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Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

# NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES KNATIONAL THE STATE INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

THEME:	ARCHITECTURE
STATE:	
Vi	rginia
COUNTY:	
Inde	pendent City
F	OR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DAT	E
•	

LANDMALEL /			EN	TRY DATE		-1		
(Type all entries	s - complete applica	ble section	ns)		······································	7		
1. NAME								
COMMON:	House							
James Semple	House					-		
James	Semple House							
2. LOCATION	<u> </u>							
STREET AND NUMBER:								
Francis Street:	South side, b	etween	Blair and	Waller Stree	ts			
CITY OR TOWN:				AL DISTRICT:				
Williamsburg		1	001					
Virginia		51		dont City	COD	=-		
3. CLASSIFICATION		1 51	l tudeben	dent City	1830			
CATEGORY					ACCESSIBLE			
(Check One)	ÖMN	ERSHIP		STATUS	TO THE PUBLI	1		
☐ District <b>▼</b> Building	☐ Public Pub	olic Acquisit	ion:	Occupied	Yes:			
Site Structure	▼ Private	🗌 In Pro	cess	Unoccupied	Restricted	{		
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Being	Considered	Preservation work				
				in progress	X N∘			
PRESENT USE (Check One or I	fore as Appropriate)			<u> </u>	- <b>!</b>	-		
Agricultural G	overnment Po	ork		Transportation	Comments			
Commercial In	dustrial 🙀 Pr	ivate Reside	nce	Other (Specify)				
☐ Educational ☐ Mi	ilitary 🔲 Re	eligious				_		
☐ Entertainment ☐ Mo	useum Sc	ientific				_		
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY								
OWNER'S NAME:						<. ✓. ✓.		
Colonial Willia	msburg, Inc. C	arlisle	H. Humels	ine President	•	31.1		
STREET AND NUMBER:						Virgini:		
CITY OR TOWN:		<del>,</del>	STATE:		CODE	ia		
	3185		Virg	Virginia 51				
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESC	RIPTION		18		1 3 2			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF						Cinc		
Clerk of the Ci	rcuit Court, Ja	mes City	County			ty dev		
STREET AND NUMBER:		•	•			pendent		
Court Street (2	blocks south o	f Duke o	of Glouces	ter St.)	1	1de		
					CODE	nt		
Williamsburg			Virgi	nia	51	<del> </del>		
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXIS	TING SURVEYS							
TITLE OF SURVEY:						m Z		
Historic Americ	an Buildings Su	rvev				-		
DATE OF SURVEY: 1938		Federal	State	County	Local	Z FOR		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RI						N L M B		
Library of Cong	ress					BER USE		
Capitol Hill			STATE:		CODE	ONLY		
Washington			Ì		11	0		
			D.C	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		ATE		

DESCRIPTION				<u> </u>	<i>t</i> 0 )		
G0117171011	<b>⊠</b> Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair		k One) eriorated	Ruins	Unexposed
CONDITION		(Check O	ne)			(Che	ck One)
	🙇 Alte	red	☐ Unaltered			Moved	🔀 Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The James Semple House is a frame house with clapboarding, having a two-storey rectangular center section with pedimented gable roof, gable-end to the front, and two interior end-chimneys. The entrance is a Roman Doric porch, with dentil pediment and eaves, and a remarkable guilloche on its architrave, a feature probably suggested by The Builder's Companion of William Pain, published in London in 1765.

Flanking the center are one storey wings with gable roofs to the side. They too are frame, with clapboarding, containing the dining room to the east, and a large drawing room to the west. In the center section, originally, was a large salon with a fireplace at the west side. In the nineteenth century, a partition was set up to subdivide the room, forming a narrow east-west hall between the wings.

The two small bedrooms in the upper level of the center section are reached by a narrow, steep, and winding staircase, contained in the East wing of the house, concealed behind the chimney in a manner similar to that used in the drawings for the first Monticello. Indeed, authorship of the design of the Semple House is often ascribed to Thomas Jefferson, who was a resident of Williamsburg when the house was constructed c. 1770-1780. Jefferson's first drawing for Monticello (1768), according to Waterman, "paralells the design of the Randolph-Semple House to such a degree that there can be no doubt that they are by the same author."

