



Watch Tower, Castle San Marcos National Monument

HISTORIC • OLD
SAINT AUGUSTINE
FLA.



Oldest City in the United States

CASTLE SAN MARCOS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The present fort was started in 1672.* Spanish governors and soldiers came and went and still the work went on. It was not until 1756, eighty-four years later, that the work, as we see it today, was finished and the engineer in charge could place over the entrance the coat of arms of Spain with the inscription, which translated, reads:

Don Fernandez the Sixth being King of Spain, and Field Marshal Don Alonzo Fernandez de Herreda, Governor and Captain-General of the city of St. Augustine, Florida, and its province, this fortress was finished in the year 1756. The works were directed by the Captain-Engineer, Don Pedro de Brazasy Garay.

During all the Spanish rule the structure was known as Castle San Marcos. After coming into possession of the United States the name was changed to Fort Marion, in honor of General Francis Marion of Revolutionary fame. In 1924 by proclamation of President Coolidge, Fort Marion (Castle San Marcos) became a National Monument under the supervision of the National Park Service.

BUILT OF COQUINA

The fort is built of coquina, a shell rock of natural formation, which was obtained from quarries two miles below the present light house, on what is known as the old quarry road. These quarries will richly repay a visit. The blocks of cut stone were carried on crossbars, resting on the shoulders of slaves, over a long causeway (still in an excellent state of preservation) to a landing on Quarry Creek. Here they were loaded on barges and transported down the creek and across the bay to the Castle, where they were again carried and placed in their present position.

Notwithstanding the fact that most of the work was done by slaves, we are told that upwards of thirty million dollars were expended on the work, and the King of Spain, on learning this, exclaimed, "Its curtains and bastions must be made of solid silver."

**Original Spanish affidavit found in Madrid, Spain, and listed as Juan Moreno y Segobia, St. Augustine, October 2, 1672, Archivo Gral de Indias 58-1-26. The following is an English version: "Today, Sunday,*

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the 2nd of the present month of October of the year 1672, at about four o'clock in the afternoon, the Sr. Sergeant-major Don Manuel de Cendoya, Governor and Captain General of these provinces of Florida, for his Majesty, in his royal name, being in the vicinity of the fortress of this presidio where the plan of the new fortress is marked out, accompanied by the judges, the royal officials, Sergt. Major D. Nicolas Ponce de Leon and Capt. Antonio de Arguelles who fill these posts for his Majesty in this presidio, and by many other persons and retired soldiers of the garrison, began on this said day, spade in hand, the royal officials and others associated with him, to break ground for the foundations, to commence the erection of the said Castle."

BASTIONS AND TOWERS

The fort has four nearly equal bastions (the triangular-shaped corners), known as St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Augustine and St. Charles, and four connecting walls called curtains. On three of the bastions are sentry towers, while on that to the northeast stands a high watch tower, commanding a view of both land and water. The walls are about 12 feet thick at the base, 9 feet at the top, and about 25 feet high.

PLAZA, RAMP AND TERREPLEIN

The plaza, or inner court, is 100 feet square, and the casemates, with one or two exceptions, open into it. There are 26 casemates, five dungeons and one magazine. The only entrance is through the sally-port in the middle of the south curtain.

The covering over the space between the inner and outer walls is called the terreplein, and is about 40 feet wide. Upon it the guns were mounted. Around the outer edge of the terreplein is a wall 3 feet thick and 6 feet high, known as the parapet. This was pierced for 64 guns. On the water front the parapet was lower.

The ascent to the terreplein is up an incline plane known as the ramp, recently converted into steps. The upper part of the ramp is supported by a peculiar shaped arch, remarkable for the fact that it was constructed without a keystone.



Castle San Marcos National Monument



The Arch, Castle San Marcos National Monument

CASEMATES

The two casemates at the right of the entrance were guard rooms, and contain fireplaces. Leading off from the inner of these rooms is a large dungeon which was used as the general prison.

The casemate at the left of the entrance was the commander's quarters, while the two rooms leading off from it were used by the other officers of his staff.

SEMINOLE ROOM

In the southwest corner of the court is the court room, where a raised platform may still be seen. In this room in 1837 the famous Indians, Coacoochee and Talmus Hadjo, were imprisoned. At the rear of the room are the niches which they dug in the masonry to enable them to climb to the ventilator, through which they made their escape.

