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Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg Virginia is a simple eighteenth century church whose fundamental virtues are those of proportion. It was built 1711-1715, with its tower added in 1769. It reveals a beautiful mixture of gothic and renaissance features. The roofline for instance, is that of a steeply pitched gable (gothic), while one of the most imposing visual features of the building is its use of roundheaded and then altogether round windows (renaissance).

The earlier part of the church was built before English patternbooks began to be published in the 1720's, and its style derives at least in part from the influence of the high style of the Wren-baroque architects of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries in England. Most importantly, the plan itself is a medieval one, the cruciform being a symbolic form which has persisted throughout the entire christian era. Aside from the scarcely-comparable Saint Paul's Cathedral, Sir Christopher Wren never designed a cruciform church, although some of his churches appear to be so from the interior. Virginia alone of the American colonies accepted the cruciform plan and Bruton Parish Church was the prototype of that design which spawned such outstanding work as Christ Church in nearby Lancaster County in 1732. It would seem moreover that the only surviving cruciform churches built in the American colonies before Bruton Parish Church are The Swedish Lutheran Churches of Gloria Dei in Wilmington Delaware and Philadelphia Pennsylvania, built 1698-1700.

The exterior of this simple church whose dimensions are 103'9" west to east and 38'10" north-south, is laid in a handsome Flemish bond with an irregular pattern of glazed headers. Some difference in color may be seen between the plum-colored tower added in 1769 and the lighter red of the earlier nave and transepts. The church is of one storey, 23' high with walls 2 and 1/2 ft. thick. The tower is three storeys, rising to a height of 100 feet. The spire of Bruton Church appears to be in the style of James Gibbs and it has been suggested that its movement through two octagons to the spire might have been inspired by the much more polished example given by Saint Michael's at Charleston, South Carolina, completed ten years earlier.

The exterior is punctuated by round-arched and circular windows, while a simple modiliion cornice livens the eavesline. The interior of Bruton Church is one of the simplest of all Georgian churches. It's restoration to eighteenth century appearance has established an effective contrast between the flat, white, plastered ceilings, and the richness of the woodwork. The latter is a mixture of original and reconstructed work.

The role of the church as something of a theatre for the display of pomp and ceremony, of rank and position, is suggested in the variety of pews and the placement of galleries in the church. The royal governor

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Bruton Parish Church (1711-1715, 1769) was probably designed by Royal Governor Alexander Spottswood in 1711, with its western tower added later in the century. The church represents the first to be built in a cruciform plan in the Virginia Colony. Since that plan became a common form only in that colony, Bruton Parish Church was a prototype. Its classical details demonstrate a mixture of drastically simplified Wren-type forms with a persistent conservative survival of medieval ideas. It is the earliest church in the American colonies to reflect the infusion of English Renaissance style, and marks a sharp contrast to the medieval survival of nearby churches such as the Newport Parish Church, for instance. Its exterior details such as roundheaded and circular windows, as well as its interior, with a flat, suspended, plaster ceiling surmounting a broad, coved cornice, supplant earlier more gothic features like the pointed window and visible roof trusses.

In the years following the turn of the eighteenth century the population of Williamsburg expanded rapidly and was especially swollen during those parts of the year when the Assembly was meeting. The Capitol was moved to Williamsburg from Jamestown in 1699, and one result of the new growth was the strain placed upon the facilities at The Bruton Parish Church. Several wooden structures had stood near the present site at Duke of Gloucester Street and The Palace Green, and so too had stood at least two brick churches. By November 1710, the vestry of the church felt compelled to petition the assembly "for their Generous Contribution towards same", that is an alleviation of the crowded situation at the church. The result was not only the funds that they had requested, but a design for a new building from the hand of the colony's Royal Governor himself, Alexander Spottswood. The plan was for the church was to be one 75'X 28' with two wings on each side, each one 22 feet. The governor proposed that the vestry build only 53 feet of the 75, and that he would take care of remaining part out of his own pocket. Apparently he did so, but in 1712 he decided to shorten each arm from an interior length of 19 feet to one of 14 feet 6 inches.

The church was in use by 1715, although the roof was not shingled until 1717. In December 1749, a certain Emery Hughes agreed with the vestry

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and his family occupied the most prominent pew to the northeast of the crossing, and over his chair was a canopy with a valance. Square pews were reserved for members of The House of Burgesses. The rector and the Surveyor General occupied pews in the choir, while the common people sat in the nave, men to the north, women to the south. Students were allowed in the west gallery along with some indians, while servants were permitted to stand in the north gallery.

