

PLEASE SUPPORT NEW PHILADELPHIA FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service will soon conduct a special resources study to determine New Philadelphia's qualifications for inclusion in the National Park Service – our nation's cultural and natural crown jewels.

The story of New Philadelphia is extraordinary: through a variety of enterprises, town founder Frank McWorter purchased freedom for himself and at least fifteen family members. In addition, McWorter purchased property in Illinois, a free state, where he moved from Kentucky with his wife, three free-born children, and a son freed from bondage.

McWorter made history in 1836 as the first African American in our nation to plat and legally register a town. New Philadelphia became a community where formerly enslaved and free-born African Americans lived alongside European Americans in one of the most racially strident eras of our country's history.

You can actively support New Philadelphia for inclusion in the National Park Service by submitting your comments on inclusion to:

http://parkplanning.nps.gov/New_Philadelphia_Special_Resource_Study

Here are a few key points that you may want to consider for your remarks:

- Direct management by the National Park Service (NPS) would permanently protect New Philadelphia from development and inappropriate use of the land, ensuring preservation of the site's archaeological integrity for future study of a 19th century, racially diverse community.
- The worldwide prestige associated with the National Park Service far exceeds the resources available through local management to attract visitors.
- New Philadelphia represents themes important to all Americans: the struggle for freedom, opportunity and love for family – principles that are relevant today.
- New Philadelphia is an inspiration for what can be accomplished through determination and resilience. Settlers cleared and cultivated sparse grassland to create productive farmland – an inspiration of what can be accomplished by determination and resilience.
- Free and formerly enslaved African Americans lived along side European Americans during one of the most racially strident eras of our country's history.
- Current management and land owners could serve in advisory positions to the National Park Service following New Philadelphia's inclusion in the park system.
- Local residents could volunteer time and service at the site.
- New Philadelphia's inclusion in National Park Service generates literature and advertising through the wide variety of electronic and print media, including the popular NPS Passport to Your National Parks program, and would introduce and familiarize the nation and the world with the remarkable story of New Philadelphia.

New Philadelphia was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2005, designated a National Historic Landmark in 2009, and included in the National Park Service National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program in 2013. There is currently no other

comparable site represented in the 410 units of the National Park system. Only 24 of the 410 units, less than 6%, of the National Park Service are directly associated with African-American history. Your support for this project is crucial for making this place nationally recognized by inclusion in the National Park Service.

Please submit your comments directly to the National Park Service by accessing the following link: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/New_Philadelphia_Special_Resource_Study from April 11 to June 11, 2016. Your comments can profoundly affect New Philadelphia's inclusion in the National Park System.

Thank you for supporting New Philadelphia!
The New Philadelphia Association