

1. OWNERSHIP AND VALUE OF LANDS

Lands within the boundaries of Fort Frederica National Monument were purchased with funds raised by the Fort Frederica Association. Ownership, at the time of acquisition, is given in the following table:

Name of Vendor	Acres	Price
Frances P. and Allen A. Burns	3 .00	\$ 3700.00
R. A. Gould, Administrator of the Estate of Mrs. A. D. Dodge	19 .87	1927 .00
Mrs. Edna Taylor McCaskill	0 .38	238 .00
C. H. and Zoe A. Postell	1 .00	2050 .00
The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Georgia	24 .50	9500 .00
Arthur A. Taylor	4 .00	3800 .00
Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Taylor	0 .87	3600 .00
Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Taylor	6 .21	11000 .00
Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Taylor	3 .00	7400 .00
E. T. Stevens, et al	1 .00	425 .00
Sea Island Company	3 .38	Donation
Georgia Society of Colonial Dames of America (Citadel Site)	0 .20	Donation
Sea Island Development Company (Franklin Horne)	4 .33	Donation
TOTAL	71 .09 acres	\$43,640.00

In cases where tracts were developed as residential sites, the vendors retained title to the buildings and have the right to remove them from the monument area. Special use permits for continued occupancy for one year from the date of monument establishment have been executed by the Service in favor of the owners of buildings. These permits are revocable upon 90 days notice by the Director of the National Park Service and they may also be renewed at his discretion.

Acceptance of land titles by the United States during 1942-1943 and 1944 was delayed by legal deficiencies in abstracts. In 1943 the Fort Frederica Association secured state certification of all but three tracts, under the Georgia Land Registration

Law. The remaining three tracts, which were omitted by error from the first certification, were filed for certification by the Association early in 1944, at the request of the Solicitor of the Interior Department.

2. ACCESSIBILITY

Off the southern coast of Georgia lie “the Golden Isles”, a chain of coastal islands famous not only for their resort climate and natural beauty, but for a recorded history beginning in the 16th century. On St. Simons, the only one of the Golden Isles not now in private ownership, is the site of Frederica, about 10 miles from the city of Brunswick, in Glynn County.

The drive into the national monument from Brunswick is characteristic of the best coastal Georgia scenery. To reach the island, the motorist drives over the Brunswick-St. Simons Highway (toll bridge). Frederica is located about midway up the western shore of St. Simons, at a sharp turn of the Frederica River, which is a link in the inland waterway. The drive up the island through pine woods and oak groves, past historic Christ Church to the fort site remains almost entirely unspoiled. Paved roads similar to the Frederica drive traverse the entire island, and each of these parkways is attractively and clearly marked with rustic signs.

The road network is part of the Glynn County system on St. Simons and Sea Islands. The Frederica spur of this system runs through the town line about 100 feet north of the southeast corner, and terminates at a small paved Y at the river bank south of the “Citadel”. This road is shown on our map NM-FRE 7001. The Commissioners of Glynn County have agreed to the relocation of this road along the east boundary of the monument area, and the Sea Island Company proposes to deed a right of way of 150 feet for this purpose. Access to the monument area is proposed on plan NM-FRE 2001A by means of an entrance feature and short access road leading to an informal parking area west of the Frederica “Burying Ground.”

In line of detailed information, tentative planning and development suggestions have been outlined in the form of an interim general development plan NM-FRE 2001A (plate 42) and a preliminary Project Construction Program. *

* See post, p. 214.

3. PRESENT CONDITION

At this writing, the area is open to visitors, but there are no public facilities or services.

The present Frederica road terminates within 100 feet of a one-story tabby building called “the Citadel” (plate 20), the most conspicuous ruin at the fort site. The river waters lap at the foot of its walls, and tangled grass hides a rusted old cannon lying upon its roof. The entire site is shaded by huge live oaks. Nearby are the faint traces of earthworks, and the tabby foundations of several buildings.

A few hundred yards to the north, along the marshy shore, begin the visible remains of the wall surrounding the town. A walk through the forested undergrowth along these earthworks gives to even the uninitiated the impression of an extensive fortification. Along the eastern moat, the forest becomes more open, and towering pines and ancient oaks lining the moat banks combine in a beautiful vista (plate 31).

Within the town limits, there is but one outstanding historic ruin (excepting the structures at the fort site). In a grass-grown pasture stand the impressive tabby walls of the barracks, their outline hidden by a mantle of vines (plate 36).

A few hundred feet outside the town gate is the burying ground of Frederica (plate 40). Here there is such a cover of moss-draped oaks, vines and shrubs that the sun seldom penetrates. It is a very picture of lost, neglected ruins associated with human life and death. Four raised burial tombs built of brick and tabby are visible, and there is also a sizable burial vault of the same materials.

