

STATE: Mississippi
 COUNTY: Wilkinson
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: JAN 11 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries. Complete applicable sections)



1. NAME
 COMMON: Fort Adams
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Mississippi
 STATE: Mississippi
 CODE: 28
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Wilkinson
 CODE: 157

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP:	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No Yes:

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNER'S NAME:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Woodville
 STATE: Mississippi
 CODE: 39669 28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
 Chancery Clerk Office
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 Wilkinson County Courthouse
 CITY OR TOWN: Woodville
 STATE: Mississippi
 CODE: 39669 28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Works Progress Administration
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1930's
 Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 Mississippi Department of Archives and History
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 Post Office Box 571
 CITY OR TOWN: Jackson
 STATE: Mississippi
 CODE: 39205 28

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

At the time of Fort Adams' occupancy, there were extensive buildings on the site. These structures consisted of a blockhouse and a watchtower [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. The magazine was located at the [REDACTED]. A road connected the three principal locations by d [REDACTED]

With the exception of [REDACTED], no visible evidence of the fort remains today. However, a team of archaeologists from the Smithsonian Institute visited the site in 1960 and discovered the inground remains of the foundations. At this time, the archaeologists were able to establish and verify the extent of the structures at the fort.

[REDACTED]



SEE INSTR [REDACTED] IONS

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8.

While commander of Fort Adams, Wilkinson performed valuable services to the United States. He was instrumental in securing treaties with the Indians for post roads, land, and an overland route to the Yazoo River. He also obtained permission from the Spanish for passage and deposit of American goods at the port of New Orleans.

Fort Adams served as a port of entry, with collection agents stationed at the garrison to collect duties for all goods entering the territory by way of the Mississippi River. Before the duty was abolished June 30, 1802, \$59,029.29 was collected on tonnage shipped into the Mississippi District.

The [redacted], with a saw mill, several stores and dwellings for the families of the garrison, [redacted] Fort Adams was also the setting of Edward Everett Hale's story The Man Without a Country (1863).

The existence of the fort as a military outpost was short lived because of the Louisiana Purchase. When the United States purchased the whole of France's American territory from Napoleon in 1802, the garrison reached its peak in strength. Since opposition was expected from the Spanish, who were still in possession of New Orleans, troops were sent to bolster the small garrison and to accompany the commissioners to New Orleans for the transfer ceremony. The Spanish, however, although offering little cooperation, did not actively resist. The movement of troops to New Orleans left the fort with a complement of only twelve men and a lieutenant, but it continued as a military establishment until 1810.



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9.

Rowland, Eron, com., Life, Letters and Papers of William Dunbar, Pioneer Scientist of the Southern United States. Jackson, Mississippi: Press of the Mississippi Historical Society, 1930, pp. 149, 150, 184, 186, 216.

Rowland, Dunbar, ed., Executive Journals of Governor Winthrop Sargent and Governor William Charles Cole Claiborne. The Mississippi Territorial Archives, 1798-1803, Vol. I. Nashville, Tennessee: Press of Brandon Printing Co., 1905, pp. 365, 378, 420, 443, 480, 583, 586, 587, 591.

Rowland, Dunbar, ed., Mississippi: Comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institution, and Persons, Arranged in Cyclopedic Form. Vol. I. Atlanta, 1907, p. 728.

Warren, Harry, "Chickasaw Traditions, Customs, Etc." Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. 8 (1904), p. 574.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1798-1810**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site of Fort Adams, [REDACTED], was strategically important to the American frontier during the Mississippi territorial period. The fort, closer to the [REDACTED] territory than any other army post, controlled all traffic up or down the Mississippi. The ground chosen for the fortifications by Captain Isaac Guion was situated [REDACTED] to offer prospects of reasonable health and to afford an excellent defensive position. The fort was also in close proximity to the new national boundary of [REDACTED].

In 1798 following the expedition of Guion, President John Adams ordered Brigadier General James Wilkinson to move a body of troops to the site and to investigate the possibilities of constructing fortifications. Wilkinson arrived at Natchez on September 27, 1798, with a flotilla of twenty-seven barges containing soldiers and their equipment and moved on to the site shortly thereafter.

By late 1799, eighty thousand dollars had been expended in the construction of the fort, which contained a battery of cannon, a magazine and barracks for the garrison. This new fort, named in honor of President John Adams, of [REDACTED].

The first commander of Fort Adams was General James Wilkinson, a man of much intrigue and mystery. He had been involved in an unsuccessful scheme to overthrow George Washington during the Revolutionary War and had later conspired with Spain for the control of the Southwest territory, even to the point of swearing allegiance to the Spanish government. General Wilkinson was also investigated in Aaron Burr's alleged conspiracy to establish an empire in Mexico or the Southwest. During his stormy military career, Wilkinson received two court-martials.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fort Adams Subject File, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

Jacobs, James Ripley, Major, U.S. Army, Ret., Tarnished Warrior, Major-General James Wilkinson. New York: The Macmillian Company, 1938, pp. 47-50, 149, 150, 172, 186, 192, 194, 196, 200, 201, 202, 209-215, 231-234, 237-239, 257, 260.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES		OR	COUNTY BOUNDARIES	
[REDACTED]			[REDACTED]	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE	
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William C. Wright, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Mississippi Department of Archives and History DATE: 7/31/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
Post Office Box 571

CITY OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi 39205 CODE: 28

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Elbert R. Hilliard

Title Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives and History

Date July 31, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 8/11/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 1-7-74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS