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MEETINGHOUSE PRESERVATION ACT

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HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON

INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-THIRD CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

S. 2877

A BILL TO COMMEMORATE THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY BICENTENNIAL BY ESTABLISHING A MEETINGHOUSE PROGRAM, BY MAKING GRANTS AVAILABLE TO EACH OF THE SEVERAL STATES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACQUIRING AND RESTORING CERTAIN HISTORIC SITES WITH A VIEW TO DESIGNATING AND PRESERVING SUCH SITES FOR USE AS MEETINGHOUSES IN CONNECTION WITH SUCH BICENTENNIAL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

JUNE 5, 1974



Printed for the use of the
Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 1974

38-745 O

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MEETINGHOUSE PRESERVATION ACT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1974

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION,
OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The Subcommittee met at 9:30 a.m., pursuant to notice, in room 3110, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Senator Alan Bible, presiding.

Present: Senators Bible, Metzenbaum, and Hansen.

Also present: Jerry T. Verkler, staff director; and James P. Beirne, special counsel.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ALAN BIBLE, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEVADA

Senator BIBLE. The hearing will come to order. We have set this hearing at 9:30 this morning in order to accommodate one of the witnesses.

First, let S. 2877, be made a part of the record. This bill was introduced on January 24, of this year, to commemorate the American Revolutionary Bicentennial by establishing a meetinghouse program, and it also makes grants available to each of the several States for the purpose of acquiring and restoring certain historic sites with a view to designating and preserving such sites for use as meetinghouses. The legislation provides the criterion for selection of such sites and if there is a department report—I do not have it before me—it will be made a part of the record.

[The text of S. 2877 follows:]

93^d CONGRESS
2^d SESSION

S. 2877

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 23, 1974

Mr. TOWER (for himself, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. EASTLAND, Mr. GRAVEL, Mr. HUGHES, Mr. JOHNSTON, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. METCALF, Mr. NUNN, Mr. PERCY, Mr. HUGH SCOTT, and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To commemorate the American Revolutionary Bicentennial by establishing a meetinghouse program, by making grants available to each of the several States for the purpose of acquiring and restoring certain historic sites with a view to designating and preserving such sites for use as meeting houses in connection with such bicentennial, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That this Act may be cited as the "Meetinghouse Preserva-
4 tion Act".

5 SEC. 2. (a) The Congress hereby finds and declares
6 that—

II

1 (1) if the Bicentennial celebration of the United
2 States in 1976 is to be a meaningful celebration, there
3 is a need for each citizen to become aware of his histori-
4 cal, cultural, and physical heritage in order that we may
5 carry out one of the major themes of the bicentennial,
6 namely, "A Past To Honor: A Future To Mold";

7 (2) in order to encourage participation in preserv-
8 ing our heritage and in actively planning the direction
9 this country will take in the future, our citizens need a
10 focal point, a meetingplace where they can come to
11 discuss, to learn, and to participate;

12 (3) because this country is so diverse and rich in
13 varied cultures, it is not possible to establish a single
14 meetingplace which would be accessible and responsive
15 to the majority of the citizens; several States of a historic
16 site which might be utilized as a meetinghouse would
17 provide an easily accessible meetingplace for a majority
18 of the citizens and would further provide a regional focus
19 and impetus to the preservation of our physical and cul-
20 tural heritage and a meetingplace to bring citizens to-
21 gether to plan the preservation of the quality of our total
22 environment.

23 (b) The Congress further declares that it is the purpose
24 of this Act—

25 (1) to celebrate the Bicentennial of this country

1 through the preservation within each of the several
2 States of a historic site that might otherwise be lost;

3 (2) to provide a meetingplace in each of the sev-
4 eral States for those citizens interested in retaining their
5 tangible, indigenous heritage, whether historic, cultural,
6 or natural, and in planning for future changes and devel-
7 opments, and

8 (3) to give existing State programs involved with
9 preserving historic and architecturally important struc-
10 tures an illustration of the best possible techniques used
11 in the preservation of such historic sites and structures,
12 and the multiple, significant ways in which such sites
13 and structures can be used.

14 SEC. 3. In carrying out the purposes of this Act, the Sec-
15 retary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secre-
16 tary") is authorized to make grants to each of the several
17 States for the specific purpose of enabling such State to
18 acquire and restore a historic site within such State for use
19 as a meetinghouse in accordance with the provisions of this
20 Act, and to initiate and carry out programs in connection
21 therewith, except that no grant to any one such State shall
22 exceed \$1,000,000. No grant shall be made to any State
23 pursuant to this Act except pursuant to an application sub-
24 mitted by such State and approved by the Secretary in ac-
25 cordance with the provisions of this Act.

1 SEC. 4. (a) Any application for a grant under this Act
2 shall contain an estimated budget of the following:

3 (1) acquisition costs of such historic site to be
4 acquired;

5 (2) restoration planning costs for such historic site;

6 (3) restoration work costs for such historic site;

7 (4) maintenance costs of such historic site;

8 (5) expenses involving use of such historic site as
9 it applies to the meetinghouse concept provided for by
10 this Act;

11 (6) staffing costs; and

12 (7) costs of publishing a report to Congress, by
13 January 1, 1976, on the restoration of the historic site
14 for use as a meetinghouse and the program for its use.

15 (b) No application shall be approved by the Secretary
16 pursuant to this Act unless such application is filed with the
17 Secretary within one year following the date of the enactment
18 of this Act, is filed in accordance with regulations and pro-
19 cedures prescribed by the Secretary, and contains provisions,
20 satisfactory to the Secretary, assuring that—

21 (1) any historic site covered by such application
22 will provide an atmosphere conducive to exploring new
23 and innovative ways to make the citizens of the United
24 States more aware of the need to protect their natural
25 and other heritage;

1 (2) such historic site is a documented historic or
2 architecturally significant building, group of buildings, or
3 site that is listed on the National Register and suitable
4 for the purposes of this Act;

5 (3) such historic site, together with other meeting-
6 houses authorized by this Act, illustrates a characteristic
7 of the applicant's heritage and helps to reflect the diverse
8 cultural and geographic background of the United States;

9 (4) the historic site covered by such application is
10 in need of rescuing from neglect, demolition, or because
11 it is functionally obsolete for its original purpose; and

12 (5) such historic site is located so as to insure its
13 ongoing uses as a public meetingplace. ✓

14 (c) Each State submitting an application pursuant to
15 this Act shall designate one or more historic sites which it
16 desires to acquire, restore, and utilize for the purposes of
17 this Act, including its preference or preferences with respect
18 thereto. The designation of such site or sites shall be based
19 on nominations made by the applicant's Bicentennial Com-
20 mission, in cooperation with such applicant's State preser-
21 vation officer, in accordance with an approved State historic
22 preservation plan. In making such nominations, the appli-
23 cant's Bicentennial Commission shall consult with such other
24 professional sources within the affected State as such Com-
25 mission determines necessary.

1 (d) Upon the approval by him of any application sub-
2 mitted in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the
3 Secretary is authorized to make a grant (not to exceed \$1,-
4 000,000) to the applicant for the purpose of enabling such
5 applicant to acquire and restore a historic site for use as a
6 meetinghouse in accordance with the provisions of this Act,
7 including the carrying out of programs in connection there-
8 with, except that in no case shall the Secretary approve the
9 acquisition or restoration of any such historic site except on
10 the basis of recommendations of the Meetinghouse Coor-
11 dinating Board in accordance with the provisions of section
12 5 of this Act. In no case shall the Secretary make grants
13 for the acquisition and restoration of more than one historic
14 site in any one State pursuant to this Act.

15 Sec. 5. (a) There is hereby established a Meeting-
16 house Coordinating Board, which shall consist of the Keeper
17 of the National Register, the Chairman of the Heritage '76
18 Committee of the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Ad-
19 ministration, a representative of the National Trust for His-
20 toric Preservation in the United States designated by the
21 Chairman thereof, a representative of the Advisory Council
22 on Historic Preservation designated by the Chairman thereof,
23 and a representative of the President's Council on Environ-
24 mental Quality designated by the Chairman thereof.

25 (b) It shall be the function of the Meetinghouse Co-

1 ordinating Board to review each application made in accord-
2 ance with the provisions of this Act for the purpose of mak-
3 ing recommendations to the Secretary as to which of the his-
4 toric site or sites contained in such application should be ap-
5 proved by the Secretary for purposes of this Act, and to pro-
6 vide a national overview of site selections for purposes of
7 this Act.

8 (c) Members of the Board shall receive no compensation
9 as such, but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred by
10 them in carrying out their duties under this Act.

11 (d) The members of the Board shall elect one of their
12 members as Chairman. The Secretary shall call the first
13 meeting of the Board.

14 SEC. 6. The Secretary, acting through the grants divi-
15 sion of the National Register program within the Office of
16 Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Serv-
17 ice, shall administer this Act in accordance with the provi-
18 sions thereof.

19 SEC. 7. As used in this Act, the term—

20 (1) "State" means each of the several States, pos-
21 sessions, and territories of the United States; and

22 (2) "historic site" means any property which is a
23 documented historic or architecturally significant build-
24 ing, group of buildings, or site that is listed on the Na-
25 tional Register and which is in need of rescuing from

1 neglect, demolition, or because it has become function-
2 ally obsolete for its original purpose, but in no event
3 shall such term be construed as including any federally
4 owned property.

5 SEC. 8. There are authorized to be appropriated such
6 sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of
7 this Act.

Senator BIBLE. Our first witness is Mr. William Prickett, president-elect of the Delaware State Bar. Mr. Prickett, we are very happy to hear from you this morning. If you will come forward, please.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM PRICKETT, PRESIDENT-ELECT, DELAWARE STATE BAR, WILMINGTON, DEL.

Mr. PRICKETT. Senator Bible, I appreciate the opportunity to come before this committee. I must return to Delaware because today I will assume my position as president of the Delaware State Bar Association.

I am William Prickett, a lawyer from Wilmington, Del., and I come before this committee as president of Grand Opera House, Inc., to urge the passage of this important legislation.

Let me begin by explaining briefly the background of Grand Opera House, Inc., and our interest in this legislation.

The Grand Opera House of Wilmington, Del., was built in 1871, by the Delaware Masons. During the last 25 years of the 19th century, the theatre was the cultural center for our community. However, in the beginning of this century, the magnificent theatre began to be used to show movies.

Finally, in the 1950's and 1960's, with the deterioration of the center of Wilmington, the theatre was not used at all except to show an occasional horror movie.

Fortunately for us, the Masons continued to use the upper floors and maintained the building and the theatre to some extent.

In 1972, there occurred the beginning of a resurgence of interest in the center of Wilmington. Specifically, a group of citizens interested in the cultural future of the city came together and Grand Opera House, Inc., was formed.

The Delaware Masons were persuaded to deed the title to this fine building to the new charitable group.

Shortly thereafter, the building was entered on the National Register. The theatre was immediately cleaned and repainted. The Delaware Symphony gave the inaugural concert in February 1973 and followed shortly thereafter by the Cleveland Orchestra and a group of other events of equally fine caliber designed to show the community what a real asset Grand Opera House was.

Before the first season was over, the theatre had demonstrated its utility and it was generally agreed that if refurbished, it could not only become a true cultural center for the performing arts in Wilmington but could once again attract people to downtown Wilmington.

The Grand Opera House has been strikingly successful to date: The theatre has not only filled a real need from the point of view of the performing arts but it has had a significant effect in bringing people back to downtown Wilmington and in triggering a move to reconstruct the center of the city.

Having demonstrated the beauty and utility of this landmark, the Board of Grand Opera House, Inc., decided that studies must be made to determine whether the building and theatre could and should

be restored. It was determined through a series of outside architectural, economic, and feasibility studies that the building not only could be restored to its original elegance and grandeur but that the costs of the restoration itself are far less than it would take to build a new cultural center.

In addition, the economic feasibility studies indicate that the yearly support for this center would be modest indeed. As indicated, these studies have now been completed and the directors of the Grand Opera House are on the verge of launching a campaign to determine whether the local communities, including corporations, foundations and the general public, are willing to contribute their share so as to present to this generation and future generations a tremendous cultural asset.

At this point, the attention of the officers and the Board of Grand Opera House, Inc., was drawn to this proposed legislation. We were delighted to find that there was consideration by the Congress of the United States that the Federal Government would provide each State with a flat sum with which to construct or refurbish a "meeting house" building that would commemorate the Federal Bicentennial.

Grand Opera House, Inc., has submitted through appropriate State and Federal channels a request for consideration as Delaware's "meeting house" site provided this legislation goes through. Of course, no assurance has been given to us at this point.

However, we believe quite apart from whether the Grand Opera House, Inc., is in fact designated as Delaware's Meeting House, the legislation should receive your approbation.

We are now almost on the verge of our bicentennial. People all over the country are greatly depressed and are concerned about the state of the country as a whole.

The bicentennial can and should provide the critical turning point for the faith and spirit of the country. The bicentennial celebration should mark a reaffirmance in our belief in our country, its history, its value and its future.

The Congress understandably has been concerned with other national problems and has had little opportunity to provide the leadership in the form of legislation for the States nor has it provided any significant financial incentives to create a proper observance of the Federal Bicentennial in each State.

It would therefore seem to us that the legislation in question would be a simple, swift, and expedient way of doing something tangible for each State. If this legislation is passed, then each State could use the funds provided in its own way.

Certainly the passage of this legislation and the creation in each State of a 1976 Meeting House place would be a significant way to commemorate and mark for future generations the observance of the 200th year of the formation of this country.

It is for this reason that we strongly urge passage of this legislation.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much, sir, your testimony is very helpful.

Is this the project, the official agency of the State of Delaware will choose in conformance with the Meeting House Act if it is passed and becomes law?

MR. PRICKETT. Senator Bible, the Grand Opera House has submitted in accordance with regulations an application to be designated if the legislation is passed as the site.

Our application has been approved by the appropriate State agencies and forwarded to Washington. But it should be understood there is no guarantee if the legislation goes through that this project would be the Delaware Project. But we don't see any other project in Delaware that would qualify in terms of the guidelines at present.

But there is no guarantee by our State agency that this in fact might be it.

Senator BIBLE. And there just might be another site selected?

MR. PRICKETT. Yes, there just might be.

Senator BIBLE. What is the cost of the rehabilitation and renovation of the Grand Opera House in Wilmington?

MR. PRICKETT. The total cost would be in the neighborhood of \$3.8 million, and they would use the Federal funds as seed money to be matched by local money from foundations, private donors, you know, to complete this project.

Senator BIBLE. But does the State of Delaware have any matching program in the event this should become law?

MR. PRICKETT. It does not at present. We believe if the Federal Government took the lead, the State of Delaware is behind this project and is interested, could be motivated to do this. But we do have private money and foundations that are interested, and just yesterday afternoon I approached a group that is interested in making a contribution to this project if it gets underway.

Senator BIBLE. Assuming that this bill became law, and the Grand Opera House was the selection of the State of Delaware, you say it is going to cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$ million and assuming all of that money was forthcoming from private sources in the State of Delaware, who then would carry forward the operation and maintenance of the Grand Opera House in the future?

MR. PRICKETT. The Grand Opera House, Inc., is a charitable organization. It would continue the program it has in the past years, that is, it would be responsible for the yearly support that is necessary to run a cultural center for the State of Delaware.

Senator BIBLE. Approximately how much does it cost annually to run the Grand Opera House, even though you say it is a little run down now?

MR. PRICKETT. We have operated it for about 2 years running symphonies and dance programs, and the operating level has been about \$50,000.

We had a New York consulting firm do a projection and they project the support level, the difference between ticket sales and rental income, what it costs to run the theatre is in the area of \$50,000.

Senator BIBLE. That is subsidized by private foundations?

MR. PRICKETT. Subsidized by the Delaware Council on the Arts and small contributions by members of the community interested in the cultural future of Wilmington. And finally by foundations and corporations.

Senator BIBLE. What type of participation do you have in Grand Opera House projects in the way of annual visitation or participation by the citizens of the State of Delaware?

Mr. PRICKETT. We have had tremendous support in the sense of audience participation in the program.

We have had programs for school children. The yearly visitation is in the area of 20,000 people. This House has just barely been repainted. It has not been air-conditioned or anything else.

These funds would make it possible to run the House year round and we anticipate there would be almost no night when the House is dark.

When the building is done, it would provide a center that could be used all of the time.

We would suggest in doing this we would be creating something in our area akin to the Kennedy Center here and the Lincoln Center in New York without the staggering cost of those projects.

We have done the homework to determine, one, the rebuilding could be done for a fairly modest sum, instead of starting out fresh, and second, we have determined the operating costs are going to be manageable in terms of our own community.

Therefore, we think the assets that can stem from this building if it receives the grant of a meeting house building, will be significant culturally for us and would be a lasting memorial to the anniversary of the founding of our country.

Senator BIBLE. You have made a very fine statement. I appreciate your coming here this morning.

Senator Hansen.

Senator HANSEN. I want to compliment the distinguished representative from the first State. It seems quite appropriate that Delaware, the first State, should be the first to testify in behalf of this bill.

The enthusiasm that he displays here has permeated the entire country. I think it is a most worthwhile effort that is contemplated by the terms of this act to cause each State to focus upon that particular building or edifice, whichever it may be, which best seems to embody the spirit of the act.

I don't know how wide will be the participation. My guess is that each of the 50 States will decide to move forward and propose an appropriate structure or something else for inclusion under this act.

I know that Wyoming's contribution under the terms of this act will out-survive them all. I say that with no hesitation at all. It just happened, as people were pushing westward and displaying that restlessness of spirit which opened up the frontiers and which indeed caused people to face the wild Atlantic coming over here in the first place, was marked along the trail by what we call Independence Rock in Wyoming.

It is solid granite and there is no doubt it is going to survive the rest of them put together 10 times over. It has often been referred to as the Register of the Desert, because on it have been inscribed the names of some of the earliest pioneers, the various trails that crossed the Wyoming plains, going to Oregon or California or wherever.

I am enthusiastic about it. I can appreciate the enthusiasm of Mr. Prickett so ardently manifested here this morning.

I compliment you on your presentation.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you. Senator Metzenbaum.

Senator METZENBAUM. That was a very fine statement and I agree with the statement of the Senator from Wyoming but I do have some concerns, since each of these historic sites is a matter of local pride, and since you indicate there probably could be \$3 million matching funds obtained and the \$1 million in Federal funds, where does the Federal responsibility here come from in this area? Why should it be Federal funds if you can raise \$3 million or \$4 million, if Ohio, my own State, has a historic site to present, the meeting house, I wonder if that is not a matter of local responsibility and whether it is a Federal responsibility.

I would appreciate your addressing yourself to the subject of using \$50 million in Federal funds whether or not there is any bicentennial. Every time I read something about bicentennial celebration, somebody else has a new idea as to how to dip into the Federal Treasury rather than something that could be meaningful and of long-standing value to great masses of people.

I think we are dealing with a question of priorities. So, in your own words, tell us why should the Federal Government, not with respect to the Delaware project but with respect to 50 projects around the country, why should the Federal Government have that responsibility?

Mr. PRICKETT. Senator, first of all what is the Federal responsibility in this area? We are not celebrating the anniversary of the founding of Delaware or Ohio or Wyoming; we are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, and therefore, leadership in the birthday celebration of the country is a Federal responsibility.

It is a Federal anniversary we are celebrating.

Second, it seems to me entirely appropriate that the Federal Government select a project that lets each of the States designate the way in which this will be memorialized rather than the Federal Government going out and doing a project in each State.

Let each State celebrate its participation in the founding of the Federal Government by creating a memorial. In Wyoming, it is the Federal rock.

In this way, it will forever symbolize in Wyoming for the people of Wyoming the founding of the country as a whole.

As our grandchildren go around the country 100 years from now, there will be 50 memorials, each one individualized by the State celebrating in its own way the founding of the country.

The second thing is, you mentioned priorities. As I indicated early in my statement the people of Delaware at least have heard, as you have, 100 ideas for the celebration of the bicentennial.

But as I talk to people in Delaware, they say nothing concrete has come forth by way of something definitive. Therefore, I suggest to you that while the bicentennial should not represent an opening of Federal coffers for every hare-brained scheme to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of this country, this one project does

represent a simple, expedient and relatively inexpensive way of giving to each State the means, the seed money, by which project which would otherwise would not become real, would be triggered.

I suggest to you and I am aware you don't want me to talk about my own particular project, but if the Congress voted that this project, this would represent a signal to the State that \$1 million was going to be available for some project, and the matching funds, and in our case I am sure there will be matching funds in Wyoming too, for instance, would create projects that would otherwise not be done.

I do not suggest that the Federal purse be opened to all sorts of projects. I suggest this particular one will, at this particular time, trigger an area in which the country feels there has been no significant activity to date.

Senator METZENBAUM. Would you, therefore, speaking for Delaware only, or perhaps you are speaking for all of Delaware, and I am not sure in which capacity you appear, would you think some limitation in this legislation providing these funds would only be used on a one to three basis, that there would have to be three times as much money raised locally whether by public funds or foundations which would be contributing. Would that be acceptable from your standpoint?

Mr. PRICKETT. Speaking for the Grand Opera House's point of view, that would be acceptable because we know we have to do it.

I question, however, the feasibility of that idea on a broader scale, for the reason that time is running short. The bicentennial is close upon us. If it is necessary for a project to qualify by raising funds, unfortunately the bicentennial will come and go before some States could organize either private or public funds.

I think it is important that these funds be made available and the guidelines contained in the bill and under the guidance that is provided for by regulation.

So the project is done, so that each one of these States, has by the 1976 celebration, has the opportunity to have created something of value for itself and for future generations.

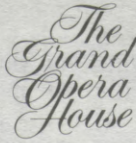
Senator METZENBAUM. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. You have made a fine presentation and good luck to you as you are sworn in as president-elect of the Delaware Bar Association.

I understand that you must leave for that reason, and you certainly have our leave to do so.

Mr. PRICKETT. Thank you, sir.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Prickett follows:]



818 MARKET STREET • WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801 • TELEPHONE (302) 652-5577

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM PRICKETT
Post Office Box 1328
Wilmington, Delaware 19899
(Area Code 302 - 658-5102)

On Senate Bill S-2877, '76 Meeting House Bill
Wednesday, June 5, 1974

I am William Prickett, a lawyer from Wilmington, Delaware. I come before this Committee as President of Grand Opera House, Inc. to urge the passage of this important legislation. Let me begin by explaining briefly the background of Grand Opera House, Inc. and our interest in this legislation.

The Grand Opera House of Wilmington, Delaware, was built in 1871 by the Delaware Masons. During the last twenty-five years of the 19th Century, the theatre was the cultural center for our community. However, in the beginning of this century, the magnificent theatre began to be used to show movies. Finally, in the 1950's and 1960's, with the deterioration of the center of Wilmington, the theatre was not used at all except to show an occasional horror movie. Fortunately for us, the Masons continued to use the upper floors and maintained the building and the theatre to some extent. In 1972, there occurred the beginning of a resurgence of interest in the center of Wilmington. Specifically, a group of citizens interested in the cultural future of the city came together and Grand Opera House, Inc. was formed. The Delaware Masons were persuaded to deed the title to this fine building to the new charitable group. Shortly thereafter, the building was entered on the National Register. The theatre was immediately cleaned and repainted. The Delaware Symphony gave the inaugural concert in February, 1973, followed shortly thereafter by the Cleveland Orchestra and a group of other events of equally fine

caliber designed to show the community what a real asset Grand Opera House was. Before the first season was over, the theatre had demonstrated its utility and it was generally agreed that if refurbished, it could not only become a true cultural center for the performing arts in Wilmington but could once again attract people to downtown Wilmington. The Grand Opera House has been strikingly successful to date: the theatre has not only filled a real need from the point of view of the performing arts but it has had a significant effect in bringing people back to downtown Wilmington and in triggering a move to reconstruct the center of this City.

Having demonstrated the beauty and utility of this landmark, the Board of Grand Opera House, Inc. decided that studies must be made to determine whether the building and the theatre could and should be restored. It was determined through a series of outside architectural, economic and feasibility studies that the building not only could be restored to its original elegance and grandeur but that the costs of the restoration itself are far less than it would take to build a new cultural center. In addition, the economic feasibility studies indicate that the yearly support for this center will be modest indeed. As indicated, these studies have now been completed and the Directors of the Grand Opera House are on the verge of launching a campaign to determine whether the local communities, including corporations, foundations and the general public, are willing to contribute their share so as to present to this generation and future generations a tremendous cultural asset.

At this point, the attention of the officers and the Board of Grand Opera House, Inc. was drawn to this proposed legislation. We were delighted to find that there was consideration by the Congress of the United States that the Federal Government would provide each State with a flat sum with which to construct or refurbish a "Meeting House" building that would commemorate the Federal Bicentennial. Grand Opera House, Inc. has submitted through appropriate State and Federal channels a request for consideration as Delaware's "Meeting House" site provided this legislation goes through. Of course, no assurance has been given to us at this point.

However, we believe quite apart from whether the Grand Opera House, Inc. is in fact designated as Delaware's "Meeting House", the legislation should receive your approbation. We are now almost on the verge of our Bicentennial. People all over the country are greatly depressed and are concerned about the state of the country as a whole. The Bicentennial can and should provide the critical turning point for the faith and spirit of the country. The Bicentennial celebration should mark a reaffirmance in our belief in our country, its history, its value and its future. The Congress understandably has been concerned with other national problems and

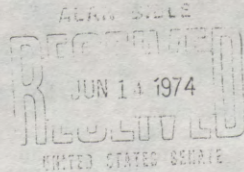
has had little opportunity to provide the leadership in the form of legislation for the States nor has it provided any significant financial incentives to create a proper observance of the Federal Bicentennial in each State. It would therefore seem to us that the legislation in question would be a simple, swift and expedient way of doing something tangible for each State. If this legislation is passed, then each State could use the funds provided in its own way. Certainly, the passage of this legislation and the creation in each State of a '76 "Meeting House" place would be a significant way to commemorate and mark for future generations the observance of the 200th year of the formation of this country. It is for this reason that we strongly urge passage of this legislation.

*The
Grand
Opera
House*

818 MARKET STREET · WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801 · TELEPHONE (302) 652-5577

June 12, 1974

RE: SENATE BILL S-2877 -
"MEETINGHOUSE PRESERVATION ACT"



Honorable Alan Bible
145 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bible:

This is just a short note to thank you, Senator Hansen, and Senator Metzenbaum, and your respective staffs, for your courtesy to me in connection with my testimony on the above legislation at the hearing on Wednesday, June 5, 1974. I had to return to Delaware to attend the annual meeting of the Delaware State Bar Association, in the course of which I was elected President, so I was most grateful for the early opportunity to be able to come before your committee and present the overall reason why we in Delaware believe that the Congress should pass this legislation as speedily as possible and also the special reasons why we in Delaware are anxious to see the legislation passed so that the funds can possibly help in the restoration of the Grand Opera House.

I was encouraged by what appeared to be the receptive mood of your committee on this legislation. As I testified, so far as the Grand Opera House is concerned, we will require 3.8 million dollars to do the restoration. Thus, if the legislation is passed, and if Grand Opera House is in fact selected as Delaware's "Meetinghouse", it will require funding

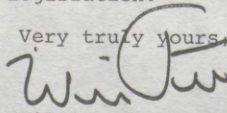
Honorable Alan Bible
June 12, 1974
Page Two

from local sources on a 3 to 1 basis. (I believe that this will probably turn out to be true in other States.) Therefore, this legislation will be "seed" money that will produce fifty projects that will commemorate the Federal Bicentennial.

Somewhat as a result of the encouraging report that I brought back to Delaware, I am pleased to report that we just received news of private matching funds to the extent of one million dollars. This handsome pledge is dependent on raising the other funds, part of which we would hope would come from the above legislation.

Again, my thanks to each of you and to your staffs for your courtesy to me. Please let me know if there is any further information that I can supply or anything further that I can do to aid in the passage of this legislation.

Very truly yours,



William Prickett
President

WP:plz

- cc: Honorable Clifford P. Hansen
3229 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
- cc: Honorable Howard M. Metzenbaum
1203 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
- cc: Honorable William Roth
4327 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
- cc: Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
5225 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator BIBLE. The next witness is Senator Tower.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN TOWER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE
STATE OF TEXAS

Senator TOWER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am accompanied by Miss Melanie McCoy who has done the staff work on this measure.

Senator BIBLE. Very well. We're glad to have you here.

Senator TOWER. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, let me begin my testimony on S. 2877, the Meeting House Preservation Act, by commending the Chairman and members of the subcommittee on Parks and Recreation for their early consideration of this legislation.

As the subcommittee is well aware, without expeditious handling of the bill the States will not have adequate time to initiate their meeting house programs.

In January, when I introduced the Meeting House Preservation Act, I stated that this concept had a wide base of support in the States and I had every assurance that it would find support in the Congress.

Since that time, 34 Senators, in addition to myself, have become sponsors of S. 2877 and the bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives on three different occasions.

I, personally, have received correspondence from 21 States, since January, expressing full support for S. 2877.

I do not find this broad base of support surprising because the intent of the program itself is to become involved in the bicentennial.

The American Revolution may have taken place in a small number of States but the spirit that brought individuals to these shores and the common beliefs that have bonded us together into these United States of America are not limited to a small number of States but are common to all.

Each State has its unique history to preserve; and each State needs a regional focus for the bicentennial; and each State needs a meeting place where its citizens can preserve their history and ethnicity and set goals for the future.

Since January, I have had the opportunity to study my bill and have spoken to a number of organizations about possible revisions which may be needed.

I request that the subcommittee give every consideration to my suggestions for revision.

First, there is a typographical error in the bill, as printed. On page 2, line 15, should end at the semicolon. The rest of line 15 through line 22 should be deleted and the following added: "(4) The designation and preservation within each of the several States of a historic site which might be utilized as a meeting house would provide an easily accessible meeting place for a majority of the citizens and would further provide a regional focus and impetus to the preservation of our physical and cultural heritage and a meeting place to bring citizens together to plan the preservation of the quality of our total environment."

Second, I would request that on page 5, line 21, the phrase "and State Arts Council" be added so that lines 20 and 21 would read "... in cooperation with such applicants State Preservation Officer and State Arts Council, in accordance with an approved State historic. . .".

The State Arts Councils are actively involved in the arts and humanities and would play an integral part in any State meeting house program; consequently the Councils should be consulted when sites and programs are considered.

Third, on page 6, section 5(a), which establishes a Meeting House Coordinating Board, specifically designates the Chairman of the Heritage 1976 Committee of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration as a member.

Because of organization changes in ARBA, it is likely that this position will no longer exist. Consequently, the section should be changed to read "The Administrator of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration."

In addition to these three revisions I have suggested, I would like to mention two issues which the subcommittee should study most carefully.

It has been proposed that the bill be revised to allow a State use of its grant for more than one structure, that is, a meeting house and various branches throughout the State—the theory being that this would be of benefit to the larger States.

Although I do not oppose this concept, per se, I do have serious reservations about it. This concept would, in almost all cases, increase the cost of the State's program and the size of the grant it would require.

We may be already laboring under the problem of getting adequate funding for the act.

The fear has also been expressed that this concept would result in dilution of effort wherein the grant, if used for more than one structure, would result in no structure receiving adequate funding for acquisition and restoration, much less the setting up of the program itself.

It is my contention that the individual States which decide that they are in need of such branches should consider funding them out of State moneys or private contributions.

The second issue which has been brought to my attention is section 4(d) which states that the Secretary is authorized to make grants not to exceed \$1 million.

It has been suggested that no ceiling should be specified or, on the other hand, that the ceiling should be lowered.

I would request that both the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration be specifically requested to comment on whether the ceiling should be lowered or deleted and specific reasons for their views.

To assist the subcommittee, I would like to submit a cost estimate for 20 of the States' proposed meeting house sites.

Senator BIBLE. That will be made a part of the record.

