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See memo 8-14-62 D 208

MASTER PLAN
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE
of
INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
MISSION 66 EDITION

* * * * *

The Service thus established shall

- . Promote and regulate the use of
- . The Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations hereinafter specified
- . By such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments and reservations

Which purpose is

- . To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein, and
- . To provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as shall
- . Leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

From an Act to Establish a National
Park Service. Approved August 24, 1916.

February 1962

SCANNED

7/3/00

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Master Plan
for Independence National Historical Park

MISSION 66 Edition

Volume I

Master Plan Narrative

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General Park Information

February 1962

THE PARK

Independence National Historical Park appears on the map of Philadelphia as a small rectangular patch of green set down in the heart of the old center-city business district. Its 22 acres embrace Independence Square and the three blocks to the east, along with several enclaves scattered through the immediate neighborhood and one in Germantown, six miles away. Among the score of historic buildings preserved within the Park the most notable are Independence Hall, Carpenters' Hall, Congress Hall, and Old City Hall (Supreme Court Building), each a strong link in the chain of historic association which stretches between the visitor of today and the men who here asserted America's independence and here wrote and successfully tested her Constitution.

The planning and the development of Independence National Historical Park are profoundly affected by the fact that it is located in a large city and that the Park is one of several inter-related projects now going forward in Philadelphia, whose common purpose is the rejuvenation of what has been called "America's most historic square mile." Public and private interests are busy transforming this once-blighted section of the city into a commercial-residential area where the eighteenth and twentieth centuries will exist side by side. Inevitably, Park planning and city planning are interdependent. Closely related to the Park is Independence Mall, a three-block landscaped area extending northward from Independence Hall which is being developed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

THE MISSION

of Independence National Historical Park is

. . . to help the visitor to a fuller understanding of the momentous events which took place in Independence Hall and the related historic structures of the Park (where Colonial political leaders took actions leading to the outbreak of the Revolution and gave courageous direction to its long military course); and to awaken a renewed awareness of the principles embodied in the great documents of freedom (the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States) which were drawn up here.

of The National Park Service is

. . . to preserve Independence Hall and the other historic buildings and structures and to so plan, develop and administer this Park that its Mission will be carried out effectively.

Approved: A. C. Stratton (By memo.) Date August 14, 1962
Assistant Director

February 1962

MASTER PLAN
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE
of
INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Chapter 1, Objectives and Policies
Significant Resources
Significant Values
Preservation and Use Policies
Guidelines

Prepared by: David H. Wallace Date 2/15/62

Recommended: M.D. Anderson Date 2/20/62
Superintendent

Recommended: Ronald F. Lee Date 6/7/62
Regional Director, Region Five

APPROVED: I. C. Stettin Date 8-14-62
Asst Director

February 1962

MASTER PLAN
FOR THE PRESERVATION AND USE OF
INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

VOLUME I

Chapter 1. Objectives and Policies

Significant Resources

In the historic buildings and sites preserved here "for the benefit of the American people" lie the most significant physical resources of this Park. Carpenters' Hall and City Tavern (to be reconstructed) recall the events which led to the outbreak of the American Revolution. Independence Hall is linked in men's minds with the two great documents of freedom which issued from its Assembly Room--the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States of America. Congress Hall and the Old City Hall, reconstructed New Hall on Carpenters' Court, and the two United States Bank buildings illustrate four facets of the Federal Government established under that Constitution, while Library Hall (reconstructed), Philosophical Hall, and the Bishop White, Dilworth-Todd-Moylan and Dasher-Morris Houses represent various aspects of cultural, intellectual and domestic life during the same period. Franklin Court (to be re-established) recalls the benign yet awesome presence of America's First Citizen. These historic structures and sites provide a truly dramatic setting against which to tell the stirring story of America's first generation of Independence.

Within these buildings there are certain objects only slightly, if at all, less significant than the buildings themselves. Among these are the silver inkstand believed to have been used at the signing of the Declaration of Independence; the chair occupied by George Washington while he presided over the Constitutional Convention; the Independence Gallery of Portraits, which includes forty-six pastel portraits (ca. 1795-1812) by members of the Sharples family and over one hundred oil portraits from Peale's Philadelphia Museum Gallery (1784-1854) of "Revolutionary Patriots and other Distinguished Characters;" and the Liberty Bell, in its symbolic and emotional appeal the most important of all relics of the Revolution.

In addition to its historic resources, Independence National Historical Park enjoys certain very practical advantages as well as

disadvantages, simply because it is located in the City of Philadelphia athwart the great tourist path between New York and Washington. As a large city Philadelphia gives the Park maximum accessibility at minimum cost to the Park, assures the visitor of food, lodging and varied enjoyments besides those offered by the Park, and assures the Park of a relatively constant, year-round use. The facilities of a great city are a distinctly significant resource to the Park. At the same time the urban environment presents some serious problems, such as adverse traffic use, dangerous air pollution, and parking problems.

Perhaps the most important of the Park's resources, however, is the least tangible, the deep feeling of affection for Independence Hall and for the Liberty Bell which has been so assiduously cultivated during the past century that it has become, in effect, part of the birthright of every American. This it is which brings to the Park each year nearly a million and a half visitors, a figure which is expected to double before the end of this decade. Whatever problems the Park may have, attracting visitors will never be one of them so long as the Hall and the Bell survive.

These, then, are the chief resources of Independence National Historical Park: a dramatic story which can be told in the very buildings where it originally unfolded; a generally advantageous location; and an inexhaustible reservoir of public interest in those symbols of liberty which stand at the very heart of the Park and its story.

Significant Values

Independence National Historical Park commemorates in their historic setting the sessions of the First and Second Continental Congress, the adoption and signing of the Declaration of Independence, the War for Independence (especially in its political and administrative aspects), the formulation of the Constitution of the United States, the development of the new Federal government from 1790 to 1800, and the new nation's early growth--political, economic and cultural--from 1774 to 1800. The significance of the area has been eloquently expressed by the noted historian Carl Van Doren in these words from his preface to the 1947 "Report of the Philadelphia National Shrines Park Commission to the Congress of the United States":

The United States was created in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, when the Continental Congress voted the final form of the Declaration of Independence. The United States was perpetuated on September 17, 1787, when the Federal Convention completed its work on the Constitution and referred it, through Congress to the individual states for ratification....On account of the Declaration of Independence, Independence Hall is a shrine honored wherever the rights of men are honored. On account of the Constitution, it is a shrine wherever the principles of self-government on a federal scale are cherished.

No events in American history have had more far-reaching consequences for the American people and for the world than the Revolution and the political settlement that followed it. Familiarity with those events and an understanding of their significance should be enjoyed by every citizen of the United States and, indeed, by every friend of liberty. Using the dramatic resources at its command, particularly the very buildings whose walls unfolded much of the history of the Revolutionary generation (1774-1800), Independence National Historical Park will give to each visitor a sense of communion with the past and, it is to be hoped, a heightened awareness of the principles upon which this nation was founded and from which freedom-loving peoples have ever since drawn inspiration.

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Preservation and Use Policies

At Independence National Historical Park it is the mission of the National Park Service so to preserve, develop, operate and interpret the Park's resources that the visitor may derive from them a full measure of enjoyment as well as inspiration and understanding. In carrying out this mission the Service will be governed in general by the objectives set forth in the organic act of 1916 and the Historic Sites Act of 1935, and more specifically by the following principles and policies:

Preservation. The Service will preserve and, after exhaustive co-ordinated research into their architecture and history, rehabilitate and restore those structures designated for preservation by Congress and such other physical features of the area as are deemed necessary to the effective telling of the Park story or to the integrity of designated buildings. The Service will also provide the necessary technicians and facilities to preserve and make available for use and study the Park museum collection, archeological salvage collection, photographs, archival and research materials relating to the Park story.

Development. The basic aim of Park development shall be to preserve, rehabilitate or restore existing structures and other features of the historic scene of 1774-1800; to reconstruct only such historic structures and other features as would contribute meaningfully to the Park story; to mark sites of historic importance; to construct only such non-historic structures and other features as are necessary for the efficient operation of the Park; to acquire such additional lands as will significantly contribute to the Park mission; and to recapture the historic atmosphere as much as possible under the existing adverse conditions of vehicular traffic, surface utilities, and other urban phenomena, by suggesting the historic through the provision of period landscape features such as brick walls, iron fences, appropriate plantings, brick and cobblestone walks and streets. Such physical development, supplemented by carefully selected interpretive devices and services, will aid the visitor to a better understanding of the history that was made here. It is particularly important that all physical development shall be based on careful research and that it shall be in harmony with the spirit and practices of the period here celebrated.

