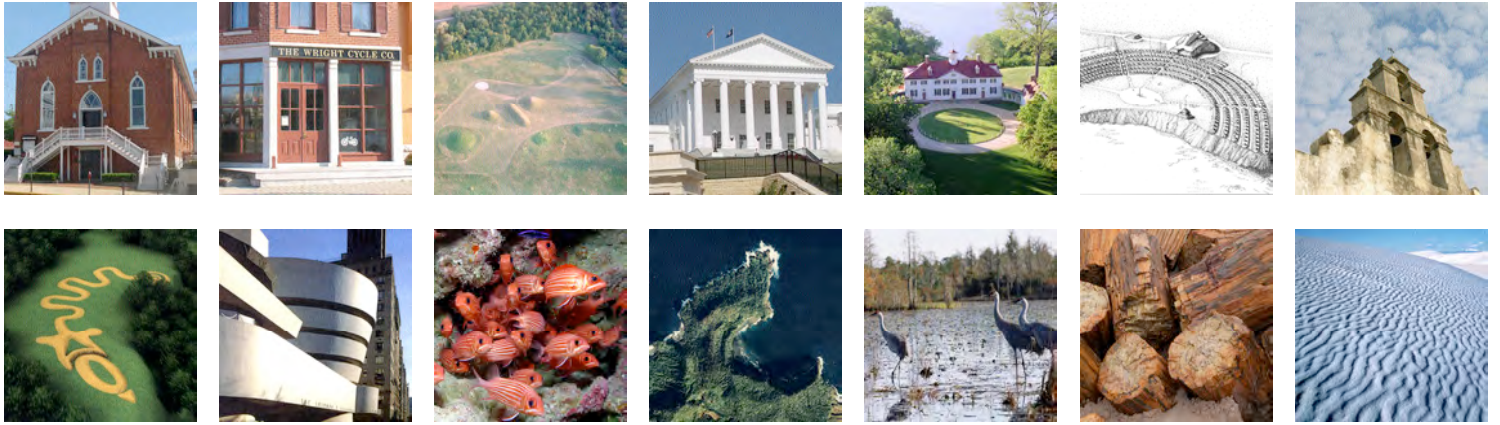


World Heritage in the United States of America

THE U.S. TENTATIVE LIST 2008



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On behalf of the people of the United States, I am pleased to present this new U.S. World Heritage Tentative List.

These 14 cultural and natural sites represent special places worthy of recognition as World Heritage Sites, the United Nations' voluntary international program that recognizes and preserves our planet's most important places.

This new Tentative List was selected from among 35 worthy properties that voluntarily applied to be included on the list.

Application for or inclusion of any property in the U.S. Tentative List, or even the World Heritage List itself, does not affect the legal status of, or an owner's rights in, a property under U.S. jurisdiction. The United Nations only approves projects recommended by the project's host country and the participation on the part of the property owners is strictly voluntary.

A generation ago, the United States took a leadership role in the creation of the World Heritage Convention and has taken a major role in shaping its progress during the ensuing three decades. In September 1978, meeting in Washington, D.C., the World Heritage Committee inaugurated the World Heritage List by inscribing the very first sites. In addition to hosting the meeting as Chair of the World Heritage Committee, the United States was honored by having both Yellowstone National Park and Mesa Verde National Park included among the first 12 World Heritage Sites. At that time, there were only 39 nations participating in the World Heritage Convention. There are now 185 signatory countries to the Convention, and 851 sites in 140 countries have been listed.

The completion of this new U.S. World Heritage Tentative List, or list of candidate sites for the World Heritage List, marks a major step in reinvigorating the participation of the United States in the World Heritage Program. The United States has served as an elected member of the World Heritage Committee since 2005, our fourth term since the Convention was adopted.

In addition, the U.S. rejoined UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) as a full member in 2003. The World Heritage Program functions independently under the general auspices of UNESCO.

There are 20 World Heritage Sites already in the United States. However, the United States has not nominated any new sites to the World Heritage List since 1994.

Our list contains an impressive range of historic, cultural, and natural places of which the United States can justly be proud. These properties can well represent America's contributions to the world's heritage in the years just ahead.

Dirk Kempthorne
Secretary of the Interior

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Introduction

The 14 places or groups of sites featured here represent just a glimpse of the impressive variety of treasures in the United States of America that are outstandingly important works of both humanity and nature. This list is our opportunity, through the means of the World Heritage Convention, to invite the rest of the world to join in recognizing their value. From New York to American Samoa, from 200 million years ago to the 20th century, and from the bottom of the ocean to the western desert, these places tell about the richness and variety of human life, and the life of the earth, that we are fortunate to have within our national boundaries.

The UNESCO World Heritage List recognizes the most significant cultural and natural sites on the planet. The United States was the prime architect of the World Heritage Convention, an international treaty for the preservation of sites of global significance proposed by President Richard M. Nixon in 1972, and the U.S. was the first nation to ratify it. The impetus behind this effort was a desire to promote American conservation ideals in a way that would benefit the most important places around the world. Today, 185 countries are parties to the Convention, making it the most nearly universal treaty for cultural preservation and nature conservation in human history. Its purpose is to enhance worldwide understanding and appreciation and international cooperation for heritage conservation, and to recognize and preserve exceptional natural and cultural properties around the world that have “outstanding universal value” to humanity.

As of May 2008, the World Heritage List includes 851 sites in 140 countries. Of these, 660 are cultural sites and 166 are natural areas, with 25 mixed sites that demonstrate both natural and cultural values. The United States has 20 World Heritage Sites, eight of which are cultural and 12 of which are natural. There are more natural sites listed in the United States than in any other country except Australia.

The Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks of the U.S. Department of the Interior is responsible for U.S. nominations to the World Heritage List, which are submitted through the U.S. Department of State. The U.S. National Commission for UNESCO and the Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage have advisory roles. The National Park Service Office of International Affairs (NPS OIA) is the staff-level support office. Detailed information on the World Heritage program, the way this Tentative List was developed, and the process of submitting nominations, which must be approved by the 21-nation World Heritage Committee, can be found on the NPS OIA web site, <http://www.nps.gov/oia>.

A Tentative List is a national list of properties that appear to meet the eligibility criteria for nomination to the World Heritage List (see page 41 for the criteria). The World Heritage Committee has issued *Operational Guidelines* asking participating nations to provide Tentative Lists to help evaluate properties for World Heritage designation. These annotated lists describe the sites that countries are likely to nominate in the next few years. In order to be nominated to the World Heritage List, a property must already have been included on that country’s Tentative List. All national Tentative Lists appear on the World Heritage Centre’s web site, <http://whc.unesco.org>.

Inclusion on the U.S. Tentative List does not confer any official status on a site; it means only that the site appears to meet the World Heritage criteria and may be nominated by the United States in the future. It does not guarantee that any site will be nominated or, if nominated, that it will be accepted for inclusion on the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee makes the final decisions on which sites are designated as World Heritage Sites.

The World Heritage Committee's *Operational Guidelines* recommend that a nation review its Tentative List at least once every decade. The original 1982 U.S. Tentative List was outdated. Its preparation did not comply with current standards for owner support, notification of interested parties, or public participation. No U.S. nominations to the World Heritage List have been made since 1994. As the World Heritage Committee has requested that nations submit no more than two nominations per year, the new U.S. Tentative List could have included as many as 20 sites. As it stands, the new U.S. Tentative List includes 14 sites that have been selected from among 35 proposed for consideration by their owners.

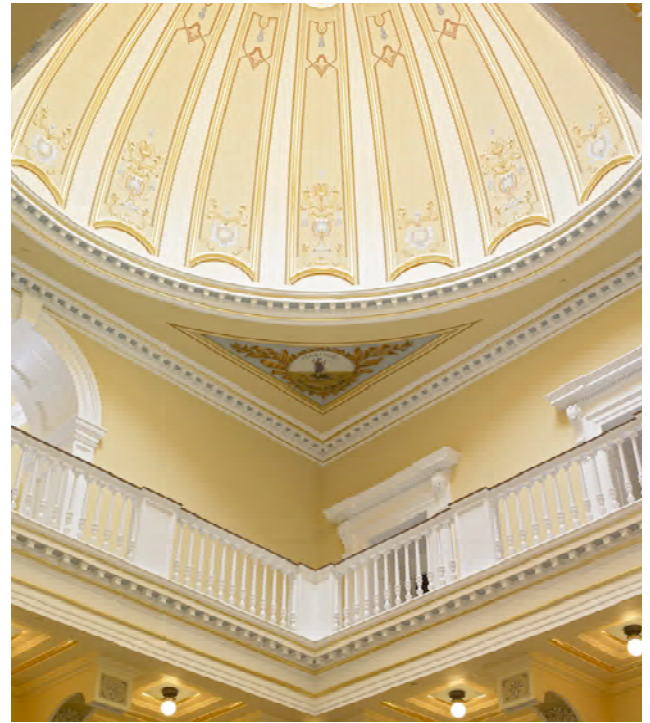
Except for the initial nominations that will be chosen in 2008, no decisions have been made on the sequence in which the properties on the Tentative List will be considered for nomination. This is likely to be an annual consideration that will include an opportunity for owners and the public to comment. Decisions will take account of how readily nominations can be completed with all the necessary components, especially master plans and protective measures, and any further research that may be needed. All of the analyses and recommendations will be subject to further discussion, verification, and refinement as the Tentative List is used during the next decade and as nominations are prepared.

