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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Master Plan Coordination  
(Park or Office)

EXTRA COPY

HAMILTON GRANGE NATIONAL MEMORIAL



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FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

TO: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

MASTER PLAN  
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE  
OF  
HAMILTON GRANGE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

\* \* \* \* \*

The Service thus established shall

- . Promote, and regulate the use of
- . The Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations hereinafter specified
- . By such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments and reservations

Which purpose is

- . To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein, and
- . To provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as shall
- . Leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

From an Act to Establish a National  
Park Service. Approved August 25, 1916.

May 1963

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Master Plan  
for Hamilton Grange National Memorial  
Volume I

Master Plan Narrative

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May 1963

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Master Plan  
for Hamilton Grange National Memorial  
MISSION 66 Edition

Volume II

Master Plan Drawings

Base Maps  
Development Plans  
Management Plans

} Filed separately

Volume III

General Park Information

May 1963

THE PARK

Hamilton Grange, a simple, dignified early Federal frame house, was built by Alexander Hamilton in 1801 and was his home until his death in 1804. It is the only house he ever owned, and the only surviving house in which he lived.

Now crowded and overshadowed by modern structures and robbed of the dignity of its once spacious grounds and superb view, The Grange stands in upper Manhattan, a block from its original site. It will be moved again to a site on the campus of the College of the City of New York; a site which shares one of the vistas of the original site, a view over the Harlem River.

May 1963

THE MISSION

of Hamilton Grange National Memorial is to provide a fitting memorial to Alexander Hamilton, and to awaken in the visitor an awareness and an appreciation of the role this extraordinary and complex man played in the political and economic development of the United States.

of the National Park Service is to so preserve, administer and interpret this Park as to fulfill the Park Mission.

Approved: A.C. STRATTON  
Asst Director

5/23/63  
Date

May 1963

MASTER PLAN  
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE  
OF  
HAMILTON GRANGE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

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Chapter 1, Objectives and Policies  
Significant Resources  
Significant Values  
Preservation & Use Policies  
Guidelines

Prepared by: David A. Kimball Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Interpretive Planner (Historian)

Recommended: NEWELL H. FOSTER (BY MEMO) Date APRIL 18, 1963  
Superintendent

Recommended: (Sgt.) Ronald F. Lee Date MAY 16 1963  
Regional Director, Northeast Region

APPROVED: A. C. STRATTON Date 5/23/63  
Asst Director

May 1963

MASTER PLAN  
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF  
HAMILTON GRANGE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

VOLUME I

Chapter 1. Objectives and Policies

SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES

Hamilton Grange, the only home Alexander Hamilton ever owned and the lone survivor among the houses and offices in which he lived and worked, is an historical resource of national significance. Hamilton planned and supervised the construction of the house, and upon its completion lived there most of each year, commuting to his downtown office. In this house many believe he composed his famous farewell letter to his wife, and from it he went to his death in the duel with Aaron Burr.

Such original furniture as is now in the house or can be acquired is a further resource.

The plot of ground to which the structure will be moved is, to the extent that it represents the setting in which the house originally stood, also a significant resource, even though it is not the original site.

May 1963

SIGNIFICANT VALUES

At Hamilton Grange, the visitor will find himself amidst the setting in which Hamilton lived and worked. Here, in the house that Hamilton built and furnished, amidst evidences of his taste and habits, the visitor can reach an understanding and appreciation of Hamilton as a man and as a statesman.

Alexander Hamilton ranks with the greatest American statesmen. After service in the Revolution, Hamilton became active in public affairs. He was a leader in the movement to call a Constitutional Convention. He contributed immeasurably, through his co-authorship of the Federalist Papers and his leadership in the New York Ratifying Convention, to the ratification of the Constitution. His enunciation of the doctrine of implied powers has had a lasting influence on American political theory. As Secretary of the Treasury he put the new government on a firm financial footing and forwarded America's economic development. These accomplishments can nowhere be better interpreted than in the home he so cherished.

GENERAL PRESERVATION AND USE POLICY

Public Law 87-438 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to establish Hamilton Grange National Memorial. It directs that he shall not establish the Memorial until he has satisfied himself that the lands which have been donated are sufficient to insure the relocation of The Grange and administration and interpretation of the national memorial. It authorizes the appropriation of not more than \$460,000 to carry out the provisions of the Act.

Hamilton Grange will be developed as a day use area devoted to the memorialization of Alexander Hamilton. Because the new site is small, no buildings other than The Grange itself will be erected on it. All development will be in harmony with the adjacent campus of the College of the City of New York.

First aid fire protection will be provided, and the Memorial staff will cooperate with local agencies in other facets of Memorial and visitor protection.

The Interpretive Theme will be Hamilton's life in this house and his services to his country.

Of all of his generation of statesmen, Hamilton is perhaps the least known and understood, both as a man and in terms of his contributions to our political and economic development. For this reason, the Interpretive Method will be of even more than usual importance.

