

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Revised

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE California	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XX (Architecture) and XV (Fur Trade)
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Fort Ross Commander's House	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 4 acres
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Sonoma County, on State Highway 1, 87 miles north of San Francisco	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) State of California (Division of Beaches and Parks)	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

Statement of Significance

Built in 1812, the Commander's House is an excellent original example of the Russian methods of log construction.

History

Fort Ross was established as a Russian American Company fur trading post by Ivan Kuskoff and 95 Russians and 80 Aleuts from Sitka, Alaska, in the spring of 1812. The post was constructed on the same general plan utilized by the Russians for their fur trading posts in Alaska. Fort Ross was an quadrangular enclosure which measured about 276 by 312 feet. Hand-hewn redwood timbers were used for all construction, including the stockaded walls, which were 12 feet high. Two two-story blockhouses, one 7-sided and the other 8-sided, were located at diagonally opposite corners of the stockade.

Inside the walls were the commander's house, officer's quarters, a two-story barracks for the Russian employees, a chapel, and 3 storehouses and offices; outside the walls were 37 redwood huts for the Aleuts, a wind-mill, farm buildings, granaries, cattle yards, a tannery, and workshops for blacksmiths, coopers, bakers, and carpenters. The fort was completed in 1814. In December, 1841, the Russian American Company sold Fort Ross to John A. Sutter and the last Russians left the post in January, 1842.

(Continued)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

Hubert H. Bancroft, History of California (7 vols., San Francisco, 1884-90), II, 58-62, 294-320, 628-52; IV, 158-89; Harold Kirker, California's Architectural Frontier (San Marino, 1960), 3, 13; Fort Ross State Historical Monument (Leaflet, California Division of Beaches and Parks, 1955).

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

Historic American Building Survey: CAL 1313 Russian Barracks 4 photos (1934). Jessie S. Douglas, "Brief Historical Account of Fort Ross," (N.P.S. Typescript, San Francisco, July 16, 1935). Olaf T. Hagen, "Historic Sites Survey Report: Fort Ross, Calif.," (N.P.S. Typescript, San Francisco, S.F. Aug 20, 1941).

10. PHOTOGRAPHS #617, 1407, 1609 EXCELLENT CONDITION	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Excellent (Restored)	13. DATE OF VISIT Apr. 12, 1958
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Charles W. Snell</i> Charles W. Snell	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE Feb. 8, 1967

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

UNITED STATES
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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, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

Page 2.

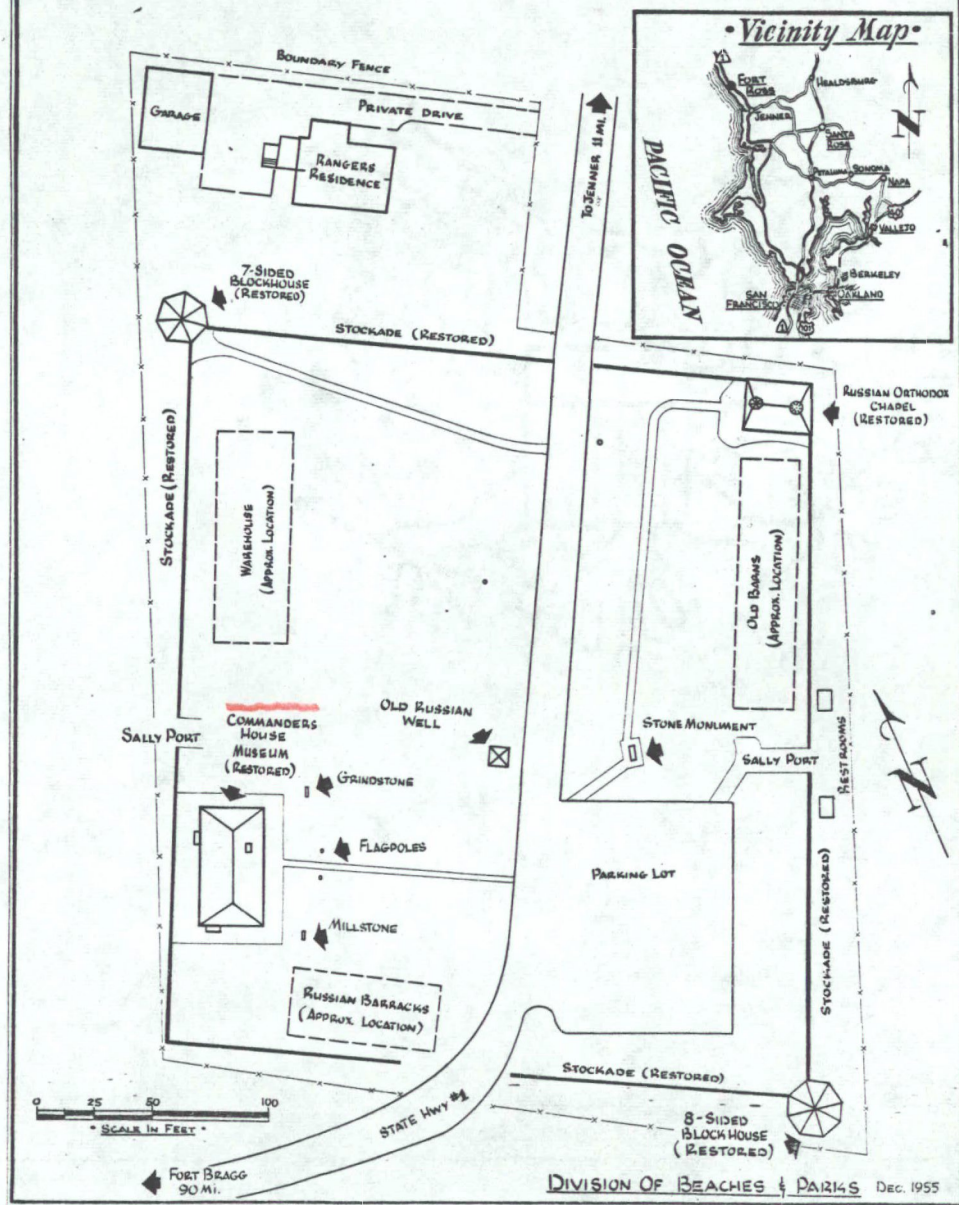
STATE California	NAME(S) OF SITE Fort Ross Commander's House
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7. Continued:

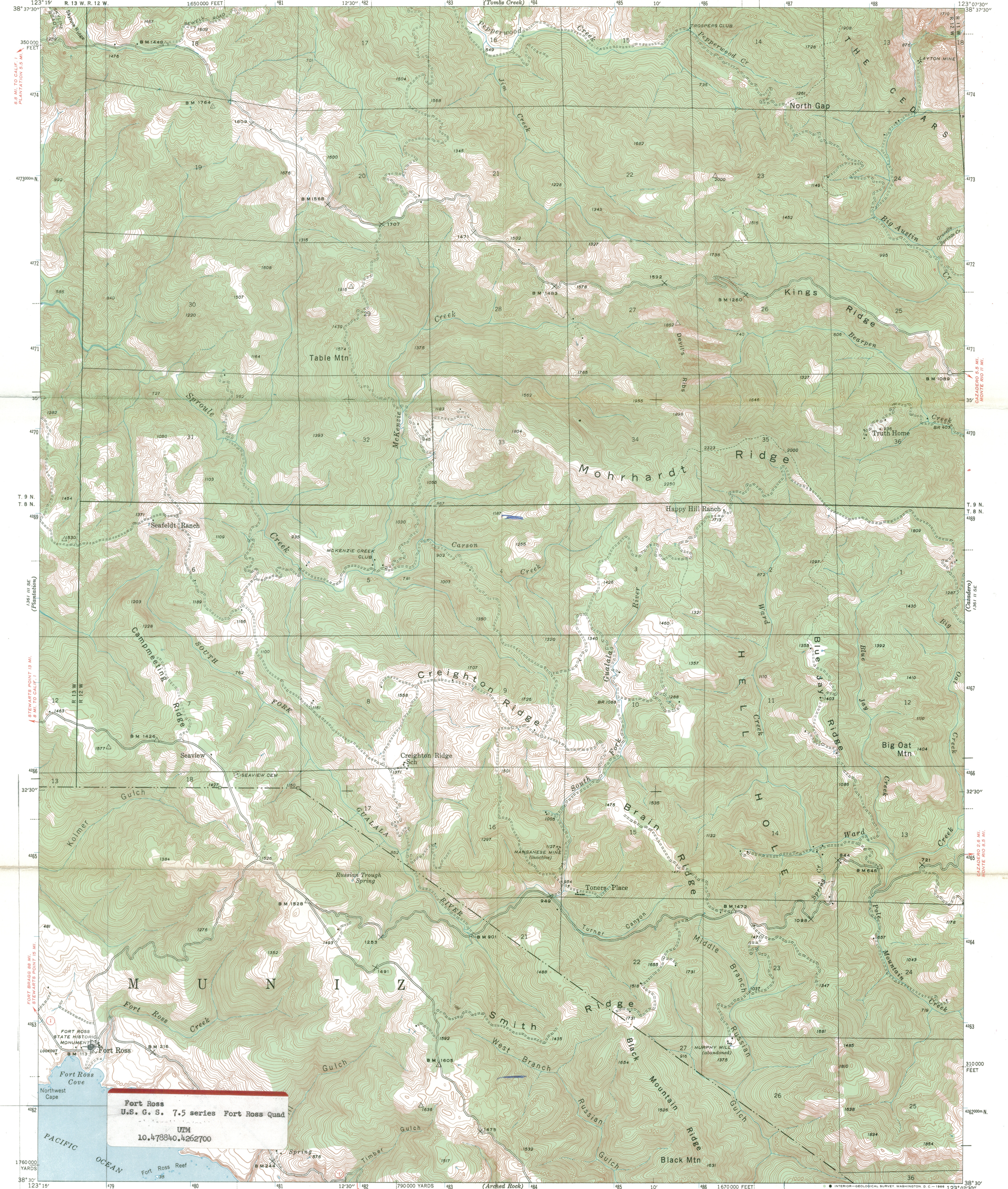
The Commander's House, erected in 1812, is a one-story dwelling that measures approximately 36 by 48 feet. The walls, which are not parallel, equal, or at right angles to another, are comprised of hand-squared redwood timbers that are mortised together at the corners. No saws or augers were used, but the intricate and strong long-joining was done with the use of the adze, axe, broadaxe, chisel, and plane. The high-pitched peaked hipped roof, which also varies from side to side and end to end, was built in two layers and is made up of skillfully split and hewed boards that are up to 23 feet long and over an inch thick; these each have two chiseled grooves down their upper side near each edge to keep the water away from the cracks. The residence has a hall and 7 rooms, with indications that there may once have been an eighth room. By 1818 the house had glass in its windows, which was imported from Russia.

The Commander's House, largely an original building, was still virtually intact and little-altered in 1906 when the Fort Ross site was donated to the State of California. This building, now a part of Fort Ross State Historical Monument, is being carefully repaired and restored and is open to visitors as an historic house museum.

Fort Ross State Historical Monument

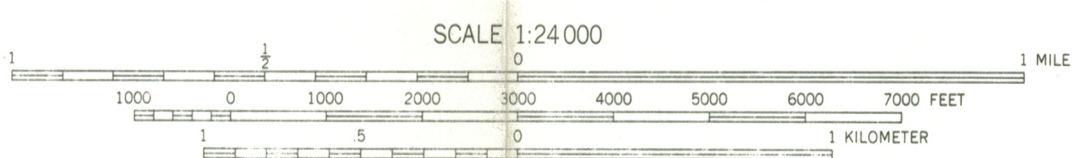
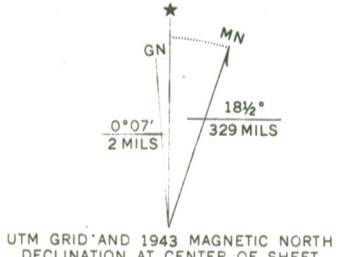






Mapped by the Geological Survey
1942 and 1943

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 10, shown in blue



Contour interval 25 feet
Datum is mean sea level

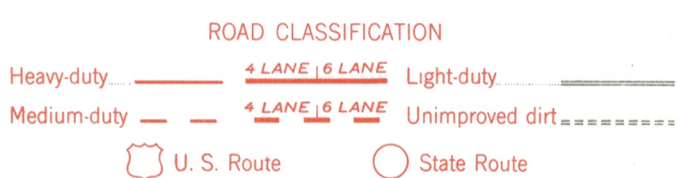
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Certain land lines are omitted
because of insufficient data.
All recovered corners are shown.

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
5000 yard grid based on U. S. zone system, G
10000 foot grid based on California (2)
rectangular coordinate system

FORT ROSS, CALIF.

N 3830-W 12307.5/7.5
1943
AMS 1361 II SW-SERIES V895



19
MAY 5 1970

Dear Senator Murphy:

I am pleased to inform you that the following listed sites, described in the enclosures, have been found to possess national significance in commemorating the history of the United States. These sites are:

Anza House
Jose Castro House
Estudillo House
Fort Ross Commander's House
Fort Ross Russian Orthodox Church
Guaajome Ranchhouse
Los Alamos Ranchhouse
Los Cerritos Ranchhouse
Monterey Old Town Historic District
La Purisima Mission
Petaluma Adobe
San Diego Mission Church
San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District
San Luis Rey Mission Church
Whay House

These sites have been evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments through studies prepared by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935. I have approved the recommendations of the Board.

As explained in the enclosed folder, each of these sites is eligible to receive a certificate and plaque designating it a National Historic Landmark. The Director of the National Park Service will notify the owners and provide them with the proper application forms.

Designation as a National Historic Landmark automatically places the property on the National Register of Historic Places. Under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, entry on the National Register provides each landmark with safeguards against damage by Federal undertakings and fulfills one qualification for participation in a grant-in-aid program to assist in its preservation. Further information about these provisions of the law is contained in the enclosed folder describing the National Register.

In recognizing the historical importance of these sites in your State, I wish to commend the owners for the care and preservation of these properties.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Walter J. Hickel

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. George Murphy
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures

cc:
Regional Director; Western
HHS-Mr. Sheely

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN FH

MAY 5 1970

Dear Mr. Clausen:

I am pleased to inform you that Fort Ross Commander's House, Fort Ross Russian Orthodox Church, and Petaluma Adobe, described in the enclosures, have been found to possess national significance in commemorating the history of the United States.

These sites have been evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments through studies prepared by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935. I have approved the recommendations of the Board.

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(sgd) Walter J. Hickel

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Don H. Clausen
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures

cc:

Regional Director; Western

HHS-Mr. Sheely

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HH

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

For Release Sunday, May 10, 1970

Waindel (202) 343-4214

80 HISTORIC SITES ANNOUNCED ELIGIBLE FOR LANDMARK STATUS

Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel today announced the eligibility of 80 buildings and places in 18 States for designation as National Historic Landmarks.

All but a few of the selections are based upon a National Park Service theme study of colonial architecture which included structures identified with Spanish, French, Russian and English colonization of what is now the United States.

California leads today's listing with 15 sites identified with Spanish and Russian colonization. Virginia and Maryland each have 11, and South Carolina nine, all associated with the English. Other States represented include Alaska, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington.

Other landmark designations of colonial architecture in the New England and Middle Atlantic States were made earlier.

A total of 886 sites have been declared eligible for landmark status since compilation was begun in 1960.

Recommendations are made to Secretary Hickel by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments, a nonsalaried public body set up by statute. All sites so designated are included in the National Register of Historic Places, maintained by the Department of the Interior's National Park Service under the National Historic Preservation Act.

While not owned or administered by the Service, Historic Landmarks are recognized as a means of encouraging the preservation of historically significant properties. Owners of the individual sites are invited to apply to the Service for bronze plaques and certificates which identify the locations as Historic Landmarks, at which time they are officially so designated.

The States and their newly eligible sites in alphabetical order by states, include:

1. Church of the Holy Ascension, Village of Unalaska, Dutch Harbor, Unalaska Island, Alaska. Comparison between a photograph of 1884 and one of recent date suggests strongly that the central portion of the Church of the Holy Ascension dates from the original construction of 1825-1826. This would make the church the oldest Russian-constructed church still standing in the United States. With the destruction of St. Michael's Cathedral at Sitka in 1966, the Church of the Holy Ascension is also now the finest and best-preserved example in Alaska of a 19th century Russian Orthodox Church constructed on the Pskov or cruciform ground plan. The church is in good condition and in active use.
2. Russian Orthodox Mission Church, Kenai, on the east shore of Cook Inlet, Alaska. The mission church, dating from 1894, is a fine and well-preserved example in Alaska of a 19th century Russian Orthodox Church constructed on a vessel or quadrilateral ground plan. The building is in good condition and its congregation is an active one.
3. Anza House, Third and Franklin Streets, San Juan Bautista, California. Constructed by Juan De Anza in the period 1820-1840, this one-story dwelling is a splendid and little-altered example of a typical small two-room adobe town house of the Mexican period. The structure also includes early (1840-1850) American construction features. The unrestored building is privately owned and not open to visitors.
4. Jose Castro House, on the south side of the Plaza, San Juan Bautista, California. The two-story Monterey Colonial type is illustrated by the José Castro adobe, an outstanding and little-altered example of this style. The structure survived virtually intact and unaltered from 1840-1841 well into the 20th century. The restoration since 1933 has been accurately and carefully done. Open to visitors, the Castro House is furnished with pieces of the Mexican period.
5. Estudillo House, 4000 Mason Street, Old Town, San Diego, California. The Estudillo House, erected in 1827-1829, is an extremely good example in the United States of a typical large Spanish-Mexican Colonial one-story adobe town house. The house is furnished with period furniture. It is in good condition and is open to visitors.

6. Fort Ross Commander's House, within Fort Ross State Historical Monument, on California Route 1, 13 miles north of Jenner, Sonoma County, California. This excellent, rare and little-altered example well illustrates the Russian-built log house. The Commander's House is largely an original building. Since Fort Ross became a State Historical Monument in 1928, the house has been carefully repaired and restored. It is open to visitors.

7. Fort Ross Russian Orthodox Church, within Fort Ross State Historical Monument, on California Route 1, 13 miles north of Jenner, Sonoma County, California. The Russian Orthodox Chapel at Fort Ross, built about 1828, is a rare example of a log church constructed on the Russian vessel or quadrilateral plan. The earthquake of 1906 shattered the Chapel, except for its roof and two towers, and the building collapsed. The walls were reassembled, and the building was restored by the State in 1915-1917. Further historical research later revealed that errors, particularly in the fenestration, had been made in the early restoration. It became necessary to do considerable repairing of the building in 1955-1957, and the early mistakes were eliminated. The Chapel is open to visitors.

8. Guajome Ranchhouse, 2½ miles northeast of Vista, San Diego County, California. The Guajome Ranchhouse, erected in 1852-1853, exemplifies the traditional Spanish-Mexican one-story adobe hacienda with an inner and outer courtyard plan. Unlike most other Spanish-Mexican ranchos in the United States, the numerous original Rancho Guajome service buildings have survived virtually intact. Only a small part of the main ranchhouse has been remodeled in any way. The main house, which is still a private residence, is not open to visitors.

9. Los Alamos Ranchhouse, on the left of U.S. 101 about three miles west of Los Alamos, Santa Barbara County, California. An unusually fine example of the smaller type of traditional one-story Spanish-Mexican hacienda is the Los Alamos Ranchhouse, built about 1840. Its original rural ranch setting has also been preserved virtually intact. The house has been carefully restored, but some alterations have been made. These changes include the installation of central heating, electricity and two picture windows. The original overall appearance, however, has not been greatly changed. The house is used as a residence and is not open to visitors.

