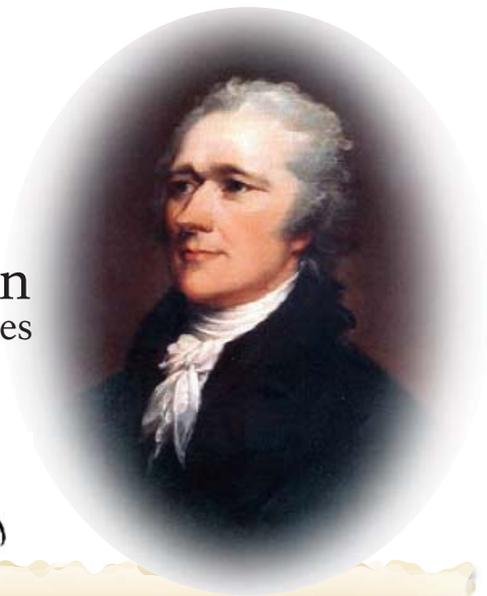




National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# Alexander Hamilton

## Estate Grange and Other Sites

### *Special Resource Study*

*A Hamilton*

#### *What Is a Special Resource Study?*

The National Park Service was created to conserve unimpaired outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational resources. The treasures in this system have been set aside by the American people to protect, preserve, and share our nation's greatest stories. Usually a new unit of the national park system is established by an act of Congress. Before passing such legislation, Congress requires reliable information about the quality of resources in the area under consideration and the potential for visitor enjoyment and efficient management. The National Park Service (NPS) collects this information and reports its findings to Congress through special resource studies. This process ensures that only those candidate sites that are most deserving of designation are included within the national park system.

#### *Why Is this Study Taking Place?*

Currently, the National Park Service is conducting a special resource study regarding Estate Grange and other sites on St. Croix that are associated with Alexander Hamilton's childhood. Regarded as the architect of our nation's financial system, Hamilton was the first secretary of the treasury and one of our nation's founding fathers. Congress ordered completion of this special resource study in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which was signed into law by President Obama.



## *Criteria for Inclusion in the National Park System*

NPS personnel will evaluate Estate Grange and other sites according to established criteria for significance, suitability, and feasibility. Applying these criteria consistently helps the National Park Service weigh the relative merits of each potential park unit.

### *National Significance*

A proposed unit will be considered nationally significant if it meets **all four** of the following standards:

- It is an outstanding example of a particular type of resource.
- It possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the natural or cultural themes of our nation's heritage.
- It offers superlative opportunities for recreation, for public use and enjoyment, or for scientific study.
- It retains a high degree of integrity as a true, accurate, and relatively unspoiled example of the resource.

### *Suitability and Feasibility*

To be **suitable** for inclusion in the system, a cultural site must represent a theme that is not adequately represented in the national park system or is not represented and protected for public enjoyment by another entity.

To be **feasible** as a unit of the national park system, an area's natural systems and/or historic settings must be of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to ensure long-term protection of the resources and to accommodate public use. The area must also have potential for efficient administration at a reasonable cost.

### *Direct NPS Management*

To be eligible as a unit of the national park system, an area must also require direct NPS management instead of protection by some other agency or by the private sector.

A special resource study may recommend establishment of a new national park system unit. This typically involves the transfer of lands to the Department of the Interior for protection and operation by the National Park Service. In some cases, a different arrangement may provide adequate protection and opportunity for public enjoyment. Options may include management by another federal agency, local government, nonprofit organization, or the private sector. In these cases, the National Park Service may still be involved by providing technical assistance or other advice. Establishment of a new park system unit will not be recommended unless this option is clearly superior.

## Special Resource Study Process

Study Process	Key Steps and Outcomes
 <b>Information Gathering and Public Scoping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research available data on Estate Grange, other related sites, and historic/socioeconomic context.</li><li>• Meet with key stakeholders.</li><li>• Public scoping (meetings, newsletters, etc.) to gather public input.</li></ul>
 <b>Prepare Draft Study</b>	<p>The <i>Draft Special Resource Study</i> will include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• resource description and historical background</li><li>• evaluation of national significance</li><li>• evaluation of suitability and feasibility as a unit of the national park system</li><li>• a range of management alternatives</li><li>• description of affected environment (e.g., cultural resources, visitor experience, socioeconomics)</li></ul>
 <b>Public Review of Draft</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Invite local discussion and solicit feedback on the draft study.</li></ul>
 <b>Finalize Study</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider public support for findings.</li><li>• Revise draft document following public comment and internal review.</li><li>• Prepare a final determination about whether study area meets criteria for inclusion as a unit of the national park system.</li><li>• Recommend action to Congress.</li></ul>
 <b>Congressional Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Congressional action on study recommendation.</li></ul>

## *How May I Become Involved?*

Your input is very important to us. As the study unfolds we will provide several opportunities for you to comment. Here are some of the ways that you may contribute.

### *Project Website*

The following website will contain updates and other information about the special resource study. Please check in and post a comment to the website anytime you like: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sero>

### *Public Scoping*

Public scoping meetings for the study are currently scheduled to take place on St. Croix during August 2009. Please drop by and provide input directly to NPS officials. Meeting times and locations will be advertised on the project website and in local media.

### *Progress Reports*

Keep up to date on the project by receiving and reading our progress reports. Two brief reports will be issued — one following public scoping and one following the development of draft alternatives. You may sign up for the mailing list on the project website.

### *Draft Study Review*

Once the draft study is ready, it will be made available on the project website. Please take some time to review the draft and provide comments on the project website. Public meetings will also be held to discuss the draft.

## *Thank you for your participation!*



*The great house at Estate Grange.*