



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Sumter National Monument
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Fort Sumter News Release

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Fort Moultrie to Host a Special Program on the History of the Pest Houses and the Slave Dwelling Project by Joe McGill on July 15

SULLIVAN'S ISLAND, SC – On Saturday, July 15, at 1 pm Joseph McGill, Jr. will present a special program on the history of the pest houses on Sullivan's Island, and the Slave Dwelling Project at the Fort Moultrie Visitor Center. This event is made possible with financial assistance from Eastern National, the park's museum store, and the South Carolina Humanities Council. Park entrance fees, \$3 for adults and \$1 for senior citizens, will apply for this program.

The Slave Dwelling Project, founded by Mr. McGill, focuses on identifying slave cabins and how to preserve them. Mr. McGill increases the awareness of these slave dwellings by spending the night in them, and presenting programs. He is also the founder of Company "I" 54th Massachusetts Reenactment Regiment in Charleston, South Carolina. He has worked as a field officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation; as Executive Director of the African American Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Director of History and Culture at Penn Center; and a park ranger at Fort Sumter National Monument. He is also a member of the South Carolina Humanities Council Speakers Bureau and an Air Force veteran.

The first pest house was built on Sullivan's Island in 1707. Over the next 80 years four pest houses were located between Fort Moultrie and the western end of Sullivan's Island. When ships arrived carrying infectious diseases, their free or enslaved passengers were quarantined either aboard ship or in island pest houses. Later on, quarantine stations moved to James Island and in the 1830s to Morris Island.

Fort Moultrie is located at 1214 Middle Street, Sullivan's Island, South Carolina. The site is administered by the National Park Service as a unit of Fort Sumter National Monument. Fort Moultrie represents the entire history of static seacoast defense in the United States, from the

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American Revolution to the end of World War II. The site is open daily from 9:00-5:00 and includes a visitor center with museum exhibits and an orientation film.

Now entering its second century, the National Park Service continues to explore new ways to help visitors connect and find their parks. For more information on park news, events and programs, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FtSumterNPS, www.facebook.com/FtMoultrieNPS, and www.facebook.com/PinckneyNPS. Visit the park websites at www.nps.gov/fosu and www.nps.gov/chpi, or call 843-883-3123. You can also share your park experience with others by posting on social media with the hashtag #FindYourPark. Come find yours today!

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.