

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2344

To establish the Lower East Side Tenement Museum National Historic Site,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 1995

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself and Ms. MOLINARI) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To establish the Lower East Side Tenement Museum
National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Lower East Side Tene-
5 ment Museum National Historic Site Act of 1995”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) the Lower East Side Tenement Museum at
9 97 Orchard Street is an outstanding survivor of the
10 vast number of humble buildings that housed immi-

1 grants to New York City during the greatest wave
2 of immigration in American history;

3 (2) the Museum is well suited to represent a
4 profound social movement involving great numbers
5 of unexceptional but courageous people;

6 (3) no single identifiable neighborhood in the
7 United States absorbed a comparable number of im-
8 migrants;

9 (4) the Lower East Side Tenement Museum is
10 dedicated to interpreting immigrant life on the
11 Lower East Side and its importance to United
12 States history, within a neighborhood long associ-
13 ated with the immigrant experience in America; and

14 (5) the National Park Service found the Lower
15 East Side Tenement Museum to be nationally sig-
16 nificant, suitable, and feasible for inclusion in the
17 National Park System.

18 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

19 (1) to ensure the preservation, maintenance,
20 and interpretation of this site and to interpret in the
21 site and in the surrounding neighborhood, the
22 themes of early tenement life, the housing reform
23 movement, and tenement architecture in the United
24 States;

1 (2) to ensure the continuation of the Museum
2 at this site, the preservation of which is necessary
3 for the continued interpretation of the nationally sig-
4 nificant immigrant phenomenon associated with the
5 New York City's Lower East Side, and its role in
6 the history of immigration to the United States; and

7 (3) to enhance the interpretation of the Castle
8 Clinton National Historic Monument and Ellis Is-
9 land National Historic Monument through coopera-
10 tion with the Museum.

11 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

12 As used in this Act:

13 (1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term “historic site”
14 means the Lower East Side Tenement Museum des-
15 ignated as a national historic site by section 4.

16 (2) MUSEUM.—The term “Museum” means the
17 Lower East Side Tenement Museum at 97 Orchard
18 Street, New York City, in the State of New York,
19 and related facilities owned or operated by the Mu-
20 seum.

21 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
22 the Secretary of the Interior.

23 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF HISTORIC SITE.**

24 To further the purposes of this Act and the Act enti-
25 tled “An Act to provide for the preservation of historic

1 American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of na-
2 tional significance, and for other purposes”, approved Au-
3 gust 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.), the Lower East
4 Side Tenement Museum at 97 Orchard Street, in the city
5 of New York, State of New York, is designated as a na-
6 tional historic site.

7 **SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OR COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may—

9 (1) acquire the historic site with donated or ap-
10 propriated funds; or

11 (2) enter into a cooperative agreement with the
12 Lower East Side Tenement Museum to carry out
13 this Act.

14 (b) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The
15 agreement may include provisions by which the Secretary
16 will provide—

17 (1) technical assistance to mark, restore, inter-
18 pret, operate, and maintain the historic site; and

19 (2) financial assistance to the Museum to ac-
20 quire ownership of and to maintain the historic site,
21 or to mark, interpret, and restore the historic site,
22 including the making of preservation-related capital
23 improvements and repairs.

24 (c) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—The agreement may
25 also contain provisions that—

1 (1) permit the Secretary, acting through the
2 National Park Service, to have a right of access at
3 all reasonable times to all public portions of the
4 property covered by the agreement for the purpose
5 of conducting visitors through the properties and in-
6 terpreting the portions to the public; and

7 (2) prohibit changes or alterations in the prop-
8 erties except by mutual agreement between the Sec-
9 retary and the other parties to the agreement.

10 **SEC. 6. LAND ACQUISITION.**

11 The Secretary, through the use of appropriated funds
12 or funds donated for such purpose, may assist the Mu-
13 seum in acquiring real properties that the Museum occu-
14 pies or uses.

15 **SEC. 7. APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
17 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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