

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Church of the Holy Family, Cahokia, Illinois

The Church of the Holy Family, erected between 1786 and 1799, is a fine extant example in the United States of a typical French Colonial church of upright log construction. This largely unaltered edifice is a unique example of a once common type of structure.

Except for the addition of the two small wings in 1833 and the covering of the exterior log walls with siding for protection against the weather in the 1890's, the church survived into the 20th century without drastic alteration. In 1949-51, the structure was jacked up and the foundations were repaired. The siding was removed, thus exposing the original construction of upright logs. The few logs that had deteriorated were replaced, and also the pierrotage. The exterior was treated with silicone coating to protect the logs and masonry, leaving the original appearance unaltered. The existing metal roof was removed and the building was re-covered with wood shingles; a small belfry was also added at the north end of the roof. The interior was redone with church furnishings, some original and other of the period. The structure is maintained in excellent condition and is open to visitors.

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NSHSB: 12/11/69
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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS
SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 8. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . . (French Colonial Architecture)

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
Illinois	Church of the Holy Family

8. References: Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952), 256; Charles E. Peterson, "Notes on Old Cahokia," The French American Review, July-Sept., 1948, 204-206; Charles E. Peterson, "Report on Cahokia, Illinois, and the Holy Family Church," (NPS typescript, St. Louis, March 26, 1948), 24 pp., maps, and photos; Charles E. Peterson, "Report on H.J. Res. 219 -Father Pierre Gibault Monument At Cahokia," (NPS Typescript, St. Louis, June 7, 1939), 18 pp., maps and photos; Rexford Newcomb, Architecture of the Old North-West Territory (Chicago, 1950), 23; Charles E. Peterson, "Early French Landmarks Along the Mississippi," Antiques, LIII (April, 1948), 286-288.

John F. McDermott, ed., Old Cahokia (St. Louis, 1949). Illinois, A Descriptive and Historical Guide (American Guide Series) (Chicago, 1947), 493.

9. Historic American Building Survey: (9 sheets and 3 photos, 1934).

Site of National Significance

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Church of the Holy Family, Illinois

Location: St. Clair County, on East First Street, just off Illinois 3, Cahokia.

Ownership: Catholic Church; Reverend Joseph M. Mueller, Cahokia, Illinois.

Statement of Significance

The Church of the Holy Family, erected between 1786 and 1799, is the finest extant example in the United States of a typical French Colonial church of upright log construction. This little-altered edifice is a unique example of a once common type of structure.

History

Cahokia was founded in March 1699 when priests of the seminary of Quebec planted a mission on the site. The old French mission church and mission itself, however, ended with the departure of the last priest, Abbe Forget du Verger, in 1767-68. When Father Paul de St. Pierre, representing the new Roman Catholic Church in the United States, came out to Cahokia from Baltimore in 1786, he found that the original mission church structure had disappeared and that services were being held in a rented room. A revival was soon effected and construction on the present log church was commenced in 1786 or 1787. Completed and dedicated in September, 1799, the structure was used as a parish church until 1891, when it was replaced for this purpose by the newly completed adjacent stone church. The log building was henceforth utilized as a parish school and hall. In 1949-1950, in connection with the 250th anniversary of the town and Holy Family Parish, private funds were contributed for the renovation and restoration of the log church. This work was completed in 1951 and the restored church is now used for Sunday services and is also generally open to visitors.

Condition

The Church of the Holy Family is typically French Colonial in its construction and plan and has a number of features in

common with surviving 18th century Canadian log churches. As originally constructed, Holy Family Church had a simple rectangular plan and was 32 feet wide and 74 feet long. The two small rectangular wings, which give the building its present cruciform plan, were added to the east and west sides of the church about 1833. The east wing was used for choir and organ and the west as a sacristy. The walls of the church (including the later wings) are formed of poteaux sur sole (posts on sill) construction. Heavy, hewn, black walnut timbers, each 12 inches wide, 6 inches thick, and 14 feet high, were erected perpendicularly about one foot apart and were mortised into very heavy timber sills that rested on stone foundations. Facing sides of the vertical wall timbers were grooved to accommodate a pierrotage comprised of rubble stone set in clay, which was used to fill in the spaces between the timbers. On each wall one timber was set diagonally as a wind brace and the exterior walls also sloped inward some five inches from top to bottom.

