

Kings Magazine Remains
Fort Frederica, St. Simons Island
Glynn County, Georgia

HABS No. GA-2162

HABS
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4-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
120 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

- FORT · FREDERICA -

HABS NO ~~GA-2~~ 2162

- ST. · SIMONS · ISLAND · GEORGIA -

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GLYNN Co.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Georgia

Historic American Buildings Survey
Harold Bush-Brown, District Officer
Georgia School of Technology, Atlanta, Ga.

FORT FREDERICA

St. Simons Island, Glynn County, Georgia

Owner: National Monument, about to be acquired by
U. S. Government.

Date of Erection: 1735

Present Condition: Ruins

Number of Stories: One

Materials of Construction: Walls of tabby block.
Interior covered with double rowlock brick barrel
vault.

Other Existing Records: Records by P. Thornton Marye,
District Officer, HABS, 1934.

Additional Data: Tablet on structure bears inscrip-
tion: "This remnant is all that time has spared of
'Citadel' of the town of Frederica, built by Gen.
Oglethorpe 1735 as an outpost against Spaniards in
Florida. Presented by Society of Colonial Dames of
America 1904."

Harold Bush Brown
HAROLD BUSH-BROWN

DISTRICT OFFICER-HABS

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FORT FREDERICA
St. Simons Island, Glynn County
Georgia

HISTORICAL NOTES:

The ruins of Fort Frederica are made of tabby, a concrete composed of oyster shell, shell lime and sand. "Georgia's oldest English ruin" and "the greatest English fortification ever built in North America" are terms ascribed to this structure. ¹

The fort was named in honor of Frederick, Prince of Wales, son of George II and father of George III. Nearby took place the battle of Bloody Marsh, July 7, 1742, between the English and the Spanish. ¹ The property is owned by Mrs. Maxfield Parrish.

Notes by A. C. Torrance
1936

A tablet erected on the structure has the following inscription:

"This ruin is all that time has spared of the 'Citadel' of the Town of Frederica, built by General Oglethorpe A.D. 1735 as an outpost against the Spaniards of Florida. Presented by the Georgia Society of the Colonial Dames of America 1904".

Notes by P. Thornton Marye

¹ Historical Sketches of the "Golden Isles of Guale". See also Knight, L.L., Georgia's Landmarks, Memorials and Legends, vol.1, chapter 13.

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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KING'S MAGAZINE REMAINS

Street Address or Location: Fort Frederica, St. Simons Island,
Glynn County, Georgia

Present Owner: National Park Service, Box 367, St. Simons, Ga.

Brief Statement of Significance: This structure, now ruinous, served as General Oglethorpe's Magazine during the English Colonies' fight against the Spanish.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Trustees of the Colony of Georgia. Georgia Society of the Colonial Dames of America.
2. Date of erection: 1740-1741
3. Notes on alterations and additions: In 1903 the fallen west, south walls and south arch of existing portion of building were rebuilt. (A. C. Manucy, "Fort Frederica Historic Site Report" (NPS, 1945), p. 114.) In 1957 a gunnite roof slab was placed over the old masonry roof.
4. Important old views and references:
Two views (c. 1900) looking west to structure.
One view (c. 1900) from river, looking east to structure.
(Prints are filed in Historian's Office, Fort Frederica National Monument)

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Part of the fort and Town of Frederica, which was British base of operations against the Spanish in Florida during the War of Jenkins' Ear (1739-1748) and target of the Spanish expedition into Georgia in 1742.

Prepared by Albert C. Manucy June 1958
Historian, National Park Service

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement: The 20' x 40' section is all that remains of a structure that was over twice as large. The only evidence of the rest of the building consists of foundation walls at grade to the north. Adjoining the present ruin was an element with a front wall 20' wide projecting 6" beyond the front wall of the rest of the building. This is thought to have been an entrance feature since the east wall shows a door sill 7' wide. It may also have been a tower, like the barracks tower, two stories high. The walls were 2'-0" thick. North of this feature is an 18" wall with the imprint of three door sills and one bricked-up doorway. All are about 4' wide. This wall is the same length as the magazine section, making the building symmetrical about the entrance

feature and the east-west axis of the fort. The lost portion is thought to have contained guard rooms.

1. Architectural character: This is one of the only two ruins at Frederica with remains above ground.

2. Condition of fabric: Ruinous, much stabilized.

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B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Rectangular - 39'-9" x 21'-1"

2. Foundations: Poured tabby

3. Wall construction: Poured tabby 2'-0" thick

4. Chimneys: None

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Two double doors (5' wide) with heavy wood frames, each one opening into a brick vault. (No wood remains.)

b. Windows and shutters: None

6. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Two brick barrel vaults, two wythes thick; roof above unknown.

b. Cornice, eaves: During 1903 restoration by Colonial Dames, merlons, thought to be on original structure, but never verified, were added. They were removed 1957.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: One story - rectangular - divided into two rooms of equal size. Only one story known.

2. Stairways: None

3. Flooring: No evidence in south room. North room has tabby floor 10' below crown of vault and 4'-5" below door sill. This is thought to have left air space below raised floor for ventilation.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Front faces east-southeast. Located in back of washed-away west rampart of Fort Frederica on a low bluff overlooking Frederica River.