A major part of the monument area is heavily wooded and great oaks and virgin pines are generously scattered within and around the town lines. The “open fields” shown on plan NM-FRE 7001 have grown up to young pines and native undergrowth to a great extent in recent years.

An accurate, detailed topographic survey should locate these important trees and areas of young growth, as preservation of the former and careful clearing of the latter will be an important phase of the monument plan.

At the south end of the island, Fort St. Simons was built. It was a rather extensive earthwork, with surrounding wooden houses to quarter the soldiers and their families. This fort was the scene of the battle to prevent the Spanish sailing into St. Simons harbor in 1742, and subsequently became Spanish headquarters on the island. Little trace of it remains today.

Connecting Frederica and Fort St. Simons was a military road, parts of it still discernible today. Some 5 miles from Frederica, on a sweeping curve of marsh, a bronze marker commemorating the Battle of Bloody Marsh has been placed. Closer to Frederica, a similar marker locates the site of Oglethorpe's home.

The site of Fort St. Simons, the Bloody Marsh battlesite, and Oglethorpe's plantation are not included within the monument boundaries. Nor is the Point Battery, a work thrown up several hundred feet south of Fort Frederica. In fact, there is some doubt that the south-western bastion of the town wall lies within the present authorized boundary.

4. CARE

At the present time the former owners, who still reside on the site, are cooperating in protecting the area from vandalism and from treasure diggers and pot hunters. An appropriation of \$3212.00 has been approved by Congress for the 1945 fiscal year, which will be available for maintenance and operation as soon as the lands have been accepted by the Secretary. This appropriation will permit the employment of a Custodian and per diem labor for the establishment of a preliminary operation and maintenance setup.

5. POSSIBILITIES OF PRESERVATION

Application of standard techniques should permanently stabilize the ruins at Frederica which now show above ground. Early action, however, must be taken at the "Citadel" site (cover, plate 20), where river erosion is a problem, and in some of the ruined masonry walls – particularly the barracks (plate 36) – within the boundaries. These ruins are unstable, and immediate bracing is needed to prevent failures in some portions of the walls and openings.

Stabilization of earthwork fortifications (plate 31) as they exist today presents no serious problem, but it is deemed advisable to anticipate conditions which may develop during the course of archeological exploration. It is most likely that archeological discoveries will reveal earth and possibly wooden fortification construction of definite value for in situ interpretation, and such remains may present a difficult preservation problem.

Perhaps one typical National Park problem may be preservation of trees within the monument area. At Frederica, however, the tree problem may have more relative importance than in purely scenic areas, for the loss of even one of the giant trees in this

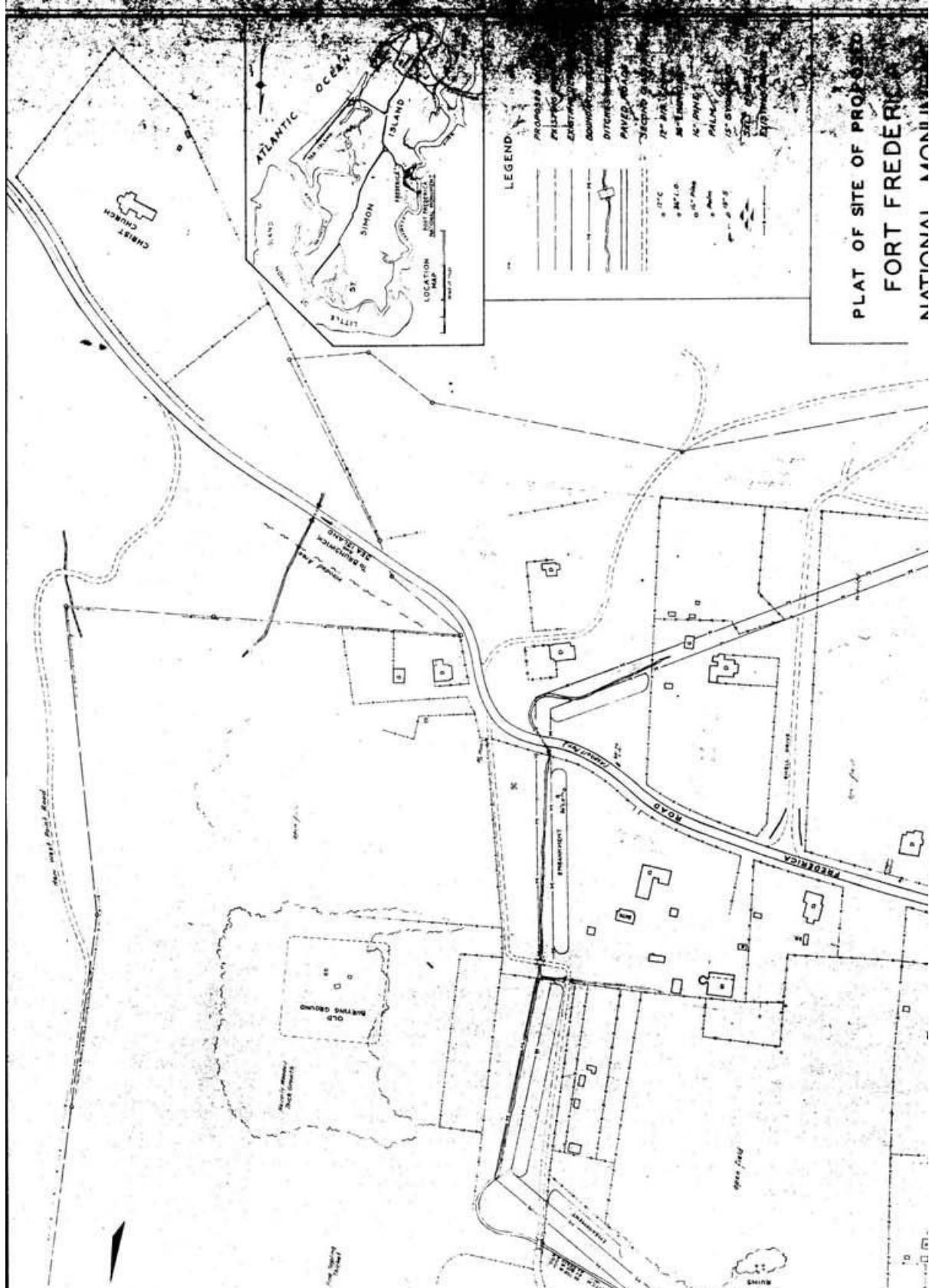
comparatively small park makes a material difference in the appearance of the site. More than any one thing, the great trees give Frederica its appearance of authentic antiquity.

