

Phase I Archaeological Testing of a Portion of  
Camp Finegan (8DU21349-B),  
Jacksonville, Florida

By  
George R. Burns  
Dean M. Sais



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A Jacksonville Based Non-Profit Company

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Report # CARS 16-1

May 25, 2016



Brigadier General Joseph Finegan (November 17, 1814 – October 29, 1885) was in charge of the Confederate Army in the District of Middle and East Florida during the Civil War. His troops defeated the Union troops at the Battle of Olustee in February 1864. Soon after, he was transferred to Virginia to serve with Robert E. Lee's army (Civil War Trust 2014).

Colonel Robert Gould Shaw (October 10, 1837 – July 18, 1863) saw battle for the Union Army at Cedar Mountain and Antietam. At the age of 25, he assumed command of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry, one of the first African American regiments of the Civil War. He was killed during an assault on the defenses of Charleston (Civil War Trust 2014a).



## **ABSTRACT**

The Cowford Archaeological Research Society, Inc. conducted Phase I archaeological testing on a portion of Camp Finegan, a large amorphous area used by the Confederate Army during the Civil War. The goal of the project, conducted on occasional weekends from 2014 to 2016, was to further define historic use of the area. The lot belongs to the Rolling Hills Baptist Church, in the Marietta area of Jacksonville, Florida. Access to the property was granted by Pastor Ronald Beasley who graciously allowed us to test for historic land use.

Cultural items of probable historic origin were recovered, but none were identifiable as being of Civil War origin. An abundance of more modern assorted debris was encountered in the upper portions of several units; the result of continual land use. The lot was thoroughly examined and no further archaeological work is recommended.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George R Burns". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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George R. Burns, Principal Investigator  
Cowford Archaeological Research Society  
Jacksonville, Florida

## **INTRODUCTION**

Between May 17, 2014 and April 11, 2016, members of the Cowford Archaeological Research Society, Inc. (CARS), a 501(c)(3) organization, conducted Phase I archaeological testing on a portion of the Confederate established, Civil War site of Camp Finegan. A large, amorphous fortification located in the Marietta section of Jacksonville, Camp Finegan was occupied by the Confederate Army from early 1862 to mid 1864.

Three sections of Camp Finegan were originally recorded in 2012 and designated as site number 8DU21349, Areas A, B and C. No subsurface testing was conducted during the original recording. The focus of the current project is a portion of Area B (Figure 1). The 4.39 acre lot is located at 840 Permento Avenue, in the Marietta area of Jacksonville, Florida. The lot belonging to the Rolling Hills Baptist Church is tax parcel #007183-0010 and lies within Section 23 of T. 2S.,R. 25E. UTM coordinates of the lot are 3353360N, 425200E. Present land use of the grass covered lot is for church related activities.

The project was led by Field Director Dean M. Sais and all work was overseen by George R. Burns. Field and lab assistants included Crew Chiefs Stirling Worden, Young Smith and several volunteers. Field and artifact photography is courtesy of Elizabeth Blacker. Lab work and research was completed by Mr. Sais, Mr. Burns and Ms. Blacker. All work conducted by CARS was on a volunteer basis.

## **RECORDS SEARCH AND CULTURAL HISTORY**

The Florida Master Site File lists three archaeological sites, forty-two standing structures, four resource groups, one bridge and one cemetery within one mile of the project area. The archaeological sites are the three components of Camp Finegan, recorded in 2012. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has not yet evaluated the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) status of Camp Finegan. The standing structures are buildings of various construction types built between 1929 and 1965. None are eligible for nomination to the NRHP. Of the four resource groups two have been evaluated as NRHP eligible.

The greater Jacksonville area has been occupied for thousands of years, as early as 2500 BC by the Timucua & Seminole Indians. The earliest documented name of a settlement in the Jacksonville area was the Timucuan

