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HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

PART I

ARCHITECTURAL DATA SECTION

ON

RESTORATION

OF

HAMILTON GRANGE

New York City National Park Service Group

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Division of Architecture

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A P P R O V A L S H E E T

RECOMMENDED

Superintendent Date _____

H. Ceese Smith

Chief, EODC, Acting Date 5-8-67

Regional Director, Northeast Region Date _____

APPROVED

Director Date _____

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I. FOREWORD

Alexander Hamilton purchased the first section of ground for his new house in Harlem in 1800. Subsequent purchases, one later in 1800 and another in 1803 extended the land holdings to 35 acres and 3-1/2 roods.

On this land the house known as "Hamilton Grange" was erected between 1800 and 1802. The house was designed and built by John McComb with additional contractual work done by Ezra Weeks, a carpenter.

In an effort to preserve the Grange it was moved to its present site 100 yards away in 1889 and became a church house for St. Luke's Church which now adjoins it.

Although somewhat altered, it has survived with most original features intact which provide evidence of its former design.

When Hamilton Grange becomes the property of the National Park Service, it is proposed that the house be moved from its present site to the northwest corner of West 130th Street and St. Nicholas Terrace on the campus of the College of the City of New York.

Norman M. Souder
Architect
May 1964

II. EXISTING CONDITIONS

A. Exterior

The Grange was a frame structure in the Federal style, rectangular in plan with balustraded porches on the ends. In its original location there were small entrance porches on the front and rear as well.

The house consists of two stories and basement and is constructed with heavy timber framing filled with brick nogging in the manner of the Schuyler house built by Hamilton's father-in-law.

The copper-covered, hipped roof was surrounded by a wood balustrade of classic design. There are four chimneys, all of which are original. Two are functional and the other two are false to give balance to the design.

The original front and rear facades are obscured by St. Luke's church on the right and an apartment house on the left. It is presently wedged between the two structures in such a manner as to make the removal of the house to the new site impossible unless it is cut into two sections.

The original front and rear entrances were relocated on the end of the house now facing the street. The sidelights of the old front entrance have disappeared due to vandalism.

B. Interior

The present basement is not the original. It is proposed that the reconstructed basement will consist of five rooms, conforming to the first floor plan and documentary evidence.

The first floor consists of five rooms, halls and passage and the second floor of five rooms and hall. The present staircase is not original nor in the original location.

Two of the architecturally interesting features are the octagonal rooms on the first floor created by the bay windows which extend onto the side porches.

The entrances, interior trim, plaster cornices, arches and other details are in the classic style and are delicately designed.

There is enough trim, detail, and hardware remaining from the original building together with recorded detail to insure an accurate restoration.

The structure as it now stands is in a neglected condition but appears structurally sound. The exterior woodwork will require extensive replacement. Most of the original interior woodwork can be salvaged and restored in place.