The U.S. has three legal prerequisites for nomination of a site to the World Heritage List: a property must have been officially determined to be nationally significant; all of the property's owners must concur in writing; and the owners and the U.S. Department of the Interior must be able to agree on and present full evidence of legal protection for the property at the time it is nominated. Property owners were asked to express their interest by completing an application form for the Tentative List. Applicants were also asked to determine the support of relevant stakeholders, which, although not a legal requirement for inclusion in the Tentative List, is highly desirable.

The World Heritage Committee's *Operational Guidelines* ask countries to wait one year after submitting their Tentative Lists before sending forward any nominations for sites on the Lists. Therefore, because the U.S. submitted its new Tentative List in January 2008, the first nomination of a site could be submitted in early 2009 for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its annual session in the summer of 2010.

PROPERTY RIGHTS

Application for or inclusion of any property in the U.S. Tentative List—or even the World Heritage List itself—does not affect the legal status of, or an owner's rights in, a property under U.S. jurisdiction. Participation on the part of the property owner is strictly voluntary. By the time of nomination, the U.S. Department of the Interior must have been able to document the protection of the property and, in cooperation with the owner, devise any additional measures that may be necessary to protect the property in perpetuity.



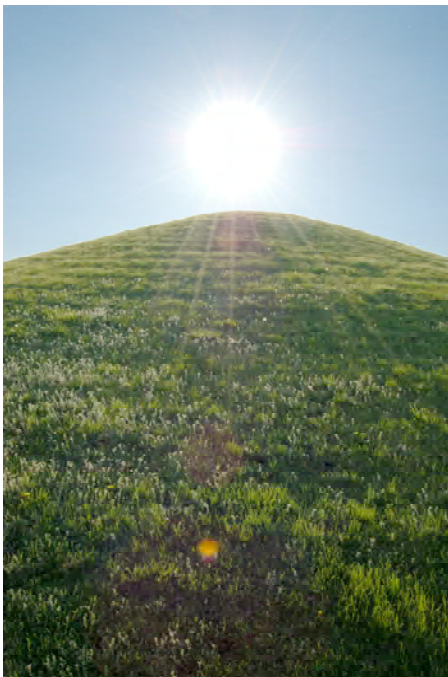
Rotunda, Virginia State Capitol (Thomas Jefferson Buildings)

POSSIBLE FUTURE STEPS

Having fewer than 20 properties on the Tentative List makes it possible to consider adding properties to the List within the next ten years, and a variety of strategies for doing so might be considered. In addition to revisiting the properties already identified for future consideration (see page 38), such strategies might include targeting specific properties or types of properties (e.g., natural sites, thematic areas) to encourage proposals. Such an approach could also be used in the event that some of the 14 properties on the new Tentative List are not nominated or accepted for the World Heritage List.

BACKGROUND NOTES

Viable Nominations The NPS OIA priority in the review process was to recommend only properties that are likely to be successfully nominated. Reviewers were mindful of how the World Heritage Committee and its advisory bodies have applied the World Heritage criteria, particularly in recent years. Tracking both successful and unsuccessful nominations in the past, both by the U.S. and by other countries, has provided guidance as to which approaches are most likely to result in World Heritage listings.



Seip Mound (Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks)

Types of Applications The new U.S. Tentative List includes types of properties not represented among current U.S. World Heritage Sites, such as modern architecture and marine resources. However, there were no applications for a number of important and less-represented property types, including those representing certain achievements in science and technology, such as bridges, skyscrapers, and places of scientific observation and experimentation. This appears to reflect, in part, lack of interest on the part of private owners. On the other hand, some applications rested their main arguments on the outstanding universal value of ideas or events that were not always well associated with the intact physical properties that must be the basis for World Heritage nominations.

Nature of Applicants The applicants represented a diverse mix of federal agencies, state and local governments, and private organizations and property owners. As 17 of the 20 current U.S. World Heritage sites are national park units in whole or part, this should result in a wider variety of forms of ownership of nominated sites.

Balance between Nature and Culture There are more natural sites (12) than cultural sites (eight) among the current U.S. World Heritage listings, but the applications received for the new Tentative List were predominantly cultural (29, as opposed to six natural). Of those included in the 2008 Tentative List, four are natural, nine are cultural, and one is a mixed site. If all the sites included in the new Tentative List were successfully inscribed on the World Heritage List, the numbers of U.S. World Heritage Sites would be almost evenly balanced between nature and culture. In the World Heritage List as a whole, there are many more cultural sites than natural ones.

Possibilities of Joint International Nominations At least two of the new U.S. Tentative List sites appear to have some potential for eventual inclusion in joint nominations with other countries (Franciscan Missions of San Antonio and Fagatele Bay). Some sites that have been identified as meriting future consideration may also ultimately yield international nominations (e.g., Moravian Bethlehem and the Underground Railroad).

Comparison with Previous List Very few properties appear on both the 2008 Tentative List and the previous one from 1982, for several reasons. The principal one is that, in the present case, all properties were given close scrutiny as to their qualifications and the practicalities of actually nominating them, such as ensuring property owner support, as opposed to the hypothetical consideration properties were given a quarter-century ago when no application or other formal documentation was required. Also, changes in thinking about scientific and cultural values, and progress in identifying nationally significant sites have, since 1982, enlarged the pool from which potential candidates for the World Heritage List can be drawn and made some sites of greater interest now than in the past.

Obsolescence or Absence of Master Plans and Protective Measures The World Heritage Committee has been very scrupulous in recent years in insisting that sites have master plans and other protective measures in place (or at least well in progress) before it is willing to list them. Some properties on the new Tentative List are not well situated in regard to that requirement. Particularly for privately owned sites, master plans and protective measures will need to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, as specified in the U.S. World Heritage program regulations.

Limited Public Awareness The lack of widespread public knowledge, interest, or advocacy for the World Heritage program also appeared to contribute to the absence of applications for some well-known properties, particularly where it would have been necessary to organize groups of properties for application. It was also reflected in a number of inaccurate news reports related to applications.

Consequences of Requiring Owner Consent The federal requirement for owner concurrence necessarily limits which properties can be nominated. This requirement makes it quite difficult for the U.S. to construct viable nominations for historic districts with more than a small number of properties.

Quality of Documentation The quality of documentation in the applications was uneven: comparisons between sites, placement within a global context, and the preparation of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value seemed especially difficult for many volunteer preparers. Preparing World Heritage documentation is considerably different from preparing nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. As the applicants were naturally acting as advocates for their sites, the objective comparative information needed by the reviewers was often lacking. These issues complicated the task of recommending sites for inclusion in the Tentative List.

Properties Not Recommended Some properties, though possessing national significance, were judged not likely to meet the stringent criteria and other requirements for inclusion in the World Heritage List. Others presented issues that the World Heritage Committee is unlikely to resolve in the short term or did not provide adequate information on which to base a recommendation for World Heritage nomination. They were not included.

Organization of this Book

The U.S. Tentative List sites, and those with potential for future consideration, are described in the following pages. Within the categories of cultural, mixed, and natural sites, the sites appear in alphabetical order. The official version submitted to UNESCO includes only the 14 properties on the Tentative List, and uses a more technical format required by the World Heritage Committee. The descriptions that follow are based primarily on the applications and addenda that were supplied by the property owners or their representatives. The full texts of the applications and addenda submitted by the owners of all 35 sites for which Tentative List applications were received can be consulted on the National Park Service's Office of International Affairs web site, www.nps.gov/oia.



Dexter Avenue King Memorial
Baptist Church

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT SITES ALABAMA

Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, Montgomery
Bethel Baptist Church, Birmingham
16th Street Baptist Church, Birmingham

These churches were the sites of major events in the American civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s that drew worldwide attention. The 1955–56 Montgomery bus boycott was led by the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. The spring 1963 marches and demonstrations in Birmingham that led to the jailing of 4,000 African Americans were nurtured by the Rev. Fred Lee Shuttlesworth of Bethel Baptist Church. The bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church later that year, which killed four young girls, shocked the nation and the world. The civil rights movement's philosophy of non-violent means for achieving social change drew from and also profoundly influenced other human rights movements. Additional sites related to the movement might be added to this group.

World Heritage Criterion: (vi) *These churches are directly and tangibly associated with critical events in the Civil Rights movement. The ideas and beliefs that inspired the movement drew from influences such as that of Mahatma Gandhi and have in turn had worldwide influence.*



16th Street Baptist Church: after the bombing in 1963, and today



Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bethel Baptist Church





DAYTON AVIATION SITES OHIO

Wright Cycle Company and Wright & Wright Printing
Huffman Prairie Flying Field
Wright Hall
Hawthorn Hill

The work that the Wright Brothers did in and around Dayton transformed the world. These sites together illustrate the creation of the first practical airplane. The workshop they used in 1895–97 now houses exhibits and offices. At Huffman Prairie in 1905, they tested the *Wright Flyer III*, now housed in Wright Hall; it was the first airplane that could take off, fly until it exhausted its fuel supply, land safely, and do so repeatedly. Hawthorn Hill, Orville Wright’s home from 1914 until 1948, demonstrates the stature the Wrights earned as the result of their invention. The Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, will also be evaluated for possible joint nomination.

