish ownership of Florida (Boca y Bara 1818). The island appears undeveloped and wooded. However, clearing and cultivation had occurred on the island at this point (Figure 7).

Governor Patrick Tonyn acquired several thousand acres in eastern Florida in 1771 including Fort George Island. As ownership of Florida shifted between the Spanish and the British during this period, evidence of the transfer of ownership and agricultural activities on Fort George Island is unclear until plantation-owner John McQueen was granted the island by the Spanish government in 1792.

Although the Treaty of Paris that ended the American Revolution in 1783 transferred Florida from Britain back to Spain and ended twenty years of British rule, many of the former British colonists did not leave Florida after it reverted. The Second Spanish Period had a different emphasis from the first. After 1783, Spain encouraged the settlement and commercial growth of Florida, rather than military and religious advancement, as was the case in the earlier period. According to census records, in 1784, William Harris lived on Fort George Island with his wife and four children, but he left Florida by 1789 in response to the change from British to Spanish Administration (Stowell, 31).

In 1790, the Spanish instituted a land grant system by Royal Order that gave land to any Spanish citizen who petitioned for it. The citizen then had to make only the necessary improvements upon it to become the registered owner. The King also offered land grants to foreign nationals who would swear allegiance to Spain in return for their land. John McQueen, heavily in debt from prior land purchases in Georgia, was such a party.

McQueen appears to have settled on Fort George Island when he began lumbering operations on the St. Johns River in 1792. His first residence was on the southern end of the island, near his sawmill. According to letters from John McQueen to his family, he eventually chose the northwestern quadrant of the island for his homestead and built a house [Main House] there between 1797 and 1798 (Stowell, 34). In 1798, McQueen's son wrote to his sister that she should come see the newly constructed house (Stowell, 36). The wood-framed Main House was constructed over a full basement enclosed by coquina block and brick walls. The two-story house contained an attic and a lookout. To the immediate south of the Main House is the Kitchen House. Archaeological and architectural evidence suggests that the Kitchen House was constructed shortly after the Main House. It is probable that part of the existing Tabby Barn was constructed around this time as well. Investigations in the Main House have revealed that a number of repairs and additions were made to it over time. These repairs involved the use of several different types of brick in the basement walls, including two types of tabby brick. The incidence and age of the tabby brick used elsewhere on the property helps to define the construction sequence of the plantation outbuildings (Hartrampf 2005).

In his letter to his sister, McQueen's son also stated that there were "a great number of Fruit Trees of different kinds planted out" (Stowell, 36). McQueen's letters to his family indicated that McQueen had been planting cotton on the island at least by 1799. Letters indicate that the crop in subsequent years yielded far less than McQueen had hoped. Corn was also planted on the island (Hartridge 1943). The available sources do not indicate the location of these cotton and corn fields.

Despite his abundant wealth in land and a sawmill constructed on the St. Johns River, McQueen fell into debt and sold his Fort George Island plantation to John Houston McIntosh. According to Stowell, McIntosh and his wife Eliza began living and planting crops on Fort George Island in 1804. The couple brought with them two hundred slaves who were housed in wooden buildings. Between three and four hundred acres of the island were now under Sea Island cotton cultivation (Smith 1973, 9-10).

The luxurious and profitable long-staple Sea Island cotton was well-suited to the long growing season, frequent rain and well-drained soils of the coastal areas of the southeastern United States, such as that of Fort George Island. Further, the abundance of potential fertilizer found in organic marsh material and the lime-rich shell middens would have been of benefit to those cultivating Fort George Island (Baker, 1985 29-30).

The establishment of a plantation on Fort George Island was part of the larger settlement pattern in Florida whereby wealthy landowners carved plantations out of the woodland in order to take advantage of the cheap land, rich soils and easy water transport. The St. Johns River, and the larger St. Marys River drainage area, was one such area that attracted agricultural investment, specifically for indigo, rice and Sea Island cotton. The establishment and growth of this plantation culture in Florida, and more specifically on the St. Johns River and Kingsley Plantation, was unreservedly reliant on a forced labor system; for the most part, slaves were imported through the interstate slave trade to work the plantations (Figure 8) (Ibid.).

The Patriots' Rebellion of 1812 was an effort to seize the colony of Florida from the Spanish and turn it over to the United States for annexation. The patriots expected generous grants of land in East Florida from the United States government in return. McIntosh was heavily involved with this effort and was elected as Commissioner charged with offering the territory to the United States. During this uprising, witnesses stated that all of the buildings at McIntosh's Fort George Plantation were burned except the Main House. Apparently the wooden slave quarters were destroyed at this time (Schafer 1994, 46).

Due to the failure of his political struggles in Florida, McIntosh and his family fled the island to Georgia in 1813. All along the banks of the St. Johns River, plantations lay in ruins, with buildings damaged or destroyed, crops, livestock, and possessions plundered, and slaves stolen or killed. After the withdrawal of the patriots to Georgia, bands of criminals roamed the countryside from the Georgia border to St. Augustine and as far south as New Smyrna, adding to the devastation. On Fort George Island, during the Patriots' Rebellion, Native Americans, patriots, and bandits "ransacked...the plantation," burning everything except the Main House, which they stripped, even "to the extent of taking the locks from the doors. They stole five or six boats from the plantation and 'sixty foot cotton gins'" existing on the island to prepare the plantation cotton for market (Stowell, 42). Wooden buildings formerly used for housing overseers, slaves, and livestock were nothing but charred ruins.

In 1814, McIntosh rented the plantation to Zephaniah Kingsley, Jr., who purchased the property outright on January 27, 1817. Kingsley, who was both a planter/slave-owner and slave trader, continued to cultivate a large part of the island in Sea Island cotton. He also planted sugarcane and food crops on the island. Kingsley and his family, including his formerly enslaved wife, Anna, lived on and managed the island with the goal of “restoring the barrier-island plantation to its former prosperity”(Stowell, 45).

Soon after the Kingsley’s purchase of Fort George Island, Spain and the United States signed the Adams-Onís Treaty in 1819 in which Spain ceded Florida to the United States in exchange for the assumption of responsibility by the United States government for \$5 million in claims by American citizens against Spain.

During the ownership of the plantation by Zephaniah and Anna Kingsley, many improvements were made to the property. The Barn and Kitchen House were both expanded during this period. Additionally, thirty-two (32) slave quarters were constructed in an arc formation approximately 1200 feet south of the Main House area. These shelters were constructed of tabby, a concrete-like mixture of water, sand, lime, and oyster shell. The ruins of these shelters still exist today and have evidence of brick fireplaces and window openings. According to historian Daniel Schafer, the arc formation of the tabby structures was “part of a grand plan devised by Zephaniah Kingsley” to provide privacy to the families living within while still promoting a sense of community among the slaves. Larger cabins were built for “slave-drivers”; these cabins were located in the middle of the arc as well as flanking either end. Other interpretations of the arc formation of cabins suggest that Anna Kingsley may have influenced the layout of the cabins based on the designs of the African villages of her youth, as “the building complex at Fort George Island is reminiscent of the circular African communities Anna knew in Africa” (Schafer 1994, 54-55) (Figure 9).

Physical evidence, discussed in the “Chronology of Development and Use” portions of the Historic Structure Report (HSR) for the Main House and Kitchen House at Kingsley Plantation, suggests that the lower eastern portion of the Kitchen House already existed when Kingsley moved his family to Fort George Island. Nevertheless, the years 1820 to 1830 probably represent the period within which Kingsley enlarged the building to include the western half of the lower portion and, possibly, the entire upper portion of the building to accommodate Anna’s expectations of separate living quarters at the plantation. Anna Kingsley, as mistress of the plantation, directed the daily operations, and she was accustomed to living above a working portion of a plantation. At Fort George Island, she lived above the kitchen and storerooms. At Kingsley’s former plantation, Laurel Grove, Anna lived above the store.

An 1822 Map depicts Fort George Island during the Kingsleys occupancy. The map is not highly detailed; however it does show road patterns leading to a deep water access point on the east side of the island. The map also shows one of the north to south routes in the approximate location of Palmetto Avenue extending to the river. Another road leads from the current location of Point Isabella, a small inlet on the northeast corner of the island thought to be a historic deep water access point. Buildings are depicted on this map, although without great detail. (Figure 10).

In his book on Anna Kingsley, Schafer states that “Kingsley [made] use of the task system of labor organization. The task system emerged in the eighteenth century among rice plantations in low-country areas of the South” (Schafer 1994, 43). In the task system, the slave was assigned a specific task for the day, such as hoeing one-half acre of corn. When that task was completed, the rest of the day was available to the slave for tending to his or her own needs, such as fishing, hunting, and tending to crops. Kingsley’s nephew wrote of the system that his uncle preferred to allow his slaves to use this time uninterrupted by other plantation duties. This practice was of a decided material benefit to Kingsley because the increased slave productivity for their own crops and provisions made for a more efficient operation on the plantation, possibly decreasing the amount of foodstuffs that Kingsley may have supplied for his slaves’ sustenance, as well as giving his slaves a positive motivation to work quickly and well (Walker 44). Additionally, Kingsley allowed his slaves a half-day on Saturday and a full day on Sunday to be used for their own purposes, and encouraged “dancing, merriment, and dress” on these days (Schafer 1994, 72). Christmas holiday for the slaves, and, likely, the Kingsleys, ran from Christmas Day to New Years’ Day.

The land between the Slave Cabin arc and the Main House was cleared and cultivated at least by the mid to late nineteenth century, according to photographic documentation (Figure 11 and Figure 12). Photographic data from the late nineteenth century indicates that the immediate environs of the Slave Cabins was tilled earth with a few specimen trees and a wooden well structure. A circa 1870s photo shows workers in a freshly harvested field; the area north of the cabins is cleared with a few trees. Gertrude Rollins Wilson, a resident of the plantation during the late nineteenth century, recalled that the land between the Kitchen House and the Slave Cabin arc was occupied by two large live oak trees. Karen Jo Walker asserts that the area north of the Slave Cabins was used for subsistence farming. She writes, “it is believed, based on three late 1800s photographs that slave garden plots were located immediately north of the cabins.” Walker also notes that slaves at Kingsley’s Laurel Grove Plantation kept hogs and fowls near their quarters (Walker 74). Slaves at his Fort George Island Plantation may have also kept similar livestock near the Slave Cabins.

The primary historic vehicular approach to the Core Area was most likely established during the Kingsley period. Descriptions of Palmetto Avenue, the north-south access road to Kingsley Plantation, lined with stately palmetto trees date back as far as the mid-nineteenth century (Figure 13 and Figure 14).

Most historical accounts presume that Anna Kingsley planted the stately palms during her residence on Fort George Island. Julia Dodge makes the following observations of Palmetto Avenue in her 1877 Scribner’s Magazine article on Fort George Island:

“Beyond the “quarters,” through fields reclaimed from their wildness and once more under cultivation, curves a magnificent avenue of palms, the boast of the island and unequaled upon the continent. For more than a thousand feet the two rows of stately trunks lift their rounded tops fifty or sixty feet in air, and here and there in the neighboring field, still older ones tower up and up above them. There are several of these whose age can scarcely be guessed, but an inhabitant of a neighboring island, now nearly eighty years old, remembers that in her earliest childhood they looked just as they do now” (Dodge 1877, 659).

Although no primary evidence has been found stating that Kingsley cultivated Sea Island cotton on his Fort George Island plantation, there is a very strong likelihood that he did so. First, the planters before and after him planted Sea Island cotton on the island, and Kingsley himself planted the cash crop at his nearby Laurel Grove plantation. Also, as mentioned previously, the island is extremely well-suited to the cultivation of the long staple cotton (Walker 66). Most likely the crops grown at the Kingsley plantation included Sea Island cotton, indigo, corn, beans, potatoes, and similar provisions. According to Kingsley's nephew, Kingsley Beatty Gibbs, who later owned the plantation, cotton and food stuffs again became profitable crops for the plantation. Sugarcane fields and citrus groves also increased the profitability of the plantation (Fretwell 1984).

In 1828, while living at his plantation at Fort George Island, Kingsley published his most famous pro-slavery work, *Treatise on the Patriarchal or Cooperative System of Society as It Exists in Some Governments, and colonies in America, and in the United States, Under the Name of Slavery, With its Necessity and Advantages*. The *Treatise* was published again in 1829, 1833, and 1834.

