

“(j) (1) For the purpose of providing for the preservation, and maintenance as a shrine, of the former home in the District of Columbia of John Philip Sousa, there is hereby established a board consisting of the conductor of the band of the United States Army, the conductor of the band of the United States Navy, the conductor of the band of the United States Marine Corps, and the conductor of the band of the United States Air Force, ex officio, plus ten additional individuals appointed by the President, which shall acquire the home of John Philip Sousa at 318 Independence Avenue, in the District of Columbia, and shall preserve and maintain such home as a shrine dedicated to his memory, and as a museum for the preservation of memorabilia of John Philip Sousa.

“(2) For the purpose of obtaining funds for carrying out this subsection, the board is authorized to accept donations of funds, services, and property, and to conduct a nationwide fund-raising campaign. All departments and agencies of the United States, upon request by the board, shall transfer to the board all memorabilia of John Philip Sousa in the custody or control of such departments and agencies.

“(3) Members of the board shall serve without compensation for their services as such, but they shall be reimbursed for their expenses of travel and subsistence while actually engaged in the performance of the duties vested in the board. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this subsection.

“(k) Until a comprehensive plan has been prepared for the proper development, preservation, and improvement of the physical environs of the United States Capitol Building and the surrounding complex of Federal buildings, including the Senate and House Office Buildings, the Library of Congress, and the United States Supreme Court, no funds shall be expended for the acquisition of real property or for the purchase or demolition of existing buildings located in the vicinity of the United States Capitol Building and the surrounding complex of Federal buildings.”

[From the Washington Post, May 8, 1961]

“HOME SLATED AS SHRINE TO SOUSA IS CONDEMNED

“(By Stephen S. Rosenfeld, staff reporter)

“The Capitol Hill home of John Philip Sousa, the man who put a nation on march time, planned as a shrine for 20 years, now faces destruction.

“The District has condemned as unsanitary the victorian edifice at 318 Independence Avenue SE., the first home Sousa owned and where he lived from about 1900 to World War I. Unless the Condemnation Board is dissuaded or the home repaired, it will be razed.

“With it will go the last chance to memorialize America's premier bandsman within walls that he knew, since his birthplace at 636 G Street SE., was chopped up into apartments.

“Efforts to make the home a museum in the early forties and middle fifties flopped. But another effort has been mounted.

“Sousa's daughter, Helen Sousa Abert of New York, who owns the house, entrusted it a few years back to the Sousa Memorial Committee.

“So when the District told her last week she had only until May 9 to ask for a stay, she turned to the committee.

“This, apparently, is fine by the Condemnation Board. At its meeting Wednesday it probably will shelve the matter until the committee acts, Director Richard L. Mattingly said.

“The committee itself will meet informally this week in Coral Gables, Fla., where its chairman, Lt. Col. William F. Santelmann of Arlington, former Marine Band director, will be visiting Otto Kraushaar, president of the American Bandmasters Association.

“Kraushaar, who played in Sousa's band, said a fund-raising scheme would be mulled over. Mrs. Abert estimates \$50,000 to \$100,000 is needed.

“She stands ready, she said, to furnish several rooms with her father's belongings and to give a roomful of his trophies, his music library, books of press clippings, pictures and such memorabilia as batons. The Library of Congress already has the manuscripts of his marches.

“‘There's so much talk about culture and the arts in Washington,’ said Mrs. Abert, ‘it would seem rather wicked to drop this. It's unique.’”