Castillo de San Marcos

British troops moved to St. Augustine after Spain's defeat in the Seven Years' War in 1763. It was the focal point of the British forays into the southern colonies, and the British Room, 1763–84, can West. Years before they set up missions in the Americas, the Spanish set up Florida's mission system over 100 years before the American Revolution in 1783. Wooden second floors, like the one reconstructed in this casemate, were built in the fort when the Castillo was built (the rest were added during later modernization). Its thick coquina walls were buried in the earth fill of San Carlos Bastion to protect the fort's gunpowder from enemy fire or enemy shot. Lack of ventilation, however, made it too damp in the small room to store powder. Bastions were positioned to create a deadly crossfire with cannons in one bastion firing at an enemy's wooden ships to set them afire. This triangular outer work shielded the fort's only entrance from enemy fire. It was never finished as planned. If completed, the outer wall would have been five feet higher, with embrasures for cannon and a powder magazine. The drawbridge here and the main casemate are both working reconstructions. This ravelin bridge would have been secured each night at sunset; the main bridge was secured only when the fort was under attack.

The fort's four corners are protected by a diamond-shaped bastion. Cannons in one bastion were positioned to create a deadly crossfire with those in two other bastions. The bastions' thick stone walls were packed solid with rubble and sand to support the immense weight of the cannon.

The U.S. Army filled in the east side of the moat around the Plaza de Armas, or central courtyard, in the 1830s. The Spanish kept the moat dry and, during sieges, used it as a pen for domestic animals. Whenever the fort was under land attack, the moat could be filled with sea water by opening flood gates on the seawall. Around the outside of the fort is a man-made slope called a glacia. This embankment shielded and protected the lower fort walls from enemy cannon fire. The area between the glacia and the moat is called the covered (covert) way. This allowed soldiers to leave the fort and still be covered or protected by this wall.

A Guide to the Castillo

Shot Furnace
The U.S. Army filled in the east side of the moat in 1842–44 and mounted sea coast artillery pieces along the seawall. The shot furnace heated cannonballs until red hot. This hot shot was then fired at an enemy's wooden ships to set them afire.

Powder Magazine, 1675–87
This was the only vaulted chamber completed when the Castillo was built (the rest were added during a later modernization). Its thick coquina walls were buried in the earth fill of San Carlos Bastion to protect the fort's gunpowder from fire or enemy shot. Lack of ventilation, however, made it too damp in the small room to store powder. When larger, better vaults were built, the powder was moved and this room was used for other things.

Chapel
Religion was important in Spanish daily life. In this chapel a priest conducted mass for the soldiers. With the introduction of Christianity to this chapel a priest conducted mass for the soldiers. Religion was important in Spanish daily life. In

British Room, 1763–84
British troops moved to St. Augustine after Spain's defeat in the Seven Years' War in 1763. Wooden second floors, like the one reconstructed in this casemate, were built in the fort when the Castillo was built (the rest were added during later modernization). Its thick coquina walls were buried in the earth fill of San Carlos Bastion to protect the fort's gunpowder from enemy fire or enemy shot. Lack of ventilation, however, made it too damp in the small room to store powder. Bastions were positioned to create a deadly crossfire with cannons in one bastion firing at an enemy's wooden ships to set them afire. This triangular outer work shielded the fort's only entrance from enemy fire. It was never finished as planned. If completed, the outer wall would have been five feet higher, with embrasures for cannon and a powder magazine. The drawbridge here and the main casemate are both working reconstructions. This ravelin bridge would have been secured each night at sunset; the main bridge was secured only when the fort was under attack.

The fort's four corners are protected by a diamond-shaped bastion. Cannons in one bastion were positioned to create a deadly crossfire with those in two other bastions. The bastions' thick stone walls were packed solid with rubble and sand to support the immense weight of the cannon.

