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Towson
Baltimore
Maryland 21204

DEPARTMENT OF
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

GOUCHER COLLEGE

December 18 1965

Mr. Steward L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Udall,

I am writing to you for help and advice, It seems to me and a number of friends here and in Philadelphia, New York City, and in Boston that Atlantic Highlands, also called Navesink Highlands, just back of and above Sandy Hook New Jersey should become a National Park or National Monument or be in some other way placed under the care of your department so that it would become developed as a cultural and recreational resource for the entire country.

Should we form some kind of an organization, perhaps called "Friends of Atlantic Highlands", to further such an objective? Should we try to arrange to hold hearings either in your department or in the Congress? Is there some better way to proceed?

My realization of the drawing power of the Atlantic Highlands for tourists began two summers ago when I was Secretary-General of the XVIth International Congress of Zoology in Washington. In talking with delegates from many parts of the world about possible post-congress trips, I found great and virtually universal interest in Atlantic Highlands. They offer clearly the most spectacular view of any site actually on the Atlantic coast line from Mt Cadillac in Acadia National Park on the coast of Maine and some point in South America, some people say until you get to Rio de Janeiro but others tell me there is a place in Venezuela which is as handsome.

In any case, from the neglected and unpaved parking lot on top of Atlantic Highlands one can overlook the whole length of Sandy Hook with the Atlantic Ocean to the right and Raritan Bay at your feet and, straight ahead, is the Lower Bay, Staten Island and Long Island connected by the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. You can watch all the ships that go in and out of New York Harbor! On a clear day the skyscrapers of Manhattan are also visible. And all this is within easy distance for millions of people. Perhaps I might add that Atlantic Highlands was the scene of one of James Fenimore Cooper's novels, "Water Witch".

The Federal Government evidently already owns property on the Highlands around the site of the famous lighthouse or double lighthouse. I am not certain whether or not the lighthouse property is adjacent to the parking lot on top of the highlands where the view I have described is to be had. My impression is that it is not. At least the old parking lot is now bounded by a trap rock precipice on the north and scrub oak woods on the other three sides.

Any help that you could give us would be very greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Gairdner Moment

Gairdner B. Moment, Professor of Biology

P.S.
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P.S. I think I should add that I
have talked with a great many
people about this project and
have not found one who
opposes it!

Bergman 11-27
Brown 12-27

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Guidance for Severn
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L58-CMF

JAN 3 1966

Professor Gairdner B. Moment
Department of Biological Sciences
Goucher College
Baltimore, Maryland 21204

Dear Professor Moment:

Secretary of the Interior Udall asked us to reply to your letter of December 18, suggesting that the Atlantic Highlands be made a unit of the National Park Service and seeking advice on how to proceed with furthering such an objective.

Because we have no information about the Atlantic Highlands in our files, we are asking our Northeast Regional Office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to give us a report on the area. We will write again after we have the Region's report.

We appreciate your writing about your interest in preserving the Atlantic Highlands.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) JACKSON E. PRICE

Assistant Director

~~cc+~~
~~DCCO~~

~~Regional Director, Northeast w/c of inc.~~

Please furnish a draft reply to Professor Moment

~~SLR~~

~~CME w/c of inc.~~

RKBergman:dk 12/29/65

new jersey

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S-7607



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106



IN REPLY REFER TO:

L58-CNP
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JAN 25 1966

Bergman
Receipt
2/4

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Assistant Regional Director, Cooperative Activities,
Northeast Region

Subject: Information on the Altantic Highlands, New Jersey

In reference to the note on our copy of Assistant Director Price's letter to Professor Moment dated January 3, 1966, we are enclosing a draft reply to the professor concerning his interest in the possibilities of making the subject area a national park or national monument.

Although we have not made a field investigation of the Highlands, we doubt that the area would qualify because of its small size or because it happens to be a good viewing point. If, however, your Office feels that a field study should be made, we will be glad to schedule a field study of the area during the coming spring.

Allen T. Edmunds

Allen T. Edmunds

Enclosure *A*

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Professor Gairdner B. Moment
Department of Biological Sciences
Goucher College
Baltimore, Maryland 21204

Dear Professor Moment:

In our letter to you dated January 3, concerning your inquiry about the Atlantic Highlands, we advised that we would ask our Regional Office in Philadelphia for information on the area. We just received their reply and we are passing along the information to you.

