
Chapter Three

Analysis of National Significance, Suitability, Feasibility and Need for NPS Management

THREE

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THREE

Introduction

For a determination to be made as to whether a resource should be considered for potential designation as a unit of the national park system, analyses are conducted based on criteria established by Congress in Title III of Public Law 105-39, and in accordance with NPS Management Policies. To be eligible for consideration, an area must:

- 1) possess nationally significant natural or cultural resources;
- 2) be a suitable addition to the system;
- 3) be a feasible addition to the system; and
- 4) require direct NPS management instead of alternative protection by other public agencies or the private sector.

This chapter evaluates the resources of the state of Delaware related to early settlement and the role of the state in the founding of this nation and applies the criteria for designation as a potential unit of the national park system cited above. It also summarizes the results of a reconnaissance analysis of resources related to six of the eight themes contained in the study legislation.

National Significance Criteria

NPS Management Policies provide that a resource will be considered nationally significant if it meets all of the following criteria:

- 1) is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource;
- 2) possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage;
- 3) offers superlative opportunities for public enjoyment, or for scientific study; and,
- 4) retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of a resource.

National significance for cultural resources is evaluated by applying the National Historic Landmarks (NHL) criteria contained in 36 CFR Part 65. National significance is ascribed to districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture, and that possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and that:

- 1) are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained; or
- 2) are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States; or
- 3) represent some great idea or ideal of the American people; or
- 4) embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for the study of a period, style or method of construction, or that represent a significant, distinctive and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- 5) are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition, but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture; or
- 6) have yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon

periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts and ideas to a major degree.

National significance for natural resources can be evaluated by applying the National Natural Landmarks (NNL) criteria contained in 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 62. Within the NNL Program, national significance describes an area that is one of the best examples of a biological or geological feature known to be characteristic of a given natural region. Such features include terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; geologic structures, exposures and landforms that record active geologic processes or portions of earth history; and fossil evidence of biological evolution.

When evaluating national significance in congressionally authorized special resource studies, resources that have been designated as NHLs or NNLs are considered to already have been determined to be nationally significant and require no further analysis.

Summary of Reconnaissance Analyses

Because of the extensive number of themes provided in the study legislation and the numerous resources they represent, the study team performed an initial reconnaissance analysis of theme-related resources. A reconnaissance analysis provides for a preliminary investigation of resources to determine if they are likely or unlikely to meet the criteria for national significance, suitability, feasibility, and the need for NPS management. This permits the study team to focus on resources that

have the greatest potential for congressional consideration as a unit of the national park system. As the reconnaissance analysis proceeds, the study team is able to “filter out” resources that require no further study. The process results in a theme framework and list of resources that merit further investigation because of their potential to meet national significance and suitability criteria.

Resources related to all of the eight themes contained in Public Law 109-338 were investigated by the study team through on-site visits and the review of relevant literature to determine the likelihood of these resources meeting criteria for potential designation as a unit of the national park system. The results of this analysis indicated that among these resources those with the most potential for further study related to two themes:

- 1) the colonization and establishment of the frontier, which would chronicle the first European settlers in the Delaware Valley who built fortifications for the protection of settlers, such as Fort Christina; and
- 2) the founding of a nation, which would document the contributions of Delaware to the development of our constitutional republic.

Resources and Themes Found to be Unlikely to Meet Criteria

Resources and themes that were found unlikely to meet one or more of the criteria include: History of Indigenous Peoples, Industrial Development, Transportation, Coastal Defense, The Last Stop to Freedom—Underground Railroad, and the Coastal Environment.

Indigenous Peoples

Explores the history of indigenous peoples of the area including the tribes of Delaware, such as the Nanticoke and Leni Lenape.

In researching the resources relating to pre and post-European contact in the coastal areas of the state there was ample proof that there is an important history associated with the first inhabitants of these lands. That occupation goes beyond the borders of Delaware into the bordering states of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. This history is especially interesting relative to the relationships that were developed between the tribes and the early settlers in the early to mid-seventeenth century. Resources associated with this period of history are archeological sites. While some of these have been entered onto the National Register of Historic Places, there is no evidence currently that there are any extant resources that would rise to the level of national significance required by NHL criteria. As a result, the study team determined that the story of indigenous peoples would best be told in association with resources related to a larger European settlement theme.

Industrial Development

Investigates the exploitation of water power in Delaware with mill development on the Brandywine River.

There is currently one site designated as an NHL associated with industrial development located on the Brandywine River. This is the Eleutherian Mills just north of Wilmington. It was the original black powder works and industrial center of the E.I. duPont Company and was first erected in 1802-1803. Today the mills and associated community are maintained by the Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation Inc. and is operated as a non-profit museum and library dedicated to collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of American enterprise.