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Interpretation. The Interpretive Theme of this Park is the story of America's struggle for independence and for a frame of government guaranteeing liberty under law. The story will be told principally in terms of events in Philadelphia between 1774 and 1800 which had important national and international consequences. Major emphasis will be placed on political history, although some attention will necessarily be paid to related events and developments in economics, science, and the arts, particularly in the interpretation of certain of the Park buildings, such as the two Banks of the United States.

In view of the small area and large number of visitors (three million a year by 1966, it is expected), it will be impossible to provide guide service for all visitors. Personal interpretation at key points along a self-guided tour route, will remain the basis of the interpretive program. This means that very careful consideration must be given to the planning and placing of interpretive devices which, for most visitors, will take the place of oral interpretation at many points.

The Park museum program will focus on the actual buildings and sites. Both Historic House Museums and on-site Focal Point or Branch Museums will illuminate particular aspects of the Park story. The basic Park story will be told in exhibits in the Visitor Center but these exhibits will be kept to a minimum so that the visitor may be encouraged to get out into the Park as quickly as possible. The Visitor Center will serve principally as an orientation and information center.

Operation. Since private housing is available in the surrounding area, Park personnel generally will live outside the Park. Certain existing buildings, retained because of their appropriateness to the historic scene, will, however, be adapted for use as housing for key administrative, interpretive, protective and maintenance personnel, and for appropriate co-operating agencies.

All protection functions will be planned and directed through a Division of Protection encompassing assistance from the City of Philadelphia Fire and Police Departments as practical. Generally, fire protection, fire pre-suppression, fire training, fire detection and first aid fire suppression will be handled by the Park staff with cooperative assistance from the City of Philadelphia in emergencies.

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Special study will be given the problem of heavy vehicular traffic on the major streets surrounding and crossing the Park, with the view to reducing the physical hazards and the adverse effect of such intrusions on the historic scene.

The sale of interpretive and educational material related to the Park and its story will continue to be handled within the Park exclusively by the Eastern National Park and Monument Association.

Eating and sleeping facilities will not be provided by the Park. Additional land on the east is being sought to provide space for a Visitor Center and appropriate facilities.

Esthetic as well as functional considerations will govern the location of the proposed Visitor Center, parking area, and utility area. No decision will be made until the route of the Delaware Expressway has been firmly established. Studies will be made as to the advisability of the Park's seeking authority to acquire additional lands in the interests of better interpretation and more efficient operation.

Wherever practicable, cooperative agreements will be entered into with interested organizations for the maintenance and operation of Park lands not contiguous to the main Park area, as has already been done with the Germantown Historical Society in regard to the Deshler-Morris House.

Guidelines

The following policies to be followed are specific applications of the foregoing general preservation and use policies for Independence:

Preservation

1. Preserve all structures which formed a significant part of the historic scene during the period 1774-1800 and such others as have been designated by Congress or are deemed essential to the administration of the Park or to the preservation of the historic, educational or aesthetic qualities of the Park.
2. Take special precaution for the preservation, protection and display of the Liberty Bell.
3. Preserve all specimens in the museum collection relating to the Park area and its history; remove from the collection by exchange, transfer, loan, or other means such specimens as have no pertinence to the Park area or story; add specimens needed to present the Park story.
4. Federal recognition of church structures, sites of church structures, or related burial grounds in old Philadelphia shall be limited to such structures and sites as date from the period of 1774-1800; those which have been devoted continuously to such religious purposes from that period to date; and those which geographically are located in the Old City of Philadelphia of the period 1774 to 1800, more specifically described as the area bounded by the West side of the Delaware River, Vine Street, Ninth Street and South Street. Federal action to purchase and develop land adjacent to any of these receiving Federal recognition shall be conditional upon a determination by the Secretary of the Interior of the need and justification for removing existing non-historic structures, either because they constitute a fire hazard to said church or site of church, or because their removal will provide an acceptable and dignified setting for each church or site of church, in harmony with Independence National Historical Park. The actions contemplated above shall be accomplished only pursuant to specific Congressional authorization.

Public Use

5. Eliminate or minimize modern intrusions and adverse uses, such as surface utilities and cross-Park vehicular traffic.

6. Plan main visitor reception facilities in relation to the proposed Delaware Expressway and other means of approach. Continue secondary information center on Independence Square.

