

10-23  
(May, 1929)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
MONUMENTS NATIONAL PARK

FILE No. **0-35**  
PART 1

NATIONAL MONUMENTS

PONCE DE LEON  
-----

LAST DATE ON TOP

IMPORTANT

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge.

All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

HORACE M. ALBRIGHT,

*Director.*

Ponce de Leon #22

DA 121688 (9-25-33)

RECORDED & R. DIV.

MARCUS A. COOLIDGE, MASS.	L. J. DICKINSON, IOWA
M. M. LOGAN, KY.	WARREN R. AUSTIN, VT.
ROBERT R. REYNOLDS, N.C.	W. WARREN BARBOUR, N.J.
NATHAN L. BACHMAN, TENN.	
F. RYAN DUFFY, WIS.	
ELBERT D. THOMAS, UTAH	

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS

VICTOR RUSSELL, CLERK  
H. S. PITTS, ASST. CLERK

Sept. 25, 1933.

Honorable George H. Dern,  
Secretary of War.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE  
SEP 27 1933  
WAR DEPARTMENT

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Your records will show the passage of S. 3014, Calendar No. 333, at the last session of Congress, providing for the erection of a marker at the landing place of Ponce de Leon. Colonel H.L. Landers made report in this matter, which was the basis of the bill mentioned.

Governor Sholtz has written to me, saying,

"Mr. Walter Fraser is willing to stand all costs for the erection of a Government marker, and I have been thinking that possibly instead of taking the matter up again in Congress it might be handled directly by the War Department, and a marker authorized for the landing of Ponce de Leon similar to other such authorizations made by them.

"The Fact Finding Commission of the City of St. Augustine, appointed by the City for the specific purpose of establishing and marking authentically important points of historical interest, in their report (certified copy attached) designated the Fountain of Youth Park as being the site of Ponce de Leon's first landing."

*Basic*

-2-

"Since Colonel H. L. Landers, former head of the Army War College Historical Section, after an investigation under the direction of the War Department, has designated the landing place of Ponce de Leon to be at St. Augustine, and since the Fact Finding Commission of the City of St. Augustine (a unit and branch of the United States Government) has also confirmed this and has authorized the erection of a bronze marker in the Fountain of Youth Park, showing this to have been the landing place of Ponce de Leon it would not be amiss for the War Department to authorize a marker to be erected, with no cost to the government, in this Park and based on the findings of Colonel Landers and the Fact Finding Commission of St. Augustine."

"It would please me very much if arrangement could be made to grant this request. Mr. Fraser would be glad to go to Washington to discuss the matter further if you deem it necessary."

I would be glad to have you consider this matter and hope it may be possible to carry out the Governor's suggestion.

Attached to his letter is the paper which I also enclose, being "Conclusions arrived by the St. Augustine Fact Finding Committee as to the Landing Place of Don Juan Ponce de Leon."

Very respectfully and sincerely,

11 Received  
Tel

A. G. O. SEP 28 1933

*Leman U. Fisher*

*Basin*

2512

QM 688-A-M (Florida) 2nd Ind.  
 War Department, OCMG, Washington, October 5, 1933 - To The Adjutant General.

1. Colonel H.L. Landers, while on duty as the historical member of the Board of Officers appointed by the Secretary of War by authority of the Act of Congress approved June 11, 1926, made an intensive study of the landing of Ponce de Leon on the coast of Florida. He was unable to definitely locate the first landing place of Ponce de Leon. His conclusions were embodied in the Report of the Secretary of War to Congress and printed as Senate Document No. 151, 72nd Congress, 2d Session. This report states "The most appropriate place to erect a tablet commemorating this event is at St. Augustine. The tablet should be erected on ground now owned or to be acquired by the City of St. Augustine." This report constitutes the only "official finding" of the War Department. Governor Sholtz has misunderstood Colonel Landers' letter to Senator Fletcher, when he states that Colonel Landers designated St. Augustine as the landing place of Ponce de Leon. Under date of August 12, 1932, Colonel Landers wrote Senator Fletcher, in part, as follows:

" \* \* \* \* \* I will briefly state my conclusions:

(a) The most appropriate place to erect a tablet or monument commemorating the first landing of Ponce de Leon in the State of Florida, is at St. Augustine.

