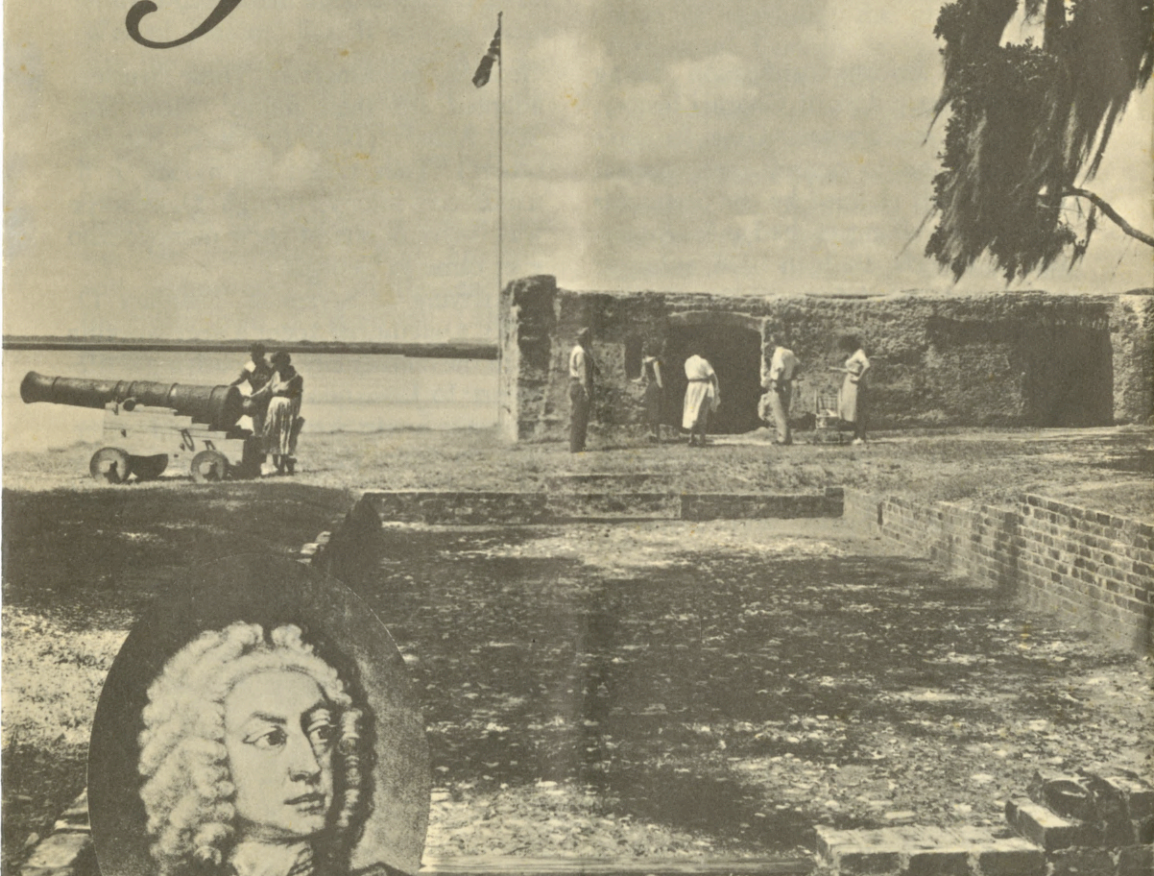
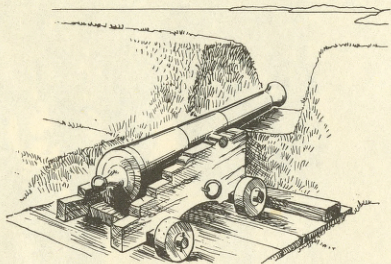


Fort Frederica



NATIONAL MONUMENT
Georgia



Fort Frederica

NATIONAL MONUMENT

Headquarters for General Oglethorpe's military operations against the Spanish in Florida during the Anglo-Spanish struggle (1739-43) for the southeastern part of the present United States

An old British fortification dating from the early days of Georgia history, Fort Frederica represents Great Britain's determination to occupy these coastal lands—lands claimed by the Spaniards who were well entrenched at St. Augustine in Florida. Built in 1736, enlarged and strengthened during 1739-43, Fort Frederica was said to have been "the largest, most regular, and perhaps most costly, of any in North America, of British construction."

Basing their assertions on discovery, exploration, and colonization, three nations—France, Spain, and Britain—claimed these lands.

