

islative means are available to identify and protect, once what exists is evaluated, the American people with their initiative and imagination must find uses for the worthy structures in their cities.

The National Trust is dedicated to this total effort to bring about a distinctive environment, assisting the American people in saving a heritage which is theirs and which they must protect. The National Trust has cooperated with the successful Federal program of the Department of Interior in its protection of parks, scenic wonders, wilderness areas, and historic buildings, predominantly in rural areas. The great problems of our urban society today make it necessary for the Federal Government to broaden substantially its leadership and contributions to preservation. The traditional role of private leadership in preservation in the United States will be intensified and bolstered with the programs made possible by this legislation. The National Trust, as the only private nonprofit organization chartered by the Congress to lead the private preservation program, is prepared to assume the additional responsibilities which the legislation will confer upon it.

This charter was granted in 1947 to a cause backed simply by 35 sponsoring organizations; less than 20 years later this well-established cause, known as the National Trust, reaches out to about 10,000 individual members, and to more than 650 national, regional, and local member organizations, supported by their estimated membership of 720,000 individuals; these groups own or supervise more than 1,800 houses, sites and other properties; approximately 16 million persons visit or use these houses and other facilities annually.

One of these organizations, the Vieux Carre Commission owns or supervises 3,000 houses, sites or other properties in New Orleans historic district; the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities is responsible for 57 properties, ranging in date from the mid-17th century to 1811, which it owns and maintains in 5 States; the American Institute of Architects is a 16,000-member professional society with 153 chapters. From these members and the general public the National Trust receives more than 200 requests monthly for advice, for consultation and conferences, for funds, for intervention to save and for legislative information. The greatest numbers of inquiries come from those areas of the country where this National Trust membership is the strongest—where there is the greatest awareness of the importance of landmark preservation.

Nevertheless, the success of these efforts, like the number of people involved, has been too limited. There have been too few leaders, too few dollars, and far too many great buildings and places destroyed or ignored.

The proposed legislation provides the means to accumulate the necessary information to locate and certify historic places; it provides assistance for preservation and interpretation to States and municipalities; it strengthens the National Trust's program of education, service, and financing of projects. It will be possible for the Trust through public education to broaden the awareness of the great mass of American people to values of their landmarks and to create the citizen participation required for the success of this endeavor.

It will not only permit the trust to meet needs with tangible assistance, but it will enable this public service institution to expand its