World Heritage Criterion: (ii) *These key sites exhibit an important interchange of human values in the development of the field of aviation technology, which has had an incalculable impact on human travel and communication. The four components together illustrate the research, the technology, the place, and the results of the Wrights’ achievement.*



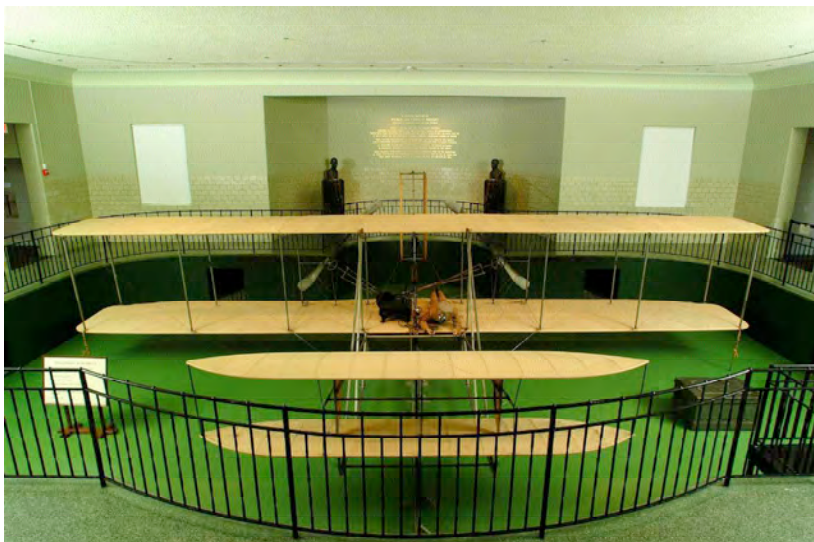
Hawthorn Hill



Wilbur and Orville Wright



Reconstructed catapult at Huffman Prairie Flying Field



The Wright Flyer III in Wright Hall

HOPEWELL CEREMONIAL EARTHWORKS

OHIO

Fort Ancient State Memorial

Hopewell Culture National Historical Park

Mound City Group • Hopewell Mound Group • Seip Earthworks

High Bank Earthworks • Hopeton Earthworks

Newark Earthworks State Memorial

Octagon Earthworks • Great Circle Earthworks • Wright Earthworks

These nine sites, the survivors of more than 40 monumental ceremonial earthworks constructed in precise geometric shapes, reflect the sophisticated Native American Ohio Hopewell culture that thrived 1,500–2,200 years ago and was the center of a tradition that interacted with people as far away as the Yellowstone basin and Florida. These are among the largest earthworks in the world that are not fortifications or defensive structures, and they contain extensive deposits of artifacts that are among the most outstanding art objects produced in pre-Columbian North America.

The earthworks' construction used standard units of measure and incorporated astronomical alignments. Their scale is imposing by any standard: in the Newark Earthworks alone, the Great Pyramid of Cheops would have fit inside the Wright Earthworks; four structures the size of the Colosseum of Rome would fit in the Octagon; and the circle of monoliths at Stonehenge would fit into one of the small auxiliary earthwork circles adjacent to the Octagon.

World Heritage Criteria:

(iii) *These sites bear exceptional testimony to the distinctive Ohio Hopewell culture that occupied several of the tributary valleys of the Ohio River. They built these distinctive types of earthworks which prevailed in the region during the roughly seven centuries of the Hopewell culture, which is recognized as the climax of the Woodland Period cultures (1–1000 CE) in North America.*

(iv) *These earthworks are outstanding examples of an architectural form and landscape design that illustrates the roughly seven centuries during which the Ohio Hopewell culture reached the apex of Woodland Period cultural development. These extraordinarily large and precisely geometric structures, making use of standard units of measure, were designed and used mainly ceremonially, in contrast to those of cultures of other periods.*

(vi) *These earthworks are tangible evidence of the beliefs and related artistic works of the Ohio Hopewell people. The Hopewell culture is distinguished from other prehistoric American Indian cultures in eastern North America by the complex geometric earthworks that reflect their cosmology and by their elaborate and finely crafted ceremonial and other objects.*



Above: Mound City Group, aerial view (inset) and at sunrise; below (clockwise from upper left): Octagon Earthworks, Newark Earthworks, Fort Ancient State Memorial, Seip Earthworks





THOMAS JEFFERSON BUILDINGS VIRGINIA

Poplar Forest, Bedford County
State Capitol, Richmond

These two buildings are proposed as a joint extension to the World Heritage listing that includes Monticello and the University of Virginia, completing the group of Jefferson's primary surviving works. They reflect his familiarity with Classical, Renaissance, and contemporary French architecture. The Virginia State Capitol in Richmond (1785–98), as the first adaptation of the Roman temple form to a governmental building, has had enduring influence on the use of Classical models for such structures. Poplar Forest is Jefferson's rural retreat in Bedford County that was begun before he retired from the U.S. presidency in 1809. The two-story brick house is built in an octagon around a central cube and is surrounded by the landscape he designed.

World Heritage Criteria:

(i) Thomas Jefferson's architectural works are masterpieces of his creative genius. Jefferson was one of the major figures in 18th and early 19th century Neoclassical architecture, adapting his designs specifically to an American context.

(iv) Jefferson's designs are outstanding examples of the international Neo-classical movement in architecture, drawing on traditions of Roman architecture, Renaissance interpretations of it by Palladio, and the French domestic architecture of his own day. His landscape work at Poplar Forest drew on English sources and reflected English and French concepts of the relationship of a building to its natural setting. The State Capitol pays clear homage to its Roman temple antecedent but adapts it to governmental purposes.

(vi) Jefferson's architecture gave tangible form to his ideals, especially as they derived from republican Rome, which he deemed an inspiration for the new United States. With the Virginia State Capitol, he created the precedent for a long era in which numerous public buildings were to be constructed on Classical models. All of his works reflect the Vitruvian "Man of Perfect Proportions," a figure that dominated European aesthetics from antiquity onward with a vision of a heroic mankind proportionately in accord with ideal geometric shapes.



Virginia State Capitol: (opposite left) Governor's Conference Room; (opposite right) House Chamber; (above) exterior, showing the Roman temple form used by Jefferson

Poplar Forest: (below) Aerial view looking north toward the Blue Ridge Mountains; (right) two views of the exterior of the house





The mansion's east façade

MOUNT VERNON VIRGINIA

George Washington's long-time home, with its associated gardens and grounds, forms a remarkably well-preserved and extensively documented example of a plantation landscape of the 18th-century American South. It was based on English models but modified and adapted to its American context, which included slave labor as an economic basis. There is a core of 16 surviving 18th-century structures set in a landscape of gardens, fences, lanes, walkways, and other features, situated along the Potomac River, that changed and developed over many years in Washington's family. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association has owned and maintained the property for 150 years.

World Heritage Criterion: (iv) *Mount Vernon is an outstanding example of an 18th-century colonial plantation that evolved over generations. Its design drew from contemporary English architecture and landscape fashions, which were modified and adapted to the American context.*



Looking east toward the Potomac River

The mansion's large dining room



The kitchen occupies a separate building (right) connected to the mansion by a covered walkway