Founding of Georgia

Georgia, youngest of the 13 British Colonies in North America, was founded under the leadership of James Oglethorpe in 1733. The previous year King George II had granted a charter to a group of 21 men, known as the Trustees for establishing the Colony of

Georgia in America. These trustees adopted for their motto "NON SIBI, SED ALIIS" (Not for self, but for others). They raised the money to finance the colony, though Oglethorpe was the only one of their number who ever came to Georgia.

Arriving at Savannah, February 12, 1733, Oglethorpe spent a year working with the mother city and outlying settlements. In January of the following year he made a trip down the inland waterway to select the site for the fort he planned to build for the protection of his infant colony.

On the western shore of St. Simons Island he picked a high bluff where the Indians had cleared a 30- to 40-acre field. Here the river approached the bluff and made two right-angle turns—a strategic location for a fort. Oglethorpe named this site Frederica, in honor of Frederick, Prince of Wales, father of George III. He then returned to England to get the settlers who would build the town and fort.

The National Park System, of which this area is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and inspiration of its people.

Frederica Settlers

Great care was used to select, as settlers, men who could perform useful services in this new town; in fact, Frederica was a ready-made settlement. Planned in England, it was a typical English village. Frederica, with its outpost, St. Simons, was the most southern settlement made by the British in North America at that time.

Before the settlers left England they signed Articles of Agreement to perform the duties for which they had been selected. Magistrates, constables, and tithingmen received their commissions. The doctor, midwife, minister, keeper of the King's stores, and Oglethorpe's secretary were chosen. The tradesmen included the hatter, tailor, dyer, weaver, tanner, shoemaker, cordwainer, saddler, and sawyer.

Others selected were the woodcutter, carpenter, coachmaker, bricklayer, pilot, surveyor, accountant, baker, brewer, tal-

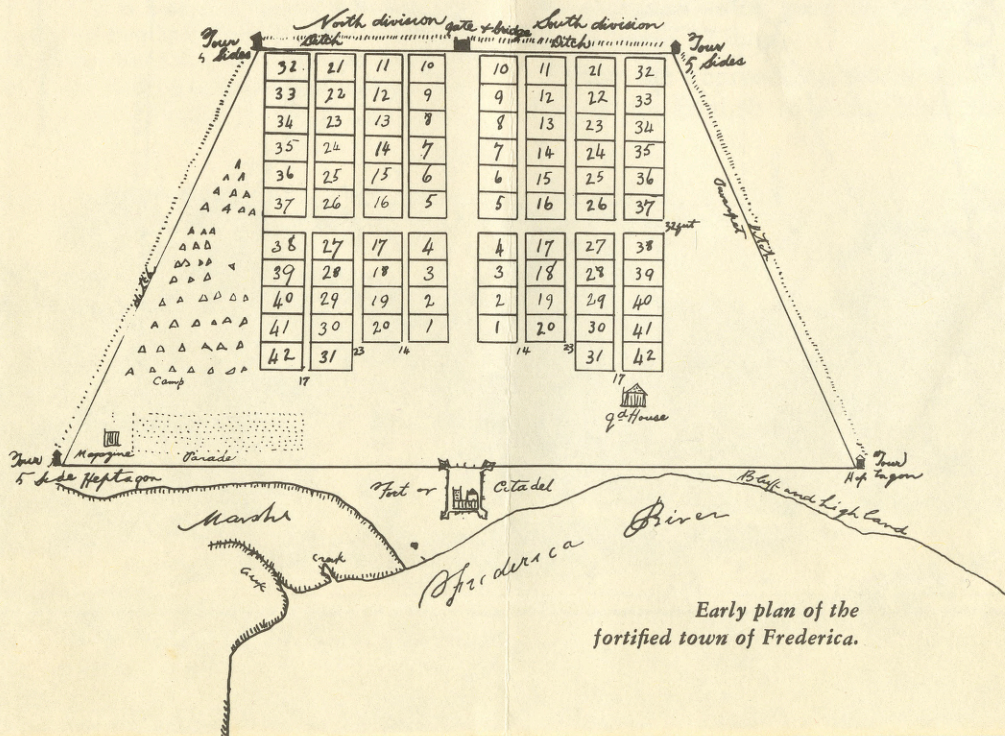
low candler, cooper, blacksmith, locksmith, brazier, miller, millwright, wheelwright, and husbandman.

Accompanying this group as missionaries of the Church of England were John and Charles Wesley, who later became the founders of Methodism.