The Semple House lies at the far eastern end of Williamsburg, in fact, east of the Capitol which is the eastern terminus of the Duke of Gloucester Street east-west axis. The house was acquired and restored by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in 1932, after it had passed through the hands of several owners in the nineteenth century. It had been changed little, but had fallen by 1932 into some state of disrepair. The east chimney was rebuilt, as were the front porch steps. On the porch, square piers were removed and replaced with columns. The guilloche on the architrave was restored after traces of the original. A wing attached to the south of the center block, added 1806-1823, was also removed. The nineteenth century hall partition remains in place.

The Semple House, fortunately, is another of those in Williamsburg whose eighteenth century boundaries may still be followed on surviving deed records and maps. This then is the basis for the most reasonable boundary for this Landmark now.

Interestingly, a portion of Williamsburg was laid out according to a system of 5-pole measurements, the age-old measure deriving from medieval agricultural methods. A pole being approximately 5 1/2 yards, a 5-pole lot then would be about 82 1/2 feet. The maps show that the eighteenth century property lines of the James Semple House begin at a point on Francis Street 247.5 feet (15 poles) west of Waller Street, continuing east-west for 165 feet (10 poles). This is two lots, and they were never numbered. The lot

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as A	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	🔀 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicabl	e and Known) 1770-	1780	
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	ck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
☐ Agriculture	Invention	Science	
X Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
☐ Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	☐ Military	Theater	
☐ Conservation	Music	Transportation	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	<del></del>		

The James Semple House is an excellent example of Palladio's "Roman Country House" adapted for use as a frame townhouse. It is a distinguished and early example of the classicism which began to change the American architectural scene towards the end of the 18th century. Its beauty derives largely from its perfect proportions, enhanced by delicate classical detailing. Although there is disagreement among architectural experts, the authorship of the design of the James Semple House is often ascribed to Thomas Jefferson, who was a resident of Williamsburg when the house was built c. 1770-1780. Its design has

a remarkable affinity to those done by Jefferson for his first Monticello in 1768.

Marcus Whiffen, The Eighteenth Century Houses of Williamsburg (Williams-

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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(NATIONAL HISTOPLE LANDMARKS }

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Independent City	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

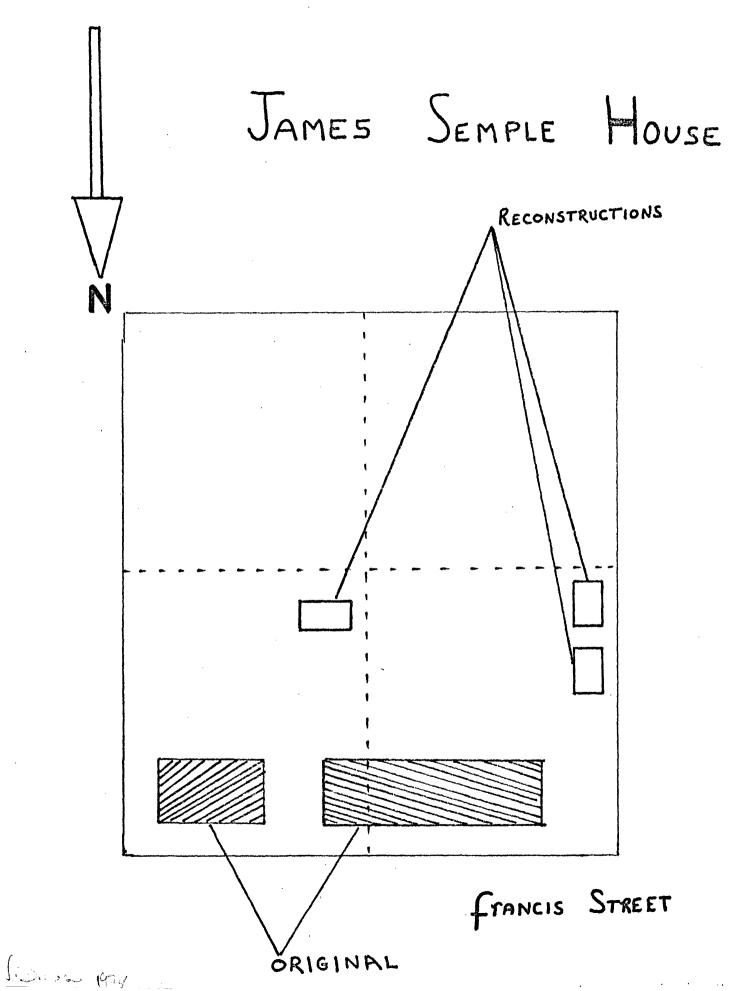
(Num	ber	a11	entr	ies)

