

10-23  
(May, 1929)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
VIRGIN PINE ..... NATIONAL PARK

FILE No.

PART 1

NATIONAL MONUMENT

VIRGIN PINE

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LAST DATE ON TOP

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IMPORTANT

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HORACE M. ALBRIGHT,

*Director.*

**VIRGIN PINE NATIONAL MONUMENT, MISS.**

**LOCATION  
AND AREA:**

On the Mississippi Coast containing 50 square miles.

**HISTORY AND  
REMARKS:**

First mentioned by D. M. Graham a lawyer in Gulfport, Miss. Virgin pine trees growing down to the water's edge. Unusual beauty is claimed.

**ACCESSIBILITY:**

The exact location is unknown but it could possibly be reached from Gulfport, Miss.

**PERSON IN-  
TERESTED:**

D. M. Graham, Gulfport, Miss.

**STATUS:**

Not given serious consideration.

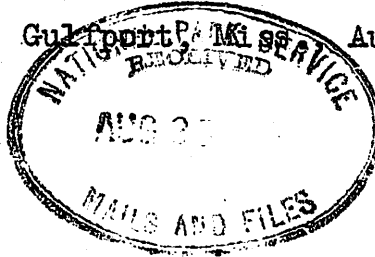
WALTER H. WHITE  
D. M. GRAHAM  
GULFPORT, MISS.

E. J. FORD  
J. I. FORD  
H. W. GAUTIER  
PASCAGOULA, MISS.



FORD, WHITE, GRAHAM & GAUTIER  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
GULFPORT AND PASCAGOULA, MISS.

*Mr. Brooks*  
*Rmt*



August 23rd, 1930.

Secretary of Interior,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I assume this letter should go to the Director of National Parks and if this be so, we hope it will be forwarded to him.

There is a tract of land on the Mississippi Coast, about ten miles front and approximately five miles in depth, of virgin pine. These trees have never been boxed or mollested in any way, and the tract of land is one of the beauty spots of the world. I doubt whether there is another one like it anywhere, virgin pine growing down to the water's edge.

I have often thought this tract should be converted into a National Bank. It is owned by a gentleman who lives in Chicago. What I should like to know is whether or not it has ever been the policy of the United States Government to buy tracts of this kind for a National Park.

Of course, we understand that most of the National Parks were reserved from public domain, and of course the United States never had to expend any money for them except for maintenance, etc.

Any information you could give us which would assist in bringing this to the attention of the proper authorities will be very greatly appreciated.

With very great respect, I am

Yours very truly,

*D. M. Graham*

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON

*File*

*Drop the  
hook*

*P. M. Rice*

AUG 27 1930

*J. M. May*

Mr. D. M. Graham,

Gulfport, Mississippi.

Dear Mr. Graham:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 23, 1930, referring to a tract of virgin pine land on the Mississippi coast which you recommend being converted into a national park.

It is now a well established policy that areas considered for national park purposes must be of outstanding scenic quality, examples of unusual natural phenomena or extraordinary results of such phenomena, or of unusual historical or scientific interest. They must also be of sufficient size to allow the development of tourist facilities on a large and comprehensive scale and also should not duplicate the major characteristics of any existing national park. In other words the policy is that each national park created should be a unique example of its kind, should be of national rather than local or sectional interest, and capable of broad comprehensive development for national use. Furthermore, in order to insure adequate and satisfactory Federal administration, protection and preservation, such areas should be entirely free from privately owned lands.

Until recent years areas set aside as national parks have been in the Western States and carved from the public domain. However, during the past few years the establishment of national parks have been provided for in the east to cover lands to be donated by private parties as, for instance, the proposed Shenandoah National Park in Virginia and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee. Therefore, the policy followed in establishing national parks when the land is not already owned by the United States is that the land be first turned over to the Government free of charge by local or other interests.

As high standards for national park areas have been set, which must be maintained, the National Park Service feels that no park should be established without it first having had an opportunity to carefully investigate the proposed area on the ground. Therefore, it is suggested that you submit to this Service all the information you have that would be of an assistance in arriving at such conclusions. Also, give us the exact location of this area so that if an examination is considered advisable it may be readily located.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
ARNO B. CAMMERER,  
Acting Director.

*Files*

VIRGIN PINE PROPOSED NATIONAL MONUMENT, MISS.

REVIEW:

Located on the Mississippi coast, containing approximately 50 sq. miles of virgin growth of pine. It is privately owned.

Mr. Cammerer, Acting Director, wrote to Mr. D. M. Graham, in answer to his letter, suggesting the establishment of this area as a National Park, requesting information about this area, and also stating the standards of the National Park Service. There has been no answer to this letter of August 27, 1930, and the project appears to be dropped.

I know this country well, having lived in New Orleans for over three years and spent about half of this time on the Gulf Coast in connection with my landscape practice, and I am sure there is no country there that would meet the National Park or Monument standards.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that this area be dropped from our list of proposed national monuments.

*C. L. Wirth*

C. L. WIRTH.

FEB -1 1933

APPROVED:

*Walter C. ...*

Director.

*W.C. ...*