

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1408

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 7, 1997

Mr. D'AMATO (for himself and Mr. MOYNIHAN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Nat-
ural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Lower East Side Tenement 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 National Historic Site Act of 1997”.

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

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1)(A) immigration, and the resulting diversity
9 of cultural influences, is a key factor in defining the
10 identity of the United States; and

1 (B) many United States citizens trace their an-
2 cestry to persons born in nations other than the
3 United States;

4 (2) the latter part of the 19th century and the
5 early part of the 20th century marked a period in
6 which the volume of immigrants coming to the Unit-
7 ed States far exceeded that of any time prior to or
8 since that period;

9 (3) no single identifiable neighborhood in the
10 United States absorbed a comparable number of im-
11 migrants than the Lower East Side neighborhood of
12 Manhattan in New York City;

13 (4) the Lower East Side Tenement at 97 Or-
14 chard Street in New York City is an outstanding
15 survivor of the vast number of humble buildings that
16 housed immigrants to New York City during the
17 greatest wave of immigration in American history;

18 (5) the Lower East Side Tenement is owned
19 and operated as a museum by the Lower East Side
20 Tenement Museum;

21 (6) the Lower East Side Tenement Museum is
22 dedicated to interpreting immigrant life within a
23 neighborhood long associated with the immigrant ex-
24 perience in the United States, New York City's

1 Lower East Side, and its importance to United
2 States history; and

3 (7)(A) the Director of the National Park Serv-
4 ice found the Lower East Side Tenement at 97 Or-
5 chard Street to be nationally significant; and

6 (B) the Secretary of the Interior declared the
7 Lower East Side Tenement a National Historic
8 Landmark on April 19, 1994; and

9 (C) the Director of the National Park Service,
10 through a special resource study, found the Lower
11 East Side Tenement suitable and feasible for inclu-
12 sion in the National Park System.

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

14 (1) to ensure the preservation, maintenance,
15 and interpretation of this site and to interpret at the
16 site the themes of immigration, tenement life in the
17 latter half of the 19th century and the first half of
18 the 20th century, the housing reform movement, and
19 tenement architecture in the United States;

20 (2) to ensure continued interpretation of the
21 nationally significant immigrant phenomenon associ-
22 ated with New York City's Lower East Side and the
23 Lower East Side's role in the history of immigration
24 to the United States; and

1 (3) to enhance the interpretation of the Castle
2 Clinton, Ellis Island, and Statue of Liberty National
3 Monuments.

4 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

5 As used in this Act:

6 (1) HISTORIC SITE.—The term “historic site”
7 means the Lower East Side Tenement found at 97
8 Orchard Street on Manhattan Island in City of New
9 York, State of New York, and designated as a na-
10 tional historic site by section 4.

11 (2) MUSEUM.—The term “Museum” means the
12 Lower East Side Tenement Museum, a nonprofit or-
13 ganization established in City of New York, State of
14 New York, which owns and operates the tenement
15 building at 97 Orchard Street and manages other
16 properties in the vicinity of 97 Orchard Street as ad-
17 ministrative and program support facilities for 97
18 Orchard Street.

19 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of the Interior.

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

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—To further the purposes of this
23 Act and the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the preser-
24 vation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and
25 antiquities of national significance, and for other pur-

1 poses”, approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et
2 seq.), the Lower East Side Tenement at 97 Orchard
3 Street, in the City of New York, State of New York, is
4 designated a national historic site.

5 (b) COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL PARK SYS-
6 TEM.—

7 (1) AFFILIATED SITE.—The historic site shall
8 be an affiliated site of the National Park System.

9 (2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary, in con-
10 sultation with the Museum, shall coordinate the op-
11 eration and interpretation of the historic site with
12 the Statue of Liberty National Monument, Ellis Is-
13 land National Monument, and Castle Clinton Na-
14 tional Monument. The historic site’s story and inter-
15 pretation of the immigrant experience in the United
16 States is directly related to the themes and purposes
17 of these National Monuments.

18 (c) OWNERSHIP.—The historic site shall continue to
19 be owned, operated, and managed by the Museum.

20 **SEC. 5. MANAGEMENT OF THE SITE.**

21 (a) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The Secretary may
22 enter into a cooperative agreement with the Museum to
23 ensure the marking, interpretation, and preservation of
24 the national historic site designated by section 4(a).

1 (b) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The
2 Secretary may provide technical and financial assistance
3 to the Museum to mark, interpret, and preserve the his-
4 toric site, including making preservation-related capital
5 improvements and repairs.

6 (c) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
8 tion with the Museum, shall develop a general man-
9 agement plan for the historic site that defines the
10 role and responsibility of the Secretary with regard
11 to the interpretation and the preservation of the his-
12 toric site.

13 (2) INTEGRATION WITH NATIONAL MONU-
14 MENTS.—The plan shall outline how interpretation
15 and programming for the historic site shall be inte-
16 grated and coordinated with the Statue of Liberty
17 National Monument, Ellis Island National Monu-
18 ment, and Castle Clinton National Monument to en-
19 hance the story of the historic site and these Na-
20 tional Monuments.

21 (3) COMPLETION.—The plan shall be completed
22 not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
23 of this Act.

24 (d) LIMITED ROLE OF SECRETARY.—Nothing in this
25 Act authorizes the Secretary to acquire the property at

1 97 Orchard Street or to assume overall financial respon-
2 sibility for the operation, maintenance, or management of
3 the historic site.

4 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
6 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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