

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, FOR THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS, CONCERNING H.R. 820, TO ESTABLISH THE NEW PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

April 21, 2021

Chairman Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 820, to establish the New Philadelphia National Historical Park in the State of Illinois as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department recognizes the important contribution to America's story that is represented by the site known as New Philadelphia – the first town planned and legally registered by a free African American before the Civil War. Congress authorized a special resource study of the archeological site and surrounding land of the New Philadelphia Townsite as part of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2015 (P.L. 113-291), enacted on December 19, 2014. The study, which is in progress, will consider whether the site meets the Congressionally established criteria for inclusion in the National Park System, including national significance, suitability, feasibility, and the need for NPS Management.

H.R. 820 would establish the New Philadelphia site as a unit of the National Park System to coordinate the preservation, protection, and interpretation efforts there by different entities and to coordinate appropriate management options. The bill would establish a boundary for the park, authorize acquisition of land and structures for the park, provide for preservation assistance to public and non-public entities within the boundaries of the park and at sites in close proximity to the park, and require a management plan to be completed within three years after funds are made available for that purpose.

Originally established in 1836 by Frank McWorter, New Philadelphia was the first town planned and legally registered by a free African American before the Civil War. McWorter, once an enslaved man, bought his freedom and the freedom of 15 family members by mining for crude niter in Kentucky caves and processing the mined material into saltpeter, by hiring his time to other settlers, and by selling lots in New Philadelphia, the town he founded. The rural community situated near the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers flourished at first, but later fell in decline when the railroad bypassed the community in 1869; it was eventually dissolved in 1885. The New Philadelphia Historic District consists of an archeological site within the 40-acre original townsite. The New Philadelphia site was designated by the Secretary of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark on January 16, 2009.

Several partner organizations and individuals have been working together for years to protect and interpret the New Philadelphia site and conduct archeological and historical research. Most active among them are several nonprofit organizations including the New Philadelphia Association, the Archaeological Conservancy, the Philadelphia Land Trust, and the faculty and students from the Universities of Illinois and Maryland. They manage a website and social

media, an informational kiosk, and an “augmented reality” cell tour of the history of the site. Local landowner Larry Armstead collected three 1800s-era cabins and, in the 1990s, reconstructed them on foundations that were original to New Philadelphia. The New Philadelphia Association also maintains a meeting space in the Burdick structure built 1941, well after the town dissolved.

If the Committee decides to act on this legislation, we would like to work with you on amendments and a legislative map.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this statement for the record.

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS, CONCERNING H.R. 920, TO AMEND THE ACT ENTITLED “ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN THE STATE OF KANSAS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES” TO PROVIDE FOR INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL RELATED SITES IN THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

APRIL 21, 2021

Chairman Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's (Department) views on H.R. 920, a bill to amend the Act entitled “Act to provide for the establishment of the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in the State of Kansas, and for other purposes” to provide for inclusion of additional related sites in the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department supports efforts to broaden public understanding of the events that led to the 1954 landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education (Brown)*. The Court’s finding that racially segregated schools were unconstitutional was unquestionably a pivotal event in our nation’s civil rights struggle.

H.R. 920 would expand the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka, Kansas by authorizing the addition of two school sites located in South Carolina to the park unit upon their acquisition by the National Park Service (NPS). It would also designate sites in Delaware, the District of Columbia, and Virginia as affiliated areas of the National Park System. The sites included in H.R. 920 are all associated with the four additional court cases that were consolidated into the *Brown v. Board of Education* U.S. Supreme Court case. The affiliated areas would not be managed by the NPS, but they would be required to be managed in accordance with any law generally applicable to units of the National Park System. The affiliated areas would be eligible for NPS technical and financial assistance. The NPS would be required to prepare general management plans for the proposed sites in South Carolina—Summerton High School and Scott’s Branch High School in Clarendon County—and for the proposed affiliated areas.

Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site was established in Topeka, Kansas, on October 26, 1992, by Public Law 102-525. The park opened to the public in 2004 on the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling. The park’s Monroe Elementary School and Sumner Elementary School sites in Topeka, were designated National Historic Landmarks in 1987. This national historic site tells the story of all five of the U.S. Supreme Court lawsuits with a special emphasis on the one brought on behalf of Linda Brown, an African American child who was denied the right to go to a public school near her home because it was for white students only. As the lawsuit that was the lead name for the five cases that were combined in the case before the U.S. Supreme Court, the *Brown* case became the most well-known of these cases.

However, the four other cases, and the sites associated with those cases, also tell compelling stories about the struggle to end school segregation:

- Summerton High School in South Carolina was an all-white school built in 1936. In 1947, Levi Pearson, a black landowner, petitioned the local school board to provide school bus transportation for his children, detailing the glaring differences in expenditures, buildings, and services available for white and black students. That petition led to a series of court cases including the one brought by plaintiffs in *Briggs v. Elliott*, which was included in the *Brown v. Board* decision in 1954. Of the five schools mentioned in Pearson's petition, Summerton High School is the only one still standing. It has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its national significance and is used as administrative offices for Clarendon School District 1.
- Robert Russa Moton School, the all-black school in Farmville, Virginia, was the location of a student-led strike in 1951 that led to *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*, a case that became part of *Brown v. Board of Education*. The site is designated a National Historic Landmark in recognition of its national significance and is now the Robert Russa Moton Museum, governed by the Moton Museum, Inc. and affiliated with Longwood University.
- Howard High School in Wilmington, Delaware, was the first high school for African Americans in the state of Delaware. Parents of students bused to Howard included the plaintiffs in *Belton v. Gebhart*, who sued to allow admittance to the closer all-white Claymont High School. Howard High School served the entire state of Delaware. The site is designated a National Historic Landmark in recognition of its national significance. Now the Howard High School of Technology, it is an active school administered by the New Castle County Vocational-Technical School District. The all-white Claymont High School, which denied plaintiffs admission, is now the Claymont Community Center, administered by the Brandywine Community Resource Council, Inc. The Hockessin School #107C (Hockessin Colored School) was the all-black school in Hockessin, Delaware that one of the plaintiffs in *Belton v. Gebhart* was required to attend with no public transportation provided. It is now utilized by Friends of Hockessin Colored School #107, Inc. as a community facility.
- John Philip Sousa Junior High School was built in 1950 in the Fort Dupont neighborhood in the District of Columbia as an all-white school. When 12 African American students were denied admission, the landmark 1954 U.S. Supreme Court *Bolling v. Sharpe* case was brought. The case was complex because the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause applies only to the states. This case held that school segregation was unconstitutional under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution and was noted in the *Brown v. Board* decision. The site is designated a National Historic Landmark in recognition of its national significance. John Philip Sousa Junior High School, now John Philip Sousa Middle School, is owned by the District of Columbia and administered by the District of Columbia Public Schools.

We also recommend redesignating Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site as Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park, to reflect the park's larger geographic scope. We would be happy to work with the sponsor and the Committee on amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this statement for the record.

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, FOR THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS, CONCERNING H.R. 2497, TO ESTABLISH THE AMACHE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE IN THE STATE OF COLORADO AS A UNIT OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

April 21, 2021

Chairman Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide the Department of the Interior's (Department) views on H.R. 2497, to establish the Amache National Historic Site in the State of Colorado as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Department recognizes the important contribution to America's story that is represented by the site known as Amache, where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. Congress authorized the Amache Special Resource Study as part of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (P.L. 116-9), enacted on March 12, 2019. The NPS initiated civic engagement for the study in early 2020 and continues to work with the public and key stakeholders to gather information. In May, the bureau will host three virtual public meetings. Each meeting will provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions and provide comments on the study. After reviewing the comments, the NPS will draft its assessment of whether the site meets the congressionally established criteria for inclusion in the National Park System, and the Department will transmit the study and recommendations to Congress.

H.R. 2497 would establish the Amache National Historic Site as a unit of the National Park System when the Secretary of the Interior acquires sufficient land within the boundary of the site to constitute a manageable unit. The boundaries of the unit would be determined by a map that would be developed after enactment of the bill. The NPS would be required to develop a management plan for the site that does not interfere with existing use of existing facilities at the site. The bill would also allow for the establishment of administrative, visitor service, and curatorial facilities outside the boundaries of the site and for entering into agreements with other public and private entities to establish those facilities and for other purposes.