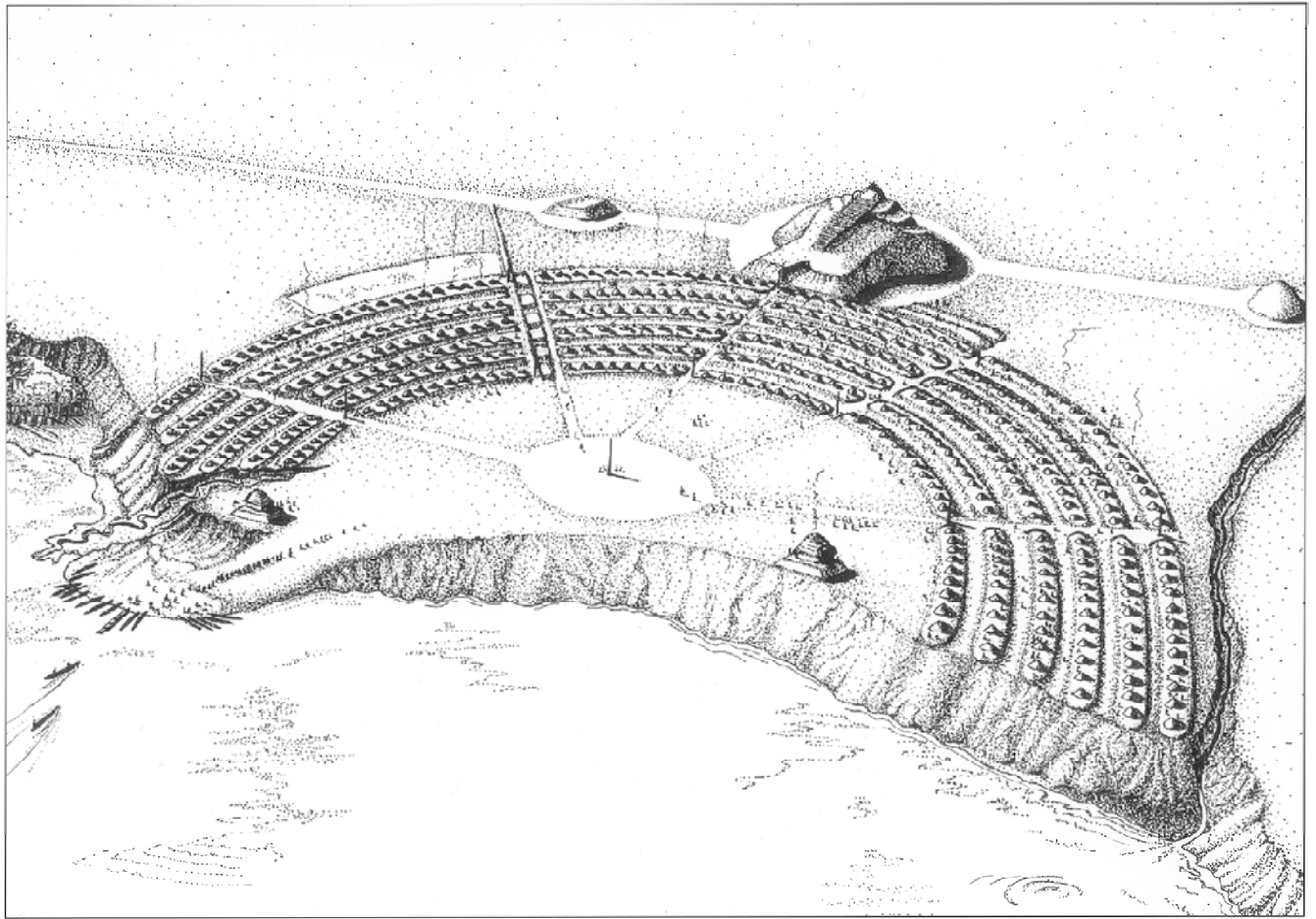




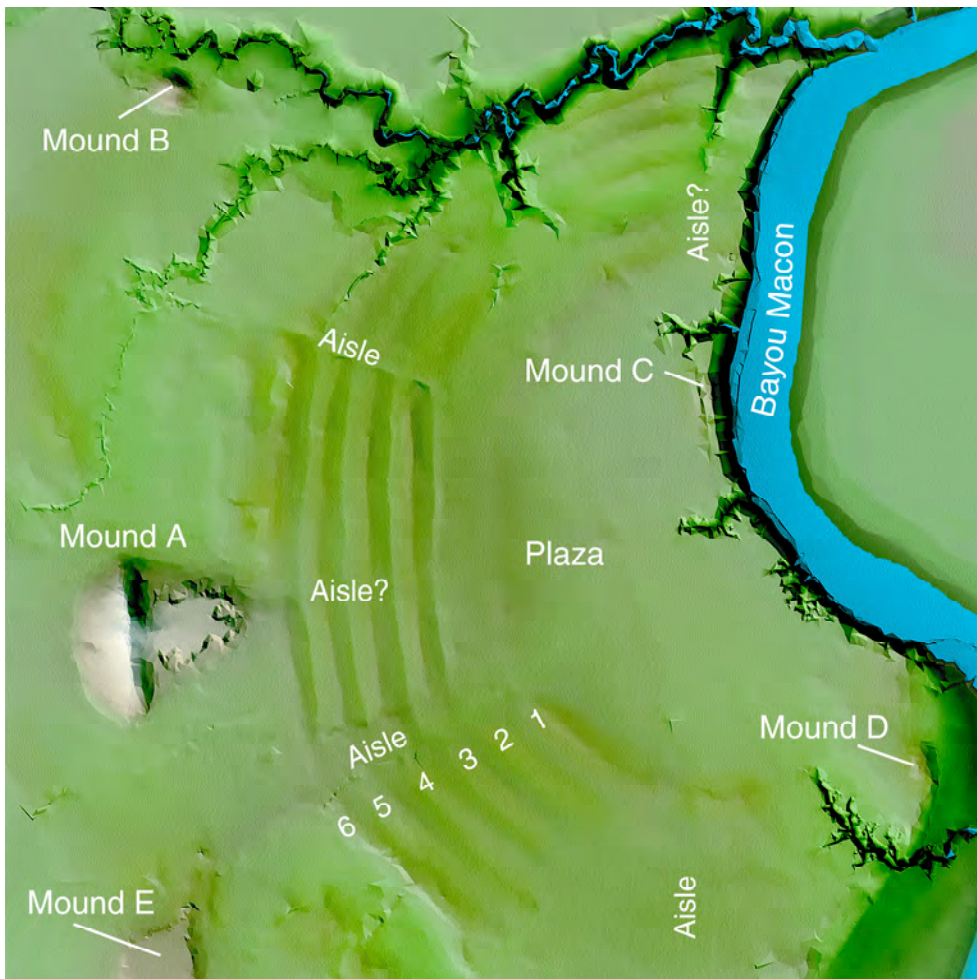
POVERTY POINT STATE HISTORIC SITE LOUISIANA

This vast complex of earthen structures, constructed 3,100–3,700 years ago, may be the largest hunter-gatherer settlement that has ever existed. Located on a bayou west of the Mississippi River in northeastern Louisiana, it is an integrated complex of earthen mounds, enormous concentric ridges, and a large plaza. Not only was it the largest and most elaborate settlement of its time in North America, it was, more significantly, built by a foraging society of hunter-gatherers, not a settled agricultural people, which makes it without parallel in world archeological and ethnographic records, challenging anthropology's basic assumptions about hunter-gatherer societies.

World Heritage Criterion: (iii) *Poverty Point bears a unique testimony to a vanished cultural tradition centered in the lower Mississippi Valley during the Late Archaic period (2,000–500 BCE). This spectacular earthen complex was the largest and most culturally elaborate hunter-gatherer settlement of its time in North America; the art of its society, expressed in clay figurines, stone beads, and other lapidary items, was unsurpassed in North America during this time period.*



Above: Artist's rendering of the Poverty Point settlement as it might have looked during its most elaborate phase



Left: Topographic image of the Poverty Point complex

Opposite: A line of students on a field trip demonstrates the topography of the series of ridges shown in the images on this page



SAN ANTONIO FRANCISCAN MISSIONS TEXAS

Mission San Antonio (The Alamo)

Mission Concepción

Mission San José

Mission San Juan

Mission Espada

The modern city of San Antonio, Texas, has grown up around this group of five Spanish Roman Catholic mission properties that were built in stages from 1724 to 1782 as open villages within walled compounds. The missions superbly represent the Spanish Colonial influence in this region, in which the religious, economic, and technological systems of the missionaries created settled communities that became the basis of the Southwest's distinctive ethnic mixture. The churches in the mission complexes, except for Mission San Antonio, are still in active use.

World Heritage Criteria:

(ii) The San Antonio missions exhibit the influence in a Colonial setting of 18th-century Spanish religion, economy, architecture, and town planning that gradually transformed the society of native peoples of the Americas in this region. The missionaries pursued religious conversion of the nomadic indigenous cultures in northeast Mexico and Texas by settling them into fortified permanent communities surrounded by irrigated farms and ranches. These influences are seen in the church façades, which blend elements of Moorish culture, Catholic Spain, and the cultures of central Mexico. Planning and construction elements of the missions are still evident today on the city plan of San Antonio.

(iii) These missions bear an exceptional testimony to the cultural encounter of the Spanish clergy with the nomadic hunters and gatherers on the Texas frontier. The use of the Spanish language in these settings accelerated the cultural influence of the Spanish in areas such as laws, music, and religion. It has resulted in the local Tejano culture, a modern society of Texas Native Americans, Mexicans, Spanish, and other European peoples.

(iv) The missions are an exceptionally large group of surviving Spanish Colonial buildings that exhibit unique architectural and engineering features. They contain large numbers of Colonial-era frescoes and other rich decoration. Key portions of the irrigation system, including a dam, an aqueduct, and a system of acequías (irrigation channels) still exist to demonstrate their original functions.



Opposite: Detail of the façade on the front of the church at Mission San José

Clockwise from upper left: Façade of the Alamo (Mission San Antonio); bell tower of the church of Mission San Juan; Espada acequía as it flows parallel to the San Antonio River; doorway of the church at Mission Espada; convento and church of Mission San José



SERPENT MOUND STATE MEMORIAL OHIO

Serpent Mound is the largest documented surviving example of a prehistoric effigy mound in the world. Such deliberate representations of animals, objects, geometric forms, and even people are known in many countries. While Serpent Mound forms a part of the tradition of effigy mound building among some American Indian cultures in today's Eastern United States, this site is the acme of that tradition both here and elsewhere in the world. The sinuous earthen embankment, more than 1,200 feet long, includes an oval feature at one end that may be the serpent's eye, part of its head, or a secondary object, such as an egg, grasped in its open jaws. Indications are that Serpent Mound was built by the Fort Ancient Culture about the year 1120. It embodies that culture's fundamental spiritual and cosmological principles, including astronomical alignments to mark the seasons.

