

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4158

To establish the Lower East Side Tenement Museum National Historic Site.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 1994

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To establish the Lower East Side Tenement Museum  
National Historic Site.

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  
5       Tenement Museum National Historic Site Act of 1994”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       As used in this Act:—

8               (1) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary  
9       of the Interior.

1           (2) The term “historic site” means the Lower  
2 East Side Tenement Museum designated as a na-  
3 tional historic site by section 4.

4           (3) The term “Museum” means the Lower East  
5 Side Tenement Museum at 97 Orchard Street, New  
6 York City, in the State of New York, and related fa-  
7 cilities owned or operated by the Museum.

8 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

9           (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

10           (1) the Lower East Side Tenement Museum at  
11 97 Orchard Street is an outstanding survivor of the  
12 vast number of humble buildings that housed immi-  
13 grants to New York City during the greatest wave  
14 of immigration in American history;

15           (2) the Museum is well suited to represent a  
16 profound social movement involving great numbers  
17 of unexceptional but courageous people;

18           (3) no single identifiable neighborhood in the  
19 United States absorbed a comparable number of  
20 immigrants;

21           (4) the Lower East Side Tenement Museum is  
22 dedicated to interpreting immigrant life on the  
23 Lower East Side and its importance to United  
24 States history, within a neighborhood long associ-  
25 ated with the immigrant experience in America; and

1           (5) the National Park Service found the Lower  
2 East Side Tenement Museum to be nationally sig-  
3 nificant, suitable, and feasible for inclusion in the  
4 National Park System.

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

6           (1) to assure the preservation, maintenance,  
7 and interpretation of this site and to interpret in the  
8 site and in the surrounding neighborhood, the  
9 themes of early tenement life, the housing reform  
10 movement, and tenement architecture in the United  
11 States;

12           (2) to assure the continuation of the Museum  
13 at this site, the preservation of which is necessary  
14 for the continued interpretation of the nationally sig-  
15 nificant immigrant phenomenon associated with the  
16 New York City's Lower East Side, and its role in  
17 the history of immigration to the United States; and

18           (3) to enhance the interpretation of the Castle  
19 Clinton National Historic Monument and Ellis Is-  
20 land National Historic Monument through coopera-  
21 tion with the Museum.

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

23           In order to further the purposes of this Act and the  
24 Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461-7), the Lower  
25 East Side Tenement Museum at 97 Orchard Street, in the

1 city of New York, State of New York, is hereby designated  
2 as a national historic site.

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

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of the purposes of  
5 this Act and the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461–  
6 7), the Secretary may either acquire the historic site with  
7 donated or appropriated funds or enter into cooperative  
8 agreements with the Lower East Side Tenement Museum  
9 designed to effectuate the purposes of this Act.

10 (b) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Such  
11 agreements may include provisions by which the Secretary  
12 will provide technical assistance to mark, restore, inter-  
13 pret, operate, and maintain the historic site and may also  
14 include provisions by which the Secretary will provide fi-  
15 nancial assistance to the Museum to acquire ownership of  
16 and to maintain the historic site, or to mark, interpret,  
17 and restore the historic site, including the making of  
18 preservation-related capital improvements and repairs.

19 (c) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—Such agreement may  
20 also contain provisions that—

21 (1) the Secretary, acting through the National  
22 Park Service, shall have the right of access at all  
23 reasonable times to all public portions of the prop-  
24 erty covered by such agreement for the purpose of

1 conducting visitors through such properties and in-  
2 terpreting them to the public; and

3 (2) no changes or alterations shall be made in  
4 such properties except by mutual agreement between  
5 the Secretary and the other parties to such agree-  
6 ments.

7 **SEC. 6. LAND ACQUISITION.**

8 The Secretary is authorized to acquire properties  
9 owned or occupied or required by the Museum or to assist  
10 the Museum in the acquisition of properties which it occu-  
11 pies or requires through the use of appropriated funds or  
12 by donation or purchase with donated funds.

13 **SEC. 7. APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such  
15 sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of  
16 this Act.

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