



# MASTER PLAN

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



Fort King Heritage Association



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- **Fort King Heritage Association** for their support and guidance.
- **Gulf Archaeology Research Institute** for their ongoing support with archaeological and archival research.
- **Ocala Planning Department** for their 1989, 1991, and 1994 Fort King Site Report.
- **National Park Service** for their National Historic Landmark Nomination Report 2003.
- **National Archives** for providing archival documents.
- **The Seminole Tribe of Florida** for providing independent research and perspective.
- The numerous **Seminole War Historians** whose work has outlined the history shared at Fort King.

# APPROVALS/VERSION CONTROL

THIS SECTION OF THE MASTER PLAN is intended to document approvals by partners and to manage revisions and version control.

- The Fort King Master Plan was prepared by the City of Ocala Recreation and Parks Department in 2020.
- Recommended for approval by the Fort King Heritage Association on April 9, 2020.
- Presented to and approved by the Ocala City Council on July 7, 2020.
- Presented to and approved by the Marion County Board of County Commissioners on July 7, 2020.

**Version: DRAFT 07/07/20**

*This Master Plan is a living document. Revisions to the Plan should be notated in appropriate sections with reference to new research or data that informed the revision. Archival notations related to design specifics for any particular structure should be added as research uncovers new information. Over time, this will ensure that each reconstruction project is undertaken with the most relevant information and with the greatest amount of care and respect for historical accuracy.*

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# FORT KING MASTER PLAN

❖ *Rebuilding History to Discover the Past* ❖



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FORT KING NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK IS A 41.79 ACRE PARK dedicated to the interpretation and preservation of Seminole Wars history (1816-1858). Designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Parks Service in 2004, the park is owned jointly by the City of Ocala and Marion County and is currently under the custodianship of the City of Ocala as the operating entity. The park currently has a Visitor Center, fort palisade walls with block houses, and walking trails. To honor the importance of this site and delineate future development plans to add to the current layout, the City of Ocala prepared this Master Plan in partnership with the Fort King Heritage Association, endorsed by the Ocala City Council and the Marion County Board of County Commissioners.

This plan is broken down in two parts:

- A. Development and construction of a Museum and Education Center meeting exacting standards for purposes outlined in the plan.
- B. Development and reconstruction of the Fort King complex including necessary archaeological and archival research work on each structure to obtain the most accurate historical representation of buildings.

Each part of this plan will be implemented in tandem. The end goal is to provide a park that is not just passive in its education but immersive as well. The Master Plan shall serve as a road map for developing a park that is deserving of the National Historic Landmark status and ensures that its stewards preserve the history for generations to come. The Master Plan sets the course for interpreting the most accurate version of Seminole War history from both the U.S. Government and Seminole sides.

This Master Plan is to be completed over 15 years.

The Fort King Heritage Association will lead the charge to secure local, State and Federal funding for the project.

*After successful implementation of the Master Plan, Marion County will have the most important interpretive heritage-tourism site dedicated to the Seminole Wars in the world. The Fort King National Historic Landmark will provide students and public visitors alike with the tools they need to understand the complexities of the conflicts and the challenges of an infant nation. The economic impact will be substantial.*



## VISION

FORT KING NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK WILL BE A LIVING HISTORY SITE that educates and informs the public of the important cultural, historic, and natural resources found at the park; and protects and develops said resources for future generations. The reconstruction of the fort complex, and the building of the museum and education center will present a balanced and rigorous interpretation of the Seminole War history that took place on these grounds; ensure that the local history is placed in the context of the greater Seminole Wars of Florida; and is presented in a manner that is respectful to all that were involved in this conflict.

## PURPOSE

THIS PLAN SETS OUT THE PATH to develop Fort King National Historic Landmark. To accomplish the development goals of the site, two parts of the plan will have to be executed in tandem.

- I. The planning and development of the Fort King Museum and Education Center. This center will be the educational hub and interpretation area for visitors. It will present the site within a larger context of history and present stories and histories from a range of cultures and groups. This Museum and Education Center will also include space for research, archaeology, programing, and classroom education.
- II. The planning and development of the Fort King complex and property. This project will reconstruct what Fort King once looked like, full scale, in 1837. The reconstruction will be informed by archaeology and research. These reconstructions of buildings and structures will strive to be as historically accurate as possible while still adhering to current codes and regulation. The full development of the site will provide a place for the public to be effectively immersed within the history of Fort King, and at the same time, provide a stage for programing and interactive visitor opportunities.

# BACKGROUND

## The Site/Land Acquisition History

The “Fort King Site” is currently comprised of 41.79 acres located in northeast Ocala and under joint ownership or control of the City of Ocala and Marion County. In 1992, the County purchased the 14.59 acres at the north side of the property utilizing “Pennies for Parks” funds. In 2001, the City and County partnered to receive a State Preservation 2000 Grant to purchase the southern 22.28 acres of the property. In 2014, the City and County entered into a 99-year lease with the Daughters of the American Revolution – Ocala Chapter (DAR) to incorporate their .95-acre neighboring property into the site. In 2015, the Fort King Heritage Association (FKHA) purchased 2.65 acres adjacent to and east of the park (future site of the new visitor center) with a grant from the Felburn Foundation and subsequently donated that parcel to the City and County. In 2019, the City, County and FKHA (with funding support from another Felburn Foundation grant and a Tourist Development Council grant) purchased a 1.32-acre parcel east of the DAR site that has an existing structure which will serve as an archaeology resources center until those services can be incorporated into the larger museum and education center.



## Designation

Multiple archeological studies have confirmed that the property is in fact the site of Fort King, which has significant historical associations with the Second Seminole War.

In recognition of Fort King’s national significance, the site was designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service in 2004.

## Operations

By agreement between the City and County, the Fort King site is operated by the City of Ocala in compliance with the State, City and County approved management plan.

On May 31, 2014 Fort King National Historic Landmark was open to the public. A Phase IA Operations Plan was written and implemented that same year to guide operations of the park as well as management strategies.

## Purpose

The stated purpose of the land acquisition project in the State, City and County approved management plan is to “...protect valuable natural, historical and archeological resources. The project site is to be managed only for conservation, protection and enhancement of the natural resources and for public outdoor recreation that is compatible with these management criteria.”

## Development

In 2014, the City of Ocala renovated the old “McCall House” into a visitor’s center and museum to provide interpretation and educational opportunities to visitors to the site.

In 2015, the City of Ocala was awarded a State Division of Historic Resources (DHR) matching grant to build a to-scale replica of the fort palisade walls and block houses. Local funding was provided by the FKHA and in-kind services were provided by the City of Ocala and multiple donors.

By the end of 2017 the first phase of the fort reconstruction had been completed. Two blockhouses were constructed along with 16’ walls and firing platforms. Along with the construction of the outer structure of the fort some hidden infrastructure was also installed this includes water and power. ADA access to the fort site was completed in 2019.

The 2019 purchase of the parcel east of the DAR site will provide an opportunity to develop a temporary Fort King Archaeology Resource Center until those functions can be incorporated into phase II of the Museum and Education Center.

## Historical Context and Overview

Fort King was originally constructed in 1827 to implement the conditions of the Treaty of Moultrie Creek, which restricted Florida Indians to reservation lands and prohibited all but authorized persons from entering the reservation. Later, the U.S. Army’s attempt to enforce the Payne’s Landing Treaty of 1832, which required the Seminoles to give up their Florida lands and move west within three years, precipitated the Second Seminole War (1835–1842). During those seven years, every prominent general and regiment of the U.S. Army were either stationed at or passed through the gates of Fort King. In May 1836, Fort King was abandoned and burned to the ground by the Seminoles. One year later in 1837, the U.S. Army returned, and the fort was rebuilt. Fort King was abandoned in 1843 as a military base after the war’s conclusion. After its decommission, the fort became Marion County’s first courthouse and public building. In 1846 the fort was completely dismantled for its lumber.

Fort King sets itself apart from other sites in Florida and the United States that are associated with the period of Indian Removal and the Seminal Wars. One of the main distinctions is that Fort King represents not only the U.S. government’s Indian Removal policies, as seen through treaties or forts, but also native resistance to those policies. The Fort King site is strongly associated with major themes related to this context, including Jacksonian democracy and the forced removal of American Indians to the newly established Indian Territory west of the Mississippi. U.S. removal agents used Fort King as a meeting place to present the details of removal to Seminole leaders. Here, the Seminoles and Black Seminoles made it clear that they were not willing to be removed. When deliberations failed, the Seminole removal agent, Wiley Thompson, and the commanding officer of Fort King were killed outside the fort walls. This was one of two simultaneous attacks, the other being Dade’s Massacre, which marked the first day of the Second Seminole War, the longest and costliest struggle associated with Indian removal. Fort King was central to U.S. plans to end the conflict. It served as headquarters for several of the Florida commanders and more soldiers than any other fort associated with the war. At least one important Seminole leader, Halleck Tustenuggee, and his band were captured at the fort and shipped west to Indian Territory.

The Fort King site is also closely associated with the famous Seminole leader, Osceola. It was during the removal meetings at Fort King that Osceola was first recognized as an important leader by his own people, and by the U.S. military and government agents. His charismatic stand against removal led to his imprisonment at the fort. He eventually earned revenge along with national fame and notoriety when he killed Andrew Jackson’s Seminole removal agent, Wiley Thompson, Lt. Constantine Smith, and store clerk Kitzler at Fort King.

Forts Cooper, Foster, and Pierce all saw limited action during the war and are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, however the Fort King site has a higher level of integrity and documentation. There are also a few National Register sites and National Historic Landmarks associated with the Second Seminole War. Dade Battlefield (Dade Massacre) and the Okeechobee Battlefield (Battle of Okeechobee), are both National Historic Landmarks. Although these battlefields have relatively good integrity, they represent a different property type associated with the Second Seminole War. Unlike battlefields, which often represent a single isolated event, field fortifications of the Second Seminole War were established to implement the conditions of treaties, such as the removal of Indian groups west, serve as collection points for Indians and their cattle, and become gathering points. Fort King also served as a headquarters for operations against Indians, as a location for negotiations between the government and various Indian bands and their leaders, and more generally, established a military presence in inland Florida. Additionally, field fortifications such as Fort King opened the inland territory to white settlement that had previously been confined to coastal areas. Military roads built to supply Fort King and other installations facilitated the movement of people through the territory. In addition to their rudimentary construction, this is a unique characteristic that only inland forts share (Hellmann and Prentice 2000: 31, 69, 75).