7. Description second page

line runs back from the east-west line 264 feet, exactly 16 poles.

Colonial Williamsburg has constructed a number of small buildings on these four lots. None of them are original therefore. A small kitchen building a few feet to the east of the James Semple House is the only other original building on the site.

The house is still owned by the Colonial Williamsburg corporation and is used as a residence for one of its executive employees. It is well maintained, but not open to the public. The boundary line set by Colonial Williamsburg around the property is co-extensive with the historical justification just delivered.





## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A1619-DOS

APR 1 3 1970

Memorandum

To:

Secretary of the Interior

Through: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife,

Parks, and Marine Resources

Acting

From:

Director, National Park Service

Subject:

National Historic Landmark recommendations, 61st meeting

of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites,

Buildings and Monuments

Enclosed herewith is the memorandum of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments summarizing its findings and recommendations on the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings partial theme study of "Colonial Architecture." This memorandum makes two principal recommendations: (1) That 77 sites encompassed by this study be declared eligible for National Historic Landmark status. These are listed under Sections A, B, C, and D of the memorandum; (2) That 41 of these sites be given further consideration in long range plans for addition to the National Park System.

We recommend that you approve the Advisory Board's memorandum, and that it be returned to this office to become a part of the permanent record of actions recommended by the Board and approved by you.

Harthon L. Bee

Enclosure

Approved:

ADD 1 5 1970

Secretary of the Interior



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

October 8, 1969

### Memorandum

To:

Secretary of the Interior

From:

Chairman, Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites,

Buildings, and Monuments

Subject:

National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: Partial

study of "Colonial Architecture" comprising sites in

eighteen States and the District of Columbia

The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, at its 61st meeting in Washington, D. C., October 6-9, 1969, having carefully evaluated the partial study of "Colonial Architecture," submits the following statements with recommendations:

A. Of the sites included in the study, the following are recognized as nationally significant in illustrating or commemorating the history of the United States, and it is recommended that they be declared eligible for designation as Registered National Historic Landmarks with boundaries, as appropriate, described in attachments:

### Alaska

- 1. Church of the Holy Ascension, Unalaska
- 2. Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, Kenai

### California

- 3. Anza House
- 4. Jose Castro House
- 5. Estudillo House
- 6. Fort Ross Commander's House
- 7. Fort Ross Russian Orthodox Church
- 8. Guajome Ranchhouse
- 9. Los Alamos Ranchhouse
- 10. Los Cerritos Ranchhouse
- 11. Monterey Old Town Historic District
- 12. Petaluma Adobe
- 13. San Diego Mission Church
- 14. San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District
- 15. San Luis Rey Mission Church
- 16. Vhay House

### Delaware

17. Aspendale

### Florida

- 18. Llambias House
- 19. Oldest House
- 20. St. Augustine Town Plan Historic District

### Illinois

- 21. Church of the Holy Family
- 22. Pierre Menard House

### Louisiana

- 23. Keller (Homeplace) Plantation House
- 24. Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop
- 25. Mayor Girod House
- 26. Madame John's Legacy
- 27. Parlange Plantation House
- 28. Presbytere

### Maryland

- 29. Brice House
- 30. Chase-Lloyd House
- 31. Chestertown Historic District
- 32. His Lordship's Kindness
- 33. London Town Publik House
- 34. Montpelier
- 35. Mount Clare
- 36. Resurrection Manor
- 37. Tulip Hill
- 38. West St. Mary's Manor
- 39. Wye House

