



Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Special Resource Study

As directed by the United States Congress, as part of Public Law 113-291, the National Park Service is conducting a special resource study to help determine the suitability and feasibility of designating the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument as a unit of the national park system. The study will take place over the next two years. It will begin with gathering information about history of the prison ship martyrs and the design of the monument and will conclude with transmittal of the study findings to Congress.

The Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument, located within Fort Greene Park in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, is a memorial to more than 11,500 American prisoners of war who died in captivity aboard 16 British prison ships during the American Revolutionary War. As British prisoner camps became overcrowded during the war, the British began to hold prisoners captive on decommissioned maritime vessels in Wallabout Bay off the coast of Brooklyn. The prisoners were detained in deplorable conditions and many did not survive. Each morning, the British would dispose of the dead

in the Wallabout Bay where their remains would eventually wash upon the Brooklyn shores. The Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument stands as a marker to the location where those remains were finally laid to rest.

Designed by architect Stanford White, the monument consists of a freestanding 149-foot-tall Doric column, capped by a bronze lantern. The Doric column is capped by a large bronze decorative urn, created by sculptor Adolph Alexander Weinman. The monument is centered on a large plaza with a wide granite stairway leading down to the street below. Beneath the monument lies a crypt which holds the remains of the Prison Ship Martyrs. The monument was dedicated as part of a large ceremony in 1908. The monument is owned by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and sits within Fort Greene Park.

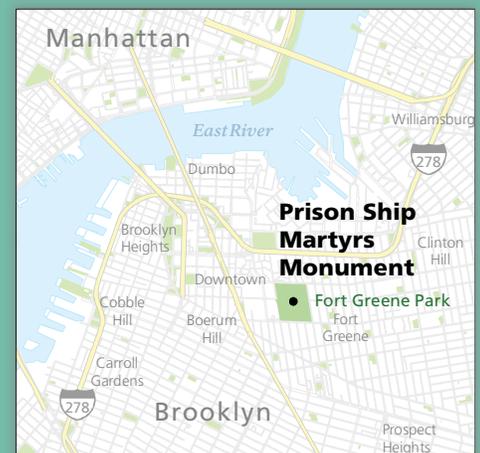
The study area will include the monument and its associated landscape, including the approach stairway, but will not include the remainder of Fort Greene Park.

We look forward to hearing from you!

The National Park Service would like your help to enhance our understanding of the story of the Prison Ship Martyrs, the history and design of the monument, current efforts underway to tell the story, and potential opportunities to improve public awareness. Please share your thoughts about the following questions at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/prisonship>.

1. What are the most interesting aspects of the Prison Ship Martyrs story to you?
2. How could the National Park Service enhance current efforts to commemorate and tell the story of the prisoners?
3. Who should we be talking to for more information about the design of the monument and how it has evolved since its dedication in 1908?

Comments received by March 31, 2017 will be most helpful in preparing the study. Thank you for taking the time to learn about and comment on this study effort.





What is a special resource study?

The National Park Service was created to conserve unimpaired outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational resources. The treasures in this system have been set aside by the American people to protect, preserve, and share our nation's greatest stories. Usually a new unit of the national park system is established by an act of Congress. Before passing such legislation, Congress requires reliable information about the quality of resources in the area under consideration and the potential for visitor enjoyment and efficient management. The National Park Service collects this information and reports its findings to Congress through special resource studies. This process ensures that only those candidate sites that are most deserving of designation are included within the national park system.

