



Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



HISTORIC CITY GATE GUARDS ST. AUGUSTINE

By SON DUNN

ST. AUGUSTINE --- There it stands today, just as it has for more than a century and a half, the bulky but attractive City Gate that "guards" St. Augustine.

Way back when it was built, in 1808, the City Gate was an integral part of the Cubo Line. This was the defense the Spanish constructed originally in 1704 and which stretched from historic Castillo De San Marcos fortress across town to the Sebastian River. It made the oldest city secure from invasion by land.

The impressive coquina pylons replaced the wooden house which had guarded the gateway since 1738. At one time a two-leaf gate stood between the stone pillars and a bridge spanned the moat in front of the Cubo Line.

No longer used to repel visitors---but to welcome them---the City Gate leads into narrow St. George Street (Calle Real), the only street to run the complete length of St. Augustine.

The Cubo Line figures prominently in the current restoration program underway here. At one time the defense was a parapet formed from palm logs. The Spanish got busy and built the strong earthworks across the peninsula after the British had invaded St. Augustine during Queen Anne's War in 1702. South Carolina's Governor James Moore with 500 men seized St. Augustine and unsuccessfully besieged the fort for 50 days. As a farewell gift, Moore set fire to the town. Moore also destroyed the Spanish missions and carried off 1,400 Indians as slaves.

