



Foundation Document Overview

Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park

California



Contact Information

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Purpose



ROSIE THE RIVETER / WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, located in the wartime boomtown of Richmond, California, preserves and interprets the wide array of stories, places, and legacies of our nation's home front response to World War II.



Significance

Significance statements express why Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park works in partnership to preserve an outstanding collection of World War II home front sites, structures, and landscapes.
- Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park is the primary place within the national park system dedicated to collecting, preserving, and making accessible to visitors the oral histories, stories, and artifacts of the nation's World War II home front.
- Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park is the hub within the national park system linking sites across the country through which people can explore the many social and cultural changes that began or were accelerated on the home front during World War II.



Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

- **Richly Layered Stories**
- **Partnerships**
- **Museum Collections**
- **Setting**
- **National Home Front Experience**



Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- As millions of soldiers left home to fight in World War II, millions of other Americans mobilized on the home front to support the war effort in ways that resulted in profound changes to American life.
- Although many Americans working and living on the home front were united in a common purpose to support the war effort, they often had quite disparate experiences due to prejudice and discrimination.
- Social upheavals and social role changes on the home front exposed America's unfulfilled promise of equality and "liberty and justice" for all.
- Many technological innovations, institutional changes, and social developments that took place on the World War II home front have had lasting influence and continue to be relevant today.



Description

In 2000 President William Jefferson Clinton signed Public Law 106-352 establishing Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park. Congress recognized that Richmond, California, retained the largest collection of intact historic sites and structures that could be preserved and used to tell the stories of the American World War II home front. The national historical park was established “in order to preserve for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States as a national historical park certain sites, structures, and areas located in Richmond, California, that are associated with the industrial, governmental, and citizen efforts that led to victory in World War II . . .” The park’s physical sites and structures include industrial landscapes such as the Ford Assembly Building and Oil House and Shipyard No. 3, with its iconic Whirley Crane and SS *Red Oak Victory*; human service locales such as the Kaiser Field Hospital, the Maritime Child Development Center, and Fire Station 67; and residential areas such as Atchison Village that were built to house the booming World War II work force.

Establishment of the national historical park in Richmond, California, brings national focus and attention to the World War II-era resources of Richmond and recognizes the important role the city played in the war effort and the significant contributions and sacrifices of its citizens. The park also commemorates the efforts of countless Americans in cities and towns across the nation who made similar contributions and sacrifices in the push toward victory during World War II.

Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park was conceived as a partnership park, with many different entities involved in both preserving the Richmond World War II home front resources and providing a variety of visitor experiences and opportunities throughout the park. In addition to the City of Richmond, the National Park Service cooperates with owners of historic resources (individuals, organizations, and businesses), nonprofit organizations that support the mission of the park, academic institutions, and local, regional, and state governmental entities.

The park’s designated cooperating association and friends group, Rosie the Riveter Trust, was founded a year before the park was established and was instrumental in lobbying for establishment of the park. The trust has been a primary partner in development of the Rosie the Riveter / World War II Home Front National Historical Park and helps support the preservation and interpretation of the historic resources that are now part of the park. In addition, the trust provides support for visitor services and youth programs. The National Park Service actively collaborates with all of its partners and continues to develop additional partnerships as the park evolves.

In addition to developing partnerships, the National Park Service provides technical assistance to its partners in preserving World War II-era historic resources and in sharing the American home front stories. The park collaborates with numerous community organizations to engage local youth and community members. Through a variety of programs and activities, the park continues to extend its reach into the diverse and underserved communities in Richmond, the Bay Area, and across the nation.