(b) To erect any memorial commemorating this first landing at any other place, either in Florida or Georgia, would be unwarranted.

(c) In my study, by the process of elimination I have discarded all other places as probable points of the first landing.

(d) The wording on the memorial which may be erected by authority of Congress, and placed at St. Augustine by authority of the Historical Section, Army War College, should not state with absolute finality that St. Augustine was the first landing place."

2. The matter of the establishment of a marker to commemorate the landing place of Ponce de Leon has been a controversial one for some years, and approval of the erection of a marker definitely locating the landing place of Ponce de Leon by the War Department could not be based upon known facts.

3. As the Department of the Interior has now taken over the work of investigating and memorializing battle fields and historic places in the United States, it is recommended that that Department make such further investigations and reports as may be needed. The War Department has now no appropriations (funds) to continue these studies.

4. The functions of the Board of Officers appointed pursuant to the

*Land 1*

Act of Congress approved June 11, 1926, have been discontinued.

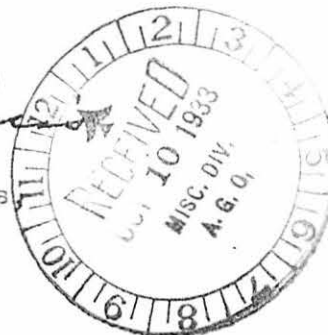
2512

For The Quartermaster General:

12 Rec'd Back A. G. O. OCT 10 1933

*Richard T. Ellis*

RICHARD T. ELLIS,  
Colonel, Q. M. Corps  
Assistant.



| Incls.  
| (no change)

WAR DEPARTMENT

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR  
 RECEIVED  
 OCT 13 1933  
 SECY'S OFFICE  
 APPTS., MAILES & FILES

WASHINGTON  
 RECEIVED  
 OCT 13 1933  
 MAILES AND FILES

October 11, 1933.

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior.

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR  
 RECEIVED  
 OCT 13 1933  
 TO NAT'L PARKS  
 SECY'S OFF., APPTS., MAILES & FILES

★ Dear Mr. Secretary:

Inclosed herewith is a letter dated September 25, 1933, from Honorable Duncan U. Fletcher, United States Senate, with inclosures and indorsements thereon, in regard to granting permission to Mr. Walter Frazer to erect a marker in the Fountain of Youth Park, St. Augustine, Fla., to commemorate the landing place of Ponce de Leon.

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR  
 PREPARE REPLY  
 OCT 13 1933  
 FOR SECY'S SIGNATURE  
 SECY'S OFF., APPTS., MAILES & FILES

Inasmuch as the Department of the Interior has now taken over the work of investigating and memorializing battle fields and historic places in the United States, this correspondence is referred to you for further investigation and such action as may be deemed warranted. Your attention is especially invited to the 2d Indorsement, dated October 5, 1933, from The Quartermaster General.

Senator Fletcher has been advised of this reference by letter from this Department of this date, a copy of which is inclosed.

Sincerely yours,

*John D. Brown*  
 Secretary of War.

2 Incls.  
 A.G. Class. Case-  
 688(9-25-33), ltr  
 fr Sen. Fletcher with  
 2 inds. & 1 incl.  
 Copy War Dept. ltr to  
 Sen. Fletcher, 10/11/33.

AG 688 (9-25-33) Misc.

2512

October 11, 1933.

Honorable Duncan U. Fletcher,  
United States Senate.

