

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1638

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the French Colonial Heritage Area in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 6, 2001

Mr. BOND introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the French Colonial Heritage Area in the State of Missouri as a unit of the National Park System, 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 “French Colonial Herit-  
5       age Area Study Act of 2001”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds that—

1           (1) the French Colonial Heritage Area is of  
2 great historical significance as the home of—

3           (A) 2 of the 5 poteaux-en-terre (post in the  
4 ground) vertical log French homes remaining in  
5 North America, dating from circa 1800; and

6           (B) several other important historical arti-  
7 facts;

8           (2) the Heritage Area is located in the Ste.  
9 Genevieve National Historic District and is adjacent  
10 to related historic properties, including—

11           (A) a third North American poteaux-en-  
12 terre home;

13           (B) the Le Grand Champ, a common field  
14 used by French settlers;

15           (C) historic downtown Ste. Genevieve; and

16           (D) a prehistoric Native American village  
17 evidenced by several ceremonial mounds;

18           (3) the Heritage Area contains several of the  
19 last remaining examples of French colonial period  
20 settlements that emphasized integration with the  
21 local culture;

22           (4) local agencies and organizations in the  
23 State of Missouri have undertaken significant efforts  
24 to—

1 (A) preserve the historic architecture of  
2 Ste. Genevieve; and

3 (B) convert historic properties to edu-  
4 cational facilities devoted to the history of the  
5 early French experience in the United States;  
6 and

7 (5) no unit of the National Park System has  
8 comparable historical features providing the cultural  
9 backdrop required to adequately interpret the story  
10 of the early French settlers in the United States.

11 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term “Heritage  
14 Area” means the French Colonial Heritage Area, in-  
15 cluding the Bequette-Ribault, St. Gemme-  
16 Amoureux, and Wilhauk homes and the related and  
17 supporting historical assets in Ste. Genevieve Coun-  
18 ty, Missouri.

19 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
20 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-  
21 rector of the National Park Service.

22 **SEC. 4. STUDY.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the  
24 date on which funds are made available to carry out this

1 Act, the Secretary shall, in consultation with the State of  
2 Missouri—

3 (1) complete a study on the suitability and fea-  
4 sibility of designating the Heritage Area as a unit  
5 of the National Park System; and

6 (2) submit to the Committee on Resources of  
7 the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
8 Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a re-  
9 port describing the findings of the study.

10 (b) CONTENTS.—The study required under sub-  
11 section (a) shall be conducted in accordance with Public  
12 Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–1 et seq.).

13 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
15 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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