



# Foundation Document Overview

## Pullman National Monument

### Illinois



#### Contact Information

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## Purpose



Hotel Florence. 2015. NPS Photo.

*PULLMAN NATIONAL MONUMENT fulfills the following purposes for the benefit of present and future generations: to preserve the historic resources; to interpret the industrial history and labor struggles and achievements associated with the Pullman Company, including the rise of and the role of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; and to interpret the history of urban planning and design of which the planned company town of Pullman is a nationally significant example.*



View of Pullman c.1885. Photo courtesy of Pullman State Historic Site.

## Significance

Significance statements express why Pullman National Monument 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.

- The Pullman Company transformed passenger rail travel in America. The comfortable facilities and consistently exceptional level of service of the Pullman Company was unprecedented; it became an international model for luxury. Pullman was a brand name equated with opulence and consistency, and is still recognized worldwide.
- What is today the Pullman neighborhood was the first completely planned major industrial model community in America. The community was recognized by some as “the perfect town,” and influenced later planned communities. The architecture (by Solon Spencer Beman), landscape architecture (by Nathan Franklin Barrett), and sanitation (by Benzette Williams) of the development were thoughtfully designed to provide good living conditions for workers, a significant departure from previous worker housing models and an improvement on what was generally available to workers in the free market in American cities at the time.



11100 block of Champlain Avenue, c.1883. Photo courtesy of the Industrial Heritage Archives at Pullman State Historic Site.

## Significance

- George Pullman's factory town is a powerful example of the concept of corporate paternalism. Amenities provided to employees to encourage loyalty and workforce retention were meant to be both good for workers and profitable for the company. The Pullman workers' experiences were a mix of benefits and limitations. Employees in the community, comprised of European immigrants and migrants from the South and other parts of America, had to conform to the company's expectations. The Pullman Company town influenced later similar efforts by other industrialists.
- The Pullman Company and its employees played a pivotal role in the American labor movement. The 1894 strike was national in scope and highlighted the emerging strength of unions in America. Clarence Darrow and Eugene V. Debs, major figures in U.S. labor history, played roles in the Pullman strike. President Cleveland used the Sherman Anti-Trust Act to end the strike, the first time it was ever used against a union. Though already adopted by nearly half of the states, the enactment of the national Labor Day holiday was spurred by the Pullman Strike.
- The Pullman porter job was pivotal for the growth of the black middle class in America, and porters played a large role in the civil rights movement. By 1937 the Pullman Company had been the nation's largest employer of African Americans for more than 20 years, and Pullman porters composed 44% of the Pullman Company workforce. The jobs at Pullman contributed to the Great Migration of African Americans.
- Formed by A. Philip Randolph, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (BSCP) was the first black union to be recognized by the American Federation of Labor and to achieve a bargaining agreement with a major corporation. The BSCP union had a major influence on the American civil rights movement. The Pullman neighborhood is home to the National A. Phillip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum.
- The business economy of Pullman's industries allowed the company to be successful for a long period, despite legal and labor challenges. The Pullman Company was vertically integrated for maximum profit. It controlled the manufacturing process and staffing for its products and services. It leased its products and tightly controlled the consistency of the experience it provided.

## 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.

- **Administration Clock Tower Building**
- **Partnerships with Community Organizations**

Related resources are not owned by the park. They may be part of the broader context or setting in which park resources exist, represent a thematic connection that would enhance the experience of visitors, or have close associations with park fundamental resources and the purpose of the park.

- **Historic Designed Landscape of the Pullman Factory and Neighborhood**
- **Pullman Factory Site and the Hotel Florence**
- **Private Properties within the Monument Boundary**
- **Public Spaces and Services within the Monument Boundary**
- **The Pullman Community**
- **Pullman Stories**
- **Collections**



Historic rowhouse, now the National A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum. Photo courtesy of NAPRPPM.

# Description

Pullman National Monument (the monument) was established by presidential proclamation on February 19, 2015. The boundaries of the monument include much of the historic Pullman neighborhood, which was designed as a model factory town in the late 19th century and is a thriving community today. The town design, street layout, architecture, and landscaping are mostly intact and give the community a strong visual identity.

The monument boundary includes historic and active residences and businesses. There are several places for visitors to experience Pullman history and resources, including the Historic Pullman Foundation's Visitor Information Center and Historic Pullman Center, Pullman State Historic Site at

the Hotel Florence and Factory Complex, the National A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum, and the Pullman neighborhood itself. The National Park Service does not own or manage these places. Visitors are encouraged to enjoy the monument's architecture and public spaces while respecting the privacy of Pullman residents and private businesses. As a new unit of the National Park Service, Pullman National Monument is at the beginning stages of developing partnerships with existing Pullman organizations, defining and developing visitor services, and creating interpretive media. The way this monument will thrive is through active collaboration efforts among the National Park Service, Pullman residents, and partners.



George Mortimer Pullman.  
Photo: Library of Congress.



Worker with a finished Pullman car on transfer table. Photo courtesy of the Industrial Heritage Archives at Pullman State Historic Site.

