

L58

Assistant Director, Resource Studies

December 14, 1965

Chief, Division of History Studies

California Mining Sites

This refers to the Director's notes of June 23 and December 10 regarding Congressman Bizz Johnson's interest in California mining sites.

The following sites in California with primary values relating to the mining era have been designated Registered National Historic Landmarks and, from the standpoint of national significance, might be further studied for addition to the National Park System:

Bodie: Located in Mono County, this is one of the best surviving ghost towns in the West. It is a State Historical Monument.

Coloma: Located in El Dorado County, this was the site of the California gold discovery in 1849. Included in a State Historical Monument are the 18-foot James Marshall Monument and Marshall Cabin, a Chinese bank, a store, and several other structures.

Columbia: Another gold rush town, Columbia (in Tuolumne County) boasts 39 important structures surviving from the mining era, most now included in a State Historical Monument.

New Almaden: Located in Santa Clara County, this was the first California mine and a leading world source of quick-silver. Numerous historic structures still stand.

San Francisco Mint: Although classified for its architectural values, its mining associations are obvious, and it might well be partly used to interpret the mining story. There has been a recent revival of activity on this issue, and I understand the Secretary may have made some statement about it recently.

On two occasions within the past year, I have heard of ill-defined proposals to create a National Park Service area that would encompass the old Sacramento Historic District, Sutter's Fort, the Coloma gold site, and perhaps other related sites in a national historical park

on the Nez Perce model. I have not heard of any such proposal crystallizing and, given the welter of conflicting interests involved, I doubt that the Service should take any public initiative. But these sites represent a rare concentration of some of the most significant historical values in the entire nation, and such a park would be an outstanding feature of the National Park System.

SIGNED

Robert M. Utley

ccr  
Mr. Swen  
Mr. Utley

RMUtley:tn 12/14/65



*maeder  
Brown  
5/24*

MAY 24 1966

L58 CPL

## Memorandum

To: Chief, Division of History Studies, WSC

From: Chief, Division of National Park System Plan and Natural Landmarks Surveys

Subject: Mother Lode sites

We are more or less obligated this year to identify ways or means by which the story of mining in the Mother Lode country of California can be presented in or through the National Park System. This may be in the form of specific sites being added to the National Park System; it may be in the form of joint planning, development and administration between the Park Service, the State and local organizations; or it may be in the form of a new formula not yet devised. As you know the mining frontier study identified two sites, both of which are already in State ownership: Coloma and Columbia. Recognizing that the Mother Lode area is outstanding in the mining story, the theme report recommended a special study of the Mother Lode country to develop a comprehensive plan for both the preservation of as many of the Mother Lode sites as possible and to devise methods by which the Mother Lode story can be interpreted in some unified fashion.

We are exploring the means by which such a special study can be conducted. It must be done in light of the reorganization and our present tight time schedule. We would appreciate your ideas as to who might be available, willing and capable of participating in such a study, what do you think such a study would entail, or any other ideas or suggestions that you may have. We know that you and other members of your staff have great interest in telling the story of the mining days in the Mother Lode country, and we would appreciate any suggestions that you or members of your staff may have for conducting a special study or for identifying sites to be preserved and methods by which the story can be interpreted.

Thank you for your thoughts on this matter at your earliest convenience please.

Original Signed by  
Chester C. Brown

*Calif*

cc: CPL - Mr. Maeder

RHMaeder:kem 5/23/66



JUN 6 1966

L58-CPL

## Memorandum

To: Chief, Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services

From: Chief, Division of National Park System Plan and Natural Landmarks Surveys

Subject: California Mother Lode

As you know the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings Report on The Mining Frontier recommended that a comprehensive plan is needed looking both to the preservation of as many of the Mother Lode sites as possible and detailing methods by which the Mother Lode story can be interpreted in some unified fashion. We are under somewhat of an obligation to identify this year the ways and means by which the story of mining in California's Mother Lode country might be presented in or through the National Park System, we are vitally interested in such a comprehensive plan.

Such a study could be considered either a park planning study, or an interpretive planning study, or even an historical research project inasmuch as such a study might require an application of the historical research competence that is now concentrated in the Division of History Studies.

We are seeking the ways by which such a study can be conducted this year and wonder if you might like to offer some suggestions. Of course, any study that is done in the Mother Lode country will have to be closely coordinated with the State of California. Highway 19 which runs through the Mother Lode country has been designated as a State Scenic Highway by the California Highway Division, as you may already know.

I would appreciate your thoughts on this matter.

Original Signed by  
Chester C. Brown

Chester C. Brown

cc:  
Mr. R. Maeder - CPL

RHMaeder:sjm 6/6/66

L58 CPL

JUL 20 1966

Date 7/19  
for Brown  
Hassett  
Jude for June  
7/19

## Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region

From: Acting Assistant Director, Cooperative Activities

Subject: Study of California Mother Lode sites

We are interested in identifying this year the scope of the National Park Service's involvement in the preservation and interpretation of the mining story in the California Mother Lode country. This is an important chapter in our country's history, and one which is not now represented in the National Park System.

The Historic Sites Survey report on the Mining Frontier theme recommended a study looking both to the preservation of as many of the Mother Lode sites as possible and detailing methods by which the Mother Lode story could be interpreted in some unified fashion.

Normally we would call upon personnel in the Planning and Service Center to make such a study. In this particular case, however, we wonder if it might not be desirable for Dr. John Russey to participate? His participation would be invaluable, because of his knowledge of the area, his experience as an interpretive planner, his familiarity with the State's historical preservation programs and plans, and his acquaintanceship with State officials who plan and operate the historical areas in the State park system. He would be joined in the effort by a planner from the San Francisco Planning and Service Center.

It is estimated that the study could be accomplished in three weeks: one week in gathering background information, determining State plans, etc.; one week in the field; one week in preparing a report and recommendations. This schedule may need modification, following discussions in greater detail with the individuals making the study.

We would appreciate your forthright thoughts on the suggestion to detail Dr. Russey to the study of the Mother Lode sites. If you are agreeable and if it can be worked into Dr. Russey's busy schedule, we would like to know the date on which he could commence.



Travel, per diem and miscellaneous costs would be assumed by the Cooperative Activities Group, WASO.

We would like to get the study underway as soon as possible, so would appreciate your early reply.

C. Gordon Fredine

cc:

Assistant Director, Operations

CPL - Maeder

f

RHMaeder:kem 7/19/66



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

July 29, 1966

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L58-CPL

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director, Western Region

Subject: Study of California Mother Lode Sites

In response to the request made in Acting Assistant Director Fredine's memorandum of July 20, we shall be pleased to detail Regional Historian Hussey to work with the San Francisco Planning and Service Center on a study of the possibilities for National Park Service participation in the preservation and interpretation of California's Mother Lode Country.

Although we anticipate that such a study could be accomplished in three weeks of actual work as estimated by Mr. Fredine, we do not believe it could be accomplished in three consecutive weeks. The assembling of the necessary base maps, the setting up of appointments with State officials, and the production of report maps and illustrations would require a considerable amount of time and advance preparation.

This is particularly true in view of the fact that one possibility previously proposed and which must be considered is a Mother Lode Parkway or Scenic Road, under National or State administration. Even the legal possibilities of such a project could scarcely be explored in three weeks without a good deal of advance arrangement with State Highway and Park personnel.

Dr. Hussey will be on leave in connection with a long-approved trip to Europe from about September 5 to October 10. Upon his return he hopes to attend the Western History Association Meeting at El Paso, Texas, October 13-15.

In view of these prior commitments, we suggest the following schedule for the Mother Lode study:

August 1 - 19

Preliminary planning and correspondence on an intermittent basis to make the necessary appointments, accumulate maps and background data, and study earlier NPS action toward the Mother Lode or important Gold Discovery sites.

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August 22 - 26

Interviews with State Highway and State Park officials; review of State studies at Sacramento.

October 17 - 23 (?)

Field reconnaissance of Mother Lode to determine present conditions and possibilities. (NOTE: Due to the extensive urbanization of the Mother Lode during the past ten years, this field work is essential and may even require two weeks. October is a much more satisfactory time of the year for such a study than is August due to the intensive summer tourist travel which would impede photography, involve long detours for accommodations, etc.)

October 24 (?) - November 4 Prepare report.

We believe this proposed schedule is realistic, and we hope it will meet with the approval of the Washington Office and San Francisco Service Center personnel concerned.

