

Charleston, South Carolina, developed controls as early as 1931, only fourteen states today have enabling legislation, and only seventy municipalities protect their buildings and areas under ordinances, acts and resolves.

In 1962 North Carolina's State Department of Conservation and Development used a "701 Planning Grant"¹ to survey the historic area of Wilmington, as a part of the future land-use plan. The study identified thirty-five structures as worthy of preservation because of their historical and architectural importance. The area not only contained these scattered historical buildings, but many community facilities and other houses constructed after 1900 which contributed to its character. The entire area had a homogeneous nature, and the report recommended that organizing it as the "Wilmington Historical District" would help preserve its identity.

The study also proposed an amendment to the Wilmington zoning ordinance to create the historical buildings district, establish regulations for the preservation and protection of the buildings and provide for creation of a board of architectural review. This amendment subsequently was adopted. The report further indicated need for additional state enabling legislation to empower local governments to play a stronger role in preservation—permitting them to acquire structures about to be demolished and to grant tax exemptions in certain cases. It emphasized preservation as a cooperative effort of individual property owners, local government and community organizations.

FEDERAL-STATE COOPERATION

Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Directly and indirectly the cause of historic preservation can be greatly advanced through federal aid. With the establishment of the Interior Department's new Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the federal government has issued an invitation to the states and other entities to work with it in "the race for inner space." The broad spectrum

¹Grants for two-thirds to three-fourths of the cost of preparing comprehensive urban, regional and state plans are made by the Urban Renewal Administration of the Housing and Home Finance Agency under Section 701 of the Federal Housing Act of 1964.

AMERICAN LANDMARK PRESERVATION 213

of prospective outdoor recreation opportunities involved includes historic and cultural sites.²

One of the aspects is provision, under the Land and Water Conservation Fund which became effective last January, for matching grants to the states to stimulate recreation planning, acquisition and development. States may allocate portions of the money they receive to political subdivisions.

Among many state preparatory actions related to the work of the Interior Department's Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Virginia has created its Outdoor Recreation Resources Commission, with a subcommittee on landmarks. Ideas reported from this commission include plans for a novel highway system to encourage travelers to reach destinations by slower, more roundabout routes. Reversing the trend toward high-speed freeways, the Virginia Travel Coordination Committee disclosed recently that it is preparing a report on "shunpikes"—scenic highways designed to avoid turnpikes and capture more tourist time and dollars. Scenic easements along such a highway could be obtained, using a tax deduction principle to make them more easily available.

701 Planning Grants. 701 Planning Grants may be obtained to plan statewide outdoor recreation programs. North Carolina availed itself of such a grant to prepare a "Strategy for Development," and a resulting study concluded in September 1964: "State policies in nearly all fields are affected by federal assistance, yet all too frequently we are unaware of the impact of this aid. So long as the state passively accepts federal programs, instead of planning for their best use, North Carolina will not realize its full power in the federal system. When the state does plan creatively for its own future, as in the case of North Carolina's 'war on poverty,' it can serve as a model for the entire nation." A number of cogent recommendations for planning were made in the report.

Open-Space Land Program. Federal-aid funds for preservation also are to be found in

²*Guidebook, Manual and Fact Sheet on the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation* may be requested from the Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.