

Committee on Natural Resources

Rob Bishop, Chairman
Mark-Up Memorandum

July 24, 2017

To: All Committee on Natural Resources Members

From: Majority Committee Staff – Will Layden
Subcommittee on Federal Lands (x 6-7736)

Mark-up: **H.R. 965 (Rep. Ann Kuster)**, To redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as the "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park", and for other purposes.
July 25 & 26, 2017; 1324 Longworth HOB.

H.R. 965 (Rep. Ann Kuster), “Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park Redesignation Act”

Summary of the Bill

H.R. 965, introduced by Representative Anne Kuster (D-NH-02), redesignates the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in New Hampshire, as the "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park."

Cosponsors

Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH-01)

Background

The Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site is a 190.6-acre historic site in Sullivan County, New Hampshire. The site encompasses the summer home and studio of renowned American sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens, whose annual presence helped spawn the Cornish Artist Colony in nearby Cornish, New Hampshire. This Colony, which was comprised of painters, sculptors, and musicians, helped drive the American Renaissance in the years following the Civil War.¹

The main house and surrounding terraced gardens were initially designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1962, which was converted to a National Historic Site in 1964 when the grounds were donated to the National Park Service. Subsequently, the National Park Service acquired the adjacent Saint-Gaudens Farm, and the Site boundary was expanded in 2000. In 2010, the National Park Service further expanded the property by acquiring the adjacent Blow-Me-Down-Farm, the social hub of the Cornish Artist Colony. All told, the current property contains 21 buildings, a variety of contributing structures and sculptures, and two hiking trails.²

¹ "History & Culture." National Parks Service. February 26, 2015. Accessed July 21, 2017. <https://www.nps.gov/saga/learn/historyculture/index.htm>.

² "Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site." National Historic Register, National Parks Service. October 2, 2013. Accessed July 21, 2017. <https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/pdfs/13000802.pdf>

H.R. 965 redesignates the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park. The titles given to different areas managed by the National Park Service vary widely, but Congress has generally attempted to give similar titles to areas that contain certain common features. National Historical Parks are commonly areas of greater physical extent and complexity than National Historic Sites, which may only contain a single building. Redesignation of the Site does not affect the laws or policies that govern the area, and the major effect of the legislation is changing signage, maps, and handouts.

In the 114th Congress, similar legislation was introduced by Representative Frank Guinta (R-NH-01), but attempted to rename the Site as the “Saint-Gaudens National Historic Park for the Arts.” In June 2016, National Park Service testified before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, recommending that the park be designated as a Historic Park, rather than create a wholly new designation. The National Parks Service witness noted that with the addition of Blow-Me-Down Farm, the site was better equipped to tell the complex story required of a National Historic Park.³ Currently, identical legislation to H.R. 965 has been introduced in the Senate as S. 312 (Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-NH).

Major Provisions

The major provision of this bill redesignates the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park.

Cost

A Congressional Budget Office cost estimate has not yet been completed for this bill.

Administration Position

The Administration position is unknown at this time.

Anticipated Amendments

We anticipate one amendment from Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT-01), striking the findings section and making necessary technical corrections.

Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)

Showing Current Law as Amended by HR 965

[new text highlighted in yellow; text to be deleted bracketed and highlighted in blue]

³ “Statement of Dr. Stephanie Toothman, National Parks Service before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks.” Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. June 15, 2016. Accessed July 21, 2017. https://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/files/serve?File_id=E7CDDFF68-8C7E-46D1-A5BF-9C09E2E09CB9

Public Law 88-543 (54 U.S.C. 320101 note)

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

SECTION 1. That, in order preserve in public ownership historically significant properties associated with the life and cultural achievements of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the Secretary of the Interior may acquire, by donation from the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, a corporation, the sites and structures comprising the Saint-Gaudens Memorial situated at Cornish, New Hampshire, and by donation or purchase with donated funds not to exceed three acres of adjacent lands which the Secretary of the Interior deems necessary for the purposes of this Act, together with any works of art, furnishings, reproductions, and other properties within the structures and on the memorial grounds.

SEC. 2. (a) In accordance with the Act entitled "An Act to create a National Park Trust Fund Board, and for other purposes", approved July 10, 1935 (49 Stat. 477), as amended, the National Park Trust Fund Board may accept from the Saint-Gaudens Memorial the amount of \$100,000 and such additional amounts as the corporation may tender from time to time from the endowment funds under its control, which funds, when accepted, shall be utilized only for the purposes of the [historic site] Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park established pursuant to this Act.

(b) Nothing in this Act shall limit the authority of the Secretary of the Interior under other provisions of law to accept donations of property in the name of the United States.

SEC. 3. When the sites, structures, and other properties authorized for acquisition under the first section of this Act and endowment funds in the amount of \$100,000 have been transferred to the United States, the Secretary of the Interior shall establish the Saint-Gaudens [National Historic Site] National Historical Park by publication of notice thereof in the Federal Register. Following such establishment the Secretary may acquire by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange 279 acres of lands and buildings, or interests therein which he deems necessary for addition to the national historical site and which, when acquired, shall become a part of the site.

SEC. 4. (a) The Secretary of the Interior shall administer, protect, develop, and maintain the Saint-Gaudens [National Historic Site] National Historical Park subject to the provisions of this Act and in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented, and the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, and for other purposes", approved August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666).

(b) In order that the Saint-Gaudens [National Historic Site] National Historical Park may achieve more effectively its purpose as a living memorial, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to cooperate with the Saint-Gaudens Memorial, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and other organizations and groups in the presentation of art expositions and festivals and other appropriate events that are traditional to the site.

SEC. 5. The Saint-Gaudens Memorial having by its active interest preserved for posterity this important site, its structures, objects, and cultural values, the executive committee thereof shall, upon establishment of the Saint-Gaudens [National Historic Site] National Historical Park, serve in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of the Interior in matters relating to its preservation, development, and use.

SEC. 6. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums, but not more than \$10,632,000 for development, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act. For acquisition of lands or interests therein, there is authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$2,000,000.