COUNCIL CHAMBER AND POWDER MAGAZINE

In the northwest corner of the court is the room used as the council chamber. Leading from this is a dungeon, which was used as the powder magazine. At one side near the top of the magazine is a large niche with a small opening looking into the council room, but not visible from that side. It is supposed that this was so arranged in order that the Commandant could listen to the proceedings of the council without their knowledge.

CHAPEL

At the north side of the court, directly opposite the sallyport, is the chapel. The entrance to this room was very ornamental. This work, which had become nearly obliterated by the action of the elements, has recently been reconstructed by the War Department, great care being taken in following the original plans,

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which were obtained from the Spanish Government. Entering, we see on each side the niches for holy water; just beyond, on the right, pieces of cedar imbedded in the masonry mark the place where the confessional was fastened to the wall. At the rear is a raised stone platform for the altar and above the altar a large niche where stood the patron saint, Saint Augustine. Looking up, we see near the spring of the arch the ends of the old timbers which supported the platform for the choir. Directly overhead, near the middle of the room, is a square hole from which hung an immense wooden cross called the rood. On either side of the chapel are doorways through the iron bars of which prisoners could hear mass before being executed. The bars were necessary, as if a prisoner gained access to a chapel and knelt at the altar, he could claim the right of sanctuary.

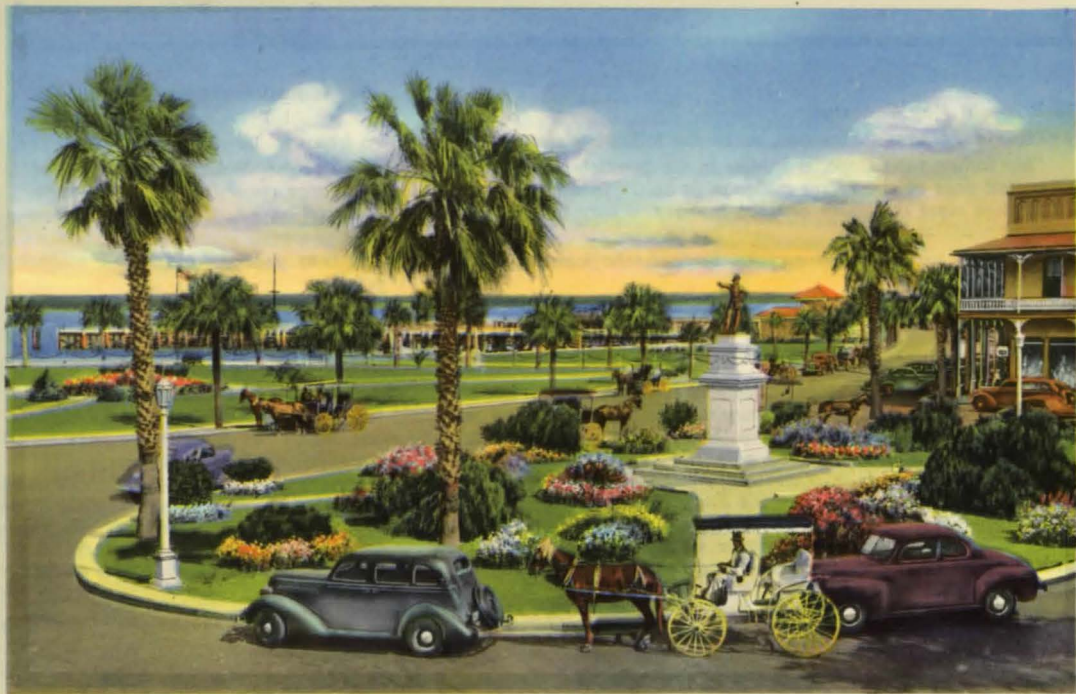
SECRET DUNGEON

At the northeast corner of the court is a room called the "pennancarrah". At the north side of this room we enter a dungeon, 30 feet long on the west side, 16 feet on the east, 17 feet on the south and 20 feet on the north. This, we are told, was a prison. Through an opening on the north side of this room we enter a room 5 feet wide at the east end, 7 feet at the west, 20 feet long and 15 feet high. This room was used as a torture chamber. From this room we find a small opening 36 inches wide by 30 inches high. This opening had been walled up in such a manner as to almost baffle discovery, but was found by Colonel Dancy and Lieutenant Tuttle in 1833. Passing through this opening we enter a dungeon 20 feet long, 13 feet wide and about 7 feet high. In this dismal place, where not the faintest ray of daylight ever penetrates and far from the sounds of the outside world, were found crumbled human bones. The finding of these bones was reported to the War Department by Lieutenant Tuttle on July 21, 1833. Many stories and much controversy have arisen about the dungeon.