Dear Senator Fletcher:

Further reference is made to your letter of September 25, 1933, quoting a letter from the Governor of Florida in regard to granting permission to Mr. Walter Frazer to erect a market in the Fountain of Youth Park, St. Augustine, Florida, to commemorate the landing place of Ponce de Leon.

In view of the fact that the Department of the Interior has now taken over the work of investigating and memorializing battle fields and historic places in the United States, your letter and its inclosures, together with remarks of the War Department, have been referred to the Secretary of the Interior for appropriate action, and you will undoubtedly receive a further response at an early date from his office.

Sincerely yours,

GEO. H. DERN

Secretary of War.

Dispatched  
from A.G.O.

OCT 12 1933

COPY FOR: SECRETARY OF WAR

→ SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, re his 2nd Ind. (QM 688-A-M(Florida)),  
Oct. 5/33.

*J. M. ...*

*Yellow  
Notes*

*Chitlain  
Poyant*

*Summary  
Camm*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON



OCT 18 1933

*Wm  
Ponce de Leon  
601*

Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher,  
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Fletcher:

The proposal of Mr. Walter Frazer of September 25 for the erection of a marker to Ponce de Leon, which was submitted through you to the War Department, has been forwarded by the Secretary of War to me.

I have asked the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations to give consideration to the proposal. When that Office has had opportunity to investigate the question carefully, I shall be glad to take the matter up with you again.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) HAROLD L. ICKES

Secretary of the Interior.

VEC:RMS.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON  
COPY FOR INFORMATION OF

*Parks*



*Mailed  
Thomas  
Chastelain*

November 27, 1933

Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher,  
United States Senate.

*WMA  
Ponce de Leon*

My dear Senator Fletcher:

I have received your memorandum of November 20 transmitting a telegram also dated November 20 from Mr. Harold Colee regarding the proposed erection of a marker to Ponce de Leon.

A partial investigation of this matter has been made by the Office of National Parks, Buildings and Reservations but as yet no opportunity has been afforded to study the matter on the ground. It is necessary that this proposal be given careful study before approval is granted.

I assure you that action will be taken as promptly as possible in this matter. I trust that you will agree with me that this kind of problem, involving the soundness of the action of the Federal Government with regard to accurate historical facts, should be covered carefully in order that no possible mistake shall be made.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) HAROLD L. ICKES

Secretary of the Interior

CARTER GLASS, VA.  
ROBERT F. WAGNER, N. Y.  
ALBEN W. BARKLEY, KY.  
ROBERT J. BULKLEY, OHIO  
THOMAS P. GORE, OKLA.  
EDWARD P. COSTIGAN, COLO.  
ROBERT R. REYNOLDS, N. C.  
JAMES F. BYRNES, S. C.  
JOHN H. BANKHEAD, ALA.  
WILLIAM GIBBS MC ADOO, CALIF.  
ALVA B. ADAMS, COLO.

A., CHAIRMAN  
PETER NORBECK, S. DAK.  
PHILLIPS LEE GOLDSBOROUGH, MD.  
JOHN G. TOWNSEND, JR., DEL.  
FREDERIC C. WALCOTT, CONN.  
ROBERT D. CAREY, WYO.  
JAMES COUZENS, MICH.  
FREDERICK STEIWER, OREG.  
HAMILTON F. KEAN, N. J.

WILLIAM L. HILL, CLERK

*Wm. C. Clegg*  
**United States Senate**

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY

INTERIOR DEPT.  
RECEIVED  
JAN - 2 1934  
OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY.

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR  
RECEIVED  
★ JAN 2 - 1934 ★  
TO NAT'L PARKS  
SERV'S OFF., APPTS., MAILS & FILES

December 30, 1933.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS,  
BUILDINGS AND RESERVATIONS  
RECEIVED

Honorable Harold L. Ickes,  
Secretary of the Interior.

