

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

White House Millennium Council

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To:

M. O'Nary

Phone:

Fax:

662 44

From:

Ellen McCulloch-Lovell,
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Advisor to the First Lady on the Millennium

Other

Date:

6/8/98

Number of pages (including cover) *8*

Message:

THE WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL

708 Jackson Place
Washington, DC 20503

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Embargoed for:
June 15, 1998, 12 a.m.



**CONTACT: Carol Cunningham/
Siobhan Mueller
202-588-6141**

National Trust for Historic Preservation

**11 Most Endangered
Historic Places**

AMERICA'S 11 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES 1998

Each year the National Trust for Historic Preservation names "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places." These sites are chosen to illustrate highly significant symbols of our American heritage threatened by neglect, deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy. As the leader of the national preservation movement, the National Trust provides leadership, education and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities. It has six regional offices, owns 19 historic sites and works with thousands of local community groups in all 50 states. For further information: (202) 588-6141.

Governors Island, New York, N.Y. — This 175-acre island occupies a spectacular site in New York Harbor, just a short ferry ride from the skyscrapers of Lower Manhattan. It boasts a rich collection of historic structures, including a house once occupied by colonial governors, 18th- and 19th-century fortifications, and numerous picturesque houses whose shady porches and lawns create a village atmosphere in the midst of a metropolis. In 1997 the U.S. Coast Guard closed what was America's oldest continuously-occupied military post. Now this idyllic enclave faces an uncertain future. The federal government could convey to the City or State if an acceptable re-use plan can be developed, but both entities have been reluctant to accept responsibility. Some observers worry that this absence of leadership may encourage inappropriate private-sector development; others fear that the island might be mothballed and suffer the same deterioration as the south side of nearby Ellis Island. With actual transfer of ownership delayed by federal legislation until 2002, the island sits vacant, a golden opportunity—or a preservation disaster—waiting to happen.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Nationwide — Since 1834, when the first historically black college was established, America's historically black colleges and universities have provided education and training to uplift a race long oppressed by slavery and segregation. Students at these schools have used their education to benefit their own communities—and to help alter the social fabric of our nation in the 1950s and 60s, when historically black campuses became the training grounds for Civil Rights activists in the struggle to end segregation and discrimination. While these proud institutions continue to serve as anchors for the African-American community, inadequate funding threatens the future of many campus landmarks. Recent gifts from foundations and other supporters, while encouraging, are not nearly enough to make repairs needed to correct years of deferred maintenance. A study by the General Accounting Office found that the estimated cost of restoring and preserving the 712 historic properties—including dormitories, chapels, gymnasiums and classroom buildings—owned by the schools is \$755 million, of which a mere \$60 million, or 8%, has been set aside in school budgets. Only a comprehensive strategy of fundraising and preservation planning can ensure that these historic buildings will survive into the new millennium and beyond to welcome future generations of scholars.

Cannery Row, Monterey, Calif. — Early in the 20th century this neighborhood became the focus of an extensive canning industry that made Monterey the "sardine capital of the world." By World War II the canneries and related facilities stretched for most of a mile along Oceanview Avenue, hugging the shore of Monterey Bay. John Steinbeck's novel *Cannery Row*, based on characters the author had known in the 1930s, appeared in 1945—ironically, just before sardine fishing went into steep decline. By the time the last cannery closed in 1973, artisans and restaurants had begun to move into Cannery Row and tourism had become the area's main industry. Today two million visitors flock to the Row annually, and intensive development threatens to overwhelm the historic character that many tourists seek. While the city's master plan states that preservation is its primary long-term economic goal, many historic structures have been demolished or significantly altered, and only two buildings have landmark designation. Unless action is taken soon, the last authentic vestiges of the Row's past could go out with the tide.