10. Los Cerritos Ranchhouse, 4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach, California. A magnificent example of a courtyard ranchhouse in which the Monterey Colonial style is combined with the traditional Spanish-Mexican plan is found in Los Cerritos Ranchhouse erected in 1844. The building is a large and impressive example of domestic adobe architecture in southern California. The house, maintained in excellent condition, is now exhibited as a historic house and museum and is also used as a historical library. The original ranching setting has been destroyed by the growth of the City of Long Beach, but the house itself is preserved in very attractive grounds.

11. La Purisima Mission, near Lompoc, Santa Barbara County, California. While it was never a major mission, La Purisima was representative of the California missions. Diligent and patient examination of historical records and photographs, interviews with early settlers, and detailed archeological and structural study has made possible the almost complete reconstruction of the mission compound as it existed around 1828. La Purisima is an outstanding and authentic reconstructed example of a complete mission complex. There are absolutely no intrusions on the original rural historic scene. The Mission's location, protected by considerable acreage and by hills on three sides, should insure the future preservation of this setting. It is administered as a State Historic Park and is open to the public.

12. Monterey Old Town Historic District, Monterey, California. Monterey's Old Town, with its surviving collection of some 43 adobe structures, is a remarkably rich illustration of the Spanish-Mexican Colonial era. Its mixture of one-story adobes, constructed in the traditional manner, with the newer two-story adobes built in the Monterey Colonial style, creates a blend of architectures that is unique in the United States.

Two pockets of historic structures, the southern and northern historic districts, have survived and are being recognized in this designation. These two sections contain good examples of Spanish-Mexican Colonial period buildings in such numbers and without serious intrusions so as to preserve and convey an accurate impression of mid-19th century Monterey.

13. Petaluma Adobe, Casa Grande Road at Adobe Road, four miles east of Petaluma, Sonoma County, California. The Petaluma Adobe, built in 1836-1846 is a magnificent example of a great single-courtyard ranchhouse in which Monterey Colonial style is combined with the traditional Spanish-Mexican plan. The Petaluma Adobe is also unusual in its size; it is one of the largest examples of domestic adobe architecture in the United States. Restoration of surviving wings of this great house is now nearly complete. It is open to visitors.

14. San Diego Mission Church, Friars Road, five miles east of Old Town San Diego, San Diego County, California. The simpler style of architecture utilized in most California mission churches is seen in the San Diego Mission Church (1808-1813), an excellent restored example. Restoration of the church began in 1930-1931 and on February 2, 1941, the restored structure was rededicated as a parish church.
15. 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 five structures fronting on the Plaza, erected between 1813 and 1874, have been carefully restored, and there are no modern intrusions.
16. San Luis Rey Mission Church, on State Route 76, four miles east of Oceanside, San Diego County, California. Among California mission churches, San Luis Rey is very important because of the extent of surviving original construction and workmanship. It is also important in the design and beauty of its architectural composition. Although in ruined condition, the remains of the church and other mission buildings were still quite extensive in 1893. Since that date a program of gradual restoration and reconstruction has been carried out and nearly completed. The structures are maintained in excellent condition, and the church and some of the mission buildings are open to the public.
17. Vhay House, 835 Laguna Street, Santa Barbara, California. Built by Raphael Gonzales around 1825, the Vhay House is an excellent example of a traditional medium-sized adobe town house of the Mexican period. The house was restored in the 1920's. In this work brick fireplaces and chimneys and tile floors were installed. Several new windows were also added in the original front. The restored adobe is in excellent condition, is used as a residence and is not open to the public.
18. Aspendale, on State Route 300, about one mile west of Kenton, Kent County, Delaware. Aspendale (1771-1773) is a virtually unaltered example of a moderate-sized brick farmhouse conservatively and finely designed in the early Georgian style. The main house is adjoined at the west end by an older one-and-a-half story frame service wing. The rooms of the house, upstairs and down, are very finely paneled, and the paneling, the hardware, and the paint on the woodwork are original. Only a portion of the window glass has been replaced. Aspendale is privately owned and is not open to visitors.

19. Cathedral of St. Augustine, Cathedral Street between Charlotte and St. George Streets, St. Augustine, Florida. The Parish of St. Augustine, established in 1594, preserves records that date from 1595. Plans for the church were prepared by the Royal Engineer Mariano de la Rocque. The plan was typical of many Spanish 18th century town churches. When completed in 1797, the structure was considered to be the finest parish church in Spanish Florida. When the Diocese of St. Augustine was established in 1870, the church became the Catholic Cathedral of St. Augustine. A fire in 1887 completely gutted the church, leaving only the four stone walls standing. In 1887-1888 the building was restored in part and greatly enlarged by the New York City architect James Renwick. The original facade and about 75 feet of each side wall were retained and restored; but beyond this point the original walls were demolished and a large new rear section added which changed the original rectangular plan to the present cruciform one. The present six-story bell tower designed in the Spanish Renaissance style was also added at that time.

The Cathedral of St. Augustine is an active church and is also open to visitors.

20. Llambias House, 31 St. Francis Street, St. Augustine, Florida. Erected prior to 1763 and reaching its final form by 1788, the Llambias House is a restored example of an organic growth dwelling built on a variation of the "St. Augustine" plan. The "St. Augustine" type of residence was developed by the Spanish between 1703 and 1763 to meet the local climatic needs of Florida. In the period 1763-1783 the English added further refinements to this plan, so that extant examples reflect both Spanish and English architectural influences. Restoration of the Llambias House was accomplished in 1954. The late 18th century appearance of the house, including the interior, is being preserved.

21. Oldest House, 14 St. Francis Street, St. Augustine, Florida. In its organic growth between about 1723 and 1790, the Oldest House reflects both Spanish and English architectural influences. In its final form the house is illustrative of a Colonial town house built on the "St. Augustine" plan. In 1959-1960, after extensive archeological, architectural and historical research, the St. Augustine Historical Society carefully restored the house to its late 18th century appearance. It is well maintained and is open to visitors.

22. St. Augustine Town Plan Historic District, St. Augustine, Florida. City planning was an early feature of Spanish colonization, and St. Augustine is the earliest extant example of a European planned community, as well as the first permanent European settlement, within the United States. Established as a military base in 1565, a town slowly grew up around the Castillo de San Marcos.

In 1598 St. Augustine's town plaza, market place, and street system were established. The physical layout of St. Augustine is still its most distinctive feature; it has the pattern of a typical 16th century Spanish colonial walled town. The original town plan, little-altered, is still in effect and there are also some 30 surviving 18th century buildings still standing within the limits of the former walls.

23. St. Catherine's Island, 10 miles off the Georgia Coast between St. Catherine's Sound and Sapelo Sound, Liberty County, Georgia. From 1566 to 1684, St. Catherine's Island was one of the most important Spanish mission centers in the southeastern United States. In 1765 it became the plantation home of Button Gwinnett, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. After 1876 it was rapidly developed into one of the finest country estates and private game preserves in the nation. Of special interest are the undisturbed site of the Mission of Santa Catalina, numerous Indian mounds, and residences and slaves' quarters dating from the 18th century. Owned by the Edward Noble Foundation, the island is not open to the public.

24. Church of the Holy Family, on East First Street, just off Illinois 3, 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. The church is well maintained and is open to visitors.

25. Pierre Menard House, Fort Kaskaskia State Park, Randolph County, Illinois. The Menard House erected about 1802, is a beautiful and largely original example of a large French Colonial "raised cottage" Louisiana-type plantation house. In 1927 the State of Illinois acquired the house and 201 acres of surrounding land to form Fort Kaskaskia State Park. The Menard House has been open to the public as an historic house since that year.

26. Keller (Homeplace) Plantation House, on State Route 18, one-half mile south of Hahnville Post Office, Saint Charles Parish, Louisiana. The Keller (Homeplace) Plantation House is a fine and very slightly altered example of a large French Colonial "raised cottage." Built by the Fortier family around 1801, the house has been in the Keller family since the 1880's. The house is maintained in excellent condition and is a private residence not open to the public.

27. Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop, 941 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. Sometime between 1772 and 1791, Jean and Pierre Lafitte built a small one-story home in New Orleans. Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop, as it has come to be known, is a good example of a French

Colonial Louis XV town house of brique-entre-poutres construction. It is well-maintained and is open to the public.

28. Mayor Girod House, 500 Chartres Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. Nicholas Girod, Mayor of New Orleans from 1812 to 1815, built a large house in 1814; his brother had built the smaller two-story service wing in 1797. The house is an imposing Louis XVI essay in urban design and is quite comparable to many similar structures built in the large towns of France during the same period. The structure is in good condition, and portions of it are open to the public.

29. Madam John's Legacy, 632 Dumaine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. Erected sometime between 1722 and 1728, and rebuilt in 1788, Madam John's Legacy is an outstanding surviving example in the United States of a French Colonial town house of the "raised cottage" type. The residence is also one of the oldest extant historic structures in New Orleans. Normally open to visitors as a historic house, Madam John's is temporarily closed until a program of restoration has been completed.

30. Parlange Plantation House, at the junction of State Routes 1 and 78, near Mix, Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana. A classic example of the two-story "raised cottage" type of house as it developed in the lower Mississippi can be seen in Parlange Plantation House (ca. 1750). The virtually unaltered house is maintained in excellent condition and has never been restored. The house is a private residence and is not open to the general public.

31. The Presbytère, 713 Chartres Street, Jackson Square, New Orleans, Louisiana. The Presbytère, originally known as the Casa Curial, was designed by Gilberto Guillemard in 1791 as the rectory of the St. Louis Cathedral. Construction halted in 1798 and the building remained unfinished, only one-story high, until it was completed by the wardens of St. Louis in 1813. Constructed on the same lines as the Cabildo (1795), the Presbytère is a massive two-story building of stuccoed brick, with a full panoply of Renaissance architectural forms. The rear wing was added in 1840 and the French mansard roof, which now forms a third story, in 1847. The condition of the building is excellent, and it is open to the public.

32. Brice House, 42 East Street, Annapolis, Maryland. The superb design, the boldness and simplicity in handling the great masses of this structure, and its scale make the Brice House (1766-1773) one of the most imposing brick buildings in American Georgian architecture. Its exterior with its lack of the usual classic pediments and pilasters, is almost early-Georgian in its simplicity, while its elaborate and splendid interiors, attributed to William Buckland, are mostly late-Georgian in character. The Brice House is also

remarkable because its original 18th century structural material and adornments have survived virtually unaltered. In excellent condition, the house is used as a residence and is not open to the public.

