

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 658

AN ACT

To establish the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York as an affiliated area of the National Park System.

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To establish the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York as an affiliated area of the National Park System.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

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

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
5 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. Retention of ownership and management of historic site by Greene
County Historical Society.

Sec. 6. Administration of historic site.

Sec. 7. Authorization of appropriations.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 As used in this Act:

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

11 (2) The term “Hudson River artists” means
12 artists who were associated with the Hudson River
13 school of landscape painting.

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

16 (4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
17 of the Interior.

18 (5) The term “Society” means the Greene
19 County Historical Society of Greene County, New
20 York, which owns the Thomas Cole home, studio,
21 and other property comprising the historic site.

1 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

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

3 (1) The Hudson River school of landscape
4 painting was inspired by Thomas Cole and was char-
5 acterized by a group of 19th century landscape art-
6 ists who recorded and celebrated the landscape and
7 wilderness of America, particularly in the Hudson
8 River Valley region in the State of New York.

9 (2) Thomas Cole is recognized as America’s
10 most prominent landscape and allegorical painter of
11 the mid-19th century.

12 (3) Located in Greene County, New York, the
13 Thomas Cole House, also known as Thomas Cole’s
14 Cedar Grove, is listed on the National Register of
15 Historic Places and has been designated as a Na-
16 tional Historic Landmark.

17 (4) Within a 15 mile radius of the Thomas Cole
18 House, an area that forms a key part of the rich
19 cultural and natural heritage of the Hudson River
20 Valley region, significant landscapes and scenes
21 painted by Thomas Cole and other Hudson River
22 artists, such as Frederic Church, survive intact.

23 (5) The State of New York has established the
24 Hudson River Valley Greenway to promote the pres-
25 ervation, public use, and enjoyment of the natural

1 and cultural resources of the Hudson River Valley
2 region.

3 (6) Establishment of the Thomas Cole National
4 Historic Site will provide opportunities for the illus-
5 tration and interpretation of cultural themes of the
6 heritage of the United States and unique opportuni-
7 ties for education, public use, and enjoyment.

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

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

12 (2) to help maintain the integrity of the setting
13 in the Hudson River Valley region that inspired ar-
14 tistic expression;

15 (3) to coordinate the interpretive, preservation,
16 and recreational efforts of Federal, State, and other
17 entities in the Hudson Valley region in order to en-
18 hance opportunities for education, public use, and
19 enjoyment; and

20 (4) to broaden understanding of the Hudson
21 River Valley region and its role in American history
22 and culture.

1 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THOMAS COLE NATIONAL HIS-**
2 **TORIC SITE.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, as an af-
4 filiated area of the National Park System, the Thomas
5 Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York.

6 (b) DESCRIPTION.—The historic site shall consist of
7 the home and studio of Thomas Cole, comprising approxi-
8 mately 3.4 acres, located at 218 Spring Street, in the vil-
9 lage of Catskill, New York, as generally depicted on the
10 boundary map numbered TCH/80002, and dated March
11 1992.

12 **SEC. 5. RETENTION OF OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT OF**
13 **HISTORIC SITE BY GREENE COUNTY HISTOR-**
14 **ICAL SOCIETY.**

15 The Greene County Historical Society of Greene
16 County, New York, shall continue to own, administer,
17 manage, and operate the historic site.

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

19 (a) APPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM
20 LAWS.—The historic site shall be administered in a man-
21 ner consistent with this Act and all laws generally applica-
22 ble to units of the National Park System, including the
23 Act of August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.; commonly
24 known as the National Park Service Organic Act), and
25 the Act of August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.; com-

1 monly known as the Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act).

3 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

4 (1) ASSISTANCE TO SOCIETY.—The Secretary
5 may enter into cooperative agreements with the Society to preserve the Thomas Cole House and other
6 structures in the historic site and to assist with education programs and research and interpretation of
7 the Thomas Cole House and associated landscapes.

8
9 (2) OTHER ASSISTANCE.—To further the purposes of this Act, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of New York, the
10 Society, the Thomas Cole Foundation, and other public and private entities to facilitate public understanding and enjoyment of the lives and works of
11 the Hudson River artists through the provision of assistance to develop, present, and fund art exhibits,
12 resident artist programs, and other appropriate activities related to the preservation, interpretation,
13 and use of the historic site.

14
15 (c) ARTIFACTS AND PROPERTY.—The Secretary may
16 acquire personal property associated with, and appropriate
17 for, the interpretation of the historic site.

18
19 (d) GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.—Within two
20 complete fiscal years after the date of the enactment of

1 this Act, the Secretary shall develop a general manage-
2 ment plan for the historic site with the cooperation of the
3 Society. Upon the completion of the plan, the Secretary
4 shall provide a copy of the plan to the Committee on En-
5 ergy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Com-
6 mittee on Resources of the House of Representatives. The
7 plan shall include recommendations for regional wayside
8 exhibits, to be carried out through cooperative agreements
9 with the State of New York and other public and private
10 entities. The plan shall be prepared in accordance with
11 section 12(b) of Public Law 91-383 (16 U.S.C. 1a-1 et
12 seq.; commonly known as the National Park System Gen-
13 eral Authorities Act).

14 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
16 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

 Passed the House of Representatives September 13,
1999.

Attest:

Clerk.