Chancellorsville Battlefield, Spotsylvania County, Va. — Considered to be Lee's greatest battle, the 1863 Battle of Chancellorsville encompassed some of the boldest strategy of the Civil War. More than 30,000 casualties were suffered here, among them Confederate icon "Stonewall" Jackson, mistakenly shot by his own troops. In 1927 sections of the battlefield were incorporated into the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, but most land is still privately owned. Today this once-rural area sits astride a major transportation corridor in one of the nation's fastest growing regions. With land values skyrocketing, the National Park Service needs financial assistance to acquire and preserve key parts of the battlefield that are still subject to development. Ever-increasing traffic has led to calls for wider roads, culminating in a proposed superhighway called the "Outer Connector" that would pass within a mile of the park boundary. Motels, fast-food outlets and parking lots already surround Old Salem Church, a central landmark of the battle. Continued sprawl could pave over much of this hallowed ground where a chapter of America's story was written in blood.

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Monocacy Aqueduct, Frederick and Montgomery counties, Md. -- It was a wonder of 19th-century ingenuity, its seven graceful stone arches carrying the placid water--and the barge traffic--of the busy C & O Canal across the ripples of Maryland's Monocacy River. Since the canal closed in the 1920s, the aqueduct has become a magnet for hikers and cyclists on the towpath in the C & O Canal National Historical Park. But time and the elements have not been kind to this engineering landmark. More than a century of floods, coupled with a chronic lack of funds for maintenance, have caused serious deterioration of the structure's stonework. In 1972 flooding in the wake of Hurricane Agnes caused such severe damage that the National Park Service encased the entire aqueduct in a "corset" of steel beams and cables. Storms in 1996 turned piles of water-borne debris into battering rams, further weakening the span. Recent underwater examination has revealed serious cracks and undercutting of the supporting piers. Unless this damage is corrected soon, the Monocacy Aqueduct could collapse--cutting the C & O towpath in two and breaking an important link with America's past.

Michigan's Historic Lighthouses, Exemplified by DeTour Reef Light, Chippewa County, Mich. -- Located a mile offshore at the entrance to the busy Saint Mary's River linking Lake Huron and Lake Superior, this 74-foot steel Art Deco-style lighthouse has been a fixture on Michigan's Upper Peninsula coastline since 1931. As one of approximately 120 lighthouses in Michigan--the largest collection of these maritime landmarks in the United States--DeTour Reef Light stands as a testament to the importance of shipping in the region's political, economic and social history. Now, however, since advances in navigation technology have made DeTour Reef Light and its counterparts obsolete, the federal government is disposing of these historic properties. To date the Coast Guard has disposed of nearly 40 Michigan lighthouses, including DeTour Reef Light, which are currently undergoing the complicated disposal process; approximately 40 others are slated for eventual disposal. A few lighthouses have been saved through transfers to other government bodies and in some rare occasions private acquisitions, but a far greater number face an uncertain future. If they disappear, an important chapter of Great Lakes history will be left in the dark.

The Great Bowdoin Mill, Topsham, Maine -- Clustered in a village-like setting on a scenic island in the Androscoggin River, this collection of brick and clapboard buildings is a symbol of the paper industry that dominated Maine's economy for decades and provided employment for thousands of area residents. Among the first in Maine to use wood pulp for paper production, the mill was successfully adapted to meet the changing needs of the paper industry for more than 120 years. But the once-bustling facility has been silent for years, its buildings battered by time, weather and the destructive acts of vandals--even though its picturesque setting at the gateway to Topsham, its proximity to major transportation corridors, and the variety and soundness of its buildings makes it an obvious candidate for adaptive reuse. Mills like Bowdoin are dominant features on the New England landscape, but without reinvestment, their rich past can't ensure a bright future.

Mesa Verde National Park, Colo. -- Sprawling across more than 52,000 acres of rugged canyon and tableland in southwestern Colorado, Mesa Verde is America's best-known national park dedicated to archaeological resources. Created by Congress in 1906, the park contains the world's most important and best-preserved collection of pre-Columbian cliff dwellings, remnants of the Ancestral Puebloan culture that flourished in the area from the 6th through the 13th century. Today this awe-inspiring place is in peril. Of the more than 600 cliff dwellings in Mesa Verde, the National Park Service has the resources to provide regular maintenance for only 40 to 50. Problems arising from chronically inadequate funding were compounded in 1996 when a fire damaged some sites and exposed others to erosion. Some are in such poor condition that they could be lost within a few years unless steps are taken soon to protect them. If funds for stabilization and ongoing maintenance are not found quickly, this link with a vanished civilization--and a treasure of global significance--could crumble into dust.