As the base of the interpretive program, the grounds will be landscaped to recapture as much of the essence of the original, much more spacious, grounds as is possible, and The Grange will be restored to its original appearance. The Grange and its illustrious owner will be interpreted through a balanced program utilizing refurbishing, museum exhibits if suitable space for them can be provided outside the house, explaining and illustrating Hamilton's contribution to America's political and economic development, and other appropriate interpretive facilities and devices.

May 1963

GUIDELINES

1. A thorough, comprehensive program of historical research, enlisting the advice and assistance of students of Hamilton, will be undertaken to secure data on The Grange and its furnishings, and for data on Alexander Hamilton.
2. Only those furnishings in the house during the years of Hamilton's occupancy, period pieces, or quality reproductions, will be used in the refurnishing. Museum specimens associated with Hamilton's earlier years may be acquired for use in exhibits.
3. A program for pre-visit orientation of school and other organized groups will be prepared and disseminated.
4. Unless required for protection purposes, no staff housing will be provided.
5. A fence and an automatic fire and burglar alarm system will be provided. The New York City police and fire departments will provide additional protection.
6. Study will be given to cooperation with security forces of the College of the City of New York and to the need for Park security personnel.
7. Heating source will be outside the building.
8. Hamilton Grange National Memorial will function within the framework of the approved Master Plan and under published delegations of authority as a unit of the New York City group under the jurisdiction of a multiple superintendency currently as a Group "C" organization as defined in the Administrative Manual.

May 1963

Volume III, Section A  
Park Origin  
Page 1

MASTER PLAN  
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF  
HAMILTON GRANGE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Volume III, General Park Information  
Section A, Park Origin

Prepared by: David A. Kimball Date April 1963  
Interpretive Planner (Historian)

ACCEPTED BY: Newell H. Foster (by memo.) Date April 19, 1963  
Superintendent

April 1963

Section A, Park Origin and Land Status

Hamilton's widow sold The Grange in 1833. In 1889, the house was moved about 300 feet southeast of its original site and was used as a temporary chapel for St. Luke's Episcopal Church. At that time there was not another building for some distance; the building was placed in an open field across from which streets were being opened.

The Grange was placed on its new site with its front facing the adjacent lot rather than the street in front. Construction of buildings on the adjacent lots in the years that followed necessitated alterations in The Grange. The front and back porches were cut off, and the original front door was moved to face Convent Avenue and the old opening closed up.

In the 1920's St. Luke's Church was confronted with the possibility of either demolishing or selling The Grange. In 1924, title to The Grange and the property on which it stands was conveyed to the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society, and a trust fund of \$50,000 created for the permanent maintenance of the house. Since that time it has been operated by the Society as a museum and memorial to Hamilton. The house was renovated and reopened to the public in 1933.

Public Law 87-438 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to establish Hamilton Grange National Memorial, providing however, "the Secretary shall not establish the national memorial until he has satisfied himself that the lands which have been donated are sufficient to assure the relocation of The Grange and administration and interpretation of the national memorial".

Pursuant to this Act, the City of New York is now in the process of transferring to the Federal Government, title in fee to a plot of land 150 feet by 205 feet at the corner of West 130th Street and St. Nicholas Terrace. Negotiations for the transfer of an additional strip 70 feet wide abutting this plot to the north are under way.

April 1963

MASTER PLAN  
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF  
HAMILTON GRANGE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Volume III, General Park Information  
Section B, Vicinity Data

Prepared by: David A. Kimball Date April 1963  
Interpretive Planner (Historian)

ACCEPTED BY: Newell H. Foster (by memo.) Date April 19, 1963  
Superintendent

April 1963

Section B, Vicinity Data

Hamilton Grange National Memorial is one of several areas of the National Park System in New York City: Statue of Liberty National Monument, Castle Clinton National Monument, Federal Hall and General Grant National Memorials and Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace National Historic Site.

New York City is easy to reach by rail, plane, bus or car. The Grange is easily accessible, subway and bus stops being within a short walk.

The Memorial will be on the campus of the College of the City of New York, overlooking St. Nicholas City Park. Adjoining the Memorial site to the west is a public school. The surrounding area is urban and highly developed.

According to the Bureau of the Census estimate of 1960, the New York City Metropolitan Area had a population of 10,602,382 and the consolidated area of New York-Northeastern New Jersey had a population of 14,605,818. The Memorial is accessible for day use to this population and to a sizeable population beyond this area as well.

The Memorial site is on the upper slope of a hill overlooking St. Nicholas Park.

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Public Use Data  
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MASTER PLAN  
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF  
HAMILTON GRANGE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Volume III, General Park Information  
Section C, Public Use Data

Prepared by: David A. Kimball Date April 1963  
Interpretive Planner (Historian)

ACCEPTED BY: Newell H. Foster (by memo.) Date April 19, 1963  
Superintendent

April 1963

Section C, Public Use Data

Although The Grange is open to the public, visitation is almost nil. After The Grange has been moved to its new location on the campus of the College of the City of New York, it is anticipated that this will stimulate greater visitor use.

