

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Carteret	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Fort Macon
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: At Bogue Point on Fort Macon Road, four miles east of Atlantic Beach			
CITY OR TOWN: Atlantic Beach Vicinity			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
North Carolina	32	Carteret	16

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: State of North Carolina, Administered by the North Carolina State Department of Conservation and Development			
STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 2719			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	STATE: North Carolina
Raleigh	North Carolina	32	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Carteret County Court House, Office of the Register of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: Broad Street			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	COUNTY: Carteret
Beaufort	North Carolina	32	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1935-1940 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER: East Capitol and Independence Avenue, South East			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	ENTRY NUMBER
Washington	District of Columbia	51	

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Carteret
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Macon is at the extreme end of Bogue Island, on the Atlantic Ocean. It faces Shackleford Banks across Beaufort Inlet, and was constructed as a coastal defense fortification for the protection of Beaufort Harbor. The Town of Beaufort is roughly two miles away, northeast, across the harbor. Morehead City is at a slightly greater distance northwest. Bogue Island, some 2 1/2 miles long and averaging less than one mile wide, runs almost directly east-west. Fort Macon is thus sited more to the south and east, as a Gulf Fort might be, than a normal Atlantic fortification. The Fort is not visible from the water, and almost invisible from the land, until one enters through the glacis or outer wall. Originally sodded and offering clear fields of fire, these walls have now been stabilized with vegetation. Pentagonally shaped, the fort is mainly of brick construction with Connecticut Freestone used freely in ramps, sills, lintels, stairs, string courses, and the cordon of the scarp. Some granite was also used in the casemates of the counterfire, and in the gun traverses. There are twenty-one exterior walls, and of these only the five parade or inner walls are perpendicular. The parade covers about half an acre, in an irregular pentagon. The longest diagonal is 183 feet, the shortest 100 feet. Entrances from the covertway across the moat appear at the sallyport, and the postern. There is, in addition, one entrance directly into the moat from the scarp wall. Twenty-four casemates are of the same dimensions as the sallyport and postern, 38 x 18 feet. There are three magazines, each triangular and abutting the parade wall. They are located at corners of the fort parade, protected on the parade side by arched stairways to the terreplein, and on the scarp side by arched chambers which serve the dual purpose of allowing unimpeded passage completely around the fort at the scarp wall, while providing storage space and fields of fire. Only two of the scarp walls are 90 degree angles, the other three are rounded. Each casemate has one large embrasure and two rifle loopholes into the moat; one large window and a door into the parade; a fireplace; two ventilators in the ceiling; and two passages connecting with casemates on either side. The counterscarp, supporting the covertway at the outer perimeter of the moat actually has six walls, three of them at angles of greater than 90 degrees, and two rounded. Situated in four of the angles are casemates of counterfire. Another casemate of counterfire is located in the center of the south-east counterscarp wall. Located behind the banquette of the covertway, the glacis slopes away from the fort on all five sides. It is composed of sand and sod, now heavily overgrown, and each of its angles is greater than 90 degrees. Heavy weapons were located on the terreplein above the parade casemates, on the covertway, and in three of the casemates of reverse fire. The Fort is so constructed that each of the inner walls except the parade walls, and each of the outer walls is covered by overlapping fields of fire. In practice the two land sides, however, were never adequately covered by weapons. Almost all of the brick used in the Fort was manufactured by local craftsmen, though all the stone was imported. Most of the exterior brick is laid in Common Bond, three courses of stretchers to one of headers, to the beginning of the arches. Brick within the arch is generally laid in English Bond, with one course of stretchers to one of headers. Rubbed brick is lavishly used on arches above doors, windows, etc., and pressed brick is used on an ogee cap to one of the casemate of counterfire entrances. Throughout the brickwork is exceptionally well laid, and the quality of workmanship far surpasses that normally found in North Carolina in the era of the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

brick

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

North Carolina

COUNTY

Carteret

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

(Number all entries)

7. 1820's and 1830's. It compares favorably with the better brickwork of the era in Philadelphia, Boston or Washington, D.C. This may in part be accounted for by the fact that some of the master masons who supervised the construction came from Philadelphia and Alexandria, though most of the labor force was from the area and consisted, in the main, of slaves. Interior woodwork was simple Greek Revival in character, as was wrought iron of the exterior stairways. Surviving drawings from the 1840's show fine mantels, door and window architraves with corner blocks, and a Greek Key design in the wrought iron of the stairways. The exterior of the Fort was normally covered with a yellow wash, the interior whitewashed and/or plastered. At times the color of the exterior wash seems to have been governed by the pigments at hand, and the Fort was particularly colorful. No wash has been added to the walls since 1924 and in many places the brickwork and original scribed mortar is obvious. At other places traces of the washes or of lichens and moss obscure the brickwork. The wash has given the brick a longer life than might have been expected and there is less than normal deterioration under the prevailing conditions of salt air, high humidity, and long periods of neglect. Some structural faults are obvious on the interior, but many are of long standing, and can be traced in drawings of the Fort from the 1840's and 1870's to the present. Much of the Civil War damage to the structure is easily discernable, as are some World War II changes, though these were minor as compared with the fabric of the entire structure. No outbuildings now exist, though there are two cemeteries at the site. Outbuildings prior to 1850 included the Commandant's House, Hospital, Officers Quarters, Boathouse and Wharf. By the 1870's a new Hospital had been built, along with four quarters for officers, several laundress quarters, a bake house, storehouse, quarters for ordnance, and commissary sergeant. The constant encroachments of the sea would have long ago carried Fort Macon away, except for both the engineering work of jettying and stabilizing the site, and the conservation work of planting and stabilizing the dunes. Though the jettying was begun in the 1820's the system of stone jetties was begun in the 1840's by Capt. Robert E. Lee, and the land area of the island has actually increased since that time. The scientific planting and conservation practices have led not only to the permanent stabilization of the glacis of the fort, but to the creation and stabilization of the surrounding dunes as well.

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Macon was preceded on Bogue Point by two other Forts. Fort Dobbs, erected in the mid-18th Century was a brush work which had disappeared by the time of the American Revolution. Fort Hampton, a "U" shaped work with brick barracks, built c. 1808, served effectively in closing Beaufort Harbor during the War of 1812, but the encroachment of the sea made her useless within a few years after she was built, and during the 1820's the Fort was covered by the expanding waters of Old Topsail, now Beaufort Inlet. The first surveys for a projected third Fort on Bogue Point were completed in 1821, though construction did not begin, and the name Fort Macon was not bestowed, until 1826. The first known drawings of the Fort were accomplished by Capt. Wm. Tell Poussin, who may also have been the architect. The construction was begun under the superintendence of Lt. Wm. A. Edrison and completed by Lt. G. Dutton. Capt. J.L. Smith served as construction superintendent between the two. Fort Macon was first occupied by troops in December 1834, though they remained only until February 1836, when they were ordered to the Indian Wars in Florida. During the interim before the Fort was again garrisoned in the 1840's much damage to the site occurred and Capt. R. E. Lee, after a tour of inspection recommended the construction of a series of stone jetties to stabilize the site. Thus began the jetty system still in use at the site today, though often extended, modified and reinforced. It was also during the 1840's that the armament of the Fort was completed, and the the Fort probably reach its height in physical strength, though the Civil War era brought greater manpower. The Fort was garrisoned from 1842-44, and again from 1848-49, but was occupied only by a small caretaker force from that time until April of 1861 when the Fort was taken by Confederate forces. The year spent by the Confederates at the Fort was a productive one. Physical and armament improvements were made to the structure, but the Fort was lost on April 26, 1862, to Union land and sea forces. The Fort was completely surrounded and the attack was concentrated on the lightly fortified land sides. From 1862 to 1876 the Fort remained in active use, and during much of the period served as a military prison. Proposals to establish the Fort as the East Coast military prison facility, with prisoners manufacturing items of military clothing, were never acted upon. During the Spanish American War the Fort was garrisoned for a short period of time, but saw no duty during the First World War. Fort Macon became the property of North Carolina in 1924 as the State's second state park. Considerable restoration work was accomplished on the structure by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's. In 1941 the Fort was receded to the Federal Government. Fort Macon was actively garrisoned, serving as the center of defensive activities in the Beaufort Harbor area from 1941

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE North Carolina	
COUNTY Carteret	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. until April of 1945. With the termination of the Federal lease in 1946, Fort Macon was returned to the State of North Carolina. Several men who attained later notoriety were either stationed at or were associated with Fort Macon, particularly in the twenty years prior to 1860. The roster of these men appear as a compact Who's Who, among them were:

Maj. Gen. George W. Cullum, commander of Union Armies in the West. Cullum served as a Captain at Fort Macon.

Maj. Gen. John G. Foster, also served as a Captain at Macon.

Maj. Gen. E.O.C. Ord, Union General, served as a Lieutenant at Macon, Fort Ord in California named in his honor.

Maj. Gen. Simon G. French, C.S.A., Mississippi, served as a Second Lieutenant at Fort Macon.

General Robert E. Lee, while at Fort Macon Lee engineered the jetties for the preservation of the Fort site.

Maj. John Rogers Vinton, also a Captain at Fort Macon, Vinton fell as a hero in the Battle of Vera Cruz.

Architecturally, Fort Macon is probably the most outstanding brick structure of its era that is extant in North Carolina. In addition, the Fort is also one of the foremost examples of its type of military architecture.

Fort Macon is named in honor of Nathaniel Macon(1758-1837) a member of Congress(1791-1828) from North Carolina. Macon served in Congress first as a Representative(1791-1815) and then as a Senator(1815-1828).

10. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barry, Richard Schriver, *The History of Fort Macon*, Duke University, 1952, unpublished thesis, 299 pages, illustrated.

