

STATE:
New Hampshire

COUNTY:
Hillsborough

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
JUL 24 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Smyth Tower

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
718 Smyth Road (VA Hospital)

CITY OR TOWN:
Manchester

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE:
New Hampshire

CODE
33

COUNTY:
Hillsborough

CODE
1031

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted

4. AGENCY

Veterans Administration

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
VA Hospital

STREET AND NUMBER:
718 Smyth Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Manchester

STATE:
New Hampshire

CODE
33

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hillsborough County Courthouse, PO Box 370, 19 Temple Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Nashua

STATE:
New Hampshire

CODE
33

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

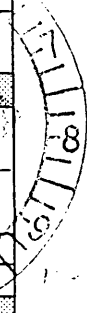
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Hampshire

COUNTY: Hillsborough

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

PH006801 DATA SHEET

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Smyth Tower, a granite and stone landmark, was built in 1888 in an exact replica of a famous Scottish Lookout and remains today as it was originally. It is forty (40) feet high and has an inside diameter of twenty-four (24) feet, with an outside diameter of twenty-eight (28) feet. The walls are two (2) feet in thickness. It consists of an eight (8) foot basement, a first, second and third floor and a parapet. It was built by local workmen with materials obtained in the vicinity.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See Attached Continuation Sheet

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

RECEIVED
DEC 3 1973
M. M. J.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Attached Sheet

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43 ° 00 ' 44 "	71 ° 26 ' 29 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **1/2 acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Leslie S. F. Brown** DATE: _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **Veterans Administration Hospital**

STREET AND NUMBER: **718 Smyth Road** PHONE: **(603) 624-4366**

CITY OR TOWN: **Manchester** STATE: **New Hampshire** CODE: **33**

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:
 Yes
 No
 None

[Signature]
 State Liaison Officer Signature

SEP 28 1977

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State

Local

[Signature] **5-8-78**
 Federal Representative Signature Date
[Signature]
 Title

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Technology and Historic Preservation

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

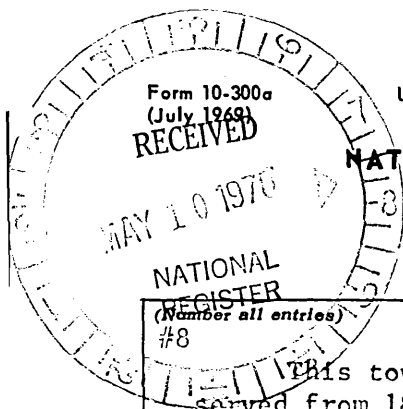
Date **7.24.78**

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of the National Register

Date **6-29-78**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Form 10-300a
(July 1969)
RECEIVED

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	New Hampshire	
COUNTY	Hillsborough	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		1976

NATIONAL REGISTER
(Number all entries)
#8

This tower was erected in 1838 by N. H. Governor Frederick Smyth who served from 1865 to 1867. He owned the land on which the Veterans Administration Hospital stands today and had the tower built in the park to relax on weekends and to commemorate the purchase of the first real estate that he owned in Manchester. He had seen the original lookout while traveling in Scotland and England. Since his mansion "The Willows" which was built in 1872 on the bluff overlooking the Amoskeag Falls has been torn down for some years now and the Smyth Block on Elm Street was demolished two years ago to erect the New Hampshire Plaza, this is the last remaining structure which he owned. His estate still owns the 15 acres of land across the road from the hospital.

The Governor was very concerned with the returning veterans from the Civil War, working constantly to get the N. H. wounded transferred back to the Granite State. There were several wooden buildings located on Elm Street where the Brookside Congregational Church is now located which were used as a hospital for local soldiers. In 1866, Governor Smyth was appointed by the government as one of six managers for National Soldiers' Homes and was reappointed again in 1872. Between June, 1865 and June, 1866, he authorized New Hampshire cities and towns to raise monuments to the Civil War dead, to mark the graves of dead soldiers and to observe May 30th as a legal holiday. Governor Smyth also founded the State Agricultural College, which later became the University of New Hampshire and the "House of Reformation for Juvenile Offenders" which became our present Industrial School.