6. DEVELOPMENT

The early needs for the Frederica program include an accurate and detailed topographic survey, followed by an archeological investigation, and the development of plans based on these surveys. An accurate determination of a development program will depend on these surveys and plans.

A tentative developmental program, based on plan NM-FRE 2001A (plate 42) has been submitted, but has not yet received approval by the Director. This program is as follows:

Plate 42 - General Development Plan



Project Construction Program

May 22, 1945		Submitted by C. R. Vinten, Coordinating Superintendent.		
Priority	Index No.	Name of Project	Location	Estimate
1	M-2-1	Preliminary Archeological Investigation	Headquarters & Residence Area	\$ 2,500
2	B-3-1	Residence and Garage	Residence Area	11,111
3	B-5	Equipment Storage Bldg.	Utility Area	7,222
4	B-6	Oil and Pint Storage Building	Utility Area	1,666
5	M-9	Major Archeological Investigation	Monument Area	16,666
6	M-3-1	Ruins Stabilization	Monument Area	3,000
7	R-2-1	Service Roads and Courtyard	Residence Area	3,943
8	U-1-1	Water System	Monument Area	5,555
9	U-2-1	Electric System	Monument Area	3,333
10	U-3-1	Sewerage System	Monument Area	3,777
11	U-4-1	Communication System	Monument Area	1,111
12	M-10	Ground Development	Residence & Utility Area	2,222
13	M-11	Fence Enclosure	Monument Boundary	3,888
14	B-2-1	Headquarters & Museum Building	Hdqtrs. Area	41,222
15	R-1-1	Road & Parking Area	Entrance-Hdqtrs.	14,428
16	R-3	Walks and Paths	Monument Area	4,174
17	R-4	Obliteration of Roads	Monument Area	2,276
18	M-4-1	Grounds Development	Monument Area	12,222
19	B-6	Incinerator	Utility Area	944
20	M-12	Landing Pier	South of Fort	3,889

The development of Frederica must certainly take the line which nature has already pointed out. The area is now one of great beauty, and its ruins have the appearance of

hallowed antiquity which both impresses and inspires the visitor. To enhance nature's treatment of the site and to emphasize the ruins, calls first of all for a removal of anachronisms such as modern roads and buildings from the historic area, and then for careful landscaping to such limited extent as may be needed to clarify the Frederica town layout for the visitor. Obviously, necessary new construction should be kept out of the historic area, and in this connection it is noted that the service buildings proposed in the general development plan (plate 42) are uncomfortably close to the southeast bastion of the town fortifications.

At this time it is hardly practicable to suggest ways and means of interpretive development, inasmuch as archeology promises to reveal numerous items of historical and interpretive interest, such as house foundations and possibly earthworks and palisades. When there is a more definite indication of the type of in-place exhibits that may be expected at Frederica, a stable policy can be worked out.

Meanwhile, as interpretive service can be set up at Frederica, it is expected to take the form of a small narrative museum, supplementing a guided or self-guided walk through the historic sections of the park.