



APPENDICES

Study Legislation	103
Washington History Program Office Consultation Letter	105
Scholars Site Visit Participants	109
Selected Bibliography	110

Appendix A: Study Legislation

PUBLIC LAW 109–338—OCT. 12, 2006

120 STAT. 1857

TITLE VII—JOHN H. CHAFEE BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR REAUTHORIZATION

John H. Chafee
Blackstone River
Valley National
Heritage
Corridor
Reauthorization
Act of 2006.

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

16 USC 461 note.

This title may be cited as the “John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Reauthorization Act of 2006”.

SEC. 702. JOHN H. CHAFEE BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR.

16 USC 461 note.

(a) COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP.—Section 3(b) of Public Law 99–647 (16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended—

(1) by striking “nineteen members” and inserting “25 members”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “six” and inserting “6”; and

(B) by striking “Department of Environmental Management Directors from Rhode Island and Massachusetts” and inserting “the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs”;

(3) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking “four” each place it appears and inserting “5”; and

(B) by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(4) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking “two” each place it appears and inserting “3”; and

(B) by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(5) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) 1 representative of a nongovernmental organization from Massachusetts and 1 from Rhode Island, to be appointed by the Secretary, which have expertise in historic preservation, conservation, outdoor recreation, cultural conservation, traditional arts, community development, or tourism.”

(b) QUORUM.—Section 3(f)(1) of Public Law 99–647 (16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended by striking “Ten” and inserting “13”.

(c) UPDATE OF PLAN.—Section 6 of Public Law 99–647 (16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) UPDATE OF PLAN.—(1) Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall update the plan under subsection (a).

Deadline.

“(2) In updating the plan under paragraph (1), the Commission shall take into account the findings and recommendations included in the Blackstone Sustainability Study conducted by the National Park Service Conservation Study Institute.

“(3) The update shall include—

“(A) performance goals; and

“(B) an analysis of—

“(i) options for preserving, enhancing, and interpreting the resources of the Corridor;

“(ii) the partnerships that sustain those resources; and

“(iii) the funding program for the Corridor.

120 STAT. 1858

PUBLIC LAW 109-338—OCT. 12, 2006

“(4)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall approve or disapprove any changes to the plan proposed in the update in accordance with subsection (b).

“(B) Minor revisions to the plan shall not be subject to the approval of the Secretary.”.

(d) EXTENSION OF COMMISSION.—Public Law 99-647 (16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended by striking section 7 and inserting the following:

“SEC. 7. TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.

“The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Reauthorization Act of 2006.”.

(e) SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.—Section 8 of Public Law 99-647 (16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a special resource study of sites and associated landscape features within the boundaries of the Corridor that contribute to the understanding of the Corridor as the birthplace of the industrial revolution in the United States.

“(2) EVALUATION.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this subsection, the Secretary shall complete the study under paragraph (1) to evaluate the possibility of—

“(A) designating 1 or more site or landscape feature as a unit of the National Park System; and

“(B) coordinating and complementing actions by the Commission, local governments, and State and Federal agencies, in the preservation and interpretation of significant resources within the Corridor.

“(3) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate the Study with the Commission.

“(4) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the study under paragraph (1) is completed, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

“(A) the findings of the study; and

“(B) the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.”.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 10 of Public Law 99-647 (16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$650,000” and inserting “\$1,000,000”; and

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) DEVELOPMENT FUNDS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 8(c) not more than \$10,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2006 through 2016, to remain available until expended.

“(c) SPECIAL RESOURCE STUDY.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out section 8(d).”.

Deadline.

Appendix B: Washington History Program Office Consultation Letter



IN REPLY REFER TO:
H30(2201)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Memorandum

To: Associate Regional Director, Construction and Facility Management, Northeast Region

From: Associate Director, Cultural Resources *Just Snyder Matthews*

Subject: Evaluation of National Significance of "Blackstone Valley Special Resources Study, Draft Significance Statement"

This memorandum summarizes our review of the June 2, 2009, "Blackstone Valley Special Resource Study, Draft Significance Statement." Your message of June 2, 2009, requested that we evaluate the **national significance** of The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Historic Corridor.

Background

In 2008, Congress passed legislation requiring the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a Special Resource Study (SRS) to explore the potential for a permanent National Park Service (NPS) presence in the Blackstone River Valley. A possible result of the study includes Congressional action creating a new unit of the National Park System in the Blackstone River Valley. One of the criteria for inclusion in the national park system is that the area "must possess nationally significant natural, cultural, or recreational resources."