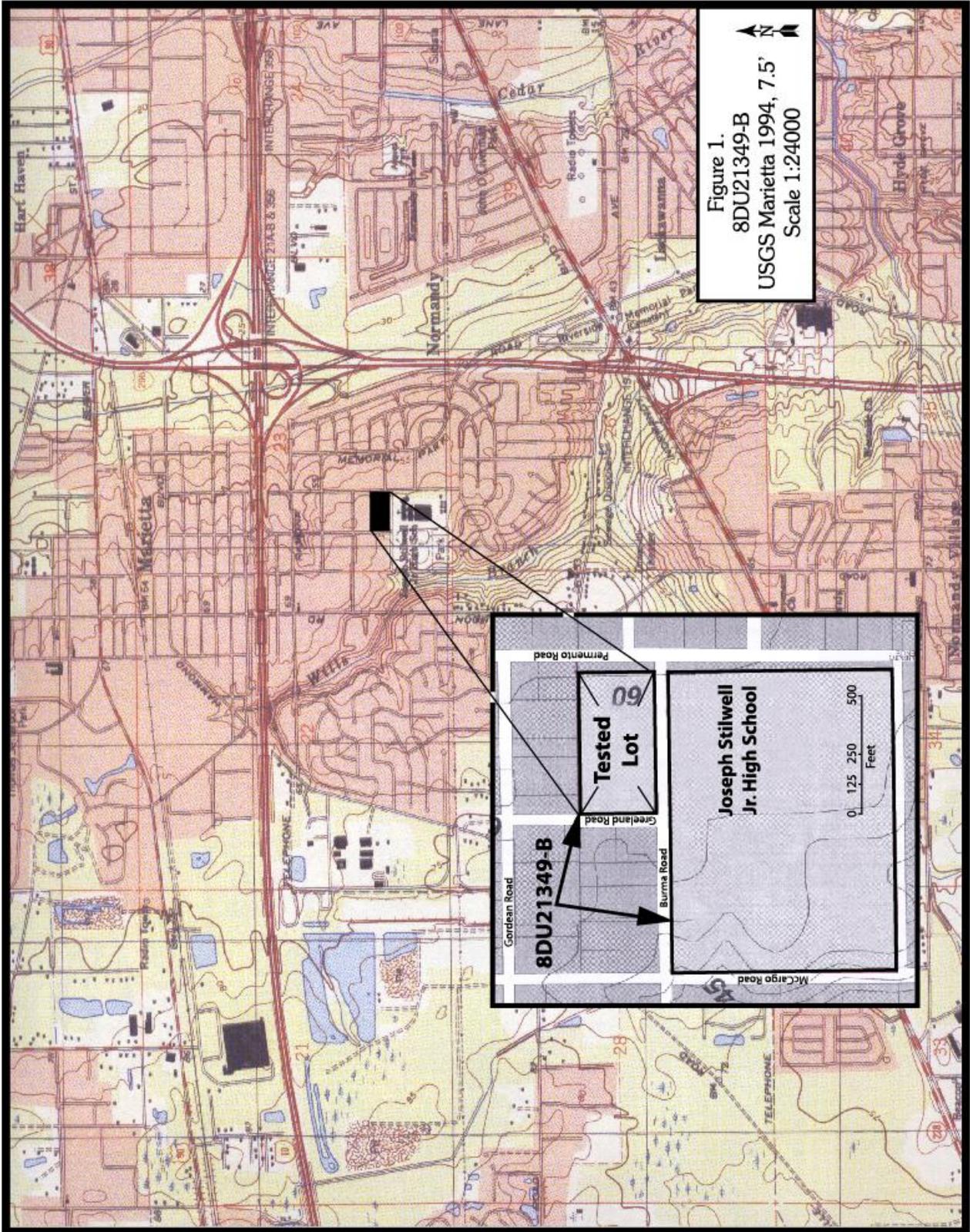


Figure 1.  
8DU21349-B  
USGS Marietta 1994, 7.5'  
Scale 1:24000

village of Ossachite, as noted on Spanish maps (Davis 1925:24). Once cattle were introduced to the area, the Timucuan referred to the narrow spot in the river as Wacca Pilatka, meaning "a place where the cows cross". Near the end of present day Liberty Street, cattle could be walked at low tide to the center of the river and from there would swim to the other side (Jacksonvillestory.com N/D).

For the same reason, the English referred to the area as Cow Ford, a name that followed Jacksonville well into its formative period (Davis 1925:25). The first permanent settlement in the Jacksonville area, dating to 1791, was also known as Cow Ford. A 20 block area of the town which would become known as Jacksonville was first mapped in June, 1822. That same month, 61 residents signed and submitted a petition to the Secretary of State asking that the town be recognized as a port of entry. This petition contained the first recorded mention of the name Jacksonville. It was named in honor General Andrew Jackson, the former provisional governor of the Florida territory and later, the seventh United States president (Ward 1982:121-123). Thus began the city that has turned into what we see today.

Jacksonville was an important port on the St. Johns River and was occupied by Union troops four times during the Civil War, finally ending up under their control (McEachen 2013). Determined to hold it from once again falling into Confederate hands, in 1864, the Union army encircled the city with a line of breastworks extending from Hogan's Creek, northwest to McCoy's Creek. Redoubt Fribley and Ft. Hatch, two of the nine batteries built to protect the wall, have been recorded (Basinet 2001, McEachen 2013, Burns and Sais 2014).

Specific to this project, The Confederate Army worked out of the large amorphous area known as Camp Finegan between 1862 and 1863 to protect their interest in north Florida. The camp was named after General Joseph Finegan, who commanded military operations in north Florida. During those years, it held up to about 800 troops (McEachen 2013). Its position along the railroad line 8 miles east of Jacksonville, roughly between present-day Lenox Avenue and Marietta, provided a strategic location for movement of war materiel. It guarded the railroad east of town as well as travel along Alligator Road (current Lenox Avenue) and water access from Cedar Creek. Based at Camp Finegan, Confederate troops patrolled Jacksonville and watched for Union gunboats (McEachen 2013).

The original Camp Finegan site form for 8DU21649-B, dated 2012, presents a discussion of the site history so the history is not rewritten here. The site form is included as Appendix A. Of interest in that narrative is a mention of the camp being renamed to Camp Shaw when the Union Army overtook it during their march toward Olustee in February of 1864 (Fannin 2010:375, Jones 1961:372). The original order for the Finegan to Shaw name change reads:

*Feb 16, 1864*

*General Order #2*

*The Camp of Instruction, established by direction from Department headquarters on the railroad eight miles from Jacksonville, will be known as Camp Shaw, in memory of the young and devoted patriot who fell in the assault of July 18, 1863, upon Fort Wagner, S.C., and whose name will constantly suggest to the troops of this camp all that is honorable and meritorious.*

*By order of Brig. Gen. T. Seymour. (Emilio 1969:156)*

Union forces destroyed the camp infrastructure during their retreat to Jacksonville after being beaten at Olustee. Civil War artifacts from both the Confederate and Union armies were recovered from the area during home construction in the 1950s. Trenches or earthworks also noted during the 1950s were regarded as a nuisance by construction personnel (Jones 1961:367). While known as Camp Shaw for only a brief period, the renaming should be considered for permanent markers which may be placed at any portion of the site.