Following is a statement from Mrs. Fernanda Ximenes and her brother Victoriano Capo, lifelong residents of this city:



*Castle San Marcos National Monument,
Showing Moat*



Ponce de Leon Monument and Circle

St. Augustine, Florida, Feb. 8, 1932.

"To Whom It May Concern:

"I, Mrs. Fernanda Ximenes, make the following statement of my own free will.

"My father, John Capo, a soldier in the Spanish army, stationed at Castle San Marcos, broke through the sealed door of the secret dungeon in 1833. In this dungeon he found a large cage made of iron bands; in this cage were the bones of three humans, a clay pipe, a sole of a shoe, and an empty bottle which had no doubt contained water.

"I am 86 years of age and my brother who joins me in this statement is 81 years of age."

Signed:

*Fernanda Ximenes,
Victoriano Capo.*

MOAT

Around the fort is a moat 40 feet wide, which is now filled in to the depth of about six feet with sand. Protecting the entrance is the barbican, which the water of the moat formed into an island, access being gained to the barbican and thence to the fort by means of drawbridges. Inside the drawbridge was the portcullis, which ran in a groove still to be seen. Directly above the portcullis may still be seen a hole, some five or six inches in diameter, through which melted lead could be poured upon the heads of invaders, should they succeed in crossing the drawbridge, which, however, they never did.

Outside the moat on three sides is the covered way, a narrow level space for the massing of troops, which widens in spots, called places of arms. Outside of all, except on the water front, is the glacis, an earthen embankment leading up to the fort and so constructed that the guns on the walls could sweep every foot of it.

HOT SHOT OVEN

The hot shot oven and water battery were constructed by the United States Government in 1835-42, the object being to heat shot white hot in the oven and fire them from the mortars at the vessels of an ap-

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proaching enemy. The present sea wall was constructed at this time at an expense of one hundred thousand dollars.

Castle San Marcos is in all respects a castle built after the plans of those of the Middle Ages, and is today one of the best preserved specimens of the military architecture of its time. It has withstood many sieges and proven itself capable on all occasions of resisting the enemy. Its casemates and dungeons are viewed with wonder and amazement by more than one hundred thousand visitors annually.

FORT MATANZAS NATIONAL MONUMENT

In 1924 Fort Matanzas was declared a National Monument by presidential proclamation. It is located on Rattlesnake Island near the mouth of the Matanzas or South Inlet about fifteen miles south of St. Augustine. This fort was built to protect the backdoor of St. Augustine from the impending attack of James Oglethorpe. Its construction was begun in 1737 without permission from the King of Spain, who had to pay for it.

It consists of a square of solid masonry, made of coquina blocks about 12 by 18 inches, 49 feet square at the base, 16 feet high to the top of the parapet, which surrounds three of its sides. From this is a tower 17½ feet high extending the entire length of the northwest side, the top being 33½ feet from the ground.

PONCE DE LEON MONUMENT AND CIRCLE

This magnificent statue of Ponce de Leon, first citizen of St. Augustine and the discoverer of Florida in 1513, holds a commanding position overlooking beautiful, silvery-blue Matanzas Bay in the nation's oldest city.

The figure of Ponce de Leon is cast from an old cannon.



Old City Gates



Oldest School House

CITY GATES AND EARLY DEFENSES OF ST. AUGUSTINE
1702-27

St. Augustine being surrounded by water on three sides, there was little danger of an attack except from the north. To guard against this, three lines of defense were constructed across the peninsula from the Matanzas to the San Sebastian Rivers. Fort Moosa was located on the Matanzas River about two and a half miles north of the present post office. This fort was of considerable size. It was a complete fortress with four bastions, moat, drawbridge, etc., and garrisoned at one time with 133 men. A line of defense extended from this fort to the San Sebastian. The second line of defense extended across the peninsula near what is now Pine Street. The inner and last line ran from Castle San Marcos to the San Sebastian, and the present City Gates were then the only entrance to the city. The gates, as we see them today, were built of stone, but the rest of the wall was of logs stood on end. On the outer side of this wall was a moat, or deep ditch (a section of this may still be seen near the San Sebastian) filled with water, and the approach to the gates was over a drawbridge which was pulled up at night. An additional line of defense, consisting of a breastworks of earth, having on its summit several rows of Spanish bayonets, planted so closely as to be almost impenetrable, extended from the northern wall south on what is now the line of Cordova Street to a point almost abreast the barracks, from where it ran and joined the Matanzas.



