

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3628

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 1996

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 1996”.

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. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into a
9 cooperative agreement with the Lower East Side Tene-
10 ment Museum to carry out this Act.

11 (b) TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The
12 agreement may include provisions by which the Secretary
13 will provide—

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

16 (2) financial assistance to the Museum to mark,
17 interpret, and restore the historic site, including the
18 making of preservation-related capital improvements
19 and repairs.

20 (c) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—The agreement may
21 also contain provisions that permit the Secretary, acting
22 through the National Park Service, to have a right of ac-
23 cess at all reasonable times to all public portions of the
24 property covered by the agreement for the purpose of con-

1 ducting visitors through the properties and interpreting
2 the portions to the public.

3 **SEC. 6. APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

○