## **METHODOLOGY AND FINDINGS**

The portion of Camp Finegan tested during this project lies on the lot owned by the Rolling Hills Baptist Church. This particular lot has been examined for years by metal detectors, who have found various Civil War related items. According to Pastor Beasley, a significant amount of Civil War era material was recovered during construction of the church. Findings were shared with the pastor in only a general sense. Stirrup pieces, horseshoes and Minié balls (Figures 2, 3, 4), reportedly found in the western portion of the lot by metal detectors, suggested the area was used as a cavalry encampment.



2a. #1. Overhead View



2b. #1. Oblique View



2c. #2. Overhead View



2d. #2. Oblique View



2e. #3. Oblique View

Figure 2. Stirrups



3a. #1.



3b. #2.

Figure 3. Horseshoes

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4a. Overhead View



4b. Oblique View  
Showing Concave Bases

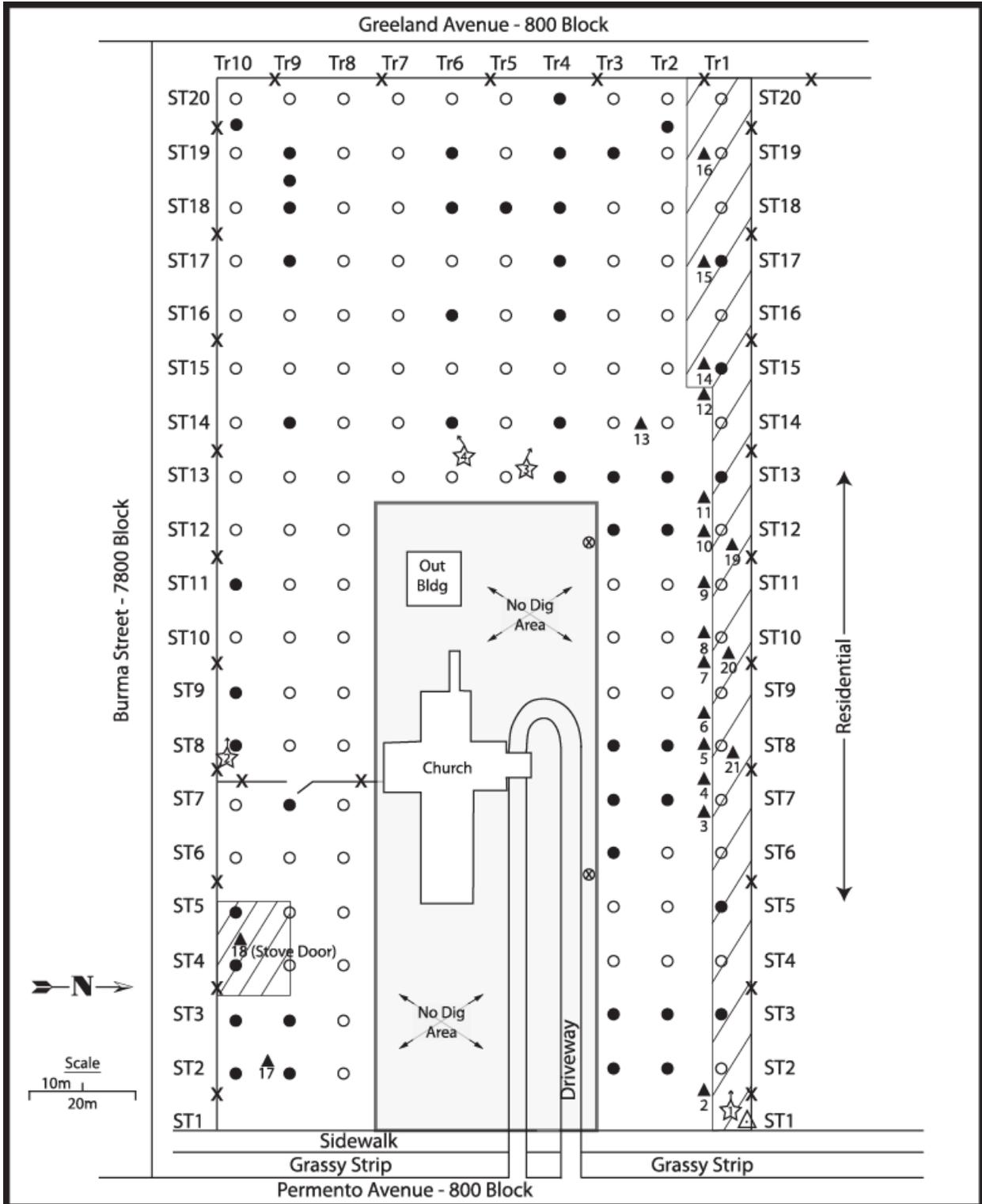
Figure 4. Minié Balls.

