

STATE	Michigan
COUNTY:	Emmet
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK) (Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Fort Michilimackinac

AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Michilimackinac

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Straits Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Mackinac City CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 11th

STATE: Michigan CODE: 26 COUNTY: Emmet CODE: 047

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Mackinac Island State Park Commission-Dr. Eugene T. Petersen

STREET AND NUMBER: Mackinac Island

CITY OR TOWN: Mackinac Island STATE: Michigan CODE: 26

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Secretary of State; Mr. Richard Austin

STREET AND NUMBER: Capitol Building

CITY OR TOWN: Lansing STATE: Michigan CODE: 48926

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: None

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Michigan

COUNTY: Emmet

ENTRY NUMBER

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

There were several locations of Fort Michilimackinac prior to its placement on the northern shore of the southern Michigan Peninsula. Conflict arises among academicians as to the dates of the second French occupation of Fort Michilimackinac, though present archaeological excavations have placed them there during the early 18th century. The old French stockade was much smaller than the British structure (it is this British stockade which has been restored). Both forts, however, were located on the same site.

After the French and Indian War, the British acquired Fort Michilimackinac and the British Red Ensign replaced the fleur de lis. The character of the fort likewise changed. The French houses were demolished by the british to make room for the building of new barricks as well as quarters for the commanding officer.

The reconstruction efforts at Fort Michilimackinac have been thorough and very extensive. Some sources reveal that the reconstruction is not accurate. However, the Michigan Historical Commission has accepted the archaeological evidence.

At present the Michilimackinac and Fort Michilimackinac State Park is guided towards the interpretation of the same period of Michigan History. The Maritime Park (Michilimackinac) is located on the east side of the park while Fort Michilimackinac occupies the western half. Both are in harmony and do not detract from one another. The entrance to the park is the one structure that seems most out of character and adds the flavor of the 20th century. A stone structure, the entrance building is topped by the Mackinac Straits Bridge.

Inside Fort Michilimackinac there have been rebuilt structures of both the French and British occupation. The majority of structures are basic one story buildings—the French used vertical logs, while the British logs were horizontal. Presently the structures having been rebuilt include; the French Traders' Post, a one and one-half story building with cedar bark roof, the Chapel which is connected to the blacksmith's shop and the Parsonage. Inside the Chapel is an altar of wood with wooden benches. The French cemetery is located to the rear of the Church. Directly behind the Parsonage and to the east is the British soldiers barracks. The Commandant's Quarters are located at the northern end of the fort, directly adjacent the Water Gate and the King's Storehouse. Inside the storehouse are animated exhibits.

On the other side of the park is the Maritime Museum. A two story structure with gabled roof, it is used on the first floor as an exhibition hall and on the second floor as a domicile for the men who work during the summer in the park. Presently being reconstructed in the Maritime Park is a reproduction of the Sloop Welcome, the first

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |  |                                       |
|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century            |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1681-1781**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

French hegemony in Michigan revolved about control of the Straits of Mackinac and Fort Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinac City commemorates an important bastion of French power on the Straits. The first Forts Michilimackinac (there were several) stood on the opposite side of the straits, at St. Ignace, and was garrisoned between 1681 and 1701. In the latter year, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac transferred the garrison to Detroit, leaving the vital straits apparently unprotected for fourteen years. French soldiers returned to the area in 1715, when a new Fort Michilimackinac was built on the southern shore of Mackinac City. The fleur de lis of France flew over this fort until 1760, when, as a result of the French and Indian War, the French abandoned the post after Canada had been lost to the British. Subsequent to the humiliation of the French, English troops occupied Fort Michilimackinac in 1761.

The French-built fort was eventually abandoned by the British. A sudden Indian attack part of Pontiac's rebellion, on the garrison resulted in its massacre in 1763, but within a year the redcoats had re-occupied Fort Michilimackinac. In 1781, when it seemed that the Americans were about to attack, the fort's commander abandoned the post and established a new Fort Michilimackinac on Mackinac Island, on the other side of the straits.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kellogg, Louise P., The French Regime in Wisconsin and the Northwest, Volume I of Wisconsin History Series, (Madison 1925).  
 Parkman, Francis, A Half Century of Conflict (2 vols., Boston: 1914).  
 Peckman, Howard H., Pontiac and the Indian Uprising (Princeton 1947).  
 Petersen, Eugene, Michilimackinac, (Mackinac Island Park Commission 1968).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	16.675860.5072800	0 . . "		0 . . "	0 . . "	
NE	16.676600.5072800	0 . . "		0 . . "	0 . . "	
SE	16.676600.5072480	0 . . "		0 . . "	0 . . "	
SW	16.675860.5072480	0 . . "		0 . . "	0 . . "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 27

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Michigan	26	Emmet	047
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
		Cheboygan	031
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Joseph S. Mendinghall, Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Park Service-Historic Sites Survey DATE: 2/24/75

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 1100 L. Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. 20240 CODE: 11

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local  Boundary  Certified

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Landmark Set Designated: 10/9/68

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Boundary Affirmed: \_\_\_\_\_

Arch. Surveys \_\_\_\_\_

Chief, Hist. & \_\_\_\_\_

Boundary Certified: \_\_\_\_\_

Designated: \_\_\_\_\_

Landmark \_\_\_\_\_

Director, OAHHP \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 3/26/76

09/6/01

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

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ship built on the Straits.

BOUNDARY INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION

Because both sections of the Michilimackinac State Park are centered on the same theme they are included within the boundary. Beginning at the juncture of the western side of lot 3 and the Straits of Mackinac proceed south across Straits Avenue to the western edge of lot 3 to a point which intersects Sinclair Street, thence proceed east along the northern edge of Sinclair Street to a point which intersects Lovingly Street, thence north along the west side of Lovingly Street to a point which intersects the north side of Straits Avenue, thence east along the northern edge of Straits Avenue to the Western edge of lot 12, excluding lots 12 and 13, but including lots 14 and 15, the line continues to the Straits of Mackinac. The northern boundary is congruent with the shoreline of the Straits of Mackinac. It should be emphasized that the landmark is a site. Structures representative of the historic period and later buildings utilized for interpretive purposes, do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.

The boundary of the landmark is coterminus with the boundary of the State parks and includes areas beyond the immediate confines of the fortification because of the likelihood of subterranean resources associated with historic settlements in the vicinity.

The site of the fort and associated structures is situated in Fort Michilimackinac State Park, just to the west of the bridge piers, but the structures themselves are reconstructions and are not considered a nationally significant resource.