April 1963

MASTER PLAN  
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF  
HAMILTON GRANGE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Volume III, General Park Information  
Section D, Natural History and  
Historical Background

Prepared by: David A. Kimball Date April 1963  
Interpretive Planner (Historian)

ACCEPTED BY: Newell H. Foster (by memo.) Date April 19, 1963  
Superintendent

April 1963

Section D, Natural History and Historical Background

1. Natural History

Landscape features to be determined.

2. History

On August 2, 1800, Hamilton purchased 34 acres of land upon which to build a suitable home. This tract ran up a hill from what is now St. Nicholas Avenue to Amsterdam Avenue and extended northward from 141st Street to 145th Street.

The house was placed on the lower segment of the slope of a hill. Hamilton named it, The Grange, after the seat of his paternal grandfather, Alexander Hamilton, Laird of The Grange, in the Parish of Stevenston, Ayrshire, Scotland.

Hamilton took a great deal of pleasure in planning the house, as did his father-in-law, General Philip Schuyler. Hamilton's papers indicate that the project of a house in the country for his growing family was long in his mind, though the demands of an increasingly successful law practice made his supervision of construction somewhat sporadic. Mrs. Hamilton may have been more active in supervising construction than her husband.

John McComb, Jr., who designed such structures as New York's City Hall, St. John's Trinity Chapel (1803), Queens Building, Rutgers College (1809), and Alexander Hall of Princeton Theological Seminary (1815) was the architect of The Grange. McComb and Ezra Weeks were the builders.

Section D, Natural History and Historical Background

Unfortunately, McComb's plans for the building have been lost. However, his proposals, dated June 22, 1801, contain a wealth of detail and correspondence of Hamilton and General Schuyler contains much data on changes made in the plans and as the building was under construction. The structure was completed late in 1802 and the family moved into The Grange.

After moving into The Grange, the family lived there most of the year moving to a rented house downtown only during the coldest months. While they were at The Grange, Hamilton commuted to his downtown offices each day.

After Hamilton's death in the duel with Aaron Burr, Mrs. Hamilton never again made her home at The Grange for any length of time though she held title for almost thirty years. She was able to retain The Grange through a composition of Hamilton's friends who joined together and saved this one property free and clear of debt to produce income for Hamilton's heirs. From this and additional gifts of realty, Mrs. Hamilton was able to raise her family and to engage in a lifetime of charitable enterprises, several of which are still contributing to the welfare of New York's needy. All the real estate, and The Grange property and finally the house itself were sold by Mrs. Hamilton over a period of years for income.

3. Archeology

None known or likely.

4. Status of Research

Research in preparation of an Historic Structures Report on Hamilton Grange is in progress.

April 1963

Section D, Natural History and Historical Background

5. Research Accomplished

None. Much work on Hamilton and his public service has been done by competent professional historians.

6. Research Needed

Historical, architectural and furnishings research upon which to base the Historic Structures Report and furnishing plans is urgently needed. Research for data on Hamilton and his public career is essential for preparation of exhibits and literature, and to give life and scope to the interpretive program. It is particularly important that sufficient data with which to assess Hamilton's role in the adoption of the Constitution and his initial contribution to and continuing influence in American public finance and economic growth be gathered.

MASTER PLAN  
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF  
HAMILTON GRANGE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Volume III, General Park Information  
Section E, Protection

Prepared by: David A. Kimball Date April 1963  
Interpretive Planner (Historian)

ACCEPTED BY: Newell H. Foster (by memo.) Date April 19, 1963  
Superintendent

April 1963

Section E, Protection

Problems of protection of vegetative cover, forest fire control, forest insects and diseases, grazing, wildlife and the like to not apply to Hamilton Grange. Structural fire control must always be provided for. First aid equipment will be provided. Heating and electrical systems will be corrected as needed; good preventive practices established and an automatic detection system considered. The New York City Fire Department is on call in emergencies.

Vandalism may be a problem. Electric protection system will be considered in The Grange and close cooperation will be established with the city police, together with other measures as required.

April 1963

MASTER PLAN  
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF  
HAMILTON GRANGE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Volume III, General Park Information  
Section F, Concessions and Other Agencies

Prepared by: David A. Kimball Date April 1963  
Interpretive Planner (Historian)

ACCEPTED BY: Newell H. Foster (by memo.) Date April 19, 1963  
Superintendent

April 1963

Volume III, Section F  
Concessions and Other  
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Section F, Concessions and Other Agencies

No concessions are now in operation in the Memorial. The area surrounding the Memorial abounds in all needed facilities.

April 1963

MASTER PLAN  
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF  
HAMILTON GRANGE NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Volume III, General Park Information  
Section G, Construction Data

Prepared by: David A. Kimball Date April 1963  
Interpretive Planner (Historian)

ACCEPTED BY: Newell H. Foster (by memo.) Date April 19, 1963  
Superintendent

April 1963

Section C, Construction Data

Basic Data similar to other New York City National Monuments and  
Memorials.

April 1963