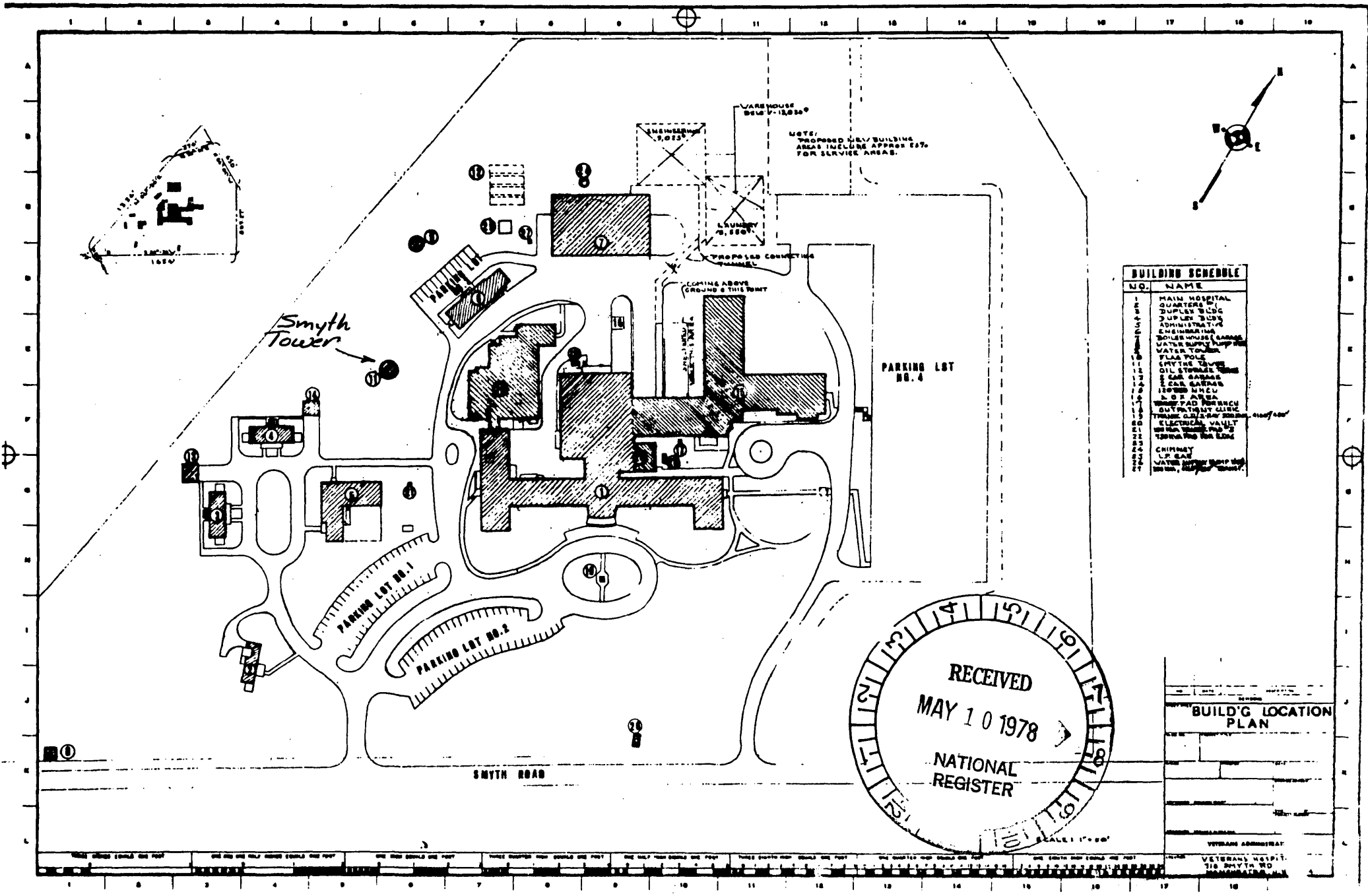
The Works Progress Administration (WPA) repaired the tower beginning in November of 1938 and completing it on June 15, 1939. The City of Manchester accepted the tower as a gift from Governor Smyth's widow, Mrs. Marion C. Smyth, and in September of 1939, it was dedicated by the Manchester Radio Club, a group of amateur radio operators. When World War II came, it was used by the Civil Defense System of Manchester. After the war, the Smyth Estate donated the land to the U. S. Government for the construction of a hospital. The tower was used by the resident engineers as an office during the course of construction. After completion of the hospital, the plans called for demolition of the tower and the leveling of the ground around it. The crane was already in position to batter down the landmark with the steel ball when several friends of Governor Smyth's widow, accompanied by her attorney, arrived on the scene to request the Engineer-In-Charge to spare the tower for sentimental reasons. The Boston office of the Veterans Administration, and the Washington Office, were contracte--all in the same afternoon. The decision was made to spare the tower and it still stands today.