The items were loaned to CARS and led to our interest in the lot. Given these previously reported findings, the goal of the project was to locate additional Civil War era material and confirm the land use during that period. This would further define the anticipated activity area within the expansive site.

The datum point established for this project was at the NE corner of the property, just inside the sidewalk along Permento Avenue. A bridge spike driven into the ground at this point was assigned the location of 0 meters north, 0 m east. Beginning from this datum and moving south, numerically ascending, numbered transects were laid out with 10m spacing. Proposed shovel test units were located to the west along each transect, also with 10 meter spacing. Each was marked with flagging tape. Refer to the site map (Figure 5) for transect and test pit locations. Transect lines falling within 10 m (30 ft) of pavement and the church structures were not tested in order to avoid the possibility of damaging utility lines. Overview photos of the lot are included as Appendix B.

Archaeological excavations are generally dug in 10 cm (4 in) levels. Since the purpose of this shovel testing was to simply determine the presence or absence of cultural material, this methodology was not followed. Instead, test units were dug without regard to arbitrarily determined levels. When soil color changes were noted, the colors were recorded using a Munsell color chart. This was done to identify the possible presence of cultural levels. The soil throughout the tested area was homogenous and no discernible cultural levels were located.

Test pits measured .5 m (1.5 ft) in diameter, or about the width of a shovel. Each was dug to approximately 1 m (3 ft), or if cultural material was encountered, to a depth of at least 10 cm (4 in) below the deepest cultural material. This ensured the sterility of deeper soil. All material was screened through ¼ inch hardware mesh to recover and assess the cultural remains. If cultural items were located, their approximate depth was noted. All items were bagged and identified with the test pit location. A length of flagging tape was left at positive test pits to aid in relocation.



A total of 156 shovel tests were dug, 48 of which produced cultural materials. The artifact breakdown is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1. 8DU21349-B Artifact Assemblage

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Glass Fragments   | 156 |
| Metal Fragments   | 48  |
| Nails / Bolts     | 47  |
| Ceramic Fragments | 43  |
| Oyster Shell      | 7   |
| Building Material | 6   |
| Ladies Ring       | 1   |
| Keyed Padlock     | 1   |
| Bones             | 1   |
| Total             | 310 |

Glass fragments were by far the most common items found, followed by roughly equal amounts of unidentifiable rusted metal fragments, nails and ceramic fragments. A few pieces of composite, cement-like building material, oyster shell and an unidentifiable bone fragment were also recovered. Of interest were a ladies ring, engraved with the letter "C" and a keyed padlock (Figures 6, 7). Although the latter two items appear to be old, their ages cannot be determined.

None of the recovered material could be related directly to the Civil War and those that could be dated were identifiable to only a general time period. Most of the material could date to anywhere from the 1800s to modern years. The only items which could be attributed to the 1800s were bottle glass and square cut nails.

Glass colors included light and dark green, amber, aqua, olive, white and clear. A few of the fragments were melted. Clear glass included both bottle and window fragments.



Figure 6a. Engraved Ring Showing Engraved "C"



Figure 6b. Engraved Ring Showing Diameter



Figure 7. Keyed Padlock

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Between 1880 and 1920, glass manufacturers added manganese dioxide to make the glass clear by offsetting iron oxide impurities found in sand. Over time, prolonged exposure to UV light turns the glass to a shade of amethyst, with the amount of manganese affecting the intensity of the color change.

Prior to the addition of manganese, glass turned various shades of green or aqua depending on the amount of iron oxide present. Amber glass was also common during the same period (Peterson 2014). The presence of aqua, olive and green glass fragments from our testing places land use in this area to pre-1880, but does not relate it specifically to the Civil War.

Two bottle neck fragments were recovered, both with screw tops, an innovation developed about 1923 (Lindsey 2014). A single embossed maker's mark, "7-W-20" was found on a brown bottle bottom. The origin of the maker's mark is unknown. Thickness of the glass bottle fragments from this site ranged from thick and irregular to thin and consistent. As construction methods improved, so did the consistency and quality of the glass. Well made, clear glass bottles became widely available after 1910 with the invention of automatic machinery (Barretto 2014). Except for the screw tops and general construction characteristics, glass fragments were too fragmented to allow accurate identification or temporal placement. The variety of glass color, thickness and construction suggests use of the area from pre-1880 to the post-1923.

Various sizes of both square and wire nails were found in many units. Length of the nails ranged from 4.1 cm (1.6 in) to 13 cm (5.1 in), suggesting different scales of building projects in the area. Square cut nails appeared to be Type B nails, a style made of iron from about 1810 and popular through most of the 1800s until the advent of steel wire nails (Visser 1997). The nails once again indicate only an indistinct idea of land use.

The remainder of the cultural material found on the site is not diagnostic of a particular time period. It serves only to demonstrate historic and ongoing occupation of the area.

After shovel testing was completed, the lot was examined with metal detectors in order to recover subsurface metal remains within the 45 cm (18 in) deep sensitivity limit of the devices. This subsequent testing was completed during three one-half day sessions, ending on April 11, 2016. Metal detector sweeps were walked in an E-W direction parallel to the fences bounding the lot. Each of the three personnel manning metal detectors swung the instruments in approximate 2 m (6 ft) diameter swaths along each corridor.