In this *Treatise*, Kingsley outlines his feelings on slavery and his notion that freed people of color should hold nearly the same freedoms as whites including property ownership and ownership of slaves. Kingsley defined three tiers of citizens in Florida: white people, free people of color (which included freed blacks, whether from Africa or native to the Americas, and mulattos), and slaves. Kingsley believed that, in order to keep black slaves in subjugation, free people of color must be allied with white people by allowing them such freedoms as personal freedoms of choice (such as marriage partners) and the opportunity to participate in the civil affairs of the territory, excluding holding office. In Kingsley's estimation, this would bind the free people of color to the ruling white class. "Two policies were necessary for the maintenance of order in Florida: 'to treat our slave with justice, prudence, and moderation' and 'to have the free coloured population interested in preserving peace and good order among the slaves and being firmly attached to the side of whites by having the same interest'" (Stowell, 44).

By the late 1830s, however, most members of the Kingsley family relocated to Haiti. Zephaniah Kingsley first sold Fort George Island to his son, George Kingsley, in 1831, who then sold it back to his father in 1836 before he left for Haiti. The final transfer of the property from Zephaniah Kingsley came in 1839 when he sold the island in its entirety for \$34,000 to two of his nephews, Kingsley Beatty Gibbs and Ralph King. The sale of the property included forty of Kingsley's slaves. Three years later, Kingsley Beatty Gibbs purchased Ralph King's share of Fort George Island.

During his ownership of the plantation, Gibbs recorded the state of the plantation on Fort George Island in his journal. For the most part, he maintained a similar mix of crops as Zephaniah Kingsley had on the plantation. During his first tenure at the plantation, Gibbs lived and worked most of the year in Saint Augustine, Florida, visiting the island only on occasion. After he married his second wife, he moved to the island full time to try his hand as a planter. In his journal, Gibbs mentions cotton, corn, sugarcane, potatoes, arrow root, and peas. In December of 1840, Gibbs recorded his yields for the year as follows:

|                        |            |             |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|
| I planted              |            | I gathered  |
| 80 acres Cotton        | In Cotton  | 39,000 seed |
| 70 acres Corn          | “ Corn     | 1,250 bush: |
| 3 acres Cane           |            |             |
| 3 acres R. potatoes    | “ Potatoes | 725 “       |
| 12 acres Slip potatoes |            |             |
| 22 acres Peas          |            |             |
| (Fretwell, 17-19)      | “ Peas     | 100 “       |

The quantities of crops planted and harvest gathered fluctuated throughout Gibbs’ ownership.

Gibbs mentions several outbuildings in his journal including a “shop” which may have been a blacksmith’s shop located between the Kitchen House and the Slave Cabins. An 1853 nautical map depicting the island may show the blacksmith shop along with many of the other improvements including the Main House, or “Gibbs Ho.” (Figure 15) The map clearly depicts the Slave Cabin arc as well as areas of cleared land versus wooded tracts of land. The cleared areas depicted on the map roughly correspond with cleared areas depicted on later plat maps. Archeologist Carl McMurray closely inspected the map in 1983, and his study includes the following observations: “The map covers all of Ft. George Island and its surrounding waters; so the plantation itself is incredibly small. One can see the curve of the Slave Cabin line very easily. The Main House is represented by thick black lines forming a rectangle. The Anna Hai [sic] house is portrayed by thinner black lines also forming a rectangle. Behind (south of) the Anna House is a third structure represented by very thin lines connecting dots thus I believe this is meant to show a structural difference between the houses and this third structure...I believe it was made of upright timbers and roofed over to form a rather large airy, covered work/storage space.” McMurray continues, “we found evidence to support the idea that it was a blacksmith shop and all around fixit shop” (McMurray 1983, 12-13). Archaeological research has been inconclusive in pinpointing the several potential locations of this shop and may indicate that the shop changed locations over the years. Roadways also appear on the nautical map. A roadway type line is drawn to depict a route congruent with Palmetto Avenue. A second line diverges from the Palmetto Avenue route south of the Slave Cabins and then bisects the eastern half of the arc. This route no longer exists on the site, and may be part of a drainage ditch system depicted in a later interpretive map drawn in the 1930s (Figure 22).

On March 3, 1845, Florida was admitted as the twenty-seventh state of the United States. By 1850, Gibbs owned fifty-four slaves and was “both the largest landowner and largest slaveholder in the St. Johns District of Duval County, Florida” (Stowell, 53). His attitude toward his slaves appears to have been less paternal and more proprietary than was that of Zephaniah Kingsley. In the 1850 census list, for instance, Gibbs assigned arbitrary ages to his slaves: all young boys were seven years old; all young girls were eight years old, and older slaves were assigned ages in ten-year increments of 15, 25, 35, 45, and 55. This was regardless of the fact that Gibbs likely knew the actual ages of the children under ten years old, since he often noted their births in his journal (Stowell, 53).

Gibbs and his wife often had visitors on the island. Actually, the 1850 census revealed a collection of visitors to Fort George Island. Family members spent extended visits at the plantation. Gibbs' father, George Gibbs, was often there, if indeed, he did not live on the island. His sister, Sophia, was also a frequent visitor; in fact, she married there in 1846. Gibbs brother, Couper, and his sister, Isabella, wife of Ralph King, visited for extended periods.

The plantation staff included workers other than slaves, Gibbs hired John L. Williams as the plantation carpenter; his tenure ran between 1841 and 1850. In 1850, the overseer was W. H. Fitzpatrick. The 1850 census also lists engineer, Edward J. Johnson; ship builder, John Bell; inspector, Hardie H. Philips; pilot, John Daniels; and Mary Wallis as members of the Gibbs household.

Financial obligations may have over-extended the Gibbs family, as Fort George Island along with several other large landholdings were abruptly sold to John Lewis in 1853 for \$12,500. Lewis quickly turned the sale around and sold Fort George Island and the other holdings to Charles A. Thomson of South Carolina for the same price.

Thomson was one of the largest slaveholders in the South at the time he purchased Fort George Island. According to Stowell, it is not clear whether he ever lived on the island. However, he sent approximately fifty slaves to the island to cultivate the plantation (Stowell, 58). After Charles H. Thompson died, his son actively tried to sell the island as executor of his father's estate. When John Thomson advertised the sale in 1857, the ad read as follows: "FOR SALE. THE PLANTATION known as Fort George, situated at the mouth of the River St. John's, East Florida. The place has been well and favorably known for many years, and a detailed description is therefore unnecessary. Upon the principal Island there are upwards of 1060 acres of high land, of which 400 are in a state of cultivation. The soil is fertile, and produces excellt [sic] crops of Cotton and Sugar. Besides the high land, there is a large body of marsh land belonging to the Plantation, easily susceptible of drainage and high cultivation, or being used for manuring purposes. There is a vast amount of shells, from which the best lime could be obtained in abundance. There is a comfortable Dwelling House, with all necessary out buildings and quarters for 60 Negroes. The climate is also perfectly healthy for Whites and Blacks during the whole year. The line of Steamers from Charleston pass [sic] twice a week, thus offering the best transportation and market facilities" (The Florida Republican 1857).

Thomson's daughter, Charlotte, and her husband, Charles H. Barnwell, purchased the property for \$6,280 in 1860. That year the Barnwell family moved to the island and brought with them twenty slaves (Stowell, 59). The Barnwell family owned the island throughout the tumultuous Civil War period that followed. Many large landholders could no longer afford to maintain plantations after the war without slave labor, and Barnwell was no exception. During the post-war era, a trend of northern investment began on the island. George W. Beach and Abner C. Keeney, both of New York, entered into a partnership and together purchased Fort George Island from Barnwell in 1866.

Photographs from the 1860s show several developments on the property. An 1860s photograph of the eastern portion of the Main House shows the development of walkways and roads, including a shell road that appears to be an extension of Palmetto Avenue heading north to a wharf/dock at the river (Figure 16). Archaeological evidence from the Baker Report confirms the location of this shell road. Paths in the photograph extend along the front of the Main House in an east-west direction, as well as in the background of the photo, although the photographer's angle makes the paths' location difficult to pinpoint. A portion of Cedar Avenue, a tree-lined shell road lined with cedar trees, also appears in this photograph. Cedar Avenue is described more extensively later in this report

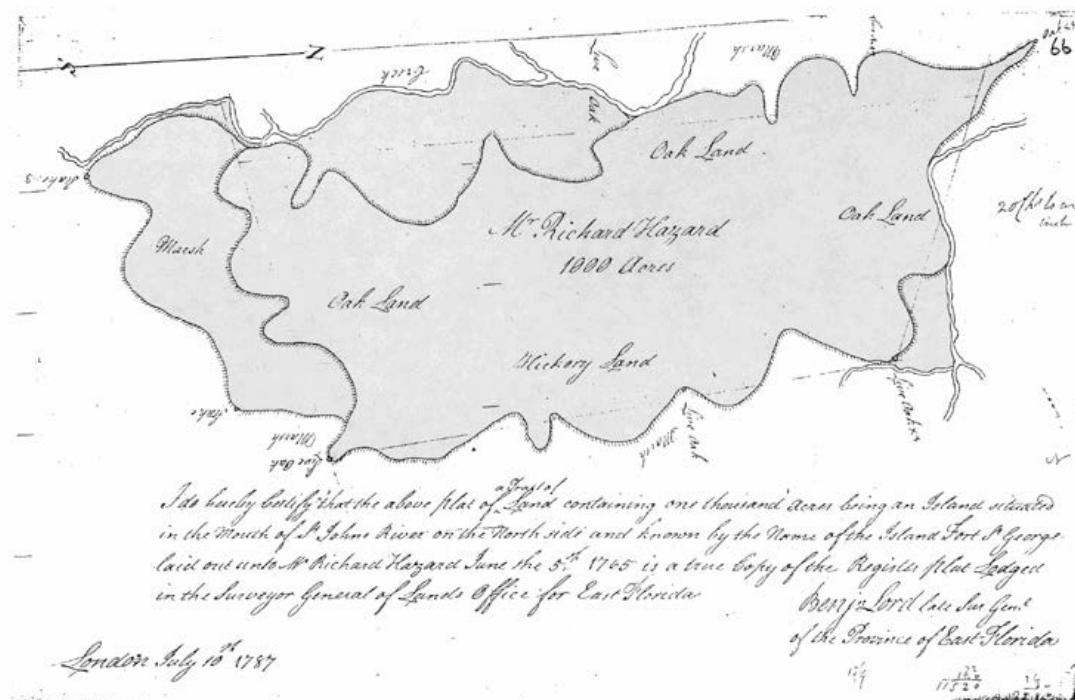


Figure 5: Land Grant Map 1787 Illustrating Allotment of 1000 Acres to Mr. Richard Hazard (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection, Courtesy of the Public Record Office, London, England.)



*Figure 6: Plano Numero 1 (?), de la Barra, y Rio de San Juan deste...., 24 Diciembre de 1791 años. Fort George Island is in the center right of the image. (Note: north points) down.)*

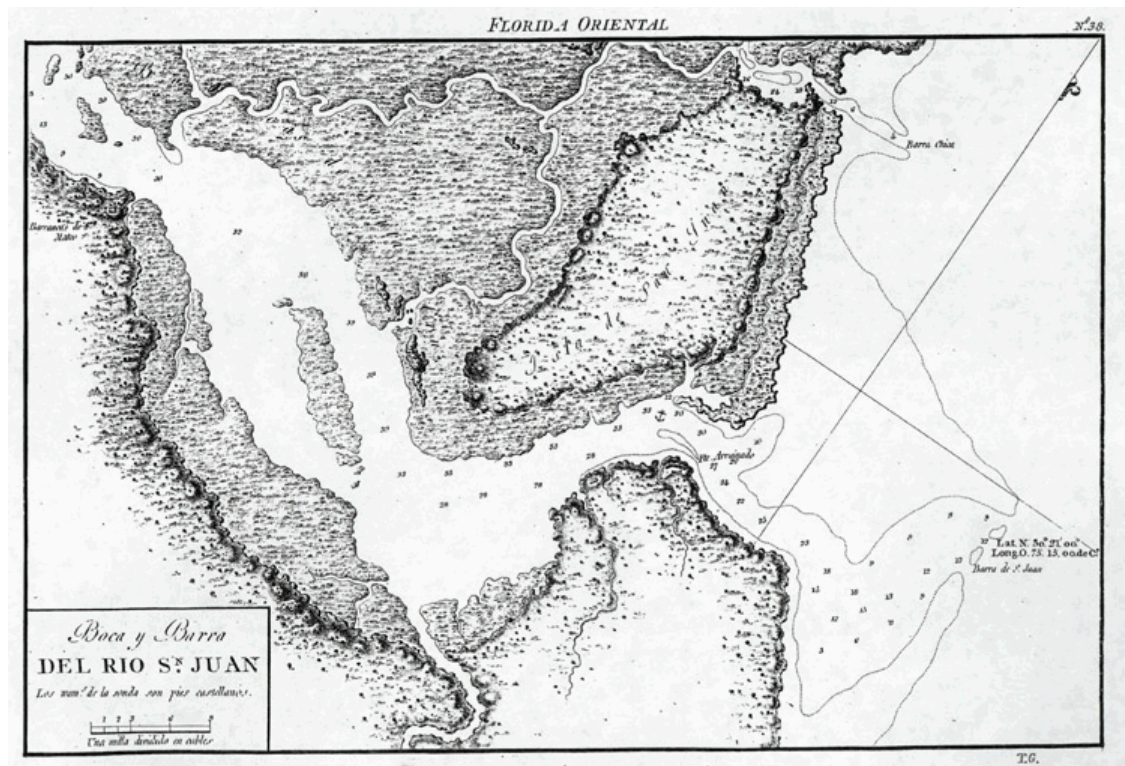


Figure 7: Boca y Barra Del Rio Sn. Juan (Reproduced from the Collections of the Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.)

**GANG OF 25 SEA ISLAND  
COTTON AND RICE NEGROES,**  
By LOUIS D. DE SAUSSURE.

On *THURSDAY* the 25th Sept., 1852, at 11 o'clock, A.M.,  
will be sold at RYAN'S MART, in Chalmers Street, in the  
City of Charleston,

*A prime gang of 25 Negroes, accustomed  
to the culture of Sea Island Cotton and  
Rice.*

CONDITIONS.—One-half Cash, balance by Bond, bearing interest from day of sale, payable in one and two years, to be secured by a mortgage of the negroes and approved personal security. Purchasers to pay for papers.

---

| No.                 | Age.      | Capacity.              | No.          | Age. | Capacity.                                |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------------|--------------|------|------------------------------------------|
| 1 Aleck,            | 33        | Carpenter.             | 16 Hannah,   | 60   | Cook.                                    |
| 2 Mary Ann,         | 31        | Field hand, prime.     | 17 Cudjoe,   | 22   | Prime field hand.                        |
| 3—3 Louisa,         | 10        |                        | 3—18 Nancy,  | 20   | Prime field hand, sister of Cudjoe.      |
| 4 Abena,            | 25        | Prime field hand.      | 19 Hannah,   | 34   | Prime field hand.                        |
| 5 Judy,             | 24        | Prime field hand.      | 20 James,    | 13   | Slight defect in knee from a broken leg. |
| 6 Carolina,         | 5         |                        | 21 Richard,  | 9    |                                          |
| 7 Simon,            | 1½        |                        | 22 Thomas,   | 6    |                                          |
| 5—8 Daphne, infant. |           |                        | 5—23 John,   | 3    |                                          |
| 9 Daniel,           | 45        | Field hand, not prime. | 1—24 Squash, | 40   | Prime field hand.                        |
| 10 Phillis,         | 32        | Field hand.            | 1—25 Thomas, | 28   | Prime field hand.                        |
| 11 Will,            | 9         |                        |              |      |                                          |
| 12 Daniel,          | 6         |                        |              |      |                                          |
| 13 Margaret,        | 4         |                        |              |      |                                          |
| 14 Delia,           | 2         |                        |              |      |                                          |
| 7—15 Hannah,        | 2 months. |                        |              |      |                                          |

Figure 8: 1852 Slave Sale Advertisement (Reproduced from the Collections of the Library of Congress, American Memory Collection)



*Figure 9: Undated Photograph showing Slave Cabins. (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection, Courtesy of the New York Historical Society.)*

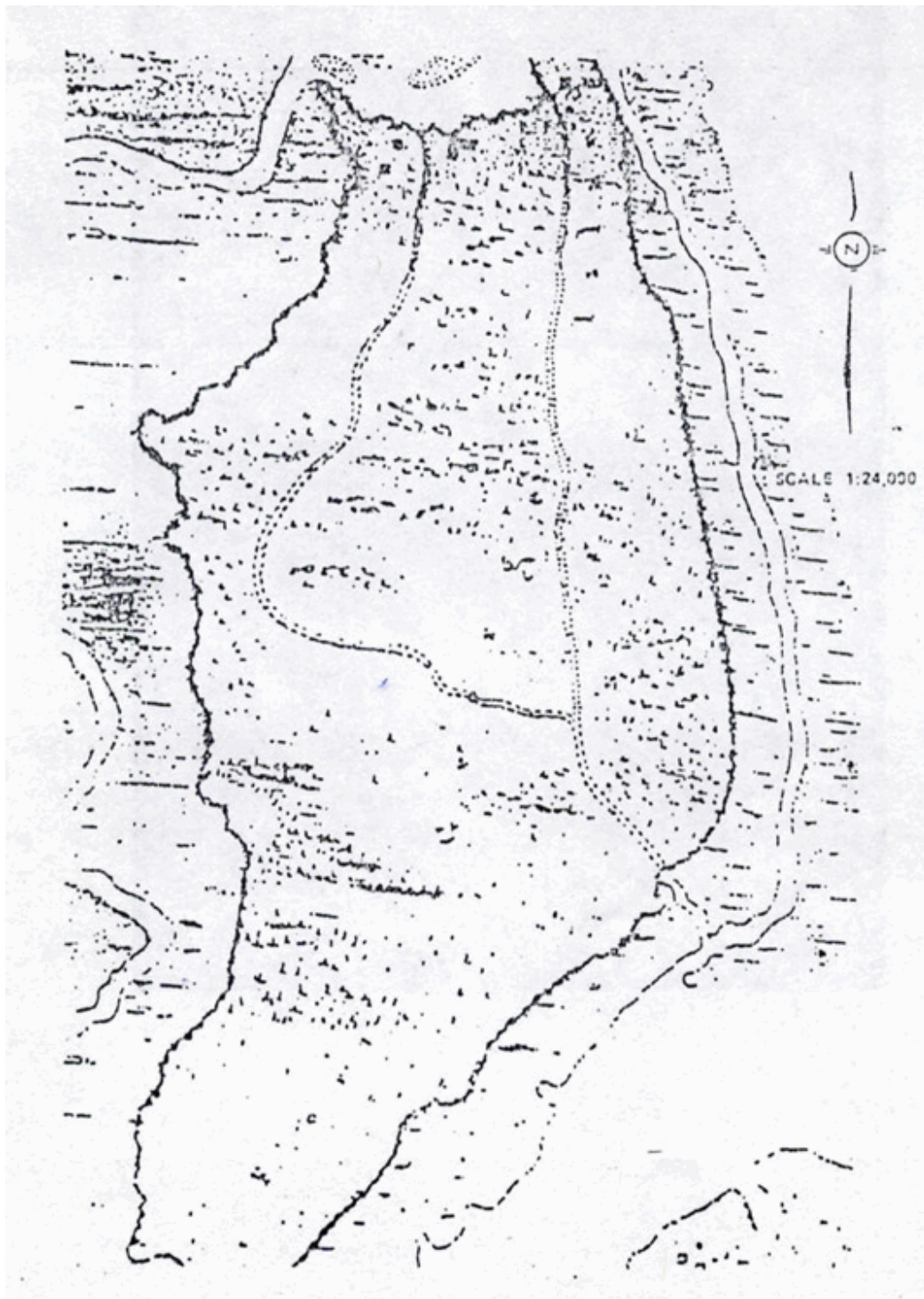


*Figure 10: An 1822 map of Fort George Island, known as the Vignoles Map. Reproduced from Karen Jo Walker, Kingsley and His Slaves (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.)*



*Figure 11: Mid-to-late 19th century photo of family in front of Slave Cabin arc with freshly plowed or harvested fields in the area north of the Slave Cabins. (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection, Courtesy of the Florida State Archives.)*



*Figure 12: Mid-to-late 19th century photo showing tilled area and wooden well structure (confirmed by archaeological research) in front of Slave Cabins (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection, Courtesy of the Florida State Archives.)*



Figure 13: Sketch of Palmetto Avenue. 1877 Scribner's Magazine. (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.)



*Figure 14: Undated Photograph of Palmetto Avenue (Jacksonville Public Library, Florida Collection)*



*Figure 15: 1853 US Coast Survey "Entrance to St Johns River" (Reproduced from the Collections of the Library of Congress, Geography and Map Collection, Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection)*

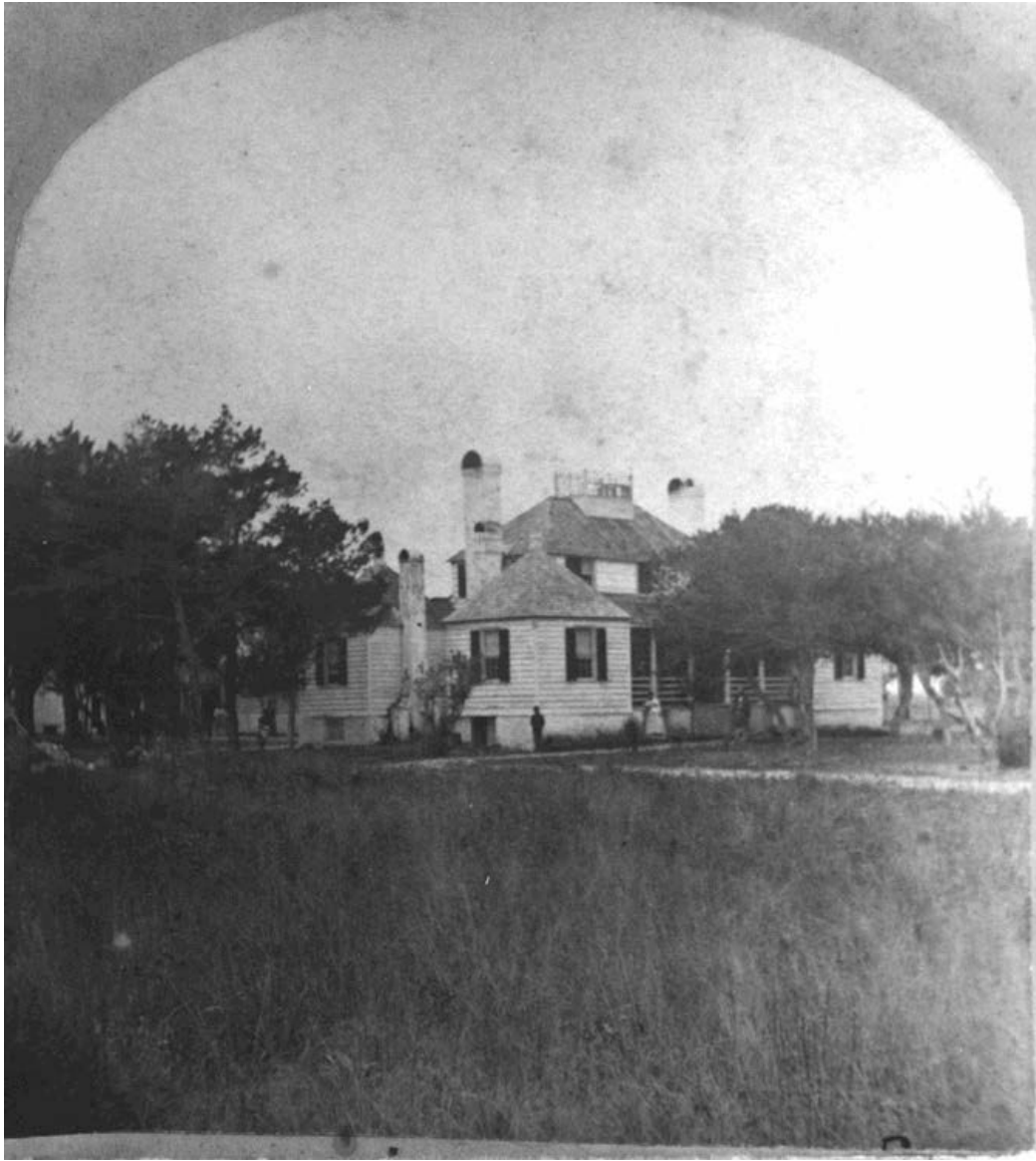


*Figure 16: 1860s photo of the Main House showing walkways and roads (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection, Courtesy of Kevin Hooper.)*

#### Rollins/Wilson Era (1865-1923)

After Barnwell sold the island to absentee landlords Beach and Keeney, it seems that little was sustained of the cohesive plantation on Fort George Island. Freedmen's Bureau reports indicated that several freed families remained on the island and continued to cultivate the land, but on a scale much smaller than that known during the Plantation Era. Between 1866 and 1869, "the only inhabitants of Fort George Island appear to have been freedpeople who farmed small plots of land. In July 1868 the Freedmen's Bureau issued rations to Lou Wallace, his wife and four children, and to William Bradley, his wife and two children. Each family was cultivating 10 acres of land" (Stowell, 61).