Mapes Hotel, Reno, Nev. -- When the Mapes Hotel and Casino opened for business on December 17, 1947, it was the tallest building in Nevada and the first establishment to offer luxurious accommodations, fine dining, gambling and entertainment under one roof. Tony Bennett performed in the Sky Room -- one of many celebrities to pass through the doors. Besides being a show-biz hangout, the hotel was a fixture of community life, hosting local proms, club meetings and holiday parties. In 1982 the Mapes closed its doors, the victim of changing times and tastes. Today, supporters envision it as the centerpiece of a proposed cultural district--but the Reno Redevelopment Agency, which owns the building, is unable to provide the \$6 million that a developer says he needs to make the project viable. Unless the necessary funding can be found soon, the city council is likely to vote to demolish the Mapes. If that happens, a proud Art Deco landmark with excellent adaptive-reuse potential will be lost--and "The Biggest Little City in the World" will see its heritage shrunk a little smaller.

The Historic Courthouses of Texas -- The historic seats of county government in Texas represent some of the finest works of public architecture in the Lone Star State--and the nation. Spanning a near-century of Texas history from the 1850s to the 1940s, these buildings are living symbols of the regional rivalries that shaped the state. Their location and design helped establish each county's unique identity while embodying the majesty, solidity and egalitarian ideals of democratic government. All 225 of the state's historic courthouses are still community focal points, with 201 remaining in active government use. But many of them--including some of the oldest and most architecturally distinguished--have fallen into disrepair due to inadequate funding for preservation and routine maintenance. The 1993 electrical fire that ravaged the Hill County Courthouse is a warning of what could happen to others. If needed repairs are not carried out soon, many Texas cities and towns could lose the grand "temples of democracy" that are their most distinctive landmarks.

Black Hawk and Central City, Colo. -- In the 1850s people flocked to these small Rocky Mountain settlements in search of gold. When the boom was over the towns went into decline, but managed to retain many of their historic buildings as they slipped into decades of economic slumber. The wake-up call came in 1990, when Colorado voters legalized gambling to attract visitors and revive the towns' struggling economies. The first gambling establishments were small and installed in historic buildings, but the pace and scale of gambling-related development have increased dramatically in the past year. Officials in Central City recently approved a casino structure 12 stories high and 900 feet long, with a floor area 100 times larger than its historic neighbors. In Black Hawk and Central City, historic resources are increasingly viewed as liabilities rather than assets. Boom times are back, but the price of prosperity is the loss of irreplaceable remnants of Colorado's colorful mining history.



National Trust for Historic Preservation
**11 Most Endangered
Historic Places**

Each year the National Trust for Historic Preservation names "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places." The purpose of this list is to focus public attention on both nationally-famous and locally-treasured landmarks that are in imminent danger.

The sites are chosen to illustrate highly significant symbols of our American heritage threatened by neglect, deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funds, inappropriate development or insensitive public policy. Although each site is unique, the problems that cause it to be endangered are found in similar sites in communities everywhere.

The national and local attention generated by the list frequently is a catalyst for bringing about the necessary action and resources to save these historic places. Some recent successes:

- ◆ Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. The publicity generated by the list led to a massive clean up and repair work organized by an Air Force Master Sergeant who mobilized nearly 1,000 of his colleagues from all branches of the military. Efforts are now underway to secure long-term funding to adequately maintain this privately owned history park.
- ◆ Virginia City, Montana. This intact mining town was facing deterioration of its valuable resources because the family who owned the town could no longer afford to continue its preservation. The listing was helpful in calling attention to the grave threat to this extraordinary resource and just last year, the State of Montana announced that Virginia City will become a state park.
- ◆ The Oldest Surviving McDonald's, Downey, Calif. The outpouring of support for the Downey McDonalds and its original golden arches convinced the McDonald's Corporation not to close and demolish this stand and reuse its historic elements in a new restaurant nearby. Today, the Downey McDonald's continues to serve a new generation of Americans.