It appears that the area referred to as the Atlantic Highlands covers an area of about 1,200 acres of backlands behind several local developed communities spread along Sandy Hook Bay. Most of this acreage is undeveloped. In the southeastern portion of the area there is a U.S. Air Force Reservation covering about 235 acres. North of the reservation is the location of the Navesink Lighthouse to which you refer. In January 1953, the Mayor of Highlands, after proposing that the light be declared a national historic site, was advised that the National Park Service did not think the light was of national significance and the Service recommended that it be made a State area.

With regard to the Highlands proper, we believe that the area due to its small size would be more of regional importance and should be taken up with the State of New Jersey, through their Department of

Conservation and Economic Development. Their address is: Labor and Industry Building, Box 1390, Trenton, New Jersey. Perhaps they already have plans for the acquisition of the area through their "Green Acres" program. We would suggest that you discuss this matter with them in the light of your interest in the geological aspects of the area. As you probably know, the State is now developing a park at Sandy Hook and they may very well be interested in the Highlands also.

Without knowing fully about the conditions of the Highlands area, we nevertheless feel that any significant amount of open space such as this should, by all means, be strongly considered by the State or even by the county for preservation for park and recreation purposes.

We trust that this information will be of some help to you, and we greatly appreciate your writing to us about the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Bergman
Brown 3/4

FEB 9 1966

L58-CNP

Professor Gairdner B. Moment
Department of Biological Sciences
Goucher College
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Professor Moment:

This is in further reply to your letter of December 18, 1965, suggesting that the Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey, be made a unit of the National Park System. We wrote you on January 3 that we had no information about the Atlantic Highlands in our files and that we would ask our Northeast Regional Office in Philadelphia to give us a report on the area. That office informed us that it plans to make a reconnaissance study of the Atlantic Highlands this spring. After its study report has been reviewed and the Service has taken a position, we will write to you again.

Sincerely yours,
Original Signed by
Chester C. Brown

Chief, Division of
National Park System Studies

cc:
Regional Director, NE
CNP

RKBergman:mec 2/3/66

INTERIM

FEB 9 1966

158-CNP

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region
From: Assistant Director, Cooperative Activities
Subject: Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey

We have Assistant Regional Director Allen T. Edmunds' memorandum of January 25 furnishing a draft of a letter concerning the Atlantic Highlands to Professor Gairdner B. Momen.

After we requested the draft of letter, Mr. Harold Coolidge asked the Director to arrange for an investigation of the area at the Atlantic Highlands as marked on the enclosed U. S. Geological Survey map of Sandy Hook, New Jersey. He was particularly interested in obtaining our thinking as to how the area might best be protected so as to allow the public continuing enjoyment of the outstanding view from this location. Mr. Coolidge is not certain that he marked the exact location of the viewing point in which he is interested.

Accordingly, please furnish us a report covering a reconnaissance survey of this area so that we may discuss it with Mr. Coolidge. Also, please let us have the date that we may expect to receive the report.

(SGD) THEODOR R. SWEM

Enclosure

cc:
CNP

RKBergman:mee 2/3/66
Rewritten:TRSwem:fjw 2/8/66



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Philadelphia Planning and Service Center
Office of Resource Planning
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106



IN REPLY REFER TO:

~~158-23~~
158-CNP
PSC(ORP)

258

CNP

Memorandum

To: Assistant Director, Cooperative Activities
From: Chief, Office of Resource Planning, PSC
Subject: Reconnaissance Survey Report, Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey

In reference to your memorandum of February 9, a field reconnaissance was made on March 9 of the Atlantic Highlands area in New Jersey, and the following is a report on the findings.

Location

The area is located on the high neck separating the southeastern corner at Sandy Hook Bay (New York Bay) and the Navesink River. It is bordered by the towns of Highlands and Atlantic Highlands in Middletown Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey.

Access

General access to the area from the New York, northern New Jersey urban area (only some 30 miles away) is accommodated by U.S. Route 9, the New Jersey Turnpike, State Route 35 and the Garden State Parkway. Specific access is provided by State Route 36, which is also the major route to seaside parks (Sandy Hook State Park) and resorts on the northern New Jersey coast.

Land Ownership

Land ownership is predominately private. Existing development of the heights overlooking Sandy Hook Bay is almost entirely residential and is, in view of the terrain, dense. Access to these residences

is either directly or indirectly from the county road, "Ocean Boulevard," which has been marked by signs indicating that it is a scenic drive at its west end in Atlantic Highlands and its eastern terminus at the intersection with State Route 36. Two commercial developments exist at the points along Ocean Boulevard where views over the bay are available. These establishments take advantage of the view.