33. Chase-Lloyd House, 22 Maryland Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland. The Chase-Lloyd House, built between 1769-1774 and with interiors by William Buckland, is one of the first of the large, full three-story brick Georgian town houses to be erected in the English colonies. Its every detail evidences an effort to achieve the ultimate in magnificence. It ranks as one of the finest of its type in the country. The first floor of the house has been altered very little and is open to visitors. The upper two floors are used as a home for elderly women.

34. Chestertown Historic District, Chestertown, Maryland. Chestertown's growth as a major port began in 1730, when its owner, Simon Wilmer, resurveyed his land and laid out the existing gridiron plan of streets and house lots. From about 1750-1790 the town flourished as the chief tobacco and wheat shipping port of Maryland's Eastern Shore. During this period merchants and planters constructed fine Georgian brick town houses in the town. Some 50 of these structures still stand.

35. His Lordship's Kindness, 3.5 miles west of Rosaryville, Prince George's County, Maryland. The central block of His Lordship's Kindness, built about 1735 and possibly designed by a professional English architect, is a superb example of an elegant, correct and carefully detailed early-Georgian country house. With wings and hyphens apparently added near the end of the 18th century, it is also an excellent example of a late-Georgian five-part plantation house composition. The roof shape of this house is a rare survival of the transitional roof shape between the gable and the full hip or hip on hip roof. Used as a residence, His Lordship's Kindness is not open to visitors.

36. London Town Publik House on south bank of South River, near Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. London Town Publik House, erected around 1745-1750, is a good example of a large, seven-bay wide, brick inn of excellent Georgian design. Its original simple interiors are unaltered. Plans are underway to rehabilitate the interior and utilize the house as a museum for Indian artifacts. The house will also be open to visitors as an example of a Colonial Tavern.

37. Montpelier on State Route 197, south of Laurel 2.1 miles, Prince George's County, Maryland. The central block of Montpelier (1740-1751) is a distinguished and superior example of an early-Georgian brick plantation house. With its wings and hyphens added in 1770-1771 and its interiors redecorated at the same time, Montpelier is also a superb example of a late-Georgian five-part plantation house composition. The structure incorporates several early examples of architectural features that were to become popular in the Federal period, such as a fanlight door and polygonal bays. Both house and grounds are in excellent condition and are open to visitors on a limited schedule.
38. Mount Clare, Carroll Park, Baltimore, Maryland. Superior Georgian architectural qualities are found in Mount Clare (1763-1767). An excellent example of a Southern brick plantation house, Mount Clare's existing wings and hyphens are of later construction. The main house is in excellent condition and is open as a historic house.
39. Resurrection Manor, near Hollywood, St. Marys County, Maryland. Resurrection Manor, built about 1660 and subsequently enlarged, is a splendid and unrestored example of a small 17th century brick farm house. The house is an excellent illustration of the evolution of a typical Southern one-room brick structure into a hall-and-parlor plan house. The house is as yet unrestored and not open to visitors.
40. Star-Spangled Banner Flag House, 844 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland. The Flag House is a two-and-one half story, corner row house of salmon brick laid in Flemish bond. Apparently built in 1793 and added to in 1820, the house is a fine late example of the Colonial tradition for smaller urban houses in the Middle Atlantic States. In this home, Mary Young Pickersgill made the flag that flew over Fort McHenry during the Battle of Baltimore in 1814 and inspired Francis Scott Key to write the "Star-Spangled Banner." The restored Star-Spangled Banner Flag House is open to the public.
41. Tulip Hill, near Galesville, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The central block of Tulip Hill (1755-1756), is a superb and little-altered example of an early Georgian brick plantation house in the South. With its wings and hyphens added in 1787-1790, Tulip Hill is also a very distinguished example of a five-part composition country house. Tulip Hill is in good condition; it is a residence and is not open to visitors.
42. West St. Mary's Manor, near Drayden, St. Marys County, Maryland. A small William and Mary brick-and-frame country house can be seen in west St. Mary's Manor (1700-1730), an outstanding and rare example.

The manor house is a transitional house with center hall separating two main front rooms and two narrow back rooms. It illustrates a point in the shift from the one and two room plans of 17th century Southern houses to the larger and more symmetrical room arrangements of 18th century structures. The carefully restored farmhouse is in excellent condition. It is used as a residence and is not open to visitors.

43. Wye House, on Miles Neck River 6.9 miles northwest of Easton, Talbot County, Maryland. The transition from late-Georgian to early Federal is illustrated in the Wye House, built 1781-1784 and achieving its final form by 1799. Possibly designed by Robert Key, architect and carpenter of Annapolis, Wye House is a seven-part "Roman Country House" composition. It is an outstanding example of a large Southern frame plantation house. Still an operating plantation, the mansion is used as a residence and is not open to visitors.

44. Longwood, near Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi. The noted Philadelphia architect, Samuel Sloan, designed and erected Longwood (1860-1862). It is the largest and most elaborate of the octagon houses built in the United States. Longwood is also one of the finest surviving examples of an Oriental Revival style residence, illustrating the architectural romanticism that flourished in mid-19th century America. It uniquely combines stylistic eclecticism (both Moslem and Italianate) with the octagonal form.

45. Louis Bolduc House, 123 South Main Street, Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. The Bolduc House (ca. 1785) is a splendid and little-altered example of a French Colonial house of poteaux-sur-sole (posts on the sill, with stone foundation) construction, with bouzillage (clay and grass) wall filling. After some years of neglect, the house was restored to its 18th century appearance in 1956-1957. It is in good condition and is open to visitors as a historic house exhibit.

46. William Trent House, 539 South Warren Street, Trenton, New Jersey. The William Trent House (1719) is a distinguished example of an early Georgian house designed in the William and Mary or Queen Anne style. Of red brick with white trim the house's handsome simplicity of straight lines is accentuated by bare arched windows--the shutters are inside--the bold cornice, and the absence of classically enriched doorways. The house was carefully restored in 1936-1937 and is now furnished with period furniture of the early 18th century. The fine garden, grounds and house are all maintained in excellent condition. The house is open to visitors during April through October.

47. El Santuario de Chimayó, Chimayó, New Mexico. A very well-preserved and unrestored example of a small adobe pueblo church with superb original religious paintings is the Santuario at Chimayó. The low flat-roofed adobe church, set in a wall-enclosed garden, has two twin tapering front towers with belfries. The interior is notable for its original Spanish-Indian decorations - a heavy timber ceiling of closely spaced vigas (beams) supported on carved brackets and the simple plaster walls lined with a low painted dado and hung with numerous religious paintings. Behind the draped altar is a high reredos, decorated with painted conventional designs and religious symbols. The Santuario is still an active church and is open to visitors.

48. San Estevan del Rey Mission Church, State 23, 13 miles south of its junction with U.S. 66, Acoma, New Mexico. The great church of San Estevan del Rey Mission, built between 1629 and 1642 and repaired in 1799-1800, is a superb Spanish Colonial Mission church in New Mexico. The Spanish Colonial architecture of New Mexico is markedly different from that of the other mission fields in the United States. Less magnificent than the baroque architecture of Texas and Arizona, and more primitive than the missions of California, the unique character of the New Mexican missions resides in their almost perfect blend of Indian and Spanish influences. The New Mexican churches are Spanish in plan and general form, but they owe much of their construction and decorative detail to the tradition of the Pueblo Indians. The church is still used for religious purposes at festival time and is open to the public.

49. San Francisco de Assisi Mission Church on the Plaza, Ranchos de Taos, Taos County, New Mexico. The picturesque San Francisco de Assisi Mission Church is probably the best known and most photographed of all New Mexico mission churches. The church, built between 1772 and 1816, is a large and excellent example of a Spanish Colonial church of New Mexico. It is in excellent condition after being thoroughly restored in 1967. The church still serves an active parish and is open to visitors.

50. San José de Gracia Church, Las Trampas, Taos County, New Mexico. The Spanish Colonial pueblo churches in New Mexico are remarkably well illustrated by the Church of San José de Gracia (1760-1776). Until the 1920's, the Trampas area remained so isolated and its economy retarded that it was unaffected by American fashions of the late 19th century. It is to this cultural and economic isolation that the remarkably unaltered state of the church is due. San José is an active parish church and is open to visitors.

51. Chowan County Courthouse, East King Street, Edenton, North Carolina. In 1715 the North Carolina Assembly passed an act to build a courthouse to house the Assembly in Edenton; the first building was completed in 1719. The second and existing courthouse, designed in the late Georgian style, was constructed in 1767. Its architect and builder was probably Gilbert Leigh of Edenton, who is believed to have come originally from Williamsburg, Virginia. The Chowan County Courthouse is a superb surviving example of Georgian public building architecture. The Courthouse has been altered very little and retains most of its original interiors. It is still used as the county's courthouse and is open to visitors.

52. Cupola House, 408 South Broad Street, Edenton, North Carolina. Built for Richard Sanderson about 1725 and remodeled by Francis Corbin in 1756-1758, the Cupola House is an architecturally significant example of a timber-framed residence that illustrates the transition from 17th century to 18th century Georgian architectural styles. It is a rare surviving house in the Southern colonies that carries a Jacobean second-story "jetty" or overhang.

The house is original and unaltered, except for the fine Georgian paneling of two major rooms which was removed in 1918. Owned by the City of Edenton, the Cupola House was restored in 1964-1966 and the missing paneling of the two rooms reconstructed; the house is open to visitors.

53. Palmer-Marsh House, Main Street, Bath, North Carolina. Both business and residential purposes were served by the Palmer-Marsh House in its original construction (ca. 1744). It is a large two-story frame house with an imposing two-story, single-pent chimney. The house underwent some "modernization" in the 19th century. A restoration in 1960-1962 removed these features, and the missing features were reconstructed. The major portion of the fabric of this house is original. Its condition is excellent, and it is open to the public.