Hotel Ponce de Leon



The Roman Catholic Cathedral and Plaza

Guide to St. Augustine as it is Today

St. Augustine during all the Spanish rule was in constant danger of attack. For this reason building operations were confined to as small an area as possible in order to afford mutual protection. It follows, therefore, that practically all points of interest are within easy walking distance from any hotel or boarding house in the city.

THE PLAZA

Or park, is located near the center of the city, from which the streets radiate north, south and west.

THE CATHEDRAL

This building stands just across Cathedral Street at the north side of the Plaza. The first Catholic church of which we have record stood on the southwest corner of the Plaza or directly across King Street from where the Episcopal church now stands. The foundation stones still remain beneath the surface of the park. In 1793 the present Roman Catholic church, or cathedral, as it is commonly called, was commenced. This building was without tower or steeple, and cost nearly seventeen thousand dollars, of which sum the Spanish government gave ten thousand. The disastrous fire of 1887 left little of this old building besides the walls. The work of restoration was carried out in 1888, at which time large additions were made in the form of a transept and a beautiful tower, the clock for which was a gift from Mr. J. Y. Wilson, a public-spirited citizen. In the old Moorish facade hang four bells no longer used, the smallest of which bears the inscription:

"St. Joseph Ora Pro Nobis A. D. 1682."

This is probably the oldest bell in this country, being three years older than that at the Dutch church at Tarrytown, N. Y.

SLAVE MARKET

At the east end of the Plaza. In the early Spanish days the first public market was of wood, it was torn down and replaced by one of coquina. Originally the waters of the bay came up to this building,

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forming a basin, so that meat and other produce could be unloaded at the market directly from the boats. There being no ice, all transactions were made early in the morning, after which the place was thoroughly scrubbed.

As late as 1851 the Marshall still had charge of all sales and auctions. On a resolution of Councils Nov. 14th that year he was to inspect beef and fish at 6 A. M. and permit the butchers to cut up the beef and at half past six he will ring the market bell for sale of said beef and fish. In 1846 his charges for whipping negroes shall not exceed fifty cents. In 1849 it was resolved in councils, "That the Marshall take said negro in custody and he is hereby convicted to receive 39 lashes on his bare back in the Public Market". This was the punishment for breaking a law instead of the prison or fine of today. Auctions were held at noon. In 1837, "For each auction sale in the Market House \$1.00". In St. Johns County Records, Deed Book N, Page 126 is recorded the sale of a slave at auction, "At the Market House in the city of St. Augustine at twelve o'clock M. on the 21st day of April 1838 the said negro woman Sally, as the property of said estate at which said sale, William Traverse of said city being the highest bidder, to wit for the sum of \$701.00, the negro woman was knocked off to him as purchaser".

CONFEDERATE MONUMENT

Just west of the Slave Market was erected in 1872 by the ladies of St. Augustine in memory of the forty-six brave sons of this city who gave up their lives to the lost cause,—"far from the home that gave them birth, by comrades honored and by comrades mourned."

SPANISH MONUMENT

At the west end of the Plaza. In 1812 the Spanish Cortez formulated a liberal constitution, and throughout Spain and her colonies monuments were erected. In 1814 Ferdinand VII was recalled to the throne of Spain, and, notwithstanding his having pledged himself to abide by the new constitution, his first act was to declare it null and void, and order the removal of the monuments. The people of St. Augustine, among the rest, had raised a shaft with a tablet bearing in Spanish the inscription:

"Plaza of the Constitution, promulgated in the city of St. Augustine in East Florida on the 17th day of



S. A. 111—The Fountain of Youth, St. Augustine, Fla.

The Fountain of Youth



Treasury Street, Narrowest in U. S., 6 Feet, 1 Inch

ST. AUGUSTINE—

October in the year 1812; the Brigadier Don Sebastian Kindalem, Knight of the Order of Santiago, being Governor. For eternal remembrance, Constitutional City Council erected this monument, under the superintendence of Don Fernando de la Maza Arredondo, the young municipal officer, oldest member of the Corporation and Don Francisco Robira, Attorney and Recorder. In the year 1813".