In 1749, the vestry contracted with Emery Hughes for the construction of a wall around the Bruton Parish Churchyard. The property owned by the parish at that time consisted of three lots, two contained within the new wall, and the third adjacent to the West. The latter was used as a parking area for carriages and is now occupied by a handsome Greek Revival style brick house. Since the original wall still survives around the churchyard, it would seem most reasonable to set the boundary of this landmark to be co-extensive with that wall. It extends from the junction of Duke of Gloucester Street and Palace Green 323 feet west to a point where it turns to the north for a distance of 194 feet to a point where the wall turns east for 330 feet to a point where it finally turns south for 182 feet returning to the point at the junction of The Palace Green and Duke of Gloucester Street. Form 10-300a (July 1969)



Virginia

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

COUNTY Independent City

((NATIONAL ULBUGRIC LANDMELKE)

(Continuation Sheet)

Independent City FOR NPS USE ONLY

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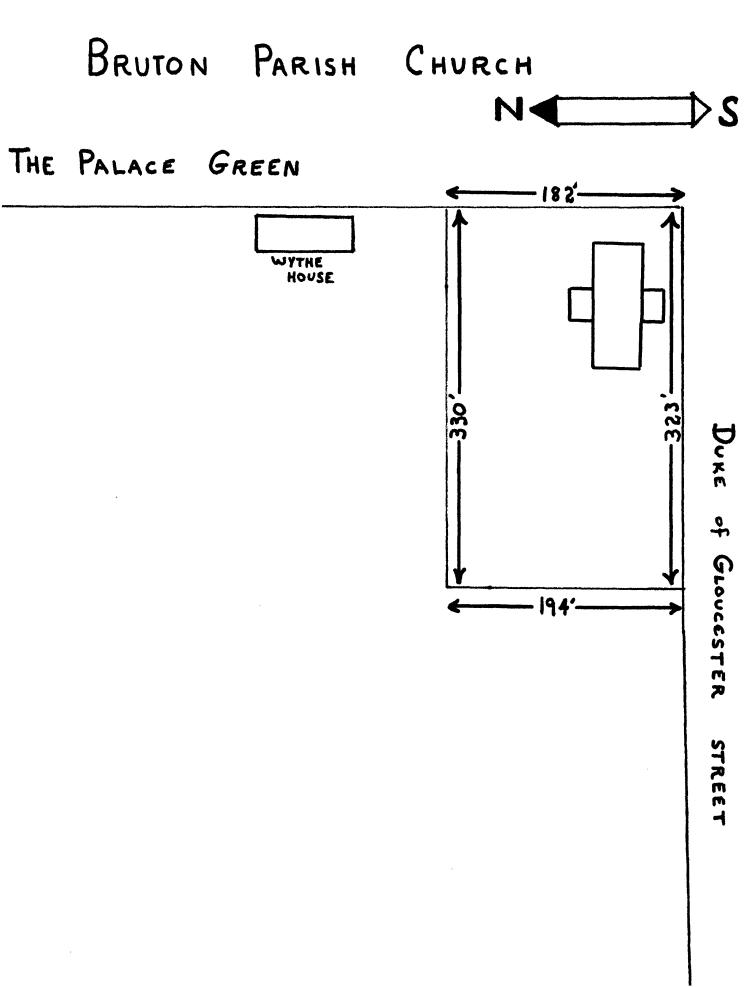
to build the churchyard wall for 290 pounds. In February 1751, the vestry decided to build an addition to the church, and a year later, the House of Burgesses resolved to make the enlargement of the church a "country charge". The addition took the form of a 22 foot extension at the chancel end, making that part of the church east of the crossing precisely equal in size to the nave to the west of it.

In December 1768, first steps were taken towards erection of a steeple, built by Benjamin Powell one of the prominent tradesmen of the town. Before this time Bruton had nothing more than a bell-cote.

Bruton Parish Church came through the Revolution unharmed and continued to serve as an Anglican place of worship. By the end of the century however it had fallen into disrepair owing to the financial distress of the disestablishment.

The pews were cut down in 1829, while it was further altered by partitions and stoves in 1838-40. Much of the old woodwork was sold. Some attempt at repairs and alterations was made in 1886 but their extent is unknown.

In 1902 when Rev. William A.R. Goodwin, Rector of St. John's Petersburg was invited to be rector of Bruton Parish, he made it a condition of his acceptance that the vestry allow him to restore Bruton Parish Church. J. Stewart Barney, a New York City architect, was hired, and if nothing else, a certain stylistic consistency was imposed upon Bruton Parish's interiors. In 1938-1942, Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. completed that partial restoration of the church to its present late-eighteenth century appearance. The exterior is largely original, while on the interior, a good deal of the windows and their frames, the West doorway, the railing, turned ballusters, and the framing of the West Gallery, are original. The church is maintained in excellent condition and, while still active as a church, is also open to visitors. Frequent musical recitals open to the public are held at the church.





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

Director, National Park Service From:

National Historic Landmark recommendations, 61st meeting Subject: 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.

within L. Bree

Enclosure

Approved: APR 1 5 197 ield

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

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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

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New Mexico

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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

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- (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
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kent County (27)
- (28) Talbot County Court House
- (29) Third Haven Meeting House
- Trinity Episcopal Church, Dorchester County (30)

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 San Estevan del Rey Mission Church (Acoma), New Mexico 19. 20. San Jose de Gracia Church (Las Trampas), New Mexico Old Salem Historic District, North Carolina 21. 22. Charleston Historic District, South Carolina 23. Drayton Hall, South Carolina 24. Mulberry Plantation, South Carolina St. James Episcopal Church, Goose Creek, South Carolina 25. 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 Bacon's Castle, Virginia 31. 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 Adam Thoroughgood House, Virginia 40. Westover, Virginia 41. Emil W. Haury

APR 1 5 1970 Approved:

Secretary of the Interior