54. Single Brothers' House, southwest corner of South Main and Academy Streets, Old Salem, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The Single Brothers' House, erected in two stages in 1768-1769 and 1786, is a magnificent and original example of German traditional half-timber construction. The building is also the earliest major building still standing in the Moravian community of Old Salem. The Single Brothers' House has remained the property of the Moravian Church since it was first built, and it was in excellent condition when Old Salem, Inc. was granted permission under a long term lease to restore the building and open it to the public. Restoration has been expertly accomplished.

55. Carpenters' Hall, 320 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Carpenters' Hall (1770-1771) is one of the finest examples of late Georgian public building architecture in the United States. Constructed as a guild hall by a group of master builders known as the Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia, their hall also served as the meeting place of the First Continental Congress in 1774. The building has been used since 1857 as a historical museum. The restored building is still owned by the Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia and is open to visitors.
56. Christ Church, on Second Street between Market and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Christ Church (1727-1754) is one of the finest Georgian colonial churches in the United States and probably the most ornate of this group. The design of Christ Church is generally attributed to Dr. John Kearsley, a noted amateur architect, who superintended the construction of the main body of the building between 1727 and 1744. The tower and steeple, completed in 1754, was designed by John Harrison and built by Robert Smith and John Armstrong, carpenters, and Robert Palmer, mason. The exterior is elaborate with Georgian architectural dress. The commanding feature of the exterior is the great Palladian window at the east end. Lighting the chancel, this window is topped by carved keystones and medallions and rich Ionic entablature. Great spiral scrolls also flank the crowning pediment decorated with bulbous urns. The still active church is open to visitors.
57. Brick House Ruin, Edisto Island, Charleston County, South Carolina. Paul Hamilton, a wealthy planter built the Brick House in the period 1725-1730. It is a unique and important architectural example of a two-story brick plantation house designed in the Henry IV style. The house illustrates the French Huguenot influence on colonial architecture in South Carolina. Measured architectural drawings and photographs of the exterior and interior of this splendid house were made prior to its destruction by fire in 1929. Today only the ruined walls of this structure still stand. Privately owned, the still-impressive ruins of Brick House are not open to visitors.
58. William Gibbes House, 64 South Battery, Charleston, South Carolina. The Charleston two-story wooden "double house" is exemplified in the William Gibbes House. It is one of the finest two-story frame late-Georgian town houses built in the American colonies. It is believed that Gibbes erected the house around 1779; it was redecorated in the Adam manner in 1794. The residence is in excellent condition and is usually open to visitors only during the annual garden tour week.

59. Hampton Plantation, near McClellanville, Charleston County, South Carolina. Hampton, erected in 1735, greatly enlarged after 1757, and with final additions made in 1790-1791, is an excellent example of a modest-sized frame structure that evolved through organic growth into a large unified Georgian frame country house. The structure includes one of the earliest examples of the use of the giant portico in American domestic architecture and Hampton is a fine example of a large two-and-a-half story frame Georgian plantation house in South Carolina. The house is in good condition and is usually open to visitors.

60. Heyward-Washington House, 87 Church Street, Charleston, South Carolina. Daniel Heyward, a rice planter of Euhaws, purchased this lot and existing house in 1770. Shortly thereafter, it is believed, Heyward demolished the building and erected the present three-story town house and some of its dependencies. It is an extremely fine and little-altered example of a three-story brick Georgian town house, or "double house." Thomas Heyward, Jr., a signer of the Declaration of Independence, acquired the house on his father's death in 1777. In May 1791, when President Washington visited Charleston on his Southern tour, the city rented the house for Washington's use. The house is in excellent condition and is open to visitors as a historic house exhibit.

61. Middleburg Plantation, on the Cooper River near Huger, Berkeley County, South Carolina. Middleburg, erected about 1699, is a splendid example of a transitional two-story frame plantation house. The structure retains the medieval plan of one-room thickness and also the exposed post and girt construction of the 17th century, but is two stories in height. Probably the oldest extant wooden house in South Carolina, Middleburg's plan of a single line of rooms also forecasts the basic plan of Charleston's Georgian "single house" of the 18th century. The plantation house has undergone remarkably little alteration since the end of the 18th century. The house is used as a residence and is not open to visitors.

62. Pompion Hill Chapel, near Huger, Berkeley County, South Carolina. Pompion Hill Chapel, erected in 1763-1765, is a miniature Georgian masterpiece, original and unaltered. The chapel, built on a typical rectangular plan, is among the finest and best preserved of South Carolina's numerous small, 18th century, country parish, brick churches. The quality of its design and workmanship are superb and the fabric, including the interior woodwork, is original. The chapel is in excellent condition and is only used for religious services on special occasions. It is usually open to visitors during the period of the garden tours.

63. St. James' Church, Goose Creek, Berkeley County, South Carolina. St. James Church at Goose Creek, built by wealthy Barbadian planters in 1713-1719, was one of the first true Georgian churches to be erected

in the English colonies. An architectural gem, the elaborate interior of this rectangular brick church is one of the finest of all small 18th century country parish churches in the United States. Although the building has been somewhat altered and has required considerable restoration, much of the exterior fabric and most of the interior woodwork are original. Only an annual service and occasional special services are now held in St. James' Church.

64. St. James' Church, near Santee River, 17 miles south of Georgetown, Charleston County, South Carolina. An effort was made in the last third of the 18th century to give South Carolina's small Georgian country churches a more sophisticated exterior design. St. James' Church, Santee, is an excellent and little-altered example of this change. St. James' exterior has a new impressiveness, as it includes architectural features not found in earlier brick churches built on similar plans. The Georgian body of St. James' is preceded, both front and rear, by classic pedimented porticos, each three bays wide. While these porticos lack the full vocabulary of Roman Doric details, they are nonetheless remarkably complete. A Palladian window is centered in the east end. The doors and windows are topped by fanlights and round brick arches and the windows have exterior paneled shutters. The church is now used for religious services only on special occasions and the structure is usually open to visitors during garden tour week.

65. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, near St. Stephen, Berkeley County, South Carolina. St. Stephen's Church is an excellent and well-preserved small Georgian country parish church that possesses distinctive architectural features: these include a high gambrel roof with Jacobean curvilinear gables, exterior brick Doric pilasters, and an interior ornamented tray ceiling. Francis Villepontoux and A. Howard provided the brick for the church and acted as its architects; William Axson was the master mason. The reredos behind the altar at the east end are unusually impressive. The fabric of the building, including the interior woodwork, is original. The church is still used for religious services.

66. Mission Concepción, 807 Mission Road, San Antonio, Texas. Mission Nuestra Señora De La Purísima Concepción de Acuña was founded by the Franciscan friars in 1716 in the East Texas field, but conflicts with the French and Indians caused its transfer to the San Antonio area in 1731. The mission church, designed in the baroque style, begun in 1731 and completed in 1755, is a monumental structure. The ruined church and mission were occupied by the United States Army in 1849 and minor repairs were made to the buildings. Not until 1887, however, was the church again repaired and utilized for religious purposes. Aside from the addition of tile floors,

replacement of doors, and a reroofing of the infirmary, the great church stands much as it did in the 18th century. The existing original construction includes the walls, towers, tunnel vaulting over the nave, and also the dome of the church, as well as most of the convento. Still used as an active church, it is open to visitors.

67. Spanish Governor's Palace, 105 Military Plaza, San Antonio, Texas. Erected in 1749 as the residence of the commanding officer of the San Antonio presidio, the Spanish Governor's Palace is an excellent and well-restored example of a large Spanish Colonial town house. It is also the only remaining example in Texas of an aristocratic 18th century Spanish residence. Now open to visitors as a museum, the Spanish Governor's Palace is furnished with period pieces.

68. Brandon, near Burrowsville, Prince George County, Virginia. A superior example of a brick plantation house erected in the "Roman Country House" style of Palladio is found in Brandon (1765-1770). The plan layout of the late Georgian "country house" is completely different from that of early and middle Georgian houses of the Southern colonies. In place of the large central block, two-and-a-half or three stories high, with detached dependencies, the "country house" had a long series of connected units, two stories high in the middle, decreasing to low one-story wings and passages, and sometimes accented by two-story terminal pavilions at the ends. This type of plan had many advantages in the South: most rooms were on the ground floor, and the main stair and huge central hall could be minimized; all rooms had cross-ventilation; and the kitchen, though located in an end pavilion, was at least under the same roof, and not too far distant from the dining room. The mansion is maintained in excellent condition and is used as a private residence. The formal gardens and grounds, however, are open to visitors.

69. Bruton Parish Church, Duke of Gloucester Street, Williamsburg, Virginia. Governor Alexander Spotswood designed Bruton Parish Church in the early Georgian style and it was constructed in 1712-1715. It was the first cruciform church to be built in Virginia and the fourth religious edifice with a cross plan to be constructed in the English colonies. In Virginia alone, however, did the cruciform church become a frequent 18th-century type and Bruton Parish Church was that colony's prototype. As the court church of Virginia, Bruton Parish Church was closely associated with political activities in the colony; in addition to being used for religious services, which were attended by the Royal Governor, his Council, and the House of Burgesses, it was the scene of many colorful ceremonies that were part of the affairs of state. In 1905-1907, under the initiative of the rector, Dr. William A. R. Goodwin, a partial restoration was made. In 1938-1942 Colonial Williamsburg, Inc. completed the restoration of the church to its 18th century appearance. Still active as a church, it is also open to visitors.

70. Carter's Grove, on the James River, six miles south of Williamsburg, James City County, Virginia. Carter's Grove (1750-1753) represents the culmination of the early Georgian style in Virginia. The superb woodwork of the interior, done by Richard Baylis, an English carpenter who was brought to Virginia for this purpose, is generally regarded by architectural historians to be the finest example of early Georgian paneling in the United States. Constructed of dark red brick laid in Flemish bond, the large plantation house (as originally built) was two stories high, had a low-pitched hipped roof with a slight flare at the eaves, and two end chimneys. In 1927-1929 the original exterior design of Carter's Grove was altered: the roof-tree of the low-pitched roof was raised 11 feet and 14 dormers inserted, thus creating a new floor. The original detached dependencies were widened, heightened, and connected to the east and west ends of the main house by hyphens. These alterations changed the exterior design from an early Georgian house of the 1750 period to that of a five-part late Georgian composition of the 1775 period. The superb and original interior paneling of the main house, however, was not altered and was restored. Owned by the Sealantic Fund, Inc., and administered by Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., Carter's Grove is open to visitors.