[Material referred to above follows:]

MEETING HOUSE COST ESTIMATES FOR
ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION (APPROXIMATE) *

<u>State</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Acquisition of Property</u>	<u>Restoration and other costs</u>	<u>Totals</u>
I. <u>OHIO</u>	Tallmadge Congregational Church, Tallmadge	no cost	\$460,000	\$460,000
II. <u>NEBRASKA</u>	William H. Ferguson Mansion, Lincoln	no cost	\$209,000	\$209,000
III. <u>NEW YORK</u>	Hyde Hall, Glimmerglass State Park	no cost	\$705,000	\$705,000
IV. <u>COLORADO</u>	Tivoli Brewery, Denver	no cost	\$994,812	\$994,812
V. <u>IOWA</u>	1) Orpheum Theater, Dubuque 2) Flynn Farm, Des Moines area 3) Old Capitol, Iowa City	\$40,000 no cost no cost	\$450,000 \$500,000 \$1,000,000	\$490,000 \$500,000 \$1,000,000

MEETING HOUSE COST ESTIMATES - 2

<u>State</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Acquisition of Property</u>	<u>Restoration and other costs</u>	<u>Totals</u>
VI. <u>RHODE ISLAND</u>	1) South Freight Station, Providence	has been demolished		
	2) Woonsocket Opera House, Woonsocket	no cost	\$301,000	\$301,000
	3) Newport Casino/Theater, Newport	no cost	\$232,000	\$232,000
VII. <u>NEW HAMPSHIRE</u>	1) Bellmap-Salloway Mill, Laconia	no cost	\$335,860	\$335,860
	2) Town Hall, Exeter	no cost	\$20,000	\$20,000+
	3) Stoodley's Tavern, Portsmouth	?	\$142,150	\$142,150+
VIII. <u>UTAH</u>	Devereaux House, Salt Lake City	\$360,000	\$916,000	\$1,276,000
IX. <u>LOUISIANA</u>	Magnolia Mounds Plantation, Baton Rouge	no cost	\$895,000	\$895,000
X. <u>CONNECTICUT</u>	Viets Tavern, East Granby	no cost	\$143,475	\$143,475

MEETING HOUSE COST ESTIMATES - 3

<u>State</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Acquisition of Property</u>	<u>Restoration and other costs</u>	<u>Totals</u>
XI. <u>INDIANA</u>	Athenaeum, Indianapolis	\$180,000	\$556,000	\$736,000
XII. <u>SOUTH DAKOTA</u>	"Old Main", Vermillion	no cost	\$1,037,993	\$1,037,993
XIII. <u>MAINE</u>	The Bangor House, Bangor	\$400,000	\$350,000	\$750,000
XIV. <u>ARKANSAS</u>	Historic Washington District, Washington			\$764,000
XV. <u>MISSISSIPPI</u>	Jefferson College, Washington	no cost	\$500,000	\$500,000
XVI. <u>NEW JERSEY</u>	Proprietary House, Perth Amboy	\$200,000	\$763,000	\$963,000

MEETING HOUSE COST ESTIMATES - 4

<u>State</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Acquisition of Property</u>	<u>Restoration and other costs</u>	<u>Totals</u>
XVII. <u>NEW MEXICO</u>	1) Garcia Opera House, Socorro	\$159,000	\$155,000	\$314,400
	2) Pinckney R. Tully House, Santa Fe	\$104,802.52	\$209,000	\$313,802.52
XVIII. <u>VERMONT</u>	Depot Square Historic District, Randolph	\$462,000	\$431,800	\$893,800
XIX. <u>CALIFORNIA</u>	Dingley Spice Mill, Sacramento	no cost	\$186,500	\$186,500

MEETING HOUSE COST ESTIMATES - 5

<u>State</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Acquisition of Property</u>	<u>Restoration and other costs</u>	<u>Totals</u>
XX. WYOMING	Independence Rock	\$111,815	\$410,000	\$521,815
XXI. PUERTO RICO	Old Casino de Puerto Rico, San Juan	no cost	\$467,150	\$467,150
XXII. MONTANA	"Old Chamber" Building, Billings	?	\$300,000	\$300,000+
XXIII. TEXAS	Stafford Opera House, Columbus	?	\$308,000	\$308,000+
XXIV. ALASKA	Paranov's Storehouse, Kodiak	\$176,191	\$500,000	\$676,191
XXV. WISCONSIN	1) Old Executive Mansion, Madison 2) Koepsel and Turck Houses, Old World Wisconsin 3) Fabst Theater, Milwaukee	\$180,000 no cost no cost	\$300,000 \$147,500 \$1,000,000	\$480,000 \$147,500 \$1,000,000

MEETING HOUSE COST ESTIMATES - 6

<u>State</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Acquisition of Property</u>	<u>Restoration and other costs</u>	<u>Totals</u>
XXVI. <u>OKLAHOMA</u>	Carnegie Library, Guthrie	no cost	\$466,140	\$466,140
XXVII. <u>ILLINOIS</u>	Jubilee College, Jubilee	no cost	\$150,000	\$150,000
XXVIII. <u>HAWAII</u>	1) The Royal Brewery, Capitol District			\$1,000,000
	2) King Kamehameha Post Office, near Capitol District	no cost	\$760,000	\$760,000
XXIX. <u>FLORIDA</u>	Brokaw-McDougall House, Tallahassee	no cost	\$215,160	\$215,160

* The estimated cost of acquiring and restoring the listed Meeting House sites was taken from the prospectuses sent in by the states with their nominations. These figures do not include any money for maintenance or programming the Meeting House concept into the facility.

The purpose in compiling samplings of Meeting House costs is to better evaluate the legislation that includes a one time grant of up to a million dollars per state.

Senator TOWER. Mr. Chairman, I am concerned that our celebration of the bicentennial might be limited to a small number of States in which historical events took place, and, consequently, limited as to the people involved. I am concerned that in many States there is no regional focus for the celebration.

It is my desire to have us initiate a program which would provide a meeting place in each of the States, which would be a regional focus and impetus to the preservation of our physical and cultural heritage, and would bring citizens together to plan the preservation of the quality of our total environment for the present and for the future.

Senator BIBLE. That is a fine statement. I appreciate the leadership you have given this project. However, I am curious as to why you do not put it on a matching basis. Most of our funds are put on a matching basis, as you know, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the money we give out under the Arts and Humanities, work very well. If a State is interested then it ought to be able to raise enough money to match the Federal share.

Senator TOWER. I think we view the bicentennial context as the celebration for all the people of America and we are looking at these various sites as places that I think are of interest generally speaking to all of the country as a total part of our heritage and viewing it in that light, I don't think the matching grants are necessary. We would expect the States and local governments and private instrumentalities would provide funds for aspects of the bicentennial celebration, but this is a peculiarly Federal aspect, in my estimation.

Senator BIBLE. I can see why you have so many enthusiastic supporters of this bill, because this is 100 percent a Federal dollar, and both you and I know, if you give 100 percent Federal dollar it is more popular than a dollar that must be matched.

Senator TOWER. That is true, Mr. Chairman. That is the nature of things, but I might add we have a number of other things that are totally federally funded that are much more limited in scope and interest.

Senator BIBLE. It seems to me that is something I would solicit the comments of the administration on as to whether it should be matched or not matched.

Senator TOWER. It is my understanding the administration does propose matching funds.

Senator BIBLE. Well, they are going to speak right after the Senators do, and they can speak for themselves. But I do want them to note the question of matching funds and what their viewpoint is on that.

Now, is there any time limit in your bill? Because, after all, 1976 is just 2 years away.

Is there any time limit within which the States must submit their proposals? It is going to take some time to gear this up if the bill passes.

Senator METZENBAUM. If the Chairman will yield, it is 1 year from the date of enactment.

Senator TOWER. Yes, it is 1 year from date of enactment.

Senator METZENBAUM. It is page 4.

Senator BIBLE. One year from date of enactment.

Senator TOWER. That would, if the Congress acts expeditiously and the President signs the bill, that would give adequate time to have the sites ready by 1976.

Senator BIBLE. Very well. Senator Hansen.

Senator HANSEN. I was very much interested, Mr. Chairman, in your exchange with the distinguished Senator from Texas, when you explored with him the reasons that his bill provides 100 percent Federal funding.

I might say, in the best tradition, Wyoming intends to share with all America part of the rock.

I think it might be worthwhile to have the States manifest some local enthusiasm, as you suggested, or some State enthusiasm in going on with it, despite the fact, as the Senator from Texas pointed out, this is to be a commemoration of a very historic event, and we are trying to make it be a reflection of national interest with focal points in each of the 50 States.

I will keep in mind your exchange with the Senator and it may be that as we conserve the bill further, there could be a reason to change that.

Senator TOWER. I might point out it was essentially a Federal decision to decentralize the bicentennial.

Senator BIBLE. Senator Metzenbaum?

Senator METZENBAUM. Senator Tower, I can see where the application might be filed within a year.

The bicentennial will come and go and 4 years later, it would still be an effort to get any of these funds from the Federal Government.

Would you be receptive to a limitation?

Senator TOWER. Certainly. I think the whole thing should be oriented toward the bicentennial celebration. There should be no funding beyond the point at which it could be considered a part of the bicentennial.

Senator METZENBAUM. Thank you.

Senator BIBLE. One further last question. What happens after the bicentennial comes and goes, who operates and maintains the facility?

Senator TOWER. That would become the responsibility of the individual State.

Senator BIBLE. There would be no further Federal responsibility after the one shot, \$1 million, per State?

I understand that Congress can always change it and they do, but under this law, it would be a one shot, one time proposition.

Senator TOWER. Yes.

Senator BIBLE. We appreciate your appearance here this morning. Our next witness is Senator Pell.

STATEMENT OF HON. CLAIBORNE PELL, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Senator PELL. I am grateful to you for this opportunity to present my views in support of S. 2877.

This would establish a meetinghouse program of historic value in the States.

I particularly want to commend Senator Tower for his initiative in introducing this legislation, concerned both with the immediate needs and more distant goals.

It addresses the need for restoring and preserving the historic structures and sites which are involved in our upcoming bicentennial celebration.

It is also addressed to making these restorations serve the constructive and beneficial purpose in the years following the bicentennial.

A focal point for meetings and discussions of our environment—architectural, cultural and physical, these work structures, these meetinghouses would thus become more than historic reminders of the past.

They would serve to preserve the best of the past and toward a better tomorrow.

An added feature, is the latest technological advance and preservation and restoration can be used, thus making the structure to be restored models in this regard.

A great deal has been learned in recent years about these techniques.

Last summer, in hearings related to the improvement of our national museums, and where I had the opportunity to chair a special panel, there was testimony on conservation and restoration techniques and on the need for more skilled artisans in this important field.

In recent days, the Senate has passed legislation stemming from the subcommittee on the Smithsonian Institution, of which I serve as Chairman, which gives emphasis to the area of improved conservation and restoration techniques.

It would help to develop the national—while it is related primarily to the museum community, the findings and results emanating from such an institute would effect preservation.

I am pleased to note Mr. James Biddle, the president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was a witness at those hearings of a year ago which I have mentioned.

I understand that the present bill, S. 2877, evolved from recommendations made by the National Trust, which has served to help coordinate the State recommendations for the meetinghouses.

I am pleased that legislation under consideration today would reach every State, including those States with smaller populations, such as yours and mine, Mr. Chairman, and Senator Hansen, as well as the larger States.

I am pleased that it would grant \$1 million in authorized funds for each State.

My own State of Rhode Island has taken a leadership role in developing special plans whose implementation this legislation could assist.

At this time, I would like to request that a letter from Mr. Paul Giacobbe, executive director of the Rhode Island Bicentennial Commission, be printed in the record.

Senator BIBLE. Without exception.

[The document referred to above follows:]

THE RHODE ISLAND BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION/FOUNDATION,
Providence, R.I., May 31, 1974.

SEN. CLAIBORNE DEB. PELL,
Federal Building,
U.S. Court House,
Providence, R.I.

DEAR SENATOR PELL: Enclosed are preliminary reports prepared by the Providence Partnership for the restoration of the Old State House in Providence and the Clarke Street Meeting House in Newport. As you know, the Meeting House bill currently before the Congress would provide funds for the restoration of historically significant buildings. These two structures, along with the two remaining buildings designated in the "Heritage '76—Meeting House" proposal forwarded to you earlier this year, comprise Rhode Island's candidates for potential federal restoration funds.

The availability of these Meeting House funds is quite important to us here in Rhode Island, as we have embarked on a rather ambitious program and are depending on outside support for a great many projects. Any help you can provide for the passage of this bill would be most appreciated in the Bicentennial community throughout the nation.

I would like to suggest that you give some consideration to recommending that the funds not be limited to one building, but applicable towards the restoration of two, or perhaps three, structures. Allocation of \$1 million for the restoration of one building may encourage unnecessary spending, but the opportunity to stretch those funds to a second worthy historical building would, I feel, result in a more judicious use of the taxpayer's dollar.

Thank you again for your interest in this bill, and if you have any questions, or I can be of any help, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

PAUL M. GIACOBBE,
Executive Director.

Senator PELL. This should not be limited to only one bill per State, but should be applicable to the restoration of several, where appropriate.

I would fully concur with this point of view and request that a suitable amendment be favorably considered.

In other words, there would be more than one project in a State that could be helped under this bill.

If we do not do that, the temptation will be to take a single project where it might cost a third, a quarter or a half million dollars, since no other project can be used, it will be the natural temptation to use up the full amount of the funds, whereas the money could better be used if it was spread around a little bit more.

Senator BIBLE. I think the preceding witness, took a little different viewpoint of that, if I understood Senator Tower's position correctly. He said he had considered this proposal which you are now making and suggested that the bill be amended to permit the use of a place in more than one State. He seems to indicate that would put additional burden upon the State because you would have two or three projects that they would have to finance in the future. That might put a great burden on the State. It has been our experience, in working in these projects, year after year, they all start out with great enthusiasm and then all of a sudden the funds dry and then the project wilts and fades away. This fear was if you had the money scattered in too many places in the State, this is what could happen.

Senator PELL. This would be a valid viewpoint, particularly from a large State, \$1 million to be used very properly in one project.

In a smaller State—we have several projects that are already being worked on, that would be worked on in the future.

Senator BIBLE. I turn to Rhode Island. I see you have got one which has been demolished. Is it your proposal that you completely rebuild the station?

Senator PELL. No, that has already gone by.

Senator BIBLE. You only have two projects?

Senator PELL. We have two projects in being and two more, part of the money is granted.

Senator BIBLE. I am glad to have your viewpoint. You may proceed.

Senator PELL. I would also ask that there be included in the record, material describing in detail, Rhode Island plans for historic preservation and restoration, particularly geared to the meetinghouse proposal.

I ask that this material be included, Mr. Chairman, as special indication of my own State's interest in this legislation.

I am delighted to endorse these plans, and to call attention to their highlights.

I would like to point out that one structure originally included in these plans, the old South Freight Station of Providence which has been both an historic and architectural landmark, has been razed.

This shows, I believe, that we are often faced with difficult decisions related to our historic past.

Too often the historic structure cannot be maintained. It disappears. And we lose part of our heritage.

This loss in Rhode Island underscores the need for the bill being considered.

In my own city of Newport, there is a book describing the houses and they had declined 20 percent by the time the book was reprinted 20 years later.

If you do not preserve the buildings, there is a tendency to raze them for urban renewal and so forth, but the shocking statistic is there.

Our city which is next to Plymouth, which has a large number of very early houses, lost one-fifth of these by simple razing and road building.

The other structures are described in detail in the Rhode Island Plan.

They are the Woonsocket Opera House and the Newport Casino and Casino Theater in my home city of Newport.

The Woonsocket Opera House reflects the Romanesque Revival of the late 19th century.

Its facade is of unusual architectural excellence. It would be especially suitable in terms of this city's proposed social neighborhood development program focused around Monument Square.

I have this week received additional information on two other primary candidates for historic restoration applicable to this legislation.

They are the old State House in Providence and the Clark Street Meeting House in Newport.

The old State House began its history in 1760 as one of the two so-called Colony Houses, the other being in Newport.

The Declaration of Independence was ratified in this building.

It is certainly one of the most handsome colonial buildings in our country.

It is in the classic proportions of those historic days. Restoration costs are estimated to be \$845,709.

The Clarke Street Meeting House is of even earlier origin, dating back to 1735.

In its early history, it served as a place of worship, and it so served over the centuries, for Congregationalists, for Baptists, and for Roman Catholics.

Restoration of this historic structure is estimated at \$518,292.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, let me reiterate my enthusiasm for this legislation.

I hope that my own State's findings, and the deep interest it has shown in historic preservation, and the work it has already accomplished in this regard, will provide examples to bolster support for this bill.

I would like to urge its favorable consideration with the amendment that I have suggested.

Senator BIBLE. Perhaps you could prevent that by having it on a 50 to 50 basis. What would be wrong with that?

Senator PELL. It has worked well in the Arts and Humanities, Mr. Chairman.

As you know, I would prefer to see it the way it is, but I think this would be a very beneficial bill, even if it were on a matching basis.

Senator BIBLE. I wanted your thoughts on it. I think there is merit in this legislation.

Senator PELL. And it is for the restoration—\$232,000, a minimum to secure the building for future use.

It should be noted, the totals for the Woonsocket Opera House in the northern part of the State and the Newport Casino complex in the southern portion total just over a half a million dollars.

Restoration of the Old South Station in Providence to which I have referred, was estimated and that is out of the picture obviously.

Mrs. George Downing, Chairman—I have received additional information on two others.

Senator BIBLE. You have made an excellent statement and excellent presentation, as you always do.

Senator Hansen?

Senator HANSEN. Let me compliment the distinguished Senator from Rhode Island on his presentation.

I have no further questions.

[The statements of Senator Pell and Mrs. George Downing follow:]

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR CLAIBORNE PELL TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE, JUNE 5, 1974

Mr. Chairman:

I am happy to have this opportunity of presenting my views in support of S.2877, of which I am a cosponsor. This legislation is directed toward the commemoration of our American Revolutionary Bicentennial. It would establish a "meetinghouse" program of historic value to each of our States. I especially want to commend Senator Tower for his initiative in introducing this legislation.

It is concerned both with immediate needs and with more distant goals.

It addresses the need for restoring and preserving historic structures and sites which are involved in our upcoming bicentennial celebration.

It is also addressed to making these restorations serve a most constructive and beneficial purpose in the years ahead--as focal centers for meetings, discussions and displays on the improvement of our future environment, cultural, architectural and physical.

These historic structures--these "meetinghouses"--would thus become more than historic reminders of the past. They would serve to project the best of the past toward a better tomorrow.

An added feature to this program is that the latest technological advances in preservation and restoration can be used, thus making the structures to be restored models in this respect. A great deal has been learned in recent years about these techniques. Last summer, in hearings related to the improvement of our nation's museums which I had the opportunity to Chair, a special panel testified on conservation and restoration techniques, and on the

(2)

need for more skilled artisans in this important field. In recent days the Senate has passed legislation stemming from the Subcommittee on the Smithsonian Institution, of which I serve as Chairman, which gives emphasis to the area of improved conservation and restoration techniques. It would help to develop a national institute on museum conservation, and while this would relate primarily to the museum community, the findings, the results emanating from such an institute would affect historic preservation generally: old wood and stone, the bricks and mortar of history, as well as the artifacts on display.

I am pleased to note that Mr. James Biddle, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was a witness at those hearings of a year ago which I have mentioned. I understand that the present bill, S.2877, evolved from recommendations made by the National Trust, which has served to help coordinate the State recommendations for the meetinghouses.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that the legislation under consideration today would reach every state with up to \$1 million in authorized funds for each state.

My own State of Rhode Island has taken a leadership role in developing special plans whose implementation this legislation could assist.

At this time I would like to request that a letter to me from Mr. Paul M. Giacobbe, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Bicentennial Commission, be printed in the Record.

In this letter Mr. Giacobbe describes the importance of this legislation to Rhode Island and emphasizes that the funding involved should not be limited to one building per state, but applicable to

the restoration of several, where appropriate. I fully concur with this point of view and request that a suitable amendment be favorably considered.

I would also request that there be included in the Record material describing in some detail Rhode Island plans for historic preservation and restoration particularly geared to the "Meeting-house" proposal. I ask that this material be included, Mr. Chairman, as special indication of my own State's interest in this legislation. I am delighted to endorse these plans, and to call attention to their highlights.

I would like to point out that one structure originally included in these plans, the old South Freight Station of Providence which had been both an historic and architectural landmark, has been razed.

This shows, I believe, that we are often faced with difficult decisions related to our historic past. Too often the historic structure cannot be maintained. It disappears. And we lose part of our heritage. This loss in Rhode Island underscores the need for the bill being considered.

Two other structures are described in detail in the Rhode Island plan.

They are the Woonsocket Opera House and the Newport Casino and Casino Theater in my home city of Newport.

The Woonsocket Opera House reflects the Romanesque Revival of the late 19th Century. Its facade is of unusual architectural excellence. It would be especially suitable in terms of this city's proposed Social Neighborhood Development Program focused around Monument Square.

(4)

The cost of restoring this historic building is estimated at present at \$301,000.

Restored this building would have many potential uses--as a meeting center, as a center for the performing arts, as a center for a wide variety of cultural programs. It could serve both Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts. It could be a model restoration, combining the elegance of the past with modern-day and future needs.

The Newport Casino and Casino Theater is considered by many historians to be a unique architectural masterpiece. It was designed in Victorian times by the renowned firm of McKim, Mead and White, of which the internationally famous Stanford White was a partner.

Presently it houses the National Lawn Tennis Hall of Fame, which has resulted from the foresight, dedication, and enterprise of Mr. James Van Alen.

Restoration plans include work on the large main building, the museum wing and the buildings extending from these in horseshoe shape. Estimates for restoration total \$232,000--a minimum to secure the building for future use.

It should be noted that the totals for the Woonsocket Opera House and the Newport Casino complex total \$533,000. Restoration of the old South Station in Providence, to which I have referred, was estimated to cost \$560,000.

Mrs. George E. Downing, Chairman of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, and a distinguished leader in this area of concern, submitted original plans to come within the scope of the Meetinghouse legislation.

(5)

I have this week received additional information on two other primary candidates for historic restoration applicable to this legislation. They are the old State House in Providence and the Clarke Street Meeting House in Newport.

The old State House began its history in 1760 as one of the two so-called Colony Houses (the other being in Newport.) The Declaration of Independence was ratified in this building. It is certainly one of the most handsome Colonial buildings in our country. It is in the classic proportions of those historic days. Restoration costs are estimated to be \$845,709.

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Restoration of this historic structure is estimated at \$518,292.

Mr. Chairman, in conclusion, let me reiterate my enthusiasm for this legislation. I hope that my own State's findings, and the deep interest it has shown in historic preservation, and the work it has already accomplished in this regard, will provide examples to bolster support for this bill.

I would like to urge its favorable consideration with the amendment I have suggested.

STATEMENT OF MRS. GEORGE DOWNING

I. INTRODUCTION

The prospectus which follows is in response to a proposal titled *Heritage '76—"Meeting House": A National Preservation Plan to Commemorate the Bicentennial*, initiated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. The overall goal of the proposed program is to permanently secure and restore an endangered historic property in each state and territory. Furthermore, the rescued property is to become a center for community action directed toward saving our cultural heritage.

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission fully supports the "Meeting House" concept, and wishes to nominate the following three buildings:

The South Freight Station of the Providence and Worcester Railroad Depot, 1847-48, designed by Thomas A. Telft; Canal Street, Providence, R.I. (National Register entry: April 24, 1973)

The Woonsocket Opera House, 1888, designed by Willard Kent; 37-41-45 North Main Street, Woonsocket, R.I. (National Register entry: April 24, 1973)

The Newport Casino and the Casino Theatre, 1779-81, designed by McKim, Mead and White; 194 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, R.I. (National Register entry: December 2, 1970)

Following the criteria outlined in the "Meeting House" proposal, all three are in the National Register of Historic Places, all are suffering from neglect and have become either functionally obsolete in total or in part; all are in a central location in their community; and all have a potential program to ensure on-going use as a "Meeting House". Two candidates, the South Freight Station and the Woonsocket Opera House are now threatened with demolition.

In the sections which follow, each of the candidates is analyzed in terms of its suitability for the "Meeting House" proposal. At the same time, it should be realized that the plight of the buildings described below underscores the urgent need for a comprehensive program such as "Meeting House" in order to deal with today's most difficult preservation problems.

II. ANALYSIS

Rhode Island is fortunate to have outstanding buildings from every period of its growth. Too often, emphasis is placed only on the well-known colonial "Meeting House". These three candidates illustrate diverse economic and social themes from the middle and last quarter of the nineteenth century which have either vanished or have become diminished by the demands of twentieth-century life.

A brief description of the economic and social factors leading to the design and construction of each candidate follows with a statement concerning its current importance as an element of urban design, and its potential as a center for cultural programs. This is followed by a discussion of each building's condition, restoration planning and estimated costs. In order to survive as a useful structure and a living testament to our national heritage, each candidate must find a new, more flexible role within its modern community.

Woonsocket Opera House

Northern Rhode Island became a major cotton and woolen textile center by the close of the 19th century. The erection of the magnificent Woonsocket Opera House in 1888, by a group of twelve local business leaders, is a reflection of the demand for cultural facilities generated by this new wealth. It was built to serve a city of factory workers and tradesmen and was viewed as a civic improvement as well as an investment.

The Opera House faces Monument Square, which is the central focus for a radial street pattern which developed during the period from settlement in 1831 to the formal incorporation of the town of Woonsocket in 1867. Monument Square is in the approximate geographical center of the city. In 1870, the site was selected for the erection of the Civil War Memorial. By 1928, it was stated that "practically one hundred percent of the people, by trolley, bus or motor, pass through Monument Square in their movements about town."¹

¹ *Stadium Building*, Gussow, Kahn & Co., New York, 1928.

Furthermore, it was added that "a radius of from six to twelve hundred feet about Monument Square embraces all important banks, all remaining office buildings of note, the railroad station, all large stores and fine retail shops, several mills famous for their products—and the better class theatres!"²

Today the Opera House, with its robust facade reflecting the Romanesque Revival style of the Boston architect, Henry Hobson Richardson, is derelict and has been vacant since 1963. It is facing demolition unless it can be resurrected as a vital element in the rebirth of downtown Woonsocket.

Efforts in the public sector which have a bearing on the future of the Opera House include the "Social Neighborhood Development Program" where construction of a new city center for Woonsocket has begun just southwest from Monument Square. A stated goal of the program is that "The cluster should related to the city's historical, natural and cultural characteristics".³ Beginning with the Depot-Monument Square area, the plan proposes a "restoration and renovation of that viable shopping, entertainment district. The Monument Square area will then be connected to the Flatlands by an improved walkway along Federal Street. This walkway would open onto the block bounded by Worrall, Pond, Social and Clinto Streets which will become a center of Government services". This government center will include a new Federal Building, Credit Union and Police Station with a new City Hall proposed for the future.

A large Shoppers Mall with from 200,000-300,000 sq. ft. of space will occupy the site bounded by Social, Cumberland, Clinton and Pond Streets. Just south of this Mall the new Woonsocket Public Library is under construction which will face the Blackstone River and be set in its own plaza. This plaza will then be the connector between the government facilities block and the retail-commercial area. (A major recreation center is under design for the site.)

Efforts in the private sector have also created new opportunities for the Opera House. Woonsocket today is the center of approximately 300,000 people dwelling in the Northern Rhode Island-Southern Massachusetts region. The suburban towns surrounding the city have grown dramatically both in population and income in the late 60's and early 70's, with a renewal demand for cultural facilities.

A dedicated group of Woonsocket area citizens is fighting to re-open the Opera House as a cultural center for northern Rhode Island. Twenty-two area groups have pledged support to rescue the Opera House. Potential uses for the building include concerts, theatre productions, and facilities for educational television, meetings and office space. In addition, there are two local entrepreneurs who wish to form an Opera Company and re-open the building for its original use. The citizens involved with exploring possibilities for the Opera House are planning to incorporate a non-profit "Woonsocket Opera Theatre, Inc." group in order to expedite a solution.

The Woonsocket Opera House is today the property of the City of Woonsocket. Due to the recent nomination of the building to the National Register and the interest of local groups, an 18-month stay of demolition from June, 1973, was granted by the City in order to permit development of a workable program with adequate funds. Future ownership will depend on what group, private or public or combination, assumes responsibility for the property.

One of the first priorities for those interested in saving the building is obtaining a feasibility study covering both the physical condition, interior spaces, and the program possibilities of the Opera House. A benefit concert by the Peloquin Chorale scheduled for January, 1974 will help to raise funds for the study. In the interim, the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission has contacted successful opera house and theatre restorations throughout the country to seek guideline and recommendations.

Rough cost estimates to date total \$301,000.00 for a feasibility and engineering study, a general refurbishing of the building and installation of new systems. Without a specific interior analysis and plan for use, it is difficult to obtain exact estimates. Known problems include damage to roof and need for flashing, need for general plaster work and repair or replacement of ceilings in the office section, need for total interior painting, general woodwork repair and refinishing of flooring. Sections of the theatre balconies are missing their

² *Stadium Building*, Gussow, Kahn & Co., New York, 1928.

³ *Woonsocket '76, A New City Center*, Department of Planning and Development, City of Woonsocket, 1972.

railings and supports, and the theatre seat covers are in poor condition. On the exterior, the first floor facade needs total restoration.

The successful restoration and re-use of this building as a multi-purpose theatre-arts "Meeting House" could spark the needed revitalization of Monument Square as the key link between old and new Woonsocket and serve the northern Rhode Island-southern Massachusetts area as a prototype cultural center.

The Newport Casino and Casino Theatre

The emergence of Victorian Newport as the undisputed summer social capital of America led to the conception and development of the Newport Casino and the Casino Theatre built from 1879-81 for James Gordon Bennett, publisher of the *New York Herald*, from plans prepared by McKim, Mead & White. Two contracts were let, one for a "block of stores, etc. and one for "restaurant, theatre, piazzas, etc." After completion, the property was deeded on September 20, 1880, to a new corporation, "The Newport Casino", to operate as a gentlemen's club. The clubrooms were on the second floor of the main building, over the stores, and there were facilities for sports and games, including court tennis, lawn tennis, squash, bowling, etc., on the grounds at the rear of the property.⁴

Today, the Casino complex, no longer the social center for the summer colony, is struggling for survival in a vastly changed social climate.

Today, the National Lawn Tennis Hall of Fame and Tennis Museum, Inc., a non-profit corporation, owns or controls 80% of the capital stock of the Newport Casino and Casino Theatre complex. The "Casino Theatre", designed by Stanford White as a ballroom, includes a stage; in 1927 the first theatre group was formed and in 1948 the theatre sold to a private stock company. In 1963, the theatre was repurchased by the Players Guild who have renovated and maintained the property at their own expenses and use the facility year-round. The present lease will expire in April, 1987.

The headquarters of the National Tennis Hall of Fame and Museum opened in 1955. This organization is governed by a 29-member board with Mr. James Van Alen serving as President. It is their prime objective to preserve the entire Newport Casino property and to continue it as an active tennis center. "It is the responsibility of the Casino Board to maintain the Casino structurally in its pristine condition, including rebuilding the portion destroyed in the fires of 1938 and 1947, and to make the Casino and the Hall of Fame the show place of the country. Today, a new Society is being instituted, the Newport Casino Preservation Society, and all members of the board are hereby elected charter members. All members of the community are cordially invited to take part in this worthy endeavor".

The current problems facing the Newport Casino are extremely complex. These include purchase of land within the heart of the Casino complex which has been leased since 1880 from the Andrew Freebody estate which passed into the City of Newport ownership by will. In February, 1973, the City Council agreed to transfer the courts to the National Lawn Tennis Hall of Fame of \$40,000.00. A local resident is blocking the transaction which will be heard in Superior Court some time this fall. The funds for the purchase have been pledged by the Board of Directors.

Restoration plans include necessary work on the main building, the museum wing and the horseshoe piazza all of which suffer from serious deterioration. Informal estimates on these repairs obtained in May, 1972 may be found in Appendix C, p 27-28. Successful completion of these immediate repairs would permit the following developments in an expanded program for the National Lawn Tennis Hall of Fame:

MAIN BUILDING: The second floor of the Main Building, now vacant, which housed the original clubrooms, would become a vastly expanded museum. Additions to the present program would include:

- Individual niches for every member of the Hall of Fame.
- The presentation of all Father-Son champions.
- The presentation of all Collegiate champions.
- Acquisition of the Fisher Library collection of 20,000 volumes now housed in storage in New York City.
- Re-arrangement and better display of present memorabilia.

⁴ "Notes on the Architectural History of the Newport Casino, Newport, Rhode Island", The Newport Casino, Bellevue Avenue, Newport, R.I.

Billiard or Ball Room

A Davis Cup room is planned for the space now un-used in the Billiard Room.

Museum Wing of Main Building

The present Museum wing would become a Gift shop and location of the Pro shop now housed in the Clubhouse and crowded into a small, relatively inaccessible area.

The present office would be relocated in a more private space somewhere within the complex.

No estimate for establishing a fire-proof system are included. This is of urgent need as illustrated by the recent fire which nearly demolished the adjacent Travers block. No sprinkling system at present exists in the Casino complex.

Other problems of restoration which block an expanded program for the Newport Casino include the following:

HORSESHOE PIAZZA: The piazza is sagging and needs repair to columns, roof and grillwork. Access to the second floor is limited to six persons at present due to the dangerous weight.

CLUBHOUSE: Built originally to house a "court tennis" court, this structure was badly damaged by fire in 1945. The "court tennis" court which is the oldest example in the United States occupies the east end and is cut in half by a temporary wall to permit use of the interior for the men and ladies locker and lounge rooms. Restoration of the "court tennis" court for public use and viewing is planned.

The Clubhouse Porch is now blocked from public use due to unsafe conditions. This veranda, two stories high connects the Clubhouse with the Casino theatre. The second floor is rotted, and the highly decorative screens totally vandalized.

VAN ALLEN CASINO THEATRE: Capacity 500. A cursory inspection revealed that the major problem of the theatre unit is a cracked main ceiling and need for fresh paint. The ceiling at present is re-inforced. Cracks also appear in the arches of the balcony and sections of the original basketweave plaster panels are cut out for the use of a modern projection room located on the west wall. The original orchestra pit is now sealed over. Original paint and delicate gold banding is intact in this structure. No funds are scheduled for restoration by the Casino Board due to the lease arrangement.

CARRY LOT: On the north perimeter of the complex fronting on Memorial Boulevard there is presently a gravel covered vacant lot. This land will be used for the construction of a modern indoor tennis facility (2 courts) with improved men and ladies locker and lounge rooms thereby permitting restoration of the Clubhouse for the original "court tennis" facility. When funds become available for this improvement, year round use of the Newport Casino tennis facilities will be gained with an expected increase not only in public support but in income.

The Newport Casino complex has survived into the mid-20th century as a unique element in the American architectural, social and sports legacy. In terms of the "Meeting House" program, support of the National Lawn Tennis Hall of Fame's program for restoration and expansion of the uses of the complex would clearly demonstrate how an historic structure can find a more vital role in a changing social world. The restoration costs for securing the building, without which the expanded program described above will be impossible, amount to \$232,000.00. As in the case of the Freight Station and Opera House, this figure covers only costs necessary to safely secure the building for future use. The costs for actually carrying out a program, including needed interior alterations, will be in addition to the general repairs.

III. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In terms of the "Heritage '76—Meeting House" concept, each of these candidates could serve when restored as a major forum for people and programs concerned with the preservation, promotion and recognition of our man-made and natural heritage. Each would fulfill the purposes of the National Preservation Plan to commemorate the Bicentennial by:

Safeguarding an endangered historic site with a program that will ensure a new and positive role in the community;

Providing a "Meeting House" for citizens concerned about both the past and future;

Assisting present state programs through the demonstration of the best available preservation techniques.

