

the Secretary at the time of the initial appointment.

(e) Chairman

The Commission shall elect a chairman from among its members. The term of the chairman shall be for 3 years.

(f) Terms

Any member of the Commission appointed by the Secretary for a 3-year term may serve after the expiration of his or her term until a successor is appointed. Any vacancy shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor was appointed.

(g) Per diem expenses

Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation. Members shall be entitled to travel expenses under section 5703, title 5, when engaged in Commission business, including per diem in lieu of subsistence in the same manner as persons employed intermittently.

(h) Administrative support

The Secretary shall provide the Commission with assistance in obtaining such personnel, equipment, and facilities as may be needed by the Commission to carry out its duties.

(i) Annual report

The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Secretary identifying its expenses and income and the entities to which any grants or technical assistance were made during the year for which the report is made.

(Pub. L. 103-433, title XII, §1207, Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4522.)

§ 410bbb-6. Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 103-433, title XII, §1208, Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4525.)

SUBCHAPTER LIX-AA—CANE RIVER CREOLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK AND NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

PART A—CANE RIVER CREOLE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

§ 410ccc. Findings and purposes

(a) Findings

The Congress finds that—

(1) the Natchitoches area along Cane River, established in 1714, is the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase territory;

(2) the Cane River area is the locale of the development of Creole culture, from French-Spanish interactions of the early 18th century of today's living communities;

(3) the Cane River, historically a segment of the Red River, provided the focal point for early settlement, serving as a transportation route upon which commerce and communication reached all parts of the colony;

(4) although a number of Creole structures, sites, and landscapes exist in Louisiana and elsewhere, unlike the Cane River area, most are isolated examples, and lack original out-building complexes or integrity;

(5) the Cane River area includes a great variety of historical features with original elements in both rural and urban settings and a cultural landscape that represents various aspects of Creole culture, providing the base for a holistic approach to understanding the broad continuum of history within the region;

(6) the Cane River region includes the Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District, composed of approximately 300 publicly and privately owned properties, four other national historic landmarks, and other structures and sites that may meet criteria for landmark significance following further study;

(7) historic preservation within the Cane River area has greatly benefitted from individuals and organizations that have strived to protect their heritage and educate others about their rich history; and

(8) because of the complexity and magnitude of preservation needs in the Cane River area, and the vital need for a culturally sensitive approach, a partnership approach is desirable for addressing the many preservation and educational needs.

(b) Purposes

The purposes of this subchapter are to—

(1) recognize the importance of the Cane River Creole culture as a nationally significant element of the cultural heritage of the United States;

(2) establish a Cane River Creole National Historical Park to serve as the focus of interpretive and educational programs on the history of the Cane River area and to assist in the preservation of certain historic sites along the river; and

(3) establish a Cane River National Heritage Area and Commission to be undertaken in partnership with the State of Louisiana, the City of Natchitoches, local communities and settlements of the Cane River area, preservation organizations, and private landowners, with full recognition that programs must fully involve the local communities and landowners.

(Pub. L. 103-449, title III, §302, Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4757.)

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 103-449, title III, §301, Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4757, provided that: "Titles III and IV of this Act [enacting this subchapter] may be cited as the 'Cane River Creole National Historical Park and National Heritage Area Act'."

§ 410ccc-1. Establishment

(a) In general

In order to assist in the preservation and interpretation of, and education concerning, the Creole culture and diverse history of the Natchitoches region, and to provide technical assistance to a broad range of public and private