71. Christ Church, southeast corner of Cameron and Columbus Streets, Alexandria, Virginia. Christ Church, Alexandria, designed by James Wren and erected in 1767-1773 is a superior and little-altered survivor of the type of small rectangular two-story brick church that was utilized in Virginia during the last third of the 18th century. Although Christ Church has been somewhat enhanced by the additions of galleries and a tower in the period 1785-1818, the structure has never been abandoned nor had its interior features removed. The interior reflects organic change and includes both 18th and 19th century woodwork. Still active as a church, it is also open to visitors.

72. Kenmore, 1201 Washington Avenue, Fredericksburg, Virginia. Extraordinary richness is displayed in the first floor plaster ceilings of Kenmore. Executed in the late Georgian style by itinerant French craftsmen and Hessian prisoners of war between 1770 and 1778, these four ceilings, as a group, are unrivaled in 18th century American architecture. The house was erected about 1752 in the early Georgian style. Maintained in an excellent condition, Kenmore is open to visitors as a historic house exhibit.

73. Peyton Randolph House, Nicholson at North England Street, Williamsburg, Virginia. The Peyton Randolph House is a very early and superb example of an early Georgian frame house with fine and largely original interiors. The house was erected in three steps between 1715

and 1725. The oldest portion, the west end, was constructed by William Robertson in 1715 or 1716. The east end was built as a separate house around 1724 by Sir John Randolph, who acquired the older house and soon united the two structures into a single house with a symmetrical facade seven bays long by building a connecting center section. The main rooms are fully and finely paneled, and most of these early Georgian interiors are original. Owned by Colonial Williamsburg, the Peyton Randolph House has been restored and is open to visitors.

74. Sabine Hall, near Warsaw, Richmond County, Virginia.

Sabine Hall is notable for its superb early Georgian interiors and for the original and little-altered plan of the main house. Built of brick laid in Flemish bond, Sabine Hall (as originally designed) was two stories high over a low basement and had a high-pitched roof and two pair of end chimneys. In the period 1830-1840 the exterior was altered to change the original early Georgian design to that of Classic Revival: the high hipped roof was flattened in pitch, the windows were resashed, the entrance doors and transoms replaced, and the large existing two-story portico, supported by four Tuscan columns, was added to the center of the front elevation. The broad one-story porch across the rear facade was also constructed at this time. The mansion also originally had two detached one-story brick dependencies. The existing wings, which are connected to the main house, were erected in 1929. The original plan of the main house and its splendid early Georgian woodwork, however, are still virtually intact. Privately owned, Sabine Hall is not open to visitors.

75. James Semple House, south side of Francis Street between Blair and Waller Streets, Williamsburg, Virginia. One of Williamsburg's finest Colonial residences is the James Semple House. It was erected about 1770-1780 and probably designed by Thomas Jefferson. The house is a superb example of a "Roman Country House" adapted for use as a frame town house. Colonial Williamsburg acquired the house and restored it (1937-1938). Maintained in excellent condition, the Semple House is used as a private residence and is not open to visitors.

76. Shirley, near Charles City, Charles City County, Virginia.

The Governor's Palace in Williamsburg seems to have served as a model for Shirley (1765-1769), an extremely fine and little-altered example of a late Georgian Virginia plantation house. Shirley's two-story porticos, its mansard roof, suspended stair, rich interior paneling, and its unusual plan (which lacks the customary center hall)--all combine to give this mansion an extraordinary degree of individuality for a house designed in the Georgian style. The house has not been greatly altered. It was restored in the mid-1950's and is in excellent condition. The plantation is still in agricultural operation and only the first floor of the house is open to visitors.

77. Waterford Historic District, Waterford, Virginia. Waterford is a splendid and little-altered example of a small inland 18th-century and early 19th-century mill town that is still preserved in its completely unaltered rural setting. Growing in three distinct stages - in 1750, 1800, and 1812 - each area of the expanded town is richly illustrated with good architectural examples of the typical buildings of that particular period. Waterford still has approximately 90 stone, brick, wood, and log historic structures. Of these 25 date from the 18th century, 40 are of the period 1801 to 1835, 15 were erected between 1836 and 1853, and 10 date from the 1854-1882 period. The Waterford Foundation is dedicated to restoring the town. Each October the Foundation sponsors a house tour and crafts exhibit as a means of raising funds for the restoration project.

78. Wythe House, on the west side of the Palace Green, Williamsburg, Virginia. Richard Taliaferro, important early Virginia architect, designed and built the Wythe House about 1755. It is one of Virginia's finest examples of a Georgian town house. This was the home, from 1755 to 1791, of George Wythe, a member of the House of Burgesses, Mayor of Williamsburg, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and professor of law at William and Mary. Few alterations have been made in the house, and it is maintained in excellent condition and opened to visitors by Colonial Williamsburg, Inc.

79. Yeocomico Church, near Hague, Westmoreland County, Virginia. Built in 1706, Yeocomico Episcopal Church is an early, rare, and excellent example of a small transitional country church that includes both medieval (17th century) and Georgian (18th century) features. The present T-shaped brick church was originally constructed in the form of a simple rectangle, but in the 18th century the existing leg of the T was added to the north (rear) elevation. The builders of both sections, nevertheless, were consistent in their methods of construction: there is not a right angle in either portion, the brick work of both sections are a mixture of irregular bond, with English bond predominating, both the 1706 entrance porch projecting from the south front and the later north (rear) wing are off-center to the west, and the porch and wing do not line up. Inside the porch of the church there is an enormous Tudor battened door, six feet wide and eight feet high, that also includes the architecturally famous wicket door - a smaller separate door with its own hinges, set in the main door. Comprised of two thicknesses of five vertical panels, the great door is original and is believed to have come from the parish's first church, a frame structure constructed in 1655. The interior woodwork largely dates from 1820 and later. Restored in 1928, 1939, and 1958-1959, Yeocomico Church is still used for religious services.

30. Fort Nisqually Granary, Point Defiance Park, Tacoma, Washington. Fort Nisqually was built in 1833 by Archibald McDonald on Puget Sound for the Hudson's Bay Company to serve as a communication and supply center for the Company's northern posts on the coast of British Columbia. In addition, in 1840, Fort Nisqually became the headquarters of the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company, a subsidiary corporation of the Hudson's Bay Company. It was then rebuilt and enlarged. Only two original buildings of the Fort, the Granary and Factor's House were still standing in 1934. The Granary, built in 1843, is a surviving original example of the Hudson's Bay Company's "post-in-the-sill" or Canadian method of log construction. This type of log construction was widely used by fur traders, missionaries, and settlers in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington prior to 1846. The Granary and Factor's House have been removed from their original site and restored in Point Defiance Park at Tacoma. The rest of Fort Nisqually has been reconstructed around the two original structures. The Fort is open to visitors.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H34-HH

MAY 21 1970

Memorandum

To: Director, Western Region

From: Chief Historian

Subject: Manufacture of National Historic Landmark plaques

Secretary Hickel has declared eligible for designation as National Historic Landmarks the 80 sites recommended to him by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments at its 61st meeting on October 6-9, 1969. In line with Director Hartzog's policy of preparing plaques well in advance of requests for presentation programs, we suggest that orders be placed for the manufacture of plaques for the following 15 Landmarks in California:

Anza House
Jose Castro House
Estudillo House
Commander's House
Fort Ross Chapel
Guajome Ranchhouse
La Purisima Mission
Los Alamos Ranchhouse
Los Cerritos Ranchhouse
Monterey Old Town Historic District
Petaluma Adobe
San Diego Mission Church
San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District
San Luis Rey Mission Church
Vhay House

/S/ ROBERT M. UTLEY

Robert M. Utley

cc:

T-Mr. Butterfield

HHS-Mr. Sheely

GSCattanach: vf-5-20-70

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HH

JUN 29 1970

H34-22

Hon. Ronald Reagan
Governor of California
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Governor Reagan:

We are pleased to inform you that the following listed sites, described briefly in the enclosures, have been found to possess exceptional value in commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States, and are thus eligible for registration as National Historic Landmarks:

José Castro House - 4
Estudillo House - 5
La Purísima Mission - 11
Petaluma Adobe - 13
San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District - 15
~~Commander's House~~ - 6
Fort Ross Chapel - 7

The Registry of National Historic Landmarks is a permanent register of nationally significant historic and archeological sites. Its purpose is to identify and recognize these sites and to encourage their owners to preserve them. Eligible landmark sites are chosen through studies prepared by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings; evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments; and approved by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935.

As explained in the enclosed leaflet, recognition and registration of landmark sites are afforded by certificates and bronze plaques, which are provided free of charge to the owners or administrators of these sites upon their application and agreement to adhere to simple preservation practices. If you wish to apply for the certificates and plaques, copies of the application forms are

enclosed. The forms for each should be completed in triplicate and two copies returned to the National Park Service. You may retain the third copy for your records.

We will be happy to have these sites included in the Registry.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

Enclosures

cc:

Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Beaches and Parks,
P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento, California 95811

Regional Director, Western Region

T-Mr. Butterfield

HHS-Mr. Sheely

HJSheely:vf:6-4-70

H34-MH

August 12, 1970

Received 8/12/70
H. J. Shelly 8/12/70

Mr. William Penn Mott, Jr.
Director
Department of Parks & Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Mr. Mott:

We were very pleased to receive the applications for the certificates and plaques designating Estudillo House, La Purisima Mission, Petaluma Adobe, and San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District as National Historic Landmarks.

Although the Jose Castro House, Commander's House, and Fort Ross Chapel are within the boundaries of existing Landmarks, they have an architectural significance not possessed by any of the other structures comprising San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District and Fort Ross. Thus, they were recognized independently and are carried in our records as separate National Historic Landmarks. It is not uncommon, of course, for individual sites to possess national significance in more than one aspect of American history, but additional certificates or plaques are not awarded in such cases.

