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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Fort Pulaski..... NATIONAL PARK Monument

FILE NO.

A SUMMARY
Of
WORK ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

At
Fort Pulaski National Monument
Savannah, Georgia

May 10, 1934- June 5, 1940

IMPORTANT

June 5, 1940

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ARNO B. CAMMERER,
Director.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY
THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

June 11, 1940.

Memorandum to Superintendent,
Fort Pulaski National Monument, Georgia.

We deeply appreciate the excellent reports which you have sent us on work accomplishments of the Civilian Conservation Corps at Fort Pulaski from the beginning of the program to date. We have not yet carefully read the reports but their make-up looks intensely interesting and we anticipate finding a number of stories in them for release through CCC headquarters. They will be of great value in our files for future references.

Thank you for a grand reply to our request of May 13.

Paul F. Sloan
Editor-in-Chief.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

June 6, 1940

Memorandum for the Director:

Attention: Editor-in-Chief

In compliance with your memorandum of May 15, we have prepared, and submit herewith, in duplicate, a summary of the work accomplishments of the Civilian Conservation Corps at Fort Pulaski National Monument from the beginning of the program to date.

Not being entirely familiar with the type of report expected, we thought it best to deal with the developments only in broad outline form, using photographs to illustrate some of the more interesting or important features, and appending a statistical list of work accomplishments. We trust that this treatment is adequate.

If further information is desired upon any point insufficiently covered in the report, we shall be happy to supply it promptly upon request.

James W. Holland,
Superintendent.

Enclosure

cc:

Region I
Coordinating Supt.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

May 13, 1940.

Memorandum for the Superintendent,
Fort Pulaski National Monument:

Will you please have prepared for us a summary of the work accomplishments of the Civilian Conservation Corps in your monument since the beginning of the program in 1933 to date. (If you sent us such a summary in 1938 at the end of the first five years of the Corps, you may merely make this latest compilation date from then if that is easier for you.)

We need this material as background information for stories and for our files. Statistics may be included, but what we really desire is an accurate and complete picture of the most important jobs and, of course, any unusual and especially interesting ones so that we may be able to evaluate the service of the Corps to your area and to its visitors.

We are receiving an increasing number of requests for such material from Washington headquarters of the CCC and will appreciate your prompt cooperation.

Isabelle F. Story
Editor-in-Chief.

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June 5, 1940

FORT PULASKI NATIONAL MONUMENT
Georgia

SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

In general, although there is some overlapping, the activities of the Civilian Conservation Corps at Fort Pulaski National Monument fall into four chronological phases: 1st phase, getting a foothold on the marsh island on which the fort is located; 2nd phase, restoration; 3rd phase, making area accessible and extending educational facilities; and 4th phase, the future program of completion of the educational facilities (placing of guns, museum development, marking trees and shrubs for identification, construction of trailside exhibits, etc.) and the providing and construction of permanent utility ~~group~~ and other permanent structures on the island.

PHASE I - GETTING A FOOHOLD ON THE ISLAND, 1934-1938

Fort Pulaski is located on Cockspur Island, a low-lying marsh island in the mouth of the Savannah River. The original dyke system had settled and in some places had been broken through and the ditches, even including the moat encircling the fort and demilune, had been filled with silt from the Savannah River. High tides had repeatedly swept over the island during the years it had been neglected with the result that the greater part of it was extremely soft marsh unable to support the weight of a person, not to mention automotive equipment.

On May 15, 1934, a full Civilian Conservation Corps camp was established on Cockspur Island, and within a short time a number of drainage, landscape and mosquito control projects were underway. Principal CCC jobs in this period included the rebuilding of 5 miles of dyke, 6 feet above the surrounding marsh and 35 feet across the base line; re-excavation of the moat which necessitated the moving of 35,000 cubic yards of mud which was used to fill in marshy areas on the island, to build dykes, and to raise the surface level of the fort parade ground which, in the past hundred years, had settled nearly two feet.

To facilitate work on these and other projects, it was necessary to build 5 miles of temporary oyster shell truck trails, most of which were later obliterated. In connection with the dyke system, enrollees erected three large permanent tide gates and two smaller temporary tide-gates.

In addition to building dykes, roads and paths and excavating the moat, enrollees, during this pioneer period at Fort Pulaski National Monument, constructed 3.9 miles of permanent drainage ditches and canals on Cockspur Island, excavated the terreplein of the fort to permit the lead roof beneath to be mended, reconditioned two boat landings, dug a barge slip on the South channel shore of the Savannah River, transported

all building materials to Cockspur Island, and replanted hundreds of small trees uprooted in the hurricane of September, 1935, and by the gales that followed at intervals throughout the winter of 1935-36.

A ferry service between Lazaretto Landing on Tybee Island (U. S. Highway 80) and Cockspur Island, operated on a regular schedule from May, 1934 to May, 1938. The Fort Pulaski fleet comprised one 65-foot Diesel-powered ex-Coast-Guard work boat, and one 26-foot 35 h. p. gasoline launch. The ferry service was operated exclusively by CCC personnel and enrollees. In the four years of its operation all supplies and materials, personnel, and visitors necessarily were transported to and from Cockspur Island on the boats assigned to the monument. Over 100,000 passenger trips were made without a single accident. With the opening of the bridge across the south channel, the boat service was discontinued.



The terrain of Cockspur Island. Actually, this photograph was taken September 5, 1935 during a hurricane and after Cockspur's dykes and drainage ditches had been partially reconstructed. However, it illustrates the general terrain and the appearance of the marsh.



Cutting diversion ditch around tide gate,
Ditch No. 5, showing type of soil when no water
present. Much of the work of the enrollees was
done in this type of soil during the first years.

Date of photograph - March 15, 1935



Beginning to lay wooden footing
in main ditch, April 5, 1935. Much of
the early work in the reclamation of
Cockspar Island was done knee-deep to
waist-deep in soft mud.

X 17

The Fort Pulaski project has offered its enrollees an unusual number of opportunities to gain experience in the performance of a variety of work. Enrollees here have served as boatmen, bargemen, pile drivers, dragline operators, truckmen, artesian well drillers, machine shop workers, brick and stone masons, carpenters, painters, welders, boat builders, foresters and guides. In addition they have had experience in insect and plant disease control, surveying and office work. Above is photograph of an enrollee learning the use of a surveying instrument.

Above: lunch hour at the sally port, Oct. 8, 1934
(Note condition of meat and absence of drawbridge).
Below: Repairing lead roof of fort at northeast
angle.

PHASE II - EXPANSION OF TERRITORY AND RESTORATION, 1937-38

In the year 1937 the Quarantine Station of the U. S. Public Health Service, on Cockspur Island, was added to the monument area thereby adding about 100 acres and ten frame buildings. In April, 1937, a side camp of Georgia NM-1, with a maximum of 50 enrollees, was established at Robert Fechner Park, a municipally owned recreational area, of approximately 500 acres, near Savannah.

Work accomplished at the Fechner Park side camp included the construction of a five mile bridle trail, with four horse bridges of rustic design, which proved a popular feature; the placing of fill on part of the east boundary road the purpose of which is to divert traffic which now passes through the east golf course; cutting of ditches at several points to drain off standing water no drainage system having been constructed when the 18-hole golf course was laid out in 1926-27; construction of a new entrance road, earth fill and cinder surface, from the north entrance of the park approximately .4 mile to the present club house, construction of three wooden shelters and building and placement of drinking fountains on the golf course.

On the Fort Pulaski area, at the same time, work possibilities were enhanced by the addition to the area of the Quarantine Station with its ten frame buildings, which was to serve as the administration and residential area.