### Missouri

40. Louis Bolduc House

### New Mexico

- 41. San Estevan del Rey Mission Church
- 42. San Francisco de Assissi Mission Church
- 43. San Jose de Gracia Church

### North Carolina

- 44. Chowan County Courthouse
- 45. Cupola House
- 46. Palmer-Marsh House
- 47. Single Brothers' House

### South Carolina

- 48. Brick House Ruin
- 49. William Gibbes House
- 50. Hampton Plantation
- 51. Heyward-Washington House
- 52. Middleburg Plantation
- 53. Pompion Hill Chapel
- 54. St. James' Episcopal Church, Goose Creek
- 55. St. James' Episcopal Church, Santee
- 56. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

### Texas

- 57. Mission Concepcion
- 58. Spanish Governor's Palace

### <u>Virginia</u>

- 59. Brandon
- 60. Bruton Parish Church
- 61. Carter's Grove
- 62. Christ Church, Alexandria
- 63. Kenmore
- 64. Sabine Hall
- 65. James Semple House
- 66. Shirley
- 67. Waterford Historic District
- 68. Wythe House
- 69. Yeocomico Church

### Washington

- 70. Fort Nisqually Granary
- B. Three sites included in the portion of Colonial Architecture that considered the Middle Colonies are recognized as nationally significant and it is recommended that they be declared as Registered National Historic Landmarks:
  - 1. William Trent House, New Jersey
  - 2. Christ Church, Pennsylvania
  - 3. Carpenters' Hall, Pennsylvania
- C. Two sites included in this study are recognized as nationally significant in Theme IV, "Spanish Exploration and Settlement." It is recommended that they be declared eligible for recognition as Registered National Historic Landmarks:
  - 1. La Purisima Mission, California
  - 2. Cathedral of St. Augustine, Florida
- D. Two sites not originally included within this study are recommended for designation as National Historic Landmarks within Theme XX, Subtheme, "Architecture."
  - 1. El Santuario de Chimayo, New Mexico
  - 2. Peyton Randolph House, Virginia
- E. Other Recommendations:
- 1. That the following sites be placed in the category of "Other Sites Considered:"

### California

- (1) Avila House
- (2) La Casa de Cota de la Cuesta
- (3) La Casa de Eduardo de la Cuesta
- (4) Covarrubias Adobe
- (5) De La Guerra Adobe
- (6) El Cuartel
- (7) Guadalupe (Olivera) Ranch House No. 1
- (8) Hill-Carrillo Adobe
- (9) Ortega House

- (10) Plaza Church
- (11) Rocha House
- (12) San Diego Old Town Historic District
- (13) San Juan Capistrano Mission Church

### District of Columbia

(14) Alva Belmont House

### Illinois

- (15) Cahokia Courthouse
- (16) Cahokia Historic District

### Louisiana

- (17) Darby Plantation House
- (18) Ormond Plantation

### Maryland

- (19) Emmanuel Protestant Episcopal Church
- (20) Genesar
- (21) Hammond Manor House
- (22) Kilmarock (Burleane Hall)
- (23) Ogle Hall
- (24) Otterbein Church
- (25) Patuxent Manor House
- (26) St. John's Episcopal Church, Broad Creek
- (27) St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kent County
- (28) Talbot County Court House
- (29) Third Haven Meeting House
- (30) Trinity Episcopal Church, Dorchester County

### Missouri

(31) Jean Baptiste Valle House

### New Mexico

(32) San Geronimo de Taos Mission Church

### North Carolina

- (33) Bath Historic District
- (34) St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Edenton
- (35) St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Bath
- (36) Tryon Palace, Original (West) Wing

### South Carolina

- (37) Branford-Horry House
- (38) Fenwick Hall
- (39) Medway Plantation
- (40) Thomas Rose House
- (41) Col. John Stuart House
- (42) Sword Gate House

