Form 10-300

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

1. NAME
   COMMON: Fort Michilimackinac
   AND/OR HISTORIC: Fort Michilimackinac

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: Straits Avenue
   CITY OR TOWN: Mackinac City
   CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 11th
   STATE: Michigan

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One)
   District ☐ Building ☒ Site ☒ Structure ☒ Object ☐
   OWNERSHIP (Public ☒ Private ☐ Both ☐)
   STATUS (Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐)
   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC (Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☒ No ☐)
   PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
   Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☒ Entertainment ☒ Government ☐
   Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific ☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) ☐

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNER'S NAME: Mackinac Island State Park Commission-Dr. Eugene T. Petersen
   STREET AND NUMBER: Mackinac Island
   CITY OR TOWN: Mackinac Island
   STATE: Michigan

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
   Secretary of State; Mr. Richard Austin
   STREET AND NUMBER: Capitol Building
   CITY OR TOWN: Lansing
   STATE: Michigan

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
   TITLE OF SURVEY:
   DATE OF SURVEY:
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN:
   STATE:
There were several locations of Fort Michilimackinac prior to its placement on the northern shore of the southern Michigan Peninsula. Conflict arises among academicians as to the dates of the second French occupation of Fort Michilimackinac, though present archaeological excavations have placed them there during the early 18th century. The old French stockade was much smaller than the British structure (it is this British stockade which has been restored). Both forts, however, were located on the same site.

After the French and Indian War, the British acquired Fort Michilimackinac and the British Red Ensign replaced the fleur de lis. The character of the fort likewise changed. The French houses were demolished by the British to make room for the building of new barracks as well as quarters for the commanding officer.

The reconstruction efforts at Fort Michilimackinac have been thorough and very extensive. Some sources reveal that the reconstruction is not accurate. However, the Michigan Historical Commission has accepted the archaeological evidence.

At present the Michilimackinac and Fort Michilimackinac State Park is guided towards the interpretation of the same period of Michigan History. The Maritime Park (Michilimackinac) is located on the east side of the park while Fort Michilimackinac occupies the western half. Both are in harmony and do not detract from one another. The entrance to the park is the one structure that seems most out of character and adds the flavor of the 20th century. A stone structure, the entrance building is topped by the Mackinac Straits Bridge.

Inside Fort Michilimackinac there have been rebuilt structures of both the French and British occupation. The majority of structures are basic one story buildings—the French used vertical logs, while the British logs were horizontal. Presently the structures having been rebuilt include; the French Traders' Post, a one and one-half story building with cedar bark roof, the Chapel which is connected to the blacksmith's shop and the Parsonage. Inside the Chapel is an altar of wood with wooden benches. The French cemetery is located to the rear of the Church. Directly behind the Parsonage and to the east is the British soldiers barracks. The Commandant's Quarters are located at the northern end of the fort, directly adjacent the Water Gate and the King's Storehouse. Inside the storehouse are animated exhibits.

On the other side of the park is the Maritime Museum. A two story structure with gabled roof, it is used on the first floor as an exhibition hall and on the second floor as a domicile for the men who work during the summer in the park. Presently being reconstructed in the Maritime Park is a reproduction of the Sloop Welcome, the first
French hegemony in Michigan revolved about control of the Straits of Mackinac and Fort Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinac City commemorates an important bastion of French power on the Straits. The first Forts Michilimackinac (there were several) stood on the opposite side of the straits, at St. Ignace, and was garrisoned between 1681 and 1701. In the latter year, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac transferred the garrison to Detroit, leaving the vital straits apparently unprotected for fourteen years. French soldiers returned to the area in 1715, when a new Fort Michilimackinac was built on the southern shore of Mackinac City. The fleur de lis of France flew over this fort until 1760, when, as a result of the French and Indian War, the French abandoned the post after Canada had been lost to the British. Subsequent to the humiliation of the French, English troops occupied Fort Michilimackinac in 1761.