During the calendar year 1938, CCC activities at Fort Pulaski National Monument included the grading and filling of 42,479 sq. yds parking area and the construction of 90% of the concrete curbs thereon; building a causeway to serve as entrance road, approximately .6 mile over soft marsh on Cockspur and McQueens islands involving the placement of 47,750 cubic yards of earth and sand; and placing ballast stone riprap on slopes of bridge approach, north and south, and bridge abutments, from the entrance gateway at U. S. Highway 80 to the south dyke on Cockspur Island. Other CCC jobs during the year included soil preparation for treatment of the parade ground inside Fort Pulaski, the area in the immediate vicinity of the fort and the parking area islands; restoration and repair of brick walk at the northwest powder magazine and adjustment of drainage system within the fort. In addition, many jobs of minor, or routine, character were carried on.

In January, 1939, the CCC participated by furnishing common labor in the laying of a power line from the highway to the fort and administration-residential area (former Quarantine Station) and in revision of the water and sewerage systems at the administration-residential area, funds for material and skilled labor in both cases being under a PW allotment.

Another large job was the construction of shell and cutback asphalt walks from the parking area to the old north wharf, Cockspur Island, following the route of the original historic walkway. It is to be connected with the approved system of walks, parking area and entrances to the fort.

In 1939, considerable work was done at the former Quarantine Station, including the razing of five of them to remove unsightly structures and to make way for some buildings which were moved under the approved proposal of the U. S. Engineers to cut away the point projecting into the Savannah River at this location. Painting and repair work was done on the five buildings remaining.



CCC enrollees of Georgia EM-1, building a wooden bridge on bridge path at Robert Jechner Park.



Among the numerous small jobs not listed in this summary is the erection of a temporary overhead water tank in the CCC shop yard. Enrollees are shown at work on this structure.

In the course of the work, many little
problems naturally arose. Here is the
method devised for hoisting sand from
parade ground to terreplein/ 4-22-36

PHASE III - MAKING AREA MORE ACCESSIBLE AND EXPANDING
INTERPRETATIONAL FACILITIES, 1938-1940

With the opening of the new bridge, May 10, 1938, arrived a new epoch in the history of Fort Pulaski National Monument and caused a corresponding change in emphasis of the CCC work on the island.

Therefore the work had been of a general construction type with only incidental regard to the immediate needs of the visitors. After the island was opened to automobile traffic and visitation shot upward from a total of 12,471 in the calendar year 1937 to 50,885 in 1938, it was necessary to allot a greater part of the CCC work to the improvement of facilities to handle the traffic, including parking area, road grading and riprapping slopes, and grading and developing the monument entrance on U. S. Highway #80, south of the bridge.

At the same time, the greater volume of visitors tended to center attention on the educational program. The guide service was expanded and various interpretational projects undertaken, the most important of these being the recounting of historic ordnance within the fort which thus far has been done exclusively by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Guns already mounted on the terreplein are one Brooke rifled cannon (Confederate) which has been mounted on a center pintle columbiad carriage; and one English ship gun mounted on a similar carriage reduced to scale. This latter piece was for many years used as a hitching post near the corner of Oglethorpe and Bull streets in Savannah where it was partially buried muzzle down. Upon its donation to Fort Pulaski, CCC forces moved it out to the fort via truck as illustrated in an accompanying photograph.

Also two Blakeley cannon, captured at the siege of Fort Pulaski, April, 1862, and taken to Trophy Point at the United States Military Academy at West Point were returned from that place to Fort Pulaski by CCC truck and personnel. After arrival at the fort they were hoisted up on the terreplein by CCC enrollees and, when carriage plans have been made available, a CCC job application for mounting them will be prepared.

At present there is in progress a CCC job for the mounting of two 12-pounder bronze howitzers in the bastions of Fort Pulaski to enfilade the drawbridge. These pieces, surplus at Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park, were transported from that area to Pulaski by CCC truck and personnel.



Much attention was given by CCC forces in 1938-40 to the final preparation of the causeways to receive surface treatment and serve as the entrance road and administration area road. Above, at work on south bridge approach, October, 1938, placing mud on slopes preparatory to laying riprap which is necessary to protect the fill from tidal action.



Above: Pile of oyster shell screened out by enrollees from dredge dumpings placed on the island by the U. S. Engineers. These shells went into the making of the shell-asphalt walk through the picturesque weeded area, shown below.