In summary, the south freight station proposal for the creation of a major tourist center with meeting, museum, exhibit and office spaces, would clearly demonstrate how an historic structure can provide a new vital role in the modern city. Similarly in Woonsocket, the Opera House now has as an opportunity to be productive as never before. Due to area growth and urban neighborhood renewal, there is now the need and demand for a cultural center in northern Rhode Island. Restoration and re-use of the Opera House could easily fulfill this need and become the key link in planning for old and new Woonsocket. Of these three candidates, the Newport Casino offers the most diverse potential for a "Meeting House". Its unique combination of interior and exterior space within a defined central area can accommodate exhibits, meetings, lectures, pageants, theatricals, concerts, fairs, sports and other activities related to recognition of our American heritage during the American Bicentennial.

The importance of each of these buildings—both as documents and as community assets—points to the need for several "Meeting Houses" rather than one. By limiting support to only one structure the commission loses an excellent opportunity to advance important preservation projects in three widely separate sections of the state. Such limitation raises questions of justification, geographical distribution and political wisdom. Therefore, the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission recommends preservation of all three "Meeting House" candidates.

Restoration costs as outlined in this three part proposal would attain a necessary funding level of \$1,000,000.00. This \$1,000,000.00 need for funds is substantiated by the breakdown of estimates prepared for this "Heritage '76 Meeting House" proposal as follows:

Woonsocket Opera House: Restoration of theatre and offices-----	\$301, 000
The Newport Casino and Casino Theatre: Restoration of complex-----	232, 000
Total -----	533, 000

The scale of the task and urgency of need in all three cases is overwhelming. Normal sources for the restoration of these three outstanding candidates are not now available from either the public or private sections. Celebration of the American Bicentennial through participation in the "Heritage '76—Meeting House" program for these three candidates appears to be the one real hope of safeguarding these important structures as viable evidence of our American patrimony.

In conclusion, strong interest and enthusiasm for the "Heritage '76—Meeting House" program has been evidenced by all participants in the preparation of this proposal. There is no doubt that the announcement of the "Heritage '76—Meeting House" program would generate additional public and private support for future restoration and programs. The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission and the Rhode Island Bicentennial Commission recognized that the realization of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission's goals in terms of "brick and mortar" restorations and the establishment of the "Heritage '76—Meeting House" programs would be a major contribution to the cause of historic preservation in America.

Respectfully submitted.

Mrs. GEORGE E. DOWNING,
Chairman,
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission.

Senator BIBLE. The next witness is Senator Domenici from the State of New Mexico.

STATEMENT OF HON. PETE V. DOMENICI, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Senator DOMENICI. I have Darla West of my staff on my right and Mike Gusto of the State Planning Office, who is here on my left.

I have a brief prepared statement. I believe the committee has the statement, so I would not read it, but ask that it be made a part of the record.

Hearing the questions that have been discussed, and the positions taken, I would prefer to talk with the committee about the position of our State.

First of all, I might suggest——

Senator BIBLE. First of all, Senator, I will incorporate your full statement in the record.

It is very short. You could give it if you desire, but I would be happy to have you discuss questions you have already heard here.

[The statement of Senator Domenici follows:]

STATEMENT OF SENATOR PETE V. DOMENICI BEFORE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
RE: S. 2788, MEETINGHOUSE PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Committee this morning in support of S. 2877, the Meetinghouse Preservation Act.

As a cosponsor of S. 2877, I support the basic principles of this proposal. The provisions to select historic structures for state meetinghouses is of prime interest to the State of New Mexico and represents a genuine effort to save significant historic structures. This measure has the support of the Governor of New Mexico, the State Planning Officer and the Historic Properties Review Committee.

However, because New Mexico is a state with such a large land area with long distances between major towns, it has been recommended that the section be amended which specifies that grants shall be made available for the acquisition and restoration of one historic site in each state. It appears to me that restricting the meetinghouse program to a single structure might pose a problem to many of the larger states. The New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee recommends that the bill be amended to read "a meetinghouse project," which would allow a state to develop a major meetinghouse site with a single branch located elsewhere in a state.

The review Committee in cooperation with the Bicentennial Division in New Mexico selected the Pinckney R. Tully House in Santa Fe as the proposed primary meetinghouse for the State, with the Garcia Opera House in Socorro as a subsidiary demonstration site and branch meetinghouse to bring the historic preservation program closer to citizens in the southern part of the State.

This amendment would not necessitate a change in the amount of money which the Secretary would be authorized to grant to the States.

Mr. Chairman, I realize that there are those who feel that an amendment such as this would fragment the funds to the point where nothing would be accomplished and there would be no real meetinghouse program. I feel, however, that if the bill were amended properly, the principles of this proposal, that being--preserving sites for use as meetinghouses--could be maintained and yet allow the State to take the program to citizens in areas many hundreds of miles from the main meetinghouse.

Senator DOMENICI. Let me state a few concerns about testimony given at this point.

First of all, I support, Mr. Chairman, the concept that we should permit States to have more than one meetinghouse.

I would ask, Mr. Chairman, that New Mexico's Bicentennial meetinghouse document be incorporated by reference, because I think it proves very explicitly that a State like ours could come well within the million dollars and yet do an excellent job for our constituents and to cause them to have only one would indeed be denying the constituents of New Mexico a very significant opportunity.

Senator BIBLE. Without objection, it will be adopted by reference. [The document referred to is available in the committee files.]

Senator DOMENICI. The distinguished Senator from Texas indicated a purpose of this bill very well.

He went on to say not only would we like to have a meetinghouse for the bicentennial, but we would like to have it for the people to use thereafter.

In that regard, if you look at a State like New Mexico and you see they have reviewed available structures and come up with two, it seems obvious to me, if our State could indeed have the two, the purpose of making these available to our constituency when after the celebration, is greatly enhanced.

No matter where you would go in New Mexico, you would be a long distance from many of its constituents and they have prudently found two exquisite meetinghouse structures that will balance geographically and lost none of their historical concept.

Let me address myself to another problem. How do we know, after the meetinghouses are built, the State would maintain them?

I submit, Mr. Chairman, that is a relevant question.

Our State would have no objection, if the bill was amended, so that the Secretary of Interior could require of the States that are going to build more than one. In my instance, one site would be adequate for New Mexico. The Secretary of the Interior should have the authority to require the States submit a reasonable plan to him, as to how they intend, after the bicentennial, to maintain and operate it.

Not something as explicit as a firmed up budget, but certainly he could require the States have a plan for private involvement, public involvement, for continual maintenance and operation.

From our State's standpoint, we would not want to burden Congress with just building them, without being willing to show to the Secretary of the Interior that we have a way of maintaining them.

It seems to me for a State like New Mexico, which has already produced a game plan well within the million dollars, we could acquire and reconstruct a building. With just one, we have very little to do, very little, for there is little structural change needed. To tell the States they have to pick one, when they could do two within the proposal seems too restrictive.

That is to deny the constituents the real opportunity to take advantage of meetinghouse facilities, not only for the bicentennial, but for years afterward.

Senator BIBLE. I think you have a good point on that one, Senator. I think it should be noted that if you have some type of con-

tinuing agreement with the State for maintenance after the bicentennial that would give substance to what you are saying.

In other words, it is not going to decay, then fade away like so many do.

If they want to bind itself, as best they legally could, but it is an expression of good will and good faith and considering that, if your State of New Mexico wants to select the Garcia Opera House and the Pinckney R. Tully House and in our States and the Senator's State of Wyoming, there are great distances and if we had some type of indication from the State that they would maintain it after the bicentennial has come and gone, it that what you are saying?

Senator DOMENICI. That is what I am saying. As I listened to the questions of how we are going to be assured we are not putting our million dollars into restructuring that will not be open later, I actually think it would be prudent to require that each State submit some kind of reasonable plan for future maintenance, and not that it would have to be bound in the signature of each State, but it might cause in New Mexico, in the small community of Secura in New Mexico, to form its historical society with a little bit more vigor.

They might commit themselves to \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year to keep it operating. They could submit that, too, along with their request for funding.

I think that is relevant whether you have one or two or three because, indeed, we could build a million dollar one.

It could be open for $1\frac{1}{2}$ years, as the Chairman has suggested, and then closed.

Part of the purpose of the Senator from Texas' bill is that it would be denied because we intend it be available after the bicentennial to be used consistent with its historical significance and its meetinghouse potential by the constituents of the State and the region.

Senator BIBLE. You made an excellent point. Would you comment on the matching feature which I suggested to the preceding witnesses?

Senator DOMENICI. Yes, Mr. Chairman. Obviously all of us are concerned about the Federal Treasury and we are also concerned about getting some bonafide commitments out of States where they do not waste it.

However, it seems to me, in this instance, I must agree with the Senator from Texas, to change the concept of this bill and make it matching, would probably deny, in the short time, we have got, this concept of any chance of becoming a reality.

States have been encouraged to come up with elaborate plans, as a matter of fact, there is not enough money around to carry them out.

I think, in this instance, we would be showing extreme good faith if we proceeded to say to them, if you do it, we will give you the money.

Rather than to require that they go out and try to find bicentennial type money for this type of project.

In this instance, I believe on short notice, with all of the other problems we would literally deny the reality of meetinghouses if we

did it on a matching basis, unless it was a very insignificant match of something like 10 to 20, or 25 percent, and not 50 percent, to show good faith and be assured of not losing them.

Senator BIBLE. You have made an able presentation and I am impressed on how you have come to grips with the problem.

We appreciate your testimony.

Senator HANSEN. I have no questions.

Senator BIBLE. I know where Santa Fe is. Where is Socorro?

Senator DOMENICI. Jerry Verkler is from Socorro, Mr. Chairman. He can tell you.

Senator BIBLE. Is it that whistle stop on the road? You mean you are through it before you know it is there?

He would come from a place like that.

Senator DOMENICI. It has a university there now, so it is a coming community.

Senator HANSEN. I should observe the great State of New Mexico map, that Mr. Verkler gave me, when I became a member of this great committee, has Socorro bordered in gold.

Senator BIBLE. I had a suspicion he might have come from there, but I was not positive.

Senator DOMENICI. I do not think, Mr. Chairman, in deference to his interest in Socorro, that he promoted the meetinghouse in Socorro.

I do not think he had anything to do with that.

Senator BIBLE. He will probably claim responsibility. We will let him speak for himself.

Thank you very much for your presentation.

Our next witness is Douglas P. Wheeler, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior, Washington, D.C.

STATEMENT OF DOUGLAS P. WHEELER, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Mr. WHEELER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am accompanied by Dr. Ernest Connally of the National Park Service.

I would like to introduce Ms. Jean Hawkins, who is Bicentennial Coordinator for the Department of the Interior.

Senator BIBLE. We are happy to have you gentlemen.

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure for me to appear on behalf of the Department of the Interior to discuss this important legislation, which has as its purpose, the commemoration of the bicentennial of this Nation through assistance to the States in establishing historic meetinghouses.

S. 2877 would establish a grant program to each State for the specific purpose of enabling it to acquire and restore an historic site for use as a meetinghouse.

The sites to be acquired must be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and they must be capable of being utilized as meetinghouses for the public where citizens could participate in programs designed to make people more aware of the need to protect their natural and historic heritage.

We believe that if the several States wish to celebrate this Nation's Bicentennial by acquiring and developing historic properties

as public meetinghouses, it would be appropriate that the Federal Government assist the States in this program.

We are concerned however, that S. 2877 would attain this objective by establishing a separate grant program, whereas we believe the existing authorities that Congress has provided for historic preservation are already available for this purpose.

The act of October 15, 1966, 80 Stat. 915, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide matching funds to States in acquiring and developing historic properties.

In reviewing the provisions of S. 2877, we find that the existing 1966 law and the elements of the new program to be authorized in this bill are quite similar.

For example, both the 1966 law and S. 2877 require a property, to be eligible for federal grants, to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Both the 1966 law and S. 2877 require that project assistance be accomplished in accordance with the State's historic preservation plan.

Both administratively under the 1966 law and specifically under S. 2877, funds would be granted to the States through the grants division of the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation of the National Park Service.

S. 2877 would in effect authorize a special grant program for meetinghouse purposes but using the existing machinery established pursuant to the general 1966 law applicable to historic preservation projects of all descriptions.

It further authorizes 100 percent Federal grants as opposed to the 50 to 50 matching grant requirement from the 1966 act.

An issue presented by S. 2877 is whether the Federal Government should, by the enactment of special legislation, encourage meetinghouse projects as being a more appropriate commemoration of the bicentennial than other historic preservation projects.

We believe the choice of how best to participate meaningfully in the bicentennial should be left to the States.

I should point out, Mr. Chairman, that an alternative available to the States is the existing authorization of the newly created American Revolution Bicentennial Administration to provide matching grants for bicentennial projects.

The act approved December 11, 1973, 87 Stat. 697, authorizes the Administrator of the ARBA to make grants in aid to the several States for projects.

The act provides that each State shall be entitled to not less than \$200,000 in such grants.

The act authorized a total of not more than \$20 million for this purpose.

To the extent therefore, that S. 2877 addresses a specific bicentennial program, we believe consideration should be given to using the authority of the ARBA and possibly increasing the Federal share thereunder, which is now limited to 50 percent matching grants.

This approach would be more in keeping with the bicentennial thrust which S. 2877 addresses.

S. 2877 would differ from the two existing grant programs in that it authorizes 100 percent grants, whereas the existing programs are 50 percent matching grants.

We have serious question as to whether 100 percent grants for such special categories of sites are warranted.

We believe there is much merit in requiring some measure of State and local participation in such programs.

In summary, Mr. Chairman, we believe that the bill improperly singles out a particular type of program that each State might undertake in celebration of the bicentennial.

We believe that the States should be permitted to make the choice.

Under the existing 1966 Historic Preservation Act the States do in fact establish their own priorities for historic preservation projects.

Under the existing law one or more States might well determine that the development of a meetinghouse is appropriate, and if they met the requirements under that law, which are virtually the same as under S. 2877, some Federal assistance could be provided.

The States could make the same determination and might be eligible for funds under the 1973 American Revolution Bicentennial Administration Act.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, we recommend that other alternatives for preservation of meetinghouses and other significant structures be explored and S. 2877 not be enacted in its present form.

This concludes my prepared statement.

I will be happy to answer any questions you or members of the committee may have.

Senator BIBLE. I compliment you upon your statement. You echo a great many of the sentiments that I have concerning this bill. I have no objections to the thrust of it or to attempt to be more helpful in the bicentennial celebration, but I do not want to get it so mixed up with the Historic Preservation Act and the ARBA Act that we have four or five different agencies working all in the same field. It should be possible to tie the loose ends together and possibly by amendment, do what you suggest. That of course, boils down to the primary question of more federal funding. It always boils down to that. I am inclined, as I have heard the testimony here this morning, to believe that matching, has served this country very well, both in the Arts and Humanities and the Historic Preservation Act and I think we have accomplished a great deal under that. This might be one of the methods with which we can come to grips with this particular problem.

I appreciate your appearance here this morning. The staff has suggested a long list of a series of questions. Without objection, I will submit them to you to examine and furnish your answers within a week. We shall make those answers a part of the record.

Mr. WHEELER. We would be happy to do that, Senator.

[The questions of Senator Bible and Mr. Wheeler's answers follow:]

QUESTIONS

1. Why can't this meeting house proposal be included in your regular grants-in-aid program?
2. Your existing program is a 50-50 matching grants program, isn't it?
3. What is your authorization for the current fiscal year?
4. And your appropriation for fiscal year 1974 is how much?
5. What is your authorization for fiscal year 1975? It's more isn't it?
6. And how much are you asking for fiscal year 1975?

7. How much longer does your current authorization run?
8. And how much is that authorization?
9. And your grants are made to the States?
10. Are all the States and the National Trust participating in the program?
11. I see the program is growing. How are the states responding? How much money are they putting up now?
12. \$103.5 million against \$11.5 million Federal?
13. There is more than \$100 million that could be matched now, if we had the funds. Is that right?
14. Do you have that broken down by State?
15. Will you supply it for the record?
16. And what is the total the states are prepared to match in fiscal year 1975?
17. Well, what is your best current estimate?
18. So, you expect requests of \$130 to \$140 million while you have an authorization and pending budget of \$20 million to meet that need?
19. It is my recollection of this program that the States have consistently offered more matching funds than the Department of the Interior has. Do you have figures on that?
20. It appears that the States have made a sincere effort and generated a significant response to this worthwhile program—far greater than the Department has been able to match. What does this Administration intend to do in this situation?
21. If you get a favorable decision, then, you would ask Congress for an authorization and appropriation of at least \$100 million per annum?
22. Would that amount, matched by the States, satisfy the need?
23. If you had an annual program of \$200 million—\$100 million Federal, matched by \$100 million—what would it buy? What would we get for it?
24. How does that figure out—the average cost?
25. Then an annual program of \$200 million total, such as the Department of the Interior is proposing, would fund over 1400 projects at an average cost of about \$143,000.
26. Wouldn't a program at that level of funding provide for the special meeting houses proposed in the bill before this subcommittee?
27. Aren't model restorations, demonstrations of the best practice, valuable and instructive?
28. Do you have a list of projects the States want to develop as meeting houses?
29. What is the estimated cost of those proposals—on the average?
30. Can you cite a few examples?
31. How much would the meeting house proposal cost?
32. Now you have requests for \$103 million in Federal assistance for this fiscal year. That's a fairly large sum. Is there any duplication? Is any of this money requested to assist buildings that are being proposed for meeting houses?
33. How much does that amount to?
34. Then the States have already shown a willingness to fund part of the cost of the meeting houses. What percentage is that?
35. Would you consider it a reasonable proposition that the states pay 10% of the cost of special demonstration projects like the proposed meeting houses? That would mean 90% Federal funding.
36. You have said that if you had \$100 million for grants it would have to be used to meet the needs of your regular 50-50 matching program. It would not be enough to fund demonstration projects like the meeting houses. Are there other critical needs, as important as the meeting houses, that cannot be met by the regular 50-50 matching formula? Aren't there any endangered species in historic sites?
37. Why can't the states or localities raise half the cost for projects like these?
38. You are in the historic preservation business. Give me some examples.
39. Do you have any estimates of what it would cost to put these properties in shape? Can you give me some examples?
40. Then the longer you wait to take care of these needs the more it will cost?
41. And the longer you wait the more the building will deteriorate and the less original structure you will have?

42. Please continue.
43. That gives me a good picture. Are any resources like these actually in danger of being lost for lack of attention? Can you cite one?
44. How much would it cost to restore this building?

ANSWERS

1. We don't have sufficient funding or authority to add this program to the existing grants-in-aid program. We don't have authority to make grants for 100% Federal assistance.
2. Yes, Sir. The Federal share of a project may not exceed 50% of the cost.
3. For fiscal year 1974 our authorization for grants-in-aid is \$15.6 million.
4. \$11.5 million, Mr. Chairman.
5. Yes, Sir. It's \$20 million.
6. Full funding. The budget now before Congress provides \$20 million for matching grants-in-aid.
7. Fiscal year 1976 is the last year of the current authorization.
8. \$24.4 million.
9. Yes, Sir; to the 50 States, D.C., Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the Trust Territories—all defined as States in the National Historic Preservation Act—and to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, by provisions of the same statute.
10. All but the Virgin Islands and the Trust Territories, and they will be participating in fiscal 1975.
11. For fiscal year 1974 the requests from the States and the National Trust total \$103.5 million.
12. Yes, Sir.
13. Yes, Mr. Chairman. The annual requests from the States and the National Trust include certification of matching capability.
14. Yes, Sir.
15. We are happy to, Mr. Chairman.
16. The estimate is \$117.5 million, based on information supplied by the States and the National Trust last year. The exact figure will not be known until the annual programs are submitted at the end of June.
17. We think the total requests for fiscal year 1975 may go as high as \$130 million, perhaps \$140 million.
18. That is correct.
19. Yes, Sir.
20. Secretary Morton has made a proposal for greatly increasing our programs for assistance to the States, specifically including historic preservation, to which he is deeply committed. His proposal would increase the grants-in-aid for historic preservation to an annual level of at least \$100 million. Although we haven't received a final decision yet, we are encouraged that it will be favorable.
21. Yes, Sir.
22. No, Mr. Chairman. The need would be considerably greater than that. But a program at that level would visibly and materially start to overcome the long-term neglect of our historic resources and take care of many critical needs.
23. The program requests submitted for fiscal year 1974 amounted to \$103.5 million, including the National Trust. The State requests amounted to \$101.7 million for 1421 projects. Some of the projects were for survey and planning; most were for acquisition or development.
24. We have that figure, Mr. Chairman. A program at this level of funding would permit a true 50-50 match. The average project cost would be about \$143,000—half of it, \$71,500, in Federal assistance.
25. That is correct.
26. No, Mr. Chairman. The State submissions for fiscal year 1974, totalling \$101 million, indicate the immediate need for our regular 50-50 matching program. The meeting house bill calls for direct Federal assistance for model restorations—demonstrations of how to retain and use our historic buildings.
27. Certainly.
28. We have a list from the prospectuses submitted by 29 states through the Heritage '76 Committee of the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration to the National Trust.
29. The average estimated cost is \$550,000.

30. Ohio—Old Congregational Church, Tallmadge, \$460,000; Nebraska—Ferguson Mansion, Lincoln, \$209,000; New York—Hyde Hall, Glimmerglass State Park, \$705,000; Iowa—Old State Capitol, Iowa City, \$1,000,000; New Hampshire—Belknap—Sulloway Mill, Laconia, \$335,000; New Mexico—Garcia Opera House, Socorro, \$315,000; The range is from \$142,000 to \$1.2 million.

31. If all the States and Territories participated and the average estimated cost were valid for all, the program would cost about \$30 million. It might be \$35 million.

32. We have scrutinized the state submissions for that purpose. Assistance has been requested for minor work on a few of the buildings included in the meeting house proposals sent in by 29 states.

33. \$1.8 million.

34. The estimated cost of the meeting houses for those 29 states is about \$16 million, so what they are asking for in our program now is something over 10%.

35. That would seem a reasonable proposition. The states would participate in the funding.

36. There are important, even critical needs that cannot be met in the regular 50-50 matching program. Some well known examples do not appear, except for patchwork, in the States' annual programs. Typically these are large, old landmarks where the costs of restoration would exceed \$1 million and half that amount cannot be raised locally. Also there are historic districts with many buildings to be stabilized.

37. Very often the landmark buildings are located in cities or areas that have many historic sites and buildings. There is simply too much to be cared for, so the largest and most expensive—and often the most important projects—are postponed. Many of the historic districts are surviving towns in thinly populated areas where there are no means locally for even half the necessary financing.

38. Some of the more conspicuous examples are:

Ursuline Convent, New Orleans, mid-18th century, our prime example of French colonial architecture.

The Exchange is Charleston, S.C., 18th-century building with Revolutionary Associations, focal monument in our premier historic district.

Naval Hospital, by William Strickland, in Philadelphia, and many others.

Buildings like these constitute our monumental heritage. Work required on them is similar in scope to that being done on the Old Mint in San Francisco, now finally kept in use by the Federal Government.

There are many large railroad stations in cities where there is strong interest in preserving them and adapting them for new use.

There are important early skyscrapers—America's unique contribution to world architecture, such as the Reliance Building in Chicago, the Wainwright Building in St. Louis, and the Guaranty Building in Buffalo.

And there are historic districts like Virginia City, Nevada and Deadwood, South Dakota.

39. Plans were made to restore the Ursuline Convent 6 or 7 years ago. The estimated cost then was about \$1 million or so. It has not been restored for lack of funding, and the restoration would cost much more now.

40. Yes.

41. That is correct.

42. The estimate for restoration of the Exchange in Charleston, S.C. is \$3 million.

For the Union Passenger Depot in Tacoma, Washington—to rehabilitate it for new use—\$3 million.

The Guaranty Building in Buffalo, a major work by Louis Sullivan, the father of modern architecture, has recently suffered a fire. It needs \$1.5 million. Its future is uncertain. The similar Wainwright Building in St. Louis, also by Louis Sullivan, is to be restored at a cost of \$5.5 million.

43. One very conspicuous example comes to mind. It is Menokin in Richmond County, Virginia, a very fine country house of the 18th century—home of Francis Lightfoot Lee, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The house is in critical condition and may be lost in two or three years. However, the interior panelling has been saved and the house could be restored if early action were taken.

44. About \$1 million.

Senator BIBLE. We have many witnesses here and in fairness, we should proceed with them, rather than taking the time to ask these questions and have you answer them, as I am sure you are prepared to do.

Senator Hansen?

Senator HANSEN. Let me compliment you on the presentation you have made, Mr. Wheeler.

I think it is to the point and certainly will receive the studied consideration of this committee.

Mr. WHEELER. Senator Hansen, if I might point out to you and the Chairman, it is my reading of the bill, that neither Independence Rock or Mr. Prickett's proposal would qualify under the bill as presently written.

Senator BIBLE. Why?

Mr. WHEELER. The bill specifies that and projects to be funded under this program be meetinghouses where public participation might enable evaluation or examination of our cultural and environmental heritage.

I think quite clearly the language contemplates a study center concept that would not apply to an opera house, which is used as a center for the performing arts nor would it, in my judgment, to a geographic or topographic figure such as the rock.

Senator HANSEN. If I could comment on that, Mr. Wheeler.

Let me say, I hope your statement is prompted by a lack of understanding of what is taking place right at Independence Rock rather than a studied observation resulting from a specific in-depth knowledge of it.

As a matter of fact, it has been a meetingplace. It has been a meetingplace for many, many years.

You will be surprised how the pioneers gathered there for church services.

Just a couple of years ago, the masons of Wyoming joined there to celebrate the 100th anniversary of a lodge meeting out there.

It has been widely used as a meetingplace. I do not infer, from the bill, there was any requirement that the roof of the building had to be one that would deny people access to the stars and the clear air.

We have got that.

If it is a meetingplace in its broad connotation, implies an acceptable space where people have demonstrated they are willing to come together in cultural exchange and solving problems, like getting by the Indians going west, or those coming east, it was used long before the white man came out there by Indians and other groups.

I think we will dwarf the history of public participation that any other institution can suggest in the United States.

Having said that, you think we still do not qualify, then you will certainly change my mind about this bill.

We have made a very specific in-depth study of it and I think insofar as the criteria, as spelled out in the bill, as documenting and supporting those elements, we would seek to commemorate, through this act, Independence Rock does qualify.

Maybe I misunderstand.

Mr. WHEELER. I did not speak with any particular knowledge of Independence Rock, but it occurs to me it might be worthwhile if it is your intent to include Independence Rock, for the staff to review the provisions of this language.

It would give us some difficulty in interpreting requests that the Secretary might receive if the bill is enacted.

There is throughout reference to historic structures——

Senator HANSEN. This is a very historic structure, not of the hand of man, I might add.

Mr. WHEELER. My only suggestion was that it might be worthy of some careful review.

Senator BIBLE. Why do not all three of you examine it and if it is the desire of the people of Wyoming to have this monumental rock qualify under this act, then I think we should honor Wyoming's first choice.

If there is language that would make that doubtful, I would clarify that language to make it come within the four corners of the act.

Senator HANSEN. I would hope, Mr. Chairman, the Park Service, having displayed beautifully throughout the years, a broad concept of the appropriation for all of the works of man and our appreciation of the things made by God, might not be too circumscribing in this instance and try to interpret the language of the bill in a very narrow restrictive sense because I think if a meetingplace is a meetingplace, then Independence Rock is a meetingplace.

It has been and it continues to be.

I am distressed because it is not a structure that was fashioned by man's hand and ingenuity that it would not qualify.

Mr. WHEELER. I did not mean to suggest it could not, but it is my experience that we need a clear expression of intent on language.

Senator BIBLE. We will certainly consider it.

There is a fifth subdivision of section 4B on page 5 of the act, if you have it readily available.

It is a very short sentence. It says: "such historic site is located so as to ensure its ongoing uses as a public meeting house". Does that pose any problem in preserving and rehabilitating, like a masonic lodge? I am wondering if the language is too restrictive: "use this as a public meetingplace." It may not be.

Mr. WHEELER. It has possible reference to Mr. Prickett's proposal for an opera house, which is to be a center for the performing arts, which may not be accessible to most majority of the citizens where they might further as a meetingplace to plan the preservation of our total environment.

This implies to me, a study center concept. If this is not the intent, I think you will run into problems in trying to interpret that language later with respect to Independence Rock or with respect to an opera house in Delaware.

Senator BIBLE. If I understood him correctly, did he not say the top floor was used by a masonic lodge?

Mr. WHEELER. Yes, sir.

Senator HANSEN. Could I observe, Mr. Chairman, when I mentioned the 100th anniversary of the meeting of the Masonic Lodge, I did not mean to imply at all that only the Masons used the Rock.

That happens to be one of a number of groups who have used it. The Mormons have used it, as I suspect the Catholics have used it. I am sure a number of people have held public meetings out there which embrace all religious philosophies or almost all of them.

I would think—what I was trying to do—it has been used for many purposes, as I suspect most of these meetingplaces have around the country.

Obviously the Civil Rights Act was not in existence from the time of the creation of this republic and as a consequence, I think it could be said that many meetinghouses or meetingplaces have been restricted in times past.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you Senator Hansen and thank you, Mr. Wheeler.

[Statement of Senator Hansen and correspondence follow:]

STATEMENT OF SENATOR CLIFFORD HANSEN
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
REGARDING S. 2877
THE MEETINGHOUSE PRESERVATION ACT

June 5, 1974

MR. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I strongly support S. 2877, the Meetinghouse Preservation Act, and as a co-sponsor and a member of the Committee through which it must pass, urge that it be favorably reported to the Senate for consideration.

There is tremendous interest on the part of the American people in taking appropriate steps now to be prepared for the proper commemoration in 1976 of this great country's 200th anniversary. In each and every state, citizens are joining together proudly to call attention to the historic contributions of their state to the whole that is today the United States of America -- a teenager in a world of older nations and cultures, but an achiever without parallel.

The story of the birth and growth of this nation is really a thousand and more stories about the birth and growth of settlements, towns, cities, and states, and about the people who built the nation -- from Benjamin Franklin and the founding fathers who gave us a Republic, to the millions who, through the years, have kept it.

As we prepare to observe the 200th Anniversary of the founding of our Republic, it is appropriate and necessary that we encourage to the greatest possible extent the participation of every American and give recognition

to the diversity of culture and history which brought us to this point.

The proposed Meetinghouse Preservation Act is one way of increasing public awareness of our heritage, and the words of the Act, itself, best describe what is envisioned by the measure. The Act says:

"If the Bicentennial celebration of the United States in 1976 is to be a meaningful celebration, there is a need for each citizen to become aware of his historical, cultural and physical heritage in order that we may carry out one of the major themes of the Bicentennial, namely, 'A Past To Honor: A Future to Mold. '

"Because this country is so diverse and rich in varied cultures, it is not possible to establish a single meetingplace which would be accessible and responsive to the majority of the citizens; several states of a historic site which might be utilized as a meetinghouse would provide an easily accessible meetingplace for a majority of the citizens and would further provide a regional focus and impetus to the preservation of our physical and cultural heritage and a meetingplace to bring citizens together to plan the preservation of the quality of our total environment. "

The Act would authorize federal grants to the states of up to \$1 million each for the purpose of designating, restoring and preserving meetinghouse sites of historical significance.

In Wyoming, the historic meetinghouse site would be Independence Rock -- long a "meetinghouse" for the hunters, trappers, explorers, Indians and settlers who founded the Frontiers of the West.

If I might, Mr. Chairman, I would like to describe briefly what Wyoming contemplates with respect to the meetinghouse concept as a means of illustrating the importance of this legislation.

In Central Wyoming, geologic forces at work for some 50 million years shaped a causeway which eventually became a great emigrant road -- the famous Oregon Trail. Along this trail was a huge rock, described by an observer in 1832 as resembling "a big bowl, turned upside down; in size about equal to two meeting houses of the old New England style."

History records that, "The first party which noticed this singular rock was a party of American trappers, who chanced to pass that way, upon the fourth day of July, when, wishing to be Americans, . . . they proceeded to celebrate that great day, which gave birth to human liberty. This they did, by a succession of mountain revelings, festivities and hilarities, which having been concluded, they all inscribed their names, together with the word 'Independence,' upon the most prominent and conspicuous portions of the rock of ages itself. Independence Rock, thus consecrated, is destined in all coming time, to stand forth as an enduring monument to civil liberty, an American Independence!"

Under the concept envisioned by S. 2877, the State of Wyoming has designated Independence Rock, a National Historic Landmark, as the site which is most representative of Wyoming's heritage and environment. No reconstruction would be involved, because no man-made

structures have survived the period during which the Rock has served as a landmark and meetinghouse. Necessary restoration would involve establishing footpaths, a "clear zone" to preserve the wilderness character of the setting, and construction of a modern meetinghouse at an inconspicuous site for the use and enjoyment of visitors.

I believe it is altogether appropriate that Congress approve the Meetinghouse Preservation Act as one means of assisting the states, and the citizens of the nation, in calling attention to and preserving our rich and glorious past, while focusing attention on the direction this country will take in the future.

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Hon. Clifford P. Hansen
U. S. Senator, Wyoming
Senate Office Building
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Dear Senator Hansen:

I am advised that the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, U. S. Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, will shortly hold hearings on S. 2877, Senator Tower's Bill to commemorate the American Revolution Bicentennial by establishing a meetinghouse program through an Act which "may be cited as the Meetinghouse Preservation Act".

As I know you are fully aware, the Wyoming American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has proven itself a most able and active agency by extending all the support within its means to every state or local program or agency it has found, on careful review, to have proposed a commemoration worthy of the principles on which the American Revolution was fought and our nation was founded. Further, the Wyoming State Legislature has evidently looked on the Commission's efforts with respect and favor, at least where the Commission has asked for funding support the appropriations, so far totaling some quarter of a million dollars, have been forthcoming by practically unanimous vote.

