

Public Law 100-479  
100th Congress

An Act

Oct. 7, 1988

[H.R. 4457]

Historic  
preservation.  
Conservation.  
16 USC 4100o.

To create a national park at Natchez, Mississippi.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are to—

- (1) preserve and interpret the history of Natchez, Mississippi, as a significant city in the history of the American South;
- (2) preserve and interpret the sites and structures associated with all the peoples of Natchez and its surrounding area from earliest inhabitants to the modern era, and including blacks both slave and free;
- (3) preserve and interpret the region's social, political, and economic development, with particular emphasis on the pre- and post-Civil War eras; and
- (4) preserve and interpret the region's commercial and agricultural history, especially in relation to the Mississippi River and cotton.

16 USC 4100o-1. SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATCHEZ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to provide for the benefit, inspiration, and education of the American people, there is hereby established the Natchez National Historical Park (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “park”) in the State of Mississippi.

(b) AREA INCLUDED.—The park shall consist of the historic districts established under this Act and the following properties:

- (1) The lands and structures known as Melrose, together with all personal property located on such lands.
- (2) The lands and improvements thereon known as, or associated with, Fort Rosalie.

The property referred to in paragraph (2) shall be included within the park only if the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) determines that the historic resources of Fort Rosalie are of sufficient national significance and integrity to warrant inclusion in the National Park System. The Secretary shall make such determination after receiving from the Governor of the State of Mississippi and the mayor of the city of Natchez, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, a recommendation based on scholarly research as to the national significance and integrity of such historic resources.

(c) BOUNDARIES; MAP.—The Secretary shall prepare a map of the lands included within the park. Such map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service at the park and at the Department of the Interior in the District of Columbia. The Secretary may from time to time make minor revisions in the boundary of the park in accordance with section 7(c) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601-4 and following).

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## SEC. 3. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.

16 USC 410oo-2.

Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Secretary may acquire, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, land or interests in land, together with structures and other improvements thereon and personal property, which is included within the park. In addition the Secretary may acquire by any such means such personal property associated with the park as he deems appropriate for interpretation of the park and such additional lands and properties as may be necessary for purposes of an administrative headquarters and administrative site. Any land, interests in land, structures, improvements, or personal property owned by the State of Mississippi or any political subdivision thereof, may be acquired only by donation. The Secretary may not acquire fee title to any property other than the property he deems necessary for an administrative site and headquarters and the property referred to in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 2, and the Secretary may not acquire the property referred to in paragraph (1) of section 2 unless at least 25 per centum of the fair market value of such property (as determined by the Secretary) is donated to the United States in connection with such acquisition.

## SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION OF PARK.

16 USC 410oo-3.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer the park in accordance with this Act and with the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act entitled “An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes”, approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1-4) and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461-467). Properties acquired under this Act for purposes of inclusion in the park shall be available for visitor inspection and enjoyment as promptly as practicable after the date of acquisition notwithstanding the absence of a park management plan.

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information.

(b) DONATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may accept and expend donations of funds, property, or services from individuals, foundations, corporations, or public entities for the purpose of providing services and facilities which he deems consistent with the purposes of this Act.

## (c) HISTORIC DISTRICTS.—

(1) STUDY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES.—The Secretary shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate a study of the properties in the city of Natchez and its immediate environs that preserve and interpret the history contained in the purposes of this Act. Such report shall consider which properties best exemplify such purposes and appropriate means for providing technical assistance to, and interpretation of, such properties. The study and report shall include consideration of Natchez-Under-the-Hill and the Briars.

Reports.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICTS.—Following completion of the study under paragraph (1), but not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish historic districts in the city of Natchez and its immediate environs for the preservation and interpretation of the resources that contribute to the understanding of the purposes of this Act.

(3) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH OWNERS.**—In furtherance of the purposes of this Act, and after consultation with the Advisory Commission established by this Act, the Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the owners of properties of historical or cultural significance (as determined by the Secretary) within any historic district established under this subsection. Such agreements shall permit the Secretary to mark, interpret, improve, restore, and provide technical assistance with respect to the preservation and interpretation of such properties. Such agreements shall contain, but need not be limited to, provisions that the Secretary shall have the right of access at reasonable times to public portions of any property covered by such agreement for purposes of conducting visitors through such properties and interpreting them to the public, and that no changes or alterations shall be made in the property except by mutual agreement between the Secretary and other parties to the agreement.

(d) **GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—Within three complete fiscal years after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate a general management plan for the park. The plan shall be prepared in accordance with section 12(b) of the Act of August 18, 1970 (84 Stat. 825; 16 U.S.C. 1a-1 through 1a-7). Such plan shall identify appropriate facilities for proper interpretation of the site for visitors.

Gifts and  
property.  
16 USC 410oo-4.

#### **SEC. 5. NATCHEZ TRACE STUDY.**

The Secretary shall prepare, in consultation with the city of Natchez, a study of the feasibility of extending the Natchez Trace within the city of Natchez, including the acceptance of donations of rights-of-way. The Secretary shall transmit the study to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate within one year after the date of enactment of this Act.

16 USC 410oo-5.

#### **SEC. 6. ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established the Natchez National Historical Park Advisory Commission (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the "Advisory Commission"). The Advisory Commission shall be composed of six members appointed by the Secretary. Two of such members shall be appointed from among individuals nominated by the mayor of Natchez and one from among individuals nominated by the Governor of Mississippi. Two of the members shall have expertise in historic preservation and one shall have expertise in architectural history. Any member of the Advisory Commission appointed for a definite term may serve after the expiration of his term until his successor is appointed. The Advisory Commission shall designate one of its members as Chairperson.

(b) **MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES.**—The Secretary, or his designee, shall from time to time, but at least semiannually, meet and consult with the Advisory Commission on matters relating to the management and development of the park.

(c) **MEETINGS.**—The Advisory Commission shall meet on a regular basis. Notice of meetings and agenda shall be published in local newspapers which have a distribution which generally covers the

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area affected by the park. Advisory Commission meetings shall be held at locations and in such a manner as to ensure adequate public involvement.

(d) **EXPENSES.**—Members of the Advisory Commission shall serve without compensation as such, but the Secretary may pay expenses reasonably incurred in carrying out their responsibilities under this Act on vouchers signed by the Chairman.

(e) **CHARTER.**—The provisions of section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Act of October 6, 1972; 86 Stat. 776), are hereby waived with respect to this Advisory Commission.

**SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 USC 410~~oo~~-6.

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$12,000,000 to carry out this Act.

Approved October 7, 1988.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 4457:**

**HOUSE REPORTS:** No. 100-793 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).

**SENATE REPORTS:** No. 100-538 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).

**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD,** Vol. 134 (1988):

July 26, considered and passed House.

Sept. 27, considered and passed Senate.