

Federal and many State and local agencies. This program was initiated 20 years ago to rescue irreplaceable archeological sites destined to be permanently lost through flooding in the course of dam and reservoir construction.

The Bureau of Outdoor Recreation is authorized to provide various forms of financial assistance for historic preservation but at present it lacks adequate funds.

Historic preservation projects of the Department of the Interior and State and local agencies have been supported by the Neighborhood Youth Corps, administered by the Department of Labor under the Economic Opportunity Act, and by funds from the Area Redevelopment Administration—now the Economic Development Administration—in the Department of Commerce.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Many historic buildings and areas are in the hearts of our cities. The new Department of Housing and Urban Development administers the many activities of the former Housing and Home Finance Agency. These include, among others, Federal assistance for renewal of our cities, for planning and development programs of States, counties, regions and cities, for open-space lands and for limited historic preservation assistance.

Under the urban renewal, local planning assistance and open-space land programs the Department has provided funds for planning, surveying, public facilities, open space and property acquisition for historic preservation. The local planning assistance (sec. 701) grants and demonstration (sec. 314) grants have been used by a number of communities in conducting surveys of historical assets and preservation potential as part of the process of preparing local comprehensive plans and community renewal programs. To date, 119 communities have utilized funds in one or more of these categories as a part of their broad preservation and renewal programs.

All of these community development programs have important roles in the preservation field and are being used to help achieve local goals for historic preservation. Under current housing and urban development legislation, however, the cost of restoration and continued maintenance must be borne by a local public or private agency. No grant-in-aid or loan funds are available for the specific purpose of restoration.

Federal loan and grant-in-aid funds available for rehabilitation of historic buildings cannot be used for more than making the building habitable and marketable. Any historic design elements which do not relate to structural safety and economic usefulness are not eligible for such public funds.

Improvements needed in the Department's programs include the addition of historic sites and buildings, both within and outside the project area, to the list of acceptable local noncash contributions to renewal costs, and an enlargement of assistance programs to include loans for acquisition and rehabilitation of historic structures and districts.

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

The General Services Administration is the management agency for federally owned buildings and sites. It controls a wide variety of major buildings and areas, many of them dating from the founding of the country, including courthouses, post offices, fortifications, army camps, customs houses and every conceivable kind of structure which Federal programs have required in the course of the last 175 years. The agency is responsible for safeguarding and salvaging and disposing of the huge inventory of surplus Federal property, including public buildings, some of which have historic significance.

The General Services Administration and cooperating Federal agencies, particularly the Department of Interior, have developed agreements for identifying the historical or other significant sites and structures under Federal management. They are also seeking means to develop workable solutions to the complex problems arising from the changing uses of such structures, and the changing patterns of Government administration. The General Services Administration has assisted in the admirable efforts to preserve and restore such structures as the old State, War, and Navy Building and the Pension Office Building in Washington, D.C., among others.