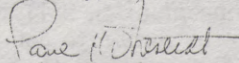
Our concern in Wyoming has been that the National Bicentennial program didn't appear to be off to as good a start, on as sound a footing, as is the State program. Therefore we have been greatly pleased and encouraged by S. 2877 which, at last, seems to offer substantial and lasting achievements worthy of a great Nation's Bicentennial observation. In this light it seems to me that the Federal Government is on a philosophically sound footing to make partners out of the several State Governments; to provide the necessary monies to the States in return for the State's

Hon. Clifford P. Hansen
U. S. Senator, Wyoming
June 3, 1974
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understanding and labor in the restoration and preservation of meeting houses that will, in each individual case, best delineate that State's particular contribution to the National Heritage. We feel that Senator Tower is due a heartfelt thank-you for his efforts toward making the meeting house concept a viable reality.

We also feel that we have Wyoming's answer to the Meeting House concept ready and waiting at Independence Rock National Historic Landmark. Again as I know you are aware, if the Independence Rock Meeting House conception is brought to fruition by the Wyoming American Revolution Bicentennial Commission there is no reason to worry about its future. That is assured as one of the entities in a Wyoming State Park program, a program that includes preservation and use of historic as well as recreational properties.

Sincerely,



Paul H. Westedt
Director and Wyoming State
Historic Preservation Officer

PHW/mlr

Our next witness will be Mr. Robert Williams.

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT W. WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS**

Mr. WILLIAMS. I am Robert Williams. I am president of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers.

I am speaking for the people who actually administer the historic preservation programs in the 50 States and five territories.

During the past several months, we have individually and collectively been considering S. 2877 on which you are conducting hearings today.

On May 16 and 17 at the State Historic Preservation Officer Executive Committee meeting in Carson City, Nev., S. 2877 was again considered.

My testimony reflects the position of the States which are in regard to S. 2877.

The general concept of S. 2877 is commendable and is an appropriate means for the nation to commemorate its 200th birthday.

However, we feel strongly that the following provisions should be, in some appropriate way, made a part of, or a substitute for S. 2877 before it is reported favorably.

One, the meetinghouse program must be a special program, above, beyond and in no way a substitute for our present ongoing historic preservation grants program.

Our present program is presently functioning well but at a funding level far below the documented needs and matching capability of the States and the National Trust.

Grants in-aid program under Public Law 89-665 was funded at a \$11,505,000 level for fiscal year 1974 while the States and the National Trust had a matching capability in excess of \$103 million.

What we are saying here is that whatever funding is provided for the meetinghouse proposal contemplated in S. 2877 should be made after at least \$100 million annually is provided for the regular grants-in-aid program for historic preservation.

No. 2, we feel that any funds provided for the meetinghouse proposal should be administered by the Department of the Interior in the same manner as they are presently administering the regular grants-in-aid program under provisions of public Law 89-665.

This will insure the most effective, economical and timely use of the funds appropriated for the meetinghouse program.

It will also insure a professionally acceptable, nonduplicative, integrated Federal-State historic preservation program.

Third, we feel that the meetinghouse program contemplated in S. 2877 should be funded on a 90 percent Federal and 10 percent State matching formula.

The States in their annual work program for fiscal year 1974 indicate a willingness and ability to provide 10 percent of the funds required for projects in the meetinghouse program.

Since the States are ready and able to match a \$100 million annual funding level for our regular grants-in-aid program on a 50 to 50 basis, and since we urgently request that our regular grants-in-aid

program be funded at the \$100 million level before or concurrently with the meetinghouse program, it would seem that a 90 to 10 matching formula would be appropriate for the meetinghouse program.

Fourth, we feel that the meetinghouses should not necessarily be required to be in State ownership, but that the same ownership criteria and guidelines presently used by the Department of the Interior and administering our regular historic preservation grants program be used in the meetinghouse program.

In conclusion, we want this committee to know that the States are presently aware of the size of our Nations historic preservation deficit and that we mean business when we say we are ready to do our part in liquidating that deficit in the shortest possible time.

Toward that end, we urge you to give serious early, and favorable consideration to amending our authority and providing funds to match the States \$100 million capability on a 50 to 50 basis for our regular historic preservation grants program.

When this is done, the States feel that the meetinghouse proposal, funded on a 90 to 10 matching formula, is a valid means for further liquidating our historic preservation deficit, and is a very worthwhile and appropriate means for commemorating our Nation's 200th birthday.

I might add the historic State preservation officers would see the ability of States to give the States the right to select more than one site, if funds are available.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you, Mr. Williams. I commend you for your fine statement.

I have only one question. You say the States have a matching capability in excess of \$100 million. I wish, for the record, you would supply a breakdown of that as to what each of the States has done. The staff has just handed me figures on federal funds needed by States and the National Trust. This is a document of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and without objection, it will be made a part of the record.

[The document referred to above follows:]

MEETINGHOUSE COST ESTIMATES FOR ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION (APPROXIMATE)¹

State and site	Acquisition of property	Restoration and other costs	Total
I. Ohio: Tallmadge Congregational Church, Tallmadge.....	No cost.....	\$460,000	\$460,000
II. Nebraska: William H. Ferguson Mansion, Lincoln.....	do.....	209,000	209,000
III. New York: Hyde Hall, Glimmerglass State Park.....	do.....	705,000	705,000
IV. Colorado: Tivoli Brewery, Denver.....	do.....	994,812	994,812
V. Iowa:			
1 Orpheum Theater, Dubuque.....	\$40,000.....	450,000	490,000
2 Flynn Farm, Des Moines area.....	No cost.....	500,000	500,000
3 Old Capitol, Iowa City.....	do.....	1,000,000	1,000,000
VI. Rhode Island:			
1 South Freight Station, Providence.....	(2).....	(2)	(2)
2 Woonsocket Opera House, Woonsocket.....	No cost.....	301,000	301,000
3 Newport Casino/Theater, Newport.....	do.....	232,000	232,000
VII. New Hampshire:			
1 Belknap-Salloway Mill, Laconia.....	do.....	335,860	335,860
2 Town Hall, Exeter.....	do.....	20,000	20,000+
3 Stoodley's Tavern, Portsmouth.....	(2).....	142,150	142,150+
VIII. Utah: Devereaux House, Salt Lake City.....	\$360,000.....	916,000	1,276,000
IX. Louisiana: Magnolia Mounds Plantation, Baton Rouge.....	No cost.....	895,000	895,000
X. Connecticut: Viets Tavern, East Granby.....	do.....	143,475	143,475
XI. Indiana: Athenaeum, Indianapolis.....	\$180,000.....	556,000	736,000
XII. South Dakota: "Old Main," Vermillion.....	No cost.....	1,037,993	1,037,993

See footnote at end of table.

MEETINGHOUSE COST ESTIMATES FOR ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION (APPROXIMATE)¹—Continued

State and site	Acquisition of property	Restoration and other costs	Total
XIII. Maine: The Bangor House, Bangor	\$400,000	350,000	750,000
XIV. Arkansas: Historic Washington District, Washington			764,000
XV. Mississippi: Jefferson College, Washington	No cost	500,000	500,000
XVI. New Jersey: Proprietary House, Perth Amboy	\$200,000	763,000	963,000
XVII. New Mexico:			
1 Garcia Opera House, Socorro	\$159,000	155,000	314,400
2 Pinckney R. Tully House, Santa Fe	\$104,802.52	209,000	313,802.52
XVIII. Vermont: Depot Square Historic District, Randolph	\$462,000	431,800	893,800
XIX. California: Dingley Spice Mill, Sacramento	No cost	186,500	186,500
XX. Wyoming: Independence Rock	\$111,815	410,000	521,815
XXI. Puerto Rico: Old Casino de Puerto Rico, San Juan	No cost	467,150	467,150
XXII. Montana: "Old Chamber" Building, Billings	(2)	300,000	300,000+
XXIII. Texas: Stafford Opera House, Columbus	(2)	308,000	308,000+
XXIV. Alaska: Baranov's Storehouse, Kodiak	\$176,191	500,000	676,191
XXV. Wisconsin:			
1 Old Executive Mansion, Madison	\$180,000	300,000	480,000
2 Koepsel and Turck Houses, Old World Wisconsin	No cost	147,500	147,500
3 Pabst Theater, Milwaukee	do	1,000,000	1,000,000
XXVI. Oklahoma: Carnegie Library, Guthrie	do	466,140	466,140
XXVII. Illinois: Jubilee College, Jubilee	do	150,000	150,000
XXVIII. Hawai:			
1 The Royal Brewery, Capitol District	do	760,000	760,000
2 King Kamehameha Post Office, near Capitol District	do	215,160	215,160
XXIX. Florida: Brokaw-McDougall House, Tallahassee	do		

¹ The estimated cost of acquiring and restoring the listed meetinghouse sites was taken from the prospectuses sent in by the States with their nominations. These figures do not include any money for maintenance or programing the meeting house concept into the facility.

The purpose in compiling samplings of meetinghouse costs is to better evaluate the legislation that includes a one time grant of up to \$1,000,000 per State.

² Has been demolished.

Senator BIBLE. It shows matching requests are—

Mr. WILLIAMS. That is the figure I referred to, Mr. Chairman.

It is my opinion based on a study and conversations with the States, although we do not have our annual work programs until June 30, this year we will probably approach in the neighborhood of \$135 million matching capability.

These capabilities are certified statements. They are auditable records in the States indicating the ability to match on a 50 to 50 basis funds for historic preservation under Public Law.

Senator BIBLE. You do not mean all of the States have already had the legislature in session. They have put up the \$103 million or whatever the figure is?

Mr. WILLIAMS. Under the provisions of the act, it is not necessary if the matching funds be appropriated by the State government.

In the case of Florida, they are funds appropriated by the State government, cities, counties and other groups can match these funds.

It means each State historic preservation officer has in his record, a certified statement of ability to match from some appropriate matching source.

Senator BIBLE. Your State of Florida, apparently, is almost leading all of the others. It shows you have a matching request of \$3,911,476. That is almost \$4 million available from private sources or foundations and from State appropriated funds.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Yes, sir. We have gotten the certificates needed for our annual work program and we will be in excess of \$6 million, the State, this year, for the first time, appropriated funds from State sources to be used as matching grants to local communities, cities, councils and historical preservation districts so that this fund has been the impetus and the beginning, the energizing force for a program which is growing, in our opinion, at a rate, which if we have

the funds on a matching basis, as suggested, we can begin to make some serious headway into liquidating the deficit of our historic preservation work.

Senator BIBLE. I appreciate your appearance here this morning.

This document, Federal funds needed by States for the National Trust, will be made a part of the record. This is the \$103 million to which I was alluding.

[The document follows:]

FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED BY STATES AND NATIONAL TRUST

States	Fiscal year 1973	Matching request fiscal year 1974	Fiscal year 1975 (estimated)
Alabama.....	\$443,000	\$2,793,400	\$2,350,000
Alaska.....	329,697	301,000	272,500
American Samoa.....			100,000
Arizona.....	104,000	82,466	192,000
Arkansas.....	1,395,037	1,018,430	560,000
California.....	624,000	2,205,241	1,379,000
Colorado.....	463,927	428,293	442,750
Connecticut.....	147,250	88,847	995,000
Delaware.....	675,000	760,000	1,290,000
District of Columbia.....	100,000	838,950	760,000
Florida.....	261,000	3,911,475	2,550,710
Georgia.....	190,000	2,484,161	3,400,000
Guam.....		20,000	30,000
Hawaii.....		334,803	2,210,000
Idaho.....	182,500	109,250	122,000
Illinois.....	664,303	901,150	848,100
Indiana.....		494,500	500,000
Iowa.....		1,203,618	1,165,000
Kansas.....	67,190	115,766	60,000
Kentucky.....	490,000	826,000	950,000
Louisiana.....	270,000	571,000	540,000
Maine.....	220,900	258,600	120,000
Maryland.....	305,000	2,748,850	3,395,500
Massachusetts.....	180,000	18,084,735	19,000,000
Michigan.....	628,500	1,937,600	1,950,000
Minnesota.....	1,200,000	2,365,468	503,000
Mississippi.....	420,000	214,437	152,500
Missouri.....	901,824	781,356	975,000
Montana.....	18,750	93,730	104,000
Nebraska.....	140,400	599,775	1,073,000
Nevada.....	75,000	246,000	75,500
New Hampshire.....		327,250	330,000
New Jersey.....	263,000	581,050	1,885,000
New Mexico.....	143,000	725,552	497,000
New York.....	402,200	13,515,550	10,700,000
North Carolina.....	1,270,000	3,361,043	3,475,000
North Dakota.....		65,000	25,000
Ohio.....	327,500	2,685,594	3,150,000
Oklahoma.....	267,500	217,150	785,000
Oregon.....	190,500	72,500	100,000
Pennsylvania.....	828,500	10,790,291	19,215,000
Puerto Rico.....			100,000
Rhode Island.....	190,500	2,876,700	1,365,000
South Carolina.....	3,415,000	6,829,255	6,624,000
South Dakota.....	119,000	776,013	480,750
Tennessee.....	232,500	985,487	1,715,000
Texas.....	410,000	2,716,219	3,000,000
Trust territories.....			100,000
Utah.....	520,000	692,000	686,000
Vermont.....	300,227	625,399	1,031,500
Virgin Islands.....			100,000
Virginia.....	357,250	4,343,567	9,062,000
Washington.....		1,522,629	1,810,000
West Virginia.....	519,000	392,140	400,000
Wisconsin.....	272,500	363,500	634,000
Wyoming.....	94,000	457,601	203,000
Total.....	20,619,455	101,741,393	115,538,810
National trust for historic preservation.....	4,175,000	1,613,823	2,000,000
Grand total.....	24,794,455	103,355,216	117,538,810

Note.—The States request for \$101,700,000 is for 1,421 projects.

It is estimated that about \$35,000,000 of the total \$103,000,000 represents private, nonappropriated money.

Senator BIBLE. The next witness is Mrs. Nancy Dobson.

**STATEMENT OF NANCY DOBSON, DIRECTOR, HISTORIC
TALLAHASSEE PRESERVATION BOARD**

Mrs. DOBSON. My name is Nancy Dobson. I am also with the Secretary of State's Office in Tallahassee.

I came to speak this morning in support of this bill, simply because our historic Tallahassee Preservation Board has operated a meetinghouse since July 1973.

We have found that it has been such a success idea to run such a place, that I felt it important that I come and convey my thoughts to the committee.

I have submitted a statement to you, which is rather lengthy.

I would like to briefly summarize it.

Senator BIBLE. Without objection, the full statement will be incorporated into the record.

You may proceed.

Mrs. DOBSON. Our board has used this house for three purposes and they correspond to the purposes outlined in the bill.

We have also used the house for groups who were interested in the preservation of historic sites in Tallahassee as well as the preservation of tree lined streets, canopy roads, open spaces of historic significance and also neighborhoods which may not have had historic significance, but they did have extreme importance to the individuals who lived in them and they were important to the city itself.

Another use which came up, all of these came up rather accidentally, was the use as a laboratory for university students.

We have two universities in the city of Tallahassee and the students from the university use this.

The interior design students used it as a project to design interiors for a historic house.

They measured it. They did renderings and this resulted in their being hired by the State of Georgia to do the interiors of a historic house in the city of Thomasville.

I would like to point out, our house, when we moved into it in July of 1973, was not and is not in good condition.

The first meeting we held there, we held only as a kickoff for the Sesqui-Centennial celebration.

It was more or less a joke and we intended to hold future meetings for the celebration to plan it at the Ramada Inn.

The people who came to the first meeting were a broad cross section of the citizens of Tallahassee.

They liked the house so much, even in its condition, that we decided we hold all future meetings there.

In brief, I would like to say we feel it has been successful as we feel it has done a great deal for the city of Tallahassee.

We have also had meetings there of statewide interest, the Florida Arts Council, and people who wish to meet with their legislators when they come to the State Capital and give them their thoughts and opinions.

In summary, we feel it has been a success and we feel if this bill is passed, it will too be a success and a meaningful piece of legislation to every citizen.

Senator BIBLE. Your remarks have been a valuable contribution because they are based on actual experience.

When you say you made the McDougal House as the headquarters of the Tallahassee Historic Preservation Board, what is that?

Mrs. DOBSON. It is an agency of the Secretary of State's Office.

There are four such agencies within the States of Florida.

We are concerned with the preservation of historic sites within the city of Tallahassee.

Senator BIBLE. Then you are a statutory board, then?

Mrs. DOBSON. That is correct.

Senator BIBLE. Operating under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State of the State of Florida?

Mrs. DOBSON. That is right.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much.

[Prepared statement of Mrs. Dobson follows:]

Statement in support of Senate Bill 2877 to be given at hearing scheduled by the Parks and Recreation Subcommittee of the Senate Interior and Insular Affairs Committee at 10:00 a.m., June 5, 1974 in Room 3110 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

Testimony given by Nancy Dobson, Director, Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board

In endeavoring to show support of Senate Bill 2877, the experience of the Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board, an agency under Florida's Secretary of State, is offered as an example of what can be achieved through the use of a historic site as a meetinghouse. In this instance, the site is the 1853 Brokaw-McDougall House, headquarters of the Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board. Because of its physical condition, the utilization of the house has, on a very limited basis, been confined to the following uses:

- (1) As a meetinghouse for the planning of a state-wide commemorative celebration and as a site for one of the festivities of celebration
- (2) As a meetinghouse for citizens concerned with preservation of their natural and cultural heritage
- (3) As a laboratory for university students

Senate Bill 2877 had not been written when the Brokaw-McDougall House commenced to function and, yet, the above mentioned uses of the historic house do correspond to the purposes as mentioned in Section 2(b) of the Meetinghouse Preservation Act.

In order to show the committee the practical advantages of a meetinghouse, the following specific information is offered:

(1) USE AS A MEETINGHOUSE TO PLAN COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES

A celebration was in order for the 150th Anniversary of Florida's capital, Tallahassee.

During the summer of 1973, the Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board was charged with the responsibility of planning, organizing and producing an appropriate commemoration of the 150th Anniversary, to be known as Florida's Capital Sesquicentennial. Instructions from the City and County Commissions included \$15,000 to fund the celebration and a strong recommendation to invite a cross section of citizens to take part in the planning process.

Between August 29, 1973 and March 5, 1974, a total of 29 meetings were held in the Brokaw-McDougall House to plan the Proclamation Ceremony (held in the garden of the historic site) and the Sesquicentennial Birthday Party. Over 150 people were involved in the planning process and over 1,000 people performed in the final production. Five thousand people attended this production, and many more viewed the festivities on educational television.

Testimony given by Nancy Dobson, Director
 Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board
 Page Two

People involved in this project were the descendants of early territorial settlers; school children, teachers, and administrators; business leaders of the Chamber of Commerce; cultural leaders; representatives of civic organizations, local and state governments; students and staff of two state universities and PEOPLE who brought in old candles to be melted into a gigantic birthday candle, who brought in mementos of the past, who made birthday cakes appropriate to the occasion to be donated and consumed at the Birthday Party, who sang, danced, laughed, and clapped at the Birthday Party.

(2) USE AS A MEETINGHOUSE FOR THOSE DESIRING TO PRESERVE
 THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Our experience has shown us that a historic site built in a manner that exemplifies the skills and craftsmanship of Americans is an especially appropriate place for meetings relating to the preservation and restoration of historic structures; to the acquisition of parkland, protection of existing open space, tree-lined streets and canopy roads and to the protection of established neighborhoods threatened by change and commercial encroachment. Since July, 1973, 84 meetings for these purposes have been held in the Brokaw-McDougall House, and many more could have been held there if the house were restored.

Tallahassee is growing and changing and losing some of its character in the process. A structure that reminds us of our character and our heritage is an ideal place for people to meet and solve some of the problems brought on by change and growth.

(3) USE OF THE HOUSE AS A LABORATORY FOR STUDENTS

Florida State University Interior Design students used the house as a project for a graduate class. They measured it, prepared floor plans, chose fabric and furniture and did renderings showing their concepts of how each room should be furnished. Several profited from this experience and were hired by the State of Georgia to design the interior of a National Register site in Thomasville.

Urban and Regional Planning students have attended Architectural Review Board Meetings and have done research on legal controls for historic districts, while a history student has done research on the family who built and lived in the house.

Numerous students have used staff members to assist them in various projects.

Testimony given by Nancy Dobson, Director
Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board
Page Three

SUMMARY

It is hoped that the experience of the Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board is proof that the Meetinghouse Preservation Act can serve a valuable purpose in every state, territory, and possession of the United States by bringing people together to plan activities for the Bicentennial, to solve problems relating to the saving of our country's heritage, and to illustrate the proper techniques involved in the restoration process as well as ways that historic sites can be adapted for profitable use. The Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board urges your approval of Senate Bill 2877.

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness is Mr. James Biddle, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

**STATEMENT OF JAMES BIDDLE, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL TRUST
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Mr. BIDDLE. My name is James Biddle, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

On behalf of its Trustees, Advisors, and more than 50,000 members throughout the United States it is my pleasure to express our support of S. 2877 known as the "Meeting House Preservation Act."

The threefold purpose of this legislation is summed up in the following provisions of section 2(b).

"One, to celebrate the bicentennial of this country through the preservation within each of the several States of a historic site that might otherwise be lost.

Two, to provide a meetingplace in each of the several States for those citizens interested in retaining their tangible, indigenous heritage, whether historic, cultural, or natural, and in planning for future changes and developments.

Third, to give existing State programs involved with preserving historic and architecturally important structures on illustration of the best possible technique used in the preservation of such historic sites and structures, and the multiple, significant ways in which such sites and structures can be used."

Since it was chartered by an Act of Congress in 1949, as a charitable, educational and nonprofit organization, the National Trust has been actively engaged in preserving and stimulating public participation in the preservation of historic sites, buildings, objects and antiquities of national significance.

The scope of its activities has been substantially broadened under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, which provided a system whereby Federal matching funds are channeled to the States, local governments and to the National Trust.

We believe that each of the stated purposes of S. 2877 will, when implemented, serve to further emphasize the importance of historic preservation as we celebrate the bicentennial era.

The National Trust is pleased with the prospect that it will have a meaningful role to play in the administration of the program which this legislation would authorize as a member of the Meetinghouse Coordinating Board, and pledges its full support and assistance in the efforts that will be made to see that it is successfully carried out.

We believe that our contributions can be of particular significance in the processes by which recommendations will be made to the Secretary of the Interior as to which of the historic sites contained in applications from the several States should be approved by the Secretary for the purposes of the act.

The designation of sites that might otherwise be lost and establishing or strengthening standards and criteria designed to provide illustrations of the best possible techniques used in the preservation of such historic sites and structures and the range of possible adaptive uses of such properties are areas in which we believe we have

developed expertise that can be profitably used in advancing this program on a firm foundation and in a timely manner.

We applaud the foresight manifested in the stated purposes of the legislation in providing through preservation techniques, a meetinghouse in each of the several States for those citizens interested in retaining their indigenous heritage.

Not only will this provide within each State a rallying point during the bicentennial era, but it should provide a tangible reminder of the value of historic preservation and of our national heritage long after the bicentennial era has passed.

As the bicentennial year approaches, we sense a growing awareness among people throughout the Nation of the need to rediscover their heritage, to cherish and preserve it as a guide to an enriched future for our Nation.

An example of this growing awareness is implicit in the announcement last month by the National Endowment for the Humanities of the creation of a National Planning Group to develop the American Issues Forum for observation of the Nation's Bicentennial which will consist of a national calendar of topics for discussion during the bicentennial year comprising the major historical issues that bear directly on the future of the country.

Many of the historic properties restored and preserved under the provisions of this legislation may well serve as the setting for the discussions of the American Issues Forum will sponsor in communities throughout the country.

Inasmuch as the essential purpose of this legislation is to commemorate the bicentennial by establishing a meetinghouse program, it occurs to us that the authorization for funding the program should rest with the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration created by the Act of Congress approved December 11, 1973.

Section 8 of that act authorize the transfer of appropriated funds from the Administrator to another Federal Department for use under the authorities of the other department so long as the activities funded in this manner come within the provisions of the 1973 act.

Under this section it would appear appropriate for the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the bicentennial administration pursuant to which funds appropriated to the Administrator for historic meetinghouse grants would be made available to the States by the Secretary of the Interior for that purpose in accordance with the procedures set forth in the legislation.

While we believe that the funding level of the authorizing legislation should remain at 1 million per State, we have had the opportunity to review preliminary proposals prepared by more than half of the States in contemplation of the enactment of this legislation and find that the cost estimates vary widely from State to State, with the cost of acquisition and preservation ranging between a low of approximately \$100,000 to the ceiling of \$1 million.

The average of all those we reviewed is approximately \$600,000 per State.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that today there is perhaps no single issue that so deeply affects the average American as the environment in which he lives.

Those of us working to save the significant structures in our cities, towns and rural areas realize our chance of success is limited unless we can work with other forces that are changing the land, visually and ecologically.

Preservation can no longer be isolated from the mainstream of community planning.

Success depends on bringing together and coordinating the efforts of such professionals as architects, historians, lawyers, planners, businessmen, and highway officials; of garden clubs and civic groups; of the private sector and government agencies at all levels.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that with the preliminary work that has been done on the meetinghouse program in each State, it seems well calculated to offer an exceptional opportunity for bringing to reality by 1976, a significant segment of the total bicentennial program with national focus.

I therefore, urge prompt enactment of S. 2877 with perfecting amendments concerning the funding authorization that I have suggested.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much. As usual, you have been very helpful. Your expertise has enabled you to make a great many contributions in this area. How long have you been associated with the National Trust for Historic Preservation?

Mr. BIDDLE. I have been associated with it since 1967.

Senator BIBLE. Did not you have some role such as a director?

Mr. BIDDLE. No. I was a member, but prior to that, I was president of the Association for the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you very much for your appearance here.

Our next witness is Hon. Richard Cleveland, a member of the Vermont General Assembly and Vermont Bicentennial Commission.

STATEMENT OF RICHARD L. CLEVELAND, MEMBER, VERMONT BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Mr. CLEVELAND. My name is Richard Cleveland and I am a member of the Vermont Bicentennial Commission.

I have come here to testify in favor of S. 2877.

I have no training in historic preservation, merely an amateur's interest in the subject, but it is something in which I believe deeply.

With the interest displayed in recent years in preserving the natural environment, I find it incongruous that so little attention has been devoted proportionately to the preservation of the manmade environment.

For too long, we have been casual and even careless about the manner in which we have treated historic sites.

Fine old houses and graceful commercial blocks have been torn down to make way for shopping centers and parking lots.

Vast segments of America's architectural heritage have been obliterated, with no indication that they ever existed.

Early advocates of preservation were scorned as meddlers and do-gooders as they fought their lonely and often losing battles against the wrecking-ball philosophy of corporate America.

The role of government in the decimation of the American townscape should not be minimized either.

Well-meaning but misguided Federal urban renewal programs have done as much damage, if not more, than the cumulative efforts of private enterprise.

The good was destroyed along with the bad in the government's headlong rush to demonstrate its concern for the inner city.

I think it fitting, therefore, that as a means of penance the government should expand its funding of preservation activities through the vehicle of the meeting house program.

The twofold objective of this program, preservation of endangered historic sites and utilization of those sites as centers for preservation education and activities, is especially appropriate as the Nation approaches its bicentennial.

If the program is funded at the level suggested in the bill and if its objectives are carried out as they are supposed to be, then a real contribution will have been made at an important time in our history.

If through this program, it can be demonstrated to the businessman on America's Main Streets that preservation is not only patriotic but profitable as well, then it may be possible to save some of our vanishing land marks.

I hope the bill will be acted upon in the immediate future, and that the committee will forward it to the Senate with a favorable recommendation.

Senator BIBLE. We are very happy to have you here this morning.

The staff has handed me a meetinghouse proposal submitted by the Vermont Bicentennial Commission and this will be incorporated by reference for the use of the committee as we move forward in considering this legislation.

[The document referred to is available in the committee's files.]

Your statement is very well done and I compliment you for it.

Senator BIBLE. Now Mr. Paul Westedt, director of the Wyoming Recreation Commission. Is he here?

[No response.]

Senator BIBLE [continuing]. Without objection, his statement will be incorporated into the record.

[The statement of Mr. Westedt follows:]



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June 3, 1974

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Hon. Clifford P. Hansen
U. S. Senator, Wyoming
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Hansen:

I am advised that the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, U. S. Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, will shortly hold hearings on S. 2877, Senator Tower's Bill to commemorate the American Revolution Bicentennial by establishing a meetinghouse program through an Act which "may be cited as the Meetinghouse Preservation Act".

As I know you are fully aware, the Wyoming American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has proven itself a most able and active agency by extending all the support within its means to every state or local program or agency it has found, on careful review, to have proposed a commemoration worthy of the principles on which the American Revolution was fought and our nation was founded. Further, the Wyoming State Legislature has evidently looked on the Commission's efforts with respect and favor, at least where the Commission has asked for funding support the appropriations, so far totaling some quarter of a million dollars, have been forthcoming by practically unanimous vote.

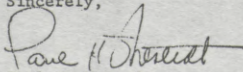
Our concern in Wyoming has been that the National Bicentennial program didn't appear to be off to as good a start, on as sound a footing, as is the State program. Therefore we have been greatly pleased and encouraged by S. 2877 which, at last, seems to offer substantial and lasting achievements worthy of a great Nation's Bicentennial observation. In this light it seems to me that the Federal Government is on a philosophically sound footing to make partners out of the several State Governments; to provide the necessary monies to the States in return for the State's

Hon. Clifford P. Hansen
U. S. Senator, Wyoming
June 3, 1974
page 2

understanding and labor in the restoration and preservation of meeting houses that will, in each individual case, best delineate that State's particular contribution to the National Heritage. We feel that Senator Tower is due a heartfelt thank-you for his efforts toward making the meeting house concept a viable reality.

We also feel that we have Wyoming's answer to the Meering House concept ready and waiting at Independence Rock National Historic Landmark. Again as I know you are aware, if the Independence Rock Meeting House conception is brought to fruition by the Wyoming American Revolution Bicentennial Commission there is no reason to worry about its future. That is assured as one of the entities in a Wyoming State Park program, a program that includes preservation and use of historic as well as recreational properties.

Sincerely,



Paul H. Westedt
Director and Wyoming State
Historic Preservation Officer

PHW/mlr

Senator BIBLE. The next witness is Mr. Jim Gillihan, director of the Cultural Preservation Association, Department of Education and Cultural Affairs, State of South Dakota.

STATEMENT OF DR. JAMES E. GILLIHAN, DIRECTOR, CULTURAL PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DR. GILLIHAN. Mr. Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to appear before you in support of what I believe is one of the most significant pieces of legislation to be considered by the U.S. Congress in the bicentennial area.

It will serve the people of this Nation in many ways.

First, it will provide a focal point from which to emphasize the importance of cultural preservation.

Second, it will establish the mechanism to strengthen historic preservation programs initiated by the National Register program of the National Park Service.

South Dakota's Forty-ninth Legislative Assembly described our State's historic legacy as one of our "most important assets," which should be preserved for each citizen's "education, inspiration, pleasure and enrichment."

The meeting house proposal will give the work, started by the States and territories, a helping hand to supplement own State and private resources to get the job done.

In South Dakota, the people will provide over \$1,115,000 for historic preservation in fiscal year 1975 and over \$1,575,000 in fiscal year 1976.

We are not seeking a grand giveaway, nor do we anticipate that a string of "white elephants" will be established as a result of this legislation.

We do need to supplement our own limited resources. Through the efforts of the National Register and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the seed has been planted.

We have fertilized it through the efforts of our State and through private resources.

The meetinghouse legislation will firm up our roots in a heritage tracing back not just 200 years as a nation, but several centuries as a people.

The meeting house will help every State and every territory alike to celebrate the 200th birthday of our Nation.

In many States it will mean more than this.

In South Dakota, the concept will provide still another benefit, it will make possible the preservation and interpretation of one of our Nation's finest cultural resources, the Arne B. Larson Collection of Musical Instruments.

The collection, gathered over a life-time, includes over 2,500 antique musical instruments from all over the world, plus an extensive supporting library of books, music, periodicals, recordings, photographs, and related music memorabilia.

South Dakota has selected Old Main at the University of South Dakota as our meetinghouse site and we plan to house the music collection in a section of this building.

If I were to reflect into the future for a moment, I can almost imagine the myriad activities that will revolve around the meetinghouse.

Citizens groups will be meeting to plan local preservation projects ranging from a museum to the adaptive use of an historic structure to enhance the community's economy.

Students will be studying local architecture and art history and will be using the meetinghouse to do research on graduate degrees.

The collection of musical instruments will make it possible for the University of South Dakota to offer the Master of Music degree with emphasis on the history of musical instruments for the first time in any U.S. university.

The pro's and con's of new development projects will be discussed and citizens can help determine the environmental impact of proposed projects.

A series of seminars similar to one recently held in our State will bring together State and Federal agencies with environmentalists on a local level.

Through the efforts of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the adult public can be brought into contact with the humanist to talk about human values in cultural preservation.

Our senior citizens will be invited to share history as they only know it and important oral history collections can be developed.

The people can come for the professional help, it will be a reality.

In fact, it will be a reality in 55 different States and territories.

It is a pretty important decision.

Because each State will select sites according to criteria established by the National Register, we are assured of professional standards of historical value and architectural significance.

Because each project is reviewed by the State's Bicentennial Commission with citizen members, the project will represent the grass roots desires of the people of each State and territory.

In South Dakota, we have selected Old Main at the University of South Dakota, the oldest building in continuous use for public education.

We have other worthy sites, to be sure, but we are hopeful that they will be considered in the future growth of our historical preservation program.

I would like to make some reference by Mr. Williams, the funding through the national legislation is quite limited and we were only able to receive a small percentage of our ability to match capabilities from State sources and county and municipal sources for fiscal year 1974.

We would also hope the funding for the National Register would be used to help with some of these other needs.

Never before in our history have we faced such a need to reflect on our tangible and visible heritage to find the faith and principles of our founding fathers.

We still have this abiding faith in our State and I urge you to consider this important legislation.

It is vital for any nation to maintain its ties with the past to help us remember the ideals and ideas that helped to build that nation and to avoid mistakes that we have made lest we relive them.

In short, it is important that we give tomorrow a yesterday.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Senator BIBLE. Thank you for your fine statement. I appreciate your appearance here this morning in support of this legislation.

Our next witness is Mrs. Glennis J. Parker, director Arkansas American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration.