World Heritage Criteria:

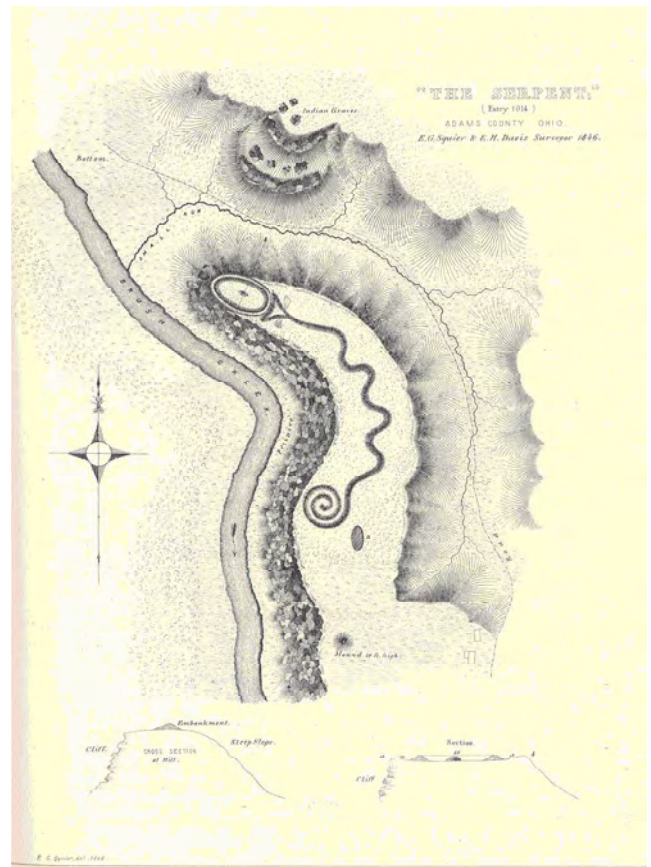
(i) *Serpent Mound is an artistically striking monumental sculpture. Its remarkably naturalistic design makes it immediately recognizable as a representation of a serpent. Its scale and elegance are without peer. The alignment of its head and coils to the positions of the sun at the solstices and equinox evidence a sophisticated knowledge of astronomy.*

(iii) *Serpent Mound is the site that best reflects the indigenous belief system of Native American peoples of the Fort Ancient culture, which flourished during the Mississippian-Late Prehistoric period (circa 900–1650 CE), and was similar to the beliefs of the overlapping Effigy Mound culture in the Late Woodland Period (700–1200 CE) in the Upper Midwest. The Great Serpent was a central figure in these cultures for hundreds of years, found in myths and figurative representations.*

(iv) *Serpent Mound is the foremost expression of effigy mound building in North America and perhaps the world. Its form, positioning, and alignments represent a unique integration of cosmological beliefs, monumental sculpture, and landscape design. The construction of effigy mounds is distinct from that of other types of geoglyphs, as they are fully three-dimensional and were built by excavating, transporting, and sculpting the earth.*



Computer-generated aerial rendering of Serpent Mound



1846 map of the Serpent Mound site



Walking paths and an observation tower allow visitors to view the earthworks





FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT BUILDINGS ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, ILLINOIS, NEW YORK, OKLAHOMA, PENNSYLVANIA, WISCONSIN

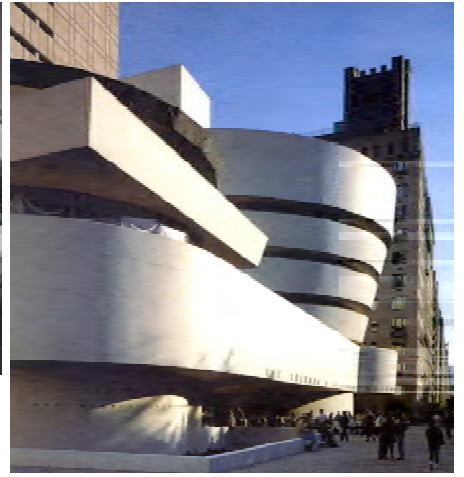
Unity Temple, Oak Park, Illinois (1905–08)
Frederick C. Robie House, Chicago, Illinois (1908–10)
Hollyhock House, Los Angeles, California (1919–21)
Taliesin, Spring Green, Wisconsin (1911 and later)
Fallingwater, Mill Run, Pennsylvania (1936–38)
**S. C. Johnson & Son, Inc., Administration Building and
Research Tower, Racine, Wisconsin (1936–39; 1943–50)**
Taliesin West, Scottsdale, Arizona (1938)
Price Tower, Bartlesville, Oklahoma (1953–56)
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York (1956–59)
Marin County Civic Center, San Rafael, California (1960–69)



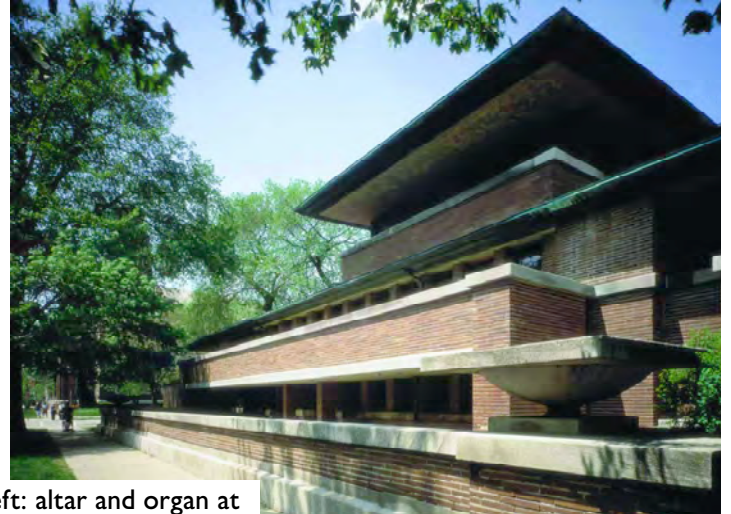
These ten properties are among the most iconic, intact, representative, innovative, and influential of the more than 400 Frank Lloyd Wright (1867–1959) designs that have been erected. They span almost sixty years of his efforts to create an “organic architecture” that attracted widespread international attention and powerfully affected the course of modern architecture around the world as well as in the United States. The properties include his two long-time homes with studios and schools, three residences he designed for others, two office complexes, a place of worship, a museum, and a governmental complex.

World Heritage Criteria

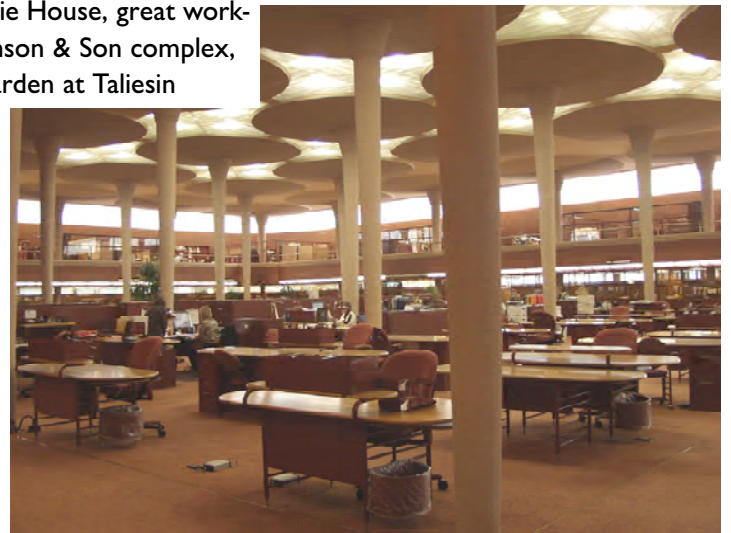
- (i) *Wright’s work represents an outstanding creative contribution to both 20th-century architecture and to architecture as a whole. These buildings illustrate his genius in the creation of an architecture of dynamic interior space designed around the needs of the individual while integrating the building with its setting. Each one reconceived architectural requirements in modern terms, with symbolic forms expressing the function of the structure, whether it be housing, work, worship, or cultural or civic activity. The properties proposed have been acclaimed as master-works by architects, scholars, and critics, virtually from the time of construction.*
- (ii) *The work of Frank Lloyd Wright has made outstanding contributions to the development of modern architecture through his treatment of space, development of an abstract geometry of form, and expression of the ideals of an organic architecture. Wright’s masterful integration of form, materials, and setting influenced several generations of architects in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Robie House and Unity Temple are influential early works. The Hollyhock House, Taliesin, and Taliesin West are particularly noted for their spatial qualities and their approaches to exterior and interior space. The Johnson Buildings and the Price Tower presented new concepts for the workplace and the skyscraper. Fallingwater and the Guggenheim Museum capture the imagination with daring forms, construction, and settings. The Marin County Civic Center was a new approach to the design of a multi-purpose government building that fit function into setting and accommodated the automobile and the highway.*



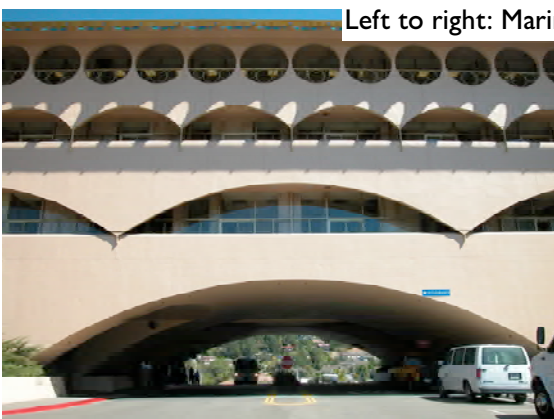
Left to right: Fallingwater, Hollyhock House, Guggenheim Museum



Clockwise from left: altar and organ at Unity Temple, Robie House, great work-room at S.C. Johnson & Son complex, courtyard garden at Taliesin



Left to right: Marin County Civic Center, Taliesin West, Price Tower



PAPAHANAUMOKUAKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT HAWAII

This 1,200-mile-long string of islands, atolls, coral reefs, and adjacent waters, running northwest from the main Hawaiian islands and encompassing over 89 million acres, is one of the world's largest and most significant marine protected areas. Scattered in the deep ocean are some 10 small islands along with reefs and shoals. In this remote and still relatively pristine part of the Pacific, marine life flourishes, and the area is home to a large number of species found nowhere else in the world, including a wide array that are threatened and endangered. Large populations of seabirds nest on isolated sandy shores and the waters harbor impressive numbers of large predatory fish. The geology of the islands is also highly significant—the chain represents the longest, clearest, and oldest example of island formation and atoll evolution in the world. Native Hawaiians reached these islands at least 1,000 years before any other people and created settlements on some of them. The islands, along with their significant archeological sites, retain great cultural and spiritual significance to Native Hawaiians. Midway Atoll and its environs was also the site of a major battle of World War II.