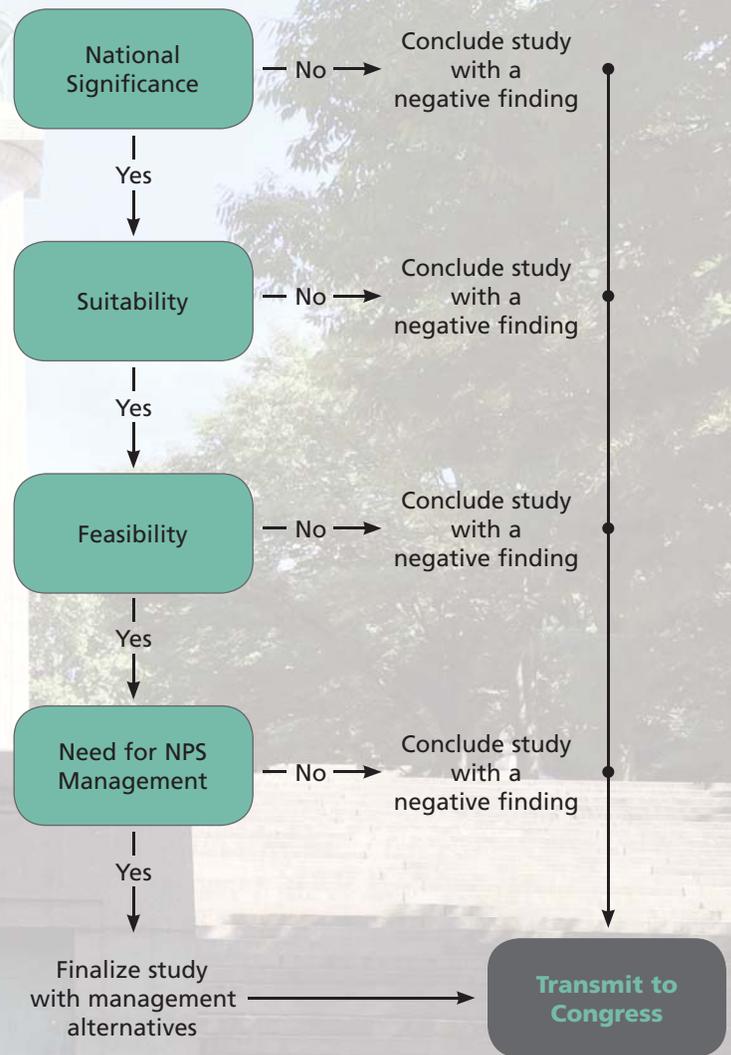
Special Resource Study Criteria

The 1998 National Parks Omnibus Management Act (54 U.S. Code 100507) established the process for identifying and authorizing studies of new national park units. Under the law an area must meet all of the following criteria to be recommended as an addition to the national park system:

- Contain nationally significant natural and/or cultural resources. National significance will be evaluated using the National Historic Landmark criteria which can be found at the following website: <https://www.nps.gov/NR/publications/bulletins/nhl/nhlpt4.htm>.
- Be a **suitable** addition to the national park system by representing a natural or cultural resource that is not already adequately represented in the national park system or is not comparably represented and protected for public enjoyment by another land-managing entity.
- Must be (1) of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure long-term protection of the resources and visitor enjoyment, and (2) capable of efficient administration by the NPS at a reasonable cost; important **feasibility** factors include landownership, acquisition costs, life cycle maintenance costs, access, threats to the resource, and staff or development requirements.
- Require direct **NPS management** that is clearly superior to other management approaches.

Special Resource Study Process

A National Park Service team has been assembled to prepare the Prison Ship Martyrs' Monument Special Resource Study. This team will evaluate the resources within the study area to determine if they meet the four study criteria listed above. If the area is found to meet all of the criteria, then the study team would develop a range of management alternatives for the sites. If the resources do not meet all four criteria, the study will conclude with a negative finding. Upon conclusion of the study process, the findings will be submitted to the Director of the National Park Service and the Secretary of the Interior, who in turn, will transmit the report and a recommendation to Congress. It would then be up to Congress to take action on legislation establishing a new unit of the national park system.



For More Information

For additional information or to submit your comments, visit our website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/prisonship>) or contact Amanda Jones at amanda_jones@nps.gov.