JAN - 2 1934

MAILS AND FILES

My dear Mr. Secretary:

Referring to your letter of November 27th, 1933,  
regarding the proposed erection of a marker to Ponce de Leon, where-  
in it is stated;

"A partial investigation of this matter has  
been made by the Office of National Parks, Build-  
ings and Reservations, but as yet no opportunity  
has been afforded to study the matter on the ground.  
It is necessary that this proposal be given careful  
study before approval is granted."

I venture to point out that Dr. Carita Corse of Jacksonville,  
Florida, has made a study of the history of Florida and has written some books  
and pamphlets on the subject. I believe she is President of the Florida Historic-  
al Society. She has been engaged in research work of this kind for sometime,  
and I believe she could render valuable assistance in connection with the  
investigation and study you are having made. I hope you will consider her and,  
if agreeable, communicate with her on the subject.

Very truly yours,

*William C. Clegg*

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS,  
BUILDINGS AND RESERVATIONS  
RECEIVED

*Noted  
Ickes*

*Chastain  
Smyrna  
Poyant  
C*

JAN 12 1934

JAN 11 1934

*Wellman  
notes*

MAILS AND FILES

*n m  
Ponce de Leon*

Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher,  
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Fletcher:

I have received your letter of December 30, referring to the proposal to erect a marker to Ponce de Leon in Florida. I have referred your suggestion regarding Dr. Garita Corse of Jacksonville, the President of the Florida Historical Society, to the Office of National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations. A representative of that Office will get in touch with Dr. Corse, if possible in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd) HAROLD L. ICKES

Secretary of the Interior

VEC:tvw

CC-Mr. Kahler.

COPY  
Doggett, McCollum, Howell & Doggett  
Jacksonville, Florida.

June 13th, 1934.

Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher,  
United States Senator,  
Senate Building,  
Washington, D.C./

My dear Senator Fletcher:

I regret to advise you that my father, Judge Doggett, has been quite ill and is now in the north convalescing. Therefore, during his absence, I am writing you concerning a matter which involves my sister, Mrs. Carita Doggett Corse, which father is vitally interested in and would certainly write you concerning the same were he able to do so.

It seems that a CWA historical survey of this section of Florida was recently undertaken by the Park Department of the Department of the Interior. A Mr. H. E. Kahler was in charge of this survey. I am informed that he selected the professor of Spanish of the University of Florida and two undergraduates of the University of Florida to check up on the historical data which was the subject of their investigation. A report has been rendered by Mr. Kahler and his assistants. This report, I am informed, makes certain unfavorable and unwarranted criticisms of the historical ability of Carita Doggett Corse. For what reason this was done, we cannot imagine, as certainly Mrs. Corse has achieved her present pre-eminence as Florida's outstanding historian because all of her researches have been based upon authenticated instruments, and any gratuitous criticism concerning her could only be prompted by a complete lack of information on the part of those making this historical survey and rendering such a report. My sister, as you well know, is a most unusual person, who has exercised her gifts of historical investigation carefully and precisely, and any such unfounded and unwarranted criticism of her by persons apparently in ignorance of the subject of their investigation, should be deplored. Mrs. Corse has not been shown a copy of the report in its final form, and it may be entirely possible that a correction can be made prior to the report being rendered in its completed form. Mrs. Corse would certainly welcome an opportunity to convince the makers of this report, if they have any doubts whatever, concerning her historical findings and the thoroughness of her investigations.

It is our understanding that this report will be rendered to a Mr. Chatelaine in the Department of Interior.

With kindest regards,

Faithfully yours,

J.L. Doggett, Jr.

CC Judge J.L. Doggett  
c/o Mrs. S. Norm Williams, Island Heights NJ

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

June 18, 1934.

Mr. Herbert Kahler, Historical Technician,  
18 Cordova Street,  
Saint Augustine, Florida.

*0-35  
Ponce de Leon*

Dear Mr. Kahler:

The study made by Mr. Ballou in the Ponce de Leon matter has recently been the basis of a vigorous protest from Mrs. Corse through her brother, Mr. J. L. Doggett, to Senator Fletcher.