NEWS RELEASE

**CONTACT: Carol Cunningham/
Siobhan Mueller
202-588-6141**

**Hold for Release Until:
June 15, 1998, 12 a.m.**

**MARYLAND'S MONOCACY AQUEDUCT NAMED TO LIST OF
AMERICA'S 11 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES**

***National Preservation Organization Sends Wake-Up Call to
Save America's Treasures on the Eve of the New Millennium***

(Washington, D.C., June 15, 1998)...Once a crucial link in the C & O Canal and now a major attraction for hikers, bikers, picnickers and history enthusiasts, this 19th-century landmark has been so severely battered by the forces of floods for more than 150 years that its survival is threatened. Sounding an alarm, the National Trust for Historic Preservation has included Monocacy Aqueduct on its 1998 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. The History Channel will feature the list on Monday, June 22, 1998, at 10 p.m. EDT/11 p.m. PDT in a one-hour documentary special entitled "America's Most Endangered."

"Monocacy is a major engineering achievement, and is among the largest and most impressive of the few surviving aqueducts of the great canal building era in the United States," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust. "For nearly a century, this graceful structure carried canal boats above the Monocacy River between Washington, D.C., and Cumberland, Md. Now we must take steps to shore up the aqueduct and ensure its continued role in keeping the rich history of the C & O Canal alive and intact for the next century."

Completed in 1833, this seven-arched masonry structure was constructed by several hundred manual laborers, many of them Irish and Welsh immigrants, who hauled heavy white stone blocks from nearby Sugar Loaf Mountain. The aqueduct's strength was first put to the test during the Civil War. Confederate soldiers attempted to dynamite it, but were unable to drill into the dense stone.

Having survived man-made threats, the Monocacy Aqueduct has been badly battered by Mother Nature.

- more -

Monocacy, Page Two

In 1972, Hurricane Agnes tore away much of the structure's coping stone and railing. Lacking the funds to carry out the full stabilization and rehabilitation that was needed, the National Park Service fitted a supportive "harness" onto the structure -- a framework of horizontal timbers and vertical steel bars laced together by steel rods that still braces the aqueduct today. Recent underwater investigation has revealed extensive scouring and undercutting of the supporting piers. It is estimated that \$5 million will fully stabilize the structure, allowing it to serve for another century, and providing the opportunity to remove the steel and wood support "harness" so that the public can again view the structure as it was constructed. But with the cracks getting wider, the stones getting looser and the piers getting weaker each day, action must be taken soon or this monument to ingenuity will be washed away and the canal system as envisioned by George Washington will be cut in two.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the National Trust's list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Over the past decade the list has spotlighted America's diverse history from archeological sites and historic roads to Civil Rights landmarks and entire communities. While listing does not ensure the protection of a site or guarantee funding, it has proven to be a powerful tool for raising awareness and rallying resources to save threatened sites. Some key victories include Antietam Battlefield, Block Island's Southeast Light, Montana's Virginia City, Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C., and the last remaining original McDonald's in Downey, Calif. To date, no site named to the list has been lost.

"This list is a wake-up call to all Americans," said Moe. "Ensuring that our past stays alive is the best gift we could give to Americans of the new millennium."

Other sites on the 1998 list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places" include:

Governors Island, New York, N.Y. -- When 300 years of military use ended in 1997, dozens of historic structures on this spectacularly sited island in New York Harbor were left to face an uncertain future.

Historically Black Colleges & Universities, Nationwide -- Having shaped the lives of generations of African Americans, these proud institutions need funding for rehabilitation and ongoing maintenance of many deteriorated campus landmarks.

Great Bowdoin Mill, Topsham, Maine -- Successfully adapted to meet the changing needs of the paper industry over a 120-year span, this village-like cluster of buildings now stands vacant and in need of a viable reuse plan.