White oak and black walnut were utilized for the hewn French trusswork of the roof, the timbers being finely mortised and pinned with wooden pegs. The shingled gable roof had curved or "bell cast" overhanging eaves. Five windows were set into each of the long side walls and in the north gable end, above the arched entrance door, there was a round oeuil de bouc (goat's eye) window. Inside there was a gallery at the north end, over the entrance door, and large cottonwood board--made smooth by sprinkling them with sand and rubbing with rock--formed the floor, which sloped downward from front door to altar rail.

Except for the addition of the two small wings in 1833 and the covering of the exterior log walls with siding for protection against the weather in the 1890's, the church survived into the 20th century without drastic alteration. In 1949-51, under the supervision of Architect Guy Study, the structure was jacked up and the foundations were repaired. The siding was removed, thus exposing the original construction of upright logs. The few logs that had deteriorated were replaced, and also the pierrotage. The exterior was treated with silicone coating to protect the logs and masonry, leaving the original appearance unaltered. The existing metal roof was removed and the building was recovered with wood shingles; a small belfry was also added at the north end of the roof. The interior was redone with church furnishings, some original and other of the period. The structure is maintained in excellent condition and is open to visitors.

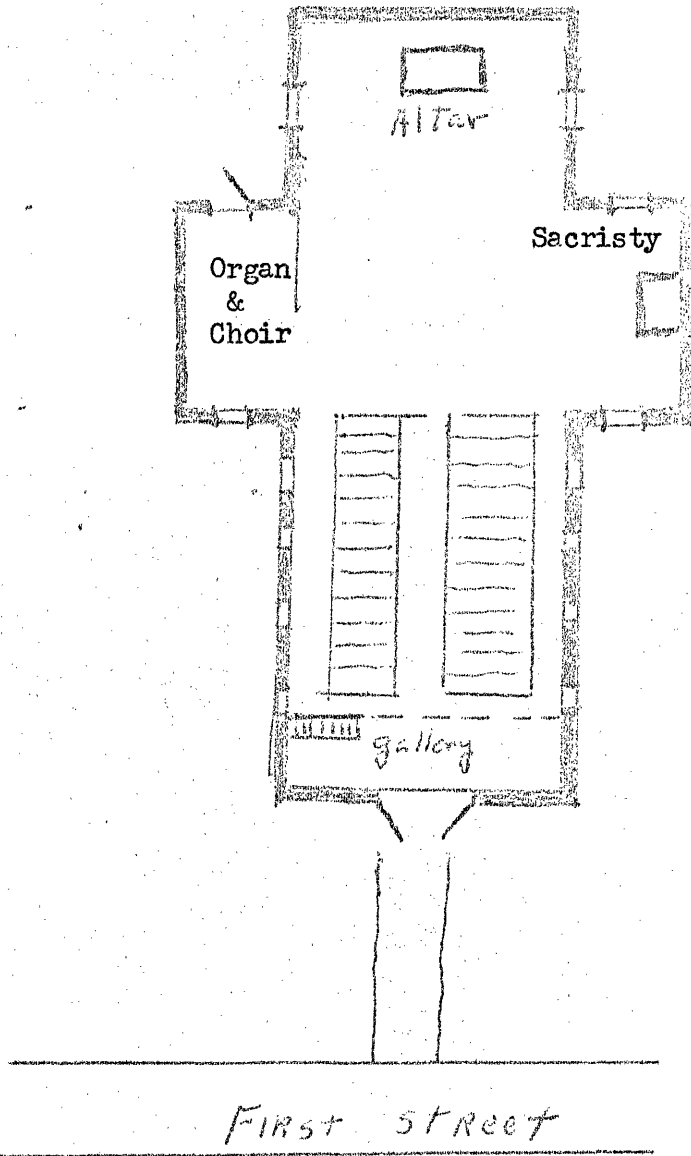
References:

Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952) 256; Charles E. Peterson, "Note on Old Cahokia," The French American Review, July-Sept., 1948, 204-206; Charles E. Peterson, "Report on Cahokia, Illinois, and the Holy Family Church," (NPS typescript, St. Louis, March 26, 1948), 24 pp., maps, and photos; Charles E. Peterson, "Report on H.J. Res. 219-Father Pierre Gibault Monument At Cahokia," (NPS typescript, St. Louis, June 7, 1939), 18 pp., maps and photos; Rexford Newcomb, Architecture of the Old North-West Territory (Chicago, 1950), 23; Charles E. Peterson, "Early French Landmarks Along the Mississippi," Antiques, LIII (April, 1948), 286-288; John F. McDermott, ed., Old Cahokia (St. Louis, 1949), Illinois, A. Descriptive and Historical Guide (American Guide Series) (Chicago, 1947), 493; Historic American Building Survey: (9 sheets and 3 photos, 1934).

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY, ST. CLAIR COUNTY,
CAHOKIA, ILLINOIS

Boundaries of the Historic District:

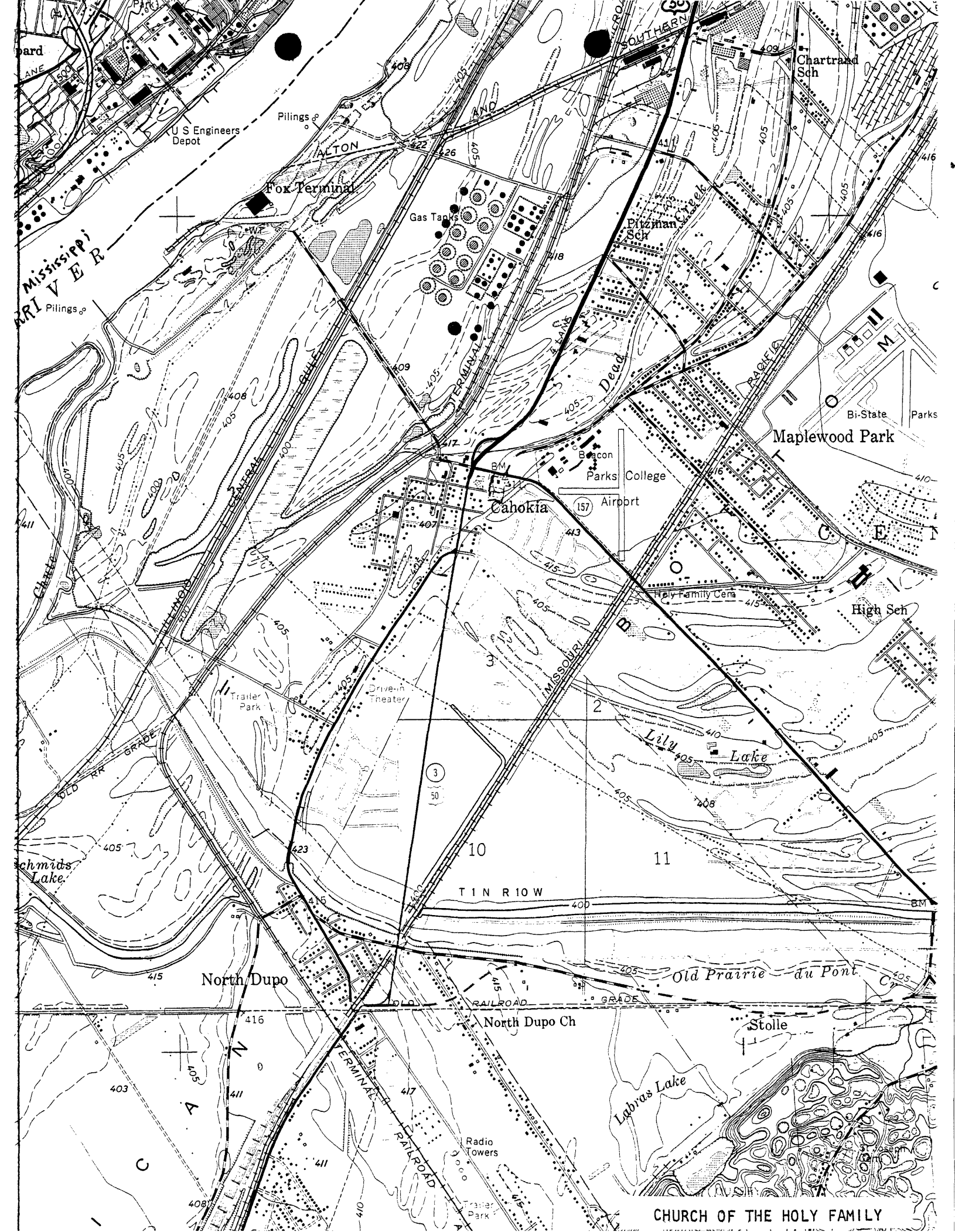
Approximately 3.6 acres of land in the shape of a rectangle, including the Church of the Holy Family, the stone church, and the Jarrot House, starting at the southwest corner at latitude $38^{\circ} 34' 10''$ N. - long. $90^{\circ} 11' 20''$ W., proceeding northeast about 450 feet to the northwest corner at the junction of Church and First Streets (State Route 157) at lat. $38^{\circ} 34' 14''$ N. - long. $90^{\circ} 11' 19''$ W., continuing southeast about 350 feet to the northeast corner at lat. $38^{\circ} 34' 13''$ N. - long. $90^{\circ} 11' 15''$ W., going southwest about 450 feet to the southeast corner at lat. $38^{\circ} 34' 09''$ N. - long. $90^{\circ} 11' 16''$ W., and returning northwest about 350 feet to the beginning, the southwest corner. Precise boundaries, as described above, are recorded in red on a copy of U.S. Geological Survey Map: Cahokia Quadrangle, Illinois-Missouri, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), 1954-Photo-revised 1968, on file with the Branch of Historical Surveys, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service.