The operating foundation provides a very competent management entity for this site and maintains a successful operation that, with help from their existing endowment,

will remain sustainable into the future. While there is clearly no need for NPS management of this facility, the study team also considered the suitability issues associated with the industrial development theme. The NPS currently maintains a variety of park units focusing on and interpreting early industrial development. These include, but are not limited to: Lowell National Historical Park in Lowell, Massachusetts; Edison National Historic Site in Edison, New Jersey; Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site in Elverson, Pennsylvania; the Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site in Saugus, Massachusetts; the Springfield Armory National Historic Site in Springfield, Massachusetts; and Harpers Ferry National Historic Site in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Additionally, there is the Blackstone National Heritage Corridor which focuses primarily on 18th century industrialization in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The study team concluded that the industrial theme would not be likely to meet potential designation criteria because of issues concerning suitability and need for NPS management.

Maritime Transportation

Explores how water served as the main transportation link, connecting Colonial Delaware with England, Europe, and other colonies.

This theme would focus on locations in Delaware associated with early maritime travel. The study team did not find that there were any resources that would meet NHL criteria connected with this theme. Ports in Lewes, Delaware City, New Castle, Odessa, and Wilmington would be the most obvious locations for resources that explain the maritime theme. The Chesapeake and Delaware Canal might also be considered as a potential resource to explain how transportation and navigation was important to the history of the United States, although the earliest canal there was not completed until

1829 and does not relate to “colonial” Delaware which is specified in the legislation.

From the suitability perspective, the NPS has a number of maritime-focused units in the system. These include: Salem Maritime National Historic Site in Salem, Massachusetts; New Bedford National Historical Park in New Bedford, Massachusetts; and Colonial National Historical Park in Yorktown, Virginia. National Heritage Corridors such as Delaware & Lehigh in Pennsylvania and the Erie Canalway in New York State also relate to the early transportation theme. Because there are no resources associated with the maritime theme that were found to be nationally significant from an NHL perspective, or suitable, this theme did not produce viable resources for further study.

Coastal Defense

Documents the collection of fortifications spaced along the river and bay from Fort Delaware on Pea Patch Island to Fort Miles near Lewes.

Delaware has an impressive collection of coastal fortifications. Included in this list of sites is: Fort Delaware, which is a third system fortification on Pea Patch Island and protected as a state park, Fort Dupont south of Delaware City and also currently protected by the state, Fort Saulsbury located in Sussex County and privately owned, and Fort Miles, a World War II fortification which is located in Cape Henlopen State Park and for which the state has plans to construct a World War II Museum. Besides the privately owned site, all of the fortification resources are protected through the Delaware State Park System. None of these sites have been nominated for designation as National Historic Landmark, although the study team suggests that Fort Delaware, particularly, should be considered by the state for an NHL nomination.

From a suitability perspective, the national park system has a significant array of first, second and third system fortifications with many of these on the eastern seaboard. They include among others: Fort Pulaski National Monument in Georgia; Fort Warren in the Boston Harbor; Castle Clinton, Castle Williams, Fort Jay, Fort Hancock and Fort Wadsworth in the New York Harbor; Fort Sumter National Monument in South Carolina; and Fort McHenry National Monument in Baltimore, Maryland. World War II fortifications include some of the aforementioned forts that were modernized to provide defense during the world wars. The NPS recently completed a reconnaissance analysis of Fort Monroe in Hampton, Virginia, the largest third system fort constructed. The analysis found that the fort, an NHL, was likely to be found suitable but infeasible to administer as a whole.

In summary, the study team determined that the resources associated with this theme, other than Fort Delaware, would be unlikely to meet NHL criteria for national significance, nor would they likely meet the suitability criterion.

Underground Railroad—the Last Stop to Freedom

Details the role Delaware has played in the history of the Underground Railroad network.

Resources associated with the Underground Railroad (UGRR) theme include two Friends (Quaker) Meeting Houses, one in Odessa and the other in Wilmington, that were thought to play a role in the UGRR, the Corbit Sharp House in Odessa, an NHL (for reasons not related to the UGRR) and a possible UGRR safe house; and, the New Castle Court House where Thomas Garrett and John Hunn, both conductors on the UGRR, were tried for aiding freedom seekers. Additionally, there are various

sites that may have been used for aiding in the escape of enslaved persons, such as Wildcat Manor in Camden, Delaware which once belonged to the Hunn family, and is now a private residence.

The National Park Service manages the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program which provides limited technical and financial assistance to eligible sites throughout the country. In Delaware, sites listed as part of the network include:

- Appoquinimink Friends Meeting House
- Corbit-Sharp House
- Delaware State House
- John Dickinson Plantation
- New Castle Courthouse
- The Rocks at Fort Christina State Park
- Thomas Garrett Home Site (home no longer extant)
- Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park & Market St. Bridge
- Wilmington Friends Meeting House and Cemetery

Other than the New Castle Court House and the Corbit Sharp House, both of which are nationally significant for reasons beyond their role in the UGRR, the study team did not discover resources related to this theme that would potentially meet NHL criteria.

The NPS is currently completing a Special Resource Study of resources related to Harriet Tubman in Auburn, New York and the Eastern Shore of Maryland which have been found to be nationally significant using NHL criteria. While Harriet Tubman traversed Delaware in her escape from enslavement on Maryland's Eastern Shore and brought many others through the state from enslavement in the same region, the resources being investigated in that special resource study are clearly more associated with her birth, enslavement, assistance to other

freedom seekers, and her home in later life.

Coastal Environment

Examines natural resources of Delaware that provide resource-based recreational opportunities such as crabbing, fishing, swimming, and boating.

Delaware has two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administered refuges—Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Kent County, and Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge in Sussex County. In addition there are preserves that are managed by the state, counties, and nonprofit conservation organizations such as the Nature Conservancy. A partial list of these includes: Dragon Run Marsh, Thousand Acre Marsh, Woodland Beach Wildlife Area, Little Creek Wildlife Area, Beach Plum Island Nature Reserve, Cape Henlopen State Park, Pemberton Forest Preserve, and Port Mahon Preserve. The state, in total, manages 5,193 acres of seashore parks, providing exceptional protection of its coastal resources and superb recreational opportunities.

Because the state of Delaware more than adequately protects its coastal resources, the study team concluded that a previous analysis conducted in the 1960s relating to Delaware's coastal resources remained valid and it was unlikely that further review would demonstrate any need for NPS management. Additionally, the National Park Service manages many coastal resources within the national park system that are used for recreational opportunities. In the NPS Northeast Region these include: Acadia National Park in Maine; Cape Cod National Seashore in Massachusetts; Fire Island National Seashore in New York; Gateway National Recreation Area in New York and New Jersey; and Assateague National Seashore in Maryland and Virginia. Because of these many fine examples of coastal resources which are

currently protected and offer recreational opportunities in the system, the study team determined that a recreational area in Delaware would not be likely to meet the suitability criterion.

In summary, the study team determined, after a thorough reconnaissance analysis of the eight themes and related resources described in the study bill, that resources related to two themes: *Early Settlement*, and *Birth of a Nation* merited further study. That is not to suggest that the resources related to the other six themes are unimportant to the natural character and history of the state of Delaware, and in many cases, the history of the United States. On the contrary, the study team was exceptionally impressed with the wide array of valuable natural and cultural resources examined during the course of this study. Delaware has reason to be proud of its collection of coastal natural and historic resources and the stewardship provided by the state's various governments and organizations. Delaware's coastal heritage is important to the national story and the sites associated with it deserve increased recognition for their opportunities to provide enjoyable and informative visitor experiences.

Application of National Significance Criterion to Resources Related to Remaining Study Themes

Resources related to early settlement and the state's role in the founding of this nation that have been designated by the Secretary of Interior as nationally significant for reasons identified in their specific NHL statements of significance include: The New Castle Historic District,



The Zwaanendael Museum, Lewes. Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs photo.



Delaware State Archives building. Delaware State Archives photo.

The New Castle Court House, Fort Christina, Old Swedes Church, Stonum (George Read house), the Jacob Broom House, Lombardy Hall (Gunning Bedford, Jr. House), and the John Dickinson House. These resources are, by virtue of their respective NHL designations, nationally significant and meet the first criterion for potential designation as a unit of the national park system.

Dover Green has not been evaluated for its eligibility to meet NHL criteria, but is considered by the study team to be an integral contributing component of any potential unit of the national park system related to the theme of Delaware's role as the first state. While the Jacob Broom House is nationally significant, and related to the theme, it is not among the resources subjected to further evaluation. The owners of this private property have formally indicated that they do not wish the Jacob Broom House to be considered within the boundaries of any potential unit of the national park system. Owners of Stonum and Lombardy Hall have indicated an interest in being included within a potential park boundary.

Two institutions in Delaware contain a wealth of information related to the themes of early settlement and Delaware's role as the first state. The Zwaanandael Museum in Lewes provides a valuable visitor experience related to Dutch settlement and the history of Lewes. The Delaware State Archives contains collections that shed light on all aspects of state history. Here, visitors can learn of the contributions of Delaware to the history of the United States through research and exhibits. While it would not be appropriate to include these institutions within the boundary of a potential national park, a strong relationship between a park and these resources would be of immense importance to fostering public understanding of the park's purpose, significance and themes.

As a collection, the resources of Delaware related to early

settlement and first statehood meet the requirements for a conclusion that they are nationally significant. Taken together, they constitute an outstanding example of a particular type of resource; possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the cultural themes of our nation's heritage; offer superlative opportunities for public enjoyment; and, retain a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of a resource.