## National Historic Landmark Significance

The Fort King site is considered nationally significant under National Historic Landmark Criterion 1, association with events that represent broad national patterns, in this case the Indian Removal policies associated with Jacksonian Democracy. The Second Seminole War was the result of Andrew Jackson's Indian Removal policies and the Seminole and Black Seminole resistance to those policies. The war was the fiercest resistance launched by Native Americans against the Indian Removal Act. Tied to the conflict over Indian Removal in Florida was the issue of slavery. Over generations, Florida had been a "haven for fugitive slaves, – or maroons" (Rivers 2000:189) who had escaped from the southern slave states into Florida's hinterlands. Many of them had become associated with the Seminoles.

Additionally, Fort King was the site of the killing of Andrew Jackson's Indian removal agent, Wiley Thompson, by the Seminole leader Osceola. This killing was one of two simultaneous Seminole attacks, the other attack taking place at the site known today as Dade Battlefield, also a National Historic Landmark (1973), that marked the beginning of the Second Seminole War. Osceola gained national fame and notoriety through this action and thus, the Fort King site is also considered nationally significant under National Historic Landmark Criterion 2, association with the lives of persons nationally significant in U.S. history, in this case, Osceola. In addition to the killing of the Seminole removal agent, it was during removal councils held at Fort King prior to the Second Seminole War that both his people and the government agents first recognized Osceola as a leader.

Finally, Fort King is considered nationally significant under National Historic Landmark Criterion 6, for having yielded and being expected to yield information of major scientific importance and shedding light upon periods of occupation in this area of the United States. Archeological investigations at the Fort King site have revealed artifactual, architectural, and structural features that not only indicate that this is the location of Fort King, but also can, through the study of these features, provide significant, specific information about the events that occurred there as part of the Second Seminole War, such as the burning of the fort by the Seminoles, the location of the guardhouse where Osceola was imprisoned, the place where the Indians camped, and the location of the killing of the removal agent by Osceola. Additionally, unlike other fort sites associated with the Second Seminole War, the present-day Fort King site is large and fairly intact, making it rare if not unique in this respect. Data from excavations may provide information about forts as instruments of settlement in the United States during this period, information about cultural interaction and exchange between American Indians, African Americans and European Americans, and information for improving our understanding of lifeways at a military installation of this era.

Congress and the Secretary of the Department of Interior designated Fort King a National Historic Landmark on February 24, 2004.

## PARTNERS/RESOURCES

### City of Ocala and Marion County

As joint owners of the Fort King site, the City of Ocala and Marion County will continue to partner on issues relative to development, operations and promotions of Fort King. Per an agreement between Marion County and the City of Ocala, the City is the operating entity of Fort King.

### Fort King Heritage Association

The Fort King Heritage Association (FKHA) is a non-profit 501(c)3 formed in 2011 to “preserve, protect and promote the Fort King Historical Site located in Ocala, Marion County, Florida while serving as citizen support group to cultivate and sustain a public-private partnership with private donors and local, state and federal governments.”

FKHA has played a crucial role in the acquisition and development of Fort King. In 2012, the City, County, and FKHA entered into a memorandum of understanding (amended year to year as needed based on changes in site boundary and operations). This MOU outlines each of the parties’ roles in fundraising, design, development and management of the site.

The Fort King Heritage Association provides for support in fundraising for capital improvements, advocacy efforts, and guidance with development of the park. Under this MOU, staff anticipates that the FKHA will meet the following responsibilities.

- Capital fundraising activities including on-site events, public meetings, solicitation of funding partners, etc.
- Guidance with design and development activities.
- Advocacy efforts including development and distribution of media, presentations, etc.

### National Parks Service and State of Florida – Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources

It is anticipated that the National Parks Service and the Florida Department of State will be valuable resources in the development of interpretive media and program development and in the dissemination of information related to Fort King and its significance in the history of our state. The State of Florida has grants that might assist with future archaeology and development costs. We anticipate they will also provide technical assistance in the preservation of key artifacts. The Florida Museum of History also has a collection of artifacts and memorabilia related to the Seminole Wars that could potentially be loaned for display at the Fort King Museum and Education Center.

## Natural Resources Management Agencies and Organizations

It is anticipated that the U.S. and Florida State Forestry Services, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Audubon Society and the Native Plant Society can all provide ongoing technical and programming support in terms of natural resources and wildlife management activities.

## Educational Institutions

Our partnership with the Marion County School District has led to better engagement of students in educational programs provided at Fort King. The Marion County School Board has a permanent Trustee seat on the Fort King Heritage Association. Working with the Marion County School District has led to student access to Fort King through field trips and interpretation.

The College of Central Florida has also been a valued partner. Fort King has afforded opportunities for students in history/archaeology programs at the college to participate in related programs/services at the park leading to a better understanding of classroom concepts through hands-on participation. The Appleton Museum, a College of Central Florida asset, has hosted exhibits related to Fort King and the Seminole Wars which allows us to expand our reach and exposure.

The University of Florida, Florida Museum of Natural History has a collection of artifacts that is invaluable to the interpretation of Fort King, particularly as it relates to the Seminole. This information will help us better understand and communicate information relative to the broader concepts of the Seminole Wars and Jacksonian Democracy. We will continue to lean on them for assistance in developing programs and interpreting the Fort King site.

## Native Americans

The three listed Native American partners are all Federally recognized Indian Tribes whose people are an intricate part of the Seminole War story. Every effort should be made to ensure their version of the events that took place at Fort King is incorporated into the narrative.

**Seminole Tribe of Florida** – In recognition of the monumental significance that the Seminole Indians played in Florida and United States history, the Seminole Tribe of Florida has a permanent Trustee seat on the Fort King Heritage Association. Through ongoing dialogue with the Seminole Tribe of Florida we have built a relationship that will produce a balanced representation of the historical facts of the Seminole Wars and the role that Fort King played in shaping our country.

**Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida** (Originally the Miccosukee Seminole Tribe) – Although the government insisted on treating the Native Americans remaining in Florida as a unified people, there were cultural differences that divided the Seminole Tribe and it wasn't until the mid-20th Century that they were officially separated into two distinct tribes – the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida.

**Seminole Nation of Oklahoma** – those who were forcibly relocated to the Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River.

## Local Historical Organizations and Agencies

It is anticipated that partnerships with local historical organizations will further broaden our understanding of Fort King in context with other significant historical events and sites. In this category would include organizations such the Daughters of American Revolution (DAR) – Ocala Chapter. The stated objectives of the DAR are “historic preservation, promotion of education, and patriotic endeavor.” The Ocala Chapter of DAR owns an adjacent parcel to the Fort King site that is said to have originally housed the bodies of soldiers who had died at Fort King. The DAR Ocala Chapter has a permanent

Director seat on the Fort King Heritage Association Board of Directors. Their continued involvement in the development and management of the Fort King Site has resulted in the incorporation of their adjacent property into the overall Fort King park footprint. Other potential local resources/partners would be the Historic Ocala Preservation Society, Marion County Museum of History and Archaeology and the Silver River Museum.

## Archaeological Professionals

Partnerships with professionals in the field of archaeology and research such as the Gulf Archaeology Research Institute can provide guidance for on-site activities; documentation and monitoring of any site disturbance and inventorying of artifacts. Gulf Archaeology Research Institute is our current archaeological partner and the archaeologist of record. Staff anticipates as the project develops that a variety of archaeological groups and researchers will be working on the site and conducting independent research at Fort King. This will include archaeologist in residency programs and internships.

## OPERATIONS PLAN

THIS MASTER PLAN RELATES SPECIFICALLY to the ongoing development of the Fort King National Historic Landmark. It is recognized that as the project evolves, so will the operations. A phased Operations Plan will be developed subsequent to this Master Plan. This Operations Plan will identify staffing, maintenance, FF&E and other operational expenses and related funding sources needed for each phase of the project. The Operations Plan will be incorporated into the Master Plan as a supplement.

## PLAN FOR DIVERSITY, ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION (DAI)

### DAI Vision

The developers of this Master Plan are committed to providing a welcome and inclusive experience for all visitors to the Fort King National Historic Landmark.

### DAI Approach

A holistic approach to the vision is essential; however, we recognize it must be implemented through each individual project. This is accomplished by ensuring that all partners are given a voice in planning and implementation of both the Management Plan and the Operations Plan.

We understand that access and inclusion challenges are not just physical. They are also cognitive, emotional, economic, virtual/technological and cultural. It is important that the implementation of this Master Plan and the subsequent Operations Plan address all access and inclusion challenges.

# SITE LAYOUT

The map illustrates the proposed development for Fort Mifflin National Battlefield Park. Key features include:

- Maintenance Complex:** Indicated by a red arrow pointing to a red-shaded area near the top center.
- Reconstructed Fort Complex:** Indicated by a red arrow pointing to a red-shaded area in the lower left.
- Existing Archaeology Resource Center to be Removed:** Indicated by a yellow arrow pointing to a yellow-shaded area in the lower left.
- Existing Visitors Center to be Removed:** Indicated by a yellow arrow pointing to a yellow-shaded area in the center.
- Museum and Education Center:** Indicated by a red arrow pointing to a red-shaded area on the right side.

Other labeled areas and structures include:

- Temporary Parking:** Located near the top center.
- Maintenance Buildings:** Located near the top center.
- Entrance Gateway:** Located near the top center.
- Temporary Livestock Pens:** Located in the center.
- Visitor Center:** Located in the center.
- Archaeology Resource Center:** Located in the lower left.
- Property Lines:** Dashed yellow lines.
- Trails:** Dashed blue and red lines.
- Water Features:** Blue areas representing water.