One of the major CCC undertakings at Fort Pulaski in 1939-40 was the remounting of historic ordnance. Above loading an old English ships gun on a truck in Savannah; gun formerly used as hitching post. Below; four cannon on parade ground - left to right Confederate Brooke rifle rescued from junk dealer; gun formerly used as hitching post in Savannah; next two Blakely rifles captured at Ft. Pulaski in 1862 and returned from West Point via CCC truck in 1939.

Above: CCC enrollees erecting a ramp up which to move the Brooke gun, weighing 10,200 pounds, from the parade ground level to the terreplein, approximately twenty-five feet. Below: the Brooke gun mounted on a Columbiad carriage as a CCC job. Enrollees here are putting on the finishing touches.



CCC GUIDE SERVICE

While the entire work of the Corps has been, and is, eminently satisfactory, the work of the CCC enrollee guide force at this monument has been so outstanding as to merit special recognition.

The guide and public contact work by Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees was begun in June, 1934, but in the early years the necessity of taking a boat to reach Fort Pulaski restricted the number of visitors. With the opening of the new bridge in May, 1938, there was a sharp upward turn in the number of visitors to this monument and the work of the guides was correspondingly increased.

Throughout the entire period, however, the service rendered by these especially trained enrollees has been a constant source of commendation by the visiting public which finds expression in thousands of apparently sincere expressions of thanks and pleasure, hundreds of letters of appreciation, the frequency with which local visitors return with out-of-town guests, and numerous press notices, including one highly complimentary editorial in a local newspaper.

Candidates for training are selected upon the criteria of appearance, general educational record, interest in history, grammar and diction, and, above all, a genuine interest in the work of presenting the Fort Pulaski story to the public. A period of training and supervision is conducted by a junior historical technician, who is in immediate charge of the guide service.

All of the visitors to Fort Pulaski National Monument are contacted and are offered guide service; about 90% accept it, the remainder being, for the most part, "repeaters" who believe themselves familiar with the history of the fort.

The work of the CCC guide force was supplemented, for a short time, by an ERA force of from three to four men. This, however, represents only a very small part of the total contacts. It should be stated also that the best effective guide work performed by this agency was done by an ex-enrollee who had served for two years on the CCC guide force, and who was the head guide immediately prior to his discharge (honorable) from the Corps.



Above: photograph of Fort Pulaski's excellent CCC guide force on September 12, 1939. Below: a guide at work; showing a CCC guide (bareheaded) in the center of an attentive group of CMC trainees visiting from Fort Screven.



PRESIDENT AND FUTURE

The general work of the Civilian Conservation Corps on this area is still in the third phase, namely "Making the Area More Accessible and Extending Interpretational Facilities." Work now in progress includes the mounting of two howitzers in the fort, the construction of curbs, checking station and general development of the monument entrance on McQueens Island, and ~~improvement~~ of the roads to final grade to receive surfacing which will be done from the regular Roads and Trails appropriation at a very early date.

With the completion of these jobs there will remain certain interpretational projects such as the mounting of the Blakely guns, the reconstruction of the hot shot furnace on the southeast corner of the parade ground, museum development, restoration of the south mortar battery, erection of signs, monuments and markers, and restoration of the southwest powder magazine, and north overlook.

The work then will enter the final stage; that of providing permanent utilities, residences and administration facilities; the present the rather ill-adapted Quarantine buildings are being used for these purposes. Included in this final program for the development of the area are extension to the fire protection system, inter-office telephone system, completion of the secondary power line, north pier parking area, underground telephone line, construction of permanent utility group, and development of administration building site. In addition, an administration building and three residences are scheduled for construction.