  
Raymond O. Mulvany

cc:  
Chief, RPSSC



*Wagner 8/5  
Brown  
8/8*

158-CPL

AUG 9 - 1966

## Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region

From: Chief, Division of National Park System Plan and Natural Landmarks Surveys

Subject: Reconnaissance study, Mother Lode country - Dr. John Hussey

We are very pleased that you and Dr. Hussey have agreed to Dr. Hussey's participation in a reconnaissance study of the California Mother Lode country. The time schedule you suggested is agreeable to us. It indicates that the study report may be expected in this Office near the middle of November.

The nature and scope of the study were discussed over the phone by Dr. Hussey and Mr. Maeder of this Office on August 3. This memorandum is intended to help clarify certain questions that relate to the forthcoming study.

Our memorandum of July 20 indicated that we hope to identify this year the scope of the National Park Service's involvement in the preservation and interpretation of the mining story in the California Mother Lode country. We should have qualified that statement by saying that the recommendations formulated at this time will be preliminary and will be subject to more comprehensive studies at a later date to fully determine the suitability and feasibility of the proposals, and to be concerned with the fine details that relate to them. This qualification will reduce the scope of the study.

As Dr. Hussey has pointed out, the Historic Sites Survey identified four sites in the Mother Lode country as being nationally significant. All four are in State ownership. This may limit, but not necessarily preclude, National Park Service activities and programs in the Mother Lode country.

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LSD CPL

JAN 26 1967

Hon. Harold Z. Johnson  
 House of Representatives  
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

As you are aware, we initiated a study during the last half of 1966 of historic mining sites in the Mother Lode Country. This effort has been aimed toward identifying the ways and means by which the story of mining in California might be presented within or through the National Park System.

Having promised to keep you advised of the progress of the study, we wish to inform you that the study report is in preparation and is expected to be received in our Washington Office early in February.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.  
 Director

cc:  
 Regional Historian, Dr. Hussey, Western Region  
 Regional Director, Western  
 C -  
 CAM - Benson  
 ELR  
 CPL

RHMaeder:kem 1/16/67

Calif



*Mussey  
2/23*

L58-CPL

FEB 27 1967

## Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Western Region  
From: Deputy Assistant Director, Cooperative Activities  
Subject: The Mother Lode Country report

As you are aware, Regional Historian John Mussey conducted a reconnaissance study of the Mother Lode Country to assess the needs and opportunities for National Park Service participation in historical preservation efforts. The resultant report was typed in final and reproduced in this office during the time of Dr. Mussey's recent task force assignment in Washington. A copy of the final report is enclosed.

Review of the report is underway in this office, following which we hope to prescribe or recommend the proper course of action. In the meantime, we would appreciate and welcome any comments you may care to offer on the report.

Realizing that Dr. Mussey's assignment to this task was an added burden to both your office and to Dr. Mussey, we are sincerely grateful for your willingness to support the assignment and for Dr. Mussey's enthusiasm and thoroughness in carrying it out. We thank you both.

*5/ Raymond L. Freeman*

Enclosure

cc: ✓  
PS

RHM:der:sjm 2/23/67

*Mr. J. J. Gannon**L58*

March 22, 1967

HPSP3-HH

## Memorandum

To: Chief, Division of National Park System Studies

From: Acting Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Subject: Hussey Report, "Mother Lode Country, California"

Dr. Hussey's report on the Mother Lode Country in California is an excellent and understanding statement on the physical remains existing today and the problems inherent in undertaking at this late date a program of preserving historic sites and their associated settings relating to the Gold Rush days of more than a century ago. We believe that it provides the basis for proceeding with the next necessary step.

We concur in Hussey's recommendation that the historic preservation problems in the Mother Lode country, considered in the light of present conditions, can probably best be undertaken under some variant of the new park concept represented in the recently authorized Nez Perce National Historical Park in Idaho. Such a park, to be established and administered successfully, would have to have the full and favorable support of State, county, town, and possibly other local officials, as Hussey's report makes abundantly clear.

In order to evaluate particular sites and sections that should be incorporated into an historical park of the type proposed, a competent study team composed of experienced men in their respective professional fields should be appointed to make a somewhat detailed planning study. The importance of this particular subject and the urgency of the problem lead us to urge that the team be constituted as soon as possible. We shall be happy to assist in the work of the proposed planning team in any way that seems desirable.

We are retaining the copy of the report sent to us for review for our files.

