



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Salem Maritime
National Historic Site

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Salem Maritime News Release

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National Parks Second Century Commission to Visit Boston Area

SALEM, MA—The National Parks Second Century Commission, a prestigious panel formed in August 2008 to examine the national parks today and chart a vision for their future, will be visiting Lowell National Historical Park and the Essex National Heritage Area on October 27 and 28, 2008. Lowell NHP and the Essex National Heritage Area were chosen because they are models for new patterns in park management, particularly through the use of civic engagement and partnerships, and will familiarize Commissioners with National Park Service historic preservation, heritage, rivers, trails, recreation, and natural programs involving federal, state, and local governments and the private sector. The Essex National Heritage Area's alliance with Salem Maritime and Saugus Iron Works National Historic Sites also demonstrates present community-building concepts and along with the work done by Lowell NHP, will help the commissioners to envision future initiatives.

The Commission is co-chaired by former senators Howard H. Baker and J. Bennet Johnson, and is made up of 30 national leaders, experts and thinkers drawn from a broad range of backgrounds, including scientists, historians, conservationists, academics, business leaders, policy experts, and retired National Park Service executives, such as former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, John Fahey, President and Corporate Executive Officer, National Geographic Society, and the well-known historians James McPherson and Gary Nash.

The Commission includes several Boston-based experts, including Linda Bilmes, MBA, Professor, Public Policy, Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government; and Former Assistant Secretary

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and Chief Financial Officer, US Department of Commerce; Peter M. Senge, PhD, Senior Lecturer, Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Founding Chair of the Society of Organizational Learning; and Edward O. Wilson, PhD, Pelligrino University Research Professor and Curator of Entomology, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard.

The Commissioner are visiting only five National Parks: Santa Monica Mountains, Yellowstone, Gettysburg, Great Smoky Mountains, and Lowell NHP. The Lowell visit will include a visit to the Essex National Heritage Area, which is closely associated with Salem Maritime and Saugus Iron Works National Historic Sites. Visits to Lowell and the Essex National Heritage Area are targeting the themes of cultural resources and historic preservation, key ingredients for success for the National Parks of the future, collaboration in experiential learning, heritage preservation and development, civic engagement and leadership, and heritage areas & partnership organizations.

To that end, the Commissioners will spend Monday in Lowell, where between discussion sessions they will witness educational programs in the Tsongas Industrial History Center, and tour the Lowell area by trolley. Tuesday, the Commission will visit the Essex National Heritage Area, where they will hear about the close cooperation between Salem Maritime National Historic Site, Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site, and the Essex National Heritage Area, and see some of the Heritage Area initiatives that have encouraged historic preservation efforts in Essex County. The day will finish with a visit to Salem Maritime National Historic Site, where the commissioners will see civic engagement in action as they are able to speak with the volunteers and partners who have built the replica tall ship *Friendship*, and engage thousands of visitors every year through educational programs in Salem and in ports around the Boston region.

This visit is an enormous honor for Lowell NHP, the Essex National Heritage Area, Salem Maritime National Historic Site, and Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site and is a sign that the work being done in the Boston area by the National Park Service in education, historic preservation, and community involvement in the National Parks has gained national attention.

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About Salem Maritime National Historic Site

Salem Maritime National Historic Site was designated in 1937, the first National Historic Site in the National Park Service system. The nine acre site includes the homes of merchants and mariners, the Salem Custom House in which the famous author Nathaniel Hawthorne worked, and a replica of the three-masted cargo vessel *Friendship*. Today, the rangers and volunteers of Salem Maritime NHS continue to inform and inspire visitors with the maritime history of New England and the United States. For more information, visit us on the web at www.nps.gov/sama or call 978-740-1650.

About the Essex National Heritage Area and Essex Heritage

Designated by the US Congress in recognition of the important role that this region played in American history and its significant heritage sites still remaining, the Essex National Heritage Area is comprised of the 34 communities of Essex County, MA. Essex Heritage is a non profit agency that manages the Heritage Area, and works in collaboration with the National Park Service to promote public/private partnerships, and develop programs that enhance, preserve and encourage regional awareness of the Area's unique historic, cultural and natural resources. For more information, visit www.essexheritage.org or call (978) 740-0444.

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