Application of the Suitability Criterion

NPS Management Policies provide that an area is considered suitable for addition to the national park system if it represents a natural or cultural resource type that is not already adequately represented in the system, or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by other federal agencies; tribal, state, or local governments; or the private sector. It is important to note that the suitability analysis is not limited, simply, to whether resources are represented in the system, but extends the analysis to similar resources protected by other public entities and the private sector. Adequacy of representation is determined on a case-by-case basis by comparing the potential area to other comparably managed areas representing the same resource type, while considering differences or similarities in the character, quality, quantity, or combination of resource values. The comparative analysis also addresses rarity of the resources; interpretive and educational potential; and similar resources already protected in the national park system or in other public or private ownership. The comparison results in a determination of whether the proposed new area would expand, enhance, or duplicate resource-protection or visitor-use opportunities found in other comparably managed areas.

In evaluating the suitability of cultural resources within

or outside the national park system, the NPS uses its “Thematic Framework” for history and prehistory. The framework is an outline of major themes and concepts that help to conceptualize American history. It is used to assist in the identification of cultural resources that embody America’s past and to describe and analyze the multiple layers of history encapsulated within each resource. Through eight concepts that encompass the multi-faceted and interrelated nature of human experience, the thematic framework reflects an interdisciplinary, less compartmentalized approach to American history. The concepts are:

- 1) Peopling Places
- 2) Creating Social Institutions
- 3) Expressing Cultural Values
- 4) Shaping the Political Landscape
- 5) Developing the American Economy
- 6) Expanding Science and Technology
- 7) Transforming the Environment
- 8) The Changing Role of the United States in the World Community

The thematic concepts applicable to the Delaware Historic Park are: *Peopling Places* and *Shaping the Political Landscape*.

Peopling Places

This theme examines human population movement and change through prehistoric and historic times. It also looks at family formation, at different concepts of gender, family, and sexual division of labor, and at how they have been expressed in the American past. The theme includes such topics as family and the life cycle; health, nutrition, and disease; migration from outside and within; community and neighborhood; ethnic homelands; encounters, conflicts, and colonization. For the purposes of this study, the topic of migration from outside and within is most appropriate. The area of significance

for this study is the early Dutch, Swedish and English settlement of Delaware.

Resources associated with early settlement include:

Swedish Settlement

1. *Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

Gloria Dei traces its roots to the original church on Tinicum Island that was dedicated in 1646 by the distinguished missionary, Johannes Campanius. His translation of Martin Luther’s Small Catechism is the very first book published in the Algonquin language, and his work among local tribes was the first attempt by anyone in the original thirteen colonies to spread the Gospel to these groups. It is the oldest church in Pennsylvania, a National Historic Site, and an affiliated area of the National Park Service. Interpretation at the site does not include the full history of Swedish settlement in New Sweden.

2. *American Swedish Historical Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

The American Swedish Historical Museum in South Philadelphia is the oldest Swedish Museum in the United States. Founded in 1926, the Museum has been dedicated to preserving and promoting Swedish and Swedish-American cultural heritage and traditions for nearly 80 years.

3. *New Sweden Farmstead, Bridgeton, New Jersey*

Early Scandinavians from the New Sweden Company settled in Bridgeton near Salem, New Jersey. These early settlements did not last long, threatening Dutch shipping interests in New York. The Farmstead is a re-creation that commemorates Swedish settlement with a settler’s cabin and living history programs.

4. *Johan Printz State Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

The site of the Printzhof and a portion of the surrounding settlement is preserved in the seven acres of Governor Printz Park on Tinicum Island. Archeological investigation in 1937 by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission disclosed the stone foundations of Printz's house, and uncovered thousands of artifacts of Swedish origin. The foundations of the Printzhof are the only visible remains of the settlement. The site and remains of the home and headquarters of Governor Johan Printz and the "capital" of New Sweden during the period 1643-53, interprets this Sweden settlement in America.

Dutch Settlement

1. *Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum, New York NHL*

The Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum provides a hands-on experience of Dutch Colonial New York at New York City's oldest house. Originally a Dutch West India Company bouwerie (the Dutch word for "farm"), the Wyckoff Farmhouse is the only structure in the city surviving from the period of Dutch rule prior to 1664.

2. *Garretson Forge and Farm, Fair Lawn, New Jersey*

This living Dutch farm museum, sponsors activities involving restoration, preservation, historic digs, compilation of local Dutch history and folklore, educational programming, colonial agriculture, horticulture and crafts.

3. *The Vander Ende-Onderdonk House, New York*

The Vander Ende-Onderdonk House, located in Ridgewood on the border of Queens and Brooklyn, is the oldest Dutch Colonial stone house in New York City. Peter Stuyvesant granted the land it sits on in

the mid-seventeenth century, and by 1660, Hendrick Barents Smidt occupied a small house on the site. The House serves as a museum for a permanent exhibit on the archaeology of the Onderdonk site, as well as changing exhibits relating to history, the arts and culture.