Chancellorsville Battlefield, Spotsylvania County, Va -- This once-rural Civil War battlefield, where Lee won a brilliant victory and Stonewall Jackson was mistakenly shot by his own troops, is being swallowed up by sprawl.

- more -

Monocacy, Page Three

Michigan's Historic Lighthouses, Exemplified by DeTour Reef Light, Chippewa County, Mich. -- Rendered obsolete by technological advances, this maritime landmark is one of dozens of picturesque Michigan lighthouses now being disposed of by the Coast Guard.

Historic Courthouses of Texas -- The Lone Star State's 225 historic county courthouses are among the nation's most significant public buildings, but inadequate maintenance and deterioration place many of them at risk.

Black Hawk and Central City, Colo. -- Casino gambling has been an economic boon to these former mining towns, but overscaled gambling-related development threatens to destroy their historic character.

Mesa Verde National Park, Colo. -- The world's most important collection of pre-Columbian cliff dwellings is located here, but many sites face imminent loss because the National Park Service cannot afford to maintain them.

Mapes Hotel, Reno, Nev. -- This Art Deco skyscraper, the prototype for today's hotel/casinos and long a mecca for high rollers and big-name entertainers, faces demolition unless a viable reuse plan can be found.

Cannery Row, Monterey, Calif. -- Immortalized by John Steinbeck, the bayside industrial neighborhood that made Monterey the sardine-canning capital of the world and established a multi-cultural community, is being eroded by development pressures and failure to adhere to published city plans.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the irreplaceable. With more than 270,000 members nationwide, it provides leadership, education and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities. It has seven regional offices, owns 19 historic sites and works with thousands of local community groups in all 50 states.

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For more information, visit the National Trust's web site at www.nationaltrust.org.

Press Conference: Monday, June 15, at 10:30 a.m.; Monocacy Aqueduct, C & O Canal National Historic Park, Mouth of the Monocacy River Road (mile 42 on the Canal, near Dickerson, Md.); Contact: Carol Cunningham 202-588-6141.

Note for Television: B-roll of the sites and soundbites from the national press conference can be found on: Telestar 5, Transponder 16, downlink 4020, audio 6.2/6.8 from 2:45 p.m. -- 3:15 p.m. EDT.

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WASHINGTON

White House Millennium Council

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To: Michael Phone: _____
Fax: 66244From: _____ Ellen McCulloch-Lovell,
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Advisor to the First Lady on the MillenniumOther Ginger
Date: 6/5Number of pages (including cover): 3

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Karen
Shelton
James / an
issue
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Message: I am sending the draft press release -- this has not gone out. You can find out more about the 11 Most Endangered Places on their web site. Carol C. (NTHP) is sending me ~~more on the sites for 98 over the~~

THE WHITE HOUSE MILLENNIUM COUNCIL weekend
708 Jackson Place
Washington, DC 20503

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Siobhan Mueller
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**Hold for Release Until:
June 15, 1998, 12 a.m.**

LIST OF ENDANGERED SITES HIGHLIGHTS AMERICA'S HERITAGE AT RISK

*National Preservation Organization Sends Wake-Up Call to
Save America's Treasures on the Eve of the New Millennium*

(Washington, D.C., June 15, 1998)...On the eve of the new millennium, America's heritage is at risk. Campus landmarks at America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities, pre-Columbian cliff dwellings at Mesa Verde National Park, and the colorful California seaside district immortalized in John Steinbeck's novel *Cannery Row* — these and eight other links to America's past have been named to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's 1998 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. The list will be featured in a History Channel one-hour documentary on Monday, June 22, 1998, at 10 p.m. EDT/11 p.m. PDT.

First Lady Hillary Clinton joined the National Trust in announcing the list at Maryland's endangered Monocacy Aqueduct, a 19th-century engineering landmark on the historic C&O Canal. "The wonderful sites highlighted today represent our diverse heritage at risk," said Mrs. Clinton. "As we embark on the new millennium, it is time to honor the past as we imagine the future. We have launched the Save America's Treasures Millennium Program to do just that. My hope is that Americans will seize this opportunity to join together to save these monuments to our history and seek out the places in their own communities that also need to be preserved for the next generation."

