69TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
1st Session } { No. 1379

AUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION TO ACQUIRE FORT HUNT, VA., AND FORT WASHINGTON, MD.

JUNE 4, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. HILL of Maryland, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 12391]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 12391) authorizing the National Capital Park and Planning Commission to purchase Fort Hunt, Va., and Fort Washington, Md., having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

It seems of great importance to acquire the properties known as Fort Hunt, Va., and Fort Washington, Md., no longer needed for military purposes, for proper extension of the park system of the National Capital.

Fort Hunt is located in Fairfax County, Va., 16 miles below Washington, D. C. It is located on the Potomac River just across Little Hunting Creek from Mount Vernon. It was acquired by purchase from 1893 to 1896 at a cost of $45,526.87 and includes 197.413 acres. In House Report No. 375, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session, dated February 24, 1926, its estimated sales value is $178,281. The entire frontage on the Potomac River and Little Hunting Creek is forested, and a wharf located thereon presents a view up the river to Washington City and down the river to Mount Vernon.

Fort Washington is located in Prince Georges County, Md., 14 miles south of Washington City. It consists of 354.30 acres. It was acquired by purchase and condemnation at various times between 1808 and 1914 at a cost of $38,117.60. The frontage on the Potomac River and Piscataway Creek is covered with fine forest, and an elevated plateau presents splendid views of the Potomac River and the Maryland embankment to Mount Vernon. Including a substantial wharf, the improvements at this station amount to $734,386. The present sales value is estimated in House Report No. 374, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session, page 41, as $175,650.

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The United States Bureau of Fisheries formerly occupied a limited portion of the land near the river front but was removed to rented quarters farther down the river when this tract was entirely needed for military purposes. This bureau is anxious to return to this point, and if this were done its hatchery and fish ponds would add great interest in connection with its use as a park.

The reports of both the Senate and House committees on the bill establishing the National Capital Park Commission provide as follows (H. Rept. No. 971, 68th Cong., 1st sess.; S. Rept. No. 245, 68th Cong., 1st sess.):

> * * * For proper extension of the National Capital park system the following lands should be acquired * * * 3. Development of park boulevards down the Potomac, on the Virginia side to Mount Vernon, on the Maryland side to Fort Washington, along the bluffs overlooking the river. * * *

To carry out this provision it is regarded as one of the most important features of the proposed park extension to acquire the tracts included in both these military reservations. This point constitutes the natural southern terminus of the Potomac boulevard in Maryland. From every standpoint it would seem extremely unfortunate to lose the opportunity of the preservation of such tracts for park and parkway purposes, and there is no question that if now sold the cost of acquiring them at a later period will be greatly in excess of the amount that can now be realized by their sale.

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