World Heritage Criteria:

(iii) Papahānaumokuākea bears unique testimony to traditional Hawaiian beliefs about creation. It is the area where the spirits of ancestors are said to reside after death. The archeological sites on the islands evidence long-standing presence and use by Hawaiians.

(v) Two of the islands contain outstanding examples of ceremonial terraces and platform foundations with upright stones that resemble those of inland Tahiti and stone figures that appear related to those in the Marquesas. Other evidence of the Hawaiian presence includes habitation sites, agricultural terraces, and religious shrines.

(viii) Papahānaumokuākea is the longest, clearest, and oldest example of volcanic island formation and atoll evolution in the world. The chain also contains coral reefs at the northern limit of atoll existence, beyond which coral growth rates are matched by subsidence.

(ix) One-quarter of the 7,000 marine species found in Papahānaumokuākea exist nowhere else, reflecting a high degree of endemism that varies dramatically from the waters surrounding one island to another in the chain, as well as in the deeper waters. The Monument's islands are also home to a variety of unique species.

(x) Nineteen species found in the Monument are listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, including the Hawaiian monk seal and green sea turtle. The islands collectively form the largest tropical seabird rookery in the world, providing critical refuge for the vast majority of two types of at-risk albatrosses and four endangered land birds that exist nowhere else. The coral reefs are one of the few places in the world that supports such an abundance of wide-ranging top predators, such as



Left: Basalt altars on Mokumanamana (Necker Island); right: school of pennantfish, pyramid butterflyfish, and milletseed butterflyfish at Rapture Reef, French Frigate Shoals



Midway atoll

Left: A Hawaiian monk seal, one of the most critically endangered marine mammals in the world; right: school of Hawaiian squirrelfish at French Frigate Shoals





FAGATELE BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY AMERICAN SAMOA

This small pristine bay on the large American Samoan island of Tutuila is a fringing coral reef ecosystem within an eroded volcanic crater. The Sanctuary is a vibrant tropical reef marine ecosystem, filled with populations of coral reef fish and marine invertebrates. It contains a vast array of tropical marine organisms, including corals, marine mammals, and endangered species including hawksbill and green sea turtles. The scenic beauty of the bay and its surroundings is exceptional. This site could potentially form part of a serial nomination with other marine sites, including others in American Samoa, independent Samoa, and other nearby island nations.

World Heritage Criteria:

(vii) *Fagatele Bay is cradled within an extinct volcanic caldera that was breached by the ocean on one side to form a spectacular protected embayment on one of the South Pacific's most wild and inaccessible coastlines. Massive volcanic promontories, where southern ocean swells pound the basalt rocks, frame the bay's entrance. Beneath these waves and the calmer waters of the bay, a riot of marine life has formed a coral reef ecosystem of great beauty and diversity.*

(x) *The fringing reef system contains more than 140 species of coral and related organisms. The Sanctuary provides a refuge for several threatened and endangered species, including hawksbill and green sea turtles, and sperm and hump-back whales.*



Fagatele Bay (aerial, above) is the site of reefs (opposite, with divers) and other habitats that provide homes for a diverse array of organisms, such as giant clams (far left) and crabs (near left)



OKEFENOKEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE GEORGIA

This refuge preserves the majority of the Okefenokee Swamp, a vast wetland wilderness which is the source of two rivers, one that flows into the Atlantic Ocean and the other into the Gulf of Mexico. Okefenokee is one of the world's largest essentially intact freshwater ecosystems and includes a diversity of habitat types and a rich and diverse flora and fauna. The swamp has extensive and substantially undisturbed peat deposits, which are a significant source of information related to past global changes.

World Heritage Criteria:

(viii) *Okefenokee is one of the world's most important sites with a largely undisturbed formation of peat, offering an excellent opportunity to study environmental conditions over the past 5,000 years. It is also significant as an ecological analogue for the forests that formed the world's great coal deposits.*

(ix) *The Okefenokee Swamp is one of the world's largest naturally driven freshwater ecosystems. Its 5,000-year-old peat beds provide important information about the development of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems throughout the Atlantic Coastal Plain.*

(x) *Okefenokee is a significant venue for the conservation of biological diversity because it remains a relatively intact system with few direct influences from outside sources. It is world renowned for its biological diversity, particularly the range of amphibian and reptile species. Some significant endangered species protected within the National Wildlife Refuge include the wood stork, red-cockaded woodpecker, indigo snake, gopher tortoise, alligator snapping turtle, and the parrot pitcher plant.*



Opposite: sandhill cranes; top: freshwater habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge; bottom: alligator and soft-shell turtle





PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK ARIZONA

The Petrified Forest contains vast, colorful, and well-preserved deposits of petrified wood, with exceptionally large accumulations in five areas termed “forests.” The national park, with its scenic vistas and spectacles of vivid sedimentary rocks, contains important plant and animal fossils, including some of the earliest dinosaurs, making it one of the premier places in the world to study the ecosystem of the Late Triassic Epoch some 205–225 million years ago.

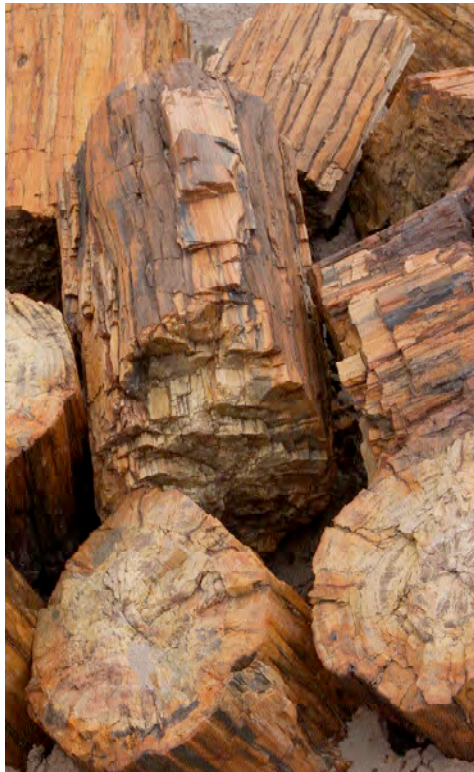
World Heritage Criteria:

(vii) The petrified wood deposits of this national park are a natural phenomenon distinguished by their size and natural beauty, affording spectacular views. For more than a century, the Painted Desert has attracted photographers, authors, and painters, including the famed artist Thomas Moran.

(viii) The national park is one of the few places in the world where an excellent fossil record, combined with vast geological exposures, offer easily accessible opportunities for detailed scientific study of ecological change during the Late Triassic Epoch.



Opposite: petrified wood and badlands formation; above: the Painted Desert; below (left to right): petroglyph and lichen, petrified logs, polished petrified wood





WHITE SANDS NATIONAL MONUMENT NEW MEXICO

White Sands National Monument is the world's largest and best-protected surface deposit of gypsum sand. Located at the northern end of the Chihuahuan desert, the national monument protects vast dunes that have engulfed more than 143,000 acres, as well as plants and animals that have adjusted to this unique and arid environment.

World Heritage Criteria:

(vii) *A highly distinctive setting in the interior of North America, this area has long attracted photographers and other artists to its stunning landscape of huge white sand dune fields, the last such area remaining intact in the world.*

(viii) *The formation of the dunes is a significant ongoing process in which gypsum-bearing marine deposits formed at the bottom of a shallow sea some 250 million years ago, and were uplifted 180 million years later when the Rocky Mountains formed. Drying and warming since the last glacial retreat dried up the lake in the area, leaving the gypsum that formed the present-day gypsum fields, which continue their dynamic formation.*

(ix) *This biologically rich and diverse desert exhibits a process of natural selection of recent origin, in which species are evolving in the absence of a barrier to gene flow. Exceptional animals (arthropods, amphibians, lizards, and rodents) have become white or pale. The isolated features of the monument, such as dunes and dry lakebeds, harbor endemic species that offer rich potential for continuing biological research.*

(x) *The White Sands contain 12 or more species of animals that can be found nowhere else in the world; it protects an important habitat for migrating birds and wintering waterfowl on what is termed the Central Flyway.*



Opposite: Lake Lucero; above (clockwise from upper left): little bluestem grass, the gypsum sand dunes, White Sands camel cricket, white earless lizard; below (left): sunset on the Sierra Blanca range; (right): American avocets and black-necked stilts at Lake Lucero



Properties for Future Consideration

These properties will not necessarily be included in the U.S. Tentative List in the future, but, having applied for consideration in 2007, are considered to have potential that merits further study. At such time as the Tentative List is revised, other properties may also be considered.