South of Route 36, in that portion of the heights referred to locally as Navesink Highlands, there is an Air Force Reservation (North American Air Defense Command, 646th Radar Sq. and 19th Artry. Gp.) of about 235 acres. The State owns and administers as a State Park the Navesink (Twin Lights) Lighthouse and some small land area around it, which includes the site of the Marconi trans-Atlantic wireless telegraph tower. The State Department of Conservation and Economic Development recently recommended that its holdings in this area be enlarged, but was discouraged by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation because the opportunities for active recreation are small. The remainder of the area is privately owned with only few exceptions and is relatively undeveloped except along the Navesink River shoreline and other pockets where access from existing public roads to building sites is possible. In these areas, residences have been, or are being constructed, many of them quite pretentious.

Physical Description

The land elevations build up gradually from the west to culminate in elevations of in excess at 260 feet msl in the Atlantic and Navesink Highlands area. Views from the heights over Sandy Hook to New York City are superb where they exist, but they are few in number. Some additional vistas offering other views (particularly of the Navesink River) could be developed but sites for these are either within the Air Force Reservation or access to them is blocked by the Reservation.

Forest cover is well developed and consists of mixed hardwoods, primarily oak, with a few pines. Broad leafed evergreens are common in the understory.

The history of the early explorations of the American coastline by Hudson, Verazzano and Cabot, and early indian habitation might prove interesting.

Recommendations

1. The small size (1,200 acres approximately) and the fragmentations of the area by highways, streets and residential areas, coupled with the lack of any clear indication of nationally significant natural, historic or historic resource leads to the recommendation that this area not be further investigated as an addition to the National Park System.
2. Unless the two overlooks along Ocean Boulevard can be improved in quality by the owners to better serve the public, it is recommended that local action be initiated to acquire the properties and develop the areas into public wayside parks.
3. The more extensive area south of State Route 36 should be acquired and developed as a State Park with woodland hiking and picnicking as major recreation activities. Views of the Navesink River and the barrier beach and ocean could also become important considerations. This can be accomplished now without damage to existing residence areas but as housing continues to develop the area will become fragmented and the opportunity will be lost.


Allen T. Edmunds

DRAFT

Dr. Harold J. Coolidge
c/o International Commission on National Parks, IUCN
National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20418

Dear Harold:

As a result of your request earlier this year, we made a reconnaissance survey of the Atlantic Highlands in New Jersey. Personnel from our Philadelphia Planning and Service Center visited the area in March and recently submitted a report recommending that no further consideration be given to addition of the Atlantic Highlands to the National Park System. The recommendation is based upon recognition of the following deficiencies:

1. Its small size (approximately 1,200 acres).
2. The fragmentation of the area by highways, streets and residential areas.
3. A lack of any clear indication of nationally significant natural, historic or recreational resources.

The land in the area is predominantly privately-owned. The heights overlooking the Sandy Hook Bay is almost entirely developed for residential use and is, in view of the terrain, dense. Access to the residences is either directly or indirectly from the county road, "Ocean Boulevard." The two locations along Ocean Boulevard having views over the bay are occupied by commercial establishments that take advantage of the situation.

An Air Force Reservation (North American Air Defense Command, 646th Radar Squadron and 19th Artillery Group) occupies about 235 acres south of Route 369 in that portion of the heights referred to locally as Navesink Highlands. The State owns and administers as a State park the Navesink (Twin Lights) lighthouse and some small land area around it including the site of the Marconi trans-Atlantic wireless telegraph tower. The State Department of Conservation and Economic Development is, we understand, interested in increasing its holdings in this area. The remainder of the area is privately owned with only few exceptions and is relatively undeveloped except along the Navesink River shoreline and other pockets where access from existing public roads to building sites is possible. In these places, residences have been, or are being constructed--many of them being quite expensive.

Land elevations build up gradually from the west to culminate in elevations in excess of 260 feet M.S.L. in the Atlantic and Navesink Highlands area. Views from the heights over Sandy Hook to New York City are superb where they exist, but they are few in number. ~~Some~~ ^A Additional vistas, ~~offering other views,~~ particularly ^{OVER} ~~of~~ the Navesink River, could be developed but sites for these are either within the Air Force Reservation or access to them is blocked by the reservation.