I think I have already told you that the National Park Service has no opinion whatever to express in this matter. Of course you will give the Ballou report no publicity whatsoever without instructions from this Office.

Very truly yours,

Verne E. Chatelain  
Chief  
Historical Division  
Branch of Research and Education

Enclosure 397627

VEC:CT

5-35  
Ponce de Leon

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

June 18, 1934.

Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher,  
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Fletcher:

The National Park Service has received Mr. J. L. Doggett's letter of June 18, referred by you to Mr. Chatelain, dealing with certain historical research under the C. W. A. program at Saint Augustine, Florida.

We assume that Mr. Doggett's letter refers to the study of the Ponce de Leon story, which Mr. Kahler undertook at the request of this Service, after it had been submitted to us by you.

At that time Mr. Kahler had only such research facilities as were afforded under the C. W. A. program. Therefore, it was necessary to give Mr. Harold Ballou, a C. W. A. employee, the assignment. The report as prepared by Mr. Ballou was submitted in due time to Mr. Chatelain, Chief of the Historical Division, who, after reading it, decided that although written in an interesting fashion it did not merit serious consideration as an historical study. Accordingly, instructions have been issued to Mr. Kahler indicating that the National Park Service would not be responsible for giving the report any publicity. We are quite sure that Mr. Kahler has carried out these instructions. Mr. Ballou was dropped from any connection with the National Park Service at the end of the C. W. A. employment, and this Service is not responsible for any action which he may have taken with reference to the report after his employment with us was terminated.

The National Park Service has formed no opinion, one way or another, regarding Mrs. Corse's ability in the field of historical research, and certainly in these circumstances it would be improper for us to pass any judgment in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) ARNO B. CAMMERER  
(SGD.) ARNO B. CAMMERER  
Arno B. Cammerer  
Director

VEC:CT  
Enclosure 397626

CC Mr. Kahler

OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS

MILLARD CALDWELL  
THIRD DISTRICT  
FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

OTIS PADGETT  
SECRETARY

AUG 11 1934  
MAILS AND FILES

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

Milton, Florida

August 7, 1934

*[Handwritten signatures and initials, including "Mr. Caldwell", "Mr. Coffey", and "Chalton" with a checkmark]*

National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Before leaving Washington, I requested that I be supplied with two or three copies of a report allegedly made to the National Park Service by CWA workers at St. Augustine, Florida, which report charged certain individuals with attempting to pervert history willfully to their profit. Inasmuch as the copies have not yet been received I will appreciate your looking into the matter and advising me relative thereto at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

*[Handwritten signature of Millard Caldwell]*  
Millard Caldwell

C:PM

*Chatelain*

August 15, 1934

Honorable Millard Caldwell,  
Milton,  
Florida.

My dear Mr. Caldwell:

Your letter of August 7 has come to my attention.

The report by CWA workers to which you refer no doubt is one on the Ponce de Leon story. This study was made by Mr. Harold Ballou under the supervision of our Historical Technician, Mr. Herbert Kahler. At that time only such research facilities as were afforded under the CWA were available. Therefore, Mr. Kahler assigned this problem to Mr. Ballou, a CWA employee.

When the report was completed it was submitted to Mr. Verne E. Chatelain, Chief, Historical Division, who decided that it did not merit serious consideration as an historical study. Therefore, our decision was to avoid as much as possible giving the report publicity. Since Mr. Ballou was dropped from our rolls with the termination of the CWA program, this Service does not feel responsible for the action which Mr. Ballou may have taken to give the report publicity.

Under these conditions, I believe you will agree that it may be well to disregard this report as much as possible.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD.) A. E. DEMARAY,  
A. E. Demaray  
Acting Director

cc - Mr. Kahler  
RMS:tvw

10-23  
(June 1941)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

..... NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO.

