

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

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District, San Juan Bautista, California

San Juan Bautista is a striking architectural example in the United States of a 19th century village built on the traditional Spanish-Mexican Colonial plaza plan. The mission at San Juan Bautista, founded in 1797, was secularized in 1835 and in the same year the Mexican Government established San Juan Bautista as a pueblo. Grouped around the original plaza, which was first used as a parade ground by the Spanish soldiers guarding the mission, are five historic structures.

Plaza Hall was originally erected in 1815 as a one-story adobe to house the unmarried Indian girls of the mission. In 1868 a new owner acquired the then ruined mission buildings. He tore down the ruined buildings and reused the good adobe brick for the outwalls of the present two story Plaza Hall. The new second story was of frame construction, with a fake front and a two-story veranda across the plaza facade.

The Plaza Stable is a large frame false-fronted structure with a bracketed cornice. It was built in 1874 and operated in conjunction with the Plaza Hotel.

The Castro House was erected by José Castro, the Commandant-General of northern California, in 1840-1841 as his administrative office and to house his secretary. It is an outstanding and little-altered example of a Monterey Colonial House.

The Plaza Hotel was originally built in 1813-1814 as a one-story adobe barracks for the detachment of soldiers stationed as guards at the mission. The frame, clapboard second story and two-story veranda were added in 1858 when the building was enlarged to serve as a hotel.

San Juan Mission Church and Convento were founded in 1797. The existing church was built during the period 1803-1812. The church, badly ruined by the elements after secularization, was further seriously damaged by the earthquake of 1906. A portion of the walls of the church and convento are original. The reconstructed structure is still an active parish church.

These five structures fronting on the Plaza have been carefully restored, and there are no modern intrusions.

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NSHSB: 12-8-69  
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SAN JUAN BAUTISTA PLAZA HISTORIC DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

Boundaries of the Historic District:

Beginning at the intersection of Washington and Third Streets, northwest on Third Street to Mariposa Street; then northeast on Mariposa Street to Second Street; northwest on Second Street to Polk Street; northeast on Polk Street to the end of the street and the northeast property line of San Juan Bautista Mission; southeast along the northeast property line of said Mission and that of San Juan Bautista State Park to the southeast boundary line of said State Park; then along the southeast boundary of the State Park to Second Street; then northeast on First Street to Washington Street; and then southwest on Washington Street to its intersection with Third Street, the starting point. Precise boundaries, as described above, are recorded in red on copies of U. S. Geological Survey Map: San Juan Bautista Quadrangle, California, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), 1955, and a more detailed street map of the town published by San Juan Mission News, on file with the Branch of Historical Surveys, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service.

### Site of National Significance

#### San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District, California

Location: San Juan Bautista, San Benito County.

Boundaries of the Historic District: Beginning at the intersection of Washington Street and Second Street, northwest on Second Street to Mariposa Street; then northeast on Mariposa Street to First Street; then southeast on First Street to Washington Street; and then southwest on Washington Street to Second Street, the beginning point. Included within these boundaries are the rear property lines of the buildings fronting on the plaza on Washington, Second, and Mariposa Streets.

Ownership: Four buildings are owned by the State of California and administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation; one structure, the mission, is owned by the Roman Catholic Church.

### Statement of Significance

San Juan Bautista is the outstanding architectural example in the United States of a 19th century village built on the traditional Spanish-Mexican Colonial Plaza plan. The five structures fronting on the plaza, erected between 1813 and 1874, have been carefully restored and there are no modern intrusions. The numbers by which the historic buildings are listed refer to the numbers on the accompanying map of the historic district.

### History

The mission at San Juan Bautista, founded in 1797, was secularized in 1835 and in the same year the Mexican Government established San Juan Bautista as a pueblo. The village had a population of only about 75 at the end of the Mexican period. Grouped around the original plaza, which was first used as a parade ground by the Spanish soldiers guarding the mission, are five historic structures.

17. San Juan Mission Church and Convento, located on the west side of the Plaza on Mariposa Street and owned by the Catholic Church. Founded in 1797, the existing church was built during the period 1803-12. The church, the largest in California, measures 210 by 77 feet and its adobe walls are four feet thick and 40 feet high. The church, badly ruined by the elements after secularization, was further seriously damaged by the earthquake of 1906. A portion of the walls of the church and convento are original. Open to visitors, the reconstructed structure is still an active parish church.

References:

Rexford Newcomb, The Old Mission Churches and Historic Houses of California (London and Philadelphia, 1925), 280-87; Mildred B. Hoover, Hero E. and Ethel G. Rensch, Third Edition revised by William N. Abeloe, Historic Spots in California (Stanford, 1966), 309-311; Donald R. Hannaford and Revel Edwards, Spanish Colonial or Adobe Architecture of California, 1800-1850 (New York, 1931); Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York, 1952), 248; Historic American Building Survey: Mission San Juan Bautista (38 sheets, 1924; 21 photos, 1934).

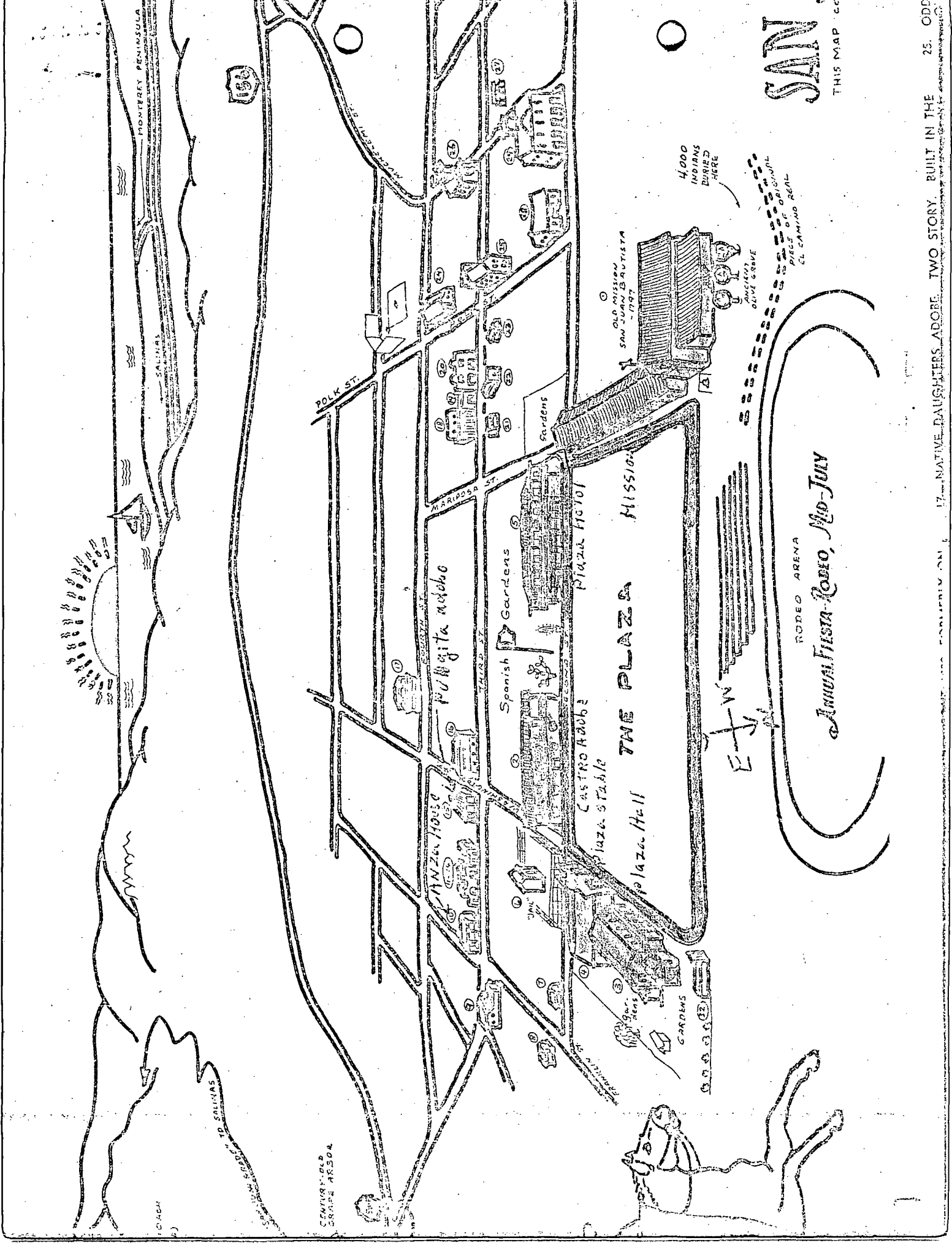
### Condition

18. Plaza Hall, located at the northeast corner of the Plaza on Washington Street. Originally erected in 1815 as a one-story adobe to house the unmarried Indian girls of the mission, Angelo Zanetta acquired the structure in 1868. He tore down the ruined mission buildings and reused the good adobe brick for the outwalls of the present two story Plaza Hall. The lower floor was used for Zanetta's private residence and is no furnished with 18th century furniture. The new second story was of frame construction, with a false front and a two-story veranda across the plaza facade. The second story, used as a hotel, contains rooms for the guests and also a large room for dances. At the rear of the Plaza Hall there is a three-room bath and washhouse. Adjacent to the Hall, on the north, is a small one-story cottage. These structures are open to visitors.

26. The Plaza Stable, located at the southeast corner of the Plaza on Washington Street. This is a large frame false-fronted structure, with a bracketed cornice. Erected in 1874, it was operated in conjunction with the Plaza Hotel. The old livery stable is now used to exhibit many types of horse-drawn vehicles, and blacksmith and wagon-wright equipment and tools.

4. Castro House, located at the southeast corner of the Plaza on Second Street. Erected by José Castro, the Commandant-General of northern California, in 1840-41 as his administrative office and to house his secretary, the Castro House is an outstanding and little altered example of a Monterey Colonial House. The restored eight-room two-story adobe, described in detail elsewhere, is furnished with pieces of the Mexican period and is open to visitors.

3. Plaza Hotel, located at the southwest corner of the Plaza on Second Street. The first floor of this long, rectangular-shaped, two-story building was built in 1813-14 as a one-story adobe barracks for the detachment of presidio soldiers from Monterey, who were stationed as guards at the San Juan Bautista Mission. The frame, clapboard second story and two-story veranda were added by Angelo Zanetta in 1858, when the building was enlarged for use as a hotel on one of the main stage stops on the stage lines between San Francisco and Los Angeles. The building and its rooms, including the bar and gambling room, have been restored and refurnished as of the 1858 period and are open to visitors.



MONTEREY PENINSULA  
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MARIPOSA ST.  
CENTURY OLD GRAPE ARSOA  
ROAD TO SALINAS  
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ANZA HOUSE  
PULGITA MACHO  
SPANISH GARDENS  
CASTRO ABBE  
Plaza Stable  
Plaza Hall  
GARDENS  
GARDENS  
GARDENS

THE PLAZA MISION  
RODEO ARENA  
Annual Fiesta-Rodeo, Mid-July

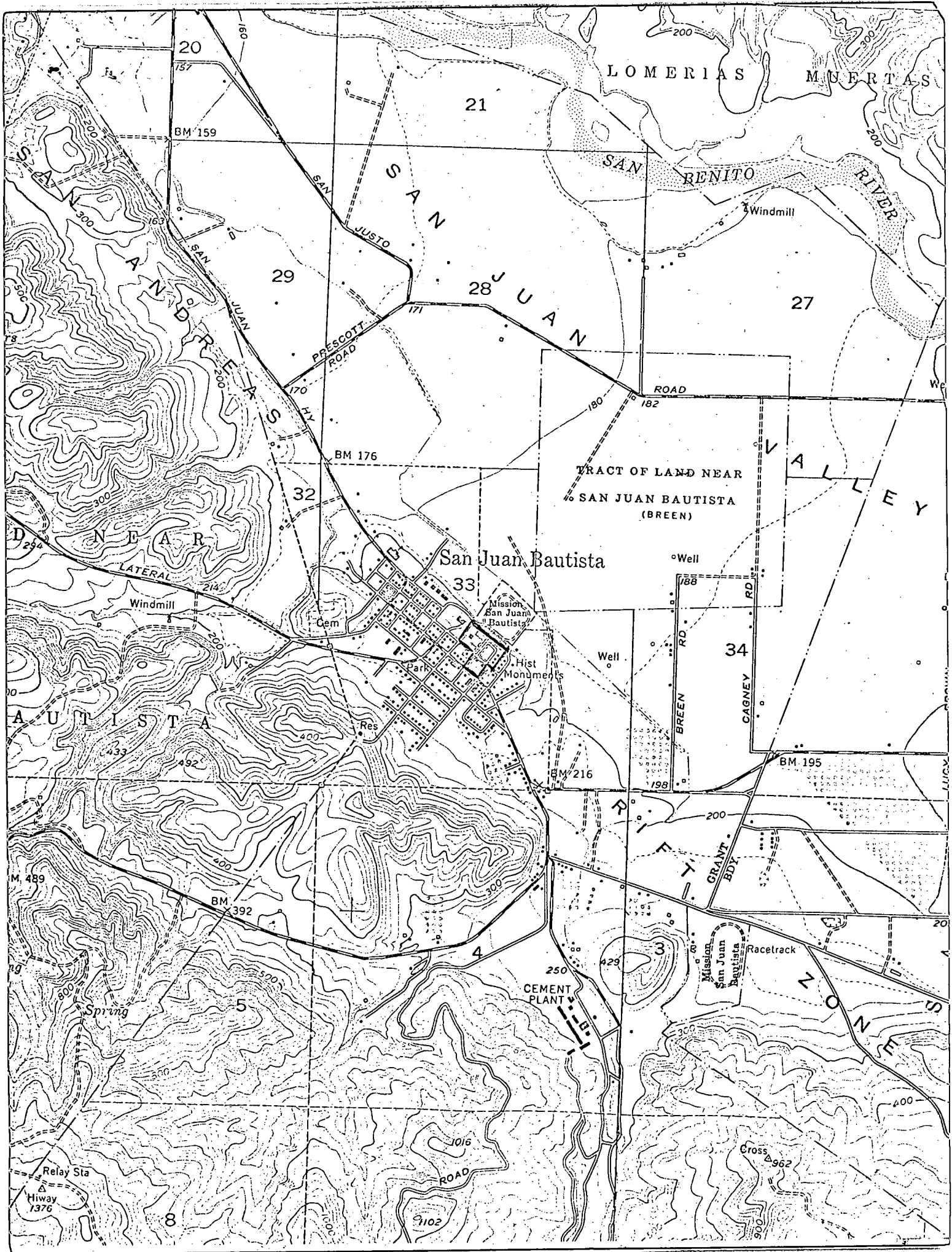
OLD MISSION SAN JUAN BAUTISTA 1797  
ANCIENT OLIVE GROVE  
PIECE OF ORIGINAL EL CAMINO REAL

4,000 INDIANS BURIED HERE

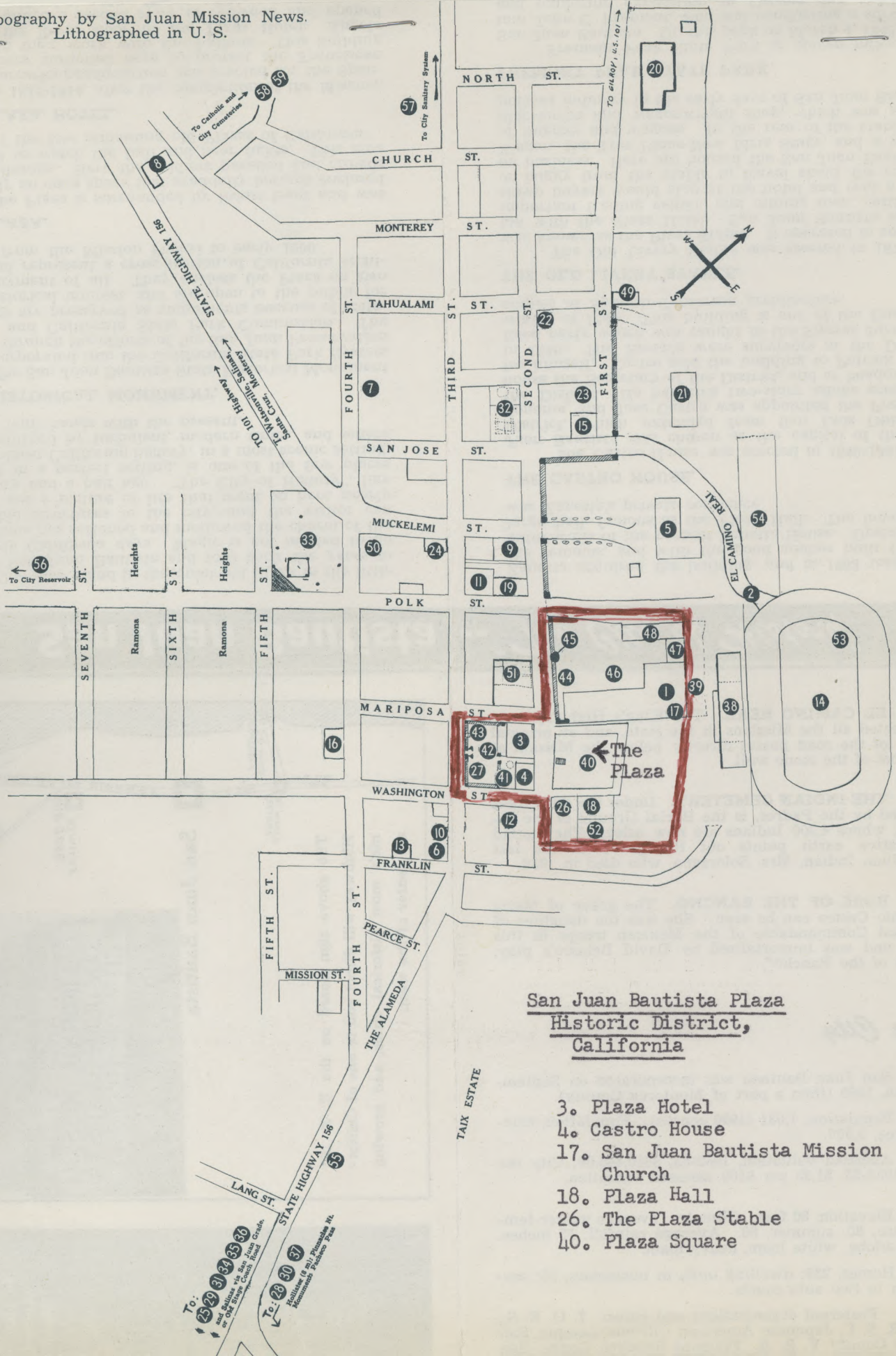
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San Juan Bautista Plaza  
Historic District,  
California

- 3. Plaza Hotel
- 4. Castro House
- 17. San Juan Bautista Mission Church
- 18. Plaza Hall
- 26. The Plaza Stable
- 40. Plaza Square





# 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: <sup>Acting</sup> 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.

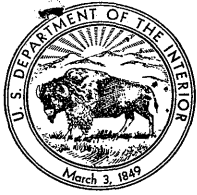
We recommend that you approve the Advisory Board's memorandum, and that it be returned to this office to become a part of the permanent record of actions recommended by the Board and approved by you.

*Harthon L. Price*

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

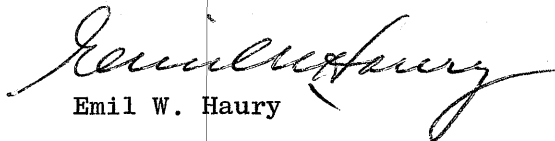
42. Erskine House, Alaska
43. St. Michael's Cathedral, Alaska
44. Commandant's House, Presidio of San Francisco, California
45. Las Trampas Plaza Historic District, New Mexico
46. Salem Tavern, Old Salem, North Carolina
47. The Alamo, Texas
48. Rising Sun Tavern, Virginia

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.

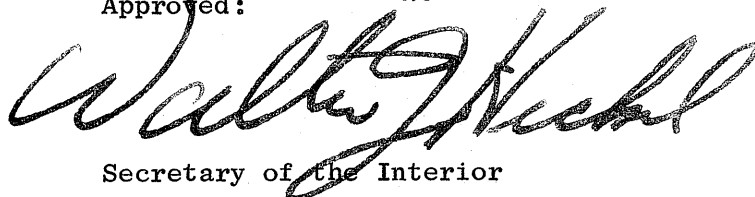
I. The following sites are judged of such prime significance as to merit further study for possible addition to the National Park System. It is recognized that many, such as Colonial Williamsburg, are being adequately preserved at present and are not available. Because unforeseen contingencies may change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