# COST ESTIMATE

## Assumptions

Cost estimates for this report are based on the following assumptions:

- Museum and Education Center Building and Site Development: \$300/SF of building space
- Fort Complex Structures: \$250/SF of building space
- Archaeology: Where a more detailed estimate was not provided by the archaeologist, the cost of archaeology was estimated at \$120/SF of building space
- Architect and Engineering: 8-10% percent of construction cost
- Project Administration: 5% of the total project cost
- Demolition Cost: \$6/SF

## Total Estimated Cost

| MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Phase 1                     | \$5,600,700         |
| Phase 2                     | \$ 1,750,219        |
| FORT COMPLEX EXTERIOR       |                     |
| Structure A                 | \$ 168,500          |
| Structure B                 | \$ 168,500          |
| Structure Group C           | \$ 666,750          |
| Structure Group D           | \$ 729,750          |
| Structure Group E           | \$ 200,000          |
| FORT COMPLEX INTERIOR       |                     |
| Block 1 and Block 2         | \$1,496,250         |
| Block 3                     | \$ 2,753,352        |
| Block 4 and Block 5         | \$ 494,550          |
| ANCILLARY FACILITIES        |                     |
| Public Restrooms            | \$ 255,150          |
| Maintenance Complex         | \$ 75,000           |
| Chikee Hut                  | \$ 50,000           |
| Walking Trail and Boardwalk | \$ 285,000          |
| Demolition                  | \$ 36,000           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                | <b>\$14,729,721</b> |

# FUNDING TIMELINE

IT IS NOTED THAT THE TIMELINE FOR THIS PROJECT is highly dependent upon the ability to secure grants, government funding and private contributions to support development expense – all of these are impacted by market volatility and government budget priorities.

|      |                               | PHASE 1                      |      |            |             |            |              | ONGOING ARCHAEOLOGY AND FORT COMPLEX BUILD-OUT |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            | TOTALS       |
|------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
|      |                               | 2020                         | 2021 | 2022       | 2023        | 2024       | 2025         | 2026                                           | 2027         | 2028      | 2029                                                               | 2030       | 2031       | 2032       | 2033       | 2034       | 2035       |              |
| COST | Museum and Education Center   | \$ 60,500                    | \$ - | \$ 108,000 | \$1,944,920 | \$ 445,195 | \$9,772,956  | \$ 633,150                                     | \$ 50,500    | \$ 58,750 | \$ 166,750                                                         | \$ 166,688 | \$ 166,688 | \$ 190,438 | \$ 180,438 | \$ 100,000 | \$ 684,750 | \$14,729,723 |
|      | Fort Complex Exterior         |                              |      |            |             |            | \$ 504,000   | \$ 196,875                                     | \$ 6,650,044 |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 7,350,919 |
|      | Structure A - Blacksmith Shop | \$ 60,500                    |      | \$ 108,000 |             |            |              |                                                |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 168,500   |
|      | Fort Complex Interior         |                              |      |            |             |            |              |                                                |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            |              |
|      | Block 1 and Block 2           |                              |      |            | \$ 435,000  | \$ 90,000  | \$ 971,250   |                                                |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 1,496,250 |
|      | Block 3                       |                              |      |            | \$ 808,920  | \$ 134,320 | \$ 1,810,112 |                                                |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 2,753,352 |
|      | Block 4 and Block 5           |                              |      |            | \$ 147,000  | \$ 24,000  | \$ 323,550   |                                                |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 494,550   |
|      | Ancillary Facilities          |                              |      |            |             |            |              |                                                |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            |              |
|      | Chikee Hut                    |                              |      |            | \$ 50,000   |            |              |                                                |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 50,000    |
|      | Public Restrooms              |                              |      |            |             |            | \$ 18,000    | \$ 237,150                                     |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 255,150   |
|      | Maintenance Complex           |                              |      |            |             |            |              | \$ 75,000                                      |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 75,000    |
|      | Walking Trail and Boardwalk   |                              |      |            |             |            |              | \$ 285,000                                     |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 285,000   |
|      | Demolition                    |                              |      |            |             |            |              | \$ 36,000                                      |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 36,000    |
|      | Fort Complex Exterior         |                              |      |            |             |            |              |                                                |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            |              |
|      | Structure B - North           |                              |      |            |             |            |              |                                                | \$ 50,500    | \$ 10,000 | \$ 108,000                                                         |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 168,500   |
|      | Structure Group C - West      |                              |      |            |             |            |              |                                                |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ -         |
|      | Building 1                    |                              |      |            |             |            |              |                                                |              | \$ 48,750 | \$ 10,000                                                          | \$ 107,938 |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 166,688   |
|      | Building 2                    |                              |      |            |             |            |              |                                                |              |           | \$ 48,750                                                          | \$ 10,000  | \$ 107,938 |            |            |            |            | \$ 166,688   |
|      | Building 3                    |                              |      |            |             |            |              |                                                |              |           | \$ 48,750                                                          | \$ 10,000  | \$ 107,938 |            |            |            |            | \$ 166,688   |
|      | Building 4                    |                              |      |            |             |            |              |                                                |              |           |                                                                    | \$ 48,750  | \$ 10,000  | \$ 107,938 | \$ 107,938 |            |            | \$ 166,688   |
|      | Structure Group D - South     |                              |      |            |             |            |              |                                                |              |           |                                                                    |            |            | \$ 72,500  | \$ 72,500  | \$ 50,000  | \$ 534,750 | \$ 729,750   |
|      | Structure Group E - Other     |                              |      |            |             |            |              |                                                |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$ -         |
|      | Building 1                    |                              |      |            |             |            |              |                                                |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            | \$ 50,000  |            | \$ 50,000    |
|      | Building 2                    |                              |      |            |             |            |              |                                                |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 50,000  | \$ 50,000    |
|      | Building 3                    |                              |      |            |             |            |              |                                                |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 50,000  | \$ 50,000    |
|      | Building 4                    |                              |      |            |             |            |              |                                                |              |           |                                                                    |            |            |            |            |            | \$ 50,000  | \$ 50,000    |
|      |                               | PHASE 1 TOTAL - \$12,964,721 |      |            |             |            |              |                                                |              |           | ONGOING ARCHAEOLOGY AND FORT COMPLEX BUILD-OUT TOTAL - \$1,765,002 |            |            |            |            |            |            | \$14,729,723 |

# MUSEUM and EDUCATION CENTER



## PURPOSE

UNDER THE MANAGEMENT PLAN for the Preservation 2000 grant agreement with the Florida Communities Trust (FCT), the City of Ocala is required to have a visitor's center and historical museum on site. Currently this requirement is being met by the conversion of the existing house on the site into a visitor center. While this house has met the needs of the park in its early stages, it is not ideal for the interpretation and education of the site for multiple reasons. First, its proximity to the Fort makes it impossible to recreate the historic landscape; second, it lacks the space and design to satisfy the needs of the park and programming.

A National Historic Landmark project of this significance demands a Museum and Education Center that speaks to the significance of what happened here. A place to house the history and tell the story of the site. Fort King is one of the most unique Seminole War sites in Florida, and with the proper Museum, Fort King National Historic Landmark will become the top resource in the Nation when it comes to interpreting this American war. This Center should speak to the significance

of the story that unfolded here. It must be experiential, multi-faceted, and adaptable. The proposed campus style facility will be multi-use, providing interpretive education, classroom/lecture space, programing space, archeological and research labs, artifact/archive storage, administration space, and both permanent and traveling exhibition areas. This Museum and Education Center is the heart of this project. The visitor experience starts and ends in this facility. It presents the history before the visit to the park and fort complex, and it answers the questions the visitor has after their visit to the park and fort complex.

## PROCESS

### Existing Site Facilities

- When the Fort King site was purchased by the City of Ocala and County of Marion, there was an existing residence on the property. This residence was converted to serve as the park's temporary visitor center and museum in 2014 to satisfy grant requirements. This 1940's block home of 2,936 square feet houses the site's display/exhibit area, library/media room, volunteer welcome area, administration offices, kitchen, and facility/programing storage. The size of this building restricts any expansion of exhibits, limits the size of visiting groups and events, and does not allow programing and visitation to happen at the same time. There is no classroom, and the presentation area is limited to 15 at one time. Parks staff have maximized the use of this building and work within these confines, but as the site grows the centers facilities will not be able to keep up with the park's needs.
- In 2019 the FKHA, the City of Ocala, and Marion County jointly purchased a piece of property bordering the south side of the reconstructed fort and along the frontage road of Fort King Street. The agreement put in place by all three parties requires the house existing on that property be converted into the Fort King Archaeological Resource Center. This 1950's brick home of 2,651 square feet will require minor upgrades to make it suitable for working archaeological labs, display/exhibit space, education area, and administration/research offices. This Resource Center should meet the archaeological needs of the site until the new archaeological facility is built in Phase II of the Museum and Education Center build-out.

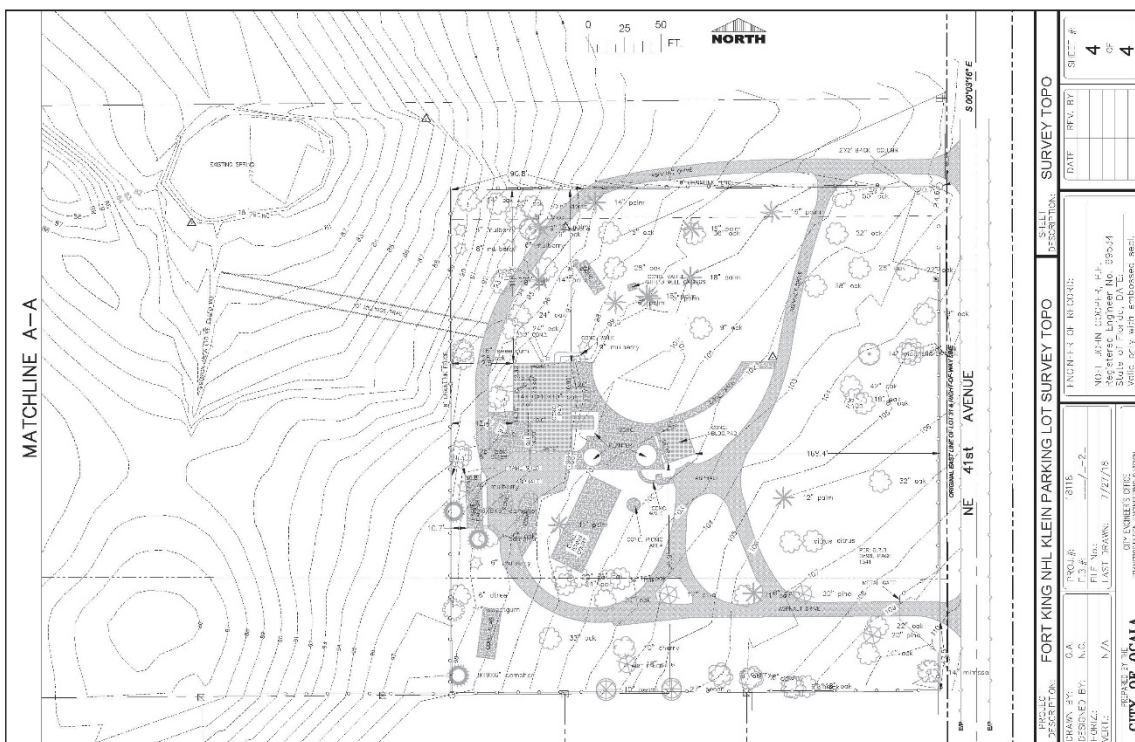
With the completion of the future Fort King Museum and Education Center, both buildings are expected to be demolished and the land converted to open park space.

### Future Site Location/Development

In 2015, the FKHA purchased a 2.6 acre parcel adjacent to the east boundary of the Fort King property and subsequently transferred ownership to the City of Ocala and Marion County to be incorporated into the greater Fort King boundary. The new Museum and Education Center will be located on this property which is referred to as the east property.