*/s/ ROBERT M. UTLEY*

Robert M. Utley

cc:  
OI, Chief,  
DAD, Mr. Stagner  
WSC - HH

REAppleman:srb 3/22/67

*WASU*





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L58 PS

MAY 8 - 1967

## Memorandum

To: Chief, Division of New Area Studies and Master Planning

From: Chief, Division of National Park System Plan and Natural Landmarks Surveys

Subject: Study of alternatives - California Mother Lode

As you know, the discovery of gold in California in 1848 and the great rush that followed were events of major significance in the development of the United States. This phase of the country's history is represented in the National Park System only in an incidental manner. It should be more specifically represented and commemorated in the System.

Regional Historian John A. Hussey's report on the Mother Lode Country of California, with which you are familiar, identified four possibilities for National Park Service designation and administration:

1. Mother Lode Country National Parkway.
2. Mother Lode Country National Historical Park (Nez Perce formula).
3. Traditional NPS park in Mt. Bullion-Hornitos-Bear Valley vicinity.
4. Traditional NPS park in Volcano - Fiddletown vicinity.

Inasmuch as the significance of the Mother Lode story has been established, the desirability of NPS commemoration of that story has been recognized, and four possibilities have been identified, it seems appropriate now for the Service to schedule a more comprehensive study of each of the alternatives discussed in the Hussey report. As the study progresses, additional alternatives may be revealed.

There are several factors which cause us to recommend the scheduling of such a study at the earliest possible date: (1) there are several individuals still assigned to the Western Regional Office and to the San Francisco Service Center who are very knowledgeable

about the Mother Lode Country and who would accept such a planning assignment with great enthusiasm and interest; (2) physical resources for commemorating the California gold rush still exist, but are rapidly disappearing; (3) Director Hartzog and Congressman Harold "Bizz" Johnson have discussed the subject several times. Both are very interested in the possibility of NPS representation of the California mining story.

A copy of Dr. Hussey's Mother Lode Country report is enclosed. We have additional copies, if you should need them. If we can help further in arriving at a course to follow we will be glad to discuss.

*Charles E. Brown*



6-12 T. SchLAFMAN  
 J. H. Husted  
 6.12  
 Melvin 6/14

UNITED STATES  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

L58

JUN 22 1967

Hon. Harold Johnson  
 House of Representatives of National Park System Plan and  
 Washington, D. C. - Surveys

Dear Mr. Johnson: alternatives - California Mother Lode

Knowing of your keen interest in the historical significance of the mining story in California, we are pleased to enclose for your information a copy of a reconnaissance report entitled "The Mother Lode Country, California" by John A. Hussey, Regional Historian, Western Region, National Park Service.

We have recently directed our San Francisco Planning and Service Center to conduct a comprehensive study of the Mother Lode Country and to prepare a report of conservation alternatives. This study will determine whether this region or portions of it merit consideration for establishment as a unit of the National Park System. We anticipate that the study report will be completed by the fall of 1968.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) EDWARD A. HUMMEL

Assistant Director

Enclosure

cc:

Regional Director, Western Region  
 SSC-RP  
 WSC-HH, Mr. Utley  
 CAM, Mr. Benson  
 CAM, Mr. Schlafman  
 CAM, Reading File  
 C, Mrs. Sorah  
 DAL, Mr. Melvin

TSchlafman:JHHusted:ds:6-16-67

Cal.

hbt  
 TW

20 DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

OFFICE ADDRESS:  
2347 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
320 VERNON STREET  
ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

July 5, 1967

COMMITTEES:  
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
IRRIGATION AND RECLAMATION, CHAIRMAN  
NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION  
PUBLIC LANDS  
PUBLIC WORKS  
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FLOOD CONTROL  
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PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS  
SELECT COMMITTEE:  
INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS

L58

Edward A. Hummel  
Assistant Director  
U.S. Department of  
the Interior  
National Park Service  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hummel:

Just a note to thank you for your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy of John Hussey's reconnaissance report on the Mother Lode.

It was certainly well done and I found it especially interesting since I had the opportunity to travel through much of the Mother Lode County.

Sincerely yours,

*Harold T. (Bizz) Johnson*  
HAROLD T. (BIZZ) JOHNSON  
Member of Congress

J:j

*California*

*SWO*  
*L. O. H. 11/14*  
*2. File*