### Virginia

- (43) Berkeley Plantation
- (44) Brafferton Hall, College of William and Mary
- (45) The Glebe House
- (46) Noland's Ferry House
- (47) Pohick Church
- (48) President's House, College of William and Mary
- (49) Smithfield Plantation
- (50) Tazewell House

### West Virginia

- (51) Crane (Lord Fairfax) House
- (52) Mordington (Happy Retreat)
- (53) Governor Tiffin House
- 2. That the following sites be given further study under this theme:

### California

- (1) Olivas Adobe
- (2) San Gabriel Mission Church

### Colorado

(3) Baca House

### Connecticut

(4) Hatheway House

### Delaware

- (5) Christ Church, Laurel
- (6) Prince George's Chapel

### Florida

(7) Spanish Treasurer's House

### Louisiana

- (8) African House, Melrose Plantation
- (9) Creole Cottage
- (10) Louis Arceneaux House
- (11) E. D. White Memorial Cottage
- (12) Voisin Plantation House
- (13) Spanish Custom House
- (14) Erariste Blanc House
- (15) Montegut House
- (16) Bank of the United States
- (17) Absinthe House
- (18) Cathedral of St. Louis

### Maryland

- (19) Carroll Mansion
- (20) Providence Plantation
- (21) Queen Anne's County Courthouse
- (22) Horatio Sharp (Rideout) House
- (23) Scott House
- (24) St. John's Episcopal Church, Hillsboro
- (25) St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Church Hill
- (26) St. Luke's Episcopal Church or Tuckahoe Chapel, Queenstown
- (27) Old Wye Church
- (28) Doughoregan Manor

### New Mexico - Florida

- (29) Pascual Martinez Ranch House
- (30) Santa Fe and Albuquerque and Pensacola town plans

### North Carolina

- (31) Breezeway type of Colonial House
- (32) Edenton Historic District
- (33) Hayes Plantation House
- (34) Sycamore Plantation

### South Carolina

- (35) Edward's House
- (36) Edisto Hall

### Virginia

- (37) Battersea
- (38) Blandfield
- (39) Carlyle House
- (40) Dulaney House
- (41) Elmwood
- (42) Hanover Tavern
- (43) Hanover Courthouse
- (44) King William Courthouse
- (45) Long Bridge Ordinary
- (46) Marmion
- (47) Powhatan Courthouse
- (48) Powhatan Tavern
- (49) Three-story wooden row houses, south side of 200 block of Prince Street in Alexandria
- (50) Smithfield Courthouse
- (51) Washington Historic District
- (52) Wetherburn's Tavern
- (53) Fincastle Historic District

### West Virginia

- (54) Harewood
- (55) Sweet Springs
- F. The National Park System includes the following structures that are Importantly Related to this study:
  - 1. Tumacacori National Monument, Arizona
  - 2. Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, Florida
  - 3. Fort Matanzas National Monument, Florida

- 4. Hampton National Historic Site, Maryland
- 5. Nelson House, Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia
- 6. San Jose Mission Church, Texas
- G. Forty-eight sites related to this theme have been classified as possessing national significance in other theme studies. These are:

### Importantly Related to Colonial Architecture

- 1. Russian Mission Orphanage, Alaska
- 2. San Xavier del Bac Mission Church, Arizona
- 3. Carmel Mission Church, California
- 4. Larkin House, California
- 5. Old Custom House, California
- 6. Royal Presidio Chapel, California
- 7. Santa Barbara Mission Church, California
- 8. Sonoma Pueblo Historic District, California (with boundaries enlarged and defined in the attachments)
- 9. Savannah Historic District, Georgia
- 10. The Cabildo, Louisiana
- 11. Ursuline Convent, Louisiana
- 12. Vieux Carre Historic District, Louisiana
- 13. Jackson Square, Louisiana
- 14. Colonial Annapolis Historic District, Maryland
- 15. Hammond-Harwood House, Maryland
- 16. Maryland State House, Maryland
- 17. Whitehall, Maryland
- 18. Ste. Genevieve Historic District, Missouri
- 19. Palace of the Governors, New Mexico
- 20. Old Salem Historic District, North Carolina
- 21. Miles Brewton House, South Carolina
- 22. Robert Brewton House, South Carolina
- 23. Charleston Historic District, South Carolina (with boundaries enlarged and defined in the attachments)
- 24. Drayton Hall, South Carolina
- 25. Mulberry Plantation, South Carolina
- 26. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, South Carolina
- 27. Presidio de La Bahia, Texas
- 28. Alexandria Historic District, Virginia
- 29. Bacon's Castle, Virginia
- 30. Christ Church, Lancaster County, Virginia