Interestingly, ethnographical studies of the Kingsley Plantation and its descendants suggest that the period of time prior to Emancipation and the period after the conclusion of the Civil War was not greatly distinguished in the remembrances of many former slaves. The harsh conditions of subsistence farming and the expectations of former owners, many of whom were now employers, still dictated the lives of many freed slaves (Jackson 2003, 83).

Florida was readmitted into the United States in 1868. Northern pharmacist and New Hampshire native John F. Rollins purchased the island in March of 1869. In his notebook, Rollins described his visits to Fort George Island. On December 17th, Rollins and a companion took a boat to nearby Pilot Town and then walked to the north end of Fort George Island. There, they encountered Andrew Fielding, who showed them around. They spent the day on the island. After another ten days of inspecting other properties, Rollins investigated the feasibility of purchasing Fort George Island. Although he observed in his notebook that it would “be hard to get title as it is under mortgage, [and] has to be sold, which can’t be done until next Dec.,” he apparently instructed the land agency to inquire for him about purchasing the property (John Rollins 1868-1869, 5). On January 3rd, he and two companions again traveled to Fort George Island, spent the day looking at the island, and camped in the abandoned Main House that night, sleeping on the table and in hammocks. The next two days were spent exploring the property, though they walked to Pilot Town to spend the night instead of sleeping in the Main House. Four days later, on January 9th, Rollins began to make arrangements for returning north. He “left \$20 with Denny for Andrew Fielding to plant cane on Fort George”(Ibid., 4-6). During his trip home, Rollins noted what tools and supplies he might need to purchase and also made plans to hire ten people, likely the freedpeople then living on the island. Rollins even determined what he would offer to pay these workers. John F. Rollins had made the decision to relocate to Fort George Island.

His wife Hannah described the arrival to the island in her diary. She stated that the roads on Fort George Island were in poor repair and the fields were overgrown. The tabby Slave Cabins had begun to decline, despite the fact that nine families occupied them. Several cabins had no roofs. Mrs. Rollins described a sand road to the Main House from the Slave Cabins that passed through an open field. She also noted that there was a slave/tenant grave yard visible from the road, under an old oak tree. Observations were made of several existing outbuildings including an octagonal gin house, a cotton house of vertical planks, log mule sheds, a well, and the Barn that was surrounded by a mule yard. A structure on the east lawn, she speculated, was either a prison or a smokehouse. Near the house, an avenue of water oaks and young cedar trees had become overgrown (Hannah Rollins, nd). Rollins further described the area immediately surrounding the Main House. She stated that a white fence composed of two boards and capped posts surrounded the house. Crepe myrtle and oleander lined the walk to the Kitchen House that, at the time, was being used as a stable and henhouse. She described the Main House as painted yellow, with the piazzas enclosed in green blinds. Stairs ascended from the south piazza of the Main House to access the second floor. Florida was unfamiliar territory for Hannah Rollins; she made particular mention that the “alligators roared constantly” (Ibid.) However, she and John Rollins made it their home and, in 1872, their daughter Gertrude Rollins was born on Fort George Island.

According to his daughter, Gertrude Rollins Wilson, John Rollins planted approximately one hundred acres of orange trees on the island. The exact location of this orchard is unknown; however, an 1878 plat map indicates groves of trees on the property (Figure 29), while an 1877 sketch shows Rollins and his wife in his orange grove (Figure 17). Rollins continued the cultivation of sugarcane on the island as well as corn, sweet potatoes, and oats (Wilson 1957).

One of the best dated accounts of Fort George Island during this period comes from Julia Dodge who wrote an article for Scribner's Magazine in 1877. In addition to describing Palmetto Avenue, Dodge describes other vehicular approaches to the "Homestead" (as the area of the Main House was called during the Rollins Era). She writes, "passing westward we emerge from a grove of tall pines into a broad avenue of enormous ancient cedars...Before us stands the old mansion-house of the island plantation approached on three sides by these stately avenues, while the western front overlooks the smaller islands and inlets which lie between Fort George and the main shore" (Dodge, 658-659). Dodge's account of the approach to the house indicates that there were indeed other "Avenues" of trees leading to the Main House (Figure 18). If, in fact, the cedars were "ancient", as Dodge describes them, it is possible that they pre-dated the Rollins period of occupancy. Cedar Avenue may likely have been an access road to the eastern "deep water" side of the island for the export of crops to ships. However, the 1822 map indicates that the deep water access may have been located on the south end of Fort George Island in its earliest development, rather than the east side (Figure 10).

According to Stowell, interviews with former residents of the island indicate that a portion of Palmetto Avenue was planted during the Kingsley Period. Stowell's footnotes indicate that the date of the extension of Palmetto Avenue is unclear. His footnotes read, "The 'original plan,' according to Dodge, would have been to complete the Avenue 'across' (down the length of?) the island. Gertrude Rollins Wilson remembered that sometime around the formation of a second hotel company in 1886, 'a fence was placed around the Homestead and three gates erected which were locked occasionally to maintain rights over the avenues.' Palmetto Avenue was 'completed from the quarters to the Southern gate of the Homestead soon after the gate was erected at that point.' The accounts may not necessarily be contradictory if the planting process took place over a long period, beginning in the late 1870s and ending in the 1880s" (Stowell, 76). Photographic evidence from the 1860s indicates that the extension of Palmetto Avenue to the river predated the Rollins ownership. Additional evidence that this extension existed during the Kingsley period exists on the 1822 Vignoles Map (Figure 10).

Gertrude Rollins Wilson noted regarding the Slave Cabins at the plantation during her childhood, that there was "a fig tree in front of every cabin and a well for every two cabins" (Wilson, 5). She also noted that there were small gardens behind each cabin. The wells and fruit trees are evident in photographic data from the period (Figure 21). While the exact location of garden plots around the Slave Cabins cannot be pinpointed, it is clear that at least the land north of the Slave Cabins was cultivated for some agricultural use. Whether this was for crops or for subsistence farming is not clear from the photographic data. Mrs. Wilson's statement that there were garden plots behind the Slave Cabins cannot be substantiated by the photographic evidence.

A historic interpretive map depicts the island as it may have been during the Plantation Era; this map was most likely drawn from interviews with later island resident Gertrude Rollins Wilson (Figure 22). Despite some skepticism regarding the map and an undated written account of the property titled *Notes Concerning the Old Plantation on Fort George Island 1868-1869*, these descriptions are by and large the most illustrative account of the property available. Site features identified include the two well locations and a cemetery. The wells currently exist on the property; the structures are undated, but could be dated with archaeological investigation. The cemetery described by Gertrude Rollins Wilson in her recollections of the island has not been located on the property. Wilson's recollections of the cemetery describe the location as, "west of Ma-am Anna's House were orange trees and the remains of a flower garden screened from the cemetery by a thick hedge of bitter-sweet orange trees. In the cemetery grew narcissus, jonquils, old rose bushes and a very tall date palm tree" (Wilson, 5). She states in another chapter, "the cemetery contained the graves that were understood to be those of white persons who had died on the Island and possibly some from Batten Island. It was probably the private burying ground of the different owners of the plantation...All marks and stones remaining about the cemetery were carefully buried on the site by Mr. Rollins" (Wilson, 9). Wilson, however, is contradictory in her descriptions of the cemetery as she describes it as undisturbed in some portions of her narrative and then later states that the cemetery area was utilized for seedlings for the orange orchards. Wilson's mother, Hannah Rollins, mentions a cemetery in her diary on April 3, 1869. She notes an old oak tree under which "a darky grave yard" is visible (Hannah Rollins). No evidence of either cemetery has been located to date.

Wilson's other observations about the former plantation include descriptions of a fence surrounding the property. "There was a white picket fence all around the two houses, its extent being the line of cedars on the east, turning west about where the small garage or school house now stands, the west line was inside of the old hickory tree. On the north of the 'big House' a tabby walk ran to the river which was probably three times as far from the house as present. In the center of this walk was a circular erection about three feet high said to be used for smudges or for signal fires...The picket fence may have crossed the front of the house near this place" (Wilson, 5). Archeological investigations confirm the location of a fence in the area now occupied by the demonstration garden (McMurray 1983, 5).

Wilson also noted additions to the property made by her family. "There was no covered walk between the two houses, but a tabby pavement after 1860-1869 connected them bordered by oleanders, crape myrtle and orange trees" (Wilson, 4). Wilson also notes the site of a mill location from the Plantation Era. She notes, "the circular tabby building on the southeast of the stable called the 'Grist Mill,' the foundations of which are now buried but not destroyed" (Ibid., 1).

Wilson's descriptions of the property are most likely the basis for a 1934 Historic American Buildings Survey Report that documented the Kitchen House and one of the Slave Cabins. Descriptions in the HABS report are almost verbatim from Gertrude Rollins Wilson's *Memoirs*, including descriptions of a white picket fence around the Main House and Kitchen House, a small garage building, a tabby walk to the river, and a grist mill site. The report also mentions fields on the north end of Fort George Island called "Sand Fields", "Cotton Fields", and "Corn Hills" (HABS, 2). The report does include some contemporary descriptions of plantings around the Main House.

Rollins' additions to the Core Area included the construction of a two-story wood structure on the north side of the Tabby Barn between 1870 and 1878; the structure is thought to have been a carriage house (Stowell, 69). A twentieth century photo depicts the Carriage House and the Barn (Figure 23). The carriage house was no longer standing when the State of Florida purchased the property in 1955.

Circulation patterns around the lawn of the Main House also evolved during the Rollins period. A circa 1870s photo of the Main House shows the extension of Palmetto Avenue to the edge of the river clearly on the east side of the house (Figure 24). By the 1880s, however, this road was no longer maintained across the lawn, and an alternate walkway to the river seems to be established from a set of stairs off the north end of the house (Figure 25).

Despite Rollins' investment in the agricultural improvement of his property, it was not enough to sustain his family's livelihood. In the 1870s, Rollins began to "[make] a variety of efforts to draw northern visitors to Fort George Island..." (Stowell, 62).

In 1873, Rollins and his partner, Richard Ayer, began to sell off portions of Fort George Island. This was a new era in the history of Fort George Island; previously, the property had passed intact from buyer to buyer. Rollins and Ayer had the southern portion of the island surveyed into eight lots and sold. Approximately 170 acres of the island were purchased by various individuals or family groups. A hotel was constructed on the east side of the island in 1875.

Road improvements were also made as the island's development increased. On the south end of the island, shell mounds said to be forty feet high were intact when Rollins bought the island. However, as habitation of the island increased, the shell mounds increasingly became a source of materials for building roadbeds. "Many relics were found in them when the shell was removed to pave the roads," (Wilson, 2) and the mounds began to disappear at an accelerated rate (Figure 26). Despite the development of island roads, however, primary entry to the island was still via water. An 1878 advertisement for the Georgia and Florida Inland Steamboat Company shows the route routinely traveled by their vessels; Fort George Island and other river-fronting plantations were easily accessible from this transportation line (Figure 27). In fact, it was not until 1927 that a road was constructed that connected the island to Jacksonville (Stowell, 98).

Descriptions of the St. Johns River and its popularity for steamboat touring are included in George Barbour's 1884 publication, *Florida for Tourists, Invalids, and Settlers*. Boating down the river, Barbour details the "large estates, having commodious residences, with wide, room verandas, standing in the midst of neatly cleared house-grounds, and surrounded by broad fields and thrifty, green-leaved orange-groves, the home pier projecting into the river (for every one residing on the St. John's River must have a pier and a fleet of boats to complete his happiness), are everywhere in sight, lining the shores on either hand and charming the traveler with their manifest evidences of comfort and content" (Barbour 1884, 108).

Barbour makes specific mention of Fort George Island, “which is a favorite summer resort of inland Floridians, and which has an hotel, several handsome residences, an observatory, a lighthouse, a quaint old Pilot Town, and some fine shell-roads. Further, “a good view of the lower St. John’s [River] is obtained from the steamers which run from Charleston and Savannah to Jacksonville. A better plan, however, affording an opportunity for a short visit to Fort George Island, is to take a little steamer which runs down the river from Jacksonville every afternoon, returning next morning”(Barbour, 110).

In 1875, Rollins and his partners constructed a new hotel, named Fort George Hotel, on the east side of the island. During the same year, more property was parceled off and Rollins sold 217 acres on the north end of the island, including the ‘Homestead’ area (as his family referred to the Core Area), to his older brother Edward H. Rollins.

To further promote recreational development on the island, the Rollins family and their partners formed the Fort George Island Association in 1877. The group issued a pamphlet in 1878 with details of their partnership plus descriptions of the island and its surrounds. By this date, “two steamboats” were running “between Jacksonville and the Island, making the trip in two hours, affording a delightful ride on the river” (Fort George Island Association 1878, 3). The area around the Main House is described as having “a beautiful lawn, dotted with handsome trees and shrubs.” Further, “an avenue of very old and weird-looking red cedars with moss pendent from the boughs, twisted in every shape, forms the approach to the grounds, in which are now standing thrifty orange trees loaded with their golden fruit, lemon trees, very large, and old fig trees, peach, grape and other fruit trees, and an immense young orange grove which will soon be bearing”(Ibid., 10). It is clear from descriptions in this pamphlet that cultivation continued in some of the fields on the western part of the island. “The whole western part of the Island is of the same soil; is clear of woods, and is ready for the plow, while the central and eastern part is covered with a dense growth of trees...”(Ibid., 10). Figure 28 depicts a view of the Homestead circa 1877. The stately trees from the Plantation Era still line the extension of Palmetto Avenue approaching the Main House.

The Fort George Island Association soon had the entire eastern and southern portions of the island platted into various sized parcels for sale. An 1878 map shows the largest western portion of the island under Rollins ownership with the Homestead area labeled (Figure 29).

The “Big Freeze” of the winters of 1894 and 1895 destroyed the young orange groves on the island. The loss of the citrus crop signaled the end of large-scale agricultural production on the island and the cohesiveness of the cohesiveness of the former plantation decreased (Stowell, 63). In a further blow to the island’s attractiveness to recreational visitors, the Fort George Hotel burned in 1888 (Ibid., 92-94).

By 1906, John F. Rollins and his wife Hannah had both passed away. Their daughter, Gertrude Rollins Wilson, along with her husband, John Millar Wilson, purchased the remaining family interests on the island. The Wilson’s stay on the island was short lived, and the couple moved inland to Jacksonville in 1912.



*Figure 17: Sketch of Rollins' Grove (25 acres), Near Fort George Hotel, 1877 Scribner's Magazine. (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.)*



Figure 18: "Cedar Ave. Ft. George Island Florida, U.S.A." Undated Photograph. (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection, Courtesy of the Florida State Archives. )



*Figure 19: 1880s Photograph of Palmetto Avenue. Note the prominence of the trees due to the lack of vegetation surrounding them in these photos. (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection.)*



*Figure 20: Undated Photograph of Palmetto Avenue. (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection.)*



*Figure 21: Undated photo showing a wooden well structure in foreground and fruit trees in front of Slave Cabins. (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection, Courtesy of the Florida State Archives.)*

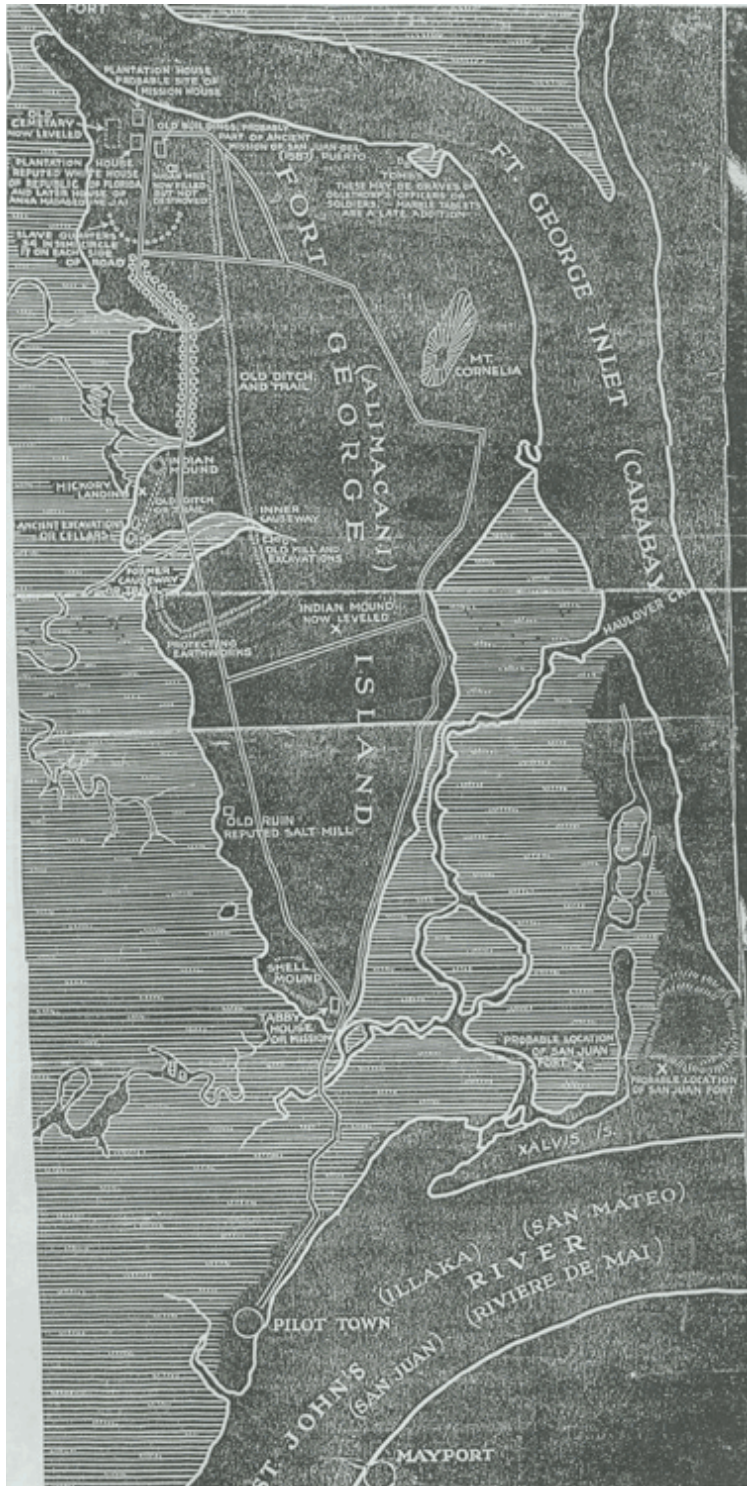


Figure 22: Interpretive Map, likely drawn from interviews with Gertrude Rollins Wilson. (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection, From the book: "The Key to the Gold Islands" by Carita Doggett Corse, 1931.)

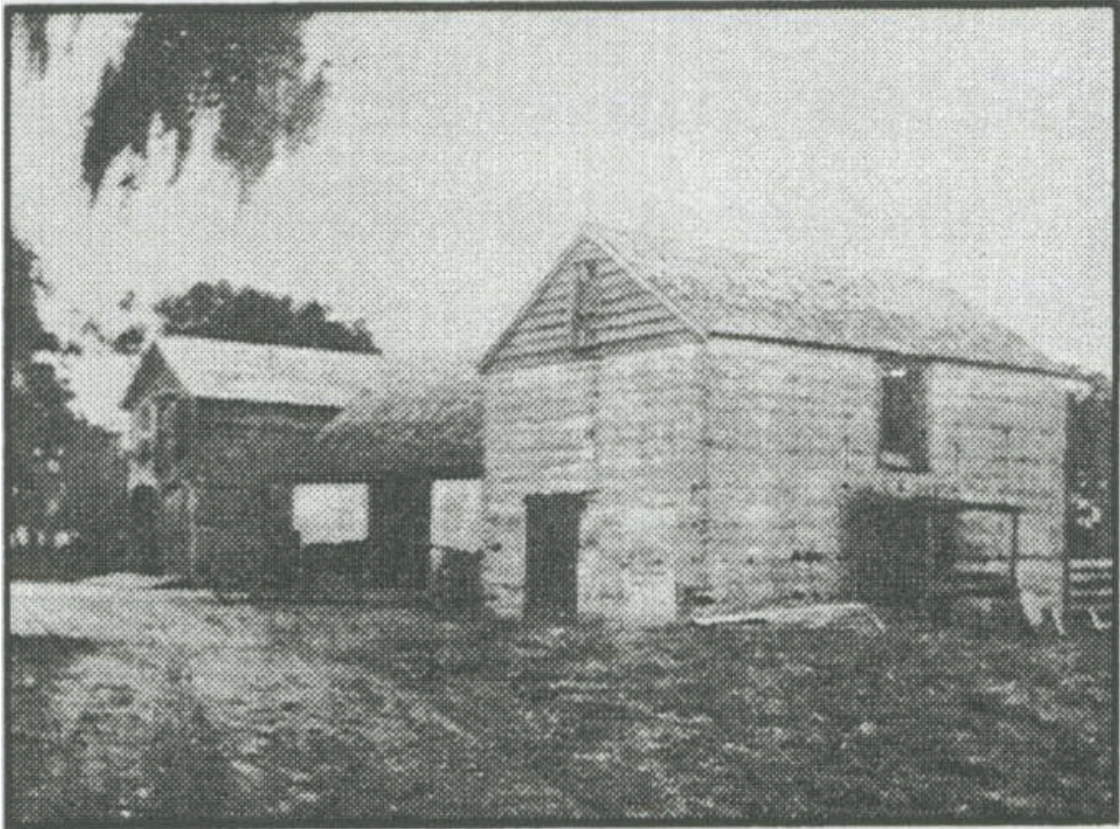


*Figure 23: View of Carriage House, Rollins Era, Undated Photo, Historic Resource Study (Source: Tal Stanfield for National Park Service.)*



*Figure 24: A circa 1877 photo showing walkways near the Main House. (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection, Courtesy of the Florida State Archives.)*



*Figure 25: A circa 1886 photo showing changes in walkways near the Main House. Note new stairs centered on the north façade of house that lead to a pathway. (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection, Courtesy of the Florida State Archives.)*



SHELL MOUNDS, FORT GEORGE ISLAND.

*Figure 26: Sketch showing height of shell mounds prior to removal for road building. 1877 Scribners Magazine. (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Courtesy of the Florida State Archives.)*

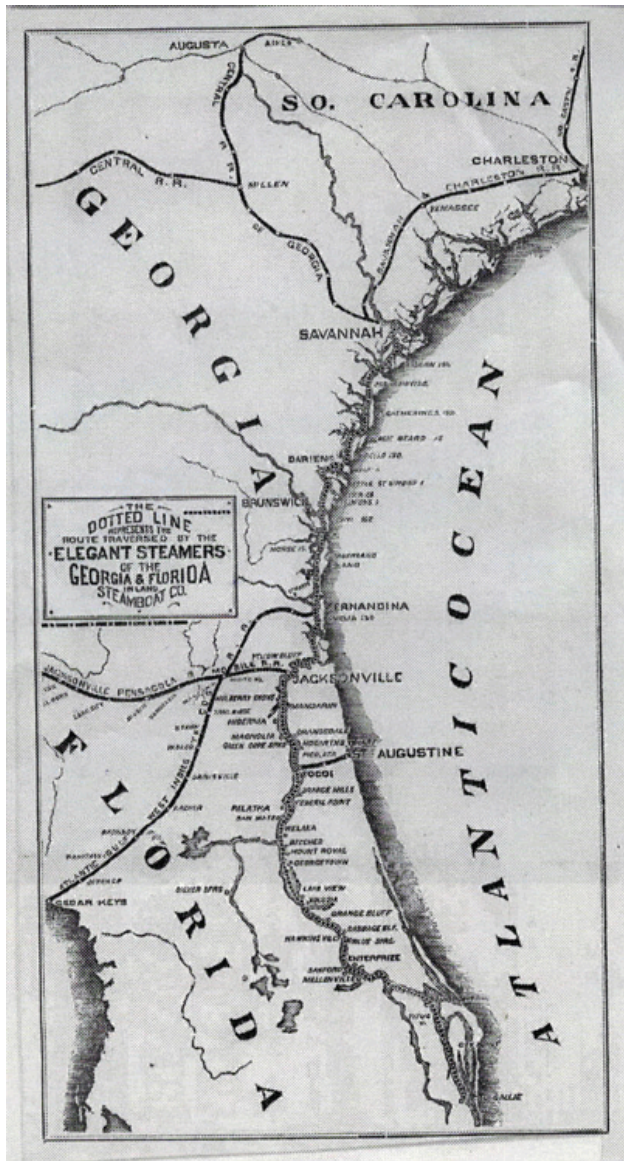


Figure 27: 1878 advertisement for the Georgia and Florida Inland Steamboat Company. (Hargrett Rare Book & Manuscript Library, University of Georgia, Athens.)



*Figure 28: “The Old Homestead”, c. 1877, View North toward the Main House through a cedar-lined avenue. Florida Collection, Jacksonville Public Library.*



Figure 29: An 1878 Map depicting division of the east and south ends of the island. The northwestern “Rollins” quadrant remains intact. (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection)

#### Club Era (1923-1955)

In 1923, retired Rear Admiral Victor Blue and several other investors formed the Fort George Corporation. That year, the corporation purchased 208 acres on Fort George Island, including the Kingsley Plantation buildings and surrounding grounds, from Millar and Gertrude Rollins Wilson. The Army and Navy Country Club of Florida was chartered in 1923 and leased fifty-eight (58) acres from the Fort George Corporation. This acreage included the Main House and the surrounding support buildings (Stowell, 96). The Main House served as a clubhouse for the Army and Navy Country Club for several years.

In 1926, under a new charter, the Army and Navy Country Club of Florida became the Fort George Club, and efforts were undertaken to construct a new clubhouse. In 1927 the two story, Tabby Revival building was constructed just west of the Main House. At least six bungalow structures were built within the vicinity of the new clubhouse; these cottages were constructed either by the club itself or by individual club members (Ibid., 100). The lots within the club area were further subdivided and platted. (Figure 30)

Other improvements were also made to the property during this period. Hedges were planted around individual lots, and a large circular driveway was added to Palmetto Avenue in the lawn south of the Main House. This drive was lined with a hedge. Two Tabby Revival concrete columns were constructed at the end of Palmetto Avenue before it reached the Main House Lawn area. Ornamental plantings, such as large clumps of bamboo present on the site today, likely date from this period.

Figure 30: Portions of a post-1955 map illustrating plat divisions of property immediately adjacent to the Kingsley Plantation Core Area and surroundings after the Club Era (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection.)

The stock market crash in 1929 and the subsequent deepening financial insecurity affected the success of the club. “The Fort George Club began to feel financial pressures by the mid-1930s. Although operations generally showed a net profit, the club incurred a loss through the accumulation of bond interest that it was unable to pay” (Stowell, 104). The bonds that the Fort George Club had sold to pay for construction of the new clubhouse became due on January 1, 1933, but the club could not meet this obligation. During the mid-1930s, due to small net operating gains and occasional losses, the Club remained unable to pay the interest on the bonds.

In March of 1936, the Fort George Club clubhouse burned. Beginning in the furnace room of the club, the fire destroyed the wooden second story of the building, but the tabby walls of the first floor remained. Much of the furniture in the building was also saved (Ibid., 103). “After the fire, guests were housed in the club’s annex, the Kingsley Plantation House, which had ‘always been preserved for the sake of its association with the past and for use as overflow quarters when the new structure was filled’” (Ibid.).

Various alterations to the landscape during the late Club Era included the removal of two fishing piers or docks from the property. Although it is unclear when these piers were constructed, one dock was located west of the Core Area and the other was located on center with the front stairs of the Main House. One undated photo from the Club Era shows young palm trees flanking a pathway leading to the pier centered on the main house (Figure 32). Another undated photograph depicts a timber bulkhead in the approximate location of the current bulkhead. A fishing pier can be seen past the wooded area in the distance (Figure 33). Aerial photographs indicate that these structures were removed sometime between 1943 and 1952 (Figure 34 and Figure 35).

By the mid-1940s, membership in the Fort George Club was so reduced that the club could no longer continue to operate. After an attempt to open the club to the general public, members voted in 1948 to cease operations. “They authorized Mrs. William Alexander Evans, whose husband had been president of the club from Victor Blue’s death in 1928 until his own death in 1938, to dispose of club property” (Stowell, 103). The sales agent with whom the property was listed failed to find a buyer within the allotted one year period.

Florida’s State Park Board became interested in the property in the early 1950s. However, the state legislature found the sales price of \$45,000 too high. Other offers for the property also came in too low until, “in 1955, the Governor and Cabinet ordered the Park Board to purchase the Fort George Clubhouse and immediate surroundings” for the original asking price of \$45,000 (Ibid., 105). The purchase included the Main House, the Kitchen House, and the Barn, but did not include the arc of Slave Cabins south of the Main House. The Slave Cabins were purchased separately in 1966, except for the cabins at the farthest western end of the arc, designated cabins W15 and W16.



Figure 30: Portions of a post-1955 map illustrating plat divisions of property immediately adjacent to the Kingsley Plantation Core Area and surroundings after the Club Era (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection.)



*Figure 31: Undated Photo of Fort George Club Bungalow (Bungalow #4). (Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Collection.)*



*Figure 32: An undated photograph showing a pier straight out from the front steps of the Main House. The pathway to the pier is lined with young palm trees. (Florida Photographic Collection, Image Number N048509, Florida State Archives).*



*Figure 33: Undated photograph (1920s?) showing a bulkhead on the Fort George River and a fishing pier in the distance. (Florida Photographic Collection, Image Number N048506, Florida State Archives).*



*Figure 34: 1943 Aerial Showing Location of Two Docks on North End of Ft. George Island. (United States Department of Agriculture.)*



*Figure 35: 1952 Aerial Photograph Showing Lack of Docks on North End of Island. (United States Department of Agriculture.)*

#### State Era (1955-1991)

With State ownership of the property came an increased public interest in Kingsley Plantation. In the early 1960s, archeologist Charles Fairbanks began investigative work in the area around the Slave Cabins. Fairbanks studied Slave Cabins E-1 and W-1 in 1974 and later cabins W-3 and W-6. According to Walker, this work had “a far-reaching impact on the anthropology of plantation and slave life” (Walker, 16). Based on this research, local architect Herschel Shepard designed a reconstruction of the roof of Slave Cabin E-1. The roof was constructed in 1971.

Steps to preserve the property and the improvements thereon continued during the period of State ownership. The property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 29, 1970. This nomination is described in detail in the Analysis and Evaluation section of this report. Several modern alterations to the site occurred during State ownership. Between 1978 and 1979, a gravel parking lot was constructed south of the Barn to accommodate visitor parking. Construction of this lot was followed by archaeological investigations by Carl McMurray and Marsha Chance. The findings of this investigation were fairly limited due to budget and time constraints

Additional archaeological studies occurred after the Fairbanks and Chance/McMurray studies. Included in these reports is “Roads and Walkways at the Kingsley Plantation,” an archeological study performed by Henry A. Baker.

Utilitarian support facilities were added to the property as the State Park evolved. A formal entry gate located south of Slave Cabins E1 and W1 was erected by the State Park in 1975. Maintenance facilities were constructed to house maintenance activities for the State Park. This series of sheds, constructed in 1977, were located west of the Fort George Clubhouse and included a long garage/workshop structure and an office/workshop. State Park Rangers utilized the Fort George Clubhouse for on-site housing. The second story of the Kitchen House was utilized for administrative purposes and for storage. Changes to the landscape during this State Period included removal of the Club Era circular driveway south of the Main House as well as a row of hedges along the drive which was constructed during the Club Era.

#### National Park Service Era (1991- )

“Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve was established by Public Law 100-249 on February 16, 1988, ‘to administer those lands...within the preserve in such a manner as to protect the natural ecology of such land and water areas in accordance with this Act and the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park System.’ With designation of this preserve Congress sought to protect the complex salt marsh/estuarine ecosystem and historic and prehistoric sites in the valley between the lower St. Johns and Nassau Rivers, Florida, and to provide opportunities for the public to understand, enjoy, and appreciate these resources” (USDINPS 1996, iii). The Preserve encompasses approximately 46,000 acres. The majority of this acreage consists of waterways and wetlands.

In 1991, the National Park Service added Kingsley Plantation to the historic resources already managed by the federal government within the Preserve. The entire State-owned area was included in this transfer. The remaining two Slave Cabins, W15 and W16, were purchased soon after this transfer of ownership. The Kingsley Plantation site now included all acreage within the Core Area as well as many parcels of the surrounding woodland, totaling fifty-eight (58) acres.

Changes to the landscape continued under federal ownership and management by NPS. A new carport was added to the maintenance compound in 1993. This simple structure was placed just west of the Fort George Clubhouse. Interpretive signage was added to the site at two locations in 1993—one sign stands just north of Slave Cabin E1 and the other stands at the entry point to the Main House area from the parking lot.

Desire lines or well-worn pathways within the lawn surrounding the Main House were covered with a plastic portable walkway system in 1993. These paths currently lead visitors to the Main House and Barn from the parking lot and direct them to restroom facilities constructed in the Fort George Clubhouse. Ranger activities include increased interpretive services from the State Era and use of the Clubhouse as offices and on-site housing.

Due to structural degradation, four Club Era bungalows were removed from the site between 1992 and 1994. According to NPS Staff, these structures were removed from the site due to safety concerns. One of the cottages was located south of the existing Lutz House; the Lutz House is located on the north side of L'Engle Avenue. The other three cottages were located along L'Engle Avenue, west of the Lutz House. Only the Lutz House remains of the original cottages. The Lutz House property was purchased as a life estate by the federal government in 1998. The owner passed away during federal ownership, reverting the property to the federal government.

A modern pump house was constructed on the site in 1994 in a vegetated area south of the Barn. To provide additional security for the site, in 1994 the entry gate and sign constructed during the State Period was removed and reconstructed further south of Slave Cabins W1 and E1. Another visitor entry point was established on the property in 2002 when a new dock was constructed at the extreme northwestern point of the NPS-managed property. Currently providing access to the site for private boaters, the dock will eventually allow for boat shuttle service from nearby NPS properties. A portable walkway system connects the dock to the lawn surrounding the Main House.

A bulkhead was first installed on the site during State Ownership, but was replaced in 1997-1998 as recommended in the 1997 General Management Plan. The plan also called for a boardwalk or pervious walkway in this location; however, only the bulkhead was constructed.

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The National Register of Historic Places has identified seven aspects, or qualities, that define integrity. These include location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Analysis of the aspects of integrity is a subjective measure that varies from site to site, but the determination is always based on a thorough knowledge of the historical significance of the property and how well its current features convey that significance. To be listed in the National Register, a property not only must show significance under one of the four criteria, but also it must retain a degree of its historic integrity.

The cultural landscape at Kingsley Plantation retains much of its integrity as a contributing component to the Kingsley Plantation National Park Service site. The landscape retains many key elements from the periods of significance, Plantation Era (1765-1865) and Club Era (1923-1955) and the transition between these periods, the Rollins/Wilson Era (1865-1923). The present interpretation at the site focuses on the Plantation Era features including the Main House, Kitchen House, Slave Cabin arc and various small-scale elements. Club Era site features such as the Entry Gate posts and the Fort George Clubhouse are an additional layer of information which communicate another period in the site's history. Plant materials from the Plantation Era, the Rollins/Wilson Era, and the Club Era also exist on the site. However, vegetative growth in the area between the Slave Cabin arc and the Main House lawn severely alters the historic views and the significant spatial and social perceptions that were important to the property's development.

There have been numerous archaeological studies on the site which provide clues to the location of some non-existing features such as outbuildings, roads and walkways.

#### Location

This aspect of integrity refers to the place where the landscape was constructed or where a historic event occurred. Although the size of the original Plantation Era estate has decreased throughout history as the property has been subdivided, the location of the Core Area of the site has remained unchanged. All existing and contributing historic buildings and landscape features on the site retain their original locations. Existing small-scale features from the periods of significance have also retained their original locations. Therefore, the site retains high integrity of location.

#### Design

The combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a cultural landscape or historic property fall under this category. Kingsley Plantation maintains high integrity of design for both the structures and the landscape. Existing buildings retain their original design schemes and features including materials, proportion, scale, site placement, and ornamentation. Although buildings and additional structures were added to the site over several hundred years, each structure has remained relatively true to its original design within the Plantation or Club Era. The original layouts of the Plantation and Club Area are evident on the site. The design of Palmetto Avenue and other contributing roads has largely been retained despite some loss of historic vegetation and the encroachment of non-historic vegetation. Although some changes have occurred in the landscape immediately adjacent to the Main House, the overall primary characteristics of the landscape such as mature trees over an open lawn-type space have remained unaltered.

### Setting

Setting is the physical environment within and surrounding a property. Influences to the setting of a site include natural systems and land uses. Most of the natural systems of the Kingsley Plantation site, including marshlands and the surrounding waterways, are intact due to the federal protection of the area provided by the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve. Views of the marsh from the Core Area, as well as the view of the Fort George River from the Main House, remain generally intact and consistent with historic vistas. Despite several small modern intrusions, the surrounding land within view of the Core Area is still largely undeveloped, thereby retaining the integrity of the historic setting. Some environmental changes have altered the landscape over time, such as the erosion of the riverbank adjacent to the Main House, but these changes have not severely affected the overall historic setting of the property. Changes in the property's land use have a greater effect on the historic setting over time, such as the dissolution of agricultural production that has resulted in the reforestation of plowed fields. Overall, the setting is similar to that during the periods of significance, but it is somewhat altered, therefore the site has a moderate level of integrity for its historic setting.