Engineering work is currently underway to allow for near term preparation of this site for the future development of the Fort King Museum and Education Center. The site includes the remains and foundation of a pre-existing residence and vegetative overgrowth. An archaeology study of the site was well underway when the property was acquired, and that work has since been completed and documented. The City of Ocala will be removing foundations and vegetation to prepare this site so that it is shovel ready for project construction. This work will be done under the direction and advisement of the archaeologist of record, Gulf Archaeology Research Institute (GARI).

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## Future Center's Needs and Requirements

The Fort King Museum and Education Center should meet the following needs to provide the public with the services required of this National Historic Landmark site.

- **Interpretive Education:** The story of Fort King and the Seminole Wars is vast and complex. It requires the telling of multiple stories from different points of view. Besides the Seminole Wars being the longest and costliest war related to Native American removal, there are other issues and conflicts forming in this history. Here is where the early ideas of the US government and of Jacksonian Democracy were being formed. Issues of slavery and indigenous rights land on this site, leading to the Civil War and the still unfolding conflict between the U.S. government and indigenous people. This site speaks to the forming of a state, a county, and a city. And at the simplest level this site is about the life of average people in the 1800's. All this information needs to be expressed through interpretive and relational displays. The Museum is interpreting the history of the site – through the archaeology, research, and partnerships – to give the visitor the most complete educational perspective possible.
- **Classroom/Lecture/Programing Space:** Passive interpretive education only takes the learning experience so far. To really engage the visitor and push the boundaries of how they interact with the material it is essential to have a wide variety of programing geared to different ages and groups of visitors. A multi-use space for education would allow staff to hold classes for students, host guest lectures, and provide a wide variety of other programing for the public.
- **Exhibit Space:** There needs to be space within the Museum to have a permanent exhibit area as well as a traveling or curated special exhibition space. The permanent exhibit space would be tied into the overall Interpretive educational experience. This exhibit would provide context to the history by showing artifacts from the site, displays, hands-on and interactive areas, infographics, and signage. Another space would be dedicated to special exhibits curated in-house or traveling exhibits. This space would change quarterly, adding to the conversation by including new perspectives and views. It will also encourage repeat visitation to the park.
- **Archaeological and Research Labs:** Every time a shovel goes in the ground or a building is built at Fort King, archaeological work must be done. An Archaeology Lab is essential to process and catalog all the material found on site. This lab will also play a part in the visitor experience. Visitors will be able to see the work being done through a window; and learn about the archaeological process with informational signage. Archaeological programing will be available for the public to engage in. The public can work in the lab and on site helping the archaeologists with ongoing projects. A research room will accompany the lab. This room will be for historians, researchers, students, and archaeologists to use the collection and museum resources to further our understanding of the role that Fort King played in the Seminole Wars and in the lives of Florida's first settlers.
- **Artifact and Archive Storage:** The current collection of Fort King artifacts is over 50,000 pieces which includes artifacts from the Seminole Wars era as well as those representative of Indian occupation hundreds of years before the site's use as a fort. For each new archaeological project taken on there is an expectation to increase this by 20,000 artifacts. These artifacts must be conserved in perpetuity so that future generations can continue to research and better understand what happened here. This means that this area of storage must follow very strict guidelines concerning climate and storage methods. This ever-growing collection of artifacts must also be easily accessed and cataloged. This storage area will also include artifacts that may be acquired by the park through purchase or a gift donation.
- **Administration Space:** This area includes offices for city staff, as well as space for interns and guest curators or researchers in residency.

# Project Plan and Development

## Design

The Design phase of the project will follow a process allowing for input from City/County staff, FKHA, archaeology partners, and the citizens of Ocala and Marion County. Planning workshops will be held to make sure questions, concerns, and ideas are addressed by all parties. The size and scale of this project will require an extensive fundraising campaign led by the FKHA. For the FKHA to properly fundraise for this project a clear and developed vision should be in place. This vision should be developed to the point the project can be described through renderings and models so that the group can properly engage stakeholders in the project. Architectural and contractor services for this project will follow the City of Ocala’s procurement and bidding process.

## Vision

The overall vision for the Museum and Education Center is a campus style facility. A campus style facility would give the park the flexibility to expand as needed and to change the use of buildings as required in such expansion. It also provides the flexibility to secure some areas while providing access to others during the park’s many uses. As well as Fort King National Historic Landmark being a historic interpretation site, it also is a city park hosting large scale events and programs throughout the year. The ability to secure unneeded spaces while keeping essential ones opened (restrooms, classrooms, etc.) greatly decreases the operating cost of keeping an entire facility open at once.

A campus style facility also provides better opportunities for phasing the project based on on-going fundraising efforts. The design and construction of the Museum and Education Center will be completed in two phases. The first phase will be the design and construction of the museum exhibit space, classrooms, theater/lecture area, and administration offices. The second phase will be the design and construction of the new archaeological resource and education facility, and the archive and artifact storage area.

# MUSEUM AND EDUCATION CENTER

**Estimated Cost: \$5,600,700**

**Estimated Square Footage: 16,000 SF**

| DESCRIPTION OF WORK                   | COST         |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Archaeology and Related Reporting     | \$ 150,000   |
| Design: Architectural and Engineering | \$ 384,000   |
| Construction: Site, Building and FF&E | \$ 4,800,000 |
| Project Administration                | \$ 266,700   |
| Total Cost                            | \$ 5,600,700 |

## Needs and Requirements

The museum and education center must be able to effectively interpret the history of the site as well as provide space for education, programing, and operations. This center must be able to provide multiple experiences to the public. The center must provide an exceptional experience for the out-of-town one-time visitors, and it also must be a perpetual

resource for the residents of Ocala and Marion County. The center should be flexible enough in its design that local visitors want to return time and time again. This will be accomplished through special exhibits, lectures, adult/children's/family programming, special events, and the possible renting of the facility as a meeting and venue space. The campus style facility (described prior) should offer every visitor an educational experience as unique as the fort site itself.

The following is a list of spaces to be considered in the design of the first phase construction of the Museum and Education Center. Also listed are any specifications or special requirements of the space, a range of square footage of the space, and additional options or concepts within the space to consider. Through planning workshops and consulting with stakeholders, an ultimate plan will be developed defining what spaces will be included in the final plan.

## Exhibit Space

The exhibit space in the facility is the heart of this project. Dynamic and educational exhibits improve the understanding of the site to the visitor.

### PERMANENT EXHIBIT SPACE

- Provides the visitor with the story of the Seminole Wars and the story of Fort King. This is the exhibit that defines the message of the park. It is balanced in its representation of the history, and inclusive of the peoples involved.
- Should be self-guiding and directional. It might be a path, or room-to-room orientation.
- Should include as many of the senses as possible. The exhibit should employ conventional display types as well as multi-media displays. There should be things to touch, hear, see, smell, and interact with.
- The exhibit space should showcase artifacts found on site.
- The exhibit should be accommodating to both the individual and a large group of students.
- The space should prepare the visitor adequately for their visit to the reconstructed Fort King complex.
- Time should be considered when designing the exhibit to find the sweet spot between too long and too short of a visitation time.
- Design of the exhibit should take into account any preservation or conservancy needs of artifacts or display materials.
- Although this would be a permanent exhibit, the overall design should be flexible enough to update and change material and add new elements without having to rebuild the entire exhibit.

### FLEXIBLE EXHIBIT SPACE

- Provides the visitor with a greater understanding of another aspect of the history of the site. This exhibit space can provide a narrative to subjects that may not be included in the permanent exhibit space.
- Exhibit would change throughout the year most likely on a quarterly basis.
- Exhibits would include traveling exhibits and curated exhibits by staff or resident curators/archaeologists/researchers.
- Components of this space would need to be designed in such a way to allow multiple arrangements and floor plans to meet the needs of each exhibit.
- Exhibit design should take into account any preservation or conservancy needs of artifacts or display materials.
- Lighting and electrical should be movable and flexible to meet the different exhibits needs.

- This space could be connected or separate from the permanent exhibit.
- This space should meet accredited museum standards to be able to borrow artifacts and display items from other institutions.

## Classroom/Programming Space

Fort King National Historic Landmark should be a resource for the education of students. Students (public, private, homeschool) should be able to come to Fort King and take advantage of a wide range of programming options. A classroom is essential to some of those options. Fort King also provides programming to a wide range of ages outside the classroom. These programs can be skills classes, time-period craft classes, or demonstrations. These programs often require a classroom to work in outside of the elements.

- Classrooms should include modular furnishings and should be adaptable to provide different spaces for different scenarios.
- Classrooms should include adequate storage for supplies, materials, displays, and books.
- Classroom may need the addition of a sink, floor drainage, and ventilation hood.
- Classroom should have an area dedicated to white board and projection screen.

## Theater/Lecture Hall

An important teaching tool for the Museum and Education Center will be a showing of a short introduction video. The format of a video can quickly orient the visitor and provide them with a base of historical information to put the rest of their visit in context. Fort King also provides the public with a lecture series, numerous speaking engagements, and award ceremonies.

- Space should be able to function daily as a repeating introduction video to the public, but also quickly be able to function as a lecture and presentation space when needed.
- Seating could be fixed or movable (or a combination of each).
- Sound design should be such that noises from the outside do not interfere with program and the outside is not bothered by sound coming from the theater. Good acoustics are paramount.
- Lighting and sound should be simple enough to be operated by staff or trained volunteers.

## Administration Space

A facility of this size will require staff and volunteers to operate. Administrative space should also include a conference room.

- Space for four offices for staff employees.
- Volunteer room
- Office for non-profit partner (FKHA)
- Conference room

## Welcome/Customer Service Desk

To provide the best experience possible, it is important to provide a readily accessible welcome desk so that upon arrival, visitors can be greeted and get questions answered. This should include space for one or two staff/volunteers.

## Miscellaneous Facility needs

Operation of the Museum and Education Center will require some facility needs outside of operating and exhibit areas.

- **Kitchen** – Needed for staff and volunteers, as well as programing, and possible catering for event and rental needs. Staff and volunteers need a place to warm up food and keep things cold. Food programing is a very popular topic with our customers and a kitchen may be able to help with that type of programing. It is anticipated that the Museum will host fundraising events, award banquets, and host conferences, this kitchen would aid in craft services. An additional option may be to have an outdoor style kitchen eating area available.
- **Break Room** – A room for staff and volunteers to eat lunch or take a break, this could be incorporated into the kitchen design.
- **Restrooms** – Restroom location should be considered. Can restrooms be accessed when the main facility is closed? Do restrooms include showers and changing area for time-period reenactors or volunteer historic demonstrators? Are there different restrooms for the public and staff?
- **Prep/Project Room** – A room possibly off kitchen or classrooms. A catch-all room for staff and volunteers only. This room would be available for working on projects and preparing for programs. It would also function as a group staff space outside the meeting room, for event planning.
- **Construction Shop/Production Room** – Include space for in-house production of exhibits. This can be as simple as a small wood shop, or more advanced including metal fabrication.