Is she here?

[No response.]

Senator BIBLE. Without objection, her statement will be incorporated into the record.

[Statement of Mrs. Glennis J. Parker follows:]

Arkansas American Revolution
Bicentennial Celebration
300 West Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
Tele. (501) 371-2142



Statement by Mrs. Glennis J. Parker, Director
Arkansas American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration

Mr. Chairman, I am grateful for the opportunity to make a statement on S. 2877, "The Meeting House Preservation Act." This significant legislation provides for the preservation of an historic site in each state to be used as a meeting place for citizens concerned with the historical, cultural and physical heritage. What better way could there be to celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the independence of our great country than to provide for a program that honors our past while planning for the future?

The site for the Meeting House that has been chosen by the Arkansas American Revolution Bicentennial Celebration Committee, in cooperation with the State Liaison Officer for Historic Preservation and the Parks Division of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, is a complex of historic buildings within a one square mile area in Washington, Arkansas. Historic Washington District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.

Founded in 1824, Washington has a concentration of sites, structures, and objects which are significant to the history of Arkansas and the Southwest. Washington continues to exist as the sole intact example of an Arkansas city which was prominent during the territorial, antebellum and Civil War periods. In the period from 1834 to 1836 it became a convenient and safe meeting place for those Americans who were involved in the plans to achieve the independence of Texas. After 1836 it remained prominent as Americans used the Southwest Trail as a migration route in the settlement of the West.

Displaced Indians were shepherded along the Fort Towson Road and the Southwest Trail to Indian Territory. Washington continued as a flourishing community into the 1850's, and with the occupation of Little Rock by Union forces in September, 1863, the seat of state government was transferred to Washington until the end of the Civil War in April, 1865.

When the railroads came to Arkansas, the tracks were laid ten miles south of Washington, and in the 1870's, 1880's, and 1890's, new towns developed along with railroads, and the old towns along the Southwest Trail began to wither.

Today Washington exists as an outstanding example of an Arkansas city of the 19th century. Washington grew and flourished in a fifty year period, and after almost one hundred years of decline, the town has managed to survive with much of its original fabric intact.

Pioneer Washington can become the showplace of the Southwest if all restoration and interpretation is accomplished through careful attention to historical and architectural accuracy. This restored town can depict a way of life in the Southwest that occurred in few other places in the country. It was an outpost of culture and relative affluence on the frontier, and a quality presentation of this fact could provide the whole state with an image that it rightfully deserves.

Not only would Pioneer Washington serve as a Meeting House for Bicentennial activities, but it would continue to serve citizens of the third century as an environmental preservation center.

Governor Dale Bumpers joins in urging the support of this important Bicentennial preservation program.

Senator BIBLE. Our next witness is Dr. William Murray, member of the executive committee, Iowa Bicentennial Commission and professor at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

STATEMENT OF DR. WILLIAM MURRAY, MEMBER, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, IOWA BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, AND PROFESSOR AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY IN AMES, IOWA

Dr. MURRAY. I have several charts which indicate the location of the Iowa meetinghouse sites.

In order to visualize that, I would like to indicate to you that this site that has been chosen in Iowa is located near Des Moines.

It is an old farmstead, a mansion and a barn.

The reason we are suggesting this and the reason I am here is we think this will typify a type of meetinghouse that can not only serve for the bicentennial, but will serve for years and years afterward and probably will be, we hope, in Iowa, at the 300th anniversary and will be recognized as one of the finest things Congress did in 1974.

I would like to summarize my statement.

Senator BIBLE. Your full statement will be incorporated in full in the record.

Senator BIBLE. Do you have a number of copies of this?

Dr. MURRAY. I have 50 copies I have made available of my statement.

Senator BIBLE. I mean the maps.

Dr. MURRAY. We are getting these reduced to 8½ by 11 and we will send them in.

Senator BIBLE. That is fine. That can be incorporated at the end of your statement.

You may proceed.

Dr. MURRAY. At the back of my presentation, I have a sketch of the old mansion which is in bad repair, but which as has been acquired by living history Farms Foundation, which I am connected with.

I am research director and have a great deal of responsibility in its development.

The Flynn mansion was for 50 years, the residence of a famous family until 1915.

In 1915, it became a State property and it was the prison farm for trusted prisoners for 50 years.

Later, the Berguson family acquired it from the State and the Berguson family gave it to the Living History Farms.

The area was appraised at \$280,000 which would be matching funds, in a sense, against any appropriation made by Congress.

Senator BIBLE. I should think a house—where is the ownership now?

Dr. MURRAY. It is in the Living History Farms Foundation.

It is an educational and historical foundation, tax exempt and organized for charitable purposes.

Senator BIBLE. Your position is if this bill were enacted, the donation of that home with an appraised value could be used as a

matching basis for whatever Federal funds were available, is that what you are saying?

Dr. MURRAY. Right, plus other funds that might be raised, because we anticipate it will be over \$1 million for the purchase of the land for parking and we are located at an intersection.

I will use another map to show you.

We are located west of Des Moines where two interstate highways overlap, one that goes from Minneapolis to Kansas City and one that goes from Chicago to Omaha and San Francisco.

We are located on this interstate highway on both sides.

The result is the land is very expensive.

Senator BIBLE. What do you sell land for in Iowa? It is pretty expensive in my State.

Dr. MURRAY. It is—it just happens at the University the average value of a farm in Iowa is over \$600 per acre, but this interchange land, at that point, is now over \$5,000 an acre.

In fact, there is one tract that sold right next to us for \$10,000 an acre.

What we propose is this meetinghouse be operated in conjunction with our living History Farms Foundation in which we have a project where we have three operating farms, a pioneer farm, which is now in operation, a farm of 1900 which is in operation also, and a small basis and we hope to have it completed next year and the third is a farm of the future.

These three farms will represent the story of agriculture, the development of agriculture in the Middle West.

We have a map which indicates, this will be made a part of the record, the interstate running right down through the middle of our project with a tunnel underneath so that you could get from one part to another.

We will have these three farms and our orientation center and the meeting house will be off at one spot and will be maintained and operated by the Living History Farms Foundation as a State connected institution tied in with our preservation program in the State of Iowa.

The reason we think this is ideal is because it provides for continuity.

It also provides for maintenance by this tax exempt educational and historical organization.

The three things we are particularly strong for is the act is first the fact we will develop in Iowa one place that will be characteristic of Iowa.

That is the farm environment, having an old farm house and a farm barn and there is a sketch of the barn which is included at the back of my statement.

This is a sketch of the barn that now exists.

We propose to remodel the barn so that it will become an auditorium and a workshop for preservation activity in the State.

The second point we want to emphasize and that is this meeting house will also become the center for all kinds of preservation activities in the State of Iowa.

We feel the workshop and other activities connected with the Preservation Act can be centered in this meetinghouse.

The third point we wanted to make was the desire to see the funding made on the basis of the \$1 million appropriation ceiling indicated in the act.

In our case, it will cost over a million when we have the purchase and acquisition of the land.

We feel whatever is provided in the act ought to be justified and if it only costs \$500,000, that would be the amount that would be provided.

Finally, I want to add my support to what Mr. Williams said, that it would be appropriate to make an addition to the act allowing an educational and historical agency other than the State itself to own and operate the meetinghouse.

It seems important to us that the agency that operates the meetinghouse should be permanent and should take on responsibility to provide the guidelines on the regulations for operation of the meetinghouse.

If you can include the interest and effort of a nonprofit historical association or agency, that is okayed by the State, you will then have an additional force providing for the perpetuity of this meetinghouse idea.

The last thing I wanted to point out is that this particular piece of legislation, originated by the National Trust and adopted by the Bicentennial and included in the preservation program of the Secretary of the Interior could well be the finest way for us to celebrate our 200th anniversary by establishing a new institution, democratic in nature, which would provide in each State for that State to develop something permanent, to perpetuate and enhance their environment.

We, in Iowa, see this possibility.

Since I am on the State Bicentennial Commission and since our project living history farms has been granted \$25,000 by the National Science Foundation to plan for the Bicentennial, then we have, in this arrangement, in Iowa, an outstanding opportunity and we are very strong and hope that anything we can do—Senator Hughes of our State is on the bill.

We feel we would like to see this legislation carried through and carried through promptly in order that we do something permanent for the Bicentennial.

Senator BIBLE. Very fine statement, and the full statement will be incorporated in full in the record.

You are also going to furnish reduced exhibits and each of those will be made a part of the record.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Murray follows:]

**HEARINGS
ON
MEETING HOUSE BILL
S-2877**

**STATEMENT
of
WILLIAM G. MURRAY
AMES, IOWA**

before the
SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON
PARKS AND RECREATION

June 5, 1974
Washington, D. C.

To the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of
the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs

Personal Background. My name is William G. Murray; my residence is 3207 Oakland Street, Ames, Iowa 50010. I am professor emeritus of economics at Iowa State University where I have been on the faculty since 1927. I helped organize the Living History Farms Foundation of Des Moines in 1967 and have been working since in the development of this project. I have been active since 1952 in the appraisal of Indian lands for the U.S. Department of Justice in cases before the Indian Claims Commission. In 1970 I was appointed to the Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission by Governor Robert Ray and have served on the Commission continuously since that time.

My active interest in the Meeting House project started when the plan was first announced. The Meeting House for Iowa, it seemed to me, should if possible be associated with farming because Iowa's heritage and major industry is agriculture. And since I have been close to the development of the Living History Farms I could see clearly how a Meeting House could be associated with this project.

Iowa's Meeting House Proposal. In November, 1973, a portion of the Living History Farms was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This portion was the Flynn Mansion, Barn and surrounding land. The Mansion and Barn were erected about 1870 by Martin Flynn, a noted Shorthorn breeder, livestock judge, railroad builder, and business leader. These two buildings, part of the original Flynn Farmstead, are located just west of Des Moines at an interchange on Interstate 80 and 35 where it crosses Primary Road 6.

The location is ideal for accessibility being on the Interstate near the center of the state and only 15 minutes by expressway from downtown Des Moines.

Late in 1973, the Iowa Historic Preservation Program recommended three historic places for the Iowa Meeting House. They were the Opera House at Dubuque, the Old Stone Capitol at Iowa City, and the Flynn Mansion and Barn at the Living History Farms near Des Moines. On April 29, 1974, the Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission voted to designate the Flynn Mansion and Barn at the Living History Farms as the official Meeting House for Iowa.

In what follows, I will point out what I consider to be three strong points in S-2877 and one point which needs to be added.

1. Emphasis on State Heritage and State Interests

One of the outstanding features of the Meeting House Preservation proposal is the opportunity it provides the state to have a Meeting House which can be identified with the development and predominant interests in the state. This is spelled out in Section 4, (b), (3) of S-2877 which reads:

" . . . such historic site, . . . illustrates a characteristic of the applicant's (state) heritage and helps to reflect the diverse cultural and geographic background of the United States."

The result, if this provision is carried out, could well be a significant, unique, and permanent contribution to the culture of the United States. It would be wonderful to have the 1976 Bicentennial responsible for a state meeting house movement that would revitalize the process of

bringing people together in a historic place of their own to discuss and develop ideas and programs for the preservation and development of their environment.

We in Iowa believe that our Meeting House, connected as it will be to our Living History Farms, can be a successful example of the new public forum provided by this meeting house program. The historic Flynn Mansion and Barn, of which pictures and sketches are presented at the end of this statement, will be the center of our Meeting House complex. They will be a symbolic representation of our agricultural heritage. They are located on the edge of Des Moines where they represent the close working together of farm and city people as they tackle modern day problems. The Flynn Mansion, which is now in bad repair on both the outside and the inside, will be restored and made into meeting rooms while the Barn will be made over on the inside to provide workshops, meeting rooms and an auditorium. Floor plans for both the Mansion and the Barn are included at the end of this statement.

2. Adequate Financing

The provision in S-2877 for grants up to one million dollars for each state is especially important. If the Meeting House for each state is to be the significant public place that has been described it must be restored and altered to fit its new function. Our Flynn Mansion and Barn, it has been estimated by our Meeting House architect, Mr. William J. Wagner, will take \$500,000. In addition to this expense, we will need to purchase the land where the Barn is located which is land that we rent and have an option to purchase. This land and adjoining land we want to

purchase for parking purposes will cost in the neighborhood of \$600,000 to \$700,000. This high cost for the land results from our premium location next to an Interstate interchange.

In view of our situation in Iowa, we strongly urge that the one million dollar provision for Meeting House grants be maintained and supported vigorously.

3. Emphasis on Preservation and Conservation

The Meeting Houses can be much more than just a place for meetings. They can be a center for activities on preservation, local and state history, and the like. They can be, for example, the headquarters for activities in the state concerned with the preservation of historic landmarks. Seminars and workshops on how to carry out restoration work would be a logical type of activity to be centered at a state meeting house complex.

In the conservation area many of the recent activities concentrating on protection and improvement of the environment could be centered at the state meeting house. In this and similar areas a great deal of flexibility would be desirable in order to provide for future uses of the Meeting House which can not be forecast or anticipated at this time.

In Iowa we have reason to be particularly concerned about conservation with the tremendously valuable asset we have in our farm land resources. With our farm real estate currently valued at 21 billion dollars it is clear that we have an obligation to preserve our fertile soil so that future generations may enjoy its yearly production.

4. Added Flexibility Needed in S-2877

Flexibility in ownership of the State Meeting House should be provided in S-2877. As it now reads the bill provides only for state ownership.

Section 4, (c), reads as follows:

"Each State submitting an application pursuant to this Act shall designate one or more historic sites which it desires to acquire, restore, and utilize . . ."

There will, no doubt, be other states besides Iowa where a non-profit organization, educational and historical in nature, would be a logical owner and operator of the State Meeting House. In Iowa our Living History Farms Foundation is an educational and historical agency with a non-profit tax-exempt status.

What we think desirable is a provision in the bill to allow the states to designate an educational and historical organization to own and operate the Meeting House under rules and regulations laid down by the state. Under arrangements of this kind Living History Farms would hope to qualify as the educational and historical organization that would obtain from the General Assembly (Legislature) of Iowa the right to own and operate the State Meeting House subject to rules and regulations established by the General Assembly. Our state might require that we operate under the supervision of a newly established state historical agency.

5. Brief Explanation of Living History Farms

Living History Farms, organized in 1967, covers 530 acres located on both sides of Interstate 80 and 35. On the east side which totals 140 acres are the Flynn Mansion, Barn and other buildings which now serve as the headquarters for the Farms. On the west side which totals the remaining 390 acres are:

1. The Pioneer Farm of 1840, now operating,
2. The Farm of 1900, in the process of construction,

3. The Farm of the Future, which is in the planning process, and
4. A Demonstration Area where the Grain and Corn Harvest Festivals are held.

Eventually an Orientation Interpretation Center is being planning for the west side. The west side is connected with the east side by a tunnel under the Interstate. The Center will contain an auditorium for orientation, a living farm museum, and a library devoted to the record of farm inventions, discoveries and improvements -- a record of how farming methods have changed from 1840 to those of today.

A grant of \$25,000 was made to Living History Farms in 1973 by the National Science Foundation to assist the Farms in their plans for the Bicentennial. In 1976 we plan to show with our three operating farms and other demonstrations how science and technology have contributed to progress in farming. The State Bicentennial Commission has allocated \$11,000 to the Farms for planning and operations.

The Smithsonian Institution has provided counsel and assistance at various stages in the growth of the Farms. In particular, Dr. John Schlebecker, Mr. Frederick Schmid and Mr. Lynn Kautz of the Smithsonian staff have visited the Farms and evaluated the program, and made suggestions.

The National Park Service has provided the services of Mr. Ernst Christensen of their Living History staff. His assistance in laying out the Pioneer Farm and in suggesting plans for future development has been especially valuable. The present executive director of the Farms, Mr. Oliver Gillespie, came from the National Park Service on May 1st of this year.

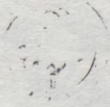
The U. S. Department of Agriculture sent the chief of their history group, Dr. Wayne Rasmussen, to our Farms to provide assistance and counsel. Through Dr. Rasmussen's office we have obtained information on historical questions regarding tools, equipment and procedures in farming operations.

Since 1967 a total of \$850,000 has been raised for purchase of land and operation of the Farms. However, the land at the site is extremely high in value because of the Interstate location. Fortunately, much of the land bought in 1968 at \$1,200 an acre was purchased from the Bergeson Family at a reduced price; one of the recent purchases was at \$4,500 an acre. The 25-acre tract where the Flynn Mansion, valued at \$280,000, is located was given to the Farms by the Bergeson family.

The Farms on April 30th of this year had total assets of \$1,017,000, total liabilities of \$260,000, and a net worth of \$757,000, not counting the appreciation in the value of the land since it was purchased.

Attendance at the Farms has climbed steadily since the first visitors were admitted in 1970. Last year the total attendance was 40,000.

The major purpose of Living History Farms is to tell the story of agriculture from the days of the self-sufficient pioneer farmer to the present and with a look at the future. To do this, there will eventually be three operating farms; an Orientation-Interpretation Center with an auditorium, museum and library; an area devoted to crafts; and, if plans materialize, an 1870 county-seat town with its courthouse, general store, livery stable, newspaper, blacksmith, and various offices like the doctor's and the lawyer's. This is the Living History Farms which will be located next to the Iowa Meeting House.



Office of the Governor

STATE CAPITOL
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

ROBERT D. RAY
GOVERNOR

May 29, 1974

Dr. William G. Murray
East Hall
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50010

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your letter of May 27th enclosing a copy of S-2877 the Meeting House bill which has been introduced by Senator Tower. I am delighted to know that you are scheduled to appear as a witness at the Senate Hearings on June 5th in support of the bill.

I favor the Meeting House project and am glad to endorse it. A State Meeting House in conjunction with the Living History Farms would be a great asset for Iowa.

I note that Robert Dillon, Chairman of the Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, has written Senator Jackson in support of S-2877. This is a project which should receive the support of all who are interested in preservation of our heritage and environment.

Please keep me advised of the progress of that legislation and let me know if there is anything I or my office can do to further this worthy project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Ray".
Robert D. Ray
Governor

RDR:ks

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Ames, Iowa 50010

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 31, 1974

Dr. William G. Murray
3207 Oakland
Ames, Iowa 50010

Dear Bill:

You are scheduled, I understand, to be a witness at the Senate hearings in support of the Meeting House bill, S-2877, which begin on June 5.

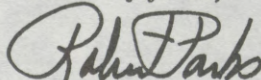
The general purpose of this bill has my support. The original initiative for the meeting house idea which came from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the acceptance of the program by the National Bicentennial Commission gives it a solid foundation.

The Iowa program for a State Meeting House is most attractive. I was pleased to see the Flynn Mansion and Barn at the Living History Farms placed on the National Register of Historic Sites and to see these two buildings designated by the Iowa Bicentennial Commission at the Meeting House for Iowa.

I consider it especially appropriate for Iowa to have a Meeting House with a farm background. The heritage of this state and its present and future are intimately tied to agriculture.

We at Iowa State University want to assist in any way that we can in furthering this worthy project.

Sincerely yours,



W. Robert Parks
President

WRP:jvp

The Honorable Henry M. Jackson
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator Jackson:

The Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission respectfully requests your support of the "Meeting House" Preservation Act (S.2877). Time is of the essence to implement Bicentennial projects, hence, the sooner this Bicentennial legislation can come out of the committee the better.

This program will be of lasting value, and provide a suitable historic facility in every state for the country's third century.

A prospectus had been submitted to the National Trust for a suitable facility in Iowa. Detailed plans are being prepared, and we will be ready to go whenever the legislation is passed. A broad base of public interest and support is already evident in this state. Private, corporate and foundation gifts have made it possible to get a good start on Iowa's Meeting House Program, and your support will make it possible to see it operational or completed by 1976.

Cordially yours,

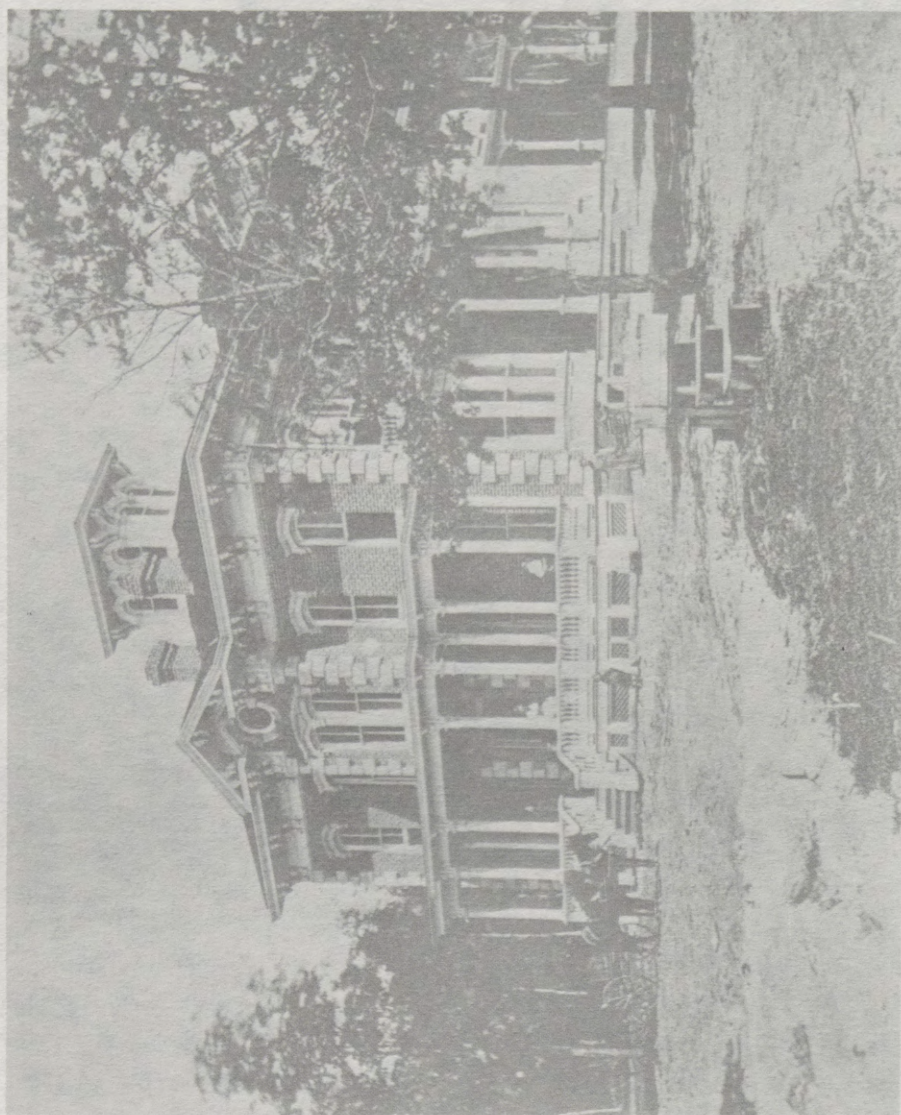
Robert W. Dillon
Chairman

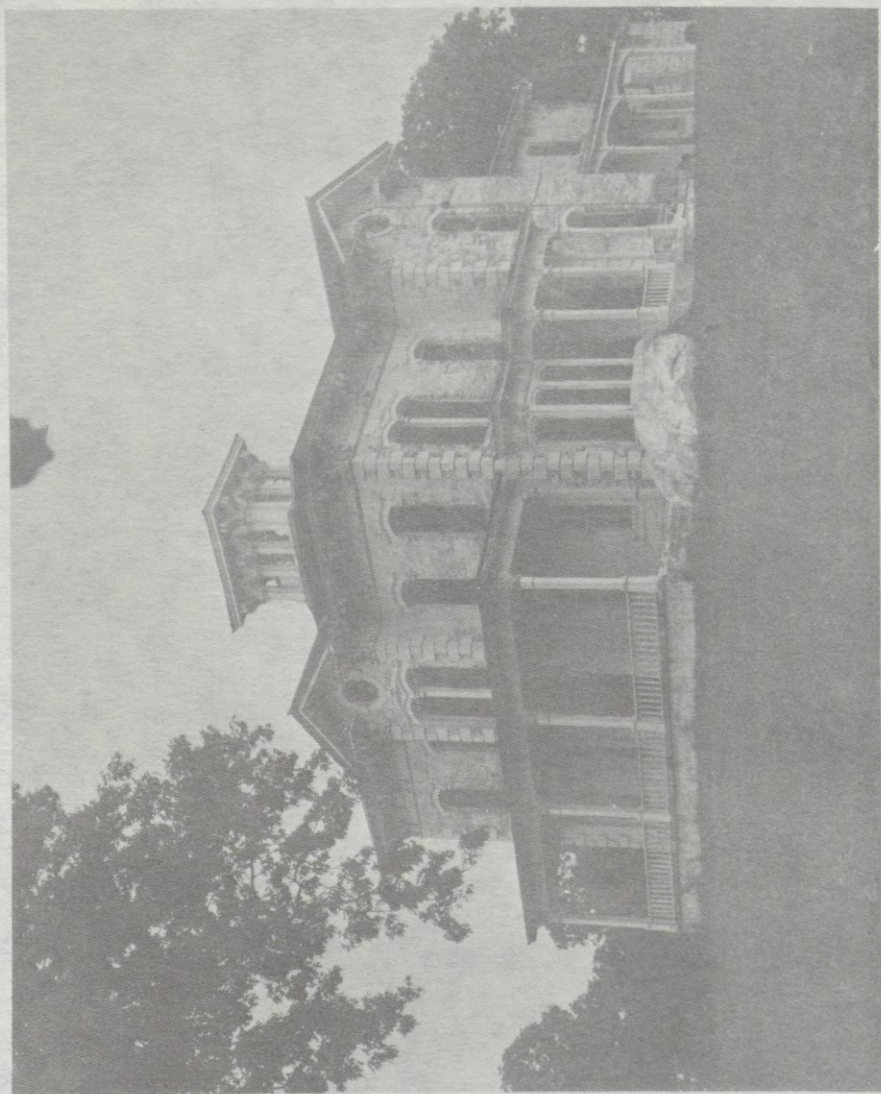
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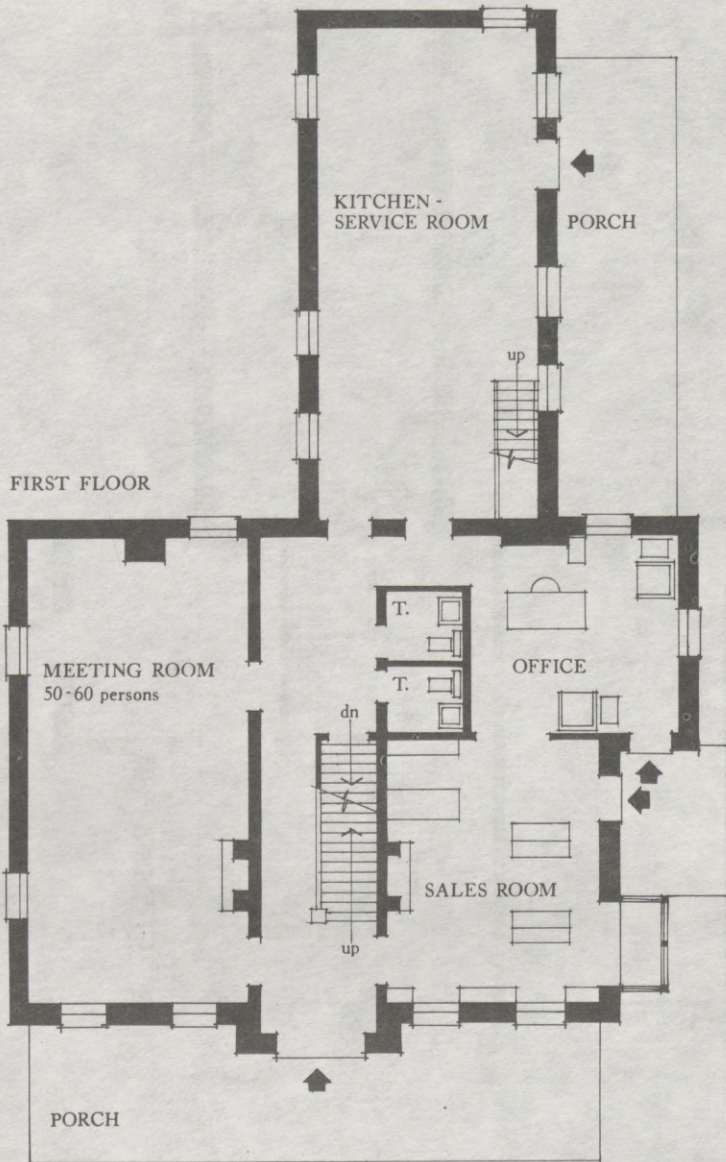


This sketch by William J. Wagner, Des Moines architect and artist, is of the Martin Flynn mansion, now a part of the Living History Farms. The old mansion, built about 1870, will become a museum, office and orientation center for visitors.

(This will be part of the Meeting House)