We agree that a closely spaced display of plaques in Fort Hall, and to a lesser extent at San Juan Bautista, might detract from the impact of the original designations. We feel sure, however, that you would wish us to consider the three sites to be participating actively in the Landmark program. If so, you may wish to have the Landmark certificates for your records or display. We will be glad to have these prepared, if you wish. In either case, it would be very helpful if you could complete the application forms for the Jose Castro House, Commander's House, and Fort Ross Chapel.

As in the past, Director Joseph C. Rumburg, Jr., Director, Western Region, National Park Service, will inform you when the plaques and certificates have been completed for Estudillo House, La Purisima Mission, Petaluma Adobe, and San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District.

We are glad that the four sites are now included among those participating in the Landmark program.

Sincerely yours,

/S/ ROBERT M. UTLEY

Robert M. Utley
Chief Historian

cc:

Director, Western Region w/c of applications and w/c inc.

T-Mr. Butterfield w/c inc.

HHS-Mr. Sheely w/c inc.

GSCattanach:mc 8/12/70

HP-California: Estudillo House
La Purisima Mission
Petaluma Adobe
San Juan Bautista Plaza H.D.
Jose Castro House
Commander's House
Fort Ross Chapel

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO 95811H34
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HHS

7/27/70 JUL 22 9 04 AM '70

DIVISION OF HISTORY	
SURNAME	DATE
HHS	
HHP	
HHS 4/8	7/27
Continued	

July 13, 1970

Honorable George B. Hartzog, Jr. ✓
Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Hartzog:

Governor Reagan has asked that I make formal application for plaques designating National Historic Landmarks sites which are in the California State Park System. I have reviewed the sites which were recently registered by the Secretary of the Interior and hereby make application for plaques designating the following landmark sites (individual applications attached):

1. Estudillo House
2. La Purisima Mission
3. Petaluma Adobe
4. San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District

I feel it is inappropriate to request a plaque for the Jose Castro House because it is part of the San Juan Bautista Plaza Historic District; furthermore, Fort Ross was registered as a National Historic Landmark some years ago and the Commander's House and Fort Ross Chapel are part of that site, therefore, I am not requesting plaques for the buildings.

We Californians are extremely proud that the federal government has designated some of our most cherished heritage as National Historic Landmarks sites. Thank you very much for this honor and for your interest in California history.

Sincerely,

William Penn Mott, Jr.
Director

cc: Honorable Ronald Reagan, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 2390

SACRAMENTO 95811



September 23, 1970

Mr. Robert M. Utley
Chief Historian
National Park Service
Washington, D. C. 20240

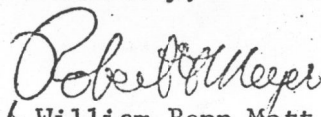
Refer to: H34-HH

Dear Mr. Utley:

You will find enclosed the application forms for the José Castro House, the Commander's House, and the Fort Ross Chapel.

We would be very pleased to receive the certificates on these structures. We are fully in accord with you in that we would not like to see a number of plaques for a complex of historical structures.

Sincerely,


DEPUTY DIRECTOR
for William Penn Mott, Jr.
Director

enclosure

OCT 28 1970

H34-NH

Mr. William Penn Mott, Jr.
Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Mr. Mott:

We are pleased to acknowledge receipt of the application forms, dated September 23, for the certificates designating the José Castro House, the Commander's House, and the Fort Ross Chapel as National Historic Landmarks. At the same time, our staff deeply regrets to learn of the recent destruction by fire of the Fort Ross Chapel. We understand that efforts are being made looking to the rebuilding of the Chapel, and we will proceed with the preparation of a certificate for it as well as for the other two properties.

When the certificates have been completed, Director Rumberg of the Western Regional Office will inform you. We are glad that you wish to accept certificates signifying participation by these sites in the National Historic Landmarks program. Pursuant to our previous correspondence, plaques will not be prepared for the three historic properties.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ ROBERT M. UTLEY

Robert M. Utley
Chief Historian

cc:

Director, Western Region w/c inc. with applications
T-Mr. Butterfield w/c inc.

HHS-Mr. Sheely w/c inc.

HHS-Mr. Gamble w/c inc.

RSGamble:kp 10/28/70

HP - California - José Castro House
Commander's House
Fort Ross Chapel

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HH

X

September 23, 1970

(Date)

Mr. George B. Hartzog, Jr.
Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Hartzog:

As the (owner, owners) of Commander's House
(Name of site)

located ~~in~~ near Jenner Sonoma California
(City) (County) (State)

(I,we) hereby make formal application for a certificate (X) and a bronze plaque, 17" x 18" (), designating this historic property a National Historic Landmark. (Check one or both as desired.)

1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as having national significance and worthy of National Historic Landmark status, (I,we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and to the best of (my,our) ability, the historical integrity of this important part of the national cultural heritage.

2. Toward this end, (I,we) agree to continue to use the property only for purposes consistent with its historical character.

3. (I,we) agree to permit an annual visit to the property by a representative of the National Park Service, as a basis for continuing Landmark status.

4. If, for any reason, the three conditions mentioned above cannot continue to be met, it is agreed that the National Historic Landmark status shall cease and that until such status is restored by the Secretary of the Interior, neither the National Historic Landmark certificate nor the plaque will be displayed.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Mott DEPUTY DIRECTOR

for William Penn Mott, Jr.

Director

Department of Parks and Recreation



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H34-HH

November 11, 1971

Memorandum

To: The Files
From: Historian
Subject: Fort Ross Commander's House

In a telephone conversation with Mr. Francis Riddell of the California State Department of Parks and Recreation on November 10, 1971, I learned that the Fort Ross Commander's House had been damaged by fire on July 11, 1971. The roof was destroyed, although the walls remain. Lost in the fire were some original artifacts stored in the attic.

Provisional reparations are being made to protect the structure from the elements until a complete restoration occurs.

Robert S. Gamble

H34-111

DEC 9 1971

RECEIVED
NPS Western Regional Office

DEC 13 1971

Director	
Assoc. Director	
Ch. Admin. Mgt.	
Asst. Dir. PS	
Asst. Dir. CP	
Chief, GE	
Action Taken:	

Mr. William Penn Mott, Jr.
Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
P. O. Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Mr. Mott:

As you know, Fort Ross, the Port Ross Commander's House, and the Fort Ross Chapel each have been recognized as National Historic Landmarks.

We learned with regret of the Chapel's destruction, and of the damage done more recently to the Commander's House. The Chapel, we understand, is to be reconstructed. While we are indeed glad to know this, we feel that the Landmark criteria require that the separate Landmark identity of the structure be removed. Pending your decision regarding the restoration of the Commandant's House, the status of this significant Russian colonial building will remain unchanged.

We are confident that you will understand our decision in the light of the rather stringent criteria concerning reconstructions. The Fort Ross complex as a whole, including the Chapel site, will, of course, retain National Historic Landmark recognition and protection.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ ROBERT M. UTLEY

Robert M. Utley
Chief Historian

cc:
Director, Western Region

Murray
cc: *Porter*
12/14/71

NATIONAL LANDMARKS

ANNUAL VISIT REPORT

1. Site:

- a. Fort Ross National Historic Landmark and Fort Ross Commander's House National Historic Landmark (Fort Ross State Historic Park), Sonoma, California
- b. Registered
- c. December 1961

2. General Background:

- a. Diana F. Skiles, Assistant Chief of Interpretation
Richard M. Brown, Research Biologist
Point Reyes National Seashore
Point Reyes, CA 94956
(415)-663-1093 / (415)-663-1701

- b. The visit was made on June 24, 1977.

3. Ownership:

- a. There have been no changes in landownership since the biennial visit of 1971, but the State of California hopes to acquire a parcel of land adjacent to the landmark as a buffer zone.
- b. The NPS representatives were accompanied during their visit to the landmark by the administrator's field representative:

Virgil H. Luckey
State Park Ranger
Fort Ross State Historic Park
19005 Coast Highway 1
Jenner, CA 95450
(707)-847-3286

The administrator desires to continue participating in the National Landmark Program.

- c. N/A

4. Land Use and Integrity:

- a. The site continues to be used as a state historic park.

- b. The integrity of the site has changed, but not adversely. Three years ago State Route 1 was rerouted so that it no longer goes through the fort. The missing sections of the stockade wall were subsequently reconstructed. Three months ago the telephone poles were removed from the fort and re-routed around it. Since the 1971 biennial visit, the chapel has been reconstructed.

5. Threats:

- a. There are no present threats to the landmark. The administrator is conscientiously maintaining and protecting the site. As a result of theft and arson in 1970, the fort is now protected by guard dogs when it is not open to the public.

6. Natural Values:

- a. N/A

7. Other Corrections:

- a. The Fort Ross State Historic Park: Resource Management Plan and General Development Plan which was published in 1975 is a 20-year plan for the park. During the next 5 years, a building is supposed to be reconstructed each year. The ground breaking for the barracks is planned for late September or early October 1977. During this year construction of a new visitor center to be located near the parking area is also scheduled to begin. The paved road between the parking area and the fort will be removed, a new trail will be constructed from the visitor center, and the Russian road will be restored. The second historic structure to be reconstructed is the first commandant's house, and the warehouse is to be reconstructed after that. During the second 5 years the Aleuts' village, is to be reconstructed and during the following 5 years the Kashia Pomo Indian village is to be reconstructed. All reconstructions will be built on the sites of the originals except the Kashia Pomo village. The original village was located east of present-day Highway 1, but the replica will be built west of the highway so visitors will not need to cross the road to visit it. The State of California Office of Architectural Construction will handle the reconstruction which will be based on archeological and historic research. Archeological studies, including excavation, are being conducted by faculty and students of Cabrillo College. (Copies of the plan have been requested and will be forwarded upon receipt.)

