

FOUNDED 1822 - 1832

ORIGIN
 After the Battle of New Orleans in 1815, General Andrew Jackson strongly emphasized the need of additional fortifications to protect the mouth of the Mississippi River in his report to Secretary of War J.C. Calhoun.

EARLY FORTIFICATIONS
 In 1792, Baron de Carondelet, Spanish Governor of Louisiana, constructed Fort St. Philip, then called Fort San Felipe. Across the river Carondelet erected a redoubt that he named Fort Bourbon. This west bank fortification became the cornerstone from which Fort Jackson eventually evolved. A hurricane destroyed Fort Bourbon in 1795.

CONSTRUCTION
 Construction of Fort Jackson, named after Andrew Jackson, took nearly ten years—it began in 1822 and was completed in 1832.

The Fort was built in a star-shaped pentagon design. Its walls stood 25 feet above the water line of the wet ditch or moat which completely surrounded it. The walls are 20 feet thick and constructed of red brick. The gun foundations were reinforced with red and gray granite. Two curtains facing the river were casemated for 8 guns each. A diagonal shaped defensive barracks was built in the center of the fort to serve as a bomb-proof shelter accommodating 500 men.

The foundation of Fort Jackson consisted of three layers of cypress logs topped by cypress 2' x 4's, which acted as a leveling device. The device was submerged in water making it airtight. The cost of construction totaled \$554,500.

MILITARY OCCUPATION
 Fort Jackson was occupied in 1832 and garrisoned by a small force. President John Tyler declared it a military reservation by executive order on February 9, 1842.



Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser greets visitors to the Fort as the 2010 Orange Festival King.

FESTIVALS

On December 3, 2010 Fort Jackson reopened temporarily to the public for the first time in more than five years for the Parish's oldest festival, the Plaquemines Parish Fair & Orange Festival.

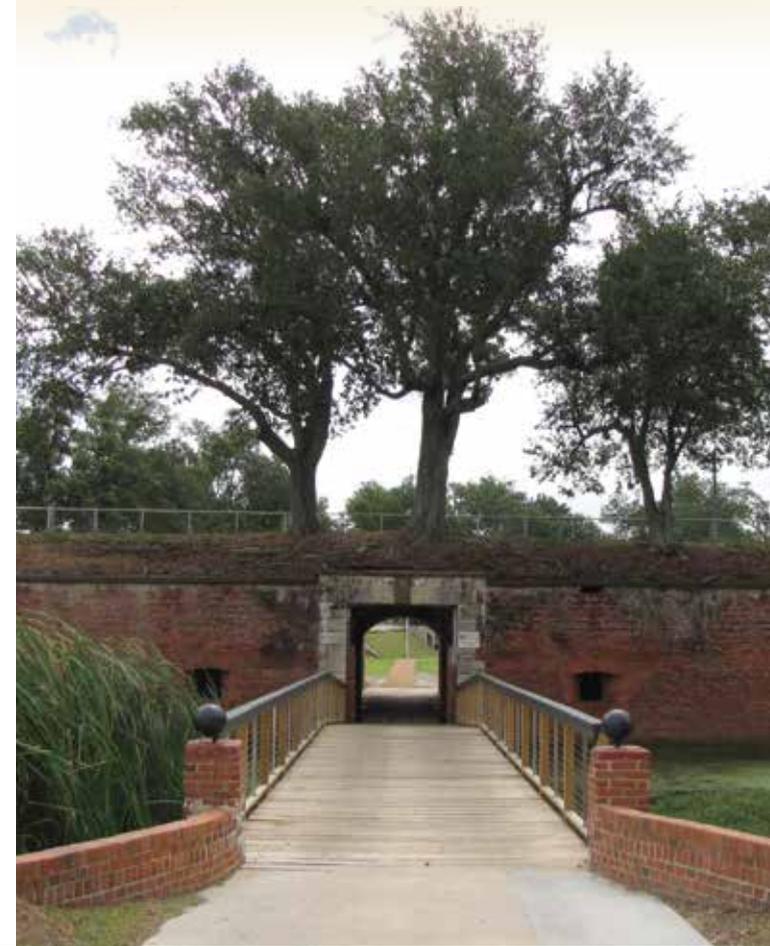
Since 2008 the Buras Volunteer Fire Department's Oilfield Crawfish Boil Off has been held on the grounds outside Fort Jackson. It's believed to be the largest crawfish boil in the world, drawing tens of thousands of people to South Plaquemines.



