



STATE OF ILLINOIS

RICHARD B. OGILVIE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

102 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
400 SOUTH SPRING ST.
SPRINGFIELD 62706

CHICAGO OFFICE - 180 N. LA SALLE ST.

May 26, 1971

Mr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the Register
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
801 19th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

Enclosed please find the revised map and acreage for the Fort Massac nomination. We have reduced the original 2200 acres to 322 acres. We have included within the boundaries, not only the Fort site and adjacent grounds, but also land to the east, to include Massac Creek. We have done so because this land includes unprobed archaeological sites and, of course, the mouth of Massac Creek, which is the site of George Rogers Clark's landing.

We have also included some non-park buffer land, with an eye towards possible future acquisition. The coordinates of the Fort site are also given so that you may make use of them if needed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

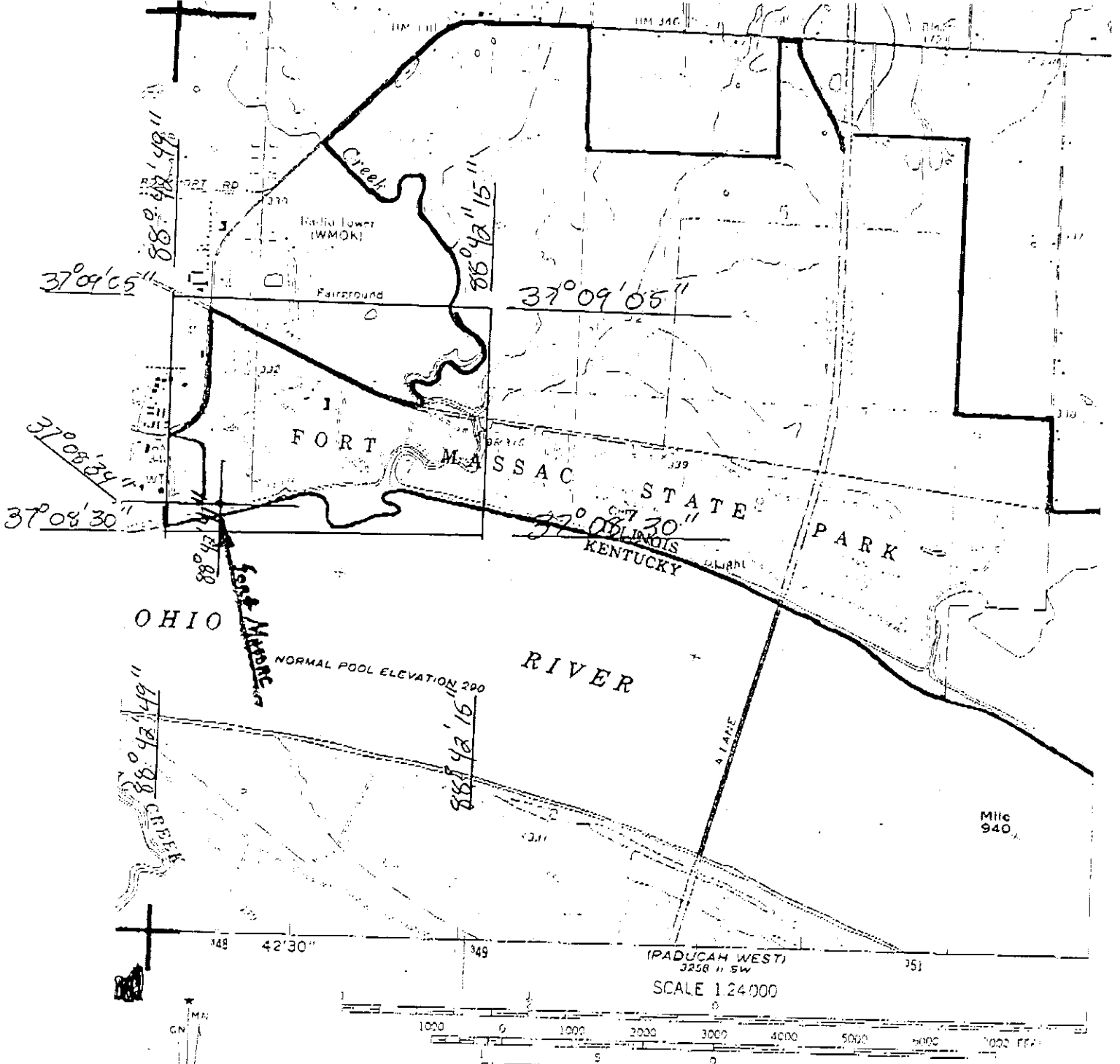
Sincerely,

William G. Farrar

William G. Farrar
Illinois Historic Sites Survey
320 South Main Street
Benton, Illinois 62812

Encls.

May 26, 1971



1983 AND 1957 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLEIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242,
 STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801,
 KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506
 AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Illinois	
COUNTY: Massac	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Massac

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Fort Massiac (French)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Fort Massac State Park **Congressman Kenneth Gray**

CITY OR TOWN:
Metropolis **21st. Congressional Dist.**

STATE: **Illinois** CODE: **17** COUNTY: **Massac** CODE: **127**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Illinois

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of Conservation, State of Illinois

CITY OR TOWN: **Springfield** STATE: **Illinois** CODE: **17**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Massac County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Market and Fifth Streets

CITY OR TOWN: **Metropolis** STATE: **Illinois** CODE: **17**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Illinois**
COUNTY: **Massac**
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Several forts have been erected on the present site in Fort Massac State Park. Geographically, the site overlooks the Ohio River and is situated on a rise of ground about fifty feet above the water level. The site commands a view of about three miles upstream and three miles downstream, although the original downstream view is now blocked by a stand of trees close to the river bank. A concrete retaining wall runs between the fort and the river.

