

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3109

To establish the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 1998

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

A BILL

To establish the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Thomas Cole National Historic Site Act”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 4. Establishment of Thomas Cole National Historic Site.
- Sec. 5. Acquisition of property.
- Sec. 6. Administration of historic site.
- Sec. 7. Authorization of appropriations.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 As used in this Act:

3 (1) The term “historic site” means the Thomas
4 Cole National Historic Site established by section 4
5 of this Act.

6 (2) The term “Hudson River artists” means
7 artists who belonged to the Hudson River school of
8 landscape painting.

9 (3) The term “plan” means the general man-
10 agement plan developed pursuant to section 6(d).

11 (4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
12 of the Interior.

13 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

14 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

15 (1) The Hudson River school of landscape
16 painting was inspired by Thomas Cole and was char-
17 acterized by a group of 19th century landscape art-
18 ists who recorded and celebrated the landscape and
19 wilderness of America, particularly in the Hudson
20 River Valley region in the State of New York.

21 (2) Thomas Cole has been recognized as Ameri-
22 ca’s most prominent landscape and allegorical paint-
23 er in the mid-19th century.

24 (3) The Thomas Cole House in Greene County,
25 New York, is listed on the National Register of His-

1 toric Places and has been designated as a National
2 Historic Landmark.

3 (4) Within a 15 mile radius of the Thomas Cole
4 House, an area that forms a key part of the rich
5 cultural and natural heritage of the Hudson River
6 Valley region, significant landscapes and scenes
7 painted by Thomas Cole and other Hudson River
8 artists survive intact.

9 (5) The State of New York has established the
10 Hudson River Valley Greenway to promote the pres-
11 ervation, public use, and enjoyment of the natural
12 and cultural resources of the Hudson River Valley
13 region.

14 (6) Establishment of the Thomas Cole National
15 Historic Site will provide opportunities for the illus-
16 tration and interpretation of cultural themes of the
17 heritage of the United States and unique opportuni-
18 ties for education, public use, and enjoyment.

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

20 (1) to preserve and interpret the home and stu-
21 dio Thomas Cole for the benefit, inspiration, and
22 education of the people of the United States;

23 (2) to help maintain the integrity of the setting
24 in the Hudson River Valley region that inspired ar-
25 tistic expression;

1 (3) to coordinate the interpretive, preservation,
2 and recreational efforts of Federal, State, and other
3 entities in the Hudson Valley region in order to en-
4 hance opportunities for education, public use, and
5 enjoyment; and

6 (4) to broaden understanding of the Hudson
7 River Valley region and its role in American history
8 and culture.

9 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HIS-**
10 **TORIC SITE.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, as a unit
12 of the National Park System, the Thomas Cole National
13 Historic Site in the State of New York.

14 (b) DESCRIPTION.—The historic site shall consist of
15 the home and studio of Thomas Cole, comprising approxi-
16 mately 3.4 acres, located at 218 Spring Street, in the vil-
17 lage of Catskill, New York, as generally depicted on the
18 boundary map numbered TCH/80002, and dated March
19 1992.

20 **SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.**

21 (a) REAL PROPERTY.—The Secretary may acquire
22 lands and interests therein within the boundaries of the
23 historic site by donation, purchase with donated or appro-
24 priated funds, or exchange.

25 (b) PERSONAL PROPERTY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (2), the Secretary may acquire personal prop-
3 erty associated with, and appropriate for, the inter-
4 pretation of the historic site using the methods pro-
5 vided in subsection (a).

6 (2) WORKS OF ART.—The Secretary may ac-
7 quire works of art associated with Thomas Cole and
8 other Hudson River artists only by donation or pur-
9 chase with donated funds.

10 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION OF HISTORIC SITE.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall administer
12 the historic site in accordance with this Act and all laws
13 generally applicable to units of the National Park System,
14 including the Act of August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.;
15 commonly known as the National Park Service Organic
16 Act), and the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et
17 seq.; commonly known as the Historic Sites, Buildings,
18 and Antiquities Act).

19 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

20 (1) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—To further the pur-
21 poses of this Act, the Secretary may consult with
22 and enter into cooperative agreements with the State
23 of New York, the Thomas Cole Foundation, and
24 other public and private entities to facilitate public
25 understanding and enjoyment of the lives and works

1 of the Hudson River artists through the develop-
2 ment, presentation, and funding of art exhibits, resi-
3 dent artist programs, and other appropriate activi-
4 ties related to the preservation, interpretation, and
5 use of the historic site.

6 (2) LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTER.—The
7 Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement
8 with the Greene County Historical Society to provide
9 for the establishment of a library and research cen-
10 ter at the historic site.

11 (c) EXHIBITS.—The Secretary may display, and ac-
12 cept for the purposes of display, works of art associated
13 with Thomas Cole and other Hudson River artists, as may
14 be necessary for the interpretation of the historic site.

15 (d) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Not later than
16 two complete fiscal years after the date of the enactment
17 of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a general manage-
18 ment plan for the historic site. Upon its completion, the
19 Secretary shall submit the plan to the Committee on En-
20 ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Com-
21 mittee on Resources of the House of Representatives. The
22 plan shall include recommendations for regional wayside
23 exhibits, to be carried out through cooperative agreements
24 with the State of New York and other public and private
25 entities. The plan shall be prepared in accordance with

1 section 12(b) of Public Law 91–383 (16 U.S.C. 1a–1 et
2 seq.; commonly known as the National Park System Gen-
3 eral Authorities Act).

4 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

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