2011 Buras Fire Department Boil-off

FORT JACKSON

EST 1832



PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LA

Plaquemines Parish Government - Office of Tourism
 104 New Orleans Street, Belle Chasse, LA 70037
 Toll Free: 888-745-0642 Local: 504-394-0018

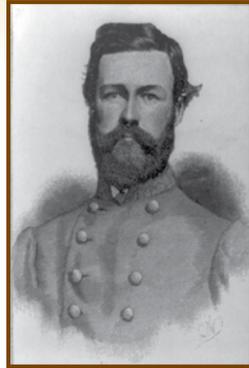
Parish President: Billy Nungesser
Council Members: Dist. 1 - Percy V. Griffin • Dist. 2 - Keith Hinkley • Dist. 3 - Kirk Lepine • Dist. 4 - Dr. Stuart Guey • Dist. 5 - Anthony Buras • Dist. 6 - Burghart Turner • Dist. 7 - Jeff Edgecombe • Dist. 8 - Byron Marinovich • Dist. 9 - Marla Cooper



CIVIL WAR 1861 – 1865

SECESSION & CONFEDERATE OCCUPATION

Louisiana Governor Thomas O. Moore authorized the seizure of all properties belonging to the United States which resulted in Major P. H. Theard seizing Forts Jackson and St. Philip in the name of the State of Louisiana on January 8, 1861. Confederate Brigadier General Johnson K. Duncan commanded garrisons of about 1,000 men at Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip. Louisiana seceded from the Union on January 26, 1861.



CSA Brigadier General J. K. Duncan

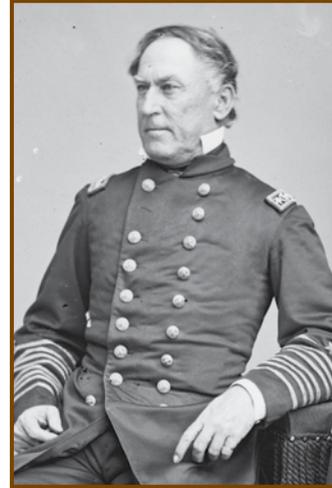
PREPARATIONS FOR WAR

At the suggestion of Confederate General P. G. T. Beauregard, an improvised boom, constructed of eleven hulks of schooners secured together by large chains, crossed the river just below the Forts to halt the ships' progress under the batteries of the Forts and allow the guns to concentrate their fire.

BATTLE OF FORTS JACKSON & ST. PHILIP

On April 18, 1862 Flag Officer Farragut's Union fleet commenced firing mortars at the two Confederate strongholds. The Union cut the boom in the dark of April 20th. In the early morning hours of April 24th the Union fleet began its attempt to pass the Forts, successfully advancing 13 ships upriver.

The Forts continued fighting valiantly until a mutiny broke out in Fort Jackson on April 27. The mutineers spiked many of the guns in the Fort, threatened their officers and deserted. This caused General Duncan to surrender the Forts to the Union on April 28, 1862, ten days after the battle began.



USA Flag-Officer David G. Farragut



AFTER THE WAR 1866 – 1927

RECONSTRUCTION ERA

After the Civil War, use of the Forts at Plaquemines Bend was an on-again off-again matter. Fort Jackson was used

as a prison and later as a minor training base. Gradually, much of the reservation was abandoned.

SPANISH AMERICAN WAR

During the Spanish American War in 1898, the Fort was repaired and modernized and two large coastal guns were installed.