The first fort to occupy the site was Fort Ascension, built by the French in 1757. Fort Ascension is described by Deverges, the chief engineer for the colony of Louisiana. Deverges states that the fort was laid out in the form of a square which was flanked by four bastions of about 158 feet on each front, from the flanked angle of one bastion to the flanked angle of the other. A wall made of two rows of stockaded tree trunks surrounded the fort. The outer row was thirteen feet in length and eleven to twelve inches in diameter. The inner wall was placed against the joints of the outer and was nine feet in length and six to seven inches in diameter. The wall was sunk into the ground to a depth of three feet. Banquettes ran along the interior for firing through loopholes cut into the outer wall. Platforms were constructed at the flanked angles of the bastions for placing cannon. Two buildings were constructed within the walls to house the garrison.

Fort Massiac was constructed in 1760 upon the ruins of Fort Ascension. Governor Makarty, commandant of the Illinois Dependency, ordered that the site be re-fortified. A ditch surrounding the fort was dug and emplaned with "fraises" or pickets sharpened and planted at an angle pointing outwards. Two parallel timber walls, several feet apart, were set-up and filled with earth and stone. The double walls probably existed only at the bastions. The fort had a river entrance and probably also had a "grazing battery" which fronted the river.

Fort Massac was constructed by the United States in 1794. The Americans fortified the French ruins. They erected four blockhouses and constructed a moat or ditch which was ten feet wide and four feet deep. Pickets and abatis were installed around the fort. The blockhouses were erected on the old French bastions and were connected with a log stockade wall. The American fort also had a river entrance and a "grazing battery."

The present site of the forts was excavated in 1939 by a team of archaeologists directed by Paul Maynard under the sponsorship of the State of Illinois, Division of Parks and Memorials. The work was interrupted by World War II and at this time Maynard reconstructed the ditch and made a ground outline of the French fort. The outline was made of sawed off telephone poles sunk into the earth and rising about two feet above ground level. Three flagpoles from which fly the United States, English and French flags are located on the south "wall" of the ground outline. A statue commemorating George Rogers Clark has been placed over the probable site of the river entrance. The fort is no longer accessible from the river but can be reached by way of a black-top driveway which circles through the park and which passes directly in front of the north "wall" of the ground outline.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1756-1815

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1757, in order to protect their communication lines and supply routes to forts on the upper Ohio, the French ordered a party to scout the area adjacent to the mouth of the Tennessee River and to build a suitable fortification. The group commanded by Captain Charles Philippe Aubry erected a fort and named it Fort Ascension.