4. *Ryves Holt House (private), Lewes, Delaware*

The earliest part of this house has been dated to 1665, making it the oldest extant Dutch-built house in Delaware. It was once an inn. Its most famous resident was Ryves Holt, who came to Lewes in 1721 and became Naval Officer of the Port of Lewes and High Sheriff of Sussex County.

5. *Kingston Urban Cultural Park, New York*

Peter Stuyvesant was interested in the settlements that had developed along the Hudson River Valley between Fort Orange (Albany) and New Amsterdam. In 1652, settlers had moved down from Fort Orange to an area where the Rondout Creek met the Hudson River, the site of present-day Kingston. Stuyvesant sent soldiers up from New Amsterdam to help build a stockade with 40 houses for the settlers in 1657. The stockade was left standing well into the late 17th century, and wooden remnants of the wall were rediscovered on Clinton Ave during an archaeological dig in 1971. The streets of the original village remain as they were laid out in 1658 and 21 buildings still stand within the original layout of the stockade. These are listed in the National Register of Historic Places as contributing elements of the Stockade Historic District. Two notable buildings are: The Hoffman House, a Dutch Colonial style stone house built about 1679, an excellent example of early American-Dutch rubble construction; and the Mathew Person House, a Dutch Colonial house, built just after New Netherland came under British control. The Kingston Urban Cultural Park is managed as a state heritage area, a partnership project linking state and local governments and other organizations.

English Settlement

1. Cape Cod National Seashore, Wellfleet, Massachusetts

On November 11, 1620, the Pilgrims got their first look at the New World when they saw Cape Cod. The Pilgrim group had permission to settle in the northern part of Virginia (which in those days reached to present day New York). Due to rough waters the Pilgrims decided to investigate Cape Cod as a place to settle. They sent out three separate “discovery” expeditions to see what the area had to offer. During these “discoveries” they found their first fresh water, took some Indian corn, and almost had a battle (called the First Encounter) with some Native Americans. Cape Cod had many good features, but after a month of searching, they decided to finally settle in Plymouth.

2. Colonial National Historical Park (Historic Jamestowne), Virginia

In 1607, through a joint venture with the Virginia Company, England would establish the first permanent colony called Jamestowne. Here is where the successful English colonization of North America began, and where the first English representative government met. When the capital moved from Jamestown to Williamsburg in 1699, Jamestown was largely abandoned. Today the site is a unit of the national park system and jointly administered by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA Preservation Virginia) and the National Park Service.

3. Williamsburg, Virginia

From 1699 to 1780, Williamsburg was the political, cultural, and educational center of what was then the largest, most populous, and most influential of the English colonies. Williamsburg was the thriving capital of Virginia when the colony stretched west to the Mississippi River and north to the Great Lakes. The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation operates this 301-acre



Lord Delawarr entering Jamestowne. NPS photo.

living history museum, and the historic area comprises hundreds of restored, reconstructed, and historically furnished buildings. Costumed interpreters help tell the stories of the men and women who lived there.

Shaping the Political Landscape

This theme encompasses tribal, local, state, and federal political and governmental institutions that create public policy and those groups that seek to shape both policies and institutions. Sites associated with political leaders, theorists, organizations, movements, campaigns, and grassroots political activities all illustrate aspects of the political environment. The area of significance for this



theme is the times leading up to the signing of the US Constitution.

Sites associated with this theme include:

1. Boston National Historical Park, Massachusetts

A unit of the national park system, contains a number of sites related to the events and people associated with the American Revolution and the birth of the nation including: Old South Meeting House, Faneuil Hall, the Paul Revere House, the Old State House, Old North Church and Bunker Hill. The Boston Freedom Trail provides visitors with a walking tour of sites related to the historic themes of the park.

2. Adams National Historical Park, Quincy, Massachusetts

Adams National Historical Park was the home of two American presidents – John Adams and John Quincy Adams. The purpose of the park is to preserve and protect the grounds, homes, and personal property of four generations of the Adams family and to use these resources to interpret the history they represent and to educate and inspire current and future generations. Called the “Atlas of Independence,” John Adams was a force that led the country toward the Declaration of Independence in 1776. As a diplomat, Adams made peace with Great Britain and established the foundations of the nation’s foreign relations as first Vice President.

3. Independence Hall at Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

From 1775 to 1783 (except for the winter of 1777 - 1778 when Philadelphia was occupied by the British Army) this was the meeting place for the Second Continental Congress. It was in the Assembly Room of this building that George Washington was appointed commander in chief of the Continental Army in 1775 and the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. In the same room the design of the American flag was agreed upon in 1777, the Articles of Confederation were adopted in 1781, and the U.S. Constitution was drafted in 1787.