### Materials

Materials include the physical elements that were combined or deposited during the particular periods of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form the cultural landscape. All types of construction materials, such as paving, plants, and other landscape features, as well as the materials' placement in the landscape, should be considered in this evaluation. The quality, condition, and placement of materials found on Kingsley Plantation are varied, resulting in a moderate integrity of materials. The primary building materials from the Plantation Era are still present on the site—natural surfaced roads still exist and tabby concrete construction is somewhat intact. Wood frame buildings from the era are still standing. Vegetation from the Plantation Era including some cedar trees near the Main House still exists on the site; however, the site is completely devoid of shell walkways or roads. No agricultural fields beyond the few rows of crops in the demonstration garden exist within the Core Area. Rollins/Wilson and Club Era ornamental plantings are fairly absent except for the Ligustrum hedges. Concrete tabby construction in the Slave Cabins is in a deteriorated state. Some Slave Cabins are undergoing a stabilization process to halt this deterioration; however, this process detracts from the historic appearance of the buildings.

### Workmanship

This aspect of integrity refers to the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. Kingsley Plantation currently maintains moderate integrity of workmanship. There is still evidence in the Core Area of the fine quality of historic workmanship exhibited in the site's structures. The mere existence of parts of the Slave Cabins is a testament to their construction despite having not been occupied since the late nineteenth century. However, since these ruins are in a state of deterioration, there is a reasonable expectation that integrity of the historic workmanship may continue to diminish.

#### Feeling

A cultural landscape's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular time period is evaluated under this aspect of integrity. The Kingsley Plantation landscape has moderate integrity of feeling to the Plantation Era of significance. Current land use practices differ greatly from land use during the Plantation Era. The agricultural setting of vast expanses of open fields is not apparent on the site today. Historic views and vistas between the Main House and the Slave Cabin arc are obstructed. The historic sense of scale between the Slave Cabin arc and the Main House is not intact. However, current land use practices do not differ greatly from the land use during the Club Era. Club Era visitors came to experience the natural amenities offered by this site on the Fort George River, and, according to many visitors to the site today, their visits warrant the same purpose. The site still holds recreational values for some visitors. In this sense, moderate integrity of feeling has been retained.

#### Association

This aspect refers to the direct link between the significant historic event or person and the cultural landscape. The Kingsley Plantation landscape maintains high integrity of association. The remaining landscape design, characteristics, and features primarily date to the Plantation and Club Eras of significance. Association with patterns of slavery and plantation life are intact as Slave Cabin ruins remain on the site. Associations with the Club Era are somewhat compromised by the deterioration and demolition of most of Club Era bungalow structures. However, the main clubhouse still exists in its original location.

#### Integrity of the Property as a Whole

As stated above, the property has high integrity of location, design, and association. Setting, materials, workmanship and feeling have moderate integrity as these elements have been somewhat compromised with the removal of the Club Era structures from the site and the degradation of the Slave Cabins. According to National Register guidelines, a property either does or does not retain its overall historic integrity, indicating that it does or does not convey its significance. Even though there have been incremental changes subsequent to the historic periods, the above analysis indicates that the Kingsley Plantation cultural landscape does retain integrity to the Plantation and Club Era periods of significance.

### **Landscape Characteristic:**

#### **Vegetation**

Vegetation includes indigenous or introduced trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, and herbaceous materials. During the periods of significance, numerous changes to the site's landscape altered the overall vegetation character. During the plantation's initial establishment and development, it can be assumed that much of the cultivated land was timbered and cleared and then made ready for planting. Some woodland pockets may have existed, but photographic evidence shows the majority of the Core Area open with a few specimen trees. Sabal palmettos, live oaks, and red cedar were the dominant tree species left after deforestation. Tree-lined avenues were the dominant vegetative feature. Palmetto Avenue, the southerly approach to the Core Area, was planted during the Kingsley era. Though it is not clear if large scale agricultural fields existed within the Core Area, plantation crops were cultivated on the island, including Sea Island cotton, indigo, sugarcane and foodstuffs.

During the Rollins/Wilson period and the Club Era thereafter, ornamental plantings increased around the Main House and the bungalow structures constructed after 1926. Palmetto Avenue remained a dominant feature as an approach to the site. Orange groves were introduced during the Rollins period of ownership with the Fort George Orange gaining fame around Florida. These orchards declined after the Great Freeze of 1894 and 1895. Areas which were once large open fields or orchards succumbed to successional forest growth. Ligustrum hedges were introduced to the site during the Club Era, as well as small clumps of bamboo. Many of the historic avenues of trees remained on the site. Areas around the Main House remained open with large specimen trees. Photographs indicate that cedar trees also lined the historic approach to the Main House from the river.

Currently, existing vegetation within the Core Area includes a mix of historic specimen trees and pockets of more heavily forested areas. Mature cedars, palms and live oaks dominate the area around the Main House. Many of these trees are elderly and some were lost within the period of this study. There are several orange trees on the western portion of the site. They have likely sprouted from the rootstock of an original Rollins Era planting. Cedar Avenue is still apparent, but the trees are in poor condition. Palmetto Avenue still exists to the south of the site (south of the NPS-managed property); however, undergrowth and decline of many of the palms obscures much of the original design. Palm trees now line the pedestrian approach to the Main House from the river. Heavy vegetation between the Slave Cabins and the Main House obscures views within the Core Area. Vegetation was cleared on the eastern portion of the area between the Slave Cabins and the Main House during early federal ownership; approximately twenty-five trees per 10,000 square feet exist in this area. The western portion of this area is heavily forested with thick undergrowth. Many hedges from the Club Era have a height of over twelve feet. A modern demonstration garden exists between the Kitchen House and the Lutz House. Crops grown in this garden include Sea Island cotton (derived from seeds from the plantation on Fort George Island), indigo, sugarcane, and vegetables.

Historic specimen trees, including mature cedar and palms in the Main House lawn area and surviving hedges from the Club Era, are considered contributing features to the site's historic significance. Other contributing elements include the historic trees along L'Engle Avenue and Palmetto Avenue and a small number of large live oaks between the Slave Cabins and the Main House. All other vegetation, including the forested areas and the demonstration garden in its current location, are considered noncontributing.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Palm Trees along Palmetto Avenue

Feature Identification Number: 99913

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Plantation Crops

Feature Identification Number: 99914

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Fruit Trees at Slave Cabins

Feature Identification Number: 99911

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Ligustrum Hedges

Feature Identification Number: 99912

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Vegetative Growth between Slave Cabins Arc and Main House Grounds

Feature Identification Number: 99915

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

### **Land Use**

Land use has impacted the character of this landscape by shaping the organization, form and shape of the property. Historically, the site's land use was primarily related to plantation agriculture and recreational development. The political jurisdiction of Kingsley Plantation fluctuated during the Plantation Era as ownership of Florida shifted from Spain to Great Britain back to Spain and finally to the United States. Land use within the Core Area was centered primarily on residential and support activities for the larger plantation. Fort George Island was a contiguous parcel during this period and part of a network of plantations in the surrounding area.

Multiple parcels were created on the island as land use shifted to recreational and tourism activities. First the southern and western portions of Fort George Island were platted for sale, and then individual parcels within the Core Area were subdivided. Development within the Core Area during this period focused on club uses including cottages for members utilizing the facilities.

With the transfer of the property to state ownership in 1955, active use of the land for agriculture and recreational activities ceased. Currently, land use is focused on visitation, interpretation, and preservation. Implementation of these new uses has resulted in numerous landscape additions including new walkways and signage. These contemporary uses are considered non-contributing, although they are not considered detrimental to the site's historic integrity.

### **Buildings And Structures**

Kingsley Plantation's buildings and structures are perhaps the most prominent elements in the cultural landscape, and nearly all that remain are contributing features to the site's significance. At least thirty-five structures were constructed within the Core Area during the plantation period of significance under the oversight of several owners. Historic development of the existing

Plantation Era began circa 1797-1798 with construction of the Main House and the lower portion of the Kitchen House. Additions continued with the Barn and the Slave Cabin arc. Outbuildings included a blacksmith's shop and possibly a cotton house or gin. Locations of these outbuildings are unknown. Several of the Slave Cabins were demolished and materials were utilized to construct a fishing pier during the Rollins period of ownership. It is not known how or when the other structures were removed, but the McMurray archeological study states that an outbuilding adjacent to the Kitchen House burned in a fire. During the Rollins period of ownership, a covered walkway was constructed between the Kitchen House and Main House. Rollins also added a carriage house just north of the Barn.

Additional structures were added to the site during the Club Era. The Fort George Clubhouse was constructed west of the Main House in 1926. The upper floor of the Clubhouse burned in 1936 but was reconstructed with some alterations in 1938. Six bungalow cottages were also constructed by club members within the Core Area. One bungalow was removed during state ownership of the property, and four were removed by the National Park Service in 1994. The remaining bungalow is slated for demolition.

Currently, thirty-one historic buildings exist on the site in varying states of rehabilitation, stabilization, or preservation. They include the Main House, Kitchen House (plus the covered walkway between these buildings), Barn, Fort George Clubhouse, Lutz House and Garage, and twenty-five Slave Cabins. All historic buildings are considered contributing to the periods of significance except the Lutz House and Garage that were determined non-contributing based on structural degradation by the Florida SHPO in June 26, 2001. Modern additions to the site include four structures: the carport, modern dock, ADA ramp to the Main House and seawall; and three buildings: the pump house and two maintenance buildings. These features are considered noncontributing.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Feature:                       | Plantation House |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99247            |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing     |
| Feature:                       | Kitchen House    |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99243            |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing     |
| Feature:                       | Barn             |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99240            |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing     |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E1   |

Kingsley Plantation  
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

---

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Feature Identification Number: | 99250           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E2  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99258           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E3  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99259           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E4  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99260           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E5  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99261           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E6  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99262           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E7  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99263           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E8  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99264           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E9  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99265           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E10 |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99251           |

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E11 |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99252           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E12 |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99253           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Undetermined    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E13 |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99254           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E14 |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99255           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E15 |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99256           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin E16 |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99257           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W1  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99266           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W2  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99885           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W3  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99886           |

Kingsley Plantation  
Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve

---

|                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W4  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99887           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W5  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99888           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W6  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99889           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W7  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99890           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W8  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99891           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W9  |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99892           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W10 |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99267           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W11 |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99804           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W12 |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99880           |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing    |

|                                |                            |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W13            |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99881                      |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing               |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W14            |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99882                      |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing               |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W15            |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99883                      |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing               |
| Feature:                       | Slave Cabin W16            |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99884                      |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing               |
| Feature:                       | Lutz House and Garage      |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99244                      |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Non-Contributing           |
| Feature:                       | Rollins Era Carriage House |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99249                      |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing               |
| Feature:                       | 4 "Bungalow" Structure     |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99239                      |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing               |
| Feature:                       | Maintenance Shed           |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99245                      |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Non-Contributing           |
| Feature:                       | Maintenance Workshop       |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99246                      |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Non-Contributing           |

Feature: Carport

Feature Identification Number: 99241

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Pump House

Feature Identification Number: 99248

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Fort George Club House

Feature Identification Number: 99242

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

### **Circulation**

Throughout the periods of significance, several different features accommodated circulation within and to the site. Due to the site's proximity to the water, water-based circulation was a critical element in the property's historic development. Arriving boats either came to the deep water access at Point Isabella or came to one of the historic dock/wharf locations on the river closer to the Core Area. Historic roadways included Palmetto Avenue, the main north to south access to the site. The palms which lined this roadway were tall and stately and the dominant feature of the historic approach to the Core Area as evidenced in historic photographs and writings. Palmetto Avenue was part of the larger plantation (although it is currently outside of the NPS-managed property). An extension of the avenue continued through the site from the centermost Slave Cabins to the edge of the river. Archeological evidence confirms that this route was a shell road extending to a wharf at the river. Additional roadways from the Plantation Era included Cedar Avenue, a route which led from the Core Area to Point Isabella, the deep water access point for the island. This route has also been confirmed with archeological evidence showing a shell road similar in width to Palmetto Avenue. Several cedars still line this route on the site. Walkways around the Main House are illustrated in photographs of the property taken circa 1860s-1870s and appear to be shell surfaced.

Club Era circulation patterns followed many of the routes established during the Plantation Era. Late nineteenth-century photographs indicate that river access from the Main House area shifted from the Palmetto Avenue extension to a pathway which ran from the center of the Main House to the river shore. This walkway likely led to a new fishing pier or wharf, possibly the same pier evident in a 1943 aerial photograph of the property.

A new system of vehicular circulation was also established during the Club Era as the property was parceled and platted for sale. L'Engle Avenue, Stuart Avenue, Old Plantation Road, and Evans Road are just a few of the new roads appearing on a plat map from the Club Era. Deep water access was no longer available during the Club Era due to the jetty construction in the late 1800s that altered access to the shoreline of Fort George Island.