In 1759 orders were given by Makarty to strengthen and re-fortify Fort Ascension which had fallen into disrepair. The fort was renamed Fort Massiac in honor of a minister of the French Marine.

In 1760 Philippe de Rastel, Chevalier de Rocheblave assumed command of Fort Massiac. Rocheblave continued to command the fort until 1765 when it was surrendered to the English under the terms of the Treaty of Paris in 1763.

The surrender of Fort Massiac was accepted by Captain Thomas Stirling of the Forty-Second, Black Watch, Regiment. Although the British had plans to garrison the fort these were never carried out. Little historical importance is attached to the fort until 1778.

On June 28, 1778, George Rogers Clark, in command of a force of 160 men landed at the mouth of Massac Creek a few hundred yards east of the fort. Clark and his company were on their way to capture the British garrison at Vincennes. The claim that Clark raised the first American flag to fly over the Illinois country is not substantiated with solid proof.

Little American notice was taken of Fort Massiac following the Revolutionary War. In 1794 however, George Washington ordered General "Mad" Anthony Wayne to fortify and rebuild Fort Massiac. A detail of men under Captain Thomas Doyle arrived at Fort Massiac on June 12, 1794 and by October 20, 1794 had erected a fort which he named Massac, an anglicized version of Massiac.

In December, 1795 Captain Zebulon Pike, father of the discoverer of Pike's Peak, arrived to assume command of the fort. Pike presided over the strengthening and re-fortifying of the fort. Captain Pike's son Zebulon was a subaltern at the fort during the time his father was the commander.

1796 saw the beginning of General James Wilkinson's association with Fort Massac. It was in this year that he was accused of plotting with the Spanish to seize the fort in an episode which came to be known as the Tom Powers Plot.

1796 also was the year in which Victor Collot, an agent of the French, travelled down the Ohio River and made detailed notes and drawings of the entire area. Collot stopped briefly at Fort Massac and was arrested by Captain Pike but was later released.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
Massac	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

In 1797 James Wilkinson became commander of the West. He established his headquarters at Kaskaskia. Fort Massac became a major port of entry for settlers coming down the Ohio and entering the Illinois country.

Fort Massac was placed under direct control of Alexander Hamilton in 1799. Plans to garrison 1000 men at the fort as a response to a French threat were abandoned in favor of a new fort down river at Grand Chain.

In 1802 a garrison was established under the command of Captain Daniel Bissell. In 1804 a detachment of troops from Fort Massac occupied New Madrid in present day Missouri.

In 1803 the first United States Post Office in the area was established at Fort Massac. Two years later Fort Massac passed into the control of the St. Louis District.

In 1805 Aaron Burr came to Fort Massac for a meeting with General Wilkinson. It is believed that Burr tried unsuccessfully to enlist Wilkinson's participation in a scheme to establish a dictatorship west of the Alleghenies.

Severe damage was caused at the fort in 1811 by the New Madrid earthquake. The damage was repaired and the fort became headquarters for the Twenty-Fourth Infantry.

Fort Massac played an important role in the economic history of the area. Besides serving as a port of entry it also served as a duty collection post. All river vessels engaging in commerce were obliged to stop at the fort and report the content of their cargoes. Some ship construction also occurred within the fort's commercial district.

1814 saw the evacuation of the fort and its' garrison was moved to St. Louis. Nearby settlers stripped the fort of its' wood and bricks. Little remained of the forts' physical features by 1820.

