

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Illinois
COUNTY:	Randolph
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Historic French Colonial District**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**from Fort de Chartres State Park to Kaskaskia Island**

CITY OR TOWN:

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
**24 - Kenneth Gray, Congressman**

STATE: **Illinois** CODE: **17** COUNTY: **Randolph** CODE: **157**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
**Randolph Co. Courthouse, Chester, Ill & Monroe Co. Courthouse, Waterloo**

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**P. O. Box 986, Carbondale, Ill 62901  
Illinois Historic Sites Survey - 1800 Prairie Ave., Chicago, Ill 60616**

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Illinois

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The proposed historical French colonial district stretches from the former lower boundary of the town of St. Phillipe to and including Kaskaskia Island and comprises an integrated portion of a French military, agricultural and religious settlement in southern Illinois. There is no comparable French colonial district in the United States. Dominated by Fort de Chartres and by the French town of Kaskaskia (now largely washed away by the river) this area was the center for French control of Illinois country and of the interior of French Louisiana. The area has remained largely agricultural and not built over so that preservation and historic development are feasible.

The district includes: The probable location of the first Fort de Chartres built by the Company of the West in 1720; the second Fort de Chartres built in 1736 and the partially restored third Fort de Chartres (on the Register) (IAS R-127). Nearby Fort de Chartres is the location of the French village of Chartres and the possible first fort site (Laurens site IAS - R-125) and the church of St. Anne (1722). Many of the records from St. Anne are preserved and the altar vessels from St. Anne are presently at the church of St. Joseph in Prairie du Rocher.

Associated with Fort de Chartres were several Indian villages. The Michigamea Indian reserve (1722) is one of the earliest Indian reservations in the United States. Within the reservation are the Waterman site (IAS R-122); the Kolmer site (IAS R-150) (nominated for the Register) both of which are Michigamea Indian villages. The Henke site (IAS-MO-308) is also on the reservation and is an historic Indian village of uncertain affiliation.

The town of Prairie du Rocher which may have been founded as early as 1722 contains a dozen or more houses of French construction dating to the 18th century.

The Creole House is already on the Register. The Meilliere House was built in 1735 and is of upright log construction. The cemetery in the town dates back to the 18th century and is still in use. A well located near there is the old town well.

Other 18th century houses are located between Prairie du Rocher and Modoc. The possible location of the Jesuit windmill from the 1720's has been found and is located on what was probably the pre-1800 Morgan plantation.

The large and important Kaskaskia Indian village (1722-1833) IAS R-1 and the remains of French Kaskaskia (Kaskaskia Island) are within the district. Most of the town of French Kaskaskia was destroyed in the 1890's when the Mississippi river cut a new channel. The modern church on the island is the continuation of the Mission of the Immaculate Conception founded by Marquette in 1675 and moved to Kaskaskia with the Kaskaskia Indians in 1703. Fort Kaskaskia (1734-1766) is now a state park. The Pierre Menard House is already on the Register. The site of Paget's mill, a pre-1795 mill is close by with the sluices still visible.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Illinois	
COUNTY	
Randolph	
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(Number all entries)

No. 7 - Description - cont.

There are a number of other historic spots within the district including the commons of Prairie du Rocher and segments of the ox road from Kaskaskia to Cahokia.

The area also includes early 19th century sites important in the history of the state; the Modoc Rock Shelter which is on the Register and a number of other prehistoric sites which are in the Illinois Archeological Survey files.

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1720-1800

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Historic French Colonial District should be included on the National Register because that action will tie together several National Register properties and other properties and areas which deserve Register protection. Inclusion on the Register will also add emphasis to the importance that area has played in the history of Illinois.

The area encompassed by the proposed district is extremely rich in history of national significance. Aside from the archeological evidence found at Modoc Rock Shelter, physical evidence documenting the influence of the French in the area also is abundant. French influence is extremely important and at one time French power in this area surpassed that of New Orleans. The major historical connection relating to American history however, is that this area was the western-most theater of the Revolutionary War and thereby gains increased evidence as the Bi-Centennial Year approaches.

The sites within the district that have already been put on the National Register will gain greater significance when viewed as part of an historic district. The addition of this district to the National Register will go far towards protecting the area from federal development and will be a great spur and incentive for the local people to improve what they already have.

In short, there is no area in Illinois which deserves district nomination more than the Historic French Colonial District in Monroe and Randolph Counties.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Waites, R. G. Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents 1896-1901, vol. 67, 68, 69.  
 Mereness, Newton Travels in the American Colonies 1916  
 Bossu, N. Travels through that part of North America formerly called Louisiana (trans. John Forster) 1771.  
 Coll. of the Ill State Historical Library vol. 3m vol. 5 vol 11.  
 Palm, Sr. Mary B. Jesuit Missions of Illinois Country. 1933

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38	07	30	90	13	01						
NE	38	07	30	89	53	25						
SE	37	56	31	89	53	25						
SW	37	56	31	90	13	01						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 14,080

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: Margaret K. Brown

ORGANIZATION: Illinois Archeological Survey DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER: 1002 Austin, Apt. 4B

CITY OR TOWN: Evanston STATE: Illinois CODE: 17

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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

National  State  Local

Name: *Margaret K. Brown*  
 Director, Illinois Department of Conservation - Illinois  
 Title: Historic Preservation Officer

Date: November 20, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Illinois	
COUNTY Randolph	
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(Number all entries)

*French Colonial West*  
Key to Maps

1. Fort Chartres I - Laurens site R-125. Possible first Fort site and location of part of French village of Chartres.
2. Fort Chartres II R-126, possible location of Fort II
3. Fort Chartres III R-127
4. Church of Ste. Anne - local tradition
5. Crozat's Fortlet ? based on maps of period
6. Fort Chartres Landing
7. Former site of town of St. Phillippe, destroyed by river
8. Michigamea Indian reservation (boundry)
10. Waterman site, R 122, Michigamea Indian village ca. 1753-1765
11. Henke site Mo-308, probable Indian village, Peoria?
12. Kolmer site R-150, Michigamea Indian village 1722-1752
13. Site of Old Prairie du Rocher
14. Well of old town
15. Possible site of Jesuit Windmill
16. Modoc Rock Shelter
18. Watermill
19. Kaskaskia-Cahokia Trail, from maps, ground survey by above
20. Old Ox Road, same
21. Kaskaskia - Prairie du Rocher - Cahokia trail, same
22. Big Spring
25. Lower town of Old Chartre, based on maps
27. Indian Kaskaskia
28. French Kaskaskia
29. Fort Kaskaskia
30. Menard House