Currently, vehicles enter the Core Area through a large entry gate just south of Slave Cabins E1 and W1. Drivers travel 800 feet down this extension of Palmetto Avenue to the gravel parking area. From this point, visitors exit their cars and either walk to the Main House or to the Slave Cabin arc. There is a small pull-off area for cars closer to the Slave Cabins. Pedestrian circulation from the parking lot to the Main House follows a portable walkway system which leads visitors to the Kitchen House or Barn. Portable pathways also lead visitors from the Main House and Kitchen House node to the restrooms on the north side of the Fort George Clubhouse and on to the newly constructed dock west of the Core Area. Pedestrian circulation to the Slave Cabin arc leads from the parking lot along a natural-surfaced dirt path that meanders along the east side of the extension of Palmetto Avenue. No pathway exists on the west side of the road due to an extensive vegetative understory. Many pedestrians simply use the road as their route to the Slave Cabins. Around the Slave Cabins, vegetation is cleared, however no formal walkway system exists.

Site access has evolved somewhat from the historic pattern. Boats still provide transportation for visitors, but it is not the primary access to the site. Pedestrian routes adjacent to the Main House are no longer consistent with historic configurations. Pedestrian circulation is based primarily on desire lines established by visitors prior to installation of the portable walkway system. The internal island approach to the site is the same as it was historically along Palmetto Avenue.

The routes of Cedar Avenue and the extension of Palmetto Avenue are contributing features to the significance of Kingsley Plantation. Both routes have some remaining vegetation delineating their route. The road from the entry gate to the parking lot follows an historic route, and, despite the loss of the historic shell surfacing, this route contributes to the historic periods of significance. L'Engle Avenue retains its historic alignment and a partial row of cedar trees from the Club Era and thus is contributing to that period of significance. The pattern of water access to the site is a contributing element of the landscape. The parking lots and maintenance roads and trails are noncontributing features.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Walkways around Main House

Feature Identification Number: 99899

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Pathways in front of Slave Cabins

Feature Identification Number: 99897

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Cedar Avenue

Feature Identification Number: 99893

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

|                                |                   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Feature:                       | Palmetto Avenue   |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99895             |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Contributing      |
| Feature:                       | Portable Walkways |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99898             |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Non-Contributing  |
| Feature:                       | Parking Lot       |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99896             |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Non-Contributing  |
| Feature:                       | Curved Entry Road |
| Feature Identification Number: | 99894             |
| Type of Feature Contribution:  | Non-Contributing  |

### Small Scale Features

When the property was a working Plantation, the Core Area likely contained a variety of small-scale features. Many of the features provided a utilitarian function, such as wharfs and various mills. The main wells adjacent to the Main House are undated, but were constructed during the Plantation Era. As evidenced in archeological studies and photographic data, wells were also present to provide fresh water near the slave quarters. As the agricultural use of the property diminished, the use for features such as mills diminished. Once the slave quarters were abandoned, wells were likely filled in. Thus, features such as this were lost over time. Features such as wharfs or piers were likely rebuilt due to degradation, and their locations fluctuated over time.

During the Club Era, small-scale features were more ornamental in nature and included items such as the tabby entry gate posts which marked entry into the lawn surrounding the Main House and the drive to the Fort George Clubhouse. Other small-scale features from this period include a wharf located in the Fort George River and centered on the Main House location. Another wharf was located on the extreme northwest corner of the site.

Small-scale features on the site are currently a combination of historic and contemporary items. Contemporary features such as benches, fencing, utilities, interpretive signage, and trash receptacles are generally in good condition although they do not contribute to the site's historic significance. Most existing historic features, such as the wells near the Kitchen House and the entry gate posts, are in fairly good shape. The site of the grist mill has been lost, but may be located with future archeological research. The exact wharf locations have been lost. Despite the loss of some of the site's original small-scale features, those present do contribute to the site's significance

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Well No. 1  
Feature Identification Number: 99910  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Well No. 2  
Feature Identification Number: 99900  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Mill Site (SE of Barn)  
Feature Identification Number: 99907  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Mill Site (E of Palmetto Ave)  
Feature Identification Number: 99906  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Well at Slave Cabins  
Feature Identification Number: 99909  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Entry Gate Posts  
Feature Identification Number: 99904  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Dock (near Plantation House)  
Feature Identification Number: 99902  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Dock (at Western point of island)  
Feature Identification Number: 99901  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Entry Sign  
Feature Identification Number: 99905

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Entry Gate

Feature Identification Number: 99903

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: New Dock

Feature Identification Number: 99908

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

### Views And Vistas

There is no written documentation which indicates that early occupants of the site considered view sheds to, from or within Kingsley Plantation to be significant. However, the site's development pattern and the spatial organization of its features did establish view sheds that have become character-defining elements of the cultural landscape. The focus of transportation during the periods of significance was via water routes. Thus, one can assume that views toward and from the river would be a valuable asset to the property and thus a highly significant feature. In addition, the presence of the lookout on top of the Main House likely indicates that a view of the water access was considered essential.

Prior to the periods of significance and development of the Core Area, views must have been limited to the areas immediate to the riverfront. View sheds changed with the clearing of vegetation on the island and the establishment of structures along the riverfront. The view across the river is somewhat similar to what it must have looked like upon European settlement of Fort George Island, as this portion of Talbot Island remains largely undeveloped. Several modern structures exist within the view shed, but they do not dominate the vista. Besides these modern additions, views to Fort George Island differ from the Plantation Era period of significance in that large expanses of agricultural fields have given way to successional forest growth.

Trees and underbrush have obstructed the open view between the Slave Cabin arc and the Main House that was present during the Plantation Era. This view may have been an important component of the spatial and hierarchical relationship of the Slave Cabin arc to the Main House because of the need for the owners to be able to observe their property. Historians continue to explore the dynamics of power and authority as they were enacted on the landscape of plantations. The location of the Slave Cabin arc was probably far enough away from the Main House that odors and noise would not have impacted the owner's family, but the fact that the structures were laid out in a sweeping arc where the owner could cast his glance over his human property is highly significant. The relationship of the Slave Cabin arc to the Main House grounds would have been a large visual impact on visitors to the site during the period of significance whether they arrived by boat via the river or by horseback via Palmetto Avenue.

Views within the Core Area most likely became obscured during the Club Era. Individual Club residents likely desired to delineate their individual properties with hedges which have now grown to heights of over ten feet. The wooded character of the natural landscape was probably desirable as it provided privacy from adjacent properties. The view from the Main House, utilized as a clubhouse and as annex by the Fort George Club, to the Fort George River was maintained. Written descriptions of the properties along rivers in the Jacksonville area touted views of “neatly cleared house-grounds” visible from the river. Kingsley Plantation likely fit this mold (Barbour, 108). The view to Talbot Island across the river remained fairly consistent. The modern additions to the river view, such as boat docks and one residential structure, do not dominate the entire vista from the Core Area. These types of visual intrusions were in fact part of the historic vista within Jacksonville area, “For every one residing on the St. John’s River must have a pier and a fleet of boats to complete his happiness” (Ibid.).

The clearing of understory by the National Park Service in the mid-1990s allowed a limited view between the Slave Cabin arc and the Main House. Severe storms during the fall of 2004 cleared this area even more. Interior site views continue to be small in scale, with emphasis on views across the site’s open lawns in the area adjacent to the Main House. Views to the Main House from the River are obstructed by vegetation when not immediately in front of the house. All views to and from the Main House and within the site are considered contributing features to the site’s historic significance.

## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Good  
**Assessment Date:** 04/20/2007  
**Condition Assessment:** Good  
**Assessment Date:** 09/26/2013

### Impacts

**Type of Impact:** Vegetation/Invasive Plants  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** Ligustrum hedges and vegetative growth between slave cabins arc and main house grounds.  
  
Condition of Sabal palmettos along Palmetto Avenue.

**Type of Impact:** Structural Deterioration  
**External or Internal:** Internal  
**Impact Description:** Structural deterioration of slave cabins and other structures at the property.

## Treatment

## Bibliography and Supplemental Information

### Bibliography

|                             |                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | Baker, Henry A.                                                                                     |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | Excavations at the Kingsley Plantation                                                              |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 1967                                                                                                |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                               |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | Roads and Walkways at the Kingsley Plantation, An Archaeological Study                              |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 1985                                                                                                |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                               |
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | Bartram, John                                                                                       |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | Diary of a Journey through the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida, From July 1, 1765 to April 10, 1766 |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 1942                                                                                                |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                               |
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | Caudle, Everett W                                                                                   |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | The Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve: An Historical Analysis and Interpretation            |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 1993                                                                                                |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                               |
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | Chance, Marsha A. and Carl McMurray                                                                 |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | Archeological Investigations at the Kingsley Plantation State Historic Site, Duval County, Florida  |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 1979                                                                                                |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                               |
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | Corse, Corita Doggett                                                                               |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | The Key to the Golden Islands                                                                       |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 1931                                                                                                |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                               |

**Citation Author:** Dickinson, M.F. and Lucy B. Wayne  
**Citation Title:** Investigation of the Possible Homestead Site, Fort George Island, Duval County, Florida  
**Year of Publication:** 1986  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Dodge, Julia G  
**Citation Title:** "An Island of the Sea."  
**Year of Publication:** 1887  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Title:** Archaeological Survey and Testing Phase I Development Areas, Fairfield Fort George Fort George Island, Duval County, Florida  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Fairbanks, Charles H.  
**Citation Title:** "The Kingsley Slave Cabins in Duval County, Florida." In the Conference on Historic Site Archaeology Papers 1972  
**Year of Publication:** 1968  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Title:** Fort George Island Association  
**Year of Publication:** 1878  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Fretwell, Jacqueline K.  
**Citation Title:** Kingsley Beatty Gibbs and His Journal of 1840-1843  
**Year of Publication:** 1984  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Gjessing, Frederick C., John W. Griffin, J. Carver Harris, Albert Manucy, Hale G. Smith, J.T. Van Campen, and Doris C. Wiles.  
**Citation Title:** Notes in Anthropology  
**Year of Publication:** 1962  
**Source Name:** Other

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | Hammersten, Susan                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | An Archeological Overview and Assessment of Sites within and Adjacent to the Proposed Boundaries of the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, Duval County, Florida |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 1988                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | Hartridge, Walter Charlton                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | The Letters of Don Juan McQueen to His Family Written from Spanish East Florida, 1791-1807                                                                               |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 1943                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | Hart, Barry D. and Charles H. Fairbanks                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | Fairfield Communities, Inc. Archaeological Survey of Fort George                                                                                                         |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 1982                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | Hartrampf                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | Kitchen House at Kingsley Plantation                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 2005                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | Hartrampf                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | Main House at Kingsley Plantation                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 2005                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | Jackson, Antoinette and Allan F. Burns                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | Kingsley Plantation: EthnoHistorical Study of the Kingsley Plantation Community                                                                                          |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 2003                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                                                                                                    |

|                             |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | Leslie, Debbie                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | Trip Report for Archeological Testing of the French Drains and Slave Cabins, Kingsley Plantation, Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve (TIMU), March 1996, SEAC Accession #1217 |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 1993                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | McMurray, Carl D                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | Report on Archeological Excavations at the Southwest Pavilion of the Zephaniah Kingsley Ruins                                                                                        |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 1981                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | Report on Archeological Investigations at the Kingsley Plantation Proposed Garden                                                                                                    |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 1982                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | Meyer, Michael J                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | Archeological Investigations Conducted for the Installation of a Water Line and Demonstration Garden at Kingsley Plantation                                                          |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 1994                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | Rollins, John F                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | "1868-1869 Notebook," transcribed from original by Dena Snodgrass                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 1853                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Citation Author:</b>     | Rollins Wilson, Gertrude                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Citation Title:</b>      | Notes Concerning the Old Plantation on Fort George Island, 1868-1869                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Year of Publication:</b> | 1957                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Source Name:</b>         | Other                                                                                                                                                                                |

**Citation Author:** Russo, Michael, Ann S. Cordell, and Donna L. Ruhl  
**Citation Title:** The Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Phase III Final Report  
**Year of Publication:** 1993  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Schafer, Daniel L.  
**Citation Title:** Anna Kingsley  
**Year of Publication:** 1994  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Stowell, Daniel W.  
**Citation Title:** Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve Historic Resource Study  
**Year of Publication:** 1991  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (USDINPS).  
**Citation Title:** General Management Plan, Development Concept Plans: Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve  
**Year of Publication:** 1996  
**Source Name:** Other  
**Citation Title:** Resource Management Plan: Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve (as Amended).  
**Year of Publication:** 1997  
**Source Name:** Other

**Citation Author:** Walker, Karen Jo.  
**Citation Title:** Volumes in Historical Archaeology V  
**Year of Publication:** 1988  
**Source Name:** Other