Federal Policies Toward Reconstructions of Vanished Properties

Richard G. Handler

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THESIS ABSTRACT

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Dorothy M. Miner, Thesis Advisor

Question: Should Federal Policies toward Reconstructions as articulated in the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties be Revised?

Summary: This Thesis explores the history and the development of the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and in particular, provisions relating to Reconstructions, and the National Park Service Management Policies for Reconstructions. These evaluations are viewed in the context of case studies of National Park Service (NPS) reconstructions at Franklin Court at Independence National Historic Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and at Fort Union Fur Trading Post National Historic Site, Williston, North Dakota. These Federal policies are also compared with standards established by private foundations in their stewardship of George Washington’s home-farm in Mount Vernon, Virginia and Thomas Jefferson’s home-farm (Monticello) in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Applying the current Secretary’s Standards and the 2006 NPS Management Policies as they relate to Reconstructions, a determination is made and justified as to whether the Stable-Lodge at the Sagamore Hill National Historic Site (Theodore Roosevelt’s Home) Oyster Bay, New York should be reconstructed. This Thesis concludes with a series of recommendations to modify the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.