Barry, Richard Schriver, "Fort Macon: Its History," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, April 1950, XXVII, No. 2, pps. 163-177, illustrated.

Fort Macon Collection, North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Morris, Jerome F., *The Brief Belligerence of Fort Macon*, The North Carolina Confederate Centennial Commission, Raleigh, 1962, 12 pages, illustrated.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		34 ° 41 ' 47 "	76 ° 40 ' 45 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Nine Acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Tony P. Wrenn, Historic Preservation Consultant

ORGANIZATION: North Carolina State Department of Archives and History DATE: March 18, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 32

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name H.G. Jones

Title Director, North Carolina State Department of Archives and History

Date March 18, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

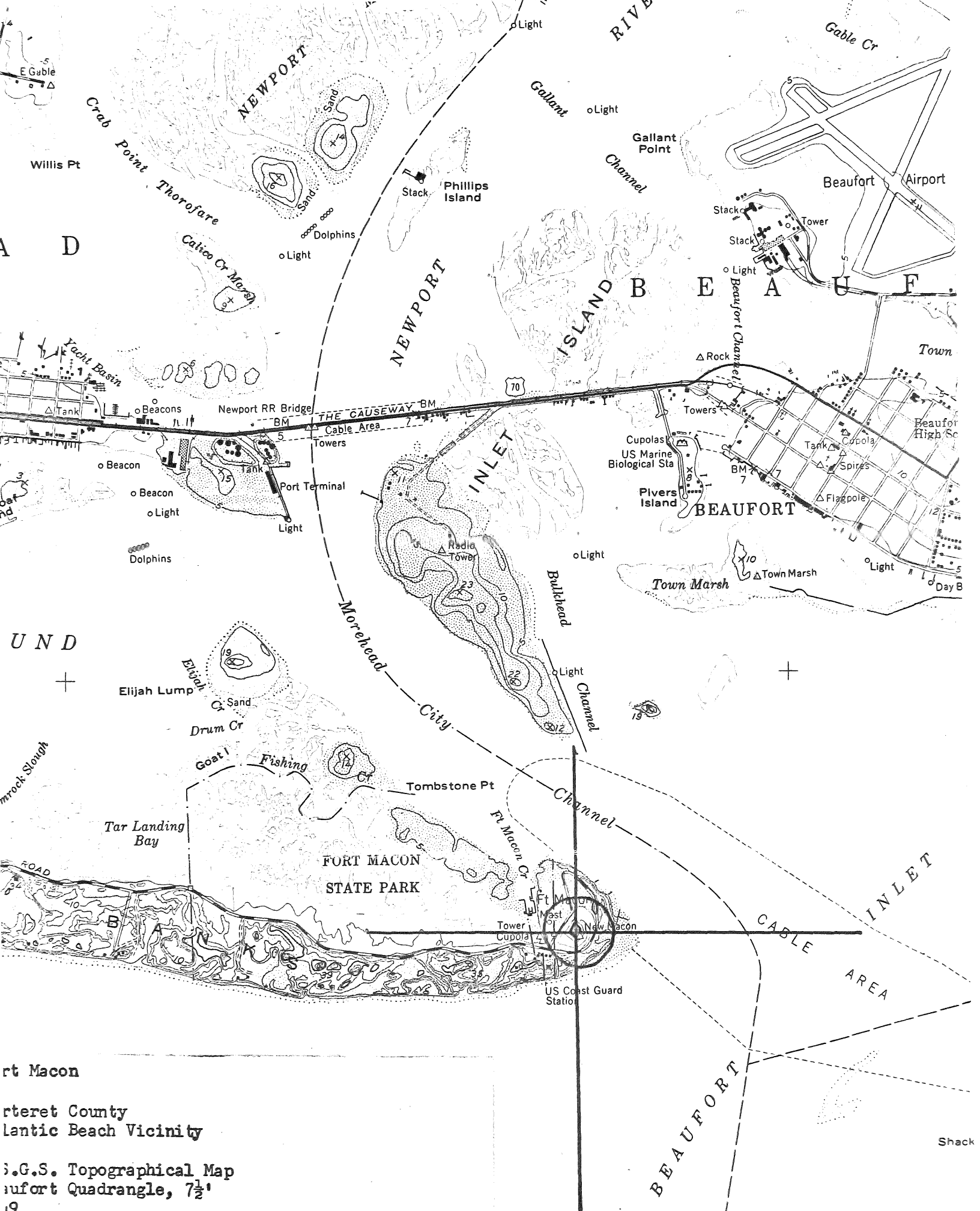
Date _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Fort Macon
 Carteret County
 Atlantic Beach Vicinity
 U.S.G.S. Topographical Map
 Beaufort Quadrangle, 7 1/2'
 1909

Latitude			Longitude		
degrees	minutes	seconds	degrees	minutes	seconds
34°	41'	47"	76°	40'	45"

S L O W
 B A Y