(There follows a statistical summary of total work accomplishments of the CCC at Fort Pulaski National Monument from May 10, 1934 to March 31, 1940)

FORT PULASKI NATIONAL MONUMENT, GEORGIA

CCC and ERA Work Accomplished Under the Supervision
of the National Park Service
May 10, 1934 to March 31, 1940

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Units of Work</u>		<u>Remarks</u>
	<u>CCC</u>	<u>ERA</u>	
120 Buildings, other	1		Temporary water tank; 4-4 pile framed bents; 5500 gal. tank, 22' above ground.
124 Dykes (Earth)	14,098 c/y		5 mile dyke, 6' high; top elevation 12.0; restoration of original dyke on island.
134 Power Lines	1.3 mi.		Dug and backfilled parkway cable trench; set markers 1' above ground, 500' apart.
143 Water supply syst.	3,250 lin. ft.		Opened and backfilled 3,250 lin. ft. of trench to lay water, sewer line.
146 Wells, inc. pumps	2		Artesian wells, approx. 320' deep; 3" casing.
148 Camp stove or fireplaces	1		2'x3'x14" brick; with iron doors
153 Signs, markers, and monuments	20		Temporary warning signs, 14" x 30"
157 Structural improvements, other (Misc)	3,656 c/y		Approximately half of necessary fill preliminary to construction entrance gateway structures. Camp discontinued before completion of fill or const. of structures.
202 Truck trails or minor roads	4 mi.		2 mi. of truck trails to borrow pits; 2 mi. placing shell on entrance road 20' wide.
202 Road fill	.8 mi.		Causeway over marsh; 30' from shoulder to shoulder; slopes 3:1, ave. 4' high.
206 Trails, foot	1.5 mi.		In wooded area; trails 2' wide.
404 Excavation chan. canals and ditches, earth	15,205 c/y		Drainage ditch system

NON-CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

FORT PULASKI NATIONAL MONUMENT, GEORGIA

CCC and ERA Work Accomplishment Report,
May 10, 1934 to March 31, 1949 (continued)

Classification	Units of Work		Remarks
	CCC	ERA	
404 Excavation chan.canals, and ditches, earth	33,000	0/y	Excavated moat around fort and demilune; ave. 40' wide and 7' deep.
407 Riprap or paving rock or concrete	9,287	s/y	Stone riprap on road slopes 3:1; from marsh line elev. 7.3 to point on slope elev. 10.5.
411 Water control struc.	1		1800' x 5' concrete box with side walls 1' high, constructed on piles in main moat ditch.
411 Water control struc.	1		24" automatic Calcoo tide gate in dyke across Ditch No. 9, with concrete headwalls; on piles.
606 Fire Presuppression	300	Acres	
609 Tree insect pest control	120	Acres	Treats cactus plants for disease; prickly ash trees for leaf-eating beetle.
702 Fine Grading	40,540	s/y	Parade ground and area in vicinity of scarp wall
706 Moving and planting trees and shrubs	925		Small trees and shrubs transplanted in parking area islands and along roads and nature trails.
710 Parking areas and parking overlooks	42,479	s/y	Main parking area 250 cars; overflow 250 cars; concrete curbs, shell streets.
713 Razing undesired struc.	5		Old buildings of the former Quarantine group. Stored 3000' BM salvaged lumber in material yard.
713 Obliteration	1.3	mi.	Roads and borrow pits.
715 Seeding or sodding	14.5	Acres	Parade ground, glacis, parking area islands and residential area.

NON-CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

FORT PULASKI NATIONAL MONUMENT, GEORGIA

CCC and ERA Work Accomplishment Report,
May 10, 1934 to March 31, 1940 (continued)

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Units of Work</u>		<u>Remarks</u>
	<u>CCC</u>	<u>ERA</u>	
716 Soil preparation		3 Acres	Parade ground and parking area islands
719 Walks; conc., gravel, cinder, etc.		4,520 lin. ft.	5' x 8' wide bituminous mix, shell and sand; nature trails and historic walks.
1010 Marking boundaries		1.65 mi.	Survey and marking boundaries on 277 acre McQueen's Island taking.
1012 Prep. and Transp. of material		711 c/y	Oyster shell screened and transported.
1016 Restoration of historic structures		2	Cannons mounted at fort; replicas of historic wooden carriages made and guns mounted thereon.

NON-CONSTRUCTION PROJECT