8. Plaque and Certificate:

- a. The plaque is mounted on the east wall of the stockade and is in good condition.
The certificate for the Commander's House is displayed in that structure which is serving as a museum.
The certificate for the Fort Ross chapel was removed in 1971 after that structure was destroyed by fire in 1970. The chapel was

reconstructed and rededicated in 1974. While the inspectors have no official documentation reflecting any action regarding that certificate after 1971, a decision must have been made to restore landmark status to the chapel since the certificate was returned to the park in late 1975 and is presently displayed in the anteroom of the chapel.

There is considerable confusion regarding the number of landmarks at Fort Ross State Historic Park. At present there is one plaque but no certificate for Fort Ross; and certificate^s, but no plaques for the Commander's House and the chapel. If it is considered desirable for individual structures within Fort Ross to have special landmark status, the only one that seems to qualify is the Commander's House which is an original structure. The reconstructed chapel does not warrant individual recognition any more than the reconstructed blockhouses or proposed reconstructions. In any case, the confusion needs to be resolved.

9. Special Problems:

a. None

10. Suggestions Offered to the Owner:

a. None

11. Recommendation:

a. The site continues to meet the standards for landmark status.

12. Signatures:

Diana F. Skiles 6/30/77
Richard M. Brown 6/30/77

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICESonoma Co.
See NHL file

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE California	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XX (Architecture) and XV (Fur Trade)
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Fort Ross Commander's House	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 4 acres
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Sonoma County, on State Highway 1, 87 miles north of San Francisco.	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) State of California (Division of Beaches and Parks)	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

Built in 1812, the Commandant's House is an excellent example of Russian methods of log construction.¹

Fort Ross was founded by the Russians in 1812 and abandoned by them in 1842. Unlike the Spanish and Mexicans in California, the Russian fur hunters were great utilizers of wood and made full use of great redwood forests in the vicinity of Fort Ross. This stockaded fort was completed in 1814 and the post and all of its buildings were constructed of redwood.² By 1827 the Russians may have been exporting boards and beams to Hawaii and they were certainly shipping redwood lumber to Sitka, Alaska, by 1838. In spite of their great proficiency as woodworkers, the Russians built no saw-mills in California and all of the timber used in building construction was hand-hewn.

The Commander's House was built by Ivan Kuskov, leader of the 95 Russians and 80 Aleuts who founded Fort Ross in 1812. This one-story dwelling measures approximately 36 by 48 feet in size and is constructed of hand-squared redwood timbers that are mortised together at the corners. The walls of this log house are not parallel, equal, or at right angles

¹The Secretary of the Interior declared Fort Ross, including this building, eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status, under Theme XV-The Fur Trade, on November 5, 1961.

²Fort Ross also included a two-story barracks built of redwood. This building was the only two-story structure in California until Thomas O. Larkin erected the Larkin House at Monterey in 1835-37.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

Hubert H. Bancroft, History of California (7 vols., San Francisco, 1884-90), II, 58-62, 294-320, 628-52; IV, 158-89; Harold Kirker, California's Architectural Frontier (San Marino, 1960), 3, 13.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, IIABS, etc.)

Historic American Building Survey: CAL 1313 Russian Barracks
4 photos (1934). Jessie S. Douglas, "Brief Historical Account of Fort Ross," (Cont'd)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS 617, 1407, 1609 ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> 616. Excellent (Restored)	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) State Hist. Monument	13. DATE OF VISIT April 12, 1958
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) Charles W. Snell	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE Aug. 3, 1966

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/4 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

Page 2.

STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
California	Fort Ross Commander's House

7. Continued.

to one another. No saws or augers were used, but the intricate and strong long-joining was done with the use of the adze, axe, broadax, chisel and plane. The high-pitched roof, which varies from side to side and end to end, was built in two layers and is made up of skillfully split and hewed boards that are up to 23 feet long and over an inch thick, with two chiseled grooves down the upper side. The house has a hall and seven rooms, with indications that there may have once been an eighth room. By 1818 the house also had glass in its windows, which had been imported from Russia.

The Commander's House is largely an original building. The structure was still largely intact and little altered in 1906 when the Fort Ross site was donated to the State of California. This building, now a part of Fort Ross State Historical Monument, is being carefully repaired and restored.

9. Continued.

(N.P.S. Typescript, San Francisco, July 16, 1935). Olaf T. Hagen, "Historic Sites Survey Report: Fort Ross, California," (N.P.S. Typescript, San Francisco, August 20, 1941).

FORT ROSS COMMANDER'S HOUSE, SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Boundaries of the Historic Site:

Approximately 4 acres of land in the shape of a parallelogram, including the Fort Ross Commander's House, starting at the southeast corner at latitude $38^{\circ} 31' 19''$ N., - longitude $123^{\circ} 14' 31''$ W., proceeding to the northwest about 400 feet to the southwest corner at lat. $38^{\circ} 31' 21''$ N. - long. $123^{\circ} 14' 36''$ W., then going northeast about 400 feet to the northwest corner at lat. $38^{\circ} 31' 24''$ N., - long. $123^{\circ} 14' 35''$ W., continuing to the southeast about 400 feet to the northeast corner at lat. $38^{\circ} 31' 22''$ N. - long. $123^{\circ} 14' 30''$ W., then returning to the southwest about 400 feet to the beginning, the southeast corner. Precise boundaries, as described above, are recorded in red on a copy of U. S. Geological Survey Map: Fort Ross Quadrangle, California - Sonoma County, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), 1943, on file with the Branch of Historical Surveys, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service.

Site Already Classified and Importantly
Related to This Theme*

Fort Ross Commander's House, California

Location: On California Route 1, 87 miles north of San Francisco, Sonoma County.

Ownership: State of California, administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Statement of Significance

The Commander's House, erected in 1812, is an excellent, rare, and little-altered example of Russian-built log house.

History

Fort Ross was established by the Russian-American Fur Company in 1812 for the threefold purpose of exploiting the rich fur hunting grounds of the California coast, opening trade with Spanish California, and providing an agricultural depot to supply Russian settlements in Alaska. Ivan Kuskoff, who supervised the construction, arrived in the spring of 1812 with 95 Russians and about 80 Aleuts, and the fort was completed in 1814.

The fort, which was constructed on the same general plan utilized by the Russians for their fur trading posts in Alaska, was built near the ocean on a plateau about one mile square in extent, which terminates on the ocean in a precipice about 70 feet high. Hand-hewn redwood was used in all construction, including the stockaded walls, which measured 12 feet high. The quadrangular enclosure measured about 276 by 312 feet. Two two-story blockhouses, one 7-sided and the other 8-sided, were located at diagonally opposite corners of the stockade. Eight cannon were mounted in the fort in 1812 and by 1841 there were about 50.

* Fort Ross was classified under Theme XV, Subtheme:
The Fur Trade.

Inside the walls were a two-story barracks for the Russian employees, the commander's house, officers' quarters, a chapel, and three storehouses and offices; outside the walls were 37 redwood huts for the Aleut hunters, a windmill, farm buildings, granaries, cattle yards, a tannery, and workshops for blacksmith, coopers, bakers, and carpenters. By 1841, more than 50 substantial structures had been built. In December 1841, the Russian American Company sold Fort Ross to John A. Sutter, a Mexican citizen, and the last Russian left the post in January 1842.

Between 1841 and 1844, Sutter's men took down a number of the buildings of the colony and removed the arms, equipment, and livestock which the Russians had left to Sutter's Fort on the Sacramento River.

After 1845, the Fort Ross area became the center of a large ranch. The remaining buildings were used in various ways. The G. W. Call family purchased the fort and ranch in 1874. In 1906, the fort site and surviving buildings were purchased by the California Historical Landmarks Committee of San Francisco and presented to the State of California in the same year. In 1928, Fort Ross was assigned to the State Division of Beaches and Parks as a State Historical Monument, and since then has been carefully and accurately reconstructed and the surviving original buildings similarly restored.

Condition

The Commander's House, erected in 1812, is a one-story log dwelling that measures approximately 36 by 48 feet. The walls, which are not parallel, equal, or at right angles to one another, are comprised of large hand-squared redwood timbers that are mortised together at the corners. No saws or augers were used, but the intricate and strong long-joining was done with the use of the adze, axe, broadaxe, chisel, and plane. The high-pitched, peaked, hipped roof, which also varies from side to side and from end to end, is built in two layers and is made up of skillfully split and hewed boards that are up to 23 feet long and over one inch thick; these have two chiseled grooves down their upper sides near each edge to keep the water away from the cracks in the roof. The residence has a hall and seven rooms, with indications that there may once have been an eighth. The large rectangular windows contain 20 panes of glass and there is one interior chimney.

The Commander's House, largely an original building, was still virtually intact and little-altered in 1906 when the Fort Ross site was donated to the State. Now a part of Fort Ross State Historical Monument, the house has been carefully repaired and restored and is open to visitors.



Commander's House, Fort Ross, California

N.P.S. Photo, 1958

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

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Commander's House, Sonoma, California

The Fort Ross Commander's House is an excellent, rare and little-altered example that well illustrates the Russian-built log house. Fort Ross was established by the Russian-American Fur Company in 1812 for the threefold purpose of exploiting the rich fur hunting grounds of the California coast, opening trade with Spanish California, and providing an agricultural depot to supply Russian settlements in Alaska. Ivan Kuskoff, who supervised the construction, arrived in the spring of 1812 with 95 Russians and about 80 Aleuts, and the fort was completed in 1814.

Inside the walls were a two-story barracks for the Russian employees, the commander's house, officers' quarters, a chapel, and three storehouses and offices; outside the walls were 37 redwood huts for the Aleut hunters, a windmill, farm buildings, granaries, cattle yards, a tannery, and workshops for blacksmith, coopers, bakers, and carpenters. By 1841, more than 50 substantial structures had been built. In December 1841, the Russian-American Company sold Fort Ross to John A. Sutter, a Mexican citizen, and the last Russian left the post in January 1842.

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After 1845, the Fort Ross area became the center of a large ranch. The remaining buildings were used in various ways. In 1906, the fort site and surviving buildings were purchased and presented to the State of California. In 1928, Fort Ross became a State Historical Monument. The Commander's House, largely an original building, has been carefully repaired and restored. Other surviving buildings have been restored and the Fort reconstructed.

* * * * *

NSHSB: 12-5-69
C W S