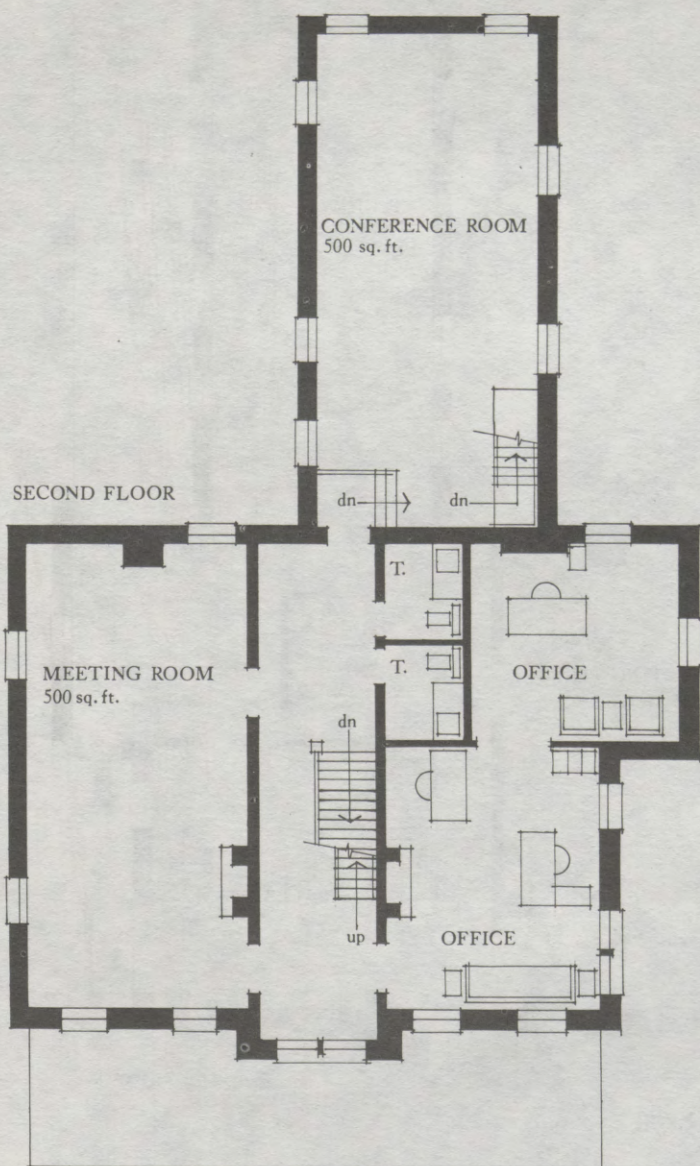




FLYNN MANSION · MEETING HOUSE 76 · LIVING HISTORY FARMS

Wagner · Marquart · Wetherell · Architects

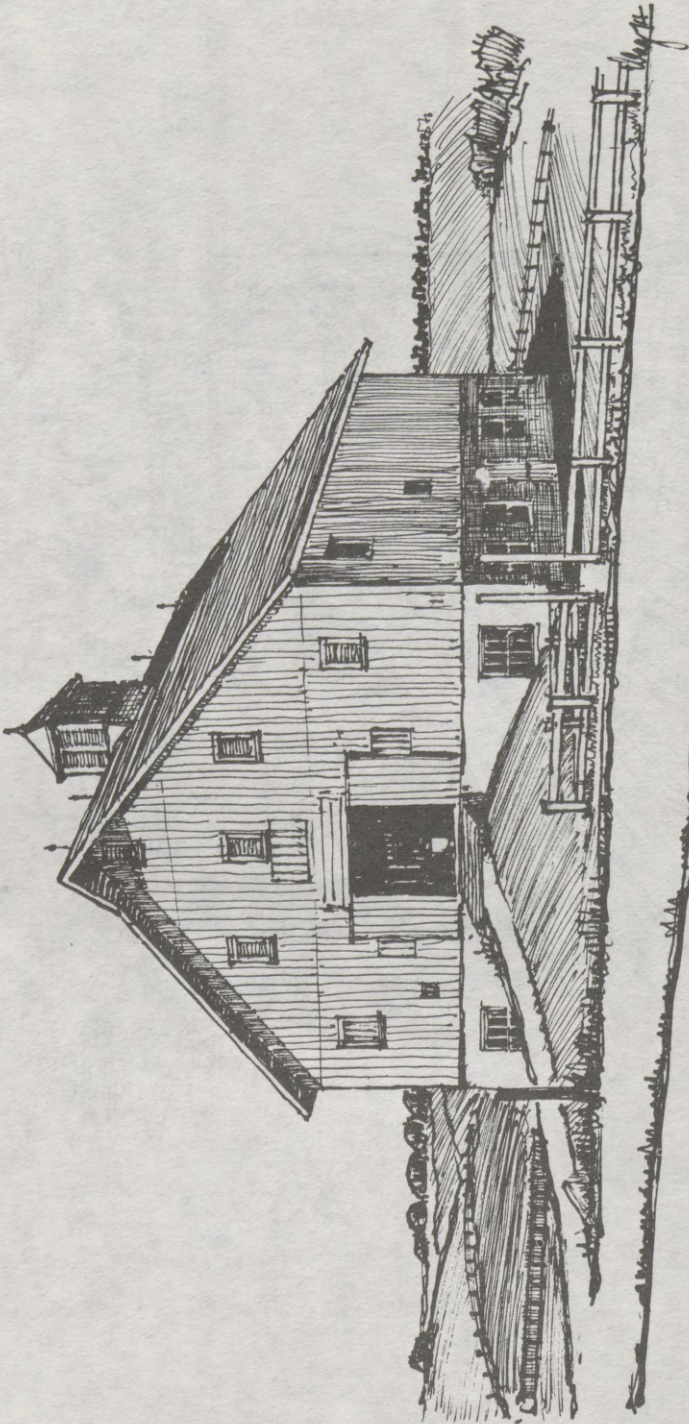
Des Moines, Iowa



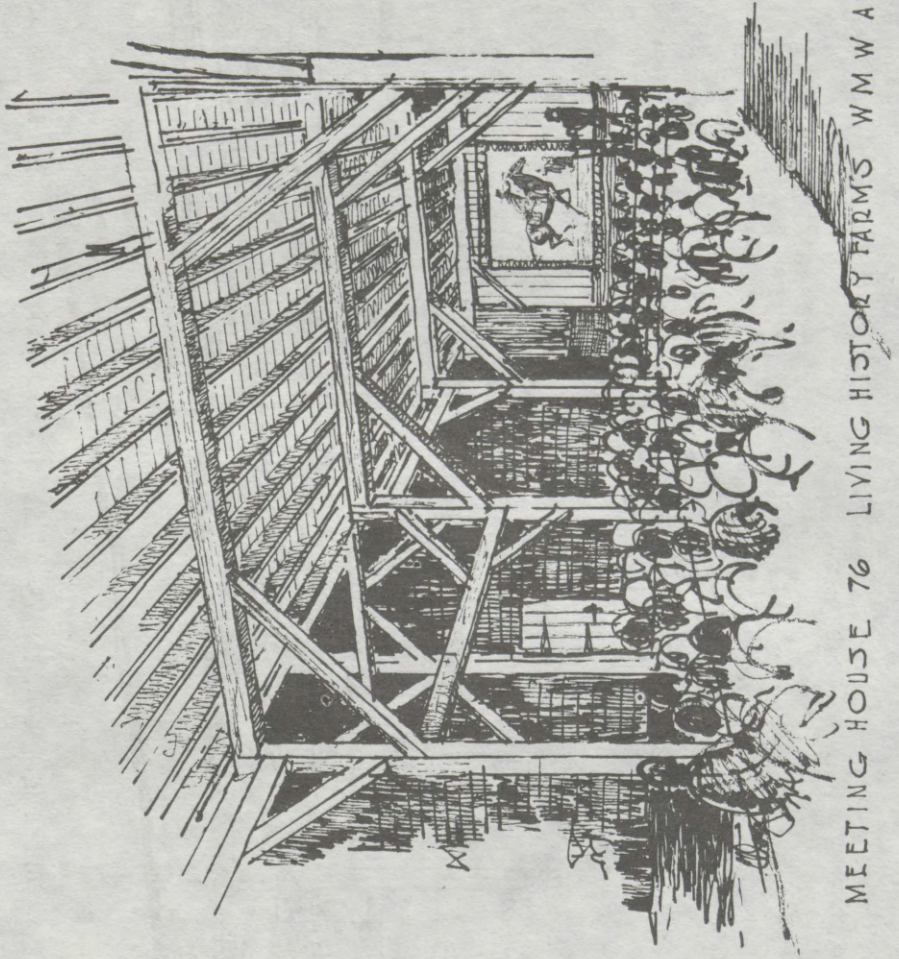
FLYNN MANSION · MEETING HOUSE 76 · LIVING HISTORY FARMS

Wagner · Marquart · Wetherell · Architects

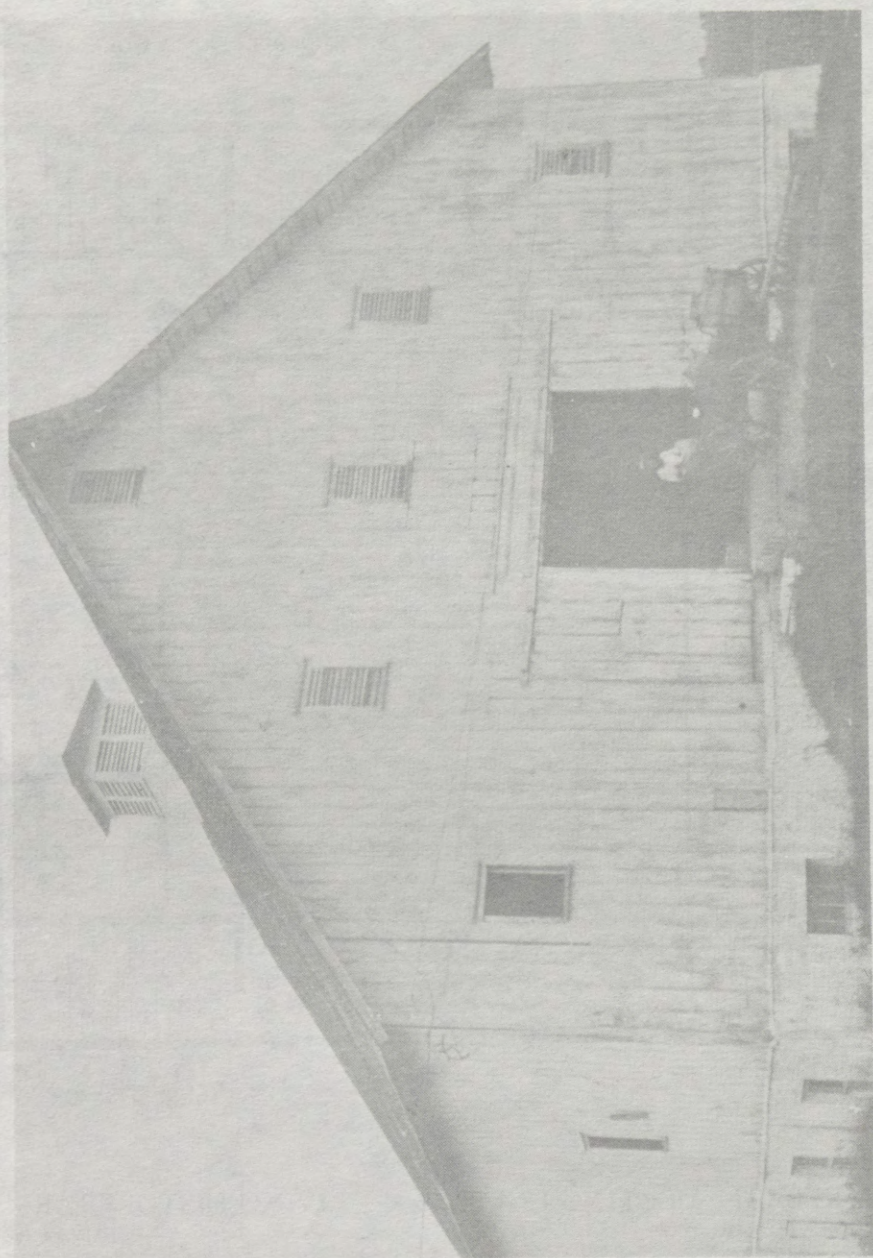
Des Moines, Iowa



MEETING HOUSE 76 LIVING HISTORY FARMS WMW ARCHT DSM

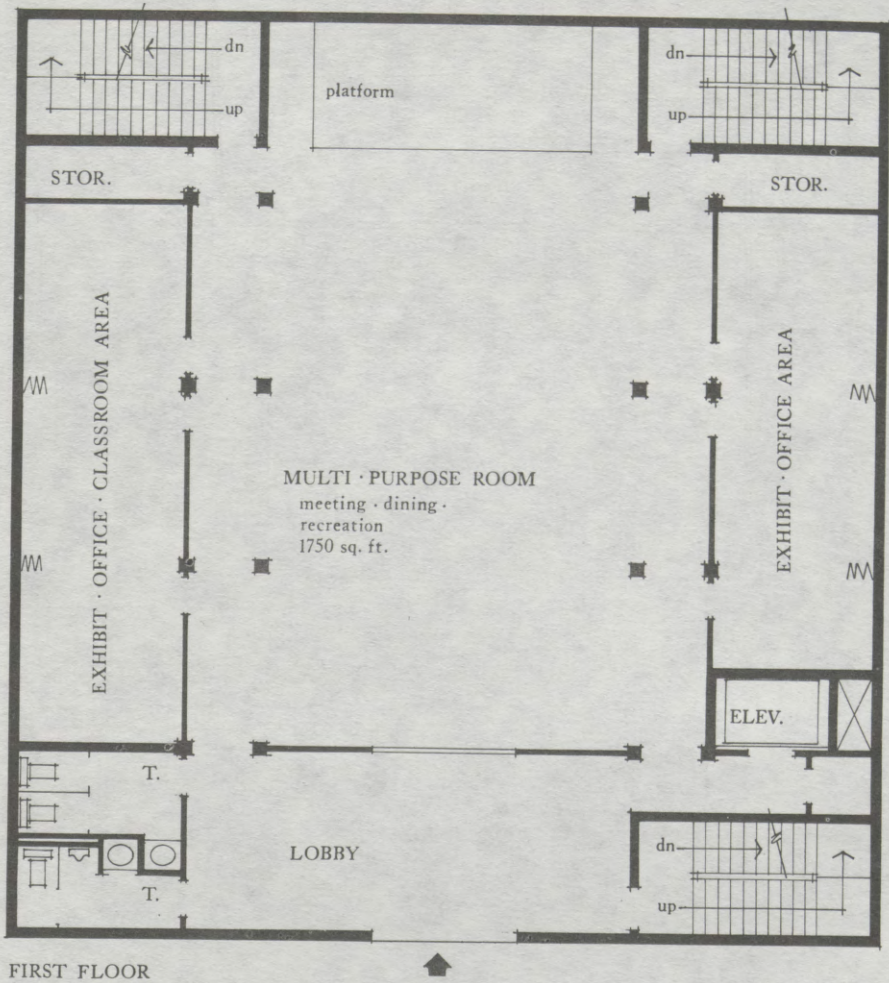


MEETING HOUSE 76 LIVING HISTORY FARM'S W M W ARCHTS D S M



Balcony Loft . . . MUSEUM EXHIBITS

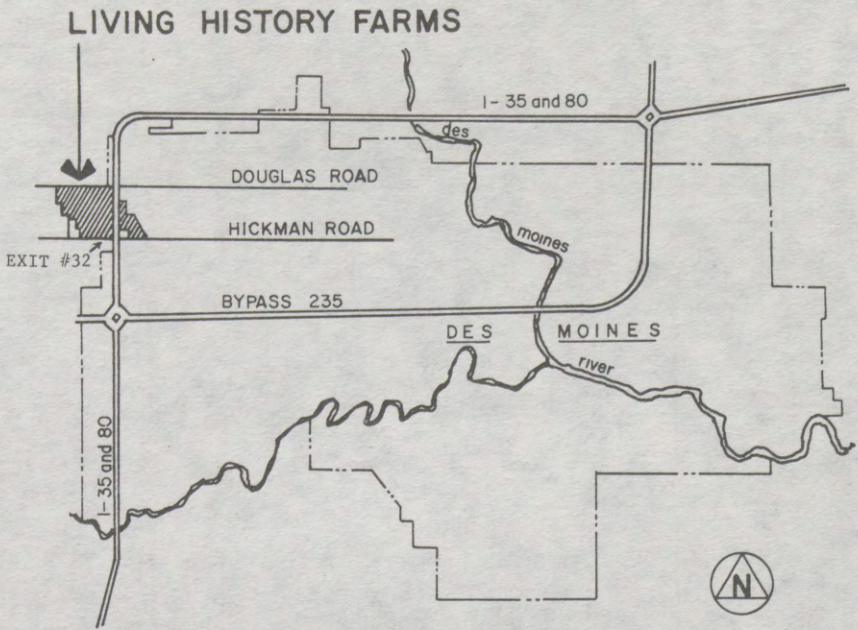
Lower Level . . . LIBRARY · RESEARCH · OFFICES · DEMONSTRATION & WORK AREA



THE BARN · MEETING HOUSE 76 · · LIVING HISTORY FARMS

Wagner · Marquart · Wetherell · Architects

Des Moines, Iowa



Location of Living History Farms at Exit No. 32 on Interstate 80 and 35



Senator BIBLE. Our next witness is Mrs. Laura Ann Rau.

STATEMENT OF LAURA ANN RAU, MAGNOLIA HOMES TOUR, INC.

Mrs. RAU. Mr. Chairman, may I have my statement included in the record?

Senator BIBLE. Certainly, without objection, the statement will be included in the record.

Mrs. RAU. I would also like to include this reference I have brought. [See p. 123.]

Senator BIBLE. Certainly.

Mrs. RAU. I would like to summarize my statement.

My name is Laura Ann Rau and I represent the Magnolia Homes Tour in Columbus, Tex.

I appear before you today on behalf of the 3,800 citizens of the central Texas community of Columbus.

We are extremely proud that Columbus has been designated by both the national and State bicentennial administrative bodies as a bicentennial community, and we are equally honored that one of the finest historic buildings in town, the Stafford Opera House, has been designated as the Heritage 1976 meeting house for the State of Texas.

The Stafford Opera House is a splendid building.

It was built in 1886, based on the design of Nicholas J. Clayton who was in his time, one of the most prolific and innovative architects ever to work in Texas.

The building belongs to the Second Empire style and was originally erected to house both the town bank and opera house.

The relative large brick structure contains a lavish mixture of architectural motifs typical of Clayton's major structures.

Its builder, R. E. "Bob" Stafford, was a millionaire cattleman, banker, and industrialist.

He erected this structure at a cost of \$50,000 and threw in an additional \$10,000 for an elaborate stage curtain wings and equipment.

The marble corner stone sets the tone for the whole of this remarkable building.

In the upper left corner of the stone is bull's head, in relief.

Entwined about the horns is a lasso. Cross-hatched lines represent hay or grass, and in the upper right corner, a hand grasps a length of rope.

Diagonally across the stone, the words "R. E. Stafford's Building" are chiseled.

Bob Stafford was a powerful man, and his magnificent building was a cultural mecca for the region surrounding Columbus.

The opera house held 1,000 seats, 600 on the main floor and 400 in the balcony.

Its opening production featured the famous Miss Lillian Russell in a play entitled "As in a Looking Glass."

Specially chartered trains carried fashionably dressed people from surrounding towns for the three night run of Miss Russell's daring and sophisticated drama which was, of course, a tremendous success.

In 1916, with declining interest in typical opera house fare, the Stafford Opera House closed.

In 1918, it reopened, but with a very ignominious role indeed, for it had become the home of the first Ford agency in town.

It continued in this use for decades. The upper floor was leased to a roller skating business in the 1940's and later the spacious stage area was converted into six apartments.

The somewhat shabby circumstances into which the building had fallen did not, however, mask its architectural quality.

In 1969, under the auspices of the Texas Historical commission, the building was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.

In 1973, it was entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1972, the Stafford House was given the possibility of becoming something besides the local Ford agency when it was acquired by the prestigious Magnolia Homes Tour of Columbus.

At this point, it might be well to briefly give the credentials of the Magnolia Homes Tour and explain why it is so fortunate that the opera house was purchased by them.

In 1961, 10 perceptive people met together for the purpose of establishing an organization whose goal would be to preserve the culture, traditions, and heritage of Columbus.

They also hoped to promote tourism and give the town a much needed economic boost.

Thus the Magnolia Homes Tour was born.

There is no question that these 10 were justified in regarding their town's history as of paramount importance, for Columbus had its beginning as part of Stephen F. Austin's original "Municipality of Colorado" in 1823.

For those of you who are not intimately familiar with the history of Texas, we should explain that Stephen F. Austin is the Father of Texas and that his name is well known and loved by generations of our school children as that of John Smith or George Washington.

His colonies, there were two, stand on a level with those of Jamestown or Plymouth, at least as far as Texas is concerned.

With this notable historic background in mind, in 1961, the Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc., decided to open four century-old homes for an afternoon pilgrimage in conjunction with the annual spring art show which was being held on the county courthouse lawn.

From this modest beginning, the Magnolia Homes Tour has increased in size and scope over the years to the point where thousands of visitors come every May to visit the many fine Classical Revival and Victorian homes which they have acquired and painstakingly restored.

The 13th tour, which just drew to a successful conclusion, featured buggy and surrey rides, sidewalk cafes, a historical skit, and a combination antique show-and-sale, which blended wonderfully with the pilgrimage of historic homes.

No person was left uninvolved with the heritage of Columbus that weekend.

In addition, there was a melodrama, antique car races, and a country bazaar featuring home-canned preserves and other foods, real old-time soap, homemade ice cream, and delicious pastries.

The businessmen of the town pitched in enthusiastically with window displays of historic items relating to their particular business and many of the young ladies were persuaded to attire themselves in antebellum costumes to lend an appropriate "historical" atmosphere to the festivities.

One has a sense, walking about the streets of Columbus during the days of the tour, that were it stripped of automobiles, telephone poles, and other accouterments of modern civilization, it would closely resemble any small community in the United States during the time of the American Revolution.

This, in brief, gives you an overview of the town, its most noteworthy building, and the driving force behind its absorption in early Texas heritage.

What has been accomplished so far has been almost solely the result of local initiative and local money.

Up to this point, Columbus has paid her own way.

But Columbus is a small town, and her financial resources are not unlimited.

The cost of building materials and labor and increasing exponentially and with them, the cost of restoring historic buildings.

We estimated in 1973 that the cost of restoring and revamping the Stafford Opera House would be \$308,000.

Undoubtedly by this time, the very substantial figure has increased.

The burden of raising so large an amount of money would put a tremendous strain on the financial resources of Columbus, especially considering that investment in the restoration and preservation of the numerous other houses owned by the Magnolia Homes Tour is already significant.

We are not at all certain that Columbus could singlehandedly finance the total rehabilitation of the opera house, but we are sure that, given her expertise, she could direct a proper and authentic restoration were funds to be forthcoming from another source.

The other source which we have in mind is, of course, the meeting-house preservation act.

We appear here today to support the passage of this act, for the sake of the Stafford Opera House and the 49 other historic buildings like it which could be preserved across this country if the Congress should see fit to enact this legislation.

If this should come about, the people of Texas would have a centrally located meetingplace where they could assemble to discuss and implement the preservation of their tangible indigenous heritage.

They would further have an architecturally important structure to stand as an illustration of the best possible techniques used in historic restoration.

The grand hall of the opera house would be reconstructed for use by symphonies, opera and ballet touring companies, and by theatrical groups.

It could be used, as well, by the local little theater and school organizations, and by the people of our town as a ballroom and banquet or reception hall.

Areas on the ground floor would provide space for the continuing promotion of the heritage of Columbus.

The Magnolia Homes Tour and the Chamber of Commerce would be housed here.

Space for arts and crafts classes and showings would be available, and county archives and records could also be maintained for ready use here.

Finally, a restaurant and coffee shop would round out the variety of enterprises and activities planned for the building.

For the sake of the Stafford Opera House, the people of Columbus, and their counterparts across the United States, I would urge the members of the committee to give serious consideration to appropriating funds to carry out the purposes of S. 2877.

If moneys are not allocated for this act, it will never be more than a good intention, and 50 buildings of great historic value may languish and eventually crumble because of the "benign neglect" that was unfortunately afforded them.

[Statement of Mrs. Rau and material submitted for the record follows:]

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR
AND INSULAR AFFAIRS, UNITED STATES SENATE, JUNE 5, 1974

STATEMENT OF MRS. R. F. RAU, REPRESENTING THE MAGNOLIA HOMES
TOUR, INC.

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee, my name is Laura Ann Rau and I am representing the Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc., in Columbus, Texas, of which my husband, R. F. Rau, is president.

I appear before you today on behalf of the 3800 citizens of the Central Texas community of Columbus. We are extremely proud that Columbus has been designated by both the national and state Bicentennial administrative bodies as a Bicentennial Community, and we are equally honored that one of the finest historic buildings in town--the Stafford Opera House--has been designated as the Heritage '76 Meeting House for the state of Texas.

The Stafford Opera House is a splendid building. It was built in 1886, based on the design of Nicholas J. Clayton who was in his time one of the most prolific and innovative architects ever to work in Texas. The building belongs to the Second Empire style and was originally erected to house

both the town bank and opera house. The relatively large brick structure contains a lavish mixture of architectural motifs typical of Clayton's major structures.

Its builder--R. E. "Bob" Stafford--was a millionaire cattleman, banker, and industrialist. He erected this structure at a cost of \$50 000, and threw in an additional \$10,000 for an elaborate stage curtain, wings, and equipment.

The marble corner stone sets the tone for the whole of this remarkable building. In the upper left corner of the stone is bull's head, in relief. Entwined about the horns is a lasso. Cross-hatched lines represent hay or grass, and in the upper right corner, a hand grasps a length of rope. Diagonally across the stone, the words "R. E. Stafford's Building" are chiseled.

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The somewhat shabby circumstances into which the building had fallen did not, however, mask its architectural quality. In 1969, under the auspices of the Texas Historical Commission, the building was designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. In 1973 it was entered on the National Register of Historic Places.

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With this notable historic background in mind, in 1961 the Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc., decided to open four century-old homes for an afternoon pilgrimage in conjunction with the annual spring art show which was being held on the county courthouse lawn.

From this modest beginning, the Magnolia Homes Tour has increased in size and scope over the years to the point where thousands of visitors come every May to visit the many fine Classical Revival and Victorian homes which they have acquired and painstakingly restored.

The thirteenth tour, which just drew to a successful conclusion, featured buggy and surrey rides, sidewalk cafes, a historical skit, and a combination antique show-and-sale, which blended wonderfully with the pilgrimage of historic homes. No person was left uninvolved with the heritage of Columbus that weekend. In addition, there was a melodrama, antique car races, and a country bazaar featuring home-canned preserves and other foods, real old-time lye soap, home-made ice cream, and delicious pastries.

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poles, and other accouterments of modern civilization, it would closely resemble any small community in the United States during the time of the American Revolution.

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But Columbus is a small town, and her financial resources are not unlimited. The cost of building materials and labor and increasing exponentially and with them, the cost of restoring historic buildings. We estimated in 1973 that the cost of restoring and revamping the Stafford Opera House would be \$308,000. Undoubtedly by this time, that very substantial figure has increased. The burden of raising so large an amount of money would put a tremendous strain on the financial resources of Columbus, especially considering that investment in the restoration and preservation of the numerous other houses owned by the Magnolia Homes Tour is already significant.

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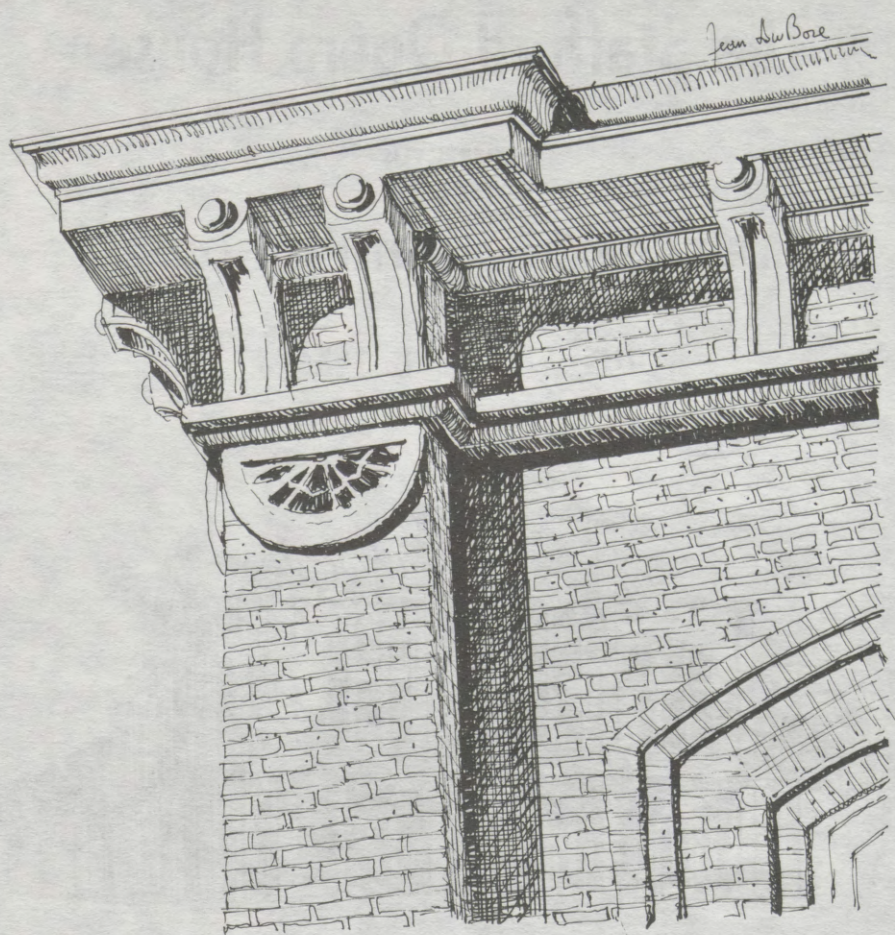
The Stafford Opera House

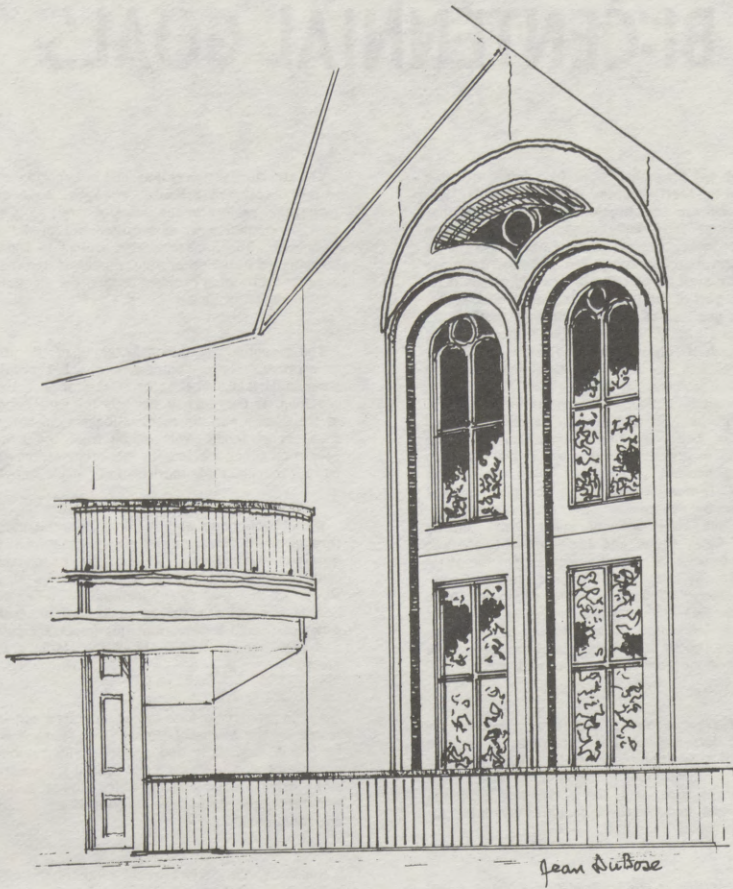
A
PROSPECTUS
FOR

HERITAGE '76 "MEETING HOUSE"

FOR
THE STATE OF TEXAS







BI-CENTENNIAL GOALS

Although the Magnolia Home Tour, Inc., was able to acquire the Stafford Opera House on July 31, 1972, the Tour officers and directors are well aware that the restoration is an undertaking of vast proportions due to the many aspects of education, restoration, and preservation involved. The building itself, as well as the area in which it is located, makes it an important part of the Heritage of the State of Texas. Columbus was one of the three original settlements of Stephen F. Austin in Texas. The first celebration of the Fourth of July in Texas was held in the Columbus Community on the 50th Anniversary of the American Revolution on July 4, 1826. According to historians, early settlers came as far as 70 miles to the Celebration. As quoted in "Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas by John Henry Brown, "there was to be a primitive barbeque on the Colorado (River) at Beson's, seven miles below the present Columbus. It was agreed among the pilgrims that they must be represented, not with standing the distance was about seventy miles. Bazil Durbin, John and Betsy Oliver and Jack, son of Shade and Anise, were selected as the delegates. On the afternoon of Sunday, July 2nd, this party left on horseback for Beson's." This was the delegation from what is now DeWitt County. The people of this region of the state celebrated the anniversary of the founding of these United States, therefore, long before the territory became part of this great nation.

With this same spirit and determination, the Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc., proposes to begin a program of restoration of the Stafford Opera House to be able to accommodate, social and educational activities, the Fine Arts, the performing Arts and Tourism, and to have these facilities available for the Bi-Centennial Year 1976.

The restoration of the Stafford Opera House would fulfill the needs of the region for a "Central Focus" for participation in conservation and preservation activities through the years as well as provide facilities for these activities during the Bi-Centennial Years. The project occupies a pivotal location on the Colorado County Square in the old central business district of Columbus. This location, in the heart of the community, will afford daily accessibility for the public, so that the participation of Bi-Centennial related and Bi-Centennial sponsored activities can make a major impact on the life of the community and its visitors.

The structure which is a second in importance only to the County Court House, will serve as a model restoration project to the public as well as a showcase of education in restoration and preservation techniques. The impact of this project is hoped to be reflected in the generating of interest and activity in other restoration projects in this, the oldest anglo settled region of Texas.

The magnitude of the undertaking of the project is enormous for a community of 3,800 people to solely undertake. The benefits of this project are far reaching, as they include not only full time residents of the County and the surrounding region, but great numbers of people who escape from the adjacent congested urban centers, to this relatively unspoiled rural community for tourism and "weekending".

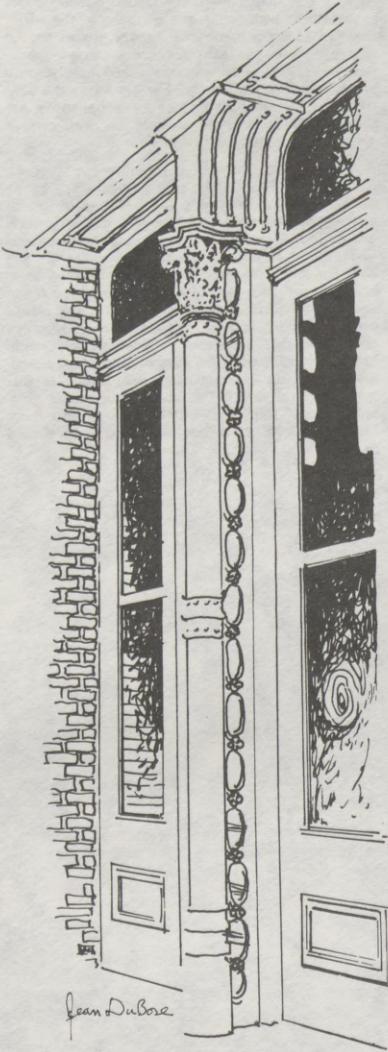
While community and regional financial support, through small donations and private grants, has been generous, the project needs the type of assistance it could receive as being designated the '76 Meeting House of the American Revolution Bi-Centennial Commission. This program could assume that all American could benefit from this important cultural and architectural land mark of the Nation's Patrimony.

As the property will be owned, operated and maintained by the Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc., it would be left in financially and professionally responsible management. The "Tour" has proved it's ability for many years in other projects which it owns, manages, maintains, and staffs from its trained self contributing membership.

Hopefully, the project would recreate the type of cultural experiences which occurred in the late 19th Century. This National Register property as a viable housing for the Arts would allow this region to participate in the outstanding endeavors of artistic productions which will tour these United States as a part of Festival '76, U. S. A.

With the completion of the restoration of the Stafford Opera House, and its use as a community cultural center, the outstanding structure could continue to serve as a backdrop for the future cultural life of this region.

History of Columbus and Magnolia Homes Tour



The Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc., is now in its twelfth year. In 1961, ten perceptive people met for the purpose of establishing an organization whose goal would be to preserve the culture, tradition and heritage indigenous to Columbus. They also hoped to promote tourism that would give the town a much needed economic boost.

This town of 3,600 people, located 70 miles west of Houston at the hub of Interstate 10, Highway 90 and Highway 71, was very much a part of early Texas history. Columbus had its beginning when it was included in Stephen F. Austin's original "Municipality of Colorado" in 1823. On August 5 of that same year, Baron de Bastrop ordered the provisional alcalde, James Cummings, to proceed with Don Stephen F. Austin to organize the colonial establishment which the Mexican government had granted to the empresario Austin in his province for 300 Louisiana families. The Baron added that Austin was to be given complete jurisdiction over the colonists, was to establish a regiment of national militia and was to be in command of it with the rank of lieutenant colonel. Austin was also to be responsible for administering justice, the preservation of good order, and the defense of the nation to which he and his colonists belonged.

* * *

At a special meeting held on August 9 at the home of Sylvanus Castleman, Cummings was instructed to collect the inhabitants of the district so that they could be told of the "new order" and especially of the position and duties that had been assigned to Stephen F. Austin, emphasizing that they were to obey whatever Austin might order relative to the public service of the district. The Baron ended his decree to James Cummings with these words:

"God preserve you for many years."

(Written) at Castleman's, August 5, 1823.

Also, in 1823, W. B. Dewees, said to be the founder of the town of Columbus, married a daughter of Leander Beason, they built a house, and soon were joined by other families.

From these dramatic beginnings Columbus survived the Texas Revolution, including General Sam Houston burning the town during his famed Runaway Scrape; the early days of the Republic; early state-

hood as part of the United States; succession and Civil War; the yellow fever epidemic of 1873, and other vicissitudes. It officially for the first time became incorporated as a town on August 22, 1866.

* * *

During the 1860's, '70's and '80's the town grew and prospered; industries and businesses were established; cattlemen grew rich; farmers made a good living from the land; a railroad was built; people built homes. Some were small and charming cottages. Many were elegant and elaborate mansions in the Victorian style. All were distinctive.