The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor was originally designated in 1986. In establishing the Corridor, Congress recognized both the Blackstone Valley's national importance as the birthplace of the American Industrial Revolution as well as the need to preserve and interpret its resources for the benefit of the American people. The 1986 legislation created a Commission with Federal, state, and local representatives from Massachusetts and Rhode Island which managed the Corridor. In 2006, this Commission was reauthorized for an additional five years.

The Blackstone River Valley possesses outstanding natural, cultural and historical resources. The forty-six mile river valley includes a river with a fall of approximately ten feet per mile, as well as over 20,000 historic structures. Beginning in the late 18th century, the area's natural resources, including the Blackstone River, were harnessed to provide the necessary power for industrialization. As the first area of the country to make widespread use of waterpower for

industrial use, and as home to hundreds of factories and mill towns, the region is considered the birthplace of American mechanical industrialization.

For over twenty years, the area has been jointly managed and interpreted by Federal, state, and local governments and partnership organizations. The Corridor's significance is underscored by the fact that the NPS has a permanent staff presence there.

The Northeast Regional Office (NERO) is handling preparation of this study. On June 2, 2009, NERO submitted the "Blackstone Valley Special Resource Study, Draft Significance Statement" and asked the National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Program staff to review this document and provide its professional opinion on the national significance of the properties outlined in the document.

Criteria for Evaluation of National Significance

The NHL Program staff reviewed a draft of the "Blackstone Valley Special Resource Study" and prepared this evaluation of the property's national significance. According to the directives of the *National Park Service Management Policies*, national significance for cultural resources will be evaluated by applying the National Historic Landmarks criteria contained in 36 CFR Part 65 (*Code of Federal Regulations*).

National Historic Landmarks Criteria

NHL Criteria 1 and 5

NHL Criteria 1 and 5 state that potential NHLs are evaluated for their national significance according to a number of criteria, including:

NHL Criterion 1: Properties that 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.

NHL Criterion 5: Properties that 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 historic or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life.

This historic area is highly important as an outstanding surviving example of an industrialized landscape that developed over a period of over 150 years. The Blackstone River Valley is also associated with events of national importance, specifically the earliest development of industrialization in the United States. The region includes not only Old Slater Mill, the first successful water-powered cotton-spinning mill in the United States, but also a unique collection of 19th century mill villages and their factories. Collectively, these properties illustrate the influence of Samuel Slater and the rise and evolution of the Rhode Island System of manufacture, a dynamic force in American industrial history from 1790 to 1950.

The Rhode Island System, distinguished by small-scale textile mills centered in detached mill villages and located near rural isolated waterpower sites, differed in important ways from other paths to industrialization. These alternative paths included: the diversified manufacturing center which was marked by small or medium sized family-owned and managed enterprises with specific specialties which characterized industrialization in Philadelphia and other cities; the one- or two-industry city, such as Lowell, which was marked by large-scale corporately owned, bureaucratically managed, fully mechanized companies; and industrial slavery which relied on slave labor and developed in the antebellum South.

Following his success with his first mill in Pawtucket, Samuel Slater and his brother, John Slater, founded Slatersville, the first planned industrial textile community in America. Slatersville's component parts and spatial organization, with housing, civic amenities, and commercial resources clustered around a factory and a power canal system, were duplicated throughout the Blackstone River Valley. Ultimately, the Rhode Island System spread across the nation, shaping the development of industrialization in areas far beyond the Blackstone River Valley. In fact, the Rhode Island System was far more typical of American industrial development than any other pattern of industrialization. Significantly, the region's textile industry spawned important spinoffs, particularly in textile machinery production, more general-use machine tools, and precision instruments. This diversification came to characterize other industrial areas in New England and the South during the later 19th century.

By the time the Boston Manufacturing Company and the Merrimack Manufacturing Company were firmly established in Lowell, Massachusetts during the late 1820s, more than 400 mill village communities, which had developed along the Rhode Island model, had been established in the United States. The Lowell system which required more power, more workers, and significantly more capitalization than any of the Blackstone River Valley textile operations became feasible only after two decades of industrialization in the Blackstone River Valley had demonstrated the potential of American textile manufacturing. The mill villages in the Blackstone River Valley not only set the necessary preconditions for the development of other well-known paths to industrialization, they also endured as a coherent and well-defined system until well into the 20th century.

