

Thomas Jefferys (c. 1710-1771), *Plan of the Town and Harbour of St. Augustin*

Interesting History and Modern Developments

Fort Matanzas

The story of Fort Matanzas is closely intertwined with that of the city of St. Augustine and the Castillo de San Marcos. This Spanish outpost fort was built between 1740-1742 to guard the Matanzas Inlet and to warn St. Augustine of British or other enemies approaching from the south. Fort Matanzas now serves as a reminder of the early Spanish empire in the New World. The National Park Service website offers more information about Fort Matanzas: <http://www.nps.gov/foma/forteachers/index.htm>

Today many archaeological sites are threatened by natural and man-made disasters. The Alliance for Integrated Spatial Technologies' (AIST) high-tech mapping of important sites like Fort Matanzas allows for their virtual preservation. Through web-based models (aist.usf.edu) and 3D prints of artifacts, students can explore these historic treasures up close.

Fort Mose: Birthplace of Freedom

Hidden away in the marshes of St. Augustine, Florida is one of the most important sites in American history: the first free community of ex-slaves, founded in 1738 and called Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose or Fort Mose (pronounced **Moh-Say**).

More than a century before the Emancipation Proclamation, slaves from the British colonies were able to follow the original "Underground Railroad" which headed not to the north, but rather south, to the Spanish colony of Florida. There they were given their freedom, if they declared their allegiance to the King of Spain and joined the Catholic Church.

For more information about Fort Mose, visit Exploring Florida:
<http://fcit.usf.edu/florida/lessons/african/african1.htm>