The various houses that have been shown each year by the Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc., have been continuously lived in, refurbished when needed, and enjoyed and used in their original locality. We feel that this is a decided historical distinction, making for architectural authenticity and giving real evidence of the lifestyle of all the people who have called them "home".

It would seem, then, that the closing words of that long ago decree by the Baron de Bastrop, "God preserve you for many years," inadvertently became a kind of blessing bestowed upon Columbus itself and upon its historic houses and other buildings.

* * *

With this historic background in mind, in 1961 the Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc., decided to open four century-old homes for an afternoon in conjunction with the Live Oak Art Club's annual spring art show on the court house lawn. From this modest beginning, the Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc., has increased in size and scope and has thousands of visitors each third week-end in May, a full schedule of activities, with a number of civic, school, and church organizations and over 700 individuals cooperating to put on the affair. It is entirely self-sustaining and has four types of memberships, plus profits from each annual tour, and occasional individual donations.

Many other activities have come a part of the Tour weekend. There is "something for everyone", from buggy and surrey rides, sidewalk cafes, antique show and sale with approximately thirty dealers showing their wares, historical skit under the Court Oak, and music on the square. Every year there is also an old-fashioned local talent melodrama where the audience can "boo and hiss" the villain to their heart's content. Magnolia Belles in antebellum costume stroll about the court house lawn, smiling coquettishly as they carry out their hostess duties. There are antique car races by horseless carriage clubs from neighboring cities, window displays by local merchants of a variety of antique relics, all worthy of any museum.

Many of the businessmen have further entered into the spirit of things and have redecorated the fronts of their buildings in the picturesque style of the old days. In so doing they have helped immeasurably to contribute both profit and pleasure to the whole area. In addition, there is a country bazaar on the square, where you can buy home canned goods, pastries, cakes, bazaar items, real old-time lye soap and home-made ice cream. For art lovers the Live Oak Art Club continues to have its annual spring art show on the court house grounds too, with awards given in a number of categories.

The houses that have been shown by the Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc., in the past 12 years are by no means the only old homes and buildings of special interest in Columbus. If one will drive or walk around town leisurely, not only on the third weekend in May, but on any other day of the year, he will have the fun of discovering them for himself. Some are in good repair and are architecturally sound and beautiful or quaint just as they are. A few others need help badly, and one can almost hear them cry out, "Save me! Save me!". Even these, though, are a very real part of the aura of history and charm that can't help but stir one's imagination in this very old Texas town! Perhaps in future years Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc. will be able to turn these "ugly ducklings" back into the "swans" they used to be.

History of

The Stafford Opera House

It was opening night at last at the Stafford Opera House! The year was 1886. For months Columbus people had watched, fascinated with the progress of the elaborate building under construction, R.E. (Bob) Stafford's building, the first floor to house his bank; the second floor, an opulent theater. Even the marble cornerstone had been laid.

It was unusual, probably unique. In the upper left corner a steer's head had been chiseled, a lasso looped over its horns. Underneath were some criss-crossed lines resembling grass or hay. In the upper right corner, a hand holding a short piece of the rope. In the lower left corner, N. J. Clayton, Archt. had been etched. In the lower right corner, J. F. Taman, Supt., and diagonally across the center was "R. E. Stafford's building." Under this, straight across, was the date, 1886.

The opening of the opera house was the topic of the day! On that grand opening night, discussed and prepared for all those months, "the play" was indeed the thing! Excitement was in the air, as people began filling the 1,000 seats, 600 on the floor, 400 in the balcony. Everyone was dressed in their most elegant formal attire, the men in white tie, the women wearing their most elaborate and fashionable evening gowns and their finest jewels. The huge chandelier, 15 feet in diameter and composed of 60 jets of light produced by burning artificial gas made with compressed gasoline vapor, brilliantly illuminated the festive scene. Everyone was gaily laughing and chatting, nodding and bowing to friends and acquaintances. Then came the sudden hush, that breathless moment when the curtain rose, and the audience caught their first glimpse of the famous and fabled Miss Lillian Russell, the star of the sophisticated and daring play, "As In a Looking Glass"!

* * *

R. E. Stafford, (1834-1890), millionaire cattleman, banker, and industrialist built "his building" at a cost of \$50,000 plus an additional \$10,000 for the curtain, wings, and stage equipment. It was built on the northwest corner of what is now Spring and Milam Streets. Mr. Stafford's three-story home adjoined the opera house, and it is said that he could watch the stage from his bedroom. It has also been

said that the interest in music of the Masonic Lodge, Caledonia Lodge No. 68, was the moving cause behind the construction of the opera house.

* * *

Architecturally, this structure has been described as a better work of Nicholas J. Clayton, Galveston architect of the 1880's. It is of the Second Empire Period. The first floor front facade is composed of cast metal Corinthian Order columns with a 14-foot cypress and glass doors and transoms. The brick work used four colors of highly detailed Roman and Byzantine relief. The second story window fenestration is highly detailed in brick of interlaced and compound arches.

The mansard roof has ventilating gables of ornate metal detail. All roof forms of the brick walls are still intact and complete with all projecting Cornice, Frieze, and Modillions. All metal work for the interior columns of the first floor as well as exterior thresholds, columns, and lintels (basso-relieve) were cast in the Galveston Foundry in 1886. The second floor grand hall is spanned with heavy timber trusses. Gracefully curved metal canopies at the second floor level, covering the brick walls, were an original part of the building.

The bricks were hand made on the Quinn Walker place on Skull Creek, near Columbus. Quinn Walker was R. E. Stafford's son-in-law, having been married to Julia Augusta Stafford in 1874. The stage curtain was hand painted in oils, one of two done at the same time by a nationally known artist. The other one hung in the Hancock Opera House in Austin, until it went the way of the bulldozer a number of years ago to make room for the Hancock Shopping Center.

The eventual fate of the Stafford Opera House curtain was equally final but infinitely more dramatic. In 1916 E. C. Guilmartin bought the building from Mrs. Ike T. Pryor, another daughter of Bob Stafford. In a fit of rage at the people of Columbus he rushed in one day and tore down the curtain, ran out and threw it over his hog pens. The reason for his anger was that someone in the north part of town where he lived had poisoned his prized bird dog.

During the active show business years, 1886-1916, a large variety of the best plays and other forms of entertainment that came to Texas were shown in

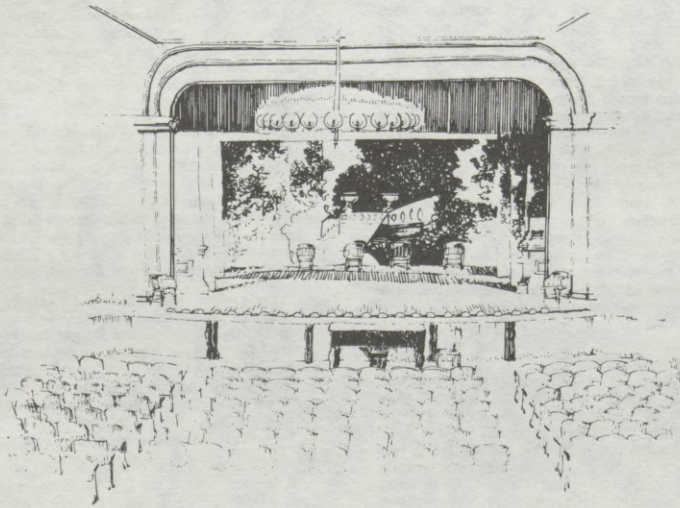
the opera house, Columbus being in a circuit with Houston, Galveston, San Antonio, Austin, Waco, Dallas, and El Paso. Some of the better known entertainers in addition to Lillian Russell who "trode the boards" here were Joe Jefferson, Emma Abbott, Alba and Dewey Heywood, Paul Kauer (a young Al Jolson), Creston Clarke in "Hamlet," Houdini, the Mexican Tipica Orchestra (conducted by Juventino Rosas), the Mac Collin Company of New York, Porter J. White and Company, and many others.

When the opera house curtain fell on its last theatrical performance, and then suddenly in 1916 met with its ignominious fate in a hog pen, Bob Stafford's building began a new chapter in its long life. The second floor opera house was leaving behind forever the extravagant elegance of the Victorian era, as it began to join the commercial world of the twentieth century.

After Mr. Guilmartin bought the building, he and a Mr. Davis in 1918 opened the first Ford agency in Columbus. The Ford agency changed hands

again, probably somewhere in the late '20's or early '30's, when a Mr. Meinert had the agency. In 1941, A. W. Willrodt bought the building, and in 1944 Mr. Meinert sold the agency to H. P. Meyer. For awhile Mr. Willrodt leased the upstairs to a roller skating business. Later, he put in and rented six apartments in the stage area of the second floor. When Mr. Meyer bought the building in 1960, he began to use the upstairs for storage. Mr. Meyer operated the Ford agency, designated as The Meyer Motor Company, for twenty-seven years. He sold the business to Don Morrison in 1971, and the building to the Magnolia Homes Tour in 1972.

In 1969 under the auspices of the John Everett Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, the State Historical Survey Committee placed an official historical medallion on "R. E. Stafford's Building," for the purpose of commemorating it as a fine example of Victorian architecture and as a permanent reminder of the grandeur of the "golden days" of its long and varied history.



Nicholas J. Clayton

On December 8, 1872 a rather reserved young man arrived in Galveston from Memphis, Tennessee. He had dark brown curly hair, blue eyes, and a moustache. Although somewhat stout, he made a nice appearance in his tailored suit, stiffly starched white shirt, and a bow tie.

The young man's name was Nicholas Joseph Clayton; he was an architect, and he had been sent to Galveston by the firm of Jones and Baldwin to supervise the construction of a new Tremont Hotel, the old one having been destroyed by fire in 1869. He had also been recommended by Mr. Baldwin to supervise the construction of the Presbyterian Church, which has been carefully maintained throughout the years and is still in use by the present congregation.

Thus began the career of Nicholas J. Clayton, advertised "Earliest Established Architect in the State" of Texas, whose specialty was "difficult construction." He was born in Cork, Ireland on November 1, 1840, and at the age of two, he and his widowed mother had immigrated to Cincinnati, Ohio to live with an uncle, Daniel Crowley.

Since young Nicholas had shown an artistic bent, he was given the opportunity to develop what was to be the foundation of his life's work by studying with a sculptor in Cincinnati. His training was interrupted by his service in the Navy of the United States during the Civil War. After the war was over, he was apprenticed to Jones and Baldwin, where he studied architecture, construction engineering, and sculpturing, under the special tutelage of W. L. Baldwin.

When Clayton arrived in Galveston, he was expecting to remain only long enough to finish his assignments, and he began these immediately with characteristic enthusiasm and precision. As the weeks passed, he found that he liked Galveston so well that he decided to establish himself there as a professional architect.

Following this decision, Clayton's first big project was to design and supervise the building of the office for Block, Oppenheimer, and Company on the Strand in 1873. The 44 years that followed included a variety of commercial, educational, residential, public, church and church-related buildings, plus a number of specialized structures. Most of these were in Galveston, but many of them were in other Texas cities and also in cities in other states. He used

numerous styles or architecture in his buildings, sometimes combining several in one building, but no matter how it was designed, the building was always unmistakably Clayton's.

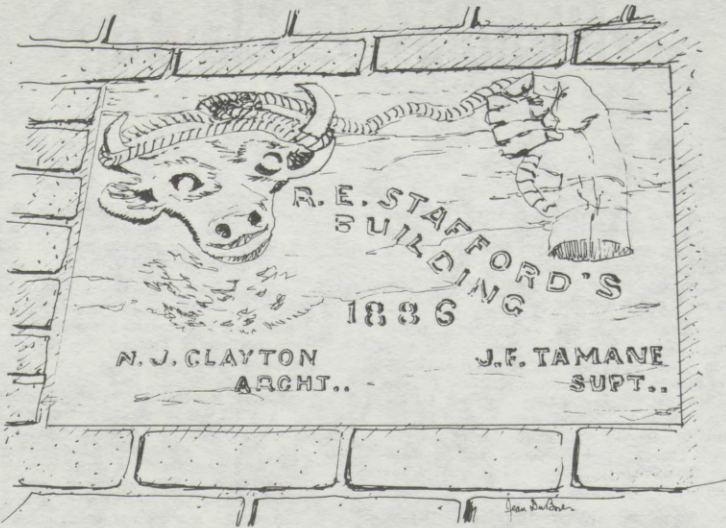
So good was his professional reputation that in 1885 Clayton became a member of the Western Association of Architects and a fellow in the American Institute of Architects in 1889 when the two organizations became one.

Clayton was skilled, sure of his ideas and of his talents. He was painstaking to the most minute detail, and his plans and drawings both for himself and for those who worked under him were as exact as he could make them. A perfectionist, yet he was never harsh in his criticism of others. About the worst epithet he ever hurled at anyone who had turned out a poor piece of workmanship was to call him a "muttonhead," and then saw to it that the mistakes were corrected if possible. Clayton was so thorough that he frequently modeled initial pieces or ornamental sculpture for his churches to be used as patterns for his builders. He became a familiar sight, climbing around to inspect buildings under construction, bow tie in place, and his naturally ruddy complexion becoming even ruddier in the Galveston sun.

As Clayton grew older, his hair turned steel gray, and he wore it longer. He still dressed well but discarded the bow tie in favor of a black silk four-in-hand. He is said to have resembled Mark Twain in his later years.

Though Clayton's work encompassed many kinds of buildings, churches were his true delight. He sometimes was observed absent-mindedly "doodling" altars, church windows, and steeples. Galveston churches or church-related buildings he had a hand in, either in whole or in part, in addition to those already named, were: Sacred Heart (des. 1900); Eaton Chapel of Trinity Episcopal (in use today); Grace Episcopal Church; the Henry Cohen Community House at the old Temple B'nai Israel; Ursuline Chapel: "the sublime" Ursuline Convent (1891), so badly damaged by Hurricane Carla in 1961 that it had to be replaced.

A few other well-known Galveston Clayton buildings were: The Beach Hotel (1883, des. by fire 1899); the old John Sealy Hospital (1889); the old St. Mary's Infirmary (1874); the old Galveston County Court House (1898); Garten Verein (c. 1876); the old Ball



High School, except for the wings (1884); Trueheart-Adriance building (1882), now owned by the Centre on the Strand; the old Galveston News building (1884); Ashbel Smith building, better known as "Old Red" to countless doctors and medical students throughout the state; the Electric Pavilion (1881, a bathhouse, first building in Texas to have electricity, des. by fire 1883); numerous residences, including the Lasker house (1889); J. C. League residence; supervising architect for the George Sealy house for McKim's design, New York (1887-92); and of course the best-known residence of them all, the Walter Gresham house, designated as the Bishop's Palace since 1923 when the Galveston-Houston Diocese of the Catholic Church bought it as a residence for the late Bishop Christopher Byrne. In 1956 the A.I.A. recognized this magnificent building as one of the 100 most outstanding structures in the United States.

Some of the Clayton buildings in other Texas cities and in other states were: the Stafford Opera House, Columbus (1886); St. Edward's University, Austin (1903); the Driskill Hotel, Austin; additions to St. Mary's Cathedral, Austin (1907); Sacred Heart Cathedral, Dallas (1907); churches in Houston, Beaumont, Sherman, Waco; convents in Bryan, Corsicana, and other Texas cities; re-building the dome on the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Galveston (1915), on the

present cathedral that was replaced after the 1900 hurricane (not Clayton's work); other structures in Shreveport, Baton Rouge, and Jeanerette, all in Louisiana; Macon, Georgia; Tampa, Florida.

This gifted architect's brilliant career came to an end when he died December 9, 1916. Mrs. Clayton continued to live in the home they had shared until her death in 1944. For quite awhile, after her husband died, she constantly expressed her concern about having a fitting monument erected for him. One day Galveston's beloved and renowned Rabbi Henry Cohen, settled this worry for her in his own inimitable way. "Oh, you don't need one, my dear Mrs. Clayton," he told her. "He's got them all over town. Just go around and read some cornerstones!"

Columbus people are justifiably proud that the historic Stafford Opera House, originally owned by R. E. Stafford, now by the Magnolia Homes Tour and present home of Don Morrison Ford Company, has the right to be included in such a distinguished collection of "monuments." We are indeed privileged to be able to "go around and read" at least one cornerstone upon which is inscribed the name, N. J. Clayton, Archt.

We would like to share this privilege with you. Won't you come and see it for yourself!

A Look Ahead...

Plans for Restoration

The acquisition of the Stafford Opera House by Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc., marked another major milestone in the organization's growth since its inception in 1961.

Detailed plans for restoration of the building had been professionally studied for almost a year before the actual purchase in July, 1972. Since that time the board of directors has appointed a restoration project committee charged with the responsibility of obtaining the necessary financial assistance.

Restoration will be in the hands of professionals, expert in this particular line as a result of their experience and their previous work with the State of Texas and the U. S. Department of Interior program administered through the National Register of Historic Places.

To insure correct and authentic restoration techniques in architecture and the decorative arts, special construction trades available to the professional staff of the Project Director, will be used to carry out the project. This will include special construction trades, outstanding individual craftsmen and trained artisans in each respective field.

A program of research and investigations of materials and methods has been instigated and will involve students of architecture, engineering, fine Arts, the performing Arts, and history, as well as many others in higher education.

For a practical sequence of restoration of the building, the project has been designated in phases.

Phase I will include reworking the roof framing system (heavy timber), re-roofing and roof repair; masonry wall repair and restorations; reconstruction of the metal awnings on the front and side facades; and rebuilding the staircase to the second floor grand hall. This phase is of urgent need as this work must be accomplished to stop further damage from the elements and to leave the structure intact.

Phase II will consist of work on the grand hall (piano nobile), so that when completed it can be used for both fine arts and performing arts. Restoration plans for this part of the building will include the floors, walls and ceilings; a reconstruction of the original theatre stage; addition of an electrical system adequate for lighting; and concealed air-conditioning; plumbing facilities; and a large vertical passenger elevator from the ground level to the grand hall.

Phase III will reconstruct areas on the ground floor for the provision of offices and shops. These spaces will be used for tourist and community oriented businesses and for the promotion and encouragement of arts and crafts. This final phase of the planned reconstruction will include partitions, floors, walls and ceiling restoration; also the addition of necessary electrical and plumbing work and concealed air-conditioning.

The building is of such grand dimensions for this region that plans for utilization of the space will make it the nucleus of numerous activities for an extensive surrounding area.

The Upper Level (Grand Hall) is proposed to be used as it was in the many years of its great past. It will be restored for both Theatrical and Social Functions.

The Theatrical functions planned would include, as stated in "History of the Opera House," professional entertainers of National and International circuits. These performances would include road engagements of Symphonics, Operas, and Ballet as well as national and international entertainment, personalities and troops, current day legitimate Theatre and Musical Reviews. Semi-professional groups such as "Little Theatre" will be able to use the restored facilities as well as college productions of both drama and musical groups. The building and facilities will also be available for performing groups of the community as well as secondary education groups.

The Upper Level use for Social Functions would include its usage by community and area organizations, both civic and private, as well as private parties for receptions and banquets. With these facilities, organizations or groups, could have their conventions in this area. The grand hall would also serve as a Ballroom for many private groups and organizational social dances.

The First floor (ground level) would house many activities orientated to the current activities of community life, historic preservations and restoration programs of this area. As the first floor was originally planned for a bank, mercantile store, transportation office and various other offices, the reconstruction of this area will be in authentic keeping with the planning.

The County and area archives is to be housed in a portion of this space, as well as offices for the Chamber of Commerce and the Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc.. This will locate the Magnolia Tour office in the old business district across from the Colorado County Court House and enable the office to provide its services for restoration, preservation and tourism from this office.

Other space will be partitioned for galleries to show and sell historic related items, as well as Arts and Crafts of the General South Central Texas area.

A Fine Arts program will be placed in one area of the first floor. As there are many fine artists in this area of Texas, both an educational program and a rotating show are planned. The educational program will include instructions and study under outstanding artist of Texas and the Southwest. A program of Fine Arts by the numerous State Art Circuits will be hung for the benefit of the area citizens and visiting public.

A restaurant and coffee shop will be included in the first floor. This will be, as the rest of the partitioned areas, in keeping with the original period of the building.

Restoration Cost Analysis

Phase I (Exterior and roof preservation and restoration)

Structural Roofing System (heavy timber)	
Rework of connections, rebracing	8,000.00
Reroofing, flashing	8,000.00
Rework Decorative and Ventilating Dormer	2,000.00
Replacement of portions of West Masonry wall	3,000.00
Replacement of Metal Awnings	22,000.00
Repointing Masonry and Brick work	10,000.00
Cleaning Masonry, Brick Treating	11,000.00
Repair to cast metal columns	1,000.00
Replacing stair to upper floor	12,000.00
Wood construction to Grand Hall Entry	4,000.00
Wood on windows repairs	6,000.00
Miscellaneous	1,000.00
	88,000.00

Phase II (Interior Grand Hall Restoration)

Existing pine floors refinishing	3,000.00
Replacements and repairs on walls	8,000.00
Rework and replacements of ceilings	10,000.00
Rework and floor repair on balcony	8,000.00
Stage Replacement	14,000.00
Electrical system	15,000.00
Lighting system	10,000.00
Air-Conditioning system	40,000.00
Vertical Lift (Passenger)	50,000.00
Plumbing	6,000.00
Miscellaneous	1,000.00
	165,000.00

Phase III (Interior Lower Floor Restoration)

Floors	4,000.00
Walls and Partition replacement	14,000.00
Ceilings restorations	4,000.00
Electrical system	5,000.00
Lighting system	3,000.00
Air-Conditioning	14,000.00
Plumbing	3,000.00
Millwork	7,000.00
Miscellaneous	1,000.00
	55,000.00

Phase I, II, and III

308,000.00

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Mrs. James Wooten
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Senator BIBLE. I appreciate your appearance here this morning and I appreciate the contribution you are making.

Do you have other witnesses?

Dr. MURRAY. Could I also indicate in my statement, we have a letter from Governor Ray of Iowa and from the president of Iowa State University, Dr. Robert Parks? [See p. 89.]

Senator BIBLE. That will be properly reflected in the record.

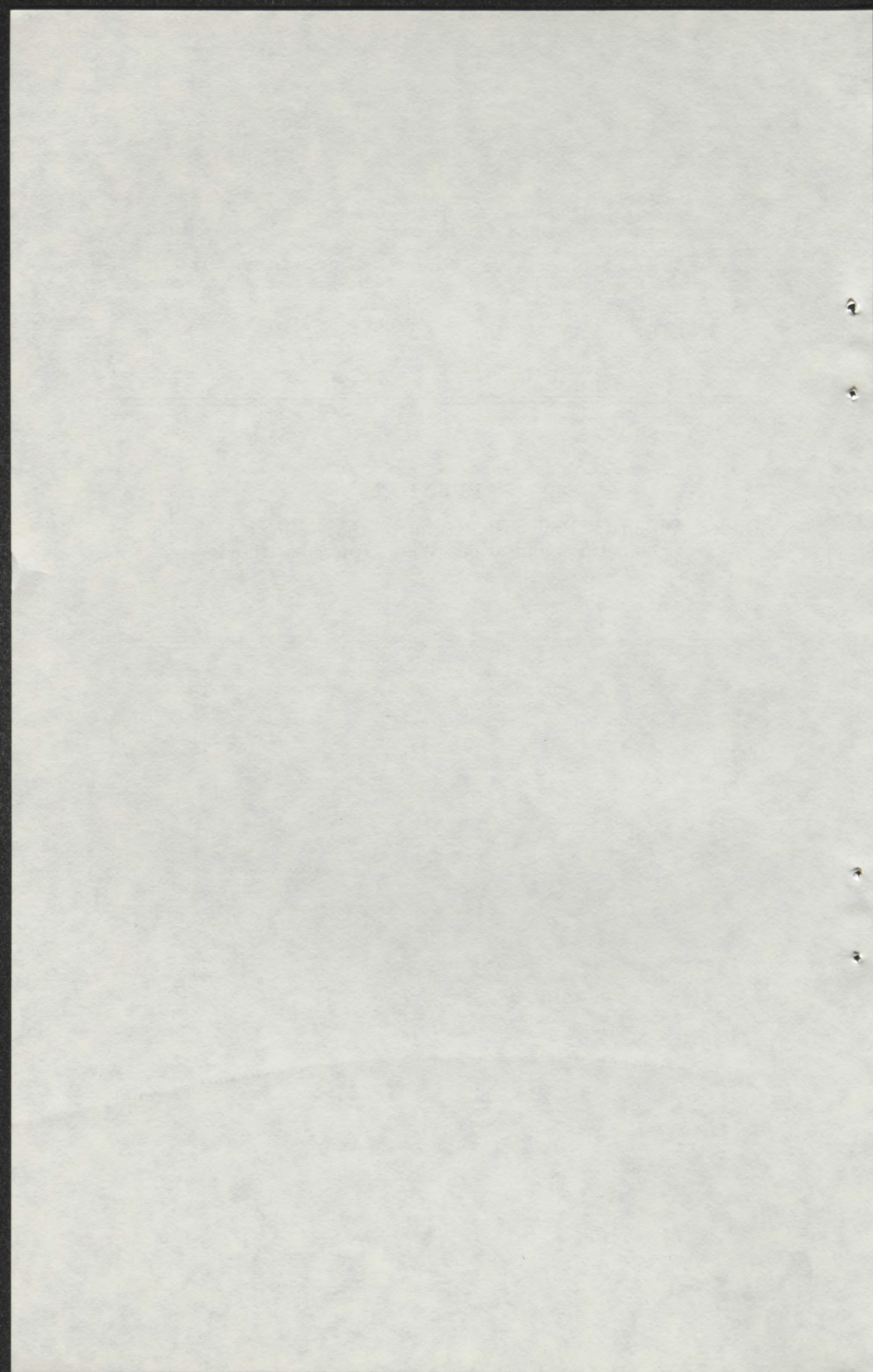
If we have no further witnesses on the bill, we stand in adjournment as subject to the call of the Chair.

[Whereupon, at 11:33 a.m., the hearing was adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair.]

THE JOURNAL OF THE
ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
VOLUME 100 PART 1 1970
PUBLISHED BY THE
BRITISH ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY
LONDON AND NEW YORK

APPENDIX

Under Authority Previously Granted, the Following Statements
and Communications Were Ordered Printed



STATEMENT OF HON. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE
STATE OF DELAWARE

Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit a brief statement today in support of S. 2877, of which I am a co-sponsor. The purpose of S. 2877, as you know, is to commemorate the American Revolutionary Bicentennial by establishing a meeting-house program. In particular, this bill would make grants available to all states, territories and the District of Columbia, with the object of acquiring and restoring historic sites to be used as meeting houses during the Bicentennial celebrations.

If this bill passes, and each state, territory, as well as the Nation's Capital takes advantage of its grants, there would be approximately fifty-five historic sites to be used as meeting places for all citizens who are concerned with the preservation of our cultural and historical heritage, not only for the Bicentennial, but beyond that.

In addition, this legislation would act as a positive stimulus to improving and preserving the best of our physical environment. This also would promote an active interest in our historical inheritance.

Some examples of preserved sites might be a schoolhouse, library, market-place, theatre, tavern, mill, farmhouse, plantation, opera house, sugar mill, frontier hotel, "ghost town," pueblo, pony-express terminal, fort or a grainery.

You might ask, why preserve any site whatsoever? I think that our country needs such programs. There is no direct relation, nor cause and effect between good preservation policy and problems of a modern society—physical blight being one. However, I suggest that historic preservation can play a part in creating a more favorable climate for resolution of such problems. These "meeting-houses" will provide a conducive atmosphere in which for Americans concerned with America's preservation may gather.

One conspicuous feature of American life is mobility. Many of our children grow up without roots and without a firm sense of America's heritage. A sense of America's heritage has been jeopardized because of a careless compulsion to dispose of the old and build new. Tearing down the old and building new has been often accepted as an affirmative symbol of success and opulence. I do not disapprove growth, but newness is not a virtue in itself.

I think that historic preservation is a good means to instill respect especially for our young people in our heritage. We must not forget that our heritage largely determined what is happening around us today. Let us respect our heritage and build on it.

Delaware, as members of the committee know, is the "First State" because it was the first state to ratify the Constitution. Obviously then, there are many historic sites that would qualify under this bill that is before you this morning. I would like to discuss one such site which is located in downtown Wilmington. I do this without pre-judging, in the least, the merits of other sites elsewhere in the State.

I refer to the Grand Opera House located at 818 Market Street in downtown Wilmington. It was built by a Masonic Order in 1871. There, audiences laughed with the great comics of the time and enjoyed dramatic performances by the Barrymores. It has been a sad experience in urban centers, however, that the downtown areas have declined in recent decades and, for example, the magnificent Opera House, one of the finest examples of Victorian architecture in the State of Delaware, has stood empty for the last two or three years.

Fortunately, however, farsighting local citizens have realized the historic value of the Opera House and also the great benefit that would occur if this building is brought to life once again.

In 1971, a hundred years after the building was built, public-spirited citizens formed the Grand Opera House, Inc. and restoration began on the structure. In this connection, much credit must be given to the Masons who gave the

deed of the Opera House to the City of Wilmington which in turn, passed it to the Grand Opera House group to be used as a center for the Performing Arts.

Community response has been enthusiastic, in large part to the work of persons as William Prickett, President of the Grand Opera House, Inc., John Craig, Vice President and Executive Editor of the Wilmington News Journal and many others.

I thank the subcommittee for its attention.

STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM V. ROTH, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE
STATE OF DELAWARE

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, I would like at this time to present my opinions in support of a bill of which I am a co-sponsor—S. 2877, to commemorate the American Revolutionary Bicentennial by establishing a Meetinghouse Program through restoration of certain historic sites.

Generally speaking, I am in favor of the preservation of our National Historic Landmarks, and am inclined to urge such preservation, in certain cases, even at the expense of what is so often designated "progress." I am in this respect a strong conservative, I suppose, but I strenuously object to a policy of erasing, right and left, the familiar scenes of the Country to which I, and my parents and my grandparents had the pleasure and the honor of declaring our allegiance and devotion.

The wild and frenzied construction of more and more super highways, and supermarkets, and skyscrapers, at the helter-skelter whim of various and sundry economic interests, seems to me a radical encroachment on American tradition.

My sentiments along this line are all the more emphasized by the approach of the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Celebration. All across the Country, Americans are preparing plans and projects of a patriotic nature. Taken all together, the Bicentennial will amount to a Nationwide summons to recall our heritage and to place it firmly in its historical perspective, to reexamine our origins, our values, and the meaning of America—to take pride in our accomplishments and to dramatize our National development.

In keeping with my sentiments in this regard, I am proposing, as co-sponsor of S. 2877, to commemorate the American Revolutionary Bicentennial by establishing a Meetinghouse Program through restoration of certain historic sites.

Under the terms of the proposal, grants will be made available at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior, to each of the several States for the purpose of acquiring and restoring certain historic sites for use as Meetinghouses to which our citizens can come to discuss, to learn, and to participate in plans for the impending Bicentennial celebration.

If this event is to be at all meaningful, there is need for each citizen to become aware of his historical, cultural and physical heritage, in order that we may carry out one of the major Bicentennial themes—"A Past to Honor; A Future to Mould."

Because our Country is so diverse and rich in varied cultures, it is not possible to establish a single meetingplace which would be accessible and responsive to a majority of the citizens and would further provide a regional focus and impetus to the preservation of our physical and cultural heritage. Numerous such places are therefore required.

The purpose of the Act is threefold: 1) to preserve the existence of historic sites that might otherwise be lost; 2) to plan for the preservation of the quality of our total environment; and 3) to give existing State programs involved with preserving historic and architecturally important structures an illustration of the best possible techniques used in the preservation of such historic sites and structures, and the multiple, significant ways in which such sites and structures can be used.

Any historic site covered by the terms of the Act will provide an atmosphere conducive to exploring new and innovative ways to make citizens of the United States more aware of the need to protect their natural and other heritage.

Each State submitting an application pursuant to this Act shall designate one or more historic sites which it desires to acquire, restore, and utilize as a

Meetinghouse. The designation of such site or sites shall be based on nominations made by the Bicentennial Commissions of the several States, in cooperation with such States' preservation officers, in accordance with an approved State historic preservation plan. In making such nominations, the Bicentennial Commissions of the several States shall consult with such other professional sources as the Commissions may deem necessary.

The Act provides for creation of a Meetinghouse Coordinating Board consisting of the Keeper of the National Register, the Chairman of the Heritage '76 Committee of the American Revolutionary Bicentennial Administration, a representative of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and a representative of the President's Council on Environmental Quality. The members of the Meetinghouse Coordinating Board shall receive no compensation except for expenses incurred in carrying out the duties of their membership.

Under the terms of the Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to grant as much as \$1,000,000 for the purchase of a single site for use as a Meetinghouse, providing the purchase is based on the recommendations of the Meetinghouse Coordinating Board.

It is my pleasure to announce support for this measure by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of the State of Delaware and the Grand Opera House in Wilmington.

Statement by Senator Lee Metcalf
Before the Interior Committee, Sub-
committee on Parks and Recreation

5 June 1974

MR. CHAIRMAN, the Meeting House Preservation Act (S. 2877) being considered today provides an invaluable opportunity for emphasizing the abundance and diversity of our national heritage. By authorizing the restoration of a site in each of the states and territories important to its own history, the program will directly involve citizens throughout the country in preserving and celebrating that heritage during the Bicentennial. Since the sites must be suitable as meeting places, they will also be centers for continuing historical, educational and cultural activities well beyond 1976.

This bill has generated great enthusiasm and much anticipatory activity across the Nation. In my own State, the Montana Bicentennial Commission has already selected the "Old Chamber" building in Billings for rehabilitation -- a structure that has housed civic and commercial groups since 1909 and is an important relic of Montana's frontier heritage. I know other states have proceeded in similar fashion.