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Opened for divine worship on the first Sunday in June, 1831.

OLD SPANISH TREASURY

The Oldest Spanish Treasury, one of the first Royal houses erected in St. Augustine. Rebuilt in 1690 with coquina and wood by slaves of the King under Don Diego de Quiroga y Losada, Governor and Captain General of this city. 1751 Don Juan Estevan de Pena, Treasurer, salary 1470 pesos. 1931 this ancient building bequeathed to the city of St. Augustine by Miss Anna G. Burt.

HOTELS PONCE de LEON AND ALCAZAR

These palatial hotels stand just west of the Post Office Park, surrounded by beautiful gardens filled with tropical vegetation.

VILLA ZORAYDA

A reproduction of the world famous Alhambra of Granada, Spain. The first concrete building in the south. The Villa Zorayda is famous for its Moorish architectural design. Opposite Hotel Ponce de Leon. Open daily.

ST. GEORGE STREET

Passing in front of the post office at the north side of the Plaza, we enter St. George Street, which for three centuries has been St. Augustine's main business thoroughfare. It still retains its original width of about nineteen feet, and many of its quaint old buildings with overhanging balconies still remain.

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OLDEST HOUSE

On St. Francis Street, beside the old barracks and perhaps ten minutes' walk directly south of the Plaza (near the end of the sea wall).

For more than a century this building has been one of the chief points of interest to the tourist.

The house is a curious Old World structure with low ceilings and large fireplaces. It is one of the chief points of interest and is visited each year by thousands of tourists. It is open week days from 8:30 to 6, and on Sundays and Holidays from 9 to 6. It was purchased by the St. Augustine Historical Society and Institute of Science November 15, 1918, the object being to preserve it in its original state.

AVILES STREET

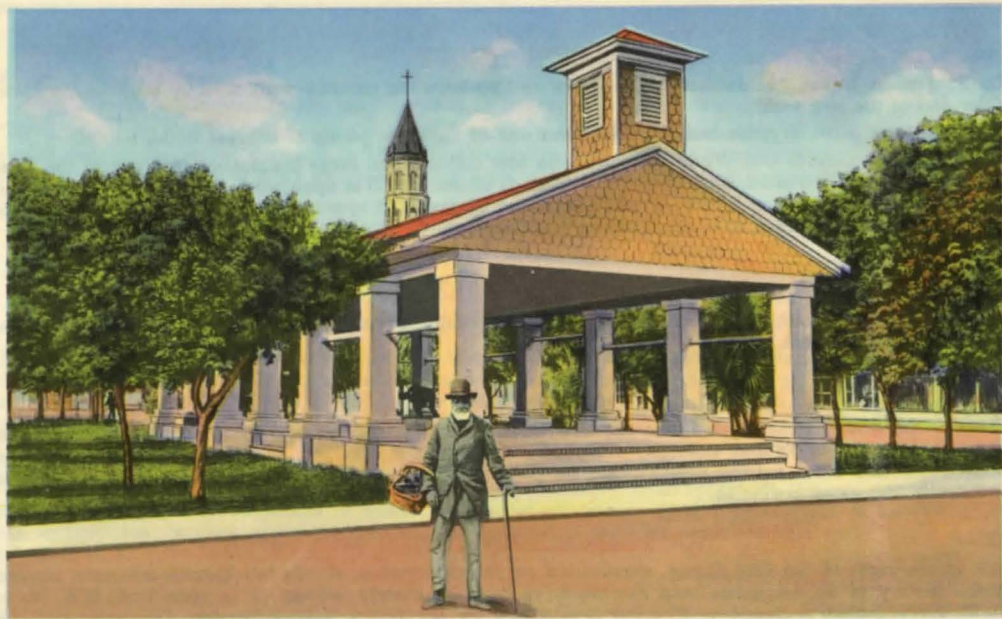
Overhanging balconies, Old Convent, Fatio House, Public Library, Old House of Don Toledo—an interesting old Spanish Street.

MARINELAND — 18 MILES SOUTH OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Go over the Bridge of Lions and take the new Ocean Shore Boulevard to Marine Studios, largest aquariums ever built and world's only specially designed under-water motion picture studios. Sharks, porpoises, penguins, rays, and other marine animals can be photographed and observed in this colorful undersea world through 200 glass portholes.