## Storage

While this is technically a general facilities space, over and over through research and site visits, storage comes up as one of the most important spaces in a building of this type. Storage is often an afterthought in the planning of buildings of this kind. The storage needs of this museum should be planned for and an integral part of the design process. There can never be enough storage. Listed below are types of storage required.

- **Programing Storage** – programing and educational supplies, activities, and materials.
- **Exhibit Supplies** – pedestals, bases, frames, walls, kiosks, and other material and supplies used for interpretation and special exhibit space.
- **Record Retention Area** – per State Sunshine Law, we need an area to keep records in deep storage that is climate controlled and secure.
- **Special Event Storage** – Reenactment supplies, props, decorations, catering supplies, table covers, and other materials used for special events and programs.
- **Traveling Display Storage** – Area to keep traveling display materials and equipment, could also include space for printed material and pamphlets.
- **Inventory Storage** – A secure space to keep point of sale inventory such as t-shirts, mugs, books, and gift items.

- **Historic Dress Storage** – A place to keep regalia and historic outfits for volunteers, and participants in reenactment activities.
- **Food Storage** – Pantry and kitchen storage.
- **Furniture Storage** – Space to keep extra folding chairs, tables, and stools.

## Gift Shop/Point of Sale

No Museum is complete without a gift shop or souvenir kiosk.

- Point of sale area could be as small as a shelf or a separated stand-alone retail space.
- Secure sales transaction area
- Possibility of integrated café, vending area, or beverage counter.

## Interstitial Space

With a campus style design plan, there will be numerous interstitial spaces between building and designated areas. Great thought should be put into planning those spaces for maximum use. Could these paths or halls be interpretive areas? Could these transitional spaces have more than one use?

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE CENTER

**Estimated Cost: \$1,750,219**

**Estimated Square Footage: 5,000 SF**

| DESCRIPTION OF WORK                   | COST                |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Archaeology and Related Reporting     | \$ 46,875           |
| Design: Architectural and Engineering | \$ 120,000          |
| Construction: Site, Building and FF&E | \$ 1,500,000        |
| Project Administration                | \$ 83,344           |
| <b>Total Cost</b>                     | <b>\$ 1,750,219</b> |

The south parcel of property acquired in 2019 will be the temporary home of the Fort King Archaeological Resource Center. This residential building will meet the requirements of the project for the short term; however, the long-term vision is to construct an archaeology center at the museum/education center site to provide a better visitor experience and to ensure the existing structure is removed from the vicinity of the immediate fort complex, which we hope to restore to its historical landscape. The vision of having a facility designed for archaeological work integrated into the larger Fort King Museum and Education Center campus will set the park apart from all the others that are similar in experience (i.e. Silver River Museum, Barberville, Morning Side Nature Center, and the Duddley Farm); all parks that offer comparative histories. The archaeology, as a central component of the education and programing offered, distinguishes Fort King from these other parks. The archaeology itself will be a significant draw for visitors, researchers and educators.

While the resource center will focus on the ongoing archaeology at Fort King, there is also the possibility that this center could also handle the overall archaeology needs of the city and county. Sites in the county that deal with the Seminole Wars, such as Camp Izard, could be processed and researched there. Archaeological work done within the city (due to construction in historic areas) could also have their home there. Existing collections from other institutions that deal more with the history of Fort King and Marion county history could also be moved into the center's archives to provide one place for the research of this area's history.

Often space for archaeology is an afterthought and not properly included in the planning process. The Fort King site values archaeology as an essential component to its process and development. By highlighting the archaeology of the site with its own incorporated facility, we demonstrate our dedication to the preservation and exploration of local, state and national history, particularly at Fort King.

## Needs and Requirements

Because of its technical nature, the design of this facility will ultimately require the consultation and collaboration of archaeological professionals to fully define the space needs and technical requirements. This facility will deal mostly with processing and research of field archaeology. Some conservation work will be done in this space; however, we will lean on the state to provide most conservation work. The design of the building must be mindful of and incorporate the educational component essential to Fort King programing. A space for interpretation should be included as well as opportunities for the public to view archaeological work happening in the lab. The following are a list of needs of this facility with the understanding that these needs may be amended with further development of this phase of the project.

## Labs

This facility must include at least two labs, one wet, and one dry. These labs must be separated from research and archive areas to avoid contamination. These labs should be designed to be modular so that the space can change based on the project or researchers needs.

- Fire suppression system – there are many types but having one is an absolute necessity and many collections overlook this (wet pipe, dry pipe, misting, FM200, etc.)
- Water filtration system – deionized water to wash artifacts. A reverse osmosis system would work as well.
- Fume hoods and extraction arms.
- Wash area (inside/outside) large sinks with filter system to handle dirt and debris.
- Tables, drying rack systems.
- A/C and climate control
- A good and reliable HVAC system with isolated controls for lab/collection areas
- Quality and flexible lighting and electrical access.
- Storage – including chemical storage, equipment storage, and artifact storage.

## Offices/Research Labs

It is essential to have clean research and office space to catalogue, examine, and conduct ongoing research. Provided are a list on needs, equipment, and spaces that may be required.

- Office space, countertops, cubicles
- Photography area for artifact documentation.
- Computer stations, high resolution scanner
- Stereo-zoom binocular microscope and exterior fiber optic light source
- Storage and shelving.
- Various equipment (for offices and labs) Digital scales, calibers – various, various sets of screens for processing samples, light table, artifact illustration pens, etc.

## Artifact/Archive Storage

Artifact and Archive Storage may be the single most important reason to build an archaeological facility. Currently Fort King has accumulated over 50,000 artifacts with each new archaeological project estimated to add 20,000 to the collection. These artifacts belong to the citizens and as custodians of same, it is the City and County's responsibility to protect and conserve these artifacts for future generations. The growing archive of materials housed at Fort King will be the single most important resource the park has to offer. The archive will be used by historians, researchers, anthropologists, archaeologists, students, and academics to answer fundamental research questions about the site and other related issues.

This space should be expandable and adaptable with the understanding that the collections will continue to grow over time. There is the possibility that two spaces may be needed. One space for deep storage, an archive for the majority of material only needing to be accessed by researchers occasionally. The second for an archive of materials used or needed to be seen more frequently. These would be artifacts of greater importance to the public and supplying a larger educational component when it comes to programming.

The most important consideration when designing this space is that it can grow and be able to conserve a collection of 50,000 artifacts as well as it can a collection of 500,000.

- Climate control/ HVAC system is essential for preservation of artifacts
- Compact storage or the ability to add compact storage in the future
- Records Storage – artifact generate endless paperwork. This space would also include space for curatorial, procurement, and collections related documents.
- Security
- Fire suppression
- Shelving
- Computer area

# FORT KING COMPLEX RECONSTRUCTION

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## PURPOSE

THE FORT KING COMPLEX CAN BE VIEWED as a very large exhibit; an example in full scale of the fort and all the related structures. In this way, the visitor isn't just referring to pictures and descriptions, but experiences it in a life-sized replica and interacts with it in real space and time. In 2017 the palisade walls, firing platforms, and blockhouses were constructed. No one could have expected how massive in scale the fort feels in person. There is no equivalent experience for the one-on-one interaction between the structures and the visitors. This is where history truly comes alive. As the Fort Complex gets built there becomes more opportunity for the site to be a living history and working site. During special events, the public will see the fort in full working operation with reenactors exhibiting daily life on site. During normal visiting hours the public will see a glimpse of life at Fort King in 1837 that cannot be described through words or pictures. As each building goes up, the archaeology work will have prefaced it. This archaeology will give us a new and better understanding of what life was like and what really happened at this site. We fully expect we'll make new discoveries or in many cases, the archaeology will confirm what we already believe. This becomes a process and an ongoing program of discovery that is unique to this site and allows for advancement of our understanding of the past.

Because of the unique nature of the site, in order to reconstruct the fort complex a great deal of archaeology has to be done before construction. This archaeology does not just give us information about the structures being investigated, it also informs a larger inquiry about the complex time-period before, during, and after the Seminole Wars. It has long been recognized that the archaeological record can provide important information about cultural interaction and exchange. At Fort King, we find a unique situation in which European Americans, African-Americans and American Indians not only interacted at council sites but lived and worked in close proximity for a number of years. It has been noted that the Seminole Agency and Fort King were established well before the Second Seminole War, thus, this area had long been a location where these diverse groups have come together. Some of the broader nationally significant research questions identified by Hellmann and Prentice (2000:78, 79) include the following:

1. As a major frontier fort and base of operations during the Second Seminole War, how were the lives of troops and officers stationed there similar to or different from more remote, smaller outposts?
2. What was the nature and to what extent did the occupants at Fort King interact with the Seminoles, Black Seminoles, and escaped enslaved Africans and African Americans during the prewar years (1820s) and during the period of the fort's national significance? At what levels can we understand cultural interaction and exchange between these groups? At what level can we understand acculturation between these groups?
3. To what extent did those stationed at Fort King, both before and during the Second Seminole War, rely on locally available foods (e.g., gardening, hunting, and fishing) compared to government issued rations?
4. Since the preservation of floral remains at open-air archeological sites is commonly limited to carbonized (burned) materials, did the burning of the first Fort King in 1836 preserve a wealth of floral evidence not normally recovered at unburned sites?
5. What medical prescriptions were employed during the time leading up to the abandonment of the fort in 1836 due to epidemic disease, and was frontier medicine different from standard medical practices at the time?
6. Are the patterns of architectural nail use identified by Ellis at Fort King similar to those found at other forts, and are they appreciably different from nail patterns found at contemporary domestic sites?
7. Is the historic ceramic assemblage present at the site in any way different from contemporary domestic assemblages, and if so, what might account for the differences?
8. Presumably, a military installation would exhibit an artifactual assemblage dominated by items and patterns reflecting male-related behaviors. Do patterns of male-related behaviors exhibited at Fort King find analogs at contemporary non-military, domestic sites in the region?

The questions we can start to answer based on the information and research discovered in the very process of reconstruction could very well change what we know about this time in Florida.