Prompt action is needed, Mr. Chairman, so that the appropriations process can be completed and the program fully implemented before the Bicentennial celebration begins. I strongly urge that the Meeting House Preservation Act, which I am pleased to cosponsor, be moved expeditiously through the legislative channels and made an integral part of the observance of our Nation's two-hundredth birthday.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR HUGH SCOTT
Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation
Senate Interior Committee

June 5, 1974

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be able to offer my testimony in support of S. 2877, the Meeting House Preservation Act. This bill, introduced by my able colleague from Texas, John Tower, is cosponsored by me and a dozen other senators. It would select and preserve one historic site in each state as a focal point during the Bicentennial observance.

S. 2877 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to make grants available to each state for the purpose of acquiring and restoring one historic site in that state to be used as a "meeting house". This site would be the meeting place for citizens concerned with the preservation of cultural heritage and environmental quality.

I am proud to note that my Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is among those states which have made prospective site selections. Specifically, the Valley Forge area has been chosen and this is significant because it was the site of General George Washington's encampment of 1777-78, a turning point in the Revolutionary War. Lafayette's Headquarters, which would serve as the proposed "Meeting House", is located on the Lafayette Farm adjacent to Valley Forge State Park in Tredyffrin Township, Chester County. The 34-acre site served as Major General Marquis de Lafayette's residence during the famous encampment.

An estimated \$500,000 will be necessary to complete the acquisition and restoration of Lafayette's Headquarters. Senator Tower's bill is designed to assist in this effort, and in similar projects throughout the nation.

I am urging this subcommittee, and the Congress, to expeditious consideration of S. 2877 so that its purpose will be achieved in time for the Bicentennial.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR CHARLES H. PERCY (R.-ILL.)
IN SUPPORT OF THE MEETING HOUSE PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. Chairman, as a cosponsor of S. 2877, the Meeting House Preservation Act, I wish to encourage the members of the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation to take favorable action on this measure.

I believe that providing grants to the States so that each may acquire and restore a historic structure to be used as a "Meeting House" during America's upcoming Bicentennial celebration is an excellent idea. Enactment of the Meeting House Preservation Act would assure that each State could participate in the Bicentennial and would have a focal point for Bicentennial activities. Approval of this bill would also assure the restoration and preservation of more than 50 historic structures representing the diverse history, tradition, and culture of this great nation.

The Meeting Houses, each with a unique historic significance, would not outlive their usefulness with the end of the Bicentennial celebration. The Bicentennial should be seen as only the beginning of a concerted national effort to preserve and protect our rich heritage, and the Meeting Houses would contribute greatly to that effort.

I believe that providing the funds for the preservation of Meeting Houses is appropriately a Federal function. The Bicentennial is, of course, the two-hundredth birthday of our nation and, to the greatest extent possible, our celebration should be a national event and should have Federal support. A network of historic Meeting Houses would be a source of pride and cultural growth for all Americans. We are a nation of tourists and sight-seers, and the Meeting Houses would encourage all of us to discover America and to share the cultural traditions of States other than our own. A network

of unique Meeting Houses, each representing a special time and tradition, would also help visitors from abroad achieve a more comprehensive understanding of our nation and our people.

I believe that the Meeting House Preservation Act is deserving of Congressional support. In order for the States to have sufficient time to locate, purchase, and restore suitable historic structures in time for the Bicentennial, it is imperative that action be taken on S. 2877 as quickly as possible. I urge the Subcommittee to act promptly and positively, paving the way for further Congressional approval. I would hope that before the year is out the States will be able to proceed with preparing their Meeting Houses to become showpieces during the Bicentennial and for generations to come.

ted stevens

united states senator for alaska



STATEMENT BY SENATOR TED STEVENS
REGARDING S. 2877
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON
PARKS AND RECREATION
JUNE 5, 1974

Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure to testify regarding S. 2877, a bill to provide each State and territory with grants to acquire and revitalize an historic site which would serve as a meeting center in an atmosphere characteristic of the State's heritage.

In commemoration of the bicentennial celebration, this bill would reflect the experience of our Nation's inherited past, provide a learning opportunity in the present, and create a permanent legacy for the future. The use of historic sites will preserve an indigenous heritage and the quality of the physical environment. The need for the Nation to act as a guardian of all inherent resources--both man-made and natural--is clear. These meeting places would provide citizens with centers to inspire awareness of the needs to protect the total environment.

The Alaska American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has designated the Erskine House on Kodiak Island as the Alaska Heritage Meeting House. The Erskine House is characteristic of the State's heritage and reflects the diversity of the American culture.

The Erskine House is one of the oldest buildings on the Pacific Coast. Constructed between 1793-4, the structure served as a warehouse for furs and trading station for Alexander Baranov's settlement from Russia. The Russian culture is evident in the surrounding community. Around the turn of the century, the W. J. Erskine family converted the structure into a home and lived there until 1945.

Tangible evidence of the past must be preserved. The rich heritage of the Erskine House can inspire and increase the knowledge, virtue, and wisdom about the past. The structure has become functionally obsolete from neglect. Restoration of such structures is needed to remind man of the value of his culture, the edifices he has erected, and encourage his appreciation of the total environment.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for providing me an opportunity to testify in favor of S. 2877. I believe it is an innovative way to provide the citizens of this Nation with an awareness of their unique heritage while preserving the environment. At this point in the record, I would like to include a letter from Ed Tomco of the Alaska Bicentennial Commission in support of this bill.

LETTER FROM ED TOMCO, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
ALASKA AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL
COMMISSION, IN SUPPORT OF S. 2877

January 18, 1974

The Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
411 Old Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Heritage '76 "Meeting House" Proposal, a national preservation plan to commemorate the Bicentennial. This program provides for the designation by each state of one historical site which is characteristic of the state's heritage.

The Alaska American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has nominated the Erskine House (Baranov Storehouse) in Kodiak for designation as Alaska's "Meeting House." A copy of that prospectus is enclosed.

This Heritage '76 Meeting House Proposal will be introduced in the Senate in the very near future by Senator John Tower. The Alaska ARBC feels that this program provides the means for retaining part of Alaska's tangible, indigenous heritage, and therefore urges your support of this legislation.

Should you desire any further information regarding the Meeting House program, please do not hesitate to contact our office. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Ed Tomco

Ed Tomco
Executive Secretary

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR HAROLD E. HUGHES
Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation
Hearings on Meeting House Bill (S. 2877)
Wednesday, June 5, 1974

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to emphasize several points which indicate my support and sponsorship of the Meeting House Preservation Bill (S. 2877).

First, I think it is important to keep in mind that the Meeting House program was originally researched and developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, with headquarters here in Washington, D. C. This is a permanent organization which has given much time, thought and effort to the Meeting House idea. The program is not of a temporary nature. Long after the 1976 Bicentennial Commission has disbanded, the State Meeting Houses will, I hope, be solid institutions functioning successfully as centers for discussion and workshops on the preservation and development of our environment. And it will be the National Trust who proposed them in the first place, and who will be interested in seeing that these Meeting Houses continue to serve as the National Trust envisioned that they would.

Second, I want to emphasize the bi-partisan aspect of the Meeting House program. This is clearly evident in the sponsorship of S. 2877. It is also evident in the Meeting House proposal from my State of Iowa. Mr. Murray, who is here from Iowa to testify today, was my Republican opponent in my last Governor's race in Iowa in 1966. He, along with my friend, Joseph Rosenfield of Des Moines, have worked closely together in the development of the Living History Farm near Des Moines, a portion of which has been designated as the Meeting House of Iowa.

Third, I want to endorse the grant authorization of up to \$1 million in S. 2877. Senator Scott, in his statement in the Congressional Record of January 23, 1974, has indicated the need in his state for at least \$500,000 for acquisition and restoration of Lafayette's headquarters. If the Meeting Houses in the different states are to measure up to what we expect them to be, grants should be available up to \$1 million.

Finally, it is evident that more flexibility in ownership and operation of the Meeting Houses should be provided. Mr. Murray speaks to this point in more detail in the statement which he has prepared for this subcommittee. My interest is in seeing that the operation of these Meeting Houses is maintained on a high level without political bickering. I think the success we have achieved with semi-governmental organizations, such as the Smithsonian Institution and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is an indication that an opportunity for similar semi-governmental ownership and operation of the Meeting Houses should be provided for in the bill.

Statement in support of S. 2877.

To Members of the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation of the Senate Interior Committee.

As the Bicentennial Celebration approaches, the Congress would be unwise and shortsighted if they did not pass S. 2877. Clearly, this bill is a necessary goal for true and lasting American history, not only on the national scene but regional as well. I commend Senator Tower for authoring this worthwhile legislation.

Each state in my opinion would need an act of this type to preserve its own history. This bill would help bring this about. The states themselves would decide where the meeting houses are to be located. Examples in Mississippi would be: our first Capitol at Washington, near Natchez; the family home of Jefferson Davis in Woodville; and the site and cemetery of Choctaw Indian Chief Greenwood Leflore, near Carrollton. None of these locations has a present meeting house where citizens can come together, speak of the past or discuss the issues of today. This bill will help bring about in a unique way the blend of the future with the past.

I urge the favorable consideration and passage of S. 2877.

James O. Eastland, U.S.S.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR SAM NUNN TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON PARKS AND RECREATION, SENATOR ALAN BIBLE, CHAIRMAN, REGARDING
S. 2877, THE MEETING HOUSE PRESERVATION ACT

As the nation moves closer to the celebration of its 200th birthday, it is particularly appropriate for this legislation to receive favorable consideration.

The involvement and active participation of the nation's citizens at a local level will determine the success of the 200th Bicentennial.

In providing funds for the preservation of a historic site in each state, this act serves to involve local citizens and, thereby, helps to insure the success, not only of the Bicentennial, but of continued activities to honor and commemorate the nation's heritage.

The intent of this legislation, together with its well-structured plan for the preservation of historic meeting houses throughout the nation, is significant to a successful and meaningful Bicentennial.

I, therefore, hope you will carefully consider its merits and urge your support.

Statement by Senator Wallace F. Bennett
Senate Interior Committee
June 5, 1974

Meeting House Preservation Act

Mr. Chairman: As a co-sponsor, I appreciate this opportunity to testify in full support of S. 2877, the Meeting House Preservation Act.

This Act will commemorate the nation's 200th birthday by affording the citizens of our nation an opportunity to become actively involved in the Bicentennial celebration. Each of the 55 states and territories will select one historic site to be preserved and thus afford each citizen an opportunity to become aware of his historical, cultural and physical heritage.

The Heritage 76 "Meeting Houses" will regain their former places of community importance as tangible elements of the community's heritage. In addition, a National Register Historic Sites--now endangered--will be restored as examples of the finest type of historic preservation, incorporating visible evidence of restoration methods for continuing public education.

My own State of Utah has chosen the Devereaux House in Salt Lake City as its candidate for restoration. For a number of years, various individuals and groups concerned with preserving the most meaningful aspects of Utah's history have expressed interest in the

Devereaux House (Staines-Jennings Mansion). It stands as a reminder of its significant history in the state and as a record of the distinctive architecture of its time.

The original building, built in 1857 for William Staines and acclaimed to be the "first mansion reared in Utah," was a two story residence built of adobe and stuccoed. William Jennings purchased the property in 1867 and enlarged the grounds to include more than half the city block. Mr. Jennings then added a large east wing and transformed the informal gardens of Mr. Staines to formal ornamental gardens befitting his palatial residence. For many years, the Devereaux House was the center of Salt Lake City social life and among its distinguished guests were President and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, Secretary of State William Seward and Generals Philip Sheridan and William Tecumseh Sherman. After the death of Mr. Jennings, the Devereaux House served in various roles, including a rehabilitation center for alcoholics in the early 1900's. It now serves as offices for the J. J. Coan Company, distributors of mining equipment. The House is distinctively Victorian in style, and though deteriorated, is structurally sound with a surprising amount of interior detail still intact.

It is an ideal candidate for restoration because it is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites; was an important center in the social and political activities of early Salt Lake City; is an endangered building;

and has great potential for restoration to its former elegance, as an active element in modern community life.

Mr. Chairman, enactment of the Meeting House Preservation Act will provide a fitting celebration for the two hundredth birthday of the independence of our country through the safeguarding of fifty-five historic sites by a preservation program that will ensure their new and positive role in the country's future.

It will also provide a meeting place in each state and territory for those citizens working to retain in their communities their tangible, indigenous heritage, with those citizens concerned about future changes and developments.

And finally, it will give existing state programs involved with preserving historic and architecturally important structures an illustration of the best available techniques used in preservation today.

I urge your Committee's favorable consideration of this measure. Early enactment is necessary so that the states will have time to initiate their Meeting House programs before the Bicentennial Celebration. Dedication ceremonies could be a high point in the State Bicentennial activities.

Mr. Chairman, the Meeting House Preservation Act would focus the attention of all Americans on their diverse heritage resources. The whole concept of rethinking our physical environment to include historic conservation could be a turning point in many communities by making history relevant to our everyday lives.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR FRANK E. MOSS, D-UTAH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION
SENATE INTERIOR COMMITTEE
JUNE 5, 1974

SUBJECT: MEETING HOUSE PRESERVATION ACT (S. 2877)

Mr. Chairman: First may I commend you for holding hearings on S. 2877, the Meeting House Preservation Act at this time. The American Revolutionary Bicentennial will be upon us before we realize it and it would add greatly to style and effectiveness of that celebration in each of the states if there could be an historic site restored as a "Meeting House" to be used for gatherings, and to serve as a focus for the preservation of the area's physical and cultural heritage thereafter. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this bill.

Recently I had the pleasure of visiting the structure chosen by the Utah American Revolutionary Bicentennial Commission, with the concurrence of the Utah Heritage Foundation and the Utah State Historical Society, to be Utah's "Meeting House". It is called the Devereaux House, and it is located in an old section of Salt Lake City not far from the stately Union Pacific Depot, which is also the object of a restoration and refurbishment movement to make it an art and cultural center. In fact, restoration of the Devereaux House is part of a grand plan to turn the west end of historic South Temple Street, on which both it and the station are located, into an elegant promenade and cultural center.

The Devereaux House is well suited for the role planned for it. Built in 1857 for William Staines, it is the first mansion to be constructed in Utah. When one considers that the original large and spacious two-story section was built only 10 years after the Mormon pioneers entered what was then the wilderness of the Salt Lake Valley, the fact that it was erected at all is quite remarkable.

Furthermore, Mr. Staines deviated somewhat from the pattern established by city ordinance that all homes must be built in the center of a lot, and set back 20 feet from the frontage line. Mr. Staines set his house far back in the center of two lots, with his orchards in front.

In 1865, Joseph A. Young purchased the property and added a lot to it. In 1867 it was purchased by William Jennings, who enlarged the grounds to include more than half a city block. Thus the house early attained a commanding location in a city of one lot houses, most of them set at the same distance from the street. Mr. Jennings enhanced the grandeur of the house by adding a large east wing to the original structure and gave the house its name, the Devereaux House, taken from the Devereaux Estates at Yardley, near Birmingham, England, where he was born.

The house is distinctively Victorian in style, with a cement plaster exterior scored to resemble stonework. The interior is elaborate with heavy carved pine woodwork in all major first floor rooms, grained in oak, mahogany, maple, and marble. There is a striking curved stairway with a

magnificently carved knewel post rising out of the front hall, and much of the original wallpaper in the front stair hall and first floor rear corridor is still intact. The massive doorknobs, hinges and other interior detail is also in good condition.

For many years the Devereaux House was the center of Salt Lake City social life. On numerous occasions as many as 300 guests were entertained. Among the distinguished visitors who dined and danced in its palatial rooms were Second Territorial Governor Alfred Cummings, President and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, Secretary of State William Seward, and Generals Philip Sheridan and William Tecumseh Sherman.

After the death of Mr. Jennings, the house was used in various ways, including one period when it was a center for alcoholics. It is now an office for a distributor of mining equipment. It was placed on the Utah State Register of Historic Sites in January 1970, and on the National Register of Historic Places in March 1971.

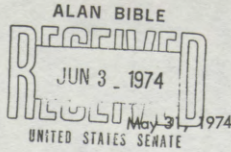
Many historic and civic organizations in Utah view restoration of the Devereaux House as a most worthy and essential project, and I am confident that with the financial assistance made available through enactment of the "Meeting House" bill, its restoration would be assured.

Its elegant first floor could be used as a reception center for both public and private functions; its second floor for offices as headquarters for civic and professional groups, and its third floor for resident caretakers. With its

grounds restored as gardens and public park, it would add immeasurably to the beauty and interest of an old and historic section of downtown Salt Lake City.

State of Mississippi
Department of Archives and History
Mississippi American Revolution
Bicentennial Commission
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, Mississippi 39205
(601) 354-6218

Governor William L. Waller
Chairman, Ex-Officio
Judge James P. Coleman
Chairman
Secretary of State Heber Ludner
Vice-Chairman
Elbert R. Hilliard
Executive Director
Perry A. Snyder
Director



Honorable Allen Bible, Chairman
Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation
Committee of the Interior
United States Senate
Room 3106, Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bible:

Along with the members of the Mississippi American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, I am very pleased to learn that Senate Bill 2877, "The Meeting House Preservation Act," shall come before your committee in early June. The Mississippi Commission is of the opinion that this piece of legislation represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for each state to honor the richness, diversity and vitality of its heritage.

Mr. Elbert Hilliard, Director of the Department of Archives and History, has prepared a prospectus on Jefferson College, birthplace of Mississippi statehood. The Mississippi American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has endorsed Jefferson College as Mississippi's Meeting House site. Jefferson College has immense importance in the history of our state, and its restoration would certainly advance the cause of historic preservation in Mississippi.

It was John Steinbeck in *The Grapes of Wrath* who stated so eloquently the need for the people of a nation to be aware of their heritage when he wrote, "How can we live without our lives? How do we know it's us without our past?" I suggest that the passage by the United States Congress of the Meeting House Bill will give all Americans an opportunity to understand and appreciate more fully the heritage of their nation.

I would very much appreciate, Senator Bible, your including this letter in the record of the hearings of your Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation.

In the Spirit of '76,

Perry A. Snyder
Perry A. Snyder

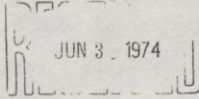
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Utah American Revolution Bicentennial Commission
Room 403, State Capitol
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
(801) 328-6026



ALAN BIBLE May 31, 1974



UNITED STATES SENATE
The Honorable Alan Bible
United State Senate
Suite 3106
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Bible:

In reiteration of our strong support of the Meeting House Preservation Act, we are forwarding you a statement which we hope will be considered at the hearing on June 5. The Utah American Revolution Bicentennial Commission is most anxious for the passage of this bill and the appropriation of the funds for this very significant Bicentennial project.

We will certainly appreciate it if you will convey our support to the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation and will await the results of the hearing with confidence that our representatives in Washington realize the value of the Meeting House proposal to every state which will participate.

Sincerely,

Obert C. Tanner
Chairman

OCT:cb

STATEMENT FOR THE MEETING HOUSE PRESERVATION ACT HEARING

on June 5, 1974

The Utah American Revolution Bicentennial Commission would like to voice its strong support of the Meeting House Preservation Act. We believe that the implementation of this program would result in one of the most viable Bicentennial accomplishments and would, by preserving and interpreting our heritage, be a permanent bridge of understanding for the future. We further believe that in order to carry out the philosophy and intent of the program the Meeting House Preservation Act should be passed without a reduction in the appropriation of up to one million dollars for each state.

Because the Meeting House program seeks to restore a building or site in each state to its original significance in the life of the community, and because such building or site in the case of most state proposals is likely an endangered structure of national significance, we feel that the original appropriation amount is necessary to accomplish a worthwhile project which will become a legacy to future generations. With the implementation of this program we will demonstrate our commitment to the Bicentennial as a prelude to our third century.

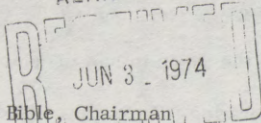
To illustrate our support of this legislation it will be appropriate to describe Utah's Meeting House Candidate and list the reasons for which it was selected. The Devereaux House in Salt Lake City is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites and was an important center in the social and political activities of the city. It is an endangered building now, but has great potential for restoration to its former elegance as an active element in modern community life. Restoration of this outstanding building would result in a revitalization of the central business district and it is on a site between famous Mormon Tabernacle Square and the Union Pacific Depot, both areas of historical and architectural interest.



603 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84102

May 31, 1974

ALAN BIRLE



The Honorable Alan Birle, Chairman
 Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation
 Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
 Suite 3106, Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Birle:

Enclosed is a statement which we would like to submit as testimony in support of the Meeting House Preservation Act, S. 2877, as part of the Senate hearings on June 5th.

We appreciate your co-sponsorship of this bill and hope that the Meeting House proposal will be passed and funds appropriated to make possible what will be the only nationwide commemoration of the Bicentennial.

Sincerely,

Mrs. John M. Churchill
 Director

enc.



601 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84102

The Meeting House Preservation Act, S. 2877, presents an exciting and eminently feasible opportunity for each state in the Union to join in commemoration of the nation's 200th birthday, the Bicentennial celebration. Through the Meeting House proposal, a permanent legacy can be restored to the American people as a reminder of the past and as a promise to the future.

The Utah Heritage Foundation joins with many other historic preservation organizations in voicing strong support for passage of this bill and appropriation of the necessary funds, which would bring an extremely significant aspect of the Bicentennial celebration directly to each state.

Now, more than ever before, Americans are conscious of a need to establish a tie to the roots of their past. We strongly support the Meeting House proposal because it will:

1. restore a National Register Historic Site in each state to serve a new and positive role in that state's future;
2. allow each state's "Meeting House" to regain its former place of importance as a tangible element of that state's heritage;
3. provide the incentive and necessary funds to restore an endangered historic site as an example of the finest type of historic preservation, incorporating visible evidence of restoration methods for continuing public education.

The Utah American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has endorsed this proposal and has selected as Utah's "Meeting House" the historic Devereaux House (Staines-Jennings Mansion) in Salt Lake City. The Devereaux House, listed on the National Register, was constructed in 1857 and acclaimed as "the first mansion to be reared in Utah". Its elegant interior exhibits outstanding examples of the finest craftsmanship of the period, now a lost art. For many years, the Devereaux House was the center of Salt Lake City social life; among distinguished visitors were 2nd Territorial Governor Alfred Cumming, President and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, Secretary of State William Seward, and Generals Phillip Sheridan and William Tecumseh Sherman.

The Devereaux House is presently in a state of disrepair and is in danger of demolition. It is estimated that the total cost of this restoration project will be \$1,846,000. Through passage of the Meeting House proposal, this historic building can be restored to an active role in the life of the community and the state. The Utah State Legislature has appropriated \$6.5 million for the construction of a cultural arts center nearby, and the Utah Bicentennial Commission has adopted the concept of a "Boulevard of the Arts," which would include both the cultural arts center and the Devereaux House.

As the restoration of the Devereaux House would be a meaningful Bicentennial accomplishment for the state of Utah, the restoration of such historic sites in every state would be equally meaningful. May we ask that you seriously consider and approve the Meeting House Preservation Act as the nation's contribution to the Bicentennial celebration, and that you recommend the appropriation of \$1 million to each state to assure the successful completion of this project.

May 31, 1974



603 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84102

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May 31, 1974



603 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE / SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84102

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3. provide the incentive and necessary funds to restore an endangered historic site as an example of the finest type of historic preservation, incorporating visible evidence of restoration methods for continuing public education.

The Utah American Revolution Bicentennial Commission has endorsed this proposal and has selected as Utah's "Meeting House" the historic Devereaux House (Staines-Jennings Mansion) in Salt Lake City. The Devereaux House, listed on the National Register, was constructed in 1857 and acclaimed as "the first mansion to be reared in Utah". Its elegant interior exhibits outstanding examples of the finest craftsmanship of the period, now a lost art. For many years, the Devereaux House was the center of Salt Lake City social life; among distinguished visitors were 2nd Territorial Governor Alfred Cumming, President and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, Secretary of State William Seward, and Generals Phillip Sheridan and William Tecumseh Sherman.

The Devereaux House is presently in a state of disrepair and is in danger of demolition. It is estimated that the total cost of this restoration project will be \$1,846,000. Through passage of the Meeting House proposal, this historic building can be restored to an active role in the life of the community and the state. The Utah State Legislature has appropriated \$6.5 million for the construction of a cultural arts center nearby, and the Utah Bicentennial Commission has adopted the concept of a "Boulevard of the Arts," which would include both the cultural arts center and the Devereaux House.

As the restoration of the Devereaux House would be a meaningful Bicentennial accomplishment for the state of Utah, the restoration of such historic sites in every state would be equally meaningful. May we ask that you seriously consider and approve the Meeting House Preservation Act as the nation's contribution to the Bicentennial celebration, and that you recommend the appropriation of \$1 million to each state to assure the successful completion of this project.

May 31, 1974



603 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE / SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84102

The Meeting House Preservation Act, S. 2877, presents an exciting and eminently feasible opportunity for each state in the Union to join in commemoration of the nation's 200th birthday, the Bicentennial celebration. Through the Meeting House proposal, a permanent legacy can be restored to the American people as a reminder of the past and as a promise to the future.

The Utah Heritage Foundation joins with many other historic preservation organizations in voicing strong support for passage of this bill and appropriation of the necessary funds, which would bring an extremely significant aspect of the Bicentennial celebration directly to each state.

Now, more than ever before, Americans are conscious of a need to establish a tie to the roots of their past. We strongly support the Meeting House proposal because it will:

1. restore a National Register Historic Site in each state to serve a new and positive role in that state's future;
2. allow each state's "Meeting House" to regain its former place of importance as a tangible element of that state's heritage;
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May 31, 1974

MIKE O'CALLAGHAN
Governor



DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
R. E. (BOB) GOODMAN

Director

BIL BENDER
Deputy Director, Industry
DARRYL T. MONAHAN
Deputy Director, Tourism



May 28, 1974

The Honorable Alan Bible
United States Senate
Rm. 145, Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Senator:

I am writing to you in support of S2877 "The Meeting House Preservation Act," which your sub-committee on Parks and Recreation will be reviewing on June 5.

Specifically, I am concerned with the preservation of the Howell-Black Bros. Building in Virginia City, as it has been designated the "Meeting House" for the Nevada American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.

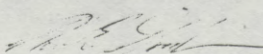
However, without the \$1,000,000 grant that each state would receive from S2877, the Howell-Black Building will have little chance of even being saved, let alone being used for the Bicentennial.

Much of our state's illustrious history could be salvaged with the restoration of this building, or much of it could be lost forever, due to the lack of favorable action.

Your position of influence and keen sense of what is right may very well be the ruling factor in that regard.

I hope you will look upon S2877 with a positive and open mind.

Sincerely,


Robert E. Goodman
Director

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MEETING HOUSE BILL

Testimony submitted on Invitation to the

U.S. Senate

Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs
Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation

June 5, 1974

by

Anthony Wayne Smith
President and General Counsel
National Parks and Conservation Association

My name is Anthony Wayne Smith, 1701 18th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. I am President and General Counsel of the National Parks & Conservation Association, one of the major conservation and environmental organizations, publisher of National Parks & Conservation Magazine, The Environmental Journal, which is received monthly by the nearly 50,000 members of the organization.

The NPCA is concerned primarily with the protection of the National Park System, which includes some 165 historical parks. It also concerns itself with a broad range of conservation and environmental issues, such as ecological forestry, wildlife restoration and survival, the restoration of an ecologically sound environment, ecological land use planning, and the fostering of livable human communities.

I greatly appreciate the invitation to submit this statement with respect to the Meeting House Bill No. S.2877.

Before turning to the merits of the measure, I would like to commend this Committee on its admirable record of approaching the problems and proposals which come before it with a single eye to the public interest.

The environmental issues for which this Committee is responsible to Congress and the American people have become increasingly significant in recent years. They are frequently of such a complexity and significance that the objective appraisal of the subject matter which this Committee brings to its work becomes a matter of vital importance to the nation. I speak from the experience of more than a third of a century as a lawyer concerned with the operations of the federal government..

The measure under discussion should certainly be considered on its merits, and I am sure the Committee will do so. I feel certain that the Committee will consider it on the basis of the contribution it might make to the cultural life of America, and not on the basis of any other considerations.

The American people have the right to have a measure of this kind, indeed any measure before Congress, considered by the responsible committees on the basis of what is good for the country, and I well know from my work with this Committee over the years that this is the point of view of the Committee itself.

Turning to the Meeting House Bill itself, this is indeed a meritorious proposal.

The Bicentennial Celebrations are not far away. A great deal of time has passed in rather ineffective preparations for the Celebration. A good many of the projects which had been brought forth for consideration as part of the Bicentennial Celebration have been rather tawdry. There is a tendency to run to the exposition type event, with large expenditures on structures and activities which would be of little value after the main Bicentennial year.

Not so the Meeting House proposal. This is a program which has a great deal of substance in it and which will produce institutions of lasting merit for America.

The central Meeting House which will be selected in each state for restoration, preservation, and continuing use, will be an enduring investment, both in the sense of a structure of comparable landmark, and in the sense of an established institution from which may radiate an understanding of the cultural, historical, and natural treasures which we share as Americans.

Durability, then, and permanence, are deeply engraved in the very substance and structure of the Meeting House Bill and program.

Historic preservation is basic to the project. The American people have demonstrated increasingly in recent years their very great concern with the restoration and preservation of the historic treasures of America, including its ancient buildings and other landmarks.

To one such as myself who has watched many intense popular interests come to the forefront over the years, and has seen them develop through a period of strong public interest and support, and then perhaps wane, or continue permanently at a significant level, the explosion of interest in historic preservation during the past half-decade has been startling.

I happen to believe that this restoration of interest in such matters will be a permanent and continuing restoration, because America does indeed have an incredibly rich lode of historic treasures which it can, if it will, preserve and protect.

What more fitting for the celebration of an historic occasion, the Bicentennial, than a project directed toward long-range historic preservation, and not merely a short term flash-in-the-pan demonstration of superficial excitement?

I think there is a deeper reason why the Meeting House proposal is significant, commendable, and worthy of your prompt and favorable action. That is because it embodies a concern for the community, the democratic person-to-person community, the participatory community, if you please, which was typical of the early settlements in America.

We are talking about the Bicentennial, about an interval of 200 years since the American Revolution, but really also about some 350 years since settlement began in North America. The early communities, particularly in New England, from which so much of our national tradition and character stems, were organized to a very large extent around their meeting houses. These were the structures within which the person-to-person local self-government was carried on.

If ever there was a symbol of American political democracy, it was the meeting house, and the present measure which you have before you recognizes the importance of the meeting house in American history, and seeks to restore the concept and the practice in present day life in this nation.

The meeting houses which will be restored, preserved, and utilized pursuant to this proposal will not be exposition structures for a brief celebration, nor will they be even permanent historic preservation projects, but on the contrary they will be centers wherein we shall all undertake to explore our ecological, environmental, recreational, educational, and historic preservation

concern. Within these centers groups will form to study and act with respect to the vital environmental and community problems of our nation.

The restoration of the warm human community within which each person can find both freedom and psychological security may well be the most important issue confronting this nation today. I would underscore that statement, because we are so greatly preoccupied most of the time with economic problems, with production and construction, with the growth, control, and dangers of technology, and with that host of ecological, economic, diplomatic, and military difficulties into which we have been plunged, together with the other nations of this planet, in recent generations.

The truth may well be that the solution of our practical problems depends first on what vast numbers of individuals do in the re-integration of their personal lives, but also in the degree of success they have in coming together into livable communities.

These communities would mean good neighborhoods in the big cities, revitalized small towns, a restoration even of the village as it was in the agrarian period. These communities could be created within labor organizations, farm organizations, and professional societies.

It may be the greatest merit of the Meeting House Bill that it addresses itself to the problem of the human community. It would create a center in each state within which all Americans, without regard to race, creed, or color, could come together to study and work on the vital social and environmental problems of our time.

This is the light in which the Meeting House Bill should be viewed. It is not just another proposal for the Bicentennial. It is a project to fulfill the real significance of the Bicentennial.

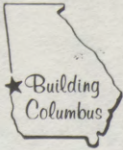
It is a plan to begin with the Bicentennial to start something of enduring significance for all of us.

We hope that this Committee will consider the Meeting House Bill on the basis of its very unusual merits, and not on grounds of positions taken by persons or organizations with respect to other measures.

If the Meeting House Bill is to be enacted in time to be useful in connection with the Bicentennial Celebration, it should be considered, and hopefully reported with a favorable recommendation to the Senate for prompt action. Expeditious action by this Committee and by the Senate could lead to prompt and favorable action in the House. The states would then have the balance of the current year and the fall of 1975 to complete the selection of their meeting houses and initiate the restorative and protective activities which will constitute the Bicentennial Celebration as carried out pursuant to this legislation.

Passage of this legislation by the Senate and thereafter by the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States would be an act of wisdom and good taste of a kind greatly needed in the present moral crisis through which this country is passing.

Such an act would reflect great credit on the Congress, and in a sense typify its assumption of that increasing responsibility which must be its role if this nation, as our forefathers conceived of it, and as we all believe in it, is to endure.



COLUMBUS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 POST OFFICE BOX 1200 404/327-1566 COLUMBUS, GEORGIA 31902

May 28, 1974

Parks & Recreation Sub-Committee
 Senate Interior & Insular Affairs Committee
 3106 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Committee Members:

We are taking this opportunity to send this statement which we hope will be submitted as part of the official record during the public hearing to be held on S.2877, the Meetinghouse Preservation Act on June 4, 1974. The Columbus, Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Historic Columbus Foundation heartily endorse the concept presented in the Meetinghouse Act.

We concur with S.2877 because of the extreme necessity of preserving the individual qualities of the different states in an age when mass production permeates every facet of our lives. A unique structure in each state in which various disciplines could meet and confer would be invaluable. We strongly urge your support of this legislation.

Very truly yours,

William T. Heard Jr.

William T. Heard, Jr.
 President

Edward W. Neal

Edward W. Neal
 President
 Historic Columbus Foundation

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COLUMBUS, GEORGIA MAKES GOOD COMPANY FOR YOUR COMPANY