0-35

Ponce de Leon

**IMPORTANT**

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the National Park Service and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the official in charge. All Files should be returned promptly to the File Room. Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of the official records.

NEWTON B. DRURY,

*Director.*

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 5 (calendar day, APRIL 7), 1926

Mr. TRAMMELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

*[Faint, illegible text]*

**A BILL**

To provide for the locating and establishing of a national park in the State of Florida, to be known as Ponce de Leon National Park, and providing for the securing of land therefor.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and  
4 directed to select and locate an area of land within the State  
5 of Florida, as may be recommended by him to be acquired  
6 and administered as a national park, to be known as the  
7 Ponce de Leon National Park, and to receive definite offers  
8 of donations of lands and moneys, and to secure such options  
9 as in his judgment may be considered reasonable and just for  
10 the purchase of lands within said boundaries, and to report

1 to Congress thereon at as early a date as practicable. In  
2 selecting said area, the Secretary of the Interior shall con-  
3 sider the advisability of selecting and setting aside any  
4 Government lands situated in the State of Florida and suit-  
5 able for the purpose herein stated.

6       SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Interior may, for  
7 the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act,  
8 appoint a commission of five members, composed of a repre-  
9 sentative of the Interior Department and four national park  
10 experts, said four members to serve without compensation.

11       SEC. 3. A sum sufficient to secure options and to pay  
12 the necessary expenses of the commission in carrying out  
13 the provisions of this Act, including the salary of one clerk  
14 to the commission at a rate not to exceed \$2,000 per annum,  
15 necessary traveling expenses of the members of the com-  
16 mission, and \$10 per diem in lieu of actual cost of subsist-  
17 ence, in all, not to exceed \$15,000, is hereby authorized to  
18 be appropriated.

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR  
RECEIVED  
APR 24 1926  
U.S. NATIONAL BIRDS  
RECEIVED

✓ 100  
INTERIOR DEPT.  
RECEIVED  
APR 21 1926  
OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY

Green Cove Springs, Fla.,

April 21, 1926.

APR 21 1926  
MAILS AND  
DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR  
To Mr. Work, Secretary of Interior,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear sir:

The Florida papers report that there is a bill before the Senate to provide for a national park in Florida, to be known as the Ponce de Leon Park, and of which you are the chairman. If you would like to have this park in the North-east or -Central part of Florida, I have 30,000 acres to offer in and around Crescent Lake. Or, I can get up quite some acreage outside of St. Augustine. This last would be very high land, and be especially desirable because of the historic background of the ancient city. The acreage would be more expensive, and of a smaller area than that around Crescent Lake, but of a higher quality.

Would appreciate a reply, although I know I'm only one of your many correspondents. I am sure I can fill your wants to suit everyone.

Very truly yours,

*G. J. Anderson*

*Handwritten scribbles*

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

April 26, 1926.

Dear Mr. Anderson:

By reference from Secretary Work I have your letter of April 21 offering for sale certain land in Florida in connection with the proposed Ponce de Leon National Park.

It is true that a bill, S. 3877, has been introduced by Senator Trammell to establish such a park. Copy of this bill is inclosed. No action has yet been taken by Congress on the bill.

So far all of the national parks created, with the exception of the Lafayette in Maine, have been carved out of the public domain. The area included in the Lafayette Park was donated to the Government by a group of public-spirited people. In line with its policy during the past, I do not believe that Congress will sanction the expenditure of public funds for the purchase of lands for national park purposes.

In fact, in the case of the proposed Shenandoah and Smoky Mountain National Parks, Secretary Work announced that he would recommend the creation of these parks only in the event that the lands to be included in them were donated to the Government. He will undoubtedly follow this policy in future recommendations to Congress regarding proposed national parks.

Yours very truly,

Stephen T. Mather,  
Director.

Mr. E. F. Anderson,  
Green Cove Springs,  
Florida.

Inclosure 30224.

