Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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

THEME.	ADCUTOCOMIDE
THEME:	ARCHITECTURE

STATE:		
Vir	ginia	
COUNTY:		
Independ	dent City	
FÓR	NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE		

# INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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	NAME								
	COMMON:								
	The Wythe House								
	AND/OR HISTORIC:								
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2.	LOCATION								
	STREET AND NUMBER:								Į
	on Palace Green,	<u>, adjacent</u>	to Bru	iton Pa	rish Churc	ch DISTRICT:			_
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	Williamsburg				COUNTY:			Т	_
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	Virginia CLASSIFICATION			1 51	Indeper	ndent City		1830	
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	Site Structure	D Both	-		Considered	Unoccupied	Unre	estricted	
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		1				In progress		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	_
	PRESENT USE (Check One or M	More as Appropria	ate)						_
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	Commercial In	ndustrial	[ D:.						- 1
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7. DESCRIPTION								
	1			(Check C	One)			
COMPLETION	Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	Deterio	orated [	Ruins	Unexposed	
CONDITION		(Check C	ne)			(Che	ck One)	
	▼ Alter	ed	Unaltere	d		Moved	Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE DE	DESENT AND OR	CINIAL (if he	own) DUVCIC	41 4005454				

The plan of the Wythe House is the standard eighteenth century central hall and four room arrangement known as a double pile. The house though, despite first appearances, is symmetrical East-West only, for the front rooms are slightly deeper than those to the rear. All four exterior elevations are, however, symmetrical.

The Wythe House is a small and unassuming one, but through the beauty of its lines and the quality of its brickwork, achieves a remarkably sophisticated appearance. The 54 X 39' building is two storeys, of brick laid in a Flemish bond above the water table, and an English bond below it. The whole is capped by a fine low-pitched hipped roof.

Detailing of the jambs and quoins above the water table (but not below it) is articulated in a restrained manner with the use of rubbed and gauged brick. All joints throughout the house, both horizontal and vertical are lined, giving a carefully executed sense to the whole, even if there is some lack of uniformity in the brickwork overall. The water table itself is of rubbed brick, while that restrained attempt to articulate detail, may be seen in the fact that only the one brick in each course nearest the various openings are rubbed. The belt-course across the building, as well as the jack arches over the windows and doors, are likewise done in rubbed and gauged brick.

Two other brick features should be noted: the substantial caps on the two chimneys, made up of courses of corbeled brick above and below a pair of fascia, and the oak nosings on the brick steps.

A curious feature of The Wythe House is an apparent attempt to scale up the second floor, by manipulating the window details. While it is a common feature of classical buildings to shorten the proportions of upper floor windows in order to appear larger, by also narrowing the window components, the builder of the Wythe House created an ambiguity of scale which in fact gives the impression that the building is smaller than it really is \*\* This problem is compounded by the design of the doors, and the exceptionally wide trim of the door frame. Doubtless, the builder was hoping to create a grandeur here on The Palace Green, but at least in his manipulation of the windows, did not help that cause. Happily, the composition of the house as a whole overcomes this window factor and the result is a very handsome and elegant Georgian house.

The design of The Wythe House is based upon a plate from William Salmon's Paladio Londinensis, or the London Art of Building, published in 1734.

The interior of the wide central hall features a finely-executed open-

\*\* Lower windows are 4' wide, the uppers 3'6". Lowers are 7'9" high the uppers 6'6". Panes: uppers 8"X10", lowers 10"X12". Sash: upper 1 3/8" lower 1 5/8" wide.

ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)	,	
Pre-Columbian	☐ 16th Century	18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
PECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) built by	Richard Talliafe	erro c. 1750
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	☐ Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	Industry	losophy	
Agriculture	Invention	Science	
Architecture	Landscape	Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	Literature	itarian	
Communications	Military	Theater	
Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wythe House was built by Richard Talieffero, a planter who on occasion undertook building works and may or may not have given the desgns for the buildings he erected. Recent research indicates that the most likely date for the construction of the Wythe House is about 1750 when Talliaferro was repairing and adding the ballroom wing to, The Palace. The Wythe House is Williamsburg's most handsome colonial house and one of Virginia's and the Nation's finest examples of a Georgian town house.

The house was occupied by George Wythe from about 1755 until 1791. He was a member of the House of Burgesses, mayor of Williamsburg, a signer of The Declaration of Independence, and first professor of Law in an American college. Among his students at the College of William and Mary were Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States, John Marshall, later Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and James Monroe, sixth President of the United States.

The remarkable beauty of the Wythe House derives from its good lines and its fine brickwork.