"America's historic treasures are a non-renewable resource. Once they are gone, they are gone for good," said Richard Moe, president of the National Trust. "Today we spotlight 11 endangered sites that help tell the American story. Saving these places is not someone else's job. Working together we can ensure that our past stays alive -- and that's the best gift we could give to Americans of the new millennium."

- more -

Endangered Places, Page Two

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Sites on the 1998 list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places" include:

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- more -

Endangered Places, Page Three

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The Save America's Treasures Millennium Program is a cooperative effort of the National Trust, the White House, and other public and private sector partners to address our nation's urgent preservation needs. By "honoring the past and imagining the future," the Save America's Treasures Program will provide the nation opportunities to learn about our history, preserve our cultural heritage and give permanent gifts to the future.

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Note for Television: B-roll of sites and sound bites from the national press conference can be found on ...

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June 15

2001



National Trust for Historic Preservation
Office of the President
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6/15

To: Ellen Lovell
White House Millennium Office
From: David J. Brown, Chief of Staff
Fax to #: 202-395-7234
Subject: Eleven Most Endangered List/Meeting Notes
Date: April 17, 1998
Pages: 4, including this cover sheet.

Ellen:

As promised yesterday, I'm enclosing our draft list of sites to include on this year's 11 Most Endangered List. Please note that these are confidential and still in a bit of draft form (since we had our 11th site drop out at the last moment and we're scrambling to chose the replacement). However, this should give you a sense of what's being included for your discussions with the First Lady about her participation in a June 15th announcement in Washington (or at the Monocacy Aqueduct).

Also, FYI, I've attached a copy of my notes from yesterday's meeting. If you see anything on there that requires clarification or revision, please let me know. We're moving forward on all the items listed at the top and we'll see you again on Tuesday morning at 10 a.m.

David

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Washington, DC 20036-2117
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Internet <http://www.nthp.org> E-mail: david_brown@nthp.org

The National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities.

J1

DRAFT**CONFIDENTIAL****AMERICA'S 11 MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES 1998****America's Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

Inadequate funding leaves hundreds of important campus landmarks in need of repairs and restoration

Governors Island, *New York Harbor*

Closing of military base leaves spectacularly-sited historic island facing uncertain future

Monocacy Aqueduct, *Frederick and Montgomery counties, Md.*

Engineering landmark on the historic C & O Canal weakened by decades of floods

Chancellorsville Battlefield, *Spotsylvania County, Va.*

Once-rural site of important Civil War battle is being engulfed by sprawl

DeTour Point Light, *Chippewa County, Mich.*

One of several Great Lakes lighthouses "excessed" by US Coast Guard

Rail and Commerce District, *Omaha, Neb.*

Newly revitalized urban neighborhood threatened by proposed convention center/sports arena

Historic Courthouses of Texas

Scores of government buildings suffer from deterioration, deferred maintenance and inappropriate alterations

Mesa Verde National Park, *Colo.*

Hundreds of pre-Columbian cliff dwellings endangered by erosion and lack of funding for stabilization and maintenance

Black Hawk and Central City, *Colo.*

Nineteenth-century mining towns overwhelmed by gambling-related development.

Mapes Hotel, *Reno, Nev.*

Long-vacant Art Deco landmark threatened with demolition

Site to be Added, *Somewhere*

Incredibly important landmark about to go down the chute because of poor ventilation and bureaucratic bungling

Copy to HHC
w/ note

cc Drane
Melanne
Bibb
Sarah
Lisa
Sue V
Marsha B

Memorandum

To: HRC
From: Ellen McCulloch-Lovell
Re: June 15th announcement
Date: May 28, 1997

I thought you would want to see the list that you and Dick Moe will announce when the Trust announces its "11 Most Endangered Historic Places" on June 15. We'll get more background information on each, especially the "site to be added!"