The U.S. Army filled in the east side of the moat around the Plaza de Armas, or central courtyard, in the 1830s. The Spanish kept the moat dry and, during sieges, used it as a pen for domestic animals. Whenever the fort was under land attack, the moat could be filled with sea water by opening flood gates on the seawall. Around the outside of the fort is a man-made slope called a glacia. This embankment shielded and protected the lower fort walls from enemy cannon fire. The area between the glacia and the moat is called the covered (covert) way. This allowed soldiers to leave the fort and still be covered or protected by this wall.

Bastions
Each of the fort's four corners is protected by a diamond-shaped bastion. Cannons in one bastion were positioned to create a deadly crossfire with those in two other bastions. The bastions' thick stone walls were packed solid with rubble and sand to support the immense weight of the cannon.

Moat/Glacia/Covered Way
The Spanish kept the moat dry and, during sieges, used it as a pen for domestic animals. Whenever the fort was under land attack, the moat could be filled with sea water by opening flood gates on the seawall. Around the outside of the fort is a man-made slope called a glacia. This embankment shielded and protected the lower fort walls from enemy cannon fire. The area between the glacia and the moat is called the covered (covert) way. This allowed soldiers to leave the fort and still be covered or protected by this wall.

Bastions
Each of the fort's four corners is protected by a diamond-shaped bastion. Cannons in one bastion were positioned to create a deadly crossfire with those in two other bastions. The bastions' thick stone walls were packed solid with rubble and sand to support the immense weight of the cannon.

Moat/Glacia/Covered Way
The Spanish kept the moat dry and, during sieges, used it as a pen for domestic animals. Whenever the fort was under land attack, the moat could be filled with sea water by opening flood gates on the seawall. Around the outside of the fort is a man-made slope called a glacia. This embankment shielded and protected the lower fort walls from enemy cannon fire. The area between the glacia and the moat is called the covered (covert) way. This allowed soldiers to leave the fort and still be covered or protected by this wall.

Bastions
Each of the fort's four corners is protected by a diamond-shaped bastion. Cannons in one bastion were positioned to create a deadly crossfire with those in two other bastions. The bastions' thick stone walls were packed solid with rubble and sand to support the immense weight of the cannon.

Moat/Glacia/Covered Way
The Spanish kept the moat dry and, during sieges, used it as a pen for domestic animals. Whenever the fort was under land attack, the moat could be filled with sea water by opening flood gates on the seawall. Around the outside of the fort is a man-made slope called a glacia. This embankment shielded and protected the lower fort walls from enemy cannon fire. The area between the glacia and the moat is called the covered (covert) way. This allowed soldiers to leave the fort and still be covered or protected by this wall.

