



### THE PARK SITE

The Fort Fremont 15 acre site was purchased for 5.4 million dollars by Beaufort County through the Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Program and the Trust for Public Lands as a historic site and public park.

The vegetation in the park is a Maritime forest consisting of live oak, water oak, laurel oak, red oak, magnolia, palmetto palm, holly, wax myrtle, and pine trees. The Fort Fremont park site has 900 feet of beach frontage on Port Royal Sound.

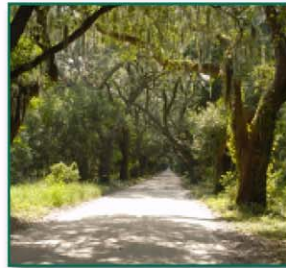
Fort Fremont Historical Park has three distinct elements which offer a unique and diverse opportunity to develop an outstanding passive park and historical learning site.

- The high bluff coastal view offers an unparalleled view of Port Royal Sound.
- The site provides wonderful passive park opportunities for experiencing a woodland forest preserve and green space picnic areas.
- The Batteries offer educational and Historic learning opportunities.



### BEAUFORT COUNTY RURAL AND CRITICAL LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Beaufort County Rural and Critical Land Preservation Program is the means by which Beaufort County Council acquires property for conservation, parks, buffers, scenic vistas and for preservation of valuable economic and natural resources.



### A PROTECTED LAND PARTNERSHIP

*The vision and preservation plan for this site is a collaboration of dedicated individuals and organizations:*

**LowCountry Master Naturalist Association**

**Beaufort County Parks & Leisure Services**

**Friends of Fort Fremont Historical Park**

P.O. Box 982 | St. Helena, SC 29920

[www.fortfremont.org](http://www.fortfremont.org)

# FORT FREMONT HISTORICAL PARK



Fort Fremont Historical Park is a unique unspoiled example of a Spanish American War Era fortification in a beautiful natural setting with many diverse habitats.

Fort Fremont was named for Major General John Charles Fremont (1813-1890) famous for his early explorations in the far west and his role in the early history of California.

Fort Fremont played a vital role in its mission to protect the U.S. Naval Station in Port Royal during the Spanish American War Period.

Fort Fremont is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Historic Resources of St. Helena Island.

The Fort was completed in 1899 and was active until 1921.



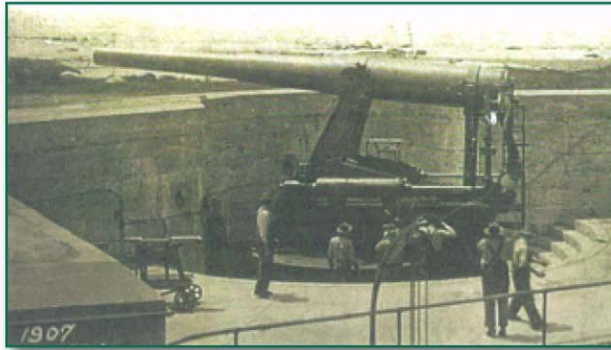
## History of Fort Fremont THE MODERN ERA

### Concrete, Steel & Breech - Loading Rifles

In 1885 President Garfield, through his Secretary of War William Endicott, established a Board of Fortifications to review the status of all coastal defense fortifications. The Board found that the improved weapons technology of the high velocity breech loaded cannons rendered the existing coastal defense systems obsolete. The Endicott Board recommendations led to a large scale modernization program for harbor and coastal defense in the United States.

The historic significance of Fort Fremont is that it is representative of the new coastal defenses built during this period with its upgraded design, and new weapons systems.

Port Royal Sound is one of the largest natural deepwater harbors on the Atlantic Coast. Fort Fremont played a vital role in its mission to protect the U.S. Naval Station in Port Royal which had a strategic dry dock and a coaling station critical to the Atlantic naval fleet during the Spanish American War period.

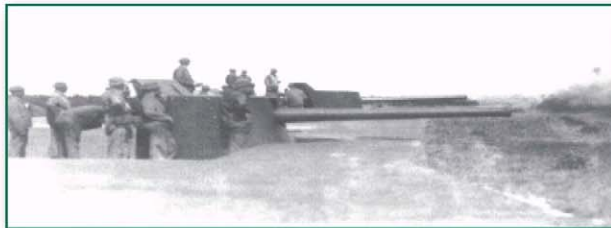


When the war with Spain loomed in 1898, the Fort Fremont site was selected for this fortification.

### THE FREMONT BATTERIES

Fort Fremont, built in 1899, was one of six fortifications designed to protect the southeastern coast during the Spanish American War. The original Fort site had 170 acres and was manned by a force of 110 personal. The main weapon systems consisted of Battery Jesup which had three 10-inch breech loaded disappearing cannons and Battery Fornance which had two 4.7-inch rapid fire guns.

Coastal Defense during the Fort Fremont era was the responsibility of the Coastal Artillery Corps which had its own uniforms, insignia, and traditions.



## U.S. NAVAL STATION PORT ROYAL

The Naval Station was established during the Civil War as a union coaling station and blockade home station. In 1891-1895 a dry dock was built, the only one south of Norfolk, Virginia.

It served as a strategic support base for the emerging Atlantic Fleet.



Twenty-two naval ships visited the Naval Station including the battleships USS Maine, USS Massachusetts, USS Texas, and the USS Indiana. The USS Maine made one of its last stops for provisions in Port Royal before leaving for its final voyage to Havana, Cuba and the start of the Spanish American War.