Of the three forts which occupied the site: Fort Ascension 1757-1759, Fort Massiac 1760-1764, and Fort Massac 1794-1814 it is the latter, Fort Massac, which is historically most important. The following comparisons will show why this is so:

1. Both of the French forts were garrisoned for only a brief period. The American fort had a more extended and more eventful occupancy.
2. The French forts were wartime constructions with the sole purpose of meeting invasion threats by the British. Fort Ascension was built in great haste and quickly replaced. The American fort represented the methodical extension of American military and civil authority and was constructed with greater care and in a more standardized fashion.
3. The French forts were subordinate to the regional headquarters at Fort de Chartres. The American fort was the only American post in the area and thus has a more positive identity.
4. The French forts are devoid of any local or governmental significance. The American fort served as headquarters and port of entry for a customs district of considerable importance. Several postal routes passed through or near the American fort and a Post Office was maintained there. The fort was a point of reference for the various county boundaries that were established in the territory. The fort also served as a staging area for volunteers during the War of 1812.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alvord, Clarence W.
 1916 The New Régime, 1763-1767. Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Vol. XI. Springfield, Illinois.

Alvord, Clarence W.
 1920 The Illinois Country, 1673-1818. Illinois Centennial Commission, Chicago, Illinois.

Bailey, L. R.
 1966 Preliminary Archaeological and Feasibility Study, Fort Massac, Illinois. (Mimeographed by the Southern Illinois University Museum.)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	37°	09'	42"	88°	42'	50"			
NE	37°	09'	45"	88°	38'	13"			
SE	37°	07'	30"	88°	38'	12"			
SW	37°	07'	30"	88°	42'	49"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2,223.75

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William G. Farrar Director, Historic Landmarks Survey

ORGANIZATION: Illinois Historic Sites Survey DATE: March 1, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
320 S. Main

CITY OR TOWN: Benton STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State-Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
--	---

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MC-H-4

NATIONAL REGISTER

300140

Survey Use only
Survey Track

- Archaeology
- Architecture
- History

1. Name of Site:

Common:

Fort Massac site

Historic:

Fort Massiac (French)

2. Location of site:

Street and Number:

Fort Massac State Park

Township

16S

Section

12

City or Town

Zip Code

Range

1/4 Section

Metropolis

62960

4E

NE

County:

Massac

3. Classification

Category: (check one)

District

Building

Altered

Unaltered

Site

Structure

Position: (check one)

Moved

Original Site

4. Ownership:

Status:

Public

Occupied

Preservation work in progress

Private

Unoccupied

Access to the public:

Yes

Restricted

Unrestricted

No

Present Use: Check one or more)

Agricultural

Industrial

Religious

Commercial

Military

Scientific

Educational

Museum

Transportation

Entertainment

Park

Other (specify)

Government

Private residence

5. Owner of property:

Owners name

Phone Number

State of Illinois

Street and number

Department of Conservation

City of town

Springfield

State

County

Zip Code

Illinois

Sangamon

62706

MAJOR MILITARY
CAMP, REVOLUTIONARY, FORT

Condition:

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Deteriorated
- Ruins
- Unexposed

Is there a program of preservation under way? Yes No
 If yes, give a brief description on the back of this page.

7. Historical themes: (check one or more of the following)

- Archaeological site: pre-Columbian
- Archaeological site: post-Columbian to 1673
- French influence: 1673-1780
- Illinois frontier: 1780-1818
- Illinois early: 1818-1850
- Illinois middle: 1850-1900
- Illinois late: 1900-present
- Famous People: give name and dates: Aaron Burr 1805
James Wikinson 1797-1805
Zebulon Pike 1795
Anthony Wayne 1794

Specific date of site: 1756-1815

Area of significance: (check one or more)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal pre-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Monastery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Scripture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Hospitalities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Other specify |

Brief statement of significance: (include all names and dates)
 Use back of page and additional sheets if necessary.

8. Form prepared by

Name and Title: Staff _____ Date: 3-24-71
 Organization: Illinois Historic Sites Survey
 Street and Number: 320 South Main
 City or Town: Benton County: Franklin m Zip Code: 62812
 Phone Number: 439-4253

During the course of the survey we often find it necessary to search for references for a particular site.