## PROCESS

Every proposed building and structure built on Fort King goes through a lengthy process of research and archaeology. There are three primary resource illustrations that the project depends greatly upon. The first is a sketch found in the journals of Lt. John Sprague, drawing attributed to Butler. This is the only known drawing of what Fort King looked like. (Fig. 1 on following page)

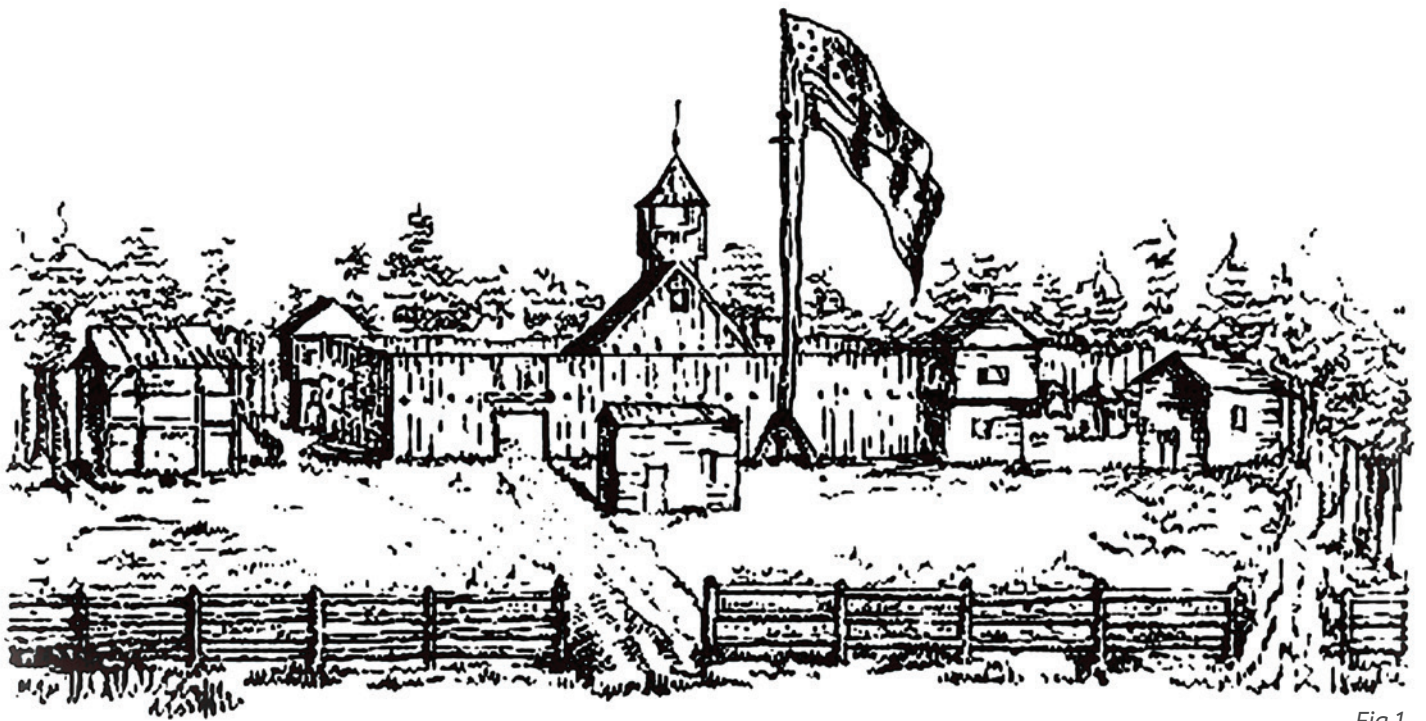


Fig 1

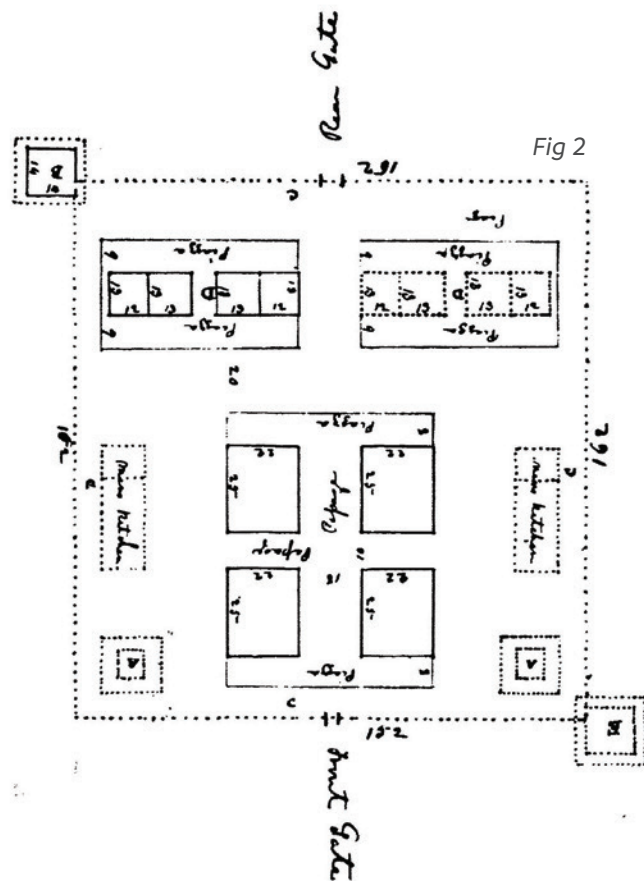


Fig 2

#### FORT KING

Plan of original buildings, erected in 1827. Included were barracks for enlisted men, officers' quarters, mess halls, etc.

(From the National Archives, Washington)

While this drawing does give a sense of how the complex appeared, there is no known drawing of the interior, nor is there any known descriptions of the exterior buildings. Questions remain about the accuracy of the drawing, but nonetheless it is the only visual reference we have of Fort King in elevation. Archival references do provide some written descriptions of Fort King that are consistent with the drawing and lend it some credence.

The second image that references the fort is a plan view of the first fort found in the National Archives. (Fig. 2)

The third drawing is from the diary of Lieutenant Prince. This illustration depicts the first fort built on the site. (Fig. 3)

Fig 3



The rebuilding of Fort King is a complex undertaking. There were two Forts located on the site one on top of the other. The first Fort King was constructed in 1827 and based on the drawing in Prince's diary (Fig. 3), varied somewhat from the original plans shown in Figure 2. It is presumed this Fort was hastily constructed and never truly completed.

As relationships between the U.S. government and the Seminole Tribe changed, tensions increased to the point that in 1836, after the Fort had been abandoned by the U.S. government, the Fort was burned down by the Seminoles. One year later in 1837 the U.S. Army returned and rebuilt Fort King. This new Fort most likely resembled the drawing found in the journals of Lt. John Sprague, (Fig 1), presumably in accordance with the original floor plan for the first Fort

With little visual and written documentation regarding Fort King's layout and construction, we will have to rely much on the archaeological process. The archaeology will give us the ability to fill in the missing pieces to the Fort structures, their size and scale. Archaeology will also give us a greater understanding of life at Fort King and how the Fort functioned. Through the complete development of this project we will have one of the most complete historic views of a Seminole War Fort. We will be able to paint a well-researched and documented picture of Fort King to the public.

Because of the great scale of this project, the reconstruction will be divided into two parts. The first being the construction of the outer buildings and structures. The second, the construction of the interior buildings in the Fort. Each individual component of the project will include:

1. A description to the best of our understanding of what the structure was or what we think it might have been based on archival research and prior archaeology.
2. A set of research questions that the building of this structure and accompanying archaeology will answer as it relates to the history of the site.
3. Any primary historical descriptions of the proposed structure or area.
4. A projected cost of the project based on estimated design, archaeology and construction costs.

## INTERIOR FORT BUILDINGS

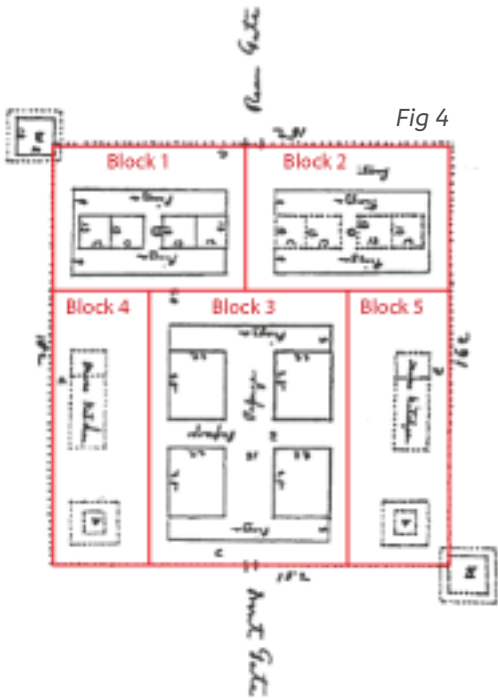
The building and excavation of the interior buildings of the fort will be a complex and time-consuming project. It was the part of the site that would have seen the greatest daily use. It contains the remains of the buildings from the first fort that were burned, pulled down, cleared away, and the new fort buildings that were erected and later dismantled. All of this makes the teasing apart of the first fort from the second fort very complex and exacting. It will generate many more artifacts than the single isolated buildings in the surrounding areas.

Because this area has such an extensive and complex occupational history, having served as the heart of two different forts for almost 20 years, it requires a much different approach archaeologically. We have very limited information about the buildings inside the fort other than one 1827 plan and Prince's diary that shows a very different outline as the only evidence for the first fort. For the second fort we have just the sketch that appears in Sprague's journal credited to being copied from Butler. Archaeology will be the endeavor that best informs our understanding of how this highly trafficked interior space was utilized through time, where the buildings were, what they were used for, and for fact checking some of these ephemeral textual references.

The archaeology will be executed in a very systematic manner. Large, open area block excavations need to be opened and carefully excavated. This will show the full outline of buildings which most likely overlapped (pre and post burning). Teasing apart the two set of buildings and determining their uses will take very careful and detailed excavations. This will show us the spaces between the buildings that would have been used for leisure time by soldiers and officers or perhaps was swept clean and used as a small parade ground. We have more questions than we have answers about the interior of the fort at

this time. To make this project more manageable (logistically and financially) it will be divided up into 5 smaller regions as depicted in this map. (Fig. 4) However, being able to open larger areas simultaneously will provide us with more clarity and cost-effective archaeology.

It is proposed to have the south side of the fort excavated first so that reconstruction can proceed from south to north. This allows equipment needed for reconstruction to enter the site safely from the north. If the interior buildings are reconstructed first it will make future smaller building reconstruction much more difficult and costlier. The slope on the south side of the fort is much steeper and would lead to damage to the archaeological record including the Fort King Road. Therefore, it is not ideal to have construction equipment entering from that side. Therefore, the south to north direction is the safest and most cost effective.