CASTLE SAN MARCOS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Just at the right of the City Gates, surrounded by the reservation, stands this historic structure, around which the history of St. Augustine and Florida have been so closely woven. It is open from 9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. daily, including Sundays. The fort is operated by the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Free guide service.



Old Slave Market



Old Spanish Treasury

CITY GATES

At the north end of St. George Street, less than ten minutes' walk from the Plaza, stand these ancient pillars once the only entrance to the enclosed city.

OLDEST SCHOOL HOUSE

On quaint old St. George Street, just inside the City Gates, stands the Oldest School House, under three flags. This house is endorsed by the City Fact-Finding Committee and the Permanent Marker Committee of the St. Augustine Historical Society and Institute of Science, as shown by bronze tablet on front of building.

On a Spanish map of 1788 this house is shown as No. 53, block 7. A translation of the key reads as follows:

"Wood house in fair condition, property of Juan Genoply, with deed and land which it mentions".....

The building at first sheltered the guards from the City Gates; later used as the first English-speaking school house. Open to visitors daily.

THE BARRACKS

The walls of this building, which stands on the corner of St. Francis and Marine Streets, near the southern end of the sea wall, are among the oldest in America. The woodwork has been burned but the original walls remain intact. The building was first used as a Franciscan convent. About 1784 it was converted into a barracks and remained as such until recent years. It is now the Florida State Arsenal.

NATIONAL CEMETERY

Near the Barracks on Marine Street is the Post National Cemetery. Beneath the three pyramids lie the remains of the 139 men of Major Dade's command who were killed by the Indians, December 28th, 1835.

MUNICIPAL PIER

Located just south of the Bridge of Lions.

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FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH PARK AND INDIAN BURIAL GROUND

The Fountain of Youth is synonymous with romance, adventure, discoveries, a new world, Florida! Hidden away among the century-old oaks, cedars and magnolias, the fabled fountain of Don Juan Ponce de Leon still bubbles forth, as thousands of people are constantly finding their way to this National Shrine, following the footsteps of this famous Spanish explorer who first landed on the mainland of North America only a few hundred feet away, A. D. 1513.

On April 13, 1934, while preparing to set out full-grown orange trees, colored workers accidentally dug up skeletons of human beings. Dr. M. W. Sterling, head of the Department of Ethnology, Smithsonian Institute, made an inspection of several skeletons which were excavated under his supervision, and later made a report; that in his opinion, these skeletons were part of an ancient burial ground, made during the early mission and military period of St. Augustine, which would be after St. Augustine was established in 1565.

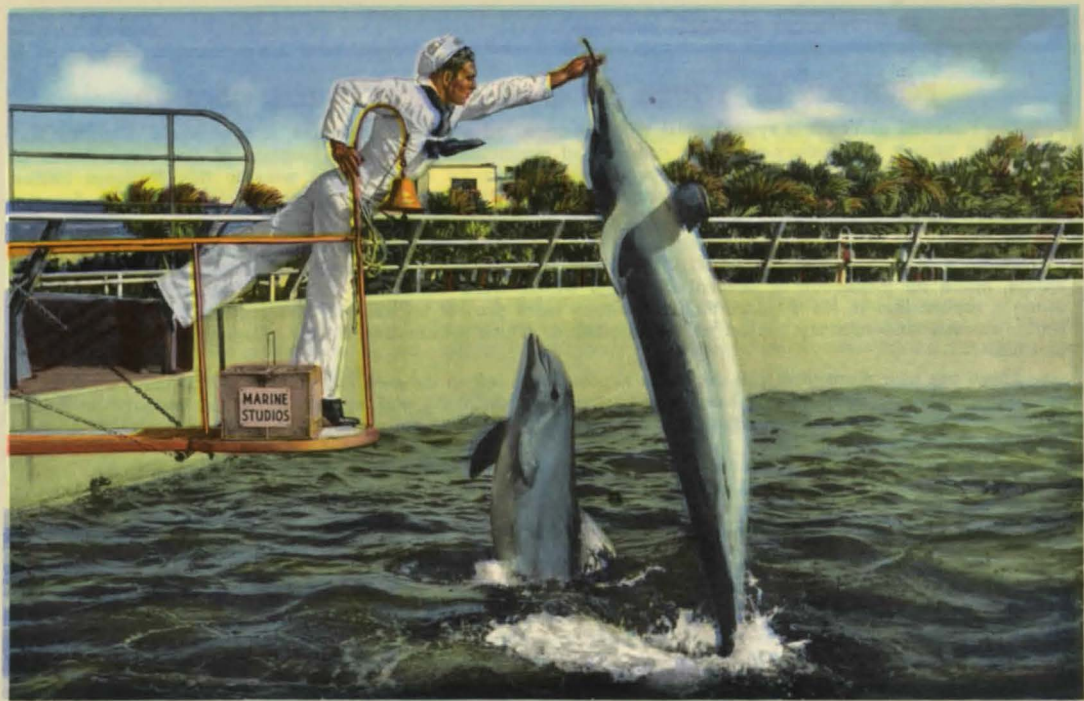
There are now more than 100 skeletons exposed and left in the exact position in which they were found. An appropriate log building has been erected over the skeletons and excavation in the form of an Indian Communal house. It has been estimated by archaeologists that there are some 2,000 skeletons of Indians in this burial ground.