The Wythe House had fallen into very poor condition by the Twentieth Century and was purchased by Bruton Parish 1926 and between that date and 1931, was repaired and restored under the supervision of the Reverand Dr. William Goodwin. It was used as a parish house until 1937 when it was acquired by Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. which still owns and maintains the house in excellent condition.

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

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

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Independent City	7
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries) 7. Description second page

string stair, running along the South wall of that room. It is a very simple one, leading at least one historian, T.T. Waterman, to compare it to the "elegant simplicity of the great Quaker houses of Philadelphia". It is of walnut, with richly turned ballusters, three to a tread, has a square newel post, and the gallery-post features a fine, turned pendant. Other than the stair, the house has no interior woodwork of note, and probably never did, choosing instead the understated simplicity exemplified by the stair and the conservative East facade on the Palace Green.

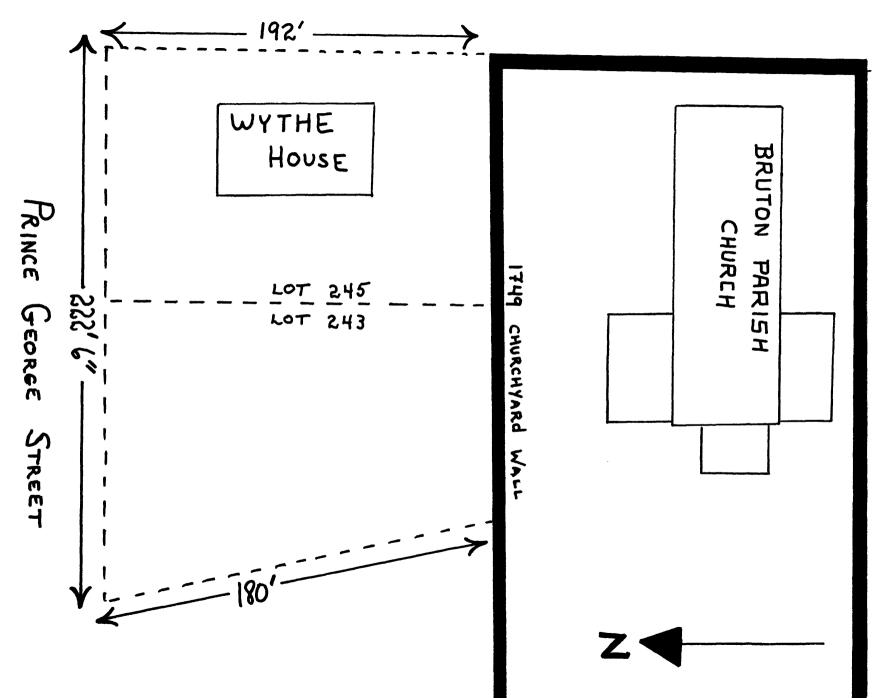
The Wythe House was probably built about 1750 by Richard Talliaferro, a planter who on occasion undertook building works. The house was occupied by George Wythe from 1755 until 1791, whence the building derives its name. It has been changed very little. The Wythe House had fallen into very poor condition by the Twentieth century and was purchased by Bruton Parish in 1926 and between that date and 1931, was repaired and restored under the supervision of the Reverand Dr. William Goodwin. It was used as a parish house until 1937, when it was acquired by Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. Since then, all new mantels have been installed, and the steps at both the East and West facades have been replaced. The eaves cornice is of Nineteenth century vintage, although patterned on an Eighteenth century type. Virtually all else is original. All outbuildings on the property are reconstructed. The gardens are superbly maintained, as well as the house, by Colonial Williamsburg, Inc.

#### BOUNDARY INFORMATION

The site of the Wythe House is adjacent to the Bruton Parish Church, fronting East on Palace Green, and bounded on the North by Prince George Street. Since we are fortunate enough to be able to trace the 18th Century boundary on surviving deed maps, this is obviously the most reasonable boundary one could possibly impose upon the property.

That property map shows that The Wythe House originally occupied two lots, numbered 245 and 243. The South boundary of the property then is the 1749 wall of Bruton Parish Churchyard, and starting from its Northeastern terminus, runs Northerly for 192' and then turns West on Prince George Street for 222'6". At that point, it must turn South again to return to the wall of the churchyard and must do so at a slight angle to accommodate a line of 180 feet exactly, 12 feet shorter than the other North-South boundary line.

## THE PALACE GREEN





### 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. Porce

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

Concellerance Emil W. Haury

Approved: APR 1 5 1970

Secretary of the Interior