Building Frederica

The first group of settlers consisted of 40 families, numbering 44 men and 72 women and children. Oglethorpe with his Frederica settlers sailed on the *Symond* and the *London Merchant*. Convoyed by the British sloop-of-war, *Hawk*, they made a tempestuous crossing and anchored off Cockspur Island on February 5, 1736. By small boats they were landed at Frederica on February 18th.

The very next day the men started to work on the earth-and-timber fort, and a little over a month later its battery of guns commanded the river. Adjacent to





The families of Samuel Davidson and Dr. Thomas Hawkins lived side-by-side in this 18th century "duplex," the foundations of which were uncovered in archeological excavations of 1952.

the fort they laid out a town with 84 lots, 60 by 90 feet. These building lots were granted to the settlers. Broad Street divided the town into North Ward and South Ward.

On the back of their lots the settlers built thatched huts for temporary shelter until they could erect permanent dwellings. Soon Frederica presented the appearance of prosperity, with shops lining the streets. The houses were built of wood, brick, or tabby—a mortar made of sand, lime, and oyster shells.

Protection of the colony was the responsibility of the settlers and each was required to do guard duty. However, with the founding of Frederica, the soldiers of the Independent Company stationed at Fort Frederick, near Port Royal, S.C., were ordered to St. Simons Island. Commanded by Lt. Philip Delegal, they arrived on April 10, 1736, and were stationed at Sea Point on the south end of St. Simons. There they built a fortification known as Delegal's Fort.

The colonists also built Fort St. George on Fort George Island near the north bank of St. John's River and Fort St. Andrews on the northwestern shore of Cumberland Island.

Oglethorpe's Regiment

Oglethorpe now returned to England to secure a regiment of British troops who would man the fortifications already built and other forts he planned. He was named colonel of this regiment and was commissioned "General and Commander in Chief of the Forces in South Carolina and Georgia * * *"

Returning to Georgia in 1738 with a regiment of 650 British soldiers, the general built another large fort at the south end of St. Simons Island. Still other fortifications built on this southern frontier for Britain's colonies in North America included a fort at Darien where the Scottish Highlanders had been located since January 1736, a look-

out at Pike's Bluff on St. Simons, outposts at the present site of Brunswick and at Hermitage on Turtle River, and even a blockhouse on Amelia Island in Spanish Florida. Fort Frederica was headquarters for all these fortifications and became the springboard for attack and base for defense against Spanish Florida.

War of Jenkins' Ear

The struggle between Spain and Britain for control of this Georgia-Florida-Caribbean area is known as the War of Jenkins' Ear. It was to merge into the Continental War of Austrian Succession (1740-48), and it is also known in American history as a phase of King George's War. In preparation for the conflict, Oglethorpe made a treaty with the Indians to insure their aid. He strengthened Fort Frederica with tabby works and further enclosed the entire town of Frederica. Later he wrote,

* * * It is half a Hexagon with two Bastions and two half Bastions and Towers after Monsieur Vauban's method upon the point of each Bastion. The walls are of earth faced with Timber, 10 foot high in the

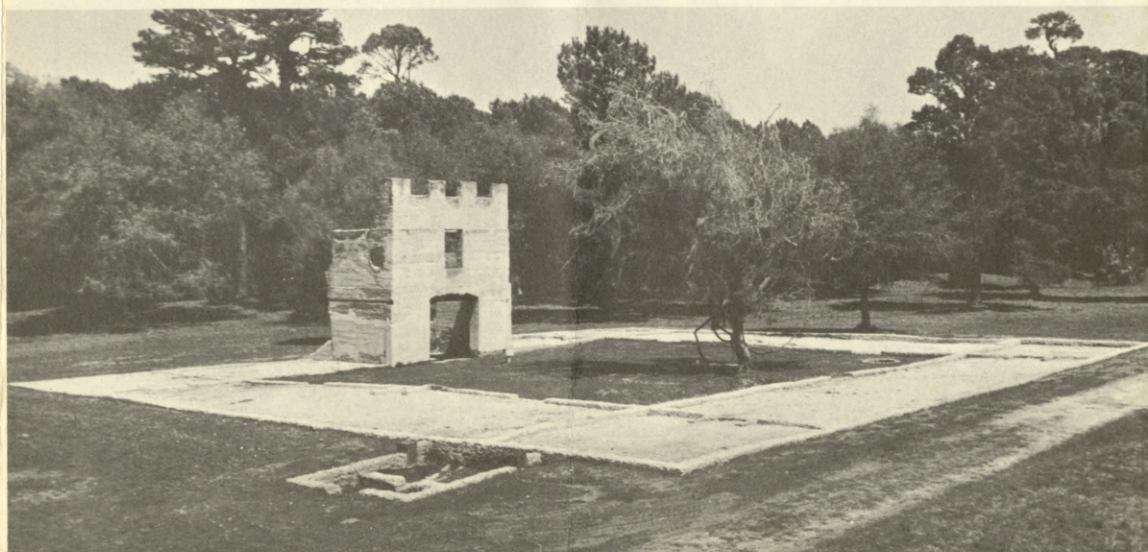
lowest place and in the highest 13 and the Timbers from eight inches to twelve inches thick. There is a wet ditch 10 foot wide * * *

The towers on these bastions were 2 stories high, each capable of holding 100 men, and had cannon mounted.

