

Tour Guide Fact Sheet
Fort Hawkins – “The Cradle of Macon”
by The Ocmulgee Archaeological Society

Fort Hawkins construction & early operation history -

- **1806** - Construction began by the 2nd Regiment, U.S. Army
- **Between 1806 - 1809** – Fort Hawkins also served as a military hospital
- **1809-1815** -Served as U.S. Indian Factory, War of 1812 Army Headquarters for 6th District
- **1817-1824** – First Seminole War, Headquarters for U.S. Army supply
- **1824** – State of Georgia leases Fort Hawkins property

New Town-

- **1819** – By this date the village that grew around the Fort was called New Town
- **1823** – The City of Macon founded across the Ocmulgee River

Fort Hill Cemetery-

- **1821** - Located 3 blocks away to the northeast. The Georgia Legislature passed a measure that granted to the town of Macon five acres of ground at or near Fort Hawkins for the purpose of a public burial ground. It is Macon’s oldest cemetery even predating the city as there are probably graves of soldiers from the fort era.

Woolfolk Plantation Era –

- **1828** – Thomas Jefferson Woolfolk moved to the Fort Hawkins area, bought 100 acres containing the present fort property for less than \$2,200.00 and established the Woolfolk Plantation. The 1830 census of residents of the plantation included 6 family members and 30 African-American slaves. Thomas died in 1863.

Civil War Era-

- **1863** – The Fort served as an artillery battery for the Confederate Army

Baseball Field-

- **1906-1914** – The northeast corner of the Fort Hawkins Block was the East Macon Playground and ball park

Fort Hawkins School Era-

- **1921-1978** - The Fort Hawkins grammar school was constructed in 1920-1921 at a cost of \$86,000.00. W.D. Griffin was the General Contractor for the school construction. This school was constructed directly on top of the ruins of Fort Hawkins. It opened on April 4, 1921 with 506 students. The new school boasted 18 classrooms, a library, a principal's office and teachers' rest room. An auditorium was planned for the Fort Hawkins school as early as 1919, but it was not until 1949 that two additional classrooms and an auditorium were added. Remains of the school and auditorium are visible today.

- **2004** – Fort Hawkins School demolished

Dewitt McCrary Park –

- **1933 – 1960's** – In 1933 City of Macon dedicated the southeast area where today the ball court and wading pool are located, as Dewitt McCrary Park

Blockhouse Reconstruction –

- **1921** - The Macon Kiwanis Club announced plans to rebuild Fort Hawkins in the same month the Fort Hawkins School opened, April 1921. They were unsuccessful.

- **1928** – Macon citizens begin rebuilding the southeastern blockhouse

- **1929** – The stock market crashes beginning the Great Depression and construction is halted

- **1937-1939** – WPA (Works Progress Administration) & DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) completes and dedicates blockhouse replica

Evidence of Native American mounds located near the Fort (not at Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park) -

- **1806** – Surveyor John Thomas reported 3 small mounds located in the Fort Hawkins survey boundary

Archaeological work -

- **1936** – Gordon Willey, National Park Service

- **1970-1971** – South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, Carillo & South

- **2005-2012** – LAMAR Institute excavations under Dan Elliott

Visitor's Center

- **2014** – Visitors Center opens

Other significant dates

- **1977** – Fort Hawkins added to the National Register of Historic Places

- **1993** - Fort Hill Historic District added to the National Register of Historic Places

- **2008** - City of Macon established Fort Hawkins Archaeological Park

Fun Facts

- One of the highest hills in Bibb County with a more than 40-mile view at the top of the block house

- Originally another blockhouse was located west of the back gate likely in the middle of Woolfolk Street

- Thomas Jefferson Woolfolk is the grandfather of Macon's infamous mass murderer, Tom Woolfolk

- Hawkins was one of just over a dozen U.S. trading factories that were established in Indian Country during the period from 1795 to 1822. Only a few of these important factories have been identified archaeologically and fewer still are presently interpreted to the public

- Fort Hawkins has two sets of palisade walls, one square shaped and one diamond shaped

For more information:

Fort Hawkins

www.forthawkins.com

thelamarinstitute.org/images/PDFs/publication_107.pdf

www.thelamarinstitute.org/images/PDFs/publication_124.pdf

www.thelamarinstitute.org/images/PDFs/publication_185.pdf

www.thelamarinstitute.org/images/PDFs/publication_196.pdf

thelamarinstitute.org/images/PDFs/publication_180.pdf

scholarcommons.sc.edu/archanth_books/17/

scholarcommons.sc.edu/archanth_books/13/

scholarcommons.sc.edu/archanth_historic_site_arch_conf_papers/7/

sites.rootsweb.com/~gajones/hawkins.htm

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