CULTURAL PROPERTIES

Colonial Newport, Rhode Island A proposal was made for 14 non-contiguous properties within the Newport Historic District, a National Historic Landmark designated primarily for its Colonial-era architecture, with outstanding examples of adaptations of European high styles to an overseas commercial maritime community. They were designed and built by leading architects, builders, and craftsmen of the 1600s and 1700s. The collection of buildings was proposed to exemplify the early and notable exercise of religious freedom in Rhode Island. This topic does not seem to have strong tangible links to all the buildings proposed, and would need to be supported with a thorough analysis of this complex topic within a larger context. It is possible that the proposal could be reformulated to focus on the importance of Newport's Colonial architecture, which might include a different selection of buildings. A non-contiguous group may present difficulties in nomination.

Eastern State Penitentiary, Pennsylvania Designed by John Haviland and built during 1822–36 in what is now a residential neighborhood of Philadelphia, this former prison occupies approximately 12 acres, surrounded by 30-foot walls. Within, the cellblocks spread from a central observatory like the spokes of a wheel, creating a radial plan. The solitary cells of these blocks each had private adjacent exercise yards as well as heating, ventilation, natural light, water, and sanitary plumbing. The structure embodied the Quaker idea that convicted prisoners could repent and remake their lives, by replacing corporal punishment and ill treatment of prisoners with isolation to encourage reflection combined with labor to provide work skills. The prison's innovative design was copied around the world in about 300 prisons in dozens of countries over a period of more than 100 years, and was a flagship of the social reform movement in the 19th century. Part of the site is now operated as a museum. The U.S. National Commission for UNESCO expressed concern about the physical condition of the structure, as well as how nomination of a penal institution might be received internationally.

French Creole Properties of the Mid-Mississippi Valley, Illinois and Missouri This proposal includes seven properties, most built in the late 18th and early 19th centuries: Fort de Chartres, the Church of the Holy Family, the Pierre Menard House, the Felix Valle House, the Amoureux House, the Guibord Valle House, and the Bolduc House. They are grouped in an area spanning about 40 miles on both sides of the Mississippi River south of St. Louis. The four properties in Missouri are in the town of Ste. Genevieve. The buildings exhibit traditional French construction forms combined with American forms and materials. These buildings, which include military and religious structures and homes of early merchants and administrators, are striking evidence of early French efforts to develop and settle the interior of North America. Further work would be needed to document the global significance of the French Colonial presence in this region. The partial reconstruction of Fort de Chartres and the restoration and conservation of the other properties must also be shown to be fully within the international standards for authenticity and integrity.

38 | Gamble House, California Built during 1908–09, this house is a foremost and distinctively American expression of the Arts and Crafts movement of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, in which the craftsmanship used in construction is beautifully expressed, rather than concealed by applied decoration. It is regarded as being the most

complete and historically original example of the work of architects Charles S. and Henry M. Greene, who are particularly recognized for their craftsmanship and creative use of wood, and the sensitivity of their landscape design to the topography and climate. It appears appropriate to consider including the Gamble House in a multi-national serial nomination on the international Arts and Crafts movement.

Moravian Bethlehem, Pennsylvania A proposal was made for two 18th-century buildings, the Gemeinhaus (community house), and the Waterworks, to exemplify the Germanic architectural qualities and communal town planning of historic Moravian settlements. There is an ongoing international effort to prepare a multinational World Heritage nomination of Moravian sites in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Except for Christiansfeld in Denmark, none of the other sites are on the most recent Tentative Lists in their respective countries. There is potential for Moravian Bethlehem to form part of such a multinational nomination. It also appears that the Bethlehem community would be better illustrated by a larger grouping of buildings; it might be useful to determine whether all or part of the National Register of Historic Places district surrounding these two buildings may qualify as a National Historic Landmark, a prerequisite for World Heritage nomination.

Moundville Site, Alabama This site consists of at least 29 mounds around a plaza, constructed by the people of the Mississippian culture who occupied the site approximately 500–1,000 years ago. Many of the flat-topped pyramids served as platforms for the residences of leaders and for religious purposes. The largest is about 55 feet high and was one of the largest prehistorically constructed features in the present United States. The site is the second-largest known center of Mississippian culture after Cahokia Mounds, in southern Illinois, which is a World Heritage Site. Moundville, however, is one of the best preserved of such sites in the United States and reflects at least five developmental stages. This site could be nominated as an extension to the Cahokia Mounds site. The U.S. National Commission for UNESCO recommended that such an extension should be a lower priority than nominations of property types that are not yet represented by World Heritage listings.

Olana State Historic Site, New York This carefully landscaped estate on the Hudson River was developed by the artist Frederic Church over the years during which he owned the property (1860–1900). The house was designed and furnished in an eclectic blend of styles influenced by his travels. Church, a major figure in the Hudson River School of American landscape painting in the 19th century, composed specific views, in which the house serves as a means by which to actively experience his landscape composition. It was also his home and study and the subject of a number of his paintings. There was uncertainty about Church's international significance as an artist, either individually or as a representative of the Hudson River School, as well as the estate's ability to illustrate it. A number of views from the site of the larger landscape setting would also likely need protection, and the identification of those views and appropriate protective mechanisms would need to be fully elaborated.

Pipestone National Monument, Minnesota The quarries at this site are the only source of catlinite (pipestone), which is significant to a large number of Great Plains Indian tribes, groups, and bands. Catlinite artifacts, though, have been found in ten states and in Canada, and the stone has been used for at least 2,000 years. The stone and the quarries are the subject of many different sacred origin stories. The ceremonial pipe, or calumet, carved from the stone, used in treaty signing, sweat ceremonies, and vision quests, became widely known to Euro-American cul-

ture as the “peace pipe” through the paintings and writings of George Catlin, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (*Song of Hiawatha*), and Rudolf Cronau. Today, 48 tribal groups whose native lands stretched over a large part of North America continue to use the quarries. While this site is in many ways unique, more documentation is needed to provide comparisons to other sites around the world to better establish its global significance.

Shaker Villages, Kentucky, Maine, New Hampshire, and New York A proposal was made for a serial nomination of four Shaker Villages founded in the 18th century: Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, America’s largest restored Shaker community; Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in Maine, the only community with a practicing Shaker presence; Canterbury Shaker Village in New Hampshire; and Mount Lebanon Shaker Village in New York, which served as the spiritual and administrative center of the sect. The Shakers are well known for their utopian religious communities and for their unique contributions to arts and design, including beautifully proportioned and simply detailed architecture and furniture, as well as music (such as *Simple Gifts*), foodways, and practical inventions. Shaker culture’s influence on other social and humanitarian movements and on design worldwide, particularly the Danish Modern movement, has great potential for a World Heritage nomination. A comparative analysis is needed that clearly establishes which are the best surviving Shaker resources from among the nearly two dozen communities once active in the United States, as well as from British Shaker communities.

Underground Railroad Sites, Ohio The John Rankin and John Parker Houses in the small town of Ripley were proposed to represent the Underground Railroad, which was a clandestine grassroots movement that helped people escape Southern slavery. Though the Underground Railroad directly freed relatively few, its renown and the literary works it inspired contributed to the end of human slavery and serfdom in both the United States and possibly in other countries, such as Brazil, Russia, and Thailand. It was a widespread, often ephemeral network that took many forms, and many sites played a part in it. These two historically related houses are on the north bank of the Ohio River, which formed a major part of the boundary between the slave and free states in pre-Civil War America. The Rev. John Rankin was a long-time white abolitionist; some of those he rescued inspired the novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. John Parker bought his freedom when he was 18 and helped to free numerous others. These two well-documented figures alone cannot adequately represent the story of the Underground Railroad. There is great potential for a World Heritage nomination related to the Underground Railroad, but it should be based on a comprehensive study of the topic that would result in the inclusion of a greater range of sites and locations. In addition to U.S. sites, the phenomenon also involved other countries, especially Canada, but also Mexico, the Caribbean, and to a limited extent some European countries. There is also potential for a nomination that might include a broader network of sites associated with the history of African slavery.

NATURAL PROPERTY

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Massachusetts This sanctuary was proposed for its importance to humpback whales and other marine life, and for cultural resources that include a number of shipwrecks. A thorough comparison with other sites worldwide, particularly sites associated with whales, would be necessary to establish whether the natural resources are exceptional in a global context. If the quality of the resources merited it, the possibility of a joint proposal with the Dominican Republic, to include the waters to which the whales migrate, might be worth investigating. There is little precedent in the World Heritage program for including the shipwrecks in the marine sanctuary as contributing elements, particularly in the absence of an agreement on the relationship between UNESCO’s Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage and the World Heritage listing process.

Criteria for Selection to the World Heritage List

To be included on the World Heritage List, sites must be of outstanding universal value and meet at least one out of ten selection criteria. These criteria are explained in the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* which, besides the text of the Convention, is the main working tool on World Heritage. The criteria are regularly revised by the World Heritage Committee to reflect the evolution of the World Heritage concept itself.

Selection Criteria:

- i To represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- ii To exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning, or landscape design;
- iii To bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- iv To be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble, or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- v To be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land use, or sea use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment, especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- vi To be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);
- vii To contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- viii To be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant ongoing geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- ix To be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- x To contain the most important and significant natural habitats for *in-situ* conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.

