

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 793

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Abel and Mary Nicholson House located in Elsinboro Township, Salem County, New Jersey, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2001

Mr. LOBIONDO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Resources

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating the Abel and Mary Nicholson House located in Elsinboro Township, Salem County, New Jersey, 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 “Abel and Mary Nichol-
5 son House National Historic Site Study Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE STUDY REGARDING ABEL**
2 **AND MARY NICHOLSON HOUSE, ELSINBORO**
3 **TOWNSHIP, SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The Abel and Mary Nicholson House, lo-
6 cated in Elsinboro Township, Salem County, New
7 Jersey, was built in 1722.

8 (2) The original section of the House is the
9 only pristine, surviving portion of a Delaware Valley
10 brick patterned-end house featuring a diaper or dia-
11 mond pattern in glazed bricks in the gable wall of
12 the building, and less elaborate decorations of check-
13 ered string courses on the other 3 walls.

14 (3) The original section of the House—

15 (A) contains early paint, original hinges,
16 locks, shelving, floorboards, roof framing, and
17 chimneypieces;

18 (B) has received only routine maintenance
19 and no major remodeling; and

20 (C) is without the intrusion of either elec-
21 tricity or a central heating system.

22 (4) The 1859 addition to the House enhances
23 the significance of the property with a similar level
24 of architectural integrity.

1 (5) The House has well-documented associa-
2 tions with the earliest Quaker settlement in North
3 America.

4 (6) The House and surrounding property may
5 be available for acquisition by the United States
6 from a willing donor.

7 (7) The House is one of the most significant
8 “first period” houses surviving in the Delaware Val-
9 ley and represents an architectural Rosetta stone re-
10 garding the domestic life of the first two generations
11 of settlers in the Delaware Valley.

12 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) HOUSE.—The term “House” means the
14 Abel and Mary Nicholson House located in Elsinboro
15 Township, Salem County, New Jersey.

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

19 (c) STUDY.—The Secretary shall, in consultation
20 with the State of New Jersey—

21 (1) carry out a study regarding the suitability
22 and feasibility of designating the House as a unit of
23 the National Park System; and

1 (2) consider management alternatives for the
2 House to create an administrative association with
3 the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route.

4 (d) STUDY PROCESS AND COMPLETION.—Section
5 8(c) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–5(c)) shall
6 apply to the conduct and completion of the study required
7 by this section.

8 (e) SUBMISSION OF STUDY RESULTS.—The Sec-
9 retary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the
10 House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy
11 and Natural Resources of the Senate a report describing
12 the results of the study.

13 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
14 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-
15 essary to carry out this section.

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