Bastions
Each of the fort's four corners is protected by a diamond-shaped bastion. Cannons in one bastion were positioned to create a deadly crossfire with those in two other bastions. The bastions' thick stone walls were packed solid with rubble and sand to support the immense weight of the cannon.
### Castillo Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1513</td>
<td>Sailing from Puerto Rico, Spanish claim Florida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1515</td>
<td>Spanish found St. Augustine and destroyed French at Fort Caroline and Matanzas Inlet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1518</td>
<td>First settlement in St. Augustine. The city that rose from the ashes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1672</td>
<td>Ground is broken on October 2 for Castillo de San Marcos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1695</td>
<td>Castillo de San Marcos (curtain wall, bastions, living quarters, main entrance, and sea wall) finished in August.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1696</td>
<td>French and Spanish navigators known that the best route from Spain's rich Caribbean possessions was along the Gulf Stream, through the Bahama Channel, and past the shores of Florida. The Spanish knew they must defend this peninsula to prevent enemies from using its harbors as havens from which to raid the passing treasure fleets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1513</td>
<td>Spain claimed Florida through the expedition of Ponce de León, but France gained the first foothold there by establishing Fort Caroline on the St. Johns River in 1564. Seeing this as both a challenge to Spain's claims and a menace to the treasure fleets, King Philip II sent an expedition under Don Pedro Menéndez de Avilés to eliminate the French threat and establish settlements in Florida. It arrived at the mouth of the St. Johns River in September 1565. The Spanish occupied the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1566</td>
<td>After attempting unsuccessfully to board the French ships anchored there, Menéndez sailed to a harbor farther south and established St. Augustine as a base for further operations. Almost immediately a French fleet sailed south to attack. But the ships were driven southward and wrecked by a violent storm and the mission failed. Realizing that Fort Caroline would be lightly guarded, the Spaniards marched north, captured the fort, and executed most of the inhabitants. The same fate befell survivors from the French fleet, whom the Spanish captured and killed at an inlet 14 miles south of St. Augustine. The episode gave a name to the area: Matanzas, Spanish for “slaughters.” England became Spain's next contender for Florida. The Spanish had watched the English warily ever since Sir Francis Drake attacked and burned St. Augustine in 1568. They became even more watchful after English settlers established Jamestown in 1607. British privateers sacked St. Augustine again in 1668, and this hit-and-run attack, followed by the English settlement of Charleston in 1670, caused Spain to build the Castillo de San Marcos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1672</td>
<td>Begun in 1672 and completed by 1685, the Castillo replaced nine successive wooden fortifications that had protected St. Augustine since its founding. The fort's commanding location on the west bank of Matanzas Bay allowed its guns to protect not only the harbor entrance but the ground for a land attack. The Castillo's baptism of fire came in 1702 during the War of the Spanish Succession, when the English occupied St. Augustine and unsuccessfully besieged the fort for 50 days. The English burned the town before they left, but the Castillo emerged unscaathed, thereby making it a symbolic link between the old St. Augustine of 1565 and the new city that rose from the ashes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1740</td>
<td>Spain cedes Florida to Great Britain in exchange for La Habana. Castillo becomes known as Fort Marion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1821 | Peace of Paris recognizes independence of the United States and returns Florida to Spain.  
| 1825 | Fort Marion and Fort Moultrie are proclamed national monuments.  
| 1892 | Castillo de San Marcos— Castillo de San Marcos— is restored.  
| 1933 | Fort Marion and Fort Moultrie are transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service. |
| 1935 | National Park Service begins exclusive administration of both national monuments.  
| 1942 | Original name— Castillo de San Marcos—is restored.  

### St. Augustine

**Established in 1565 by Don Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, St. Augustine is the oldest permanent European settlement in the continental United States. For 235 years it was the political, military, and religious capital of the Province of Florida from which Spain exercised jurisdiction over a vast geographical region. The town's principal value, though, was as a military base for the protection of Spain's colonial trade and commerce.**

St. Augustine is also perhaps the earliest example of community planning within the Continental United States. This is exemplified by its regular and narrow streets, a pleasant central plaza, abundant open spaces, beautiful parks and gardens, impressive government and religious buildings, and comfortable homes—all suggesting an emphasis on the development of an orderly, dignified, healthy, and pleasant environment. The character of the city still reflects its vibrant Spanish heritage.

**Outpost of Empire**

To strengthen the defenses, the Spanish erected new earthwork lines on the north and west sides of St. Augustine, thus making it a walled city. Matanzas Inlet, however, was still unfortified when Gen. James Oglethorpe's British troops from Fort Frederica in Georgia attacked St. Augustine in 1740. Again the Castillo was besieged and Matanza Inlet blocked. But the Spanish did not wave during the 27-day British bombardment. The attack also taught the Spaniards the value of Matanzas Inlet and the need for a strong outpost there. Consequently, in 1742, they completed the present coquina tower.

In 1763, as an outcome of the Seven Years' (French and Indian) War, Spain ceded Florida to Great Britain in return for La Habana, Cuba. The British garrisoned Matanzas and strengthened the Castillo, holding the two forts through the American Revolution. The Treaty of Paris of 1821, which ended the war, returned Florida to Spain.

Spain held Florida until 1821, when serious Spanish-American tensions led to its cession to the United States. The Americans renamed the Castillo Fort Marion and used it to house Indian prisoners during the Seminole War of 1835–42. Confederate troops occupied it briefly during the Civil War and Indians captured in western military campaigns were held there later on. It was last used during the Spanish-American War as a military prison.