

the United States, or a guarantor, surety or personal representative of any such officer, agent or contractor, and to render judgment thereon, where—

“(1) claimant or the person he represents has applied to the proper department of the Government for settlement of the account;

“(2) three years have elapsed from the date of such application without settlement; and

“(3) no suit upon the same has been brought by the United States.”

SEC. 10. Section 2508, title 28, United States Code, is hereby amended to read as follows:

62 Stat. 977.
Procedure.

“Upon the trial of any suit in the United States Court of Claims in which any setoff, counterclaim, claim for damages, or other demand is set up on the part of the United States against any plaintiff making claim against the United States in said court, the court shall hear and determine such claim or demand both for and against the United States and plaintiff.

“If upon the whole case it finds that the plaintiff is indebted to the United States it shall render judgment to that effect, and such judgment shall be final and reviewable.

“The transcript of such judgment, filed in the clerk’s office of any district court, shall be entered upon the records and shall be enforceable as other judgments.”

SEC. 11. Section 2510, title 28, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“The Comptroller General may transmit to the Court of Claims for trial and adjudication any claim or matter of which the Court of Claims might take jurisdiction on the voluntary action of the claimant, together with all vouchers, papers, documents, and proofs pertaining thereto.

“The Court of Claims shall proceed with the claims or matters so referred as in other cases pending in such court and shall render judgment thereon.”

SEC. 12. Section 2511, title 28, United States Code, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Notice of suit under section 1494 of this title shall be given to the Attorney General, to the Comptroller General, and to the head of the department requested to settle the account in question.

Ante, p. 226.

“The judgment of the Court of Claims in such suit, or of the Supreme Court upon review, shall be conclusive upon the parties, and payment of the amount found due shall discharge the obligation.

“The transcript of such judgment, filed in the clerk’s office of any district court, shall be entered upon the records, and shall be enforceable as other judgments.”

Approved July 28, 1953.

Public Law 159

CHAPTER 254

AN ACT

To amend the Color of Title Act.

July 28, 1953
[H. R. 1308]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the part of section 1 of the Act of December 22, 1928 (45 Stat. 1069; 43 U. S. C., 1946 ed., sec. 1068 et seq.), preceding the first proviso is amended to read as follows:

Color of Title
Act, amendments.

Public land patents.

"That the Secretary of the Interior (a) shall, whenever it shall be shown to his satisfaction that a tract of public land has been held in good faith and in peaceful, adverse, possession by a claimant, his ancestors or grantors, under claim or color of title for more than twenty years, and that valuable improvements have been placed on such land or some part thereof has been reduced to cultivation, or (b) may, in his discretion, whenever it shall be shown to his satisfaction that a tract of public land has been held in good faith and in peaceful, adverse, possession by a claimant, his ancestors or grantors, under claim or color of title for the period commencing not later than January 1, 1901, to the date of application during which time they have paid taxes levied on the land by State and local governmental units, issue a patent for not to exceed one hundred and sixty acres of such land upon the payment of not less than \$1.25 per acre."

SEC. 2. The following section is added to the Act of December 22, 1928, supra:

Mineral reservation.

"SEC. 3. If the claimant requests that the patent to be issued under this Act not contain a mineral reservation and if he can establish to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the requirements of this Act have been complied with by such claimant and his predecessors for the period commencing not later than January 1, 1901, to the date of application, no mineral reservation shall be made unless the lands are, at the time of issuance of the patent, within a mineral withdrawal or subject to an outstanding mineral lease."

Approved July 28, 1953.

Public Law 160

CHAPTER 255

AN ACT

July 28, 1953
[H. R. 3581]

To further the policy enunciated in the Act of October 26, 1949 (63 Stat. 927), to facilitate public participation in the preservation of sites, buildings, and objects of national significance or interest by providing for a National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States.

National Trust
for Historic Preservation in U. S.
General trustees,
16 USC 468b.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in order to further the policy of historic preservation in the United States as enunciated in the Act of October 26, 1949 (63 Stat. 927), the third, fourth, and fifth sentences of section 3 of that Act are hereby amended to read as follows: "The number of general trustees shall be fixed by the Board of Trustees of the National Trust and shall be chosen by the members of the National Trust from its members at any regular meeting of said National Trust. The respective terms of office of the general trustees shall be as prescribed by said board of trustees but in no case shall exceed a period of five years from the date of election. A successor to a general trustee shall be chosen in the same manner and shall have a term expiring five years from the date of the expiration of the term for which his predecessor was chosen, except that a successor chosen to fill a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of such term shall be chosen only for the remainder of that term."

Approved July 28, 1953.