# Seven Places Alec Soth Photographed in ‘Sleeping by the Mississippi’

Alec Soth’s ‘Sleeping by the Mississippi’ is an extraordinary document of visual exploration. It was one of the first photography books that I ever owned, and one of the first photography projects I came across that introduced me to a slower, more exploratory method of visual storytelling. It also introduced me to the idea that a story could be about a place or a journey, where one explores themes and concepts, rather than a person with a narrative story. In the book, Soth photographs a variety of people and places on his journey down the Mississippi River. Knowing the locations will not mean you know the photographs or their power or what Soth sees in them as he navigates his own dream through its waters. But we must start somewhere.

## Charles Lindbergh’s Childhood Home

1620 Lindbergh Dr S

Little Falls, MN

56345

<https://www.mnhs.org/lindbergh>

Today, the famous pilot’s childhood home is a museum.

## Immaculate Conception Church

208 1st St

Kaskaskia, IL

62233

<https://www.greatriverroad.com/fcc-attraction-pages/immaculate-conception-church>

The church was founded in 1703 by Father Jacques Marquette, during his years of missionary work along the Mississippi River.

## Fort Jefferson Memorial Cross

Fort Jefferson Hill Road

Wickliffe, KY

42087

<https://www.kentuckytourism.com/wickliffe/history-heritage/historic-museums-exhibits-tours/fort-jefferson-hill-park-welcome-center-memorial-cross-ky>

Soth’s image depicts men in orange prison jumpsuits standing in front of the titular cross.

## Johnny Cash’s Childhood Home

110 Center Dr

Dyess, AR

72330

<https://dyesscash.astate.edu/>

This location is also a museum, operated by Arkansas State University’s Heritage Sites Office.

## Angola State Prison

17544 Tunica Trace

Angola, LA

70712

<https://doc.louisiana.gov/location/louisiana-state-penitentiary/>

Formally known as the Louisiana State Penitentiary, the prison sits on a former slave plantation.

## Harbor Marina

Wolf River Harbor

Memphis, TN

38103

<https://marinas.com/view/marina/n8c88w_Mud_Island_Marina_-_Memphis_Yacht_Club_Memphis_TN_United_States>

From the marina, one can see Memphis’ famous glass pyramid. Ten years after Soth made the picture, that pyramid was bought and turned into a Bass Pro Store.

## Holt Cemetery

527 City Park Ave

New Orleans, LA

70119

<https://www.saveourcemeteries.org/cemeteries/cemeteries/holt-cemetery.html>

Unlike many of New Orleans’ grand aboveground tombs, those in Holts Cemetery are buried below-ground, in a former potter’s field behind a community college parking lot.