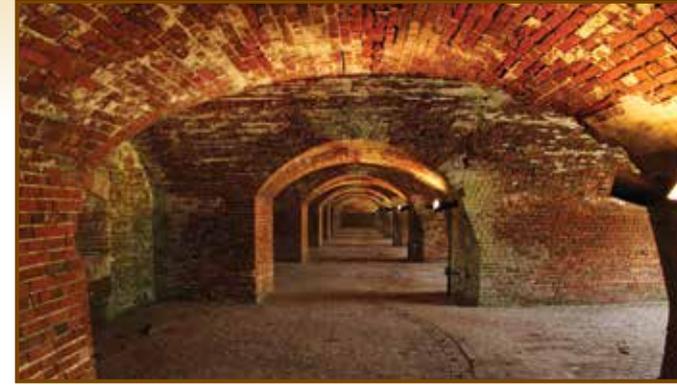
WORLD WAR I & PRIVATE OWNERSHIP

During World War I (1917-1918), the Fort was again used as a training base. After the war, both Forts Jackson and St. Philip were declared surplus property and eventually sold. Fort Jackson was purchased on November 9, 1927, by Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Harvey of New Orleans.



PLAQUEMINES PARISH RESTORATION

1960 – TODAY



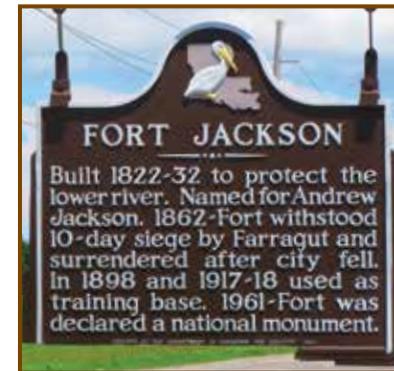
FORT BECOMES HISTORIC MONUMENT

In 1960, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey donated the land to the Parish of Plaquemines. The donated portion of the reservation site was acquired for the purpose of completely renovating the Fort and surrounding grounds.

In 1960, the U. S. Department of the Interior classified Fort Jackson and its sister Fort St. Philip as national historical monuments. (NRHP #s: 66000379 & 66000380)

In 1961 the Plaquemines Parish Commission Council, through its president Leander H. Perez, began the restoration program to transform the abandoned Fort and its 82 acre reservation, which had become a veritable jungle with mud-filled tunnels infested with snakes, into a historical Mecca for tourists and a recreational center.

A ring levee was built to protect the Fort from high river flooding. Major restoration efforts included cleaning the Fort, a service road to make it more accessible, masonry repairs, reopening moat, rebuilding bridges and walkways, installing hand rails for safety, installing water, electricity, lighting and establishment of the artifact exhibit. A brick entrance with an arch was erected identifying Fort Jackson on Highway 23.



KATRINA RESTORATION

On August 29, 2005 the eye of Hurricane Katrina passed just north of Fort Jackson, leaving the Fort damaged and filled with water for several weeks. The electrical system, trees, general structure, museum, and historic artifacts were damaged.

Volunteers and Plaquemines Historic Association members spent several days retrieving artifacts from the moat of Fort Jackson.

With major rebuilding efforts underway in Plaquemines Parish, Parish leadership chose to make repairs to the Fort and to push to have both Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip entered into the National Park System.

Fort Jackson was closed to the public from Katrina until 2011 when the repair work was completed. The Fort now has new lighting in the casements, new bridges extend over the moat, and new hand rails were installed on top of the Fort to improve safety. Masonry work was also conducted.

ARTIFACTS

In 2009 a number of cannon fragments were discovered buried in the grounds of the Water Battery area of Fort Jackson.

The origin of the cannon fragments is not currently known, but there are three possibilities. First, the cannons could have been destroyed when Admiral Farragut bombarded Fort Jackson.

Second, the cannons could have been blown up when Confederates troops of the 22nd Regiment of Louisiana Volunteer Infantry mutinied before General Duncan surrendered Fort Jackson to the Union troops on April 28, 1862. And finally, the cannon fragments could also be remnants left over when the fort's cannons were sold for scrap.