As a test area, a 10-12 m (32-39 ft) strip along the north side of the lot was given 100% coverage. The area surrounding the location of a wood-burning stove door (Figure 8) was also examined closely. These areas are detailed on the site map (See Figure 5). The remainder of the lot was walked in east to west transects, spaced 10m apart, covering the corridors between the shovel tested transects. In total, twenty-one positive metal detector signals were returned. Test pits dug at each of the hits produced items ranging from nails and wire to the stove door. None of the items were diagnostic of a particular time period and may have ranged from historic to modern times.

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Figure 8. Stove door

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The artifacts found during testing, primarily colored glass and square-cut nails, suggested historic use of the area from about the 1880s through the 1920s. None of the material could be definitely related to the Civil War, which was the target of our investigation.

Although the stirrups, horseshoes and Minié balls were reportedly found on this lot, their provenience could not be verified so they cannot be considered in the site recommendation. Based on the paucity of demonstrable Civil War era material and the generic nature of the refuse located during our investigation, no further work is recommended for this particular portion of Camp Finegan. Should permanent historic markers be erected for the larger area encompassing Camp Finegan, the additional recognition of Camp Shaw should be considered.

## REFERENCES CITED

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Appendix A. 8DU21349-B Site Form



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A Jacksonville Based Non-Profit Company

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Original  
 Update



# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE FORM FLORIDA MASTER SITE FILE Version 4.0 1/07

Site #8 DU21349B  
Field Date 6/29/2012  
Form Date 8-21-2012  
Recorder # \_\_\_\_\_

Consult Guide to Archeological Site Form for detailed instructions

Site Name(s) Camp Finegan - Section B Multiple Listing (DHR only) \_\_\_\_\_  
Project Name \_\_\_\_\_ Survey # (DHR only) \_\_\_\_\_  
Ownership:  private-profit  private-nonprofit  private-individual  private-nonspecific  city  county  state  federal  Native American  foreign  unknown

### LOCATION & MAPPING

USGS 7.5 Map Name MARIETTA USGS Date \_\_\_\_\_ Plat or Other Map Marietta, Pt. Bk 1, Pp. 3  
City/Town (within 3 miles) Jacksonville In City Limits?  yes  no  unknown County Duval  
Township 2S Range 25E Section 21 % section:  NW  SW  SE  NE Irregular-name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ % section:  NW  SW  SE  NE  
Landgrant \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Parcel # 007180-0000, 007183-0010  
UTM Coordinates: Zone  16  17 Easting 817797 Northing 2030897  
Other Coordinates: X: \_\_\_\_\_ Y: \_\_\_\_\_ Coordinate System & Datum \_\_\_\_\_  
Address / Vicinity / Route to: 7840 Burma Rd, Joseph Stilwell Middle Sch. & 840 Permento Ave. Rollings Hills Baptist Church.  
Name of Public Tract (e.g., park) \_\_\_\_\_

### TYPE OF SITE (select all that apply)

| SETTING  | STRUCTURES OR FEATURES  | FUNCTION   |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land (terrestrial)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Lake/Pond (lacustrine)<br><input type="checkbox"/> River/Stream/Creek (riverine)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tidal (estuarine)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Saltwater (marine)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Wetland (palustrine)<br><input type="checkbox"/> usually flooded<br><input type="checkbox"/> usually dry<br><input type="checkbox"/> Cave/Sink (subterranean)<br><input type="checkbox"/> terrestrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> aquatic | <input type="checkbox"/> log boat<br><input type="checkbox"/> agric/bm building<br><input type="checkbox"/> burial mound<br><input type="checkbox"/> building remains<br><input type="checkbox"/> cemetery/grave<br><input type="checkbox"/> dump/refuse<br><input type="checkbox"/> earthworks (historic)<br><input type="checkbox"/> fort<br><input type="checkbox"/> midden<br><input type="checkbox"/> mill<br><input type="checkbox"/> mission<br><input type="checkbox"/> mound, nonspecific<br><input type="checkbox"/> plantation<br><input type="checkbox"/> platform mound<br><input type="checkbox"/> road segment<br><input type="checkbox"/> shell midden<br><input type="checkbox"/> shell mound<br><input type="checkbox"/> shipwreck<br><input type="checkbox"/> subsurface features<br><input type="checkbox"/> surface scatter<br><input type="checkbox"/> well | <input type="checkbox"/> campsite<br><input type="checkbox"/> extractive site<br><input type="checkbox"/> habitation (prehistoric)<br><input type="checkbox"/> homestead (historic)<br><input type="checkbox"/> farmstead<br><input type="checkbox"/> village (prehistoric)<br><input type="checkbox"/> town (historic)<br><input type="checkbox"/> quarry |

Other Features or Functions (Choose from the list or type a response):  
 1. Military encampment 2. Military battleground