4. Red Hill-Patrick Henry National Memorial, Virginia

The last (reconstructed) home and burial place of Patrick Henry, Red Hill houses the largest collection of Patrick Henry memorabilia in the world. As the first elected governor of Virginia, Henry supported George Washington and the patriot cause at critical moments in the War for Independence. As the colonies moved toward independence, Henry was elected to the last of Virginia’s

revolutionary conventions, which met in Williamsburg on May 6, 1776. He participated in drafting Virginia's resolution calling upon Congress to declare the colonies "free and independent states." Red Hill is an affiliated area of the National Park Service and is managed by a foundation.

5. The National Constitution Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The National Constitution Center is an independent, non-partisan, and non-profit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution, its history and contemporary relevance. It accomplishes this objective through an interactive, interpretive facility within Independence National Historical Park. The Center was created by the Constitution Heritage Act in 1988, and is dedicated to a program of national outreach.

6. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

The Library of Congress contains 277 documents relating to the work of Congress and the drafting and ratification of the Constitution. Items include extracts of the journals of Congress, resolutions, proclamations, committee reports, treaties, and early printed versions of the United States Constitution.

7. National Mall & Memorial Parks, Constitution Gardens, DC

On September 17, 1986, in honor of the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, President Ronald Reagan issued a proclamation making Constitution Gardens a living legacy tribute to the Constitution. As a means of interpreting and celebrating the Constitution, the National Park Service hosts an annual naturalization ceremony for new citizens here.

8. Hamilton Grange National Memorial, New York, New York

The Home of Alexander Hamilton, this unit of the national park system interprets the contributions of the nation's first Secretary of the Treasury and a prime advocate for a strong central government. Hamilton was instrumental in convening the Annapolis conference and the Constitutional Convention. Along with James Madison, he authored the Federalist Papers.

9. Thomas Stone National Historic Site, Port Tobacco, Maryland

A unit of the national park system, Thomas Stone National Historic Site preserves, protects, and interprets the cultural and natural resources of the home and the property owned by Thomas Stone, who was one of four Maryland signers of the Declaration of Independence and who lived on the site during the American Revolutionary period. The park provides present and future generations with outstanding educational opportunities to learn the significance of the nation's founding, as well as Georgian style architecture and southern Maryland agricultural practices.

Determination of Suitability

Based on the analysis of comparable resource types and interpretation already represented within units of the national park system, or protected and interpreted by others, this study concludes that the resources of Delaware related to the peopling of America and shaping the political landscape would significantly add to system's ability to tell the stories related to early Swedish, Dutch and English settlement, as well as the stories inherent in the period leading up to the signing of the U.S. Constitution. While other sites provide elements of the settlement story for each settlement group, none provide the opportunity for public understanding of the successive waves of Dutch, Swedish and English settlement of this nation and the interaction of these settlement groups in colonial times. Nor is there a better

location to provide for public understanding of the growth of colonial government involving multi-crown rule and the role of proprietorships, leading up to the birth of the nation. For these reasons, the resources of Delaware related to early settlement and first statehood are suitable for potential inclusion in the national park system.

The New Castle Historic District, because of its high standards of preservation, is an ideal place to provide visitors with an exploration into colonial era life and the times leading up to the American Revolution and the founding of our nation. It singularly contains resources that assist in telling the complex story of early Dutch, Swedish and English settlement and the conflicts that ensued between these nations while trying to establish a presence in the new world. The New Castle Court House provides a special venue for understanding the unique role of Delaware in the colonial era.

Nowhere can the story of the Swedes, who eventually settled vast portions of the United States, be better interpreted than in the very location where they first entered America and developed their initial presence than at New Sweden. The resources of Fort Christina and Old Swedes Church provide the appropriate setting for that experience.

The homes of John Dickinson, George Read, and Gunning Bedford, Jr. all provide a new insight into how a small state like Delaware was instrumental in both the development of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. It is often the stories of leaders such as these, who may otherwise be forgotten, but who have accomplished remarkable tasks, that change the course of a nation.

The Dover Green, a well protected historic oasis, the location of many rallies, troop reviews, and other patriotic

events, has many stories to tell that are unique and significant to the history of Delaware and our national history.

The combination of these sites and resources provide powerful stories of the early colonial experience and the shaping of this nation that make them suitable for inclusion in the national park system. The extant resources and the interpretive potential to use them, not as individual sites, but as a mutually supportive collection, offers a superlative opportunity for public enjoyment and understanding of the arrival and interaction of early settlement groups; the roles of Delaware's patriots in fashioning the nation; and, the history of this nation's First State.

Feasibility Analysis

NPS Management Policies state that to be feasible for potential inclusion in the national park system, an area must be:

- 1) of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure sustainable resource protection and visitor enjoyment, and
- 2) capable of efficient administration at a reasonable cost.

A variety of factors are normally considered in evaluating feasibility including: land ownership, acquisition costs, access, threats to the resource, public enjoyment potential, the level of local and general public support, and staffing or development requirements.