## BLOCK 1 & BLOCK 2

**Estimated Cost: \$1,496,250**

**Estimated Square Footage: 3,600 SF (1,800 SF each)**

| DESCRIPTION OF WORK                   | COST               |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Archival Research                     | \$ 3,000           |
| Archaeology and Related Reporting     | \$ 432,000         |
| Design: Architectural and Engineering | \$ 90,000          |
| Construction: Site, Building and FF&E | \$ 900,000         |
| Project Administration                | \$ 71,250          |
| <b>Total Cost</b>                     | <b>\$1,496,250</b> |

These can be excavated in either order. Both are important to be excavated to determine if they were utilized as depicted on the map or if they changed uses between the first and second fort. These are depicted to have been the officer’s quarters. Anticipated artifacts include building materials, personal items such as buttons, fasteners, ceramics possibly, weapons related items, and smoking pipes.

## BLOCK 3

**Estimated Cost: \$2,753,352**

**Estimated Square Footage: 6,716 SF**

| DESCRIPTION OF WORK                   | COST               |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Archival Research                     | \$ 3,000           |
| Archaeology and Related Reporting     | \$ 805,920         |
| Design: Architectural and Engineering | \$ 134,320         |
| Construction: Site, Building and FF&E | \$1,679,000        |
| Project Administration                | \$ 131,112         |
| <b>Total Cost</b>                     | <b>\$2,753,352</b> |

This is the largest interior fort building and will be the most difficult to try to understand. It was supposedly up on five-foot piers which will make interpretation very difficult. We anticipate finding brick piers and drip lines from the roof which are highly ephemeral and take great pains to discern with careful excavation. We also anticipate finding small artifacts that may have fallen through the floorboards. Further complicating this is the fact that soldiers may have utilized the space under the building to relax in the shade.

The only illustration we have that might depict what a typical barracks might look like is this plan of a 19th century wooden barracks from the National Archives. (Fig. 5)

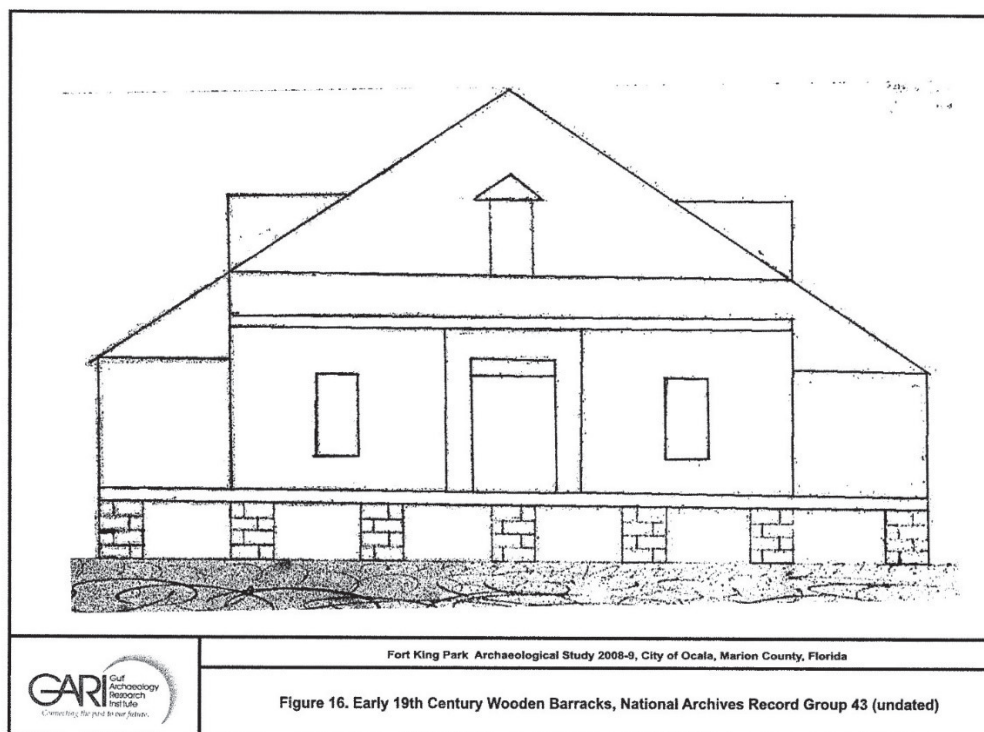


Fig 5

## BLOCK 4 & BLOCK 5

**Estimated Cost: \$494,550**

**Estimated Square Footage: 1,200 SF**

| DESCRIPTION OF WORK                   | COST              |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Archival Research                     | \$ 3,000          |
| Archaeology and Related Reporting     | \$ 144,000        |
| Design: Architectural and Engineering | \$ 24,000         |
| Construction: Site, Building and FF&E | \$ 300,000        |
| Project Administration                | \$ 23,550         |
| <b>Total Cost</b>                     | <b>\$ 494,550</b> |

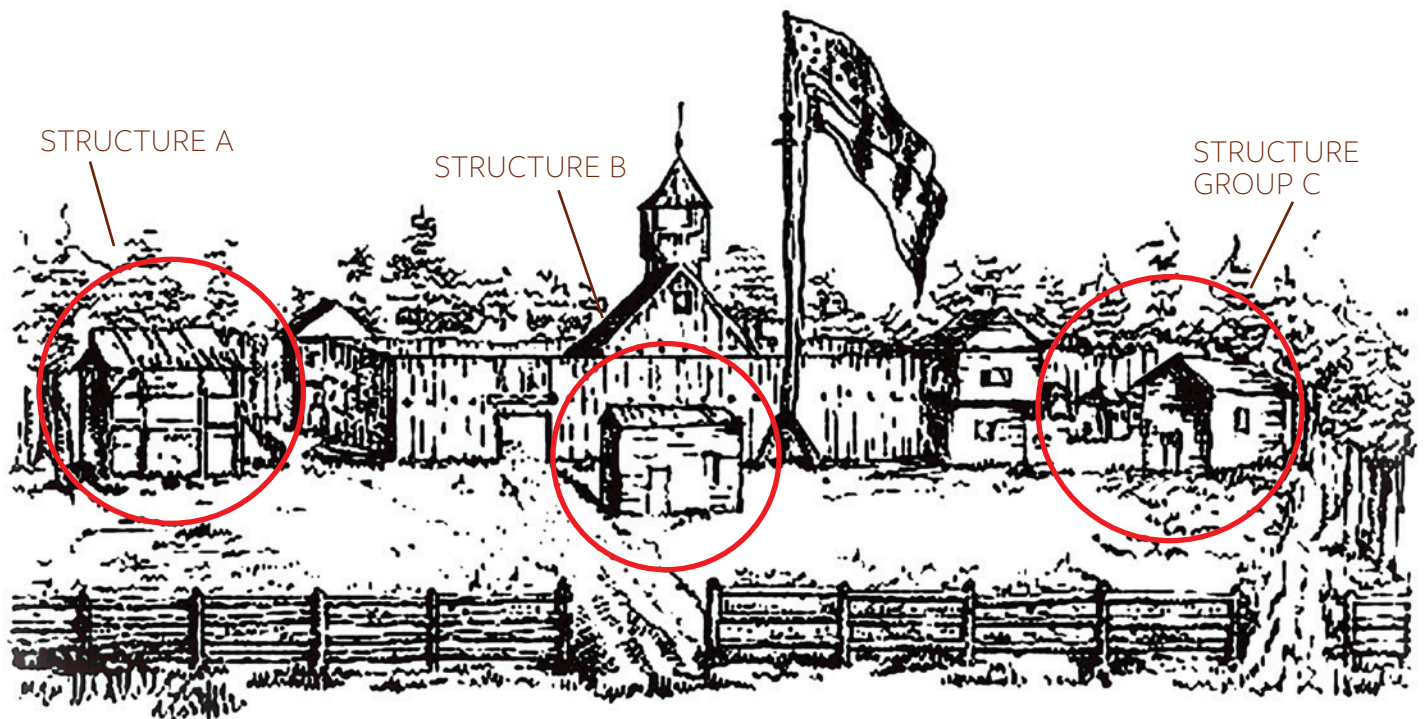
Much like Blocks 1 & 2 we can excavate them in either order. It is important to excavate both areas to verify they were utilized as the map indicates or if they were repurposed. Or if they were used differently between the first fort and the second fort. Many kitchens utilized the yard areas around the buildings, therefore depending on how much of the spaces around the buildings need to be excavated will determine the final cost. Anticipated findings include large amounts of charcoal, animal bone, ceramics and glass in addition to structural material.

Kitchens (2): 400 SF each

Magazines (2): 200 SF each

## PERIPHERAL BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Fort King did not end at the gates. Fort King was surrounded by camps, shacks, houses, structures, and buildings. Some of these buildings can be identified in the Fig. 6 on the following page, but the written record indicates that there may have been more buildings than indicated in the picture. This was a military complex with many needs. It was also the center of civilization for any non-native peoples migrating into this area. This meant that civilians wanted to be as close to the fort as possible for protection, and an operating fort needed more than it could enclose in its gates such as a hospital, blacksmith shop, and sutler store. It will only be through archaeologic excavation that we discover the true size and location of these buildings. The following is a description of the buildings that are known to be outside the fort walls.



## STRUCTURE A (presumably the Blacksmith Shop)

**Estimated Cost: \$168,500**

**Estimated Square Footage: 400 SF**

| DESCRIPTION OF WORK                    | COST              |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Archival Research                      | \$ 3,000          |
| Archaeology and Related Reporting      | \$ 47,500         |
| Design: Architectural and Engineering  | \$ 10,000         |
| Construction: Site, Building and FF&E* | \$ 100,000        |
| Project Administration                 | \$ 8,000          |
| <b>Total Cost</b>                      | <b>\$ 168,500</b> |

\*based on \$250/SF

A Blacksmith Shop is key to survival and expansion during the Florida frontier period. The Blacksmith can shoe horses, fix kettles, mend wagon wheels, and most importantly make nails and hardware critical to building a fort. This shop is invaluable to the military as well as the community the fort is supporting. In many cases it is the Blacksmith shop that is built before anything else. The Blacksmith is the start of civilization in the minds of those European pioneers and soldiers coming to Florida. Based on early surveys of the site done by G.A.R.I. structure A is most definitely the site of the Blacksmith shop. Archaeology must be done to determine the size and scope of the Blacksmith site. This will greatly determine what the final construction costs are of the project.

## Research Objectives:

- What is the size of a frontier fort blacksmith shop?
- Was this shop in only one location within the fort complex?
- What was the primary function of the shop?
- Can we locate the shop within the timeline of building the fort (when was it built in relation to the other structures)?