IFS

# MIAMI SHORES

Shoreland Company

OWNERS AND DEVELOPERS  
MIAMI FLORIDA



NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE  
LUGH A. ANDERSON, PRESIDENT  
ROY C. WRIGHT, VICE-PRESIDENT  
VERNON C. BEAVER, VICE-PRESIDENT  
E. G. HARRIS, VICE-PRESIDENT  
BURDETTE G. LEWIS, VICE-PRESIDENT  
J. T. JEFFRIES, SEC.-TREAS.  
FRANK BOWEN, ASST. SEC.-TREAS.  
J. A. RIACH, PUBLICITY

INTERIOR DEPT.  
RECEIVED  
MAY 28 1926  
OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY

RECEIVED  
MAY 28 1926  
MAILS AND FILES  
DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR  
TO NATIONAL PARKS  
SECDY'S OFF.-APPTS., MAILS & FILES

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR  
PREPARE REPLY  
JUN 1 1926  
For Secretary's Signature  
SECDY'S OFF.-APPS., MAILS & FILES

May 28, 1926.

Hon. Hubert Work,  
Secretary, Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Work:

My attention has been brought to Senate Bill S-3877 providing for the establishment of a National Park in the State of Florida, to be known as Ponce de Leon National Park.

It has probably been brought to your attention that the J.C.Penney-Gwinn Corporation owns 120,000 acres of land in Clay County and 27,000 acres of land near Gainesville, the latter practically all timber land, with a fine growth of timber. Ten thousand acres of the tract in Clay County has been cleared and is being farmed on a very attractive basis for settlers. More than one-half the remainder of the tract is first growth timber of very high quality. Contrary to general conditions, this land is well drained and has some very large streams. It is not flat, as Florida lands ordinarily are.

I am bringing this matter to your attention, so that in the event you are authorized by this Senate Bill to proceed to acquire lands, you will have information concerning this property, which seems to us would make the finest park land of any land in Florida.

Our Corporation would be glad to cooperate in any way to facilitate the survey or to meet the conditions the Federal Government might feel disposed to impose.

During a recent survey of health resorts, I was told that there was a proposed appropriation to authorize your Department to make a study of mineral waters. If we can be of any service in furthering this appropriation, please command us.

Very sincerely,

BURDETTE G. LEWIS,  
VICE-PRESIDENT, J. C. PENNEY-GWINN CORPORATION.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

JUN -2 1926

Mr. Burdette G. Lewis,  
Vice-President, J. C. Penney-Gwinn Corporation,  
Miami, Florida.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Your letter of May 28, 1926, presenting for the attention of  
the Secretary certain facts regarding land suggested for inclusion  
in the proposed Ponce de Leon National Park (S. 3877), is received.

I thank you for the information so conveyed.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) E. C. FINNEY

Acting Secretary.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

JUN 11 1926

*Noted  
T. L. ...  
Robert  
P. ...  
P. ...*

Hon. Robert, N. Stanfield,  
Chairman, Committee on Public Lands and Surveys,  
United States Senate.

*Ponce de Leon  
Florida*

My dear Senator Stanfield:

I have before me your letter of April 9th, requesting an opinion as to the merits of S-3877, a bill "To provide for the locating and establishing of a national park in the State of Florida, to be known as Ponce de Leon National Park, and providing for the securing of land therefor".

The underlying idea of the bill is the selection of a national park within a State, thereby perhaps stressing the idea of location for a park rather than the idea of scenic grandeur irrespective of State lines. No particular part of the State of Florida is designated by the bill as suitable or as desirable or as promising such scenic grandeur as would make it an area for national selection or designation. Rather it is an authorization to the Secretary to search within the State to find if possible an area that may be recommended by him for acquisition. He is limited in this search for an area by the State boundary lines. If this manner and method of selection

of national parks were followed, then there is the possibility, and in my opinion a strong probability, that all States not now having within their confines a national park will seek by legislation to have like search made within their borders to find such areas and for such recommendations.

