# Is this the oldest schoolhouse in the U.S.?



Is this building at St. Augustine, Fla., really the oldest school still standing in the U.S.? Built during the early Spanish occupation (1565–1763), it has been certified by the Department of the Interior as "possessing exceptional historic . . . interest."

Recently the embers of a long-smoldering dispute over the nation's oldest school building were fanned. *Life* magazine published a color photo of a green-roofed, red clapboard cottage captioned: "Oldest Schoolhouse. Built by the Dutch before 1696, it still stands on Staten Island."

Last week Floridans scoffed at claims for the Staten Island structure, insisted their building, a notable landmark for sightseers, would still be shown off as the titleholder.