#9 Major Bibliographical References

Manchester	1875	John B. Clarke
Successful New Hampshire Men	1882	
Sketches of the Life and Public Services of Frederick Smyth of N. H.	1885	Ben:Perley Poore and F. B. Eaton
Mirror and American Newspaper Clipping	May 20, 1890	
Mirror and American Newspaper Clipping	June 18, 1890	
Granite State Magazine Vol. #2	1906	
Manchester of Yesterday	1939	L. Ashton Thorp
Manchester Leader Clipping	Sept. 8, 1939	
N. H. Sunday News Clipping	Feb. 17, 1952	
5th Anniversary Guardian of VA Hospital	1955	Patricia H. Harrison
The Granite State of the United States	1956	J. Duane Squires
VA Hospital Guardian	Feb., 1965	Leslie S. F. Brown
Vertical File on Frederick Smyth		Carpenter Memorial Library
Interviews:	Mrs. Elizabeth B. Lessard	Manchester Historic Association 381 Ash St., Manchester, N. H.
	Mr. Lyford B. MacEwen, Trustee	
	Manchester Tax Assessors	
Assistance of:	Mrs. Barbara Greene and Mrs. Phyllis Roy	Carpenter Memorial Library VA Hospital Library
	Mrs. Myra S. Pritchett	



JUL 24 1978



WAREHOUSE
BUDG 7-13,824*

ENGINEERING
9,023*

LAUNDRY
7,850*

NOTE:
PROPOSED NEW BUILDING
AREAS INCLUDE APPROX EST.
FOR SERVICE AREAS.

BUILDING SCHEDULE	
NO.	NAME
1	MAIN HOSPITAL
2	QUARTERS BLDG
3	DUPLEX BLDG
4	DUPLEX BLDG
5	ADMINISTRATIVE
6	ENGINEERING
7	WAREHOUSE
8	WATER SUPPLY TOWER
9	WATER TOWER
10	FLAG POLE
11	SMYTH TOWER
12	OIL STORAGE TANK
13	2 CAR GARAGE
14	2 CAR GARAGE
15	2 CAR GARAGE
16	2 CAR GARAGE
17	2 CAR GARAGE
18	2 CAR GARAGE
19	TRUCK GARAGE
20	ELECTRICAL VAULT
21	WATER TOWER
22	TRUCKING TRAILER
23	TRUCKING TRAILER
24	CHIMNEY
25	LP GAS
26	WATER TOWER
27	WATER TOWER

RECEIVED
MAY 10 1978
NATIONAL REGISTER

BUILD'G LOCATION PLAN

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
VETERANS HOSPITAL
718 SMYTH RD
MEMPHIS, TN 38161

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 1/2 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,9	3 0,0 9,0,0	4,7 6,4 8,5,5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located to the west of main hospital building within the grounds of the Manchester VA Hospital at 718 Smyth Road.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE _____

STREET & NUMBER _____ TELEPHONE _____

CITY OR TOWN _____ STATE _____

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ___ NO ___ NONE ___

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE _____

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ___ National ___ State ___ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE _____

TITLE _____ DATE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE _____

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER