

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)  
PROJECT FACT SHEET**

ORIGINAL DATE: 24 JULY 1997  
TAG REVIEW DATE: 3 FEBRUARY 1998

**1. SITE NAME:** Fort Clinch  
**SITE NUMBER:** I04FL012400

**LOCATION:**

**CITY:** Fernandina Beach  
**COUNTY:** Nassau  
**STATE:** Florida

**PROJECT NUMBER:** I04FL012401

**CATEGORY:** OE

**INPR RAC:** 2

**ASR RAC:** 2

**TAG RAC:** 2

**2. POC=s:**

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**ASR TECHNICAL REVIEWER:**

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### **3. SITE DESCRIPTION:**

This site consists of 920 acres of land. It is currently owned by a number of individuals and the State of Florida. Most of the land is a state park. The land within the state park is covered with hammocks and dunes. The primary vegetation is live oak, saw palmetto, and various upland species. A portion of the site is tidal marsh. A portion of the City of Fernandina Beach is within the site boundary. The site has a humid sub-tropical climate. Summers are hot and humid and winters are mild. The site contains endangered species and cultural resources.

### **4. SITE HISTORY:**

a. On 9 February 1842 land considered by the General Land Office to be public land was reserved as a military reservation. The town of Fernandina was within this reserved land; the owners of the property traced their ownership to grants from Spain and confirmed by a United States treaty commission. An old Spanish fort, Fort San Carlos, was located in this town and was briefly occupied by American troops after Florida was ceded to the United States. Other than the occupation of Fort San Carlos, the War Department use of land in Old Fernandina was limited. The War Department's title to the property was further complicated in 1853, when the same land was granted to a private individual and the State of Florida.

b. Additional land was purchased by the War Department in 1849 and 1850. Fort Clinch was built upon this purchased land.

c. Construction of Fort Clinch began between 1847 and 1850, the exact date being questionable. The fort was partially complete at the outbreak of the Civil War when the site was seized by Florida state authorities. By August 1861, a regiment of Confederate infantry occupied the fort and surrounding area. The Confederate forces equipped the fort with a battery of heavy guns. Seven other batteries were positioned in the sand hills near the fort. Fort Clinch was evacuated by the Confederates upon the approach Federal forces. The United States regained control of the fort on 3 March 1863.

d. The Federal garrison remained at Fort Clinch until April 1869. After the garrison was withdrawn, the fort was in a caretaker status. During the Spanish-American War, the fort was garrisoned for five months and then returned to a caretaker status.

e. In 1906, the United States Senate addressed the conflicting land claims in Old Fernandina. By an act of Congress, the United States relinquished its claims to the land that had conflicting titles, except a small parcel known as the plaza lot. The plaza was finally sold in 1941.

f. During the First World War the fort was inactive. The fort and all the land except the plaza was sold in 1926 to local developers. In 1935, the City of Fernandina and the State of Florida acquired most of the property for use as a state park. The fort was restored between 1937 and 1939. No mention of discovered ordnance was mentioned in the records of that restoration. The fort was restored again in 1964. Again, no mention of ordnance was noted during that restoration. In 1993, during a beach nourishment project, 15 fused cannon balls were discovered adjacent to the southwest wall of the fort. The 38th EOD Detachment from Fort Stewart, GA removed the ordnance from the park.

## 5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

- Area A:** Size, Acres: 5  
Former Use: Fort and Parade Grounds  
Present Use: State Park and Museum  
Probable End Use: Same as above  
Ordnance Presence: None
- Area B:** Size, Acres: Approximately 1  
Former Use: Ditch outside South Bastion  
Present Use: State Park  
Probable End Use: Same as above  
Ordnance Presence: Confirmed  
Type: Fuzed 24 lb. Cannon Balls
- Area C:** Size, Acres: Approximately 10  
Former Use: Disposal Sites  
Present Use: State Park  
Probable End Use: Same as above  
Ordnance Presence: Potential  
Type: Same as Area B
- Area D:** Size, Acres: Approximately 237  
Former Use: City of Old Fernandina  
Present Use: Residential

Probable End Use: Same as above  
Ordnance Presence: None

**Area E:** Size, Acres: Approximately 667  
Former Use: All other lands  
Present Use: State Park  
Probable End Use: Same as above  
Ordnance Presence: None

**6. CURRENT STATUS:** The Archives Search Report (ASR) for Fort Clinch was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, in September 1997.

**7. STRATEGY:**

Area A: NOFA  
Area B: ESI  
Area C: ESI  
Area D: NOFA  
Area E: NOFA

**8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:**

a. The Huntsville Center Technical Advisory Group has reviewed this ASR and determined that an Expanded Site Inspection is required for Area B (confirmed 24 lb. Cannon Balls) and Area C (potential Adump site@). Should magnetometer surveys prove positive, then an EE/CA will be performed. NOFA was determined for the remainder of the FUDS.

b. Area B and Area C contain archeological sites.

c. There are known Federally-and State- listed species occurring in the site area. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

d. Based on investigation of historical records reviewed, the results of the site survey and interviews, there is no evidence of Chemical Warfare Materials ever being stored, used or disposed of at this FUDS.

**9. SCHEDULE SUMMARY: ESI**

**10. FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY: For Official Use Only**

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