The evaluation includes consideration of the ability of the NPS to undertake new management responsibilities in light of current and projected constraints on funding and personnel.

A boundary for any potential unit would comprise

existing public and privately-owned resources. The feasibility of protecting the natural and cultural resources of Delaware related to early settlement and first statehood would particularly depend on the demonstrated commitment of the state of Delaware to jointly manage the resources it administers including the John Dickinson Plantation and the New Castle Court House in partnership with the NPS. The private owners of resources would also need to be willing to have those resources be within the boundary of a park. Strong historic resource protection measures would need to be included in the zoning ordinances of the city of New Castle, providing for the continuing integrity of resources and compatible types and intensities of development, uses, treatments, transportation, and signage within any potential park boundary.

These factors appear to be in place. The state of Delaware has indicated a strong interest in partnering with the NPS, and private property owners have supported the potential designation of a unit of the national park system involving their resources. The city of New Castle has already enacted strong historic preservation ordinances to protect its historic district.

To evaluate financial feasibility, analyses of comparable costs of existing units of the National Park System of similar size are often used. It would not be anticipated that the NPS would acquire resources unless easements or fee simple opportunities arose from willing sellers. Rather, the NPS would financially assist in the development of visitor service facilities and work for protection and interpretation of resources through cooperative agreements with their owners. Financial feasibility would in large part depend on partnerships with other public and private entities, and on matching financial contributions, in-kind services, or other donations from the public and private sector. Two entities, the state of Delaware (at the New Castle Court

House) and the Old Swedes Foundation, have indicated an interest in joint operation of visitor services facilities.

For a unit of the national park system to be established that results in meaningful resource protection in Delaware, this study assumes that limited financial and technical assistance would be required for protection and interpretation of publicly and privately owned resources within the boundary. Technical and financial assistance would also be desirable for interpretive programming and exhibits at two related institutions – the Delaware State Archives and the Zwaanandael Museum. Costs associated with a potential unit of the national park system in Delaware are shown in chapter four of this report.

Size and Configuration

The New Castle National Historic Landmark District comprises approximately 36 square blocks of the historic section of downtown New Castle and consists of 20 acres. Other sites within a potential park boundary are essentially one acre or less, such as: Stonum, Lombardy Hall, Holy Trinity (Old Swedes') Church and the Dover Green. Fort Christina is approximately two acres and John Dickinson Plantation is five acres.

Using the New Castle Historic District as a central point, the distances to other resources that may be included within a park boundary from that location are as follows: Stonum (George Read's summer house) is within one mile of downtown New Castle. Fort Christina and Holy Trinity (Old Swedes') Church in Wilmington (which are adjacent to one another), lie about six miles north of New Castle. Lombardy Hall is eleven miles north and located just outside of downtown Wilmington. The city of Dover is approximately 40 miles south, and the Dickinson Plantation is another eight miles south of downtown Dover. This study concludes that such a park configuration would be feasible to manage in partnership with others. The inclusion of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes')

Church does not imply that the NPS would provide any assistance or programming that would contravene provisions for the separation of church and state ensured by the U.S. Constitution.

Land Ownership

The state of Delaware owns the New Castle Court House, Fort Christina and the John Dickinson House and Plantation. These are managed by the state's Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. The sheriff's office is attached to the New Castle Court House and could be used for park administration and visitor services if the interior is rehabilitated for that purpose.

The Dover Green is owned by the city of Dover. The New Castle National Historical Landmark District is almost entirely comprised of privately-owned lands with the exception of the Court House and a number of historic houses owned by the New Castle Historical Society, a non-profit corporation. These include: the Amstel House, the Old Dutch House and the Old Library Museum. Additionally, the Delaware Historical Society owns the Read House and Gardens on The Strand and operates it as a house museum.

Stonum, Lombardy Hall, and the Holy Trinity (Old Swedes') Church are all owned privately. Holy Trinity (Old Swedes') Church in Wilmington is part of the Trinity Episcopal Parish. The Holy Trinity (Old Swedes') Foundation was established to provide for the upkeep of this NHL. The Foundation also manages the churchyard and a museum in the adjacent Hendrickson House. A community center is situated on the property that could serve as a visitor contact station for both Fort Christina and the Church. Lombardy Hall is owned by the Lombardy Hall Foundation which was chartered with the objective of restoring the Gunning Bedford, Jr. House and operating a museum there.

Access

All sites included within a potential park boundary are on public roads. The New Castle Historic District is accessible by Route 9 and Route 141. The streets within the district are the original narrow lanes, and if visitors were to arrive in the area by motor coach these vehicles would need to either drop off passengers, or park outside of the district and ride in via a shuttle service. The New Castle Historic District has used a shuttle system for events that occur throughout the year.