Sketch Plan of the Church
of the Holy Family,
Cahokia, Illinois



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Mississippi
RIVER

U.S. Engineers
Depot

Fox Terminal

ALTON

Gas Tanks

Pitzman Sch

Chartrand Sch

Maplewood Park

Canokla

Beacon
Parks College

Airport

High Sch

Lily Lake

Schmidts Lake

North Dupon

North Dupon Ch

Old Prairie du Pont

Stolle

Labras Lake

Radio
Towers

CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A1619-DOS

APR 13 1970

Memorandum

To: Secretary of the Interior
Through: Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Parks, and Marine Resources *LP 4/14*

From: ^{Acting} 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.

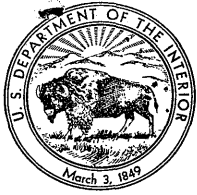
We recommend that you approve the Advisory Board's memorandum, and that it be returned to this office to become a part of the permanent record of actions recommended by the Board and approved by you.

Harthon L. Rice

Enclosure

Approved: APR 15 1970

Walter Hickel
Secretary of the Interior



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

Virginia

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 eligible for designation 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

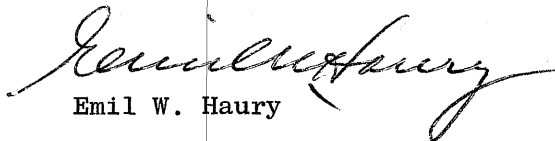
42. Erskine House, Alaska
43. St. Michael's Cathedral, Alaska
44. Commandant's House, Presidio of San Francisco, California
45. Las Trampas Plaza Historic District, New Mexico
46. Salem Tavern, Old Salem, North Carolina
47. The Alamo, Texas
48. Rising Sun Tavern, Virginia

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.

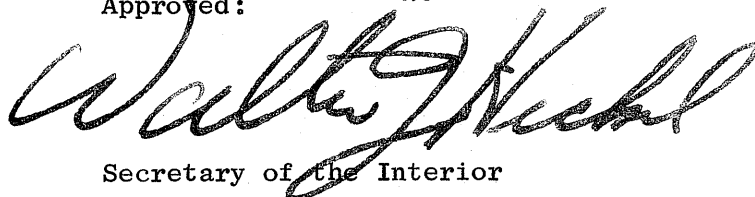
I. The following sites are judged of such prime significance as to merit further study for possible addition to the National Park System. It is recognized that many, such as Colonial Williamsburg, are being adequately preserved at present and are not available. Because unforeseen contingencies may change 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


Emil W. Haury

Approved: **APR 15 1970**


Secretary of the Interior