The Fort King blacksmith shop will be a historic working replica of the Blacksmith shop that would have served this site. It will also have the capacity to host classes and workshops on the art and technique of Blacksmithing. This building might be the most important piece of the complex when it comes to bringing living history to life. The sounds and smells of the shop will add to the historical senses of 1837. The Blacksmith shop will be able to bring history to life for the public visiting the park.

## STRUCTURE B (unknown use)

**Estimated Cost: \$168,500**

**Estimated Square Footage: 400 SF**

| DESCRIPTION OF WORK                    | COST              |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Archival Research                      | \$ 3,000          |
| Archaeology and Related Reporting      | \$ 47,500         |
| Design: Architectural and Engineering  | \$ 10,000         |
| Construction: Site, Building and FF&E* | \$ 100,000        |
| Project Administration                 | \$ 8,000          |
| <b>Total Cost</b>                      | <b>\$ 168,500</b> |

\*based on \$250/SF

The nature of this building needs to be confirmed through additional archival and archaeological research. Reference materials from the National Archives mention commanding officers’ quarters, a guard shack and other structures outside the fort. From a practical standpoint, it makes sense that a guard shack would have been in front of the gates to the fort.

## Research Objectives

- What was the intended use of this structure?
- Did it have different uses over time?
- Is this the building Osceola was detained in?

# STRUCTURE GROUP C

(unknown buildings to the west of the fort)

**Estimated Cost: \$666,750**  
**Estimated Square Footage: 1,600 SF (400 SF each)**

| DESCRIPTION OF WORK                    | COST       |
|----------------------------------------|------------|
| Archival Research                      | \$ 5,000   |
| Archaeology and Related Reporting      | \$ 190,000 |
| Design: Architectural and Engineering  | \$ 40,000  |
| Construction: Site, Building and FF&E* | \$ 400,000 |
| Project Administration                 | \$ 31,750  |
| Total Cost                             | \$ 666,750 |

\*based on \$250/SF

This group of structures is believed to include four structures the sizes of which may vary but it is difficult to ascertain based on the perspective of the illustrator. Archaeological work will provide clarification.

## Research Objectives

- What were the sizes of each of these structures?
- What were the uses of these structures over time?

# STRUCTURE GROUP D

(unknown buildings south of fort – not pictured)

**Estimated Cost: \$729,750**  
**Estimated Square Footage: 1,800 SF + 200 SF**

| DESCRIPTION OF WORK                    | COST       |
|----------------------------------------|------------|
| Archival Research                      | \$ 5,000   |
| Archaeology and Related Reporting      | \$ 140,000 |
| Design: Architectural and Engineering  | \$ 50,000  |
| Construction: Site, Building and FF&E* | \$ 500,000 |
| Project Administration                 | \$ 34,750  |
| Total Cost                             | \$ 729,750 |

\*based on \$250/SF

This group of structures is believed to include two structures: the bottle dump/cellar and/or sutler’s store southeast of the fort and a larger structure south of the fort.

The bottle dump/cellar and/or sutler’s store was located southeast of the fort and was originally discovered during Hurricane Gladys in 1968. Archival research indicates the sutler store was located to the northwest of the fort, which is contrary to where the cache of bottles was found. However, it is also believed that the sutler’s store was relocated from time to time, possibly to be closer to the fort for security purposes.

This group also includes a large structure that was identified during the 2017 archaeology work. It is believed this was a large wooden structure on limestone piers (and so was off the ground). The use of this structure is unknown.

## Research Objectives

- Was the location of the cache of bottles from a pit or basement; or was this an actual building?
- Was the location of the cache a sutler’s store?
- What was the use of the structure that was found during the 2017 archaeological study during reconstruction of the fort?

## STRUCTURE GROUP 3 (other unknown structures)

**Estimated Cost: \$200,000**

| DESCRIPTION OF WORK               | COST              |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Archival Research                 | \$ 20,000         |
| Archaeology and Related Reporting | \$ 180,000        |
| <b>Total Cost</b>                 | <b>\$ 200,000</b> |

It is believed there are other structures well outside of the fort complex that may have existed on the site. This could include at least four additional buildings. More archival and archaeological research is needed to verify structural existence and significance to further inform reconstruction. Once additional research is completed, an amendment to the master plan will incorporate these structures into the plan.

# ANCILLARY FACILITIES

## Purpose

Additional buildings and facilities are needed to support a project site like the Fort King National Historic Landmark. This includes passive recreation such as walking trails with interpretive signage as well as support facilities for maintenance and on-site restrooms. To the extent possible, this also includes any facilities to meet ADA.

Structures

PUBLIC RESTROOM

Estimated Cost: \$255,150

| DESCRIPTION OF WORK                   | COST       |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Archival Research                     | \$ 18,000  |
| Construction: Site, Building and FF&E | \$ 225,000 |
| Project Administration                | \$ 12,150  |
| Total Cost                            | \$ 255,150 |

A public restroom will be constructed where the existing visitors’ center is (once that is demolished). This facility should be as simple and unobtrusive on the landscape as possible.

MAINTENANCE COMPLEX

Estimated Cost: \$75,000

The maintenance complex will include place for adequate storage of maintenance equipment and supplies, large props and re-enactment equipment, etc.

CHIKEE HUT

Estimated Cost: \$50,000

The Chikee Hut will provide an outside “classroom” that will resemble a traditional Chikee gathering hut that would have been used by the Seminole. The estimated size will be 20’ X 40’.

ACCESSIBLE WALKING TRAILS AND BOARDWALK

Estimated Cost: \$285,000

It is not yet known if all the walking trails can be reconstructed to meet accessibility standards and/or whether exceptions provided in the United States Access Board’s “Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas” applies. Further evaluation and design will be required to fully develop this budget. For purposes of this master plan, it is assumed that almost all areas can meet the guidelines. The length of the trail will be one mile. The boardwalk as planned is intended to facilitate accessibility from the Museum and Education Center to the Fort site. This estimate includes \$135,000 for the trail and \$150,000 for the boardwalk.

# DEMOLITION OF EXISTING STRUCTURES

**Estimated Cost: \$36,000**

This includes demolition of both the existing visitors center and the archaeological resource center.

## REFERENCE

### ARCHIVAL NOTATIONS

AS STATED PREVIOUSLY, archival references lend themselves to a better understanding and/or to confirming the details of the fort construction that we've seen in visual representations of the Fort. Some of those are provided below. This section of the Master Plan (and related plan recommendations) will continue to be updated as appropriate to incorporate findings of additional archival research to validate the recommendations of the plan.

*"...The Fort is upon an eminence [sic] overlooking the forest [sic] that surrounds it, and its peculiar construction and its flag contrasting with the wilderness around, gives it quite a picturesque appearance. It is a picket work twenty feet high with a block house at each angle. In the center stands a two story building occupied by the soldiers, on top of which is a Cupola in which is posted a sentinel who announces the approach of a man by ringing a huge Cow-bell; which to say the least is very unmilitary but still very useful. The Commanding Officer's quarters are outside and many other buildings, such as wash rooms, bake house, guard tent and some officers tents. There are about sixty men stationed here..." (White 1956:161)*

*"The fort, begun in 1827, had originally consisted only of officer's quarters, a two-story barracks for enlisted men, kitchen, mess halls, and ammunition and weapons storage. Later a small hospital – made of hewn logs, chinked and plastered, and surrounded by an eight-foot piazza – had been built forty yards from the barracks. Attached to the hospital was a small log kitchen. During the past summer, assistant Surgeon Archer had had the north and south ends of the piazza boarded up and converted into additional wards and a dispensary... The fort was surrounded by a palisade of split pine logs planted deep in the sand edge to edge, standing a dozen feet high. The walls formed a box 152 by 162 feet. With gages at front and rear and blockhouses at opposite corners to provided enfilade fire of the occasion demanded... The site on which the fort stood was somewhat elevated, gradually sloping off, however, on either side, and, at the distance of several hundred yards, again rising to considerable height, beyond which the vast interminable woods were seen to stretch far as the eye could follow them." "The home and store of Erastus Rogers, the sutler, as six or eight hundred yards northwest of the fort on the boarder of a hammock." (Laumer,1995:114-115)*

*"Closer to the fort, only a hundred yards outside the walls, stood a second log building, this one with a high roof and surrounding porches, the office of Wiley Thompson..." (Laumer 1995:115)*

*For the enlisted men a large barracks containing four compartments was raised. The rooms, each about twenty-five feet square, were separated by wide hallways, and there were piazzas front and rear. All was under one roof which provided not only*

protection from the sun, but also overhead storage. For the officers two separate buildings, about twenty by fifty feet, were planned, each with bedrooms and 'drawing rooms' for two men. Extra sleeping space was in a loft above. Mess halls, kitchens, and ammunition storage almost filled the remaining area. (Piatek 1989:14)

We find ourselves comfortably in camp upon an extended plain west of Fort King and in full sight of it. Two companies of Dragoons are encamped in a semicircular [sic] form in our rear. Upon our left is a thick Hammock, and upon our right is an undulating pine barren, representing a cultivated park. Fort King is immediately in front. The fort is upon an eminence [sic] overlooking the forrest [sic] that surrounds it, and its peculiar construction and its flag contrasting with the wilderness around, gives it quite a picturesque appearance. It is a picket work twenty feet high with a block house at each angle. In the center stands a two story building occupied by the soldiers, on top of which is a Cupola in which is posted a sentinel who announces the approach of man by ringing a huge Cow-bell: which to say the least is very unmilitary, but still very useful. The Commanding Officer's Quarters are outside and many other buildings, &c such as wash rooms, bake house, guard tent and some officers tents [Figure 5 is Lieutenant Sprague's drawing of Fort King –ed]. There are about sixty men stationed here... This afternoon we visited the Silver Spring three miles from this. We embarked in a frail boat and paddled to the head of it. It forms a creek some hundred feet wide, and after running thirty miles empties itself into the Ock-le-wa-haw river. (Piatek 1989:71)

The post was reestablished on April 22, 1837, and its rebuilding was started. Ten years had passed since its original group of buildings had been erected, and now a different plan was followed, consisting of one large structure surrounded by high pickets protected by four blockhouses. A number of one-story log cabins were placed outside the fortification; in time of alarm the occupants could take refuge within the defenses (Ott, 1989:66)

"The lumber, though old, was 'worth considerable,' and 'the floors,' he wrote, 'are plank, the doors and window shutters plank and the windows are sash glass, all very valuable in this country where we have no conveniences (mills) for making plank.'" (Ott 1989:38)

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1832-46 King, Fort Florida. RG 92, Entry 225

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