In November 1739, the Spaniards killed two of the Darien Highlanders who were stationed on Amelia Island; thereupon, Oglethorpe invaded Florida and captured Spanish outposts. Returning to Georgia he made preparations for a grand invasion of Florida with the hope of capturing the great coquina fortress of Castillo de San Marcos at St. Augustine. For this campaign he had the assistance of a regiment of South Carolina troops under Col. Alexander Vanderdussen. His Georgia forces consisted of his regiment, the Highland Independent Company of Foot from Darien, two troops of Rangers, and Capt. Mark Carr's Marine Company of Boatmen, together with Indian allies. Two British men-of-war, *Phoenix* and *Flamborough*, took part in the siege which lasted 27 days.

Then the approaching storm season forced the English to retire from the

Barrack ruins.



surf-pounded coast. They had accomplished no more than destroying Spanish outposts and forcing the Spaniard into his Castillo stronghold. But Oglethorpe had shown his hand. Montiano, Governor of Florida, planned the reprisal.

It came in July 1742. With 51 ships and 3,000 men, the Governor led the Spanish invasion against Georgia. Oglethorpe's defenders numbered only about a thousand.

The Battle of Bloody Marsh

When the Spanish fleet entered the harbor, Fort St. Simons' batteries opened fire, but were soon silenced by starboard guns of the Spanish ships. General Oglethorpe pulled his forces back to Frederica and the Spaniards occupied the fort at St. Simons. On July 7, 1742, Spanish troops advanced along the Frederica-St. Simons road to within a mile and a half of Fort Frederica itself. Late that afternoon at the Battle of Bloody Marsh, a British force of 50 successfully ambushed 300 of the enemy and turned the tide of Spanish

invasion. Montiano's forces returned to St. Augustine.

This was Spain's last important military attempt to gain control of the Georgia territory which she had claimed for two and a half centuries; it was a turning point in the struggle between Spain and Britain for control of this southeastern part of what is now the United States.

Regiment Disbanded

While the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1748) did not solve the questions of colonial power in the New World, it did bring temporary peace in America and Europe. The following year Oglethorpe's Regiment was disbanded and Frederica was practically abandoned because diplomats had agreed to treat the land between the Altamaha and Florida as neutral ground. About one-fourth of the soldiers, with their families, returned to England; another one-fourth took up lands in Georgia and became settlers; the others continued in military service as members of South Carolina Independent Companies.

The old burying grounds.





The new Fort Frederica Visitor Center constructed under Mission 66.

A Dead Town

The great fire of 1758 destroyed most of the buildings in the old town of Frederica. The Treaty of Paris in 1763 ended the French and Indian War, and Florida went to Britain. Most of the soldiers who had been stationed here were withdrawn; many of the cannon were removed and used to fortify other parts of Georgia. Frederica became, indeed, a dead town.

Location

Fort Frederica National Monument is on St. Simons Island, 12 miles from Brunswick, Ga. You may reach it by the Brunswick-St. Simons Highway (toll bridge) or by the inland waterway.

Mission 66

Mission 66 is a program designed to be completed by 1966. It will assure the maximum protection of the scenic, scientific, wilderness, and historic resources of the National Park System to make them available for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

As a part of Mission 66, Fort Frederica National Monument has had a general development program which included archeological excavations and the building of roads and trails. A visitor center, containing pictorial panels, maps, a diorama, and excavated objects, tells the story of the old town and fort.

Archeological Excavations

These excavations have unearthed the long-buried foundations of many of the old dwelling houses of Frederica. Within the fort area two storehouses, the King's magazine, the guard room, and the blacksmith's shop were excavated, and also the town gate, the moat, the bastion towers and barracks building. These foundations have been left exposed and markers erected to explain them.

Administration

Fort Frederica National Monument is administered by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is St. Simons Island, Ga., is in immediate charge.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fred A. Seaton, *Secretary*
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Conrad L. Wirth, *Director*



FORT FREDERICA NATIONAL MONUMENT

