



Chapter Four | Consultation & Coordination

Consultation & Coordination

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Consultation and Coordination

This chapter describes the required consultation procedures and public meetings and comments related to the preparation of the Great Falls Historic District Special Resource Study.

Notice of Intent

A notice of intent to conduct a Special Resource Study/Environmental Impact Statement was published in the Federal Register on September 15, 2003.

Public Scoping Meeting

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a public scoping meeting was held on April 28, 2004 at the Paterson Museum. Approximately 55 people attended from Paterson and other communities.

The study team introduced the project, reviewed the Special Resource Study and NEPA process, and gave a brief overview of the administrative history of the Great Falls National Historic Landmark. The team described the opportunities for the public to participate in the planning process including sending email comments and identification of important resources, the availability of a study web site, and by commenting on the study report.

Letters from Congressman Bill Pascrell and Senator Frank Lautenberg supporting designation of the Great Falls Historic District were presented and read by congressional staff representatives. The meeting was then opened up to comments and questions from the audience, and there was discussion of the “vision” that people had for the District. All but one of the attendees who made comments favored designation of Great Falls Historic District as a unit of the national park system.

Additional Meetings

Members of the study team met periodically with representatives of the City of Paterson, and conducted a pre-study briefing for the City’s Mayor, the Honorable Jose “Joey” Torres. Periodic meetings were also held with staff representatives of Senator Frank Lautenberg, former Senator Jon Corzine and Congressman Bill Pascrell. A special briefing was conducted for Congressman Pascrell by the study team in Washington on May 5, 2005. NPS Director Fran Mainella and other NPS representatives briefed Senator Lautenberg and Congressman Pascrell on November 3, 2005.

Meetings were also conducted during the study with representatives of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and various Federal, state and local agency representatives to assess current grant making and planning activities of those agencies as they affected the Great Falls Historic District and the State’s plans for a new park at the Great Falls. Various ad hoc contacts with members of the public occurred during the course of the study.

Written Communications

A number of individuals, organizations and elected officials indicated their interest in the study and in the designation of the Great Falls Historic District as a unit of the national park system through correspondence.

Congressional correspondence advocating unit designation was received at various times during the study from Senator Frank Lautenberg, Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman Bill Pascrell, Congressmen James Saxton and Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen. A letter dated July 12, 2006 was also received from the entire New Jersey congressional delegation advocating unit designation.

Former New Jersey Commissioner of Environmental Protection, Bradley Campbell wrote on November 9, 2005 expressing the State's support for unit designation for the Great Falls Historic District and pointed out the advantages of a partnership between the State and the NPS.

Governor Jon Corzine reiterated the state's support in his letter of September, 11, 2006.

Paterson Mayor Jose Torres expressed his support for unit designation in a letter dated August 7, 2006.

A number of distinguished authors, scholars, and individuals familiar with Paterson's history sent written comments attesting to the national significance of the Great Falls, its industrial history, and its relationships to Alexander Hamilton. In some of these letters, the authors provided their views on the suitability and feasibility of unit designation. All of the letters

are available for inspection at the offices of the National Park Service in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They are summarized below by the content of information provided.

National significance of the Great Falls and connection to Alexander Hamilton:

- David P. Billington, Professor of Engineering, Princeton University;
- Richard Brookhiser, author and Alexander Hamilton biographer;
- Ron Chernow, author and Alexander Hamilton biographer;
- Russell I. Fries, Skillman, New Jersey;
- Robert B. Gordon, Professor of Geophysics and Mechanical Engineering, Yale University;
- Jerold S. Kayden, Co-chair, Department of Urban Planning and Design, Harvard University;
- Lewis E. Lehrman, Co-chairman, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History;
- William E. Simon, Jr., Co-chairman, William E. Simon and Sons; and
- Daniel Walkowitz, Professor of History and Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University.

Comparability of the Great Falls Historic District to other units of the national park system (comparison with resources protected by others was not addressed):

- Eric DeLony, former Chief of the Historic American Engineering Record, Department of the Interior;
- Alison K. Hoagland, Associate Professor of History and Historic

Preservation, Michigan Technological University and Chair, Advisory Commission of the Keweenaw National Historical Park;

- Steven Lubar, Director, John Nicholas Brown Center, Brown University;
- John R. Mullin, Dean of the Graduate School, university of Massachusetts, Amhearst;
- Richard Sylla, Henry Kaufman Professor of the History of Financial Institutions and Markets and Professor of Economics, The Leonard N. School of Business, New York University;
- Robert M. Vogel, former Curator of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, the Smithsonian Institution; and
- Robert E. Wright, Clinical Associate Professor, The Leonard N. Stern School of Business, New York University.

Latham and Watkins Submission:

The law firm of Latham and Watkins LLP of Washington, D.C. submitted a 38-page document on behalf of the New Jersey Community Development Corporation to the Secretary of the Interior setting forth its reasoning for the national significance of the Great Falls Historic District, and its suitability and feasibility for designation as a unit of the national park system, as well as the need for NPS management of the site. The document contains many quotes from the letters cited above in reinforcing its advocacy for designation.

It should be noted that some of the resources mentioned in the document are not located within the study area of this Special Resource Study. A copy of the document is available for public inspection at the NPS offices in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Other Correspondence:

The study team received letters from an interested citizen, Mr. Nick Sunday, who shared his views on a number of Paterson-related topics.

A letter was received from Mohamed El Filali, Outreach Director of the Islamic Center of Passaic County, advocating creation of a unit of the national park system in Paterson, as especially important to the Islamic Community.

Consultation

Required Consultation with Public Agencies Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and National Park Service policy require consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and interested persons before undertaking an action on historic properties. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires all federal agencies to consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that any action authorized, funded or carried out by a federal agency does not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or critical habitat.

Consultation was conducted through letters to the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office and the New Jersey Field Office of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. NPS received a written response from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Consultation with Native American Tribes was conducted through letters to the federally recognized Native American tribes—the Stockbridge-Munsee Community of Wisconsin, the Delaware Nation, and the Delaware Tribe of Indians. The letters requested that these entities identify any issues regarding the study, their interest in future participation, resource identification and potential for collaborative action. A letter of response and an e-mail were received from the Delaware Tribe of Indians.

These documents appear in Appendix Two.

Great Falls Historic District Special Resource Study Team and Advisors

Study Team

Patricia Iolavera, Community Planner, Former Study Project Manager
William Bolger, Historian, Northeast Region
William Brookover, Historical Architect, Northeast Region
Allison Crnic, Community Planner, Northeast Region
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Jed Levin, Industrial Archeologist, Northeast Region
Alisa McCann, Architectural Historian, Northeast Region
Terrence D. Moore, Chief of Park Planning and Special Studies
Northeast Region
Peter Samuel, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Northeast Region

National Park Service Advisors

Mary A. Bomar, Former Regional Director, Northeast Region
Robert W. McIntosh, Associate Regional Director for Planning,
Construction and Facilities Management, Northeast Region
Keith Everett, Associate Regional Director, Resource Stewardship
and Science, Northeast Region
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