

Second, the new preservation must look beyond the individual building and individual landmark and concern itself with the historic and architecturally valued areas and districts which contain a special meaning for the community. A historic neighborhood, a fine old street of houses, a village green, a colorful marketplace, a courthouse square, an esthetic quality of the townscape—all must fall within the concern of the preservation movement. It makes little sense to fight for the preservation of a historic house set between two service stations, and at the same time to ignore an entire area of special charm or importance in the community which is being nibbled away by incompatible uses or slow decay.

Third, if the effort to preserve historic and architecturally significant areas as well as individual buildings is to succeed, intensive thought and study must be given to economic conditions and tax policies which will affect our efforts to preserve such areas as living parts of the community.

In sum, if we wish to have a future with greater meaning, we must concern ourselves not only with the historic highlights, but we must be concerned with the total heritage of the Nation and all that is worth preserving from our past as a living part of the present.

PART II—RECOMMENDATIONS

Throughout this report the term "historic preservation" has been used to include the protection, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction of communities, areas, structures, sites, and objects having historic, architectural, social, or cultural significance.

To carry out the goals of historic preservation a comprehensive national plan of action is imperative. Such a plan will encourage, improve, and reinforce public and private leadership.

Many individuals and private organizations have worked long and hard to preserve the physical evidences of our heritage which we are privileged to enjoy today. Public agencies have also made a substantial contribution. But to meet the current crisis and to accelerate the pace of historic preservation we need to increase the amount of Government support and joint public and private efforts.

Our traditions differ from those of European countries, but we have much to learn from European experience. The weight which European governments give to historic preservation has resulted in successful programs for saving, restoring, and expansion of State and local programs of historic preservation. An excellent object lesson in the European achievement in maintaining historic buildings and areas as living parts of communities and as successful economic ventures.

A national plan of action for historic preservation should include the following elements:

1. A comprehensive statement of national policy to guide the activities and programs of all Federal agencies.
2. The establishment of an Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to provide leadership and guidance for the direction of interagency actions and to provide liaison with State and local governments, public and private groups, and the general public.
3. A greatly expanded national register program to inventory and to catalog communities, areas, structures, sites, and objects; a Federal program of assistance to States and localities for companion programs; and a strong Federal public information program based on the material in the register.
4. Added authority and sufficient funds for Federal acquisition of threatened buildings and sites of national historic importance, and expansion of the urban renewal program to permit local noncash contributions to include acquisition of historic buildings on the national register, both within and outside the project area.
5. Provision for Federal loans and grants and other financial aid to facilities and expansion of State and local programs of historic preservation.
6. Federal financial aid to and through the National Trust for Historic Preservation to assist private interest and activity in the preservation field, for educational purposes and for direct assistance to private property holders.

Detailed recommendations are as follows:

FEDERAL

1. Enact legislation to: (a) affirm a strong national historic preservation policy, recognizing its enlarged dimensions, (b) coordinate and consolidate existing historic preservation programs, (c) authorize annual appropriations for the