Forest cover is well developed and consists of mixed hardwoods, primarily oak, with a few pines. Broad leafed evergreens are common in the understory.

Although we believe the area does not merit further consideration for status in the National Park System, local action could be initiated to acquire the two overlooks along Ocean Boulevard and develop them into public wayside parks. Also, the more extensive area south of State Route 36 could be acquired and developed as a state park having woodland hiking and picnicking as major recreation activities and offering fine views of the Navesink River and the barrier beach and ocean. The existing residential areas would not be a major obstacle to development of such a park, but further residential construction will fragment the area and the opportunity will be lost.

Sincerely yours,

Director

cc:
Office of Resource Plng., Phila. Plng. & Service Center
Mr. Brown
CNP



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



IN REPLY REFER TO:

L2623-CNP

APR 5 1966

Swen
Is this ok? Could we
give it
Hardmark status?
5/11/66

Memorandum

To: Director, National Park Service
From: ^{Acting} Assistant Director, Cooperative Activities
Subject: Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey

Enclosed is a copy of Al Edmunds' memorandum of March 21 which is a Reconnaissance Survey Report on the Atlantic Highlands in New Jersey.

The report was prepared to comply with Dr. Harold Coolidge's verbal request made to you earlier this year.

We are enclosing a suggested draft of letter to Dr. Coolidge.

C. Gordon Fiedline

Enclosures 2

JUN 14 1966

L58-CPL

Dr. Gairdner B. Moment
Department of Biological Sciences
Goucher College
Baltimore, Maryland 21204

Dear Dr. Moment:

This is in further response to your letter of December 18, 1965, recommending that the Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey, be made a unit in the National Park System.

We conducted a field study of the Highlands in March and determined that the land in the area is predominantly privately owned. The heights overlooking the Sandy Hook Bay is almost entirely developed for residential use and is, in view of the terrain, dense. Access to the residences is either directly or indirectly from the country road, "Ocean Boulevard." The two locations along Ocean Boulevard having views over the bay are occupied by commercial establishments.

An Air Force Reservation (North American Air Defense Command, 646th Radar Squadron and 19th Artillery Group) occupies about 235 acres south of Route 36, in that portion of the heights referred to locally as Navesink Highlands. The State owns and administers as a State Park the Navesink (Twin Lights) lighthouse and some small land area around it including the site of the Marconi trans-Atlantic wireless telegraph tower. The State Department of Conservation and Economic Development is, we understand interested in increasing its holdings in this area. The remainder of the area is privately owned with only few exceptions and is relatively undeveloped except along the Navesink River shoreline and other pockets where access from existing public roads to building sites is possible. In these places, residences have been, or are being constructed--many of them being quite expensive.

Land elevations build up gradually from the west to culminate in elevations in excess of 260 feet M.S.L. in the Atlantic and Navesink Highlands area. Views from the heights over Sandy Hook to New York City are superb where they exist, but they are few in number. Some additional vistas offering other views, particularly of the Navesink River, could be developed but sites for these are either within the Air Force Reservation or access to them is blocked by the reservation.

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Proctor 6/6
Bergman 6/6
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Forest cover is well developed and consists of mixed hardwoods, primarily oak, with a few pines. Broad leafed evergreens are common in the understory.

Based upon these findings we can conclude only that the site does not meet the criterion of national significance for inclusion in the National Park System or the Registry of National Landmarks and in addition its relatively small size and fragmentation by highways, streets and residences make it unsuited for a national park area. National Park Service criteria for parklands are described in the enclosed booklet.

We believe the site does have potential for local park development. Local action might be initiated to acquire the two overlooks along Ocean Boulevard for public wayside parks. The more extensive area south of State Route 36 might be considered for development as a State park with hiking and picnicking as major recreation activities and providing fine views of the Navesink River, and the barrier beach and ocean. Existing residential areas would not be a major obstacle now but further construction could destroy the opportunity.

We are sorry that we cannot be more helpful and hope that the natural values of this site may be preserved through local action.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) THEODOR R. SWEM

Assistant Director

Enclosure

SIMILAR LETTER SENT TO DR. HAROLD J. COOLIDGE - *Bob received copy of this letter.*

cc:
Office of Resource Planning, PSC
Regional Director, Northeast
CPL
SLR
Miss Wickline - C (CAM)
DCCO

RKBergman:cc 5/10/66
Rewritten:CKDale:sjm 6/3/66