The French-built fort was eventually abandoned by the British. A sudden Indian attack part of Pontiac's rebellion, on the garrison resulted in its massacre in 1763, but within a year the redcoats had re-occupied Fort Michilimackinac. In 1781, when it seemed that the Americans were about to attack, the fort's commander abandoned the post and established a new Fort Michilimackinac on Mackinac Island, on the other side of the straits.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Petersen, Eugene, Michilimackinac, (Mackinac Island Park Commission 1968).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE DEGREES MINUTES SECONDS</th>
<th>LONGITUDE DEGREES MINUTES SECONDS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>16.675860.507280</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>16.676600.507280</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>16.676600.507240</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td>16.675860.507240</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 27

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Joseph S. Mendinghall, Historian
ORGANIZATION: National Park Service-Historic Sites Survey
STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L. Street, N.W.
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
DATE: 2/24/75

12. STATE LIABILITY 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Local</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Name ____________________________
Title ____________________________
Date ____________________________
ship built on the Straits.

BOUNDARY INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION

Because both sections of the Michilimackinac State Park are centered on the same theme they are included within the boundary. Beginning at the juncture of the western side of lot 3 and the Straits of Mackinac proceed south across Straits Avenue to the western edge of lot 3 to a point which intersects Sinclair Street, thence proceed east along the northern edge of Sinclair Street to a point which intersects Lovingly Street, thence north along the west side of Lovingly Street to a point which intersects the north side of Straits Avenue, thence east along the northern edge of Straits Avenue to the Western edge of lot 12, excluding lots 12 and 13, but including lots 14 and 15, the line continues to the Straits of Mackinac. The northern boundary is congruent with the shoreline of the Straits of Mackinac. It should be emphasized that the landmark is a site. Structures representative of the historic period and later buildings utilized for interpretive purposes, do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.

The boundary of the landmark is coterminous with the boundary of the State parks and includes areas beyond the immediate confines of the fortification because of the likelihood of subterranean resources associated with historic settlements in the vicinity.

The site of the fort and associated structures is situated in Fort Michilimackinac State Park, just to the west of the bridge piers, but the structures themselves are reconstructions and are not considered a nationally significant resource.
Fort Michilimackinac

State: Michigan
County: Emmet
Entry Number: n.d. (Appearance confirmed 8/74)

Street and Number: Straits Avenue
City or Town: Mackinac City
State: Michigan
Code: 26
County: Emmet
Code: 049

Photo Reference:
Credit: Mackinac Island Park Commission

Date of Photo: n.d. (Appearance confirmed 8/74)

Negative Filed At: Mackinac Island Park Commission

Identification:
Describe View, Direction, Etc.

Birds eye view of the fort, looking north.
Mackinac Island State Park Commission
Mackinac Island, Michigan 49757

F-Photo Collection
Folder No. 20-H
Neg. No.
Photo Type Rep
Source MISPC
Credit MISPC
Acc. No. 74-1130
**1. NAME**

**COMMON**

Fort Michilimackinac

**AND/OR HISTORIC**

Fort Michilimackinac

**NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NFS)**

Michigan (26)

Emmet (047)

---

**2. LOCATION**

**STATE**

Straits Avenue

**COUNTY**

Mackinac City

**TOWN**

Michigan

**STREET AND NUMBER**

Straits Avenue

---

**3. PHOTO REFERENCE**

**PHOTO CREDIT**

Mackinac Island Park Comm.

**DATE**

n.d. (Appearance confirmed 8/74)

**NEGATIVE FILED AT**

Mackinac Island Park Comm.

Mackinac Island, Michigan

---

**4. IDENTIFICATION**

**DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.**

Close-up of the entrance building, looking north.
View of the entrance to the park area, including the Straits Bridge, looking north.
NAME
HISTORIC Fort Michilimackinac
AND/OR COMMON Fort Michilimackinac

LOCATION
CITY, TOWN Mackinac City
VICINITY OF
COUNTY Emmet
STATE Michigan

PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT Mackinac Island Park Commission
DATE OF PHOTO n.d. (Appearance confirmed 8/74)
NEGATIVE FILED AT Mackinac Island Park Commission

IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
Panoramic View of fort interior, looking northeast.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Common: Fort Michilimackinac</td>
<td>Straits Avenue, Mackinac City, Michigan</td>
<td>Maritime museum, looking north.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>