The Department has repeatedly emphasized that our national-park system is made up of areas including scenery of quality so unusual and impressive, or natural features so extraordinary as to possess national interest and importance as contradistinguished from merely local interest. Areas for national parks should have such outstanding features that the area would not be confined in its renown to the State where situated, but would be known nationally.

It is my opinion that the method proposed, if this bill is enacted, will result in like bills being introduced, with the resultant danger that areas not of national-park characteristics will be considered and ultimately a series of State parks characterized as national parks -- national in name only -- will be created.

I therefore can not favor the enactment of this measure.

Furthermore, I am advised by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, under date of June 8, 1936, that the proposed legislation is in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) HUBERT WORK.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 23, 1928

Mr. TRAMMELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys

---

**A BILL**

To provide for the locating and establishing of a national park in the State of Florida, to be known as Ponce de Leon National Park, and providing for the securing of land therefor.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and  
4 directed to select and locate an area of land within the State  
5 of Florida, as may be recommended by him to be acquired  
6 and administered as a national park, to be known as the  
7 Ponce de Leon National Park, and to receive definite offers

1 of donations of lands and moneys, and to secure such options  
2 as in his judgment may be considered reasonable and just for  
3 the purchase of lands within said boundaries, and to report  
4 to Congress thereon at as early a date as practicable. In  
5 selecting said area, the Secretary of the Interior shall con-  
6 sider the advisability of selecting and setting aside any Gov-  
7 ernment lands situated in the State of Florida and suitable  
8 for the purpose herein stated.

9       SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the Interior may, for  
10 the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act,  
11 appoint a commission of five members, composed of a repre-  
12 sentative of the Interior Department and four national park  
13 experts, said four members to serve without compensation.

14       SEC. 3. A sum sufficient to secure options and to pay  
15 the necessary expenses of the commission in carrying out  
16 the provisions of this Act, including the salary of one clerk  
17 to the commission at a rate not to exceed \$2,000 per annum,  
18 necessary traveling expenses of the members of the com-  
19 mission, and \$10 per diem in lieu of actual cost of subsist-  
20 ence, in all, not to exceed \$15,000, is hereby authorized to  
21 be appropriated.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

FEB 11 1928

*Jemany*  
*Carroll*

Hon. Gerald P. Nye,  
Chairman, Committee on Public Lands and Surveys,  
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Nye:

I have your letter of January 26 requesting a report as to the merits of S. 2740, a bill "To provide for the locating and establishing of a national park in the State of Florida, to be known as Ponce de Leon National Park, and providing for the securing of land therefor".

The underlying idea of the bill is the selection of a national park within a State, thereby perhaps stressing the idea of location for a park rather than the idea of scenic grandeur irrespective of State lines. No particular part of the State of Florida is designated by the bill as suitable or as desirable or as promising such scenic grandeur as would make it an area for national selection or designation. Rather it is an authorization to the Secretary to search within the State to find if possible an area that may be recommended by him for acquisition. He is limited in this search for an area by the State boundary lines. If this manner and method of selection of national parks were followed, then there is the possibility, and in my opinion a strong probability, that all States not now having within their confines a national park will seek by legislation to have like search made within their borders to find such areas and for such recommendations.

The Department has repeatedly emphasized that our national park system is made up of areas inclosing scenery of quality so unusual and impressive, or natural features so extraordinary as to possess national interest and importance as contradistinguished from merely local interest. Areas for national parks should have such outstanding features that the area would not be confined in its renown to the State where situated, but would be known nationally.

It is my opinion that the method proposed, if this bill is enacted, will result in like bills being introduced, with the resultant danger that areas not of national park characteristics will be considered and ultimately

a series of State parks characterized as national parks -- national in name only -- will be created.

I am advised by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, under date of February 6, 1928, that the proposed legislation is in conflict with the financial program of the President.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) HUBERT WORK