When filling out the survey form, please list according to the following examples any published references to the site for which the form is being completed. If a bibliography can be compiled, it will greatly reduce the surveyor's time.

Bibliography here.

Robertson, Robert B., Of Whales and Men, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1964

List Bibliography on back of sheet.

7. Description of property:

Several forts have been erected on the present site in Fort Massac State Park. Geographically, the site overlooks the Ohio River and is situated on a rise of ground about fifty feet above the water level. The site commands a view of about three miles upstream and three miles downstream, although the original downstream view is now blocked by a stand of trees close to the river bank. A concrete retaining wall runs between the fort and the river.

The first fort to occupy the site was Fort Ascension, built by the French in 1757. Fort Ascension is described by Deverges, the chief engineer for the colony of Louisiana. Deverges states that the fort was laid out in the form of a square which was flanked by four bastions of about 158 feet on each front, from the flanked angle of one bastion to the flanked angle of the other. A wall made of two rows of stockaded tree trunks surrounded the fort. The outer row was thirteen feet in length and eleven to twelve inches in diameter. The inner wall was placed against the joints of the outer and was nine feet in length and six to seven inches in diameter. The wall was sunk into the ground to a depth of three feet. Banquettes ran along the interior for firing through loopholes cut into the outer wall. Platforms were constructed at the flanked angles of the bastions for placing cannon. Two buildings were constructed within the walls to house the garrison.

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Significance:

In 1757, in order to protect their communication lines and supply routes to forts on the Upper Ohio, the French ordered a party to scout the area adjacent to the mouth of the Tennessee River and to build a suitable fortification. The group commanded by Captain Charles Philippe Aubry erected a fort and named it Fort Ascension.

FORT MASSAC

Here, in 1757, French soldiers erected Fort Ascension. The following year the name was changed to Fort Massiac in honor of the Marquis de Massiac, minister of Marine. In 1778 George Rogers Clark landed here on his historic expedition to the Illinois country. From 1794 to 1812 Fort Massac was occupied by U. S. Regulars.

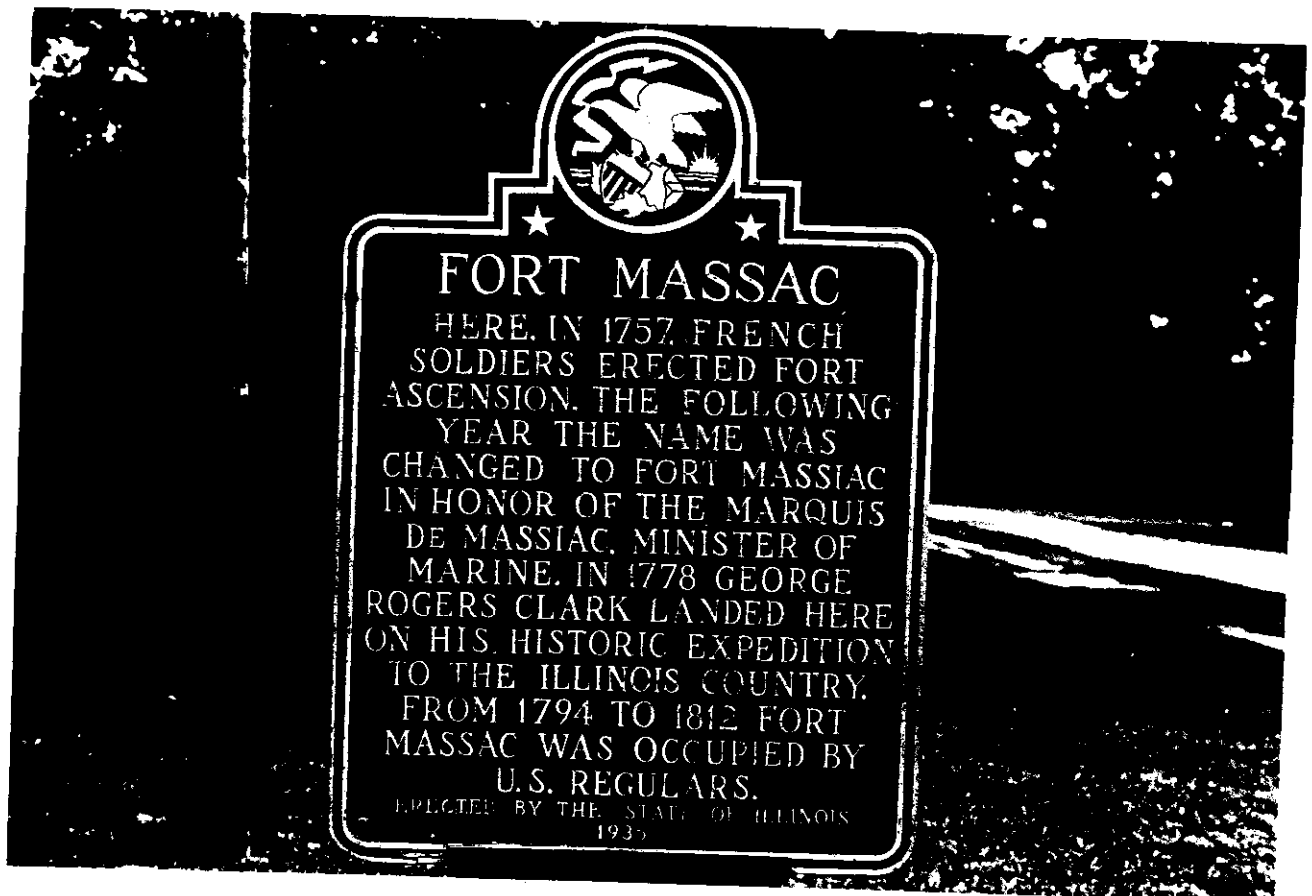
Erected by the State of Illinois, 1935.