Over the course of 150 years, the Blackstone River Valley also served as the model for mill villages across the nation, particularly those in New England states such as Vermont and Connecticut as well as those in Southern states such as North Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, and Virginia. Today, the mill villages in the Blackstone River Valley not only possess extremely high integrity, they also possess strong national significance as the model for mill villages across the nation.

One of the paramount forces in American history, industrialization has shaped nearly every aspect of American life since the early 19th century. This significant transformation first gained a permanent and important foothold in the Blackstone River Valley, and the region and its diverse resources remain one of the most significant areas in the nation associated with the emergence of industrialization.

Integrity

The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor retains sufficient integrity for NHL designation. Despite decades of deindustrialization, the industrial landscape of the Blackstone River Valley still exhibits a compelling mix of factories, workers' housing, public buildings, and water facilities set against an agrarian backdrop.

Productive industrial facilities and transportation systems, if successful, change over time both to employ new technology and to meet new needs. As an active industrial region for approximately 150 years, the Blackstone River Valley witnessed significant expansion and improvement during much of its history as an industrial area. The mill village communities that defined the Blackstone River Valley and that reflect the Rhode Island System do, however, survive to a remarkable degree in the villages of Slatersville, Rhode Island; Old Ashton, Rhode Island; Ashton, Rhode Island; Whitinsville, Massachusetts; and Hopedale, Massachusetts. The historic relationship between the region's waterways (the Blackstone River, its tributaries, and the Blackstone Canal) and its industrial sites (the factories, workers' housing, and public buildings) is also especially evident across the valley.

National Significance

Seven outstanding resources have been selected for a determination of national significance when considered against the criteria for National Historic Landmarks. These resources include: the Blackstone River and its tributaries; the Blackstone Canal National Register Historic Districts; Old Slater Mill National Historic Landmark District; and the mill villages as defined by the Slatersville National Register Historic District, Ashton National Register Historic District, Whitinsville National Register Historic District, and Hopedale National Register Historic District. These discontinuous properties were chosen because, of all the industrial areas in the Blackstone River Valley, they possess the greatest integrity and best illustrate both the complexity and breadth of the story of American industrialization.

The properties in question are currently privately owned with some properties owned by state and local governments. The National Park Service and the Heritage Corridor Commission have previously worked with many of these owners through a series of partnerships that assist local and state governments in preserving and interpreting the story of the Blackstone River Valley.

Summary

One National Historic Landmark, six National Register Historic Districts, and the Blackstone River and its tributaries within The John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor meet the National Historic Landmark criteria. This conclusion is based on: 1) the important association of the property with the development of industrialization and 2) the high degree of integrity that allows for the property's national significance to be conveyed.

Appendix C: Scholars Site Visit Participants

Panelists:

Alison K. Hoagland, Professor of History and Historic Preservation, Michigan Technological University

Gary Kulik, scholar of early American industrial history and currently Principal at Kulik Consulting, Strategic Planning for Non-Profits

Gabrielle M. Lanier, Associate Professor of History, James Madison University

Walter Licht, Chair and Walter H. Annenberg Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania

David Meyer, Professor of Sociology, Brown University

Jonathan Prude, Associate Professor of History, Emory University

Moderators:

Larry Lowenthal, Consulting Historian, Heritage Partners, Inc.

Susan Ferentinos, Public History Coordinator, Organization of American Historians

Participants:

Chuck Arning, Interpretive Park Ranger, John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley NHC

Ellen Carlson, Community Planner, National Park Service, Northeast Region

Joanna Doherty, Community Planner, John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley NHC

Richard Greenwood, Deputy Director, RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission

Duncan Hay, Historian, National Park Service, Northeast Region

Diane Keith, Landscape Architect, John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley NHC

Kevin Klyberg, Interpretive Park Ranger, John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley NHC

Lisa Kolakowsky Smith, Architectural Historian, National Park Service, Northeast Region

Terrence D. Moore, Chief of Planning and Compliance, National Park Service, Northeast Region

Sarah Peskin, Senior Resource Planner, National Park Service, Northeast Region

Edward Sanderson, Chair, John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley NHC Commission
and Executive Director of the RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission

Michael Steinitz, Director, Preservation Planning Division, Massachusetts Historical Commission

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www.rifarmways.org
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www.dem.ri.gov
- Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation – Data and Publications
www.riedc/data-and-publications
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www.preservation.ri.gov

Rhode Island Historical Society/ Museum of Work & Culture

www.rihs.org

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www.slatermill.org

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www.water.epa.gov/type/watersheds/named/heritage/blackstone.cfm

Waters Farm, Sutton, MA

www.watersfarm.com

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