OLD CURIOSITY SHOP

On old St. George Street; sign of the Coat of Arms; one of the historic old coquina houses.

PUBLIC LIBRARY

This building is located at the corner of Aviles Street and Artillery Lane, one short block south of the Plaza. It was, in Spanish times, the King's bakery, and has undergone but few changes in the passing years. It was purchased in 1896 by Mr. John M. Wilson and wife and donated to the city as a free public library. It now has a large collection of books the use of which is free to the public.



Marine Studios, Marineland



Ostrich-Alligator Farm, Anastasia Island

GARNETT ORANGE GROVE

On the west side of San Marco Avenue. This grove is entered through an avenue of moss-covered live oaks. Open daily.

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

At the corner of Valencia and Sevilla Streets stands the magnificent edifice erected in 1890 by the late Henry M. Flagler in memory of his daughter, Mrs. Benedict. Over the east entrance is carved this text:

"Thy memorial O Lord is throughout all generations."

In the mausoleum at the west side, beside kindred dead, lie the remains of Florida's great benefactor.

ANASTASIA ISLAND

Crossing the Bridge of Lions at the east end of the Plaza, we come to the Lighthouse, one and a half miles from the city. This structure, erected in 1873, is a first order light 165 feet in height. From its summit one can obtain an excellent panorama of land and sea.

Around the Lighthouse is clustered the village of Anastasia, a popular summer and winter resort.

On the ocean front opposite the Lighthouse is located Lighthouse Park, a municipal recreation center, including the new fishing pier.

OSTRICH-ALLIGATOR FARM, ANASTASIA ISLAND

This farm, a short distance south of the Lighthouse, is the largest of its kind in the world, housing a large herd of ostriches. Here also we see more than six thousand live alligators, from the baby gator just hatched to the mammoth man eater centuries old. Included with this is also a natural history museum. Open daily. Admission 25 cents.

OLD CEMETERY ON CORDOVA STREET

One block west of the City Gates. This spot, no longer used as a burial ground, has seen many changes. During the time of the British occupation the Dutch settlement built their church near the ground. Sub-

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sequently it became a burial ground of the Roman Catholic denomination, and the chapel standing at the far west end was erected.

Father Maguel O'Reilly, who erected the Cathedral, is buried in this cemetery.

PROTESTANT CEMETERY

The burial ground adjacent to the City Gates was formerly used as a Potter's field, where excommunicants and military criminals were buried. The land was subsequently bought and handed over to the vestry, or governing body, of the Presbyterian church. The cemetery is full of interest, though the oldest of the graves bear no inscriptions, probably because it was considered better to obliterate, rather than retain, the memories of the unfortunates there interred.

NORTH CITY CEMETERY

On Ocean Street, six blocks north of the City Gates, is a very old cemetery. It is the site of the Indian village of Topquini.

In this cemetery is located the Chapel Nuestra Senora de la Leche and the grave of Father Blas Rodriquez de Montes.

Father Blas Rodriquez de Montes and Father de Corpa were missionaries from the Franciscan Monastery at St. Augustine, who were murdered by the Indians at the missions of Tolomato and Topquini located in the province of Guale some 60 miles north of St. Augustine. Their bodies were said to have been brought back to St. Augustine where they are now resting.

ST. AUGUSTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

The home of the Society is located at the Oldest House on St. Francis Street, which was purchased in 1918. Here has been erected the Webb Memorial Library, which houses many priceless relics and one of the largest libraries of rare books on Florida History.



Oldest House, St. Francis Street