It is envisioned that the other sites would be visited by bus or car. In the case of the guided tours there would not be issues with access or parking. For visitors who visit sites outside of the New Castle area in their own vehicles there are not expected to be problems with parking or access, but these issues would be further explored in a general management plan. For publicly owned sites such as Fort Christina and John Dickinson House there is limited parking available, but this also would need to be further assessed as the sites become more highly visited.

Threats to Resources

In an initial assessment of the private sites associated with any potential unit, it has been discovered that there are the usual threats to the historic houses, but they are most likely easily remedied. The George Read House (Stonum) is currently used as a multiple family dwelling, but there are plans by the owner to restore it to its early condition as a single family home. In the New Castle NHL district structures are well-maintained and properties in general have been restored to a high standard. On the publicly owned properties (Fort Christina, New Castle Court House, John Dickinson House) it is assumed that the resources would continue to be managed in a way that is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Without continued protection of the sites, archeological resources could be impacted by land or building alterations.

Staffing and Development Requirements

Staffing and operational requirements for potential unit alternatives have been estimated in chapter four. Other than the facilities that would be shared by the NPS, there would be no anticipated maintenance costs. The estimates also assume that NPS would not acquire or otherwise own any substantial archives or collections requiring special collection storage facilities. The costs for a general management plan and comprehensive interpretive plan for a park would be absorbed by the NPS. Total estimated costs for each alternative are portrayed in chapter four, and are concluded to be feasible.

Public Support

Numerous meetings have been held throughout the state of Delaware in both 2007 and 2008 to inform the public and stakeholders about the special resource study process, and to present preliminary findings based on results of the study team's analyses. Comments received by the study team have been overwhelmingly supportive of the potential for establishing a unit of the national park system in the state - Delaware's first national park.

In September 2008, the Mayor and City Council of New Castle passed a resolution supporting and encouraging the establishment of a national park in Delaware, and urging the NPS to select the city of New Castle as the base of operations for the park. The study team also heard interest from citizens in the Dover area to try to locate a visitor service facility in Dover, but no proposal has been forthcoming. In Wilmington, representatives of Old Swedes Foundation have suggested that NPS could locate a visitor facility in an existing structure associated with the Church property.

Additional opportunities will be provided for the public to comment on the potential establishment of a unit for a

period of 30-days after the release of this report, and the NPS will receive comments at a formal public meeting.

Conclusions for Determination of Feasibility

This special resource study has determined that the resources associated with the early settlement and first statehood in the state of Delaware are feasible to administer in partnership with the state of Delaware, various non-profit organizations and private property owners if the costs of any capital improvements for visitor services facilities are shared. The study team has determined that there is willingness by the various proposed partners to participate in a national park initiative. The study team also concludes that, to date, there is widespread public support for the establishment of a unit of the national park system comprising sites in multiple locations. In addition, the estimated costs associated with any potential Delaware park are feasible to absorb. The potential establishment of a unit of the national park system has been determined to be feasible and therefore, meets this criterion.

Analysis of the Need for NPS Management

Determination of the need for NPS management is the final criterion for evaluating resources for potential designation as a new unit in the National Park System. The criterion requires a finding that NPS management would be superior to other potential alternative management arrangements by other entities.

The sites that are currently managed by the state would continue to be managed primarily by Delaware's Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. Development and co-management of interpretive programs and comprehensive visitor experiences and services with the NPS would prove beneficial. Additionally, a partnership would provide enhanced opportunities for comprehensive management planning, interpretive planning, and coordinated site management that reflects these resources of national

significance. The incorporation of privately owned sites would offer a superior visitor experience that permits the fullest understanding of the resources and stories relating to the two themes.

NPS planning and research capabilities, as well as historic preservation, cultural resource management and interpretive and educational programming expertise, would offer superior opportunities for the full range of resources to be preserved and interpreted. Sites that are currently owned, and in some cases managed, by private entities would be critical parts of a cohesive national park experience and become more accessible to a wider array of audiences.

The study team determined that there is a need for NPS management to achieve the partnerships for resource protection and an enhanced visitor appreciation of the nationally significant resources, as well as the nationally important stories associated with the state of Delaware.

Evaluation Criteria Conclusion

The study team concludes that based on the factors cited above, and the extensive analyses conducted during the course of this special resource study, that the resources associated with the two themes of early settlement and Delaware's role in the establishment of the United States are nationally significant, suitable, and feasible for inclusion in the national park system. It further concludes that there is a demonstrated need for NPS co-management of these resources in partnership with others described in this report.

The study team also concludes that the resources of Fort Christina and Holy Trinity (Old Swedes') Church in Wilmington could stand alone as a potential unit of the national park system. The resources are both nationally significant, suitable for inclusion as the logical and primary locations for telling the largely untold story of

Swedish settlement in America, and feasible in terms of cost and other applicable factors. An NPS presence at these sites in partnership with others would provide a superior opportunity for interpretation of this singular aspect of American history whether as part of a larger cohesive unit celebrating both themes, or as a smaller, single-themed unit of the national park system.