- 31. Colonial Williamsburg Historic District, Virginia
- 32. Gadsby's Tavern, Virginia
- 33. Gunston Hall, Virginia
- 34. Mount Airy, Virginia
- 35. Mount Vernon, Virginia
- 36. St. Luke's Church, Virginia
- 37. Stratford Hall, Virginia
- 38. Adam Thoroughgood House, Virginia
- 39. Tuckahoe Plantation, Virginia
- 40. Westover, Virginia
- 41. Wren Building, College of William and Mary, Virginia

### Also Related to Colonial Architecture

- 42. Erskine House, Alaska
- 43. St. Michael's Cathedral, Alaska
- 44. Commandant's House, Presidio of San Francisco, California
- 45. Las Trampas Plaza Historic District, New Mexico
- 46. Salem Tavern, Old Salem, North Carolina
- 47. The Alamo, Texas
- 48. Rising Sun Tavern, Virginia
- H. The Board recommends that the Old State (Colony) House in Newport, Rhode Island, a Landmark previously placed in the category of Also Related to Colonial Architecture, be noted as being Importantly Related to Colonial Architecture.
- I. The following sites are judged of such prime significance as to merit further study for possible addition to the National Park System. It is recognized that many, such as Colonial Williamsburg, are being adequately preserved at present and are not available. Because unforeseen contingencies may change present circumstances, such sites should nevertheless be identified as potential units of the system and noted for long-range consideration in the evolution of the National Park System Plan.
  - 1. Russian Mission Orphanage, Alaska
  - 2. San Xavier del Bac Mission Church, Arizona
  - 3. Fort Ross, California
  - 4. Guajome Ranchhouse, California
  - 5. Los Alamos Ranchhouse, California
  - 6. Monterey Old Town Historic District, California

- 7. Petaluma Adobe, California
- 8. Royal Presidio Chapel, California
- 9. Santa Barbara Mission Church, California
- 10. Church of the Holy Family, Illinois
- 11. Parlange Plantation House, Louisiana
- 12. Vieux Carre Historic District, Louisiana
- 13. Colonial Annapolis Historic District, Maryland
- 14. Resurrection Manor, Maryland
- 15. Tulip Hill, Maryland
- 16. Whitehall, Maryland
- 17. Wye House, Maryland
- 18. Ste. Genevieve Historic District, Missouri
- 19. San Estevan del Rey Mission Church (Acoma), New Mexico
- 20. San Jose de Gracia Church (Las Trampas), New Mexico
- 21. Old Salem Historic District, North Carolina
- 22. Charleston Historic District, South Carolina
- 23. Drayton Hall, South Carolina
- 24. Mulberry Plantation, South Carolina
- 25. St. James Episcopal Church, Goose Creek, South Carolina
- 26. St. James Episcopal Church, Santee, South Carolina
- 27. Mission Concepcion (San Antonio Missions Park Proposal), Texas
- 28. Presidio de la Bahia (Goliad Complex), Texas
- 29. Alexandria Historic District, Virginia
- 30. Brandon, Virginia
- 31. Bacon's Castle, Virginia
- 32. Christ Church, Lancaster County, Virginia
- 33. Colonial Williamsburg Historic District, Virginia
- 34. Gunston Hall, Virginia
- 35. Mount Airy, Virginia
- 36. Mount Vernon, Virginia
- 37. St. Luke's Church, Virginia
- 38. Shirley, Virginia
- 39. Stratford Hall, Virginia
- 40. Adam Thoroughgood House, Virginia
- 41. Westover, Virginia

Coultesfaur Emil W. Haury

Approved: APR 1 5 1970

Secretary of the Interior