7. Develop an integrated interpretive program based on personal interpretation for all visitors at major points of interest, guided tours for groups making advance arrangements and for other visitors during the summer, and self-guided tours year-around.

8. In interpreting the Park story, concentrate on the political events and personalities of the Revolutionary and Federal eras, 1774-1800, with special emphasis on the evolution of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and the ideas expressed in them. Give secondary attention to economic, scientific, cultural and domestic themes.

9. Permit occupancy of historic buildings or approved reconstructions, not otherwise needed for Park purposes, by those organizations designated under Public Law 795, 80th Congress, as amended, or by public or quasi-public organizations founded before 1800 or whose primary purpose is to commemorate events of the period 1774-1800. Permit use of Independence Square and Independence Mall for public meetings, but restrict indoor assemblies, except under very special circumstances, to buildings other than those on Independence Square.

Restoration

10. Rehabilitate or restore, after exhaustive research, the exteriors and selected portions of the interiors of Independence Hall, Congress Hall, Old City Hall, First and Second Banks of the United States, Bishop White House, Dilworth-Todd-Moylan House, and Deshler-Morris House.

11. Retain and restore the historic structures on Market Street as determined by research.

12. Develop and landscape the grounds of the Park, as far as possible, in accordance with historical evidence of the original appearance of the walks, walls, streets, and gardens of eighteenth century Philadelphia.

Development

13. Reconstruct only those historic buildings and other

structural features and grounds which have interpretive value essential to the Park story and can be accurately reproduced. Construct only those buildings which are essential to the proper maintenance, interpretation, or administration of the Park's resources.

14. Provide no eating or sleeping accommodations within the Park but seek additional land on east for Visitor Center and appropriate parking facilities.

Operation

15. Provide atmospheric controls in the historic house museums or other structures to preserve the museum objects therein, provided that (1) these objects are important and irreplaceable because of their historical associations, and (2) that the atmospheric control installation can be made without seriously affecting the original fabric of the building and without obvious intrusion on its historical appearance.

16. Develop meaningful study collections of books, professional reports, photographs, microfilm, as well as artifacts, relating to important aspects of the Park story and encourage their use by scholars and the general public.

17. Continue existing cooperative agreements for the operation of non-contiguous Park areas and offer guidance to cooperating agencies in the interpretation of their historic properties.

18. Preserve historic houses within the Park essential to the scene, and to the extent they are not needed for exhibits or administrative purposes, preserve them by utilization as quarters for Park personnel.

19. Emphasis will be placed on all phases of protection. Cooperative Agreement with City of Philadelphia relating to this activity will be continued and extended as practical.

20. The Park will be administered in Park Management Group E with the administrative offices located in the Yoh Building and one of the less significant Historic Structures, and with a separate maintenance area located in an unobtrusive site.

Concession

21. Continue present arrangement with Eastern National Park and Monument Association for the sale of carefully selected educational and interpretive materials.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DL8-DCM

AUG 14 1962

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Assistant Director Stratton

Subject: Master Plan, Independence

The Foreword and Chapter 1, Objectives and Policies, transmitted with your memorandum of June 14, have been approved by the undersigned today. We consider Chapter 1 to be an excellent work for which the preparers should be commended. The Mission of the Park has been revised as follows:

THE MISSION of Independence National Historical Park is to help the visitor to a fuller understanding of the momentous events which took place in Independence Hall and the related historic structures of the Park (where Colonial political leaders took actions leading to the outbreak of the Revolution and gave courageous direction to its long military course); and to awaken a renewed awareness of the principles embodied in the great documents of freedom (the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States) which were drawn up here.

Stratton
Assistant Director

Copy to: Chief, EODC (2)
Supt., Independence

REGION FIVE		Initials and Date
AUG 15 1962		
Asst. Dir. (NPSA)		8/16
Program Coord.		
Asst. Reg. Dir-Adm		
Finance & Prop.		
Lands & Water		
Personnel		
Asst. Reg. Dir-En		
Resource Mgmt.		
Wildlife		
Ranger Services		
Asst. Reg. Dir-Rp		
Co-op Services		
NP & Rec. Area		
Rec. Res. Surveys		

*Recorded
and c.c. filed
8-15-62*