Originally known as the Granada Relocation Center, Amache was one of ten incarceration sites established by the War Relocation Authority during World War II to forcibly remove, illegally detain, and incarcerate U.S. citizens and legal residents of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast of the United States under the terms of Executive Order 9066. Amache was constructed on approximately 10,000 acres of land and held about 10,000 people of Japanese descent between 1942 and 1945. It is located approximately one mile from the Town of Granada in southeastern Colorado. Amache was designated by the Secretary of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark on February 10, 2006.

The Amache Preservation Society currently maintains the physical site, where visitors can observe a historic cemetery, a monument, concrete building foundations, a road network, and other elements of the historic landscape that remain intact. Recent efforts to preserve Amache

have led to the restoration of the original water tower, the reconstruction of a guard tower and residential barracks, and the current rehabilitation of a historic recreation hall. The Town of Granada owns the site and the NPS has provided technical and financial assistance through the Heritage Partnerships Program, the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program, and through Bent's Old Fort and Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Sites.

If the Committee decides to act on this legislation, we would like to work with you on amendments and a legislative map.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this statement for the record.

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BEFORE THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS, CONCERNING H.R. 2626, A BILL TO REDESIGNATE THE PULLMAN NATIONAL MONUMENT IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AS THE PULLMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

APRIL 21, 2021

Chairman Neguse, Ranking Member Fulcher, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present the Department of the Interior's views on H.R. 2626, a bill to redesignate the Pullman National Monument in the State of Illinois as the Pullman National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

The Department supports H.R. 2626 with amendments described later in this statement. We believe that the designation of “national historical park” is an appropriate designation for this unit of the National Park System.

H.R. 2626 would redesignate Pullman National Monument in Chicago, Illinois, as Pullman National Historical Park as well as provide a statutory basis for this unit. In the National Park Service’s (NPS) standard nomenclature, the term “national historical park” denotes a unit containing multiple historic resources, as is the case with the Pullman National Monument. The bill also provides for some specific management and cooperative agreement authorities that would be new to the unit.

Pullman National Monument was established in 2015 by Presidential Proclamation 9233 to preserve and interpret resources that are part of the Pullman Historic District. These resources reflect the industrial and labor history associated with the Pullman Company, including the rise and role of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the history of urban planning and design, of which the planned company town of Pullman is a nationally significant example.

The Pullman Historic District typifies many of the economic, social, and design currents running through American life in the late 19th and early 20th century. Industrialist George Mortimer Pullman built the model town to house workers at his luxury rail car factories. Although his goal was to cure the social ills of the day, the tight control he exercised over his workers helped spark one of the nation’s most widespread and consequential labor strikes. The remaining structures of the Pullman Palace Car Company, workers’ housing, and community buildings that make up the Pullman Historic District are a testament to the evolution of American industry, the rise of unions and the labor movement, the lasting strength of urban design, and the remarkable journey of the Pullman porters toward the civil rights movement of the 20th century.

The boundaries of Pullman National Monument, which encompass approximately 203 acres, include about two-thirds of the Pullman Historic District. Currently, the NPS owns and manages only the historic Administration Clock Tower Building, which served as the hub of the former Pullman factory. Within the monument boundary is the Pullman State Historic Site, owned and

operated by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, which includes the grounds around the Administration Clock Tower Building, the North Factory Wing, the Rear Erecting Shop, and the four-story Hotel Florence. Other governmental and private organizations also contribute to the preservation and interpretation of the Pullman neighborhood's history. The NPS coordinates closely with these entities to ensure that the history of this area is preserved and made available to the public.

While the Department supports the redesignation of the Pullman National Monument as a national historical park, we recommend that H.R. 2626 be amended to reflect work already underway relating to the National Monument pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 9233. We also recommend that the language for cooperative agreements be revised to conform with the usual language used in legislation for units of the National Park System. We would be happy to work with the sponsor and the Committee on proposed amendment language.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this statement for the record.