Current World Heritage Sites in the United States



Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site Located near present-day St. Louis, this largest and earliest pre-Columbian settlement north of Mexico is the pre-eminent example of a cultural, religious, and economic center of the Mississippian culture, which extended throughout the Mississippi Valley and the southeastern United States. This agricultural society may have had a population of 10,000-20,000 at its peak between 1050 and 1150, which was equivalent to the population of many European cities at that time. *Inscribed 1982*



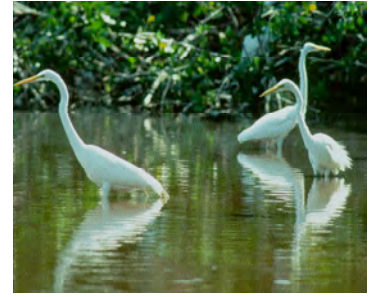
Carlsbad Caverns National Park The more than 100 limestone caves found here are notable because of their size, origin, and the abundance, diversity, and beauty of the underground rock formations that continue to form. This cavern system is well known for its natural beauty, exceptional geologic features, and unique reef and rock formations. It is one of the best preserved such complexes available for scientific study in the world. *Inscribed 1995*



Chaco Culture This network of sites preserves outstanding elements of a vast pre-Columbian cultural complex that dominated much of the southwestern United States in the mid-9th to early 13th centuries. Chaco Canyon, a major center of ancestral Pueblo culture between 850 and 1250, was a focus for ceremonies, trade, and political activity. Its monumental public and ceremonial buildings were linked by an elaborate road system, much of which can still be traced. These achievements are remarkable, particularly given the harsh environment of the region. *Inscribed 1987*



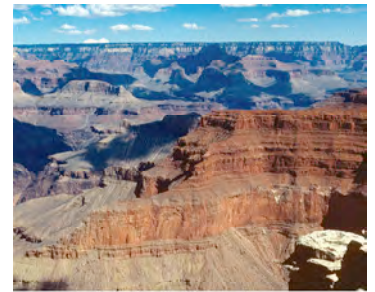
Everglades National Park This is the largest sub-tropical wilderness reserve on the North American continent, located at the interface of temperate and sub-tropical climates, fresh and brackish water, and shallow bays and deeper coastal waters. These conditions create a complex of habitats supporting a high diversity of flora and fauna. The park contains the largest mangrove ecosystem in the Western Hemisphere. It also has the largest continuous stand of sawgrass prairie and the most significant breeding ground for wading birds in North America. *Inscribed 1979*



La Fortaleza and San Juan National Historic Site La Fortaleza, along with the later forts of San Felipe del Morro, San Cristóbal, and San Juan de la Cruz, and a large portion of the original San Juan City Wall, were built between the 16th and 19th centuries to protect the city and the Bay of San Juan. They are pre-eminent examples of the historic methods of construction used in military architecture over this period, which adapted European designs and techniques to the special conditions of the Caribbean port cities. La Fortaleza is today the Governor's mansion for Puerto Rico. *Inscribed 1983*



Grand Canyon National Park The Grand Canyon is among the earth's greatest ongoing geological spectacles. Its size is stunning, and the evidence it reveals about the earth's history is invaluable. The gorge ranges in width from 0.3 mile to 18.6 miles and is nearly a mile in depth. It twists and turns for 275 miles, and was formed over at least six million years of geologic activity and erosion by the Colorado River. Strata exposed in the canyon retrace geological history over two billion years and represent the four major geologic eras. *Inscribed 1979*



Great Smoky Mountains National Park This area is a major North American refuge of temperate-zone flora and fauna that survived the Pleistocene glaciations, and the appearance of its flora echoes that of the late Pleistocene period. The park is large enough to allow the continuing biological evolution of this natural system, and its biological diversity exceeds that of other temperate-zone protected areas of comparable size. Its undisturbed forest includes the largest block of virgin red spruce remaining on earth. *Inscribed 1983*



Hawaii Volcanoes National Park The park contains significant parts of two of the world's most active and best understood volcanoes, Kilauea and Mauna Loa. Mauna Loa, measured from the ocean floor, is the greatest volcanic mass on earth. These are two of the world's most active and accessible volcanoes where ongoing geological processes are easily observed. This World Heritage Site presents an excellent example of island-building through volcanic processes. *Inscribed 1987*



Independence Hall The Declaration of Independence was adopted and the U.S. Constitution framed in this fine 18th-century building. It is listed for association with the universal principles of freedom and democracy set forth in these documents, which have had a profound impact on lawmakers and political thinkers around the world. They became the models for similar charters of other nations, and may be considered to have heralded the modern era of government. *Inscribed 1979*



Kluane/Wrangell–St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini–Alsek This joint Canadian and U.S. listing embraces four national parks and protected areas on both sides of the international boundary. It is the largest non-polar icefield in the world and contains examples of some of the world’s longest and most spectacular glaciers. The area transitions from northern interior to coastal zones, resulting in plant and animal communities that range from marine to coastal forest, montane, sub-alpine, and alpine tundra types. The parks are some of the best examples of glaciation and landscape modification by glacial action. *Inscribed 1979; extended 1992 and 1994*



Mammoth Cave National Park Mammoth Cave is the most extensive cave system in the world, with over 285 miles of surveyed passageways and at least another 80 miles outside the park. The caves, which continue 100 million years of formation, illustrate many stages of earth’s evolution and contain unique wildlife, with more than 130 species within the cave system. Nearly every type of cave formation is known within the site. *Inscribed 1981*



Mesa Verde National Park This landscape is considered to be the “type site” of the Ancestral Puebloan culture, which lasted from ca. 450 to 1300. There is a great concentration of spectacular Pueblo Indian dwellings, including the famous cliff dwellings. *Inscribed 1978*



Monticello and the University of Virginia Thomas Jefferson’s architectural vocabulary was based upon classical antiquity and symbolized both the aspirations of the new American republic as the inheritor of European tradition and the cultural experimentation that could be expected as the country matured. He designed Monticello (1769–1809), his plantation home, and his ideal “academical village”(1817–26), a few miles away, which still forms the heart of the University of Virginia. *Inscribed 1987*



Olympic National Park This site features spectacular coastline, scenic lakes, mountains and glaciers, and temperate rainforest. It is the lowest latitude in the world at which glaciers form at relatively low elevation. Its relative isolation and highly varied rainfall have produced complex and varied life zones, within a great range of geological formations. The rocky islets along the coast are remnants of a continuously receding and changing coastline. *Inscribed 1981*



Pueblo de Taos This Pueblo Indian community, consisting of adobe dwellings and ceremonial buildings, exemplifies the enduring culture of a group of the present-day Pueblo Indians. It is one of a group of settlements established in the late 13th and early 14th centuries in the valleys of the Rio Grande that have survived to the present day. Pueblo de Taos is similar to the ancient settlements of Chaco Canyon and Mesa Verde, and continues to be a thriving community with a living culture. *Inscribed 1992*



Redwood National and State Parks The coastal redwood forest is a remnant of the group of trees that has existed for 160 million years and was once found throughout many of the moist temperate regions of the world, but is now confined to the wet regions of the west coast of North America. The park contains some of the tallest and oldest known trees in the world. *Inscribed 1980*



Statue of Liberty The Statue of Liberty Enlightening the World, built of thin copper sheets over a steel framework, was designed in Paris by the French sculptor Frédéric Bartholdi, in collaboration with engineer Gustave Eiffel, and was a gift from France for the centenary of American independence in 1876. Its design and construction were recognized at the time as one of the greatest technical achievements of the 19th century, and, when dedicated 10 years later, it was hailed as a bridge between art and engineering. Since 1886, she has welcomed millions of immigrants and has become an enduring symbol of liberty, peace, human rights, abolition of slavery, democracy, and opportunity. *Inscribed 1984*



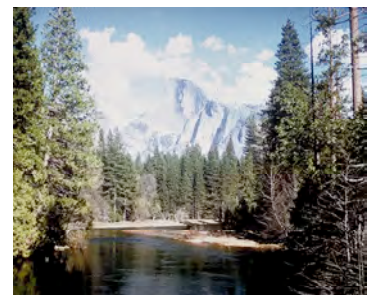
Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park A joint U.S. and Canadian listing, this site has a distinctive climate, set on the mountain-prairie interface, and includes the headwaters of three major watersheds. It is an area of great natural beauty with rich and diverse flora and fauna concentrated in an unusually small area. *Inscribed 1995*



Yellowstone National Park This world-renowned national park showcases extraordinary geological phenomena and processes, including the world's largest collection of geysers. It is a unique manifestation of geothermal forces, natural beauty, and wild ecosystems where rare and endangered species thrive. As a key part of one of the few remaining intact large ecosystems in the northern temperate zone, Yellowstone provides unparalleled opportunities for conservation, study, and enjoyment of large-scale wildland ecosystem processes. *Inscribed 1978*



Yosemite National Park Yosemite vividly illustrates the effects of glacial erosion of granite bedrock, creating geologic features that are unique in the world. Repeated glaciations over millions of years have resulted in a concentration of distinctive landscape features, including soaring cliffs, domes, free-falling waterfalls, and the spectacular Yosemite Valley, one-half mile deep with sheer granite walls. These geologic features provide a scenic backdrop for mountain meadows and giant sequoia groves. *Inscribed 1984*



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Prepared by the National Park Service
Office of International Affairs
and the George Wright Society
on behalf of the U.S. Department of the Interior



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