Erected: 1935.

Location: On US 45 at Park entrance.

Information Signs:

Remarks:



Significance, cont.

In 1759 orders were given by Makarty to strengthen and re-fortify Fort Ascension which had fallen into disrepair. The fort was renamed Fort Massiac in honor of a minister of the French Marine.

In 1760 Philippe de Rastel, Chevalier de Rocheblave assumed command of Fort Massiac. Rocheblave continued to command the fort until 1765 when it surrendered to the English under the terms of the Treaty of Paris in 1763.

The surrender of Fort Massiac was accepted by Captain Thomas Stirling of the Forty-Second, Black Watch, Regiment. Although the British had plans to garrison the fort, these were never carried out. Little historical importance is attached to the fort until 1778.

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Significance, cont.

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Fort Massac played an important role in the economic history of the area. Besides serving as a port of entry, it also served as a duty collection post. All river vessels engaging in commerce were obliged to stop at the fort and report the content of their cargoes. Some ship construction also occurred within the fort's commercial district.

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4. The French forts are devoid of any local or governmental significance. The American fort served as headquarters and port of entry for a customs district of considerable importance. Several postal routes passed through or near the American fort and a Post Office was maintained there. The fort was a point of reference for the various county boundaries that were established in the territory. The fort also served as a staging area for volunteers during the War of 1812.
5. With the exception of small groups of Indians, no settlements were associated with either French fort. The American fort attracted several families of settlers. The settlements which were established, developed into the nascent settlement of what is now the town of Metropolis, Illinois.

Bibliographical References:

- Alvord, Clarence W.
1916 The New Regime, 1763-1767. Collections of the Illinois State Historical Library, Vol. XI. Springfield, Illinois.
- Alvord, Clarence W.
1920 The Illinois Country, 1673-1818. Illinois Centennial Commission, Chicago, Illinois.
- Bailey, L. R.
1966 Preliminary Archaeological and Feasibility Study, Fort Massac, Illinois. (Mimeographed by the Southern Illinois University Museum.)
- Blakeless, John
1957 Background to Glory: The Life of George Rogers Clark. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia.
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