

Public Law 102-304
102d Congress

An Act

June 23, 1992

[H.R. 1642]

To establish in the State of Texas the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Palo Alto
Battlefield
National
Historic Site
Act of 1991.
16 USC 461
note.
16 USC 461
note.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site Act of 1991".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that:

(1) The study conducted by the National Park Service under section 506(b) of Public Law 95-625 has resulted in a precise identification of the location of the Battle of Palo Alto and the area requiring protection.

(2) Palo Alto is the only unit of the National Park System directed to the preservation and interpretation of resources related to the Mexican-American War.

SEC. 3. PALO ALTO BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—In order to preserve for the education, benefit, and inspiration of present and future generations the nationally significant site of the first battle of the Mexican-American War, and to provide for its interpretation in such manner as to portray the battle and the Mexican-American War and its related political, diplomatic, military and social causes and consequences, there is hereby established the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site in the State of Texas (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "historic site").

(b) **BOUNDARY.**—(1) The historic site shall consist of approximately 3,400 acres as generally depicted on the map entitled "Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site", numbered 469-80,002, and dated March 1991. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the Director of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

(2) Within 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall file a legal description of the historic site with the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate. Such legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographic errors in such legal description and in the map referred to in paragraph (1). The legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Secretary may, from time to time, make minor revisions in the boundary of the historic site.

16 USC 461
note.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATION.16 USC 461
note.

The Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall manage the historic site in accordance with this Act and the provisions of law generally applicable to the National Park System, including the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666). The Secretary shall protect, manage, and administer the historic site for the purposes of preserving and interpreting the cultural and natural resources of the historic site and providing for the public understanding and appreciation of the historic site in such a manner as to perpetuate these qualities and values for future generations.

Conservation.

SEC. 5. LAND ACQUISITION.16 USC 461
note.

Within the historic site, the Secretary is authorized to acquire lands and interest in lands by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange. Lands or interests in lands owned by the State of Texas or political subdivisions thereof may be acquired only by donation.

SEC. 6. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.16 USC 461
note.

In furtherance of the purposes of this Act, the Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the United States of Mexico, in accordance with existing international agreements, and with other owners of Mexican-American War properties within the United States of America for the purposes of conducting joint research and interpretive planning for the historic site and related Mexican-American War sites. Interpretive information and programs shall reflect historical data and perspectives of both countries and the series of historical events associated with the Mexican-American War.

SEC. 7. MANAGEMENT PLAN.16 USC 461
note.

Within 3 years after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and transmit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, a general management plan for the historic site. The plan shall be consistent with section 12 of the Act of August 18, 1970 (16 U.S.C. 1a-7) and with the purposes of this Act and shall include (but not be limited to) each of the following:

- (1) A resource protection program including land acquisition needs.
- (2) A general visitor use and interpretive program.
- (3) A general development plan including such roads, trails, markers, structures, and other improvements and facilities as may be necessary for the accommodation of visitor use in accordance with the purposes of this Act and the need to preserve the integrity of the historic site.
- (4) A research plan.
- (5) Identification of appropriate cooperative agreements as identified in section 6.

16 USC 461
note.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated \$6,000,000 for acquisition of lands and interests in lands for purposes of the Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site.

Approved June 23, 1992.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 1642:

- HOUSE REPORTS:** No. 102-86 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
- SENATE REPORTS:** No. 102-285 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
- CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:**
 - Vol. 137 (1991): June 3, considered and passed House.
 - Vol. 138 (1992): June 4, considered and passed Senate.