### CULTURE PERIODS (select all that apply)

| ABORIGINAL  | NON-ABORIGINAL   |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alachua<br><input type="checkbox"/> Archaic (nonspecific)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Archaic, Early<br><input type="checkbox"/> Archaic, Middle<br><input type="checkbox"/> Archaic, Late<br><input type="checkbox"/> Belle Glade<br><input type="checkbox"/> Cades Pond<br><input type="checkbox"/> Caloosahatchee<br><input type="checkbox"/> Deptsors<br><input type="checkbox"/> Englewood<br><input type="checkbox"/> Fort Walton<br><input type="checkbox"/> Glades (nonspecific)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Glades I<br><input type="checkbox"/> Glades II<br><input type="checkbox"/> Glades III<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hickory Pond<br><input type="checkbox"/> Leon-Jefferson<br><input type="checkbox"/> Malabar I<br><input type="checkbox"/> Metcalf II<br><input type="checkbox"/> Manasota<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mississippian<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mount Taylor<br><input type="checkbox"/> Norwood<br><input type="checkbox"/> Orange<br><input type="checkbox"/> Paleoindian<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pensacola<br><input type="checkbox"/> Perico Island<br><input type="checkbox"/> Safety Harbor<br><input type="checkbox"/> St. Augustine | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Johns (nonspecific)<br><input type="checkbox"/> St. Johns I<br><input type="checkbox"/> St. Johns II<br><input type="checkbox"/> Santa Rosa<br><input type="checkbox"/> Santa Rosa-Swift Creek<br><input type="checkbox"/> Seminole (nonspecific)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Seminole: Colonization<br><input type="checkbox"/> Seminole: 1st War to 2nd<br><input type="checkbox"/> Seminole: 2nd War to 3rd<br><input type="checkbox"/> Seminole: 3rd War & After<br><input type="checkbox"/> Swift Creek (nonspecific)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Swift Creek, Early<br><input type="checkbox"/> Swift Creek, Late<br><input type="checkbox"/> Transitional<br><input type="checkbox"/> Weeden Island (nonspecific)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Weeden Island I<br><input type="checkbox"/> Weeden Island II<br><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric (nonspecific)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric non-ceramic<br><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric ceramic<br><input type="checkbox"/> First Spanish 1513-99<br><input type="checkbox"/> First Spanish 1600-99<br><input type="checkbox"/> First Spanish 1700-1763<br><input type="checkbox"/> First Spanish (nonspecific)<br><input type="checkbox"/> British 1763-1783<br><input type="checkbox"/> Second Spanish 1783-1821<br><input type="checkbox"/> American Territorial 1821-45<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> American Civil War 1861-65<br><input type="checkbox"/> American 19th Century<br><input type="checkbox"/> American 20th Century<br><input type="checkbox"/> American (nonspecific)<br><input type="checkbox"/> African-American |

Other Cultures (Choose from the list or type a response. For historic sites, give specific dates.)  
 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

### OPINION OF RESOURCE SIGNIFICANCE

Potentially eligible individually for National Register of Historic Places?  yes  no  insufficient information  
Potentially eligible as contributor to a National Register district?  yes  no  insufficient information  
Explanation of Evaluation (required if evaluated; use separate sheet if needed) See attached sheet  
Recommendations for Owner or SHPO Action \_\_\_\_\_

| DHR USE ONLY                             | OFFICIAL EVALUATION   | DHR USE ONLY          |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| NR List Date _____                       | SHPO - Appears to meet criteria for NR listing: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> insufficient info                               | Date _____ Init _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Owner Objection | KEEPER - Determined eligible: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no  | Date _____            |
|  | NR Criteria for Evaluation: <input type="checkbox"/> a <input type="checkbox"/> b <input type="checkbox"/> c <input type="checkbox"/> d (see National Register Bulletin 15, p. 2) |                       |

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE FORM

Site # DU21349B

## FIELD METHODS (select all that apply)

### SITE DETECTION

- exposed ground  
 posthole tests  
 auger tests  
 unscreened shovel  
 screened shovel  
 screened shovel-1/4"  
 screened shovel-1/8"  
 screened shovel-1/16"

- bounds unknown  
 none by recorder  
 literature search  
 informant report

### SITE BOUNDARY

- remote sensing  
 exposed ground  
 posthole tests  
 auger tests  
 unscreened shovel  
 screened shovel  
 block excavations  
 estimate or guess

number, size, depth, pattern of units; screen size (attach site plan)

## SITE DESCRIPTION

Depth/stratigraphy of cultural deposit 127,351 square meters

Station - Components (check one):  single component  multiple component  uncertain

Location in plan (refer to attached large scale map) and stratigraphically. Discuss temporal and functional interpretations:

Sheet

Disturbance:  none seen  minor  substantial  major  redeposited  destroyed-document!  unknown

Treats / protective measures Construction of School & Church

Area collected \_\_\_\_\_ m<sup>2</sup> # collection units \_\_\_\_\_ Excavation: # noncontiguous blocks \_\_\_\_\_

## ARTIFACTS

Count Estimate Surface # Subsurface #

### SELECTIVITY

- unselective (all artifacts)  
 selective (some artifacts)  
 mixed selectivity

### CONTROL

- general (not by subarea)  
 controlled (by subarea)  
 variable spatial control  
 (see comments below)

### ARTIFACT CATEGORIES and DISPOSITIONS

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

select a disposition from the list below for each artifact category selected at left

- A - category always collected  
 S - some items in category collected  
 O - observed first hand, but not collected  
 R - collected and subsequently left at site  
 I - informant reported category present  
 U - unknown

Type or mode, and frequency: e.g., Sawnee pop, heat-treated chert, Deptford Check-stamped, ironstone/whiteware

N= 4. N= 7. N= \_\_\_\_\_  
 N= 5. N= 8. N= \_\_\_\_\_  
 N= 6. N= 9. N= \_\_\_\_\_

## ENVIRONMENT

Water Type Small Stream Name Mills Branch Distance from site (m) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type WILAND MIXED FOREST Topography Other Elevation: Min 60 m Max 65 m  
Live oaks, magnolia, pine  
Public School & Church  
Ortega & Pottoburg Pine Sand Soil association Ortega & Pottoburg

## DOCUMENTATION

Documentation Not Filed with the Site File - including field notes, analysis notes, photos, pens and other important documents  
 All materials at one location Maintaining organization Jacksonville Planning and Develop. Dept.  
 0101 Vertical File - Articles, Clippings, etc. File # accession #'s \_\_\_\_\_ Subject File - Military - Camp Pinegan  
 Maintaining organization \_\_\_\_\_  
 File # accession #'s \_\_\_\_\_

## RECORDER & INFORMANT INFORMATION

Recorder Name Fred Singletary  
 Email (904) 781-7343, Fred32220@comcast.net  
 Informant Name Joel McEachin Affiliation Jacksonville Planning and Develop. Dept.  
 Email 3rd Fl. Ed Hall Bldg. 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202, (904)255-7835 McEachin@

Required Documents **PHOTOCOPY OF 7.5' USGS QUAD MAP WITH SITE BOUNDARIES MARKED and SITE PLAN**  
 Plan at 1:3,600 or larger. Show boundaries, scale, north arrow, test/collection units, landmarks and date.

## CONTINUATION SHEET – Camp Finegan – 8Du21349-A & B

During the Civil War, the Alligator and the Plank Roads leading from Jacksonville to the west were strategically important in providing access to the state's interior. Further, the importance of west Duval County for the Confederacy was enhanced by the construction of the Florida, Atlantic & Gulf Central railroad that opened in 1860 connecting Jacksonville with Lake City. In Baldwin located in the extreme western part of the county, the railroad connected with the Florida Railroad that crossed the state from Fernandina to Cedar Key.<sup>1</sup> Two linear Confederate fortifications were constructed in the western part of Duval County to protect these important transportation links. Located approximately 13 ½ miles from Jacksonville, Camp Milton ran parallel with McGirts Creek in order to protect the rail line and the Plank Road. Identified as being along the railroad line some eight miles from Jacksonville, Camp Finegan extended from the railroad near present day Marietta south to Lenox Avenue. Camp Finegan guarded the railroad as well as travel along the Alligator Road (route of Lenox Avenue) and water access from tributaries of the Cedar River. The camp was named after Confederate General Joseph Finegan, who was in charge of military operations in Florida and used the site for headquarters on several occasions. Camp Finegan was probably constructed in the early part of 1862 and occupied until the summer of 1864.

During the first and second occupation of Jacksonville by Federal troops, April, 1862 and again in October of 1862, fighting was mainly limited to small skirmishes and isolated attacks on Federal pickets in Jacksonville by Confederates working out of Camp Finegan. By October of 1862, Camp Finegan, which was under the command of Captain Charles F. Hopkins and later under Major T.W. Brevard, was occupied by 500 soldiers associated with Captain Durham's company of artillery, three companies of infantry from Major Brevard's battalion, one company of infantry from Colonel Hopkins' battalion and two companies of cavalry.

In March of 1863, Jacksonville was occupied a third time by a Federal force that included black troops under Higginson's Expeditionary Corps. Most of the military action during the third occupation involved clashes with Federal pickets encamped in the LaVilla area west of Downtown, as well as some Federal raids on local plantations and farms in search of provisions and to free slaves. During the third occupation, the Confederate Army used the railroad to move a flat car with a 64 pound gun to bombard Federal positions in the city. However, a fiery response by gunboats forced the Confederates to retreat.<sup>2</sup> After the Federal forces abandoned Jacksonville at the end of March, 1863, the city was re-occupied by the Confederates. Around that same time, Confederate General Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, Commander of the Southern Operations, inspected the operations at Camp Finegan.

Motivated by a political plan to use strong Union sentiment in East Florida to bring this part of the state back into the Union, a fourth and final occupation was planned. In addition to its political objective, the goals of this occupation were to cut off much needed supplies,

<sup>1</sup> T. Frederick Davis, *History of Jacksonville, Florida and Vicinity, 1513-1924*. (St. Augustine, Florida, 1925, 1990 reprint), pp. 341-342.

<sup>2</sup> Richard A. Martin, *Jacksonville's Ordeal by Fire, A Civil War History*, (Jacksonville, Florida Publishing Company, 1984), pp 84-87, 113, 116, 137, 146, 158 & 159.

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especially beef, coming out of Florida, revive trade along the St. Johns River, along with recruiting black and white regiments. A Federal invasion force of 6,000 soldiers including infantry, cavalry, artillery and engineers, all under the leadership of Brigadier General Truman Seymour, met light resistance in their occupation of Jacksonville in February of 1864. This force included the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Colored Troop, the first all black regiment organized in the north and sent south. With a Federal cavalry under Colonel Guy Henry moving rapidly west out of Jacksonville, the Confederates quickly abandoned Camp Finegan on February 8, 1864, and retreated further west. Left behind at Camp Finegan were five artillery pieces, over a hundred small arms, ammunition and cartridges, as well as camping gear, and food supplies. At the time of the retreat, Confederate forces at Camp Finegan were estimated around 450 soldiers including 150 that were listed as sick or disabled.

Renamed Camp Shaw after being captured by the Federal troops, Camp Finegan was occupied by the Second South Carolina and Third U.S. Colored Troop as well as the 55<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts. The capture of Camp Finegan was part of the Federal advancement towards the interior that ended at the Battle of Olustee on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1864. After being stopped at Olustee, the Federal forces retreated back to Jacksonville destroying houses, plantations, turpentine distilleries, hundreds of barrels of turpentine, depots, commissary stores, and fortifications including Camp Finegan. After the retreat both sides dug in with the Union forces behind the defensive wall at Jacksonville, and the Confederates concentrated at Camp Milton. During this standoff, the Union military strength had swelled to 12,000 men with the Confederates having 8,000 troops in the general area.

During late February and early March of 1864, there were numerous small clashes between the opposing forces. One of these skirmishes occurred outside of Camp Finegan on February 27 when a Company of Confederate cavalry briefly engaged a battalion of the Independent Massachusetts Cavalry which resulted in only one casualty. A much larger skirmish of five hours occurred between the rival cavalries on May 25 at Cedar Creek with both sides suffering a single casualty. Referred to as the "Skirmish at Cedar Creek", this engagement, which involved a force of 500 Confederate soldiers, occurred along Lenox Avenue between Cedar Creek and Memorial Park Road.<sup>3</sup> Over time both the Federal and Confederate forces were systemically reduced as the demand for additional soldiers increased in other parts of the South. The Confederates soon abandoned Camp Milton which was occupied and then destroyed in August of 1864 by Federal troops.<sup>4</sup> Over time, the earthen and log fortifications of Camp Finegan and Camp Milton began to fade into history. Today only a small part of the earthen works at Camp Milton is still identifiable, and is protected as part of a historic preserve.

Utilizing documentary and physical evidence, amateur archaeologist, William Jones has speculated that Camp Finegan was located around the current site of Joseph Stillwell Jr. High School and the adjacent Rolling Hills Subdivision.<sup>5</sup> In his book on Jacksonville during the Civil War, author, Richard Martin, placed Camp Finegan as being in the same general location which he described as eight miles from town along Lenox Avenue near the intersection with

<sup>3</sup> Jones, *Camp Finegan*, p. 5.

<sup>4</sup> Martin, pp. 214-216.

<sup>5</sup> Jones, *Camp Finegan*, p.9.

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Normandy Boulevard between Skye Drive and Cahoon Road.<sup>6</sup> However, a drawing by Major John M. Appleton with the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Colored Troops, dated February 10, 1864, depicts Camp Finegan as starting adjacent to the Florida, Gulf and Central Railroad and running south to the Alligator Road that followed the current route of Lenox Avenue. Based on oral tradition and artifacts reportedly found by collectors, two small sections of Camp Finegan have been identified both consistent with the Major Appleton's sketch, as well as with other historical documentation.<sup>7</sup>

Camp Finegan 8Du21349-A is defined roughly by the CSX Railroad to the north, Hammond Boulevard to the South, McCargo Street to the west, and Permento Avenue to the east in the Marietta neighborhood of west Jacksonville. The 21.03 acre parcel, which is broken into recorded lots with different owners, is vacant and has no evidence of ever being significantly developed or occupied. However, some parcels have been cleared of underbrush. The site is composed of an irregular ridge line that unevenly steps down to wetlands associated with a small unnamed creek that runs parallel with the railroad that defines the northern boundary of the site. Behind the ridge line, the elevation is flat going south towards Hammond Boulevard. The site has evidence of illegal dumping of trash and construction debris, particularly below the ridge line. The right-of-way of McCargo Street between Hammond Boulevard and the railroad is not open and has been ditched to accommodate storm water run-off from Hammond Boulevard.

Camp Finegan 8Du21349-B occupies the campus of the Joseph Stillwell Middle School at 7840 Burma Road and the adjacent parcel associated with Rollings Hills Missionary Baptist Church, Inc., at 840 Permento Avenue. Constructed in 1964, the school is composed of 27.03 acres with the church having 4.39 acres for a total of 31.42 acres. Located on a parcel of mixed hardwoods, the majority of the church property appears undisturbed with the remainder accommodating landscaping and hardscape, as well as two buildings. The school site contains a complex of buildings, athletic field, and parking.

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<sup>6</sup> Martin, p. 213

<sup>7</sup> Lewis G. Schmidt, *The Civil War in Florida, A Military History, Volume II, The Battle of Olustee*. (Allentown, Pennsylvania: Lewis G. Schmidt, 1989) pp. 48, 65-66, 100 – 192, .

Frank M. Williams provided a written statement dated November 14, 2011 about finding an eight inch cannonball, three inch balls, and three small canister shots in the area of Cahoon Road and along the railroad track. Copy on file with the Jacksonville Planning and Development Department



Appendix B. 8DU21349-B Overview Photographs





8DU21349-B. Facing West from Datum at Permento Ave.



8DU21349-B. Facing West from Southwest Corner of Lot



8DU21